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LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

January 13th, 1916.

The Index to Volume XXX. of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is published with this 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.

AFTER THE WAR.

It will not be the fault of the British business community if peace finds the country as hopelessly unprepared to deal with the industrial and commercial problems which must arise after the War, as it was to handle the military situation at the outbreak of hostilities. For some months past various business organisations have been giving their attention to the matter, the West India Committee having, perhaps, opened the ball by instituting an enquiry as to the possibilities of the development of the British sugar industry, the results of which will shortly be published with a memorandum to the Government. We now learn with satisfaction that the British Imperial Council of Commerce is convening a business conference to be held in June next for the discussion of such matters. It is common knowledge that traders in Germany, having, thanks to the activities of the British Navy, no overseas commerce to occupy their attention, are concentrating their energies on preparing an elaborate campaign for capturing our trade after the War. With the full knowledge we now have of their insidious methods there should be no difficulty about counteracting them, and we believe that in whatever steps they may take towards securing this end, the Government will have behind them the full weight of public opinion. It must be repugnant to every

true citizen of Empire to know that among certain firms in Mining Lane the resumption of trade with our present enemies is so eagerly looked forward to that the terms of a proposed contract for selling beet sugar grown by the baby-killers and murderers of the *Lusitania* and *Persia* victims has been eagerly canvassed, and it is incredible that such contaminated produce will be allowed to compete with that of our colonies in British markets. It is such matters as this that will, we hope, be discussed at the forthcoming meetings of the Imperial Council of Commerce. It was decided last year to postpone the Conference of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire which was to have been held at Toronto this year, until 1917, and it is not now proposed to alter that decision. The Chambers will not, therefore, be invited to send over delegates to the meetings in June, which will be confined to their representatives in this country, though any of their members who may be in London will, we understand, be cordially welcomed. They are, however, being asked to bring forward subjects for discussion. In the circumstances, we trust that the British West Indian Chambers will take the opportunity of emphasizing the resolution which so many of them have already adopted as to the desirability of developing a British sugar industry on a large scale, which would thus bring prosperity to the sugar-growing colonies, and render this country independent of German and Austrian sugar in future.

Another question which will, no doubt, occupy attention is that of emigration after the War. It is certain that thousands of young men who have left indoor occupations to join the Imperial forces will find it irksome to return to the office stool, and will seek fresh fields and pastures new in the Dominions and Colonies. The Dominions are already making preparations to cope with a large influx of immigrants after the War, and the British West Indies should also be taking steps to bring their attractions for settlers prominently forward. It is true that these colonies cater for a different class of immigrant from those welcomed by the great Dominions, the possession of a capital of from £500 to £1,000 and upwards being essential for white men intending to embark on agriculture in the West Indies. But there will, no doubt, be very many falling under that category who will wish for a free and open life under the British flag, and it should be the object of the Governments of the British West Indian Colonies to endeavour to attract them, and to prepare suitable bait in the form of literature and by judicious advertisement. In this connection we may call attention to the article on St. Lucia and its resources by Mr. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, the Agricultural Superintendent of the island, the first instalment of which appears in the present CIRCULAR. This article is being published at the suggestion of that most active of Administrators, Mr. C. GIDEON MURRAY, and

we should be glad to receive and publish similar articles from other West Indian Colonies, with the view of prominently calling the attention of intending settlers to their resources and immense possibilities from the Agricultural standpoint.

“HISTORIC JAMAICA.”*

“HISTORIC JAMAICA,” which has just been published by the West India Committee on behalf of the Institute of Jamaica, of which the author is Secretary and Librarian, owes its inception to the suggestion made in these columns in 1908 that steps should be taken to enumerate the many historic sites and monuments in the British West Indies with a view to their protection from the destructive hand of time and of vandals. Many spots of undoubted interest were being allowed to become overgrown with bush, while ancient forts were being ruthlessly torn down to furnish building materials, a flagrant case of such vandalism being the destruction of the old “castle” in Barbuda. It will be remembered that the matter was taken up by LORD CREWE, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that at his instance Committees were set up in the various islands and the colonies on the mainland to draw up lists of historic sites and monuments worthy of preservation, and that their reports were subsequently embodied in a Parliamentary White Paper. By far the most comprehensive and valuable contribution to that document was the report furnished by MR. FRANK CUNDALL, which forms the basis of the volume now under notice. Many of the notes which he collected during a tour throughout the islands were subsequently expanded and published in the CIRCULAR, and these with many additional articles are now published collectively in a volume of four hundred and odd pages, which should be in great demand among lovers of Jamaica and among visitors to that island, which Lord Macaulay described as the “Second Jewel in the Crown of England”—India being the first. In the opening pages of the book MR. CUNDALL gives a list of Governors from GENERAL EDWARD DOYLEY, Presidents of Council, Speakers, Chief Justices, Attorney-Generals, Naval Commanders-in-Chief, Commodores and Agents in Great Britain, the last named ranging from SIR JAMES MODYFORD (1664) to WILLIAM BURGE, the final holder of the office, which was abolished in 1845. The list of Governors in particular is impressive containing, as it does, the heads of many noble families, such as the DUKES OF ALBEMARLE (on whose staff SIR HANS SLOANE, the founder of the British Museum, went out to Jamaica), PORTLAND and MANCHESTER, the EARLS of BALCARRES, BELMORE, MULGRAVE, and ELGIN, whose appointment shows what store was set upon Jamaica. In an introduction, which follows, the author gives a sketch of the island’s history from the days of the aboriginal Arawak inhabitants, adding a list of some of the more peculiar place names in the island, such as Ora Cabessa in St. Mary, and their derivations. He then takes the reader on a personally conducted tour of the island, parish by

*“Historic Jamaica,” by Frank Cundall, F.S.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica; obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 5/- net; post free in the United Kingdom 5/5, abroad 5/8.

parish, beginning with Port Royal, a “toll-gate on Britain’s path of Admiralty at which many heavy tolls were paid,” and ending with Clarendon, in which is Carlisle Bay, the scene of the most serious attempt by a foreign foe to capture the island. MR. CUNDALL writes with freedom and enthusiasm of Forts, Churches and Great Houses, one at least of which—Cardiff Hall in St. Ann—has been handed down in a single family (that of the Blagroves) the head of which, COLONEL HENRY J. BLAGROVE, C.B., is a respected member of the West India Committee, from the earliest years of English occupation. He makes the stones of these stately old residences, many, such as Colebeck Hall, live, and peoples them with their former sugar lords and ladies as few other writers could do. Not the least pleasing feature of the book is the illustrations, of which there are no fewer than fifty-two, most of them being from pen and ink sketches by MRS. LIONEL LEE, an amateur artist of no mean ability, while the copious index occupies no fewer than twenty-seven pages of names of places and people. In compiling this book, which will undoubtedly become a West Indian classic, MR. CUNDALL has rendered a notable service to Jamaica.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The following letter has been addressed to all members of the West India Committee:—

January, 1916.

Dear Sir or Madam,

While sending for your acceptance a Calendar for the New Year, I venture to ask if you will kindly forward to me your Subscription for 1916 (if it has not already been paid on “banker’s order” or otherwise) at your earliest convenience.

You will, I think, be pleased to learn that the number of members elected last year considerably exceeded those admitted in 1914. It is hoped that this may be taken as an indication that the War work which the Committee is carrying out in distributing fruit to the sick and wounded, and placing its rooms and organisation at the disposal of the West Indian Contingent Committee, is appreciated.

In view of the greatly increased work which is being undertaken, it is particularly desirable that Annual Subscriptions should be paid punctually, and that every effort should be made to increase the membership of the West India Committee.

Relying on your assistance in this connection,

I am,

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Calendar referred to is embellished with a reproduction of an old print of the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara.

Any members of the West India Committee may introduce candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. 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, Scething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription is 1s. or 2s. 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 Press Censor for publication.)

The Derby Report.

This historic document was a surprise alike to voluntarists and conscriptionists, as neither side anticipated that 650,000 single men would have failed to answer their country's call. The unexpected promptness of the Government in asking Parliament to sanction a measure for bringing pressure to bear on them is, therefore, explained. Ministers would not dare to call up the married men, who have responded so well, while such a large body of single men are available. It is to be hoped that there will be no more procrastination on this vital matter, since shuffle and delays are paid for in blood, suffering and untold treasure. The urgency of securing a steady supply of drafts has been acute since the summer, every week the solution of the problem was delayed but prolonging the war by a month.

On the Western Front.

To quote the official communique "The whole line is alive from the sea to the Vosges, activity extending to districts which have long been dormant, such as Albert, Armentières and Wyttschaete." In the struggle for the Rhine, Germany has had a distinct set-back in the region of the Hartmannsweilerkopf, the attempts of the enemy to discount it only serving to prove its reality. The importance of the mountain lies in the fact that its summit is 855 feet high, thereby dominating the hills around as well as the roads which concentrate around Bollweiler, a town on the railway five miles due east. The country thence to the Rhine falls about 600 feet, and as Bollweiler is only 15 miles from the Rhine, this river may be menaced unless the French advance in the Vosges is checked. Hence the extensive concentration of the enemy in this region, and his desperate attempt to prevent the forward movements of our Allies, who have fought their way from the frontier through the entire range, and now command the southern valleys of the Lauch and the Thur.

In the Balkans.

In spite of the withdrawal of large German forces northwards to guard against a Russian advance in the rear of the enemy's three hundred mile front between the Pinsk marshes and the Pruth, French aviators report the concentration of masses of German and Bulgarian troops on the Greek frontier. But time has been on our side. Not only has Salonika and the Chalcidice Peninsula been strongly entrenched, but reinforcements have arrived in such numbers that our inferiority cannot be greater than two to one. It is possible that the object of the enemy is not to launch an offensive against the defences of Salonika, which might throw Greece into the arms of the Entente, but to convert the lines behind the Serbian and Bulgarian frontiers into a vast redoubt similar to that which has held us up on the Western front since September, 1914. The situation in the Balkans is, indeed, not unlike the

situation in which the Allies found themselves in September, 1914. Substitute Durazzo for Ostend and Salonika for Paris, and the parallel is fairly complete except in the distances involved and the nature of the terrain. There is, however, one marked difference. As long as the hardy Montenegrins in their mountain fastnesses are able to prevent the enemy from reaching San Giovanni on the Adriatic, the western wing of the army is likely to be turned. Moreover, the Italians are making of Valona another Salonika. Their expeditionary force is, too, helping the Serbians to resist the Bulgarians at Elbassan, 60 miles inland.

Following on an enemy air raid General Sarrail took vigorous action in Salonika. The German, Austrian, Bulgarian, and Turkish Consuls were arrested, and conveyed to a French warship. A few days later 350 persons were arrested for espionage. Greece has made a protest against these proceedings, but she can do no more, and, meanwhile, wholesome respect for the Allies prevails in the city.

On the Eastern Front.

The Russians have gained a considerable success by driving the Austrians from Czernovitz, the capital of the Bukovina. Their advance for some time has been so steady that Mackensen has returned from Serbia to take command of the enemy's forces, which have been strengthened, and are well organised from the defensive point of view. The strategic value of the Russian movement is that the Central Powers are cut off from direct railway communication with Roumania. In spite of daily counter-attacks, which are as regularly repulsed, inflicting heavy losses upon the Austro-Germans, the Russians continue to advance. So imminent is the peril, indeed, that it has already upset the enemy's plans in the Balkans, which he has had to relinquish at a critical moment, and without destroying the Serbian armies.

A German Menace to Austria.

If Germany cannot levy toll on her foes she can plunder her friends. By the inclusion of Austria-Hungary in the German Zollverein the Dual Monarchy will inevitably become a part of the German Empire—unless, indeed, it is broken up—since political independence never survives a general economic surrender. So that even when Germany's world-power aspiration is shattered one of her dreams is being realised, the absorption of Austria with a share of the Balkan trade and opportunities of expansion in the Near East. Austria-Hungary is, also, being exploited so as to bear the sins of her overbearing partner in sinking liners without warning and destroying munition factories in the United States. The curious thing is that Americans are being taken in by Count Bernstoff in shifting responsibility from the principal to the tool. They are hailing Germany's apology for the sinking of the *Lusitania* and her promise to pay compensation for the hundred or more Americans sunk in her as a diplomatic triumph.

In Persia and Mesopotamia.

The Russians are harrying the German-Turks and Arabs in Persia with great vigour. As these were

driven from Kum, so they have been driven from Kashan, about midway between Ispahan and Teheran on the borders of the Great Salt Desert. Here, however, pursuit is bound to slacken as a range of hills skirts the main road to Ispahan, affording opportunities to guerilla warfare. Nevertheless, Russia has demoralised the forces which made for sedition, and by her success gained many friends amongst the Arabs, who are always to be found on the winning side.

At Kut-el-Amara a whole division of the enemy attacked the Anglo-Indian forces on Christmas Eve, and entered a fort, only to be ejected with heavy loss, whereas on our side the loss was relatively slight. So heavy were the losses of the Turks, indeed, that they asked for four hours' armistice to bury their dead and remove their wounded.

Gallipoli has been entirely evacuated. The Anglo-French troops at Cape Helles have retired with the same consummate skill as those at Anzac and Suvla. Not a single life was lost.

Submarine Piracy.

Two British liners have been sunk in the Mediterranean without warning, the *Persia* and the *Glengyle*, and, unfortunately, with serious loss of life. In these waters since December last at least twenty-four British vessels have been destroyed. The United States, Sweden, and Belgium have each lost one, and France has had to deplore the loss of the mail steamer, the *Ville de Ciotat*. The Japanese have lost three ships, Italy two, and on at least two of the sunk liners were American passengers. The supineness of neutrals at these outrages may be gathered from the fact that Norway alone has, since the war began, lost 54 steamers and 58 sailing vessels, and they have failed to take action against Germany individually or collectively. That submarine piracy will be defeated in the Mediterranean, as it has been in northern waters, is certain. But the process will be slower, because the numerous archipelagos in the Aegean afford numerous bases of supply for submarines, and the Allies cannot occupy them all.

One result of the dangers lurking in the Mediterranean is a large diversion of shipping to the Cape route.

Naval Losses.

In the loss of the *King Edward VII.* the Navy is poorer by a fine ship with a fine record. All her officers and men were saved, including Admiral Bradford, who is well-known in the West Indies. The ship struck a mine, and is the eighth battleship lost during the present war.

The fine armoured cruiser *Natal* sank while in harbour "as the result of an internal explosion." She was the third warship lost in the same way, so no wonder the official announcement causes misgiving. Though 378 of her crew were saved, 322 were drowned, including her commander, Captain Back, who served with the Naval Brigade in the South African War. A year ago to the day the nation was deploring the loss of the *Formidable*, also a Chatham ship.

Allied flotillas in the Adriatic have frustrated an Austrian bombardment on Durazzo, in Albania, from the sea. The enemy's ships, which came out of Cattaro, were attacked, and two destroyers of the latest type were sunk. The other vessels of the Austrian division were chased, and fled to their base.

Success in the Cameroons.

On New Year's Day Jaunde, the central position of the enemy in the Cameroons was occupied by Franco-British troops. The Germans, including their own Government officials, fled south and south-east, attacked in the rear by the Allied column, who are driving them into the arms of other columns converging on Jaunde. About 130 miles north-east of this place is Joko, the last stronghold of the Germans in the Cameroons, and both French and British forces are converging on it as rapidly as the difficult nature of the country permits.

The Ceylon Legislative Council has decided to make an annual grant of £100,000 for ten years towards the cost of the war. The offer has been cordially accepted by the British Government.

In a stirring New Year's Message to the Dominion people Sir Robert Borden announced that the number of Canadian forces oversea is to be doubled, raising the total to 500,000.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

Grand Concert to be held on January 25th.

Tickets for the Grand Concert which is to be held at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, January 25th, in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund, 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 price is 10/- each, including tea. The Concert, which is being organised by Mr. John Bromley, who has kindly undertaken the arrangements, is under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Marie Louise. The following distinguished artistes, among others; have promised their services:

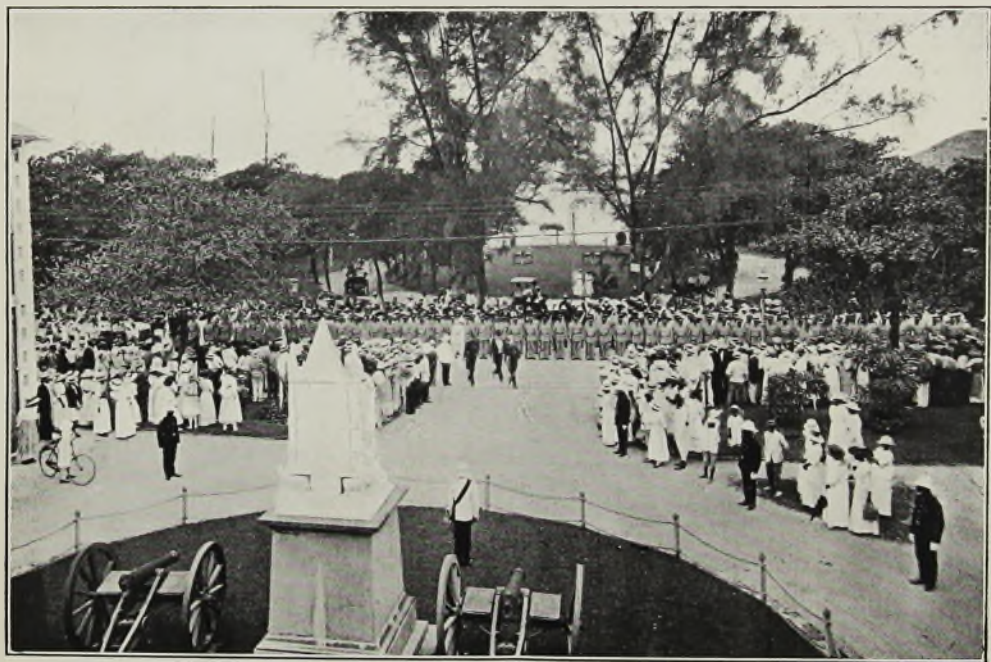
Miss Louise Dale.	Dr. Rumschisky (the Russian pianist).
Miss Amy Evans.	Mr. Felix Salmund ('cello soloist).
Miss Ethel Hook.	Dr. Houston Collisson (in humorous songs).
Miss Ida Kiddier.	Mr. Percy French (art humorist), and
Miss Muriel Sims.	Mr. Ernest Hastings (entertainer at the piano).
Mr. Walter Hyde.	
Mr. Thorpe Bates.	
Mons. Boris Lensky (Russian baritone).	

Miss Lilian Braithwaite and Mr. Dawson Milward will appear in a duologue, and Miss Maude Valrie White, the well-known composer, will accompany some of her own songs.

An afternoon concert is not very convenient for City men; but those unable to attend personally can help very materially by taking tickets and sending them to friends or by leaving them with the Hon. Secretaries for distribution among wounded soldiers.



THE CONSECRATION OF THE COLOUR



THE BAHAMAS MEN FORM A GUARD OF HONOUR.

THE BAHAMAS CONTINGENT.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Some Notes from Seaford.

Major W. D. Neish, of Kingston, Jamaica, has assumed the medical charge of the British West Indies Regiment.

Lieutenant Aubrey P. J. Hibbert, late of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and now Adjutant of the British West Indies Regiment, has been promoted Captain.

Major C. M. Ogilvie, who in days of peace practises as a solicitor in Jamaica, was attached for a short time to the British West Indies Regiment, left to assume the command of the 10th Suffolk Regiment.

Acting-Sergeant S. Hall-Patch, and Acting-Corporal J. H. Roden, both of Grenada, have been struck off the strength of the British West Indies Regiment prior to taking Commissions as 2nd Lieutenants.

While some of the non-commissioned officers and men have sent their personal effects to the West Indian Contingent Committee for safe custody or despatch to the West Indies, others have generously presented their discarded civilian clothing to the Prisoners of War Committee and the Church Army.

At the request of the West Indian Contingent Committee the British Red Cross Society has furnished a motor ambulance to convey patients from the North Camp at Seaford to the Surrey Home Hospital, and the voluntary organisations have provided 150 pairs of felt slippers for the inmates of the hospital huts.

Lieut.-Colonel B. Faunce, late of the 1st West India Regiment, has assumed the command of the 2nd (Service) Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, which was formed on Monday last of E, F, G, and H Reserve Companies. Lieutenant L. H. Tinney of the same regiment, is Adjutant, and Lieutenant G. S. Salmon, Quartermaster.

We regret to state that several deaths have to be recorded, Private L. Stephen (No. 488) of "B" Company, having died at the Surrey Home on Christmas Eve; Private Canes ("C") on January 3rd; Private Williams ("G" Reserve) on the 4th; Private Fervier ("E") on the 5th; Private Johnston ("G") on the 7th, and Lance-Corporal Vangronigan ("I") on January 8th. They were all buried with full military honours at the local cemetery.

Captain Griffith W. R. Jenkins, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and Captain Vincent G. T. Gane, of the Rifle Brigade, have been transferred to the Regiment with the temporary rank of Major, and 2nd Lieut. H. C. Whitelegg, of the 10th Reserve Battalion Border Regiment, and Lieut. C. C. Paul, of the 11th Reserve Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and Captain W. J. Bensly, of the

7th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment, have also been taken on the strength of the B.W.I.s.

Those enumerated in last CIRCULAR do not exhaust the tale of Christmas gifts for the B.W.I.s. The West Indian Contingent Committee have since received and forwarded to Seaford £550, collected by Mr. A. A. Cipriani (who, we regret to learn, has been ill) and Mr. R. R. Mole, Editor of the *Mirror*, for the non-commissioned officers and men of the Trinidad Public Contingents, and £100 from Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of the *West Indian*, on behalf of the Grenada Contingent Committee, for the Grenada men. At the request of Mr. P. L. Fraser they expended £ 12s. on the purchase of hampers for six men of the Trinidad Prisons' staff, while at the request of Deputy-Inspector-General M. D. Harrel they laid out £3 15s. 6d. in the purchase of gifts from the sub-officers and men of the Kingston Division of the Jamaica Constabulary for their late comrades now serving with the B.W.I.s.

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, Private J. B. G. (of British Guiana) 11th Gloucester Regiment.
 Broome, Lieut. Douglas (son-in-law of the Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C., Solicitor-General of Trinidad), Royal Canadian Dragoons.
 Cooke, M.D., Captain J. H. (Government Medical Officer, Antigua), Antigua Defence Force.
 Darrell, Private A. J. (of British Guiana), The King's Royal Rifles.
 Darrell, Private F. P. (of British Guiana), The King's Royal Rifles.
 de Verteuil, Trooper M. (of Trinidad), and King Edward's Horse.
 Farquharson, W. H. (of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Ferguson, 2nd Lieut. V. L. (son of Mr. James A. Ferguson, St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica), 3/7th Batt. Gordon Highlanders.
 Forrest, Lieut.-Colonel J. V. (son of the late Mr. William Forrest, for many years a merchant in Antigua), General Headquarters Staff. *At the front.* Twice mentioned in despatches.
 Forrest, Fleet Surgeon J. A. (son of the late Mr. William Forrest, for many years a merchant in Antigua), Royal ~~Staff~~.
 Forrest, Private A. H. (son of the late Mr. William Forrest, for many years a merchant in Antigua), 23rd Batt. Royal Fusiliers. *At the front.*
 Gibson, T. R. (late of Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
 Grace, Captain M. S. (Jamaica), Jamaica Reserve Regiment.
 Jarvis, and Lieut. Edward Vesey Hill (son of Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Assistant Chief Secretary of the Uganda Protectorate, and late Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands).
 Kerr, Lieut. W. L. Coke (son of Mr. Lionel Kerr, of Jamaica), Army Service Corps, Motor Transport. *At the front.*
 Morris, 2nd Lieut. W. Andrew (elder son of the late Mr. Arthur H. Morris, formerly of Devesall Court, Herefordshire and nephew of Mr. L. J. Morris, many years a resident in Demerara and Trinidad), 11th (Reserve) Batt. East Surrey Regiment.

Musson, Major S. P. (grandson of the late Hon. John Orrett, Privy Councillor in Jamaica), Indian Staff Corps. *At the front in Mesopotamia.*

Oliphant, Ronald W. (late of Jamaica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

Orrett, Lieut. C. C. (son of Mr. William H. Orrett, Solicitor, and grandson of the late Hon. John Orrett, Privy Councillor in Jamaica), 13th Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Orrett, Captain E. G. (son of Staff-Captain E. G. Orrett, Sen., and grandson of the late Hon. John Orrett, Privy Councillor in Jamaica), British West Indies Regiment.

Orrett, Staff-Captain E. G. (son of the late Hon. John Orrett, Privy Councillor in Jamaica), Jamaica Reserve Regiment.

Preston, Lieut. J. H. (formerly Private Secretary to Sir Robert Llewelyn, Governor of the Windward Islands, 1900-6), 1st (Garrison) Devonshire Regiment. *In Egypt.*

Sadler, Private C. (of British Guiana), 11th Gloucester Regiment.

Shirley, A. E. B. (of the Jamaica Civil Service), Honourable Artillery Company.

Sorzano, C. F. (of Trinidad), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

Killed in Action.

CAPTAIN HARRY REID THOMAS, R.G.A., who was killed in France on Christmas Day, was the eldest of five sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Thomas, of Jamaica and Kew Gardens. He was educated in Jamaica and Bedford, and served in the South African War, being awarded the King's medal and five clasps. He entered the Royal Garrison Artillery through the Militia in 1906, and went to France four months ago.

Died of Wounds.

SECOND LIEUTENANT KENNETH W. CALDER, who has, we regret to state, died of wounds received in Gallipoli in December, was the fourth son of Mr. J. V. Calder, of Worthy Park, Ewarton, Jamaica. After receiving his early education at Potsdam Grammar School in the island, he won the Rhodes Scholarship in 1912, and took up his residence at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Shortly after the outbreak of war he applied for a Commission and was successful in obtaining one in the Royal Field Artillery, with which he was serving until he received his fatal wounds. At the time of his death he was only 23 years of age.

Accidentally Killed.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ERNEST ARTHUR LELAND STURRIDGE, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was, we regret to learn, accidentally killed on December 30th by a hand grenade. Whilst he was drilling his men a bomb thrown by one of them exploded prematurely, injuring fourteen men and the subject of this memoir, who died of his wounds ten hours later. He was the twin son of Dr. and Mrs. E. Sturridge, of Jamaica and 29, Wimpole Street, W. Second Lieut. Sturridge was born in Kingston, Jamaica, on August 14th, 1895, and, after spending a year at the Jesuit College of St. Michael in Brussels, was educated at University College School, Hampstead, where he was a sergeant in the O.T.C. and member of the Bisley team. After matriculating, he entered University College Hospital, and had completed his first year in the conjoint medical and dental course when the war broke out, and he joined the Army. At school and college he was a keen sportsman, being a member of the first "Rugger" XV. at both places, and of the first Cricket XI., and holding many cups for athletics. He received his commission in August, 1914, and went to France with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in May, 1915. He was present at two important battles at Ypres and Hooge, and during eight months' fighting in the Ypres salient he was constantly under fire, and had many narrow escapes. He was promoted in the field to the rank of Captain, but his promotion had not been gazetted when his brilliant young life was cut short. His Colonel writes:—"I am truly grieved that, after all he has been through, he should get knocked out like this. The battalion is losing one of the very best and most promising officers I ever met in my twenty-five years of soldiering. He was a 'natural'

soldier, absolutely fearless, and the men would do anything for him."

Wounded.

Owen, Trooper H. B. (of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 1st King Edward's Horse, was wounded at Loos, but is now convalescent.

Honours.

Lieut. A. F. Logan, of the Indian Army, attached to the 2nd Battalion Bedford Regiment in France, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the field. Mr. Logan belongs to Manchester, Jamaica.

Alterations and Corrections.

Campbell, Ivor (son of Mr. Dugald Campbell, of Linstead, Jamaica), the Middlesex Regiment.

Dalton, 2nd Lieut. Norman Damerall (son of the late Mr. Goring Evans Dalton, of British Guiana), who joined the Honourable Artillery Company, with whom he went to the front in September, 1914, has now received a Commission in the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

Kirton, 2nd Lieut. G. G. (son of the late Mr. S. J. Kirton, of the Colonial Bank of Trinidad and St. Kitts), 3/6th Batt. Cheshire Regiment.

Llewelyn, Lieut.-Commander Robert Harman, R.N. (son of Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, 1900-6), has been promoted to the rank of Commander.

Ogilvie, Colonel C. M. (of Kingston, Jamaica), has been appointed to command the 10th Batt. Suffolk Regiment.

Tapply, Gunner Frank Webb (son of Mr. William Tapply, Director of the West Indian Produce Association), the Canadian Artillery, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Viner, G. N. (late in the Colonial Bank, Trinidad), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

THE FUTURE OF CANE SUGAR.

A Glasgow Firm's Optimistic View.

James Dunn, Ltd., the well-known Glasgow sugar merchants in their annual Review of the Sugar Trade make some caustic remarks on the late Government's sugar policy. They say:—

When the Government control came into operation in the month of August last year there were supplies in existence and in preparation capable of furnishing an aggregate of 19,000,000 tons to meet the requirements of 1914-15. Of this quantity about 5,000,000 tons were, owing to the outbreak of war, immediately and almost fully cut off from international commerce of a more important character, so that German and Austrian beetroot for the time being ceased to be a statistical factor in all calculations relating to the trade. From this change raw cane sugars and their finished products at once virtually became—and still remain—the sole means of supply for the chief importing markets of the world. By this sudden reduction of 19,000,000 tons to 14,000,000 tons the somewhat rudimentary conclusion was formed that a sugar famine was imminent, and on this assumption the British Home Office, under the guidance of experts, entered upon a career of speculation for the saving health of the British nation.

The initial purchase of 1,000,000 tons on Government account was effected by the experts with an ease which was not calculated to strengthen the famine theory, and, being followed by receding prices and a competition which rendered the adventure a failure, it became necessary to back up the famine theory by prohibition of imports. After more than a year's experience of trade under the monopoly, all the dissatisfaction expected to result from such a course of procedure has been fully realised throughout every section of what had been legitimate trading in the article.

With regard to the outlook James Dunn, Ltd., say:—

The prospects for the supply of cane sugar available for the new season are again giving promise of further

increases at all the more important centres of production, while, as regards consumption, although this has as yet scarcely suffered, the more acute financial strain which is bound to follow the present waste can hardly fail to operate in the opposite direction. As between those two divergent conditions, therefore, a supply increased from 14,000,000 tons to over 14,500,000 tons and a demand reduced from 12,000,000 tons to say 11,000,000 tons the margin of 3,500,000 tons to carry over into next season's account may well give us an assurance of safety as to the general situation with reference to this commodity at least. Seeing that the present deplorable state of affairs must inevitably lead later on to some rearrangement of the whole sugar trade of the world, it will be necessary to discover the means whereby the cultivation of the cane product can be further developed, so as to provide against a restricted beetroot production for perhaps long after normal conditions in trade have again been reached. In some districts of India, notably the Central Provinces, efforts have for some years past been directed towards this subject, and, in what is yet hardly beyond the experimental stage, it has been found that with a proper system of irrigation an important industry could be established. The obstacle to progress in this direction has been official "red tape."

Some object lessons in the matter of development of this nature are being supplied at this moment by what American energy in the case of sugar production has done in Cuba and in the Hawaiian Islands. The crop in the former has since last season been increased 500,000 tons, and in the latter a perfected system of irrigation initiated by Mr. Spreckles, of San Francisco, has brought the islands to rank high amongst the exporting countries of the world. From what can be drawn from all that has become apparent under present abnormal conditions, it is possible to conclude that what is needed for the trade is an extension of the refining power of this country and development in cane sugar production wherever practicable throughout the Empire. In such expansion there is perhaps the best means extant for furthering the popular movement towards "capturing the enemy trade." If the amount distributed in connection with the boasted expenditure of £40,000,000 sterling by Government on sugar had been made to contribute to such expansion, the campaign of capture might have been materially advanced, and the British Sugar refiner not only made able to provide a full supply of the finished article for home consumption, but to again become an exporter.

The position in which cane sugar at present stands, its future extension, the rapid development in the cultivation of beetroot in America, and the efforts which are being successfully made to bring this last to importance as a branch in English agriculture, all point in one direction—namely, to the displacement of Continental sugar as a prominent factor in the trade.

Messrs. William Connal and Co., on the other hand, are warm in their praise of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

It was no easy matter to time the arrival of cane cargoes in London, Liverpool, and Greenock, so that refiners might never want raw material. On several occasions, it is true, stocks were well-nigh exhausted, but supplies never failed to arrive in time to keep refineries in full work. Private enterprise could scarcely have accomplished this work, more especially during the later months, when tonnage has ruled at such an abnormally high figure, and has been almost impossible to obtain by ordinary traders. This difficulty could only be overcome by Government, which possessed the power to commandeer vessels as occasion required.

They are evidently great believers in the future of the cane sugar industry, and attribute its success in Cuba not only to the fertility of the island, but also to the preference given to it.

The flow of capital into that island under American control and the preferential treatment accorded by America to Cuban sugar has contributed to this development, and the enhanced price now being obtained for this large sugar crop should enable planters to acquire the most up-to-date machinery and encourage them further to extend cultivation.

Our own West Indian Crown Colonies, in which the sugar industry, not having enjoyed the same fostering care bestowed upon Cuba, has long been on the verge of extinction, have now an opportunity of resuscitation. Estates which three years ago only realised about 10s. f.o.b. for their crystallised sugars, can now obtain fully 5s. net per cwt. more. This should impart new life and vigour to planters who have so long and so courageously fought against adversity, caused largely for many years by unfair competition of Continental bounty-fed sugars.

THE BAHAMAS CONTINGENT.

We are indebted to the Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, for the photographs from which the illustrations facing page 4 are reproduced. They were taken by Mr. J. O. Sands, of Nassau, on the occasion of a parade of the 2nd Bahamas Contingent. The uppermost illustration shows the Bishop consecrating the colour presented to the Contingent by Mrs., now Lady, Allardyce, wife of the Governor. In this animated picture the local Boy Scouts can be plainly seen facing the Contingent. Below His Excellency the Hon., now Sir, William Allardyce, Governor of the Bahamas, is seen returning from inspecting the men who formed a Guard of Honour on the occasion of the opening of the Session of the Legislative Council of the Colony. The photograph was taken from the Public Buildings, and the statue in the foreground is one of Queen Victoria, which was unveiled by Sir William Grey-Wilson, the then Governor, on May 24th, 1905.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

As foreshadowed in these columns last year, a Bill for granting additional powers to the Colonial Bank is to be introduced into Parliament. At present the powers of the Bank are restricted to carrying on the business of a bank in England and New York "for the purpose of facilitating, originating, or completing operations directly connected with the business of the Corporation as a banker in Jamaica and other West India Islands and British Guiana, but not otherwise." The Bill proposes that "in addition to the powers conferred by the charter or any Act relating to the Corporation, the Corporation may establish and carry on the business of a banker in Great Britain, or in any Colony, State, or Dependency of the British Empire. Provision is made that nothing in the Act shall authorise the Corporation to issue its own notes elsewhere than in Jamaica, the West India Islands, and British Guiana.

MARCONI'S Wireless Telegraph Company, Ltd., have made arrangements whereby soldiers' and sailors' letter telegrams can be sent to the West Indies at the following reduced rates: Bermuda, Jamaica and Turks Islands, 5d. per word; other West Indian islands and British Guiana, 8½d. per word. Messages sent by these services should bear the free indication *via* Marconi's, and also immediately preceding the address the indicator EFM, which is charged for as one word.

ST. LUCIA.

ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

St. Lucia is the largest and northernmost British Colony of the Windward Islands, in the British West Indies. It is situated in 14° 1' N. Lat. and 61° 0' W. Long., at a distance of 24 miles to the south of the French Colony of Martinique, 21 miles N.E. of the British Colony of St. Vincent, and about 90 miles WNW. of Barbados.

Owing to its magnificent harbour at Castries and to its strategic position on the Atlantic, lying as it does between the United States and South America, St. Lucia became a fortified naval coaling station and naval base as far back as 1683. The inhabitants raised a loan of £70,000 for the deepening and improvement of the natural harbour.

The island is mountainous, consisting of a central range of densely wooded hills rising from 1,500 to 2,000 feet buttressed by ridges and spurs that gradually slope down to the sea.

AREA AND POPULATION.

Its greatest length is 21 miles by 14 at its greatest breadth, and its superficial area is estimated at about 238 square miles, or 152,320 acres.

One-third of the total area of the island is in forest and only awaits the enterprise of the intelligent settler to be transformed into profitable plantations.

The population of the island, according to the latest official estimate, is 51,590.

THE CLIMATE OF THE COLONY.

The climate of St. Lucia is distinctly healthy. The mean temperature in Castries, the capital of the island, is about 79° F. in the shade, the average minimum being about 71° F., and the maximum about 87° F. From February to April the nights are particularly cool, and at certain inland elevations the temperature never rises above 80° F. and falls as low as 62° F.

The mean maximum and minimum figures for the last five years, taken at the Botanical Gardens, Castries (Height above mean sea level, 10 feet), are given in the following tables:—

Year.	Temperature.		Relative Humidity.	
	Max.	Min.	7 a.m.	3 p.m.
1910	85.30	71.50	87.0	69.0
1911	85.80	71.20	90.2	70.9
1912	85.70	72.30	84.2	68.5
1913	84.30	71.80	89.7	76.1
1914	85.70	73.40	85.6	71.2

The driest period of the year is from February to April. The rainy season extends from June to December, thus giving a long season in which planting operations can be carried out.

The annual rainfall ranges from 40 inches, in

some of the drier coastal districts, to about 150 inches in the more central parts of the island. In Castries the average rainfall for a period of 22 years is 92.57.

In the south-westerly coastal districts the wet and dry seasons are sharply defined, the average monthly precipitation during the dry season being 7.80 inches and 5.40 inches during the rainy season. Inland stations do not, however, suffer in this way, the distribution being more even.



ST. LUCIA, BRITISH WEST INDIES.

THE HEALTH OF THE ISLAND.

The vital statistics of the island for 1914 show that the death rate per 1,000 of the population was only 17.4 as against 23.7 in 1891, and this number would be considerably reduced did it not include the abnormal mortality that prevails amongst the infants of the negro population, which is almost entirely due to the ignorance of the mothers in regard to proper feeding and nursing.

The following returns showing the continued and

steady reduction in the death rate is the best record of the work being carried out by the Government in the way of general sanitation throughout the Colony.

DEATH RATE PER 1,000.

1891	...	...	...	...	...	23.7
1901	...	...	...	...	...	22.2
1910	...	...	...	...	...	19.2
1914	...	...	...	...	...	17.4

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

A complete geological survey of St. Lucia was made by Lieutenant E. A. Saunders, R.A., and the following notes are taken from information supplied by him and published in Occasional Papers of the Association of Surveyors of H.M. Service, by J. T. Rea, January, 1898:—

"It is supposed that the West Indies were formerly a part of the continents of North and South America, which extended at a remote period towards the south-east and north-east respectively. Like most of the other islands of this group, St. Lucia is of volcanic origin, as its ever-active soufriere, or sulphurous mountain, attests. The island may be considered as a confused, amorphous mass of igneous matter, without any definite structural arrangement, and its rocks, with the exception of a coralline limestone found in the neighbourhood of the town of Soufriere, are all of igneous or volcanic origin.

"These rocks are either crystalline, of the nature of traps, exhibiting much variety of structure; or uncrystalline, composed of volcanic ashes, constituting tufas. Of the former, many resemble basalt and greenstone, whilst some are an approach to granite or syenite.

"The mountains are made up of a volcanic conglomerate, and basalt rocks of all sorts (porphyrites, andesites, pumiceous and bedded tuffs), phonolitic and schistose masses, felstones, lavas, and such like are found. These rocks are Tertiary or Post-Tertiary. The building stones are therefore limited in character.

"In the valleys and alluvial plains the soil consists of a deep vegetable mould mixed with clay, and in the more elevated positions of red earth; the substratum is a mixture of sand and gravel. Rough jasper is found at Vieux-Port to the extreme south, various commercial clays in the south-western parts, and very small quantities of iron and copper ores exist in some localities."

Active sulphur springs are to be found at Soufriere in the west of the island.

These springs are worked from time to time by various American and English companies for the sulphur deposits. The natural accumulation is, however, so slow that it only pays to work them at intervals of from 15 to 20 years.

LAND TENURE AND VALUE.

The valleys of St. Lucia are very rich and fertile and are suitable for arable tillage; the soils varying from sand to a clayey loam. The fertility of some of these soils is such that Bourbon cane has given profitable returns when ratooned for periods of sixteen years.

The hillsides are generally steep and covered with forest.

There are large tracts of fertile land belonging to the Crown scattered throughout the interior of the island. These lands are well watered with frequent showers and vegetation seldom, if ever, suffers from drought. They are being opened up with serviceable roads connecting with the main roads of the island, and are available for settlement on easy terms. They are well adapted for plantations of limes, cacao, coffee, oranges, grape-fruit, coco-nuts, and other economic crops. Crown Lands may be

purchased at 20s. per acre up to fifty acres, and 10s. per acre for every additional acre. The purchase price being payable in five annual instalments, plus the cost of surveying.

Special regulations have recently been passed by the Government under which it is prepared to sell Crown Lands of not less than 100 acres in extent for the settlement of persons who have lately served in His Majesty's forces, or who come from outside the Colony. Under these regulations Crown Lands in blocks of not less than 100 acres will be sold at the rate of 15s. per acre, or, part of an acre for 100 acres; and at the rate of 10s. per acre for every acre or part of an acre in excess of 100 acres.

The purchase money can be paid in five equal annual instalments, the first instalment to be paid on the expiration of the sixth year as from the date of active occupation of the land, and one of the remaining instalments to be paid annually thereafter until the whole of the purchase money has been paid. By fulfilling certain conditions an applicant for the purchase of Crown Lands may, by making a cash payment of the purchase money on the expiration of the third year from the date of active occupation, obtain a discount of one-fifth of the purchase money.

The survey fee for 100 acres is £20 14s., one-half of this amount must be paid prior to occupation and the remaining half in the second year of occupation. The Crown grant will be issued when the whole of the purchase money has been paid together with the grant fee of 6s. 3d. as fixed by law.

The Agricultural Department, whose address is Castries, St. Lucia, British West Indies, will supply, free of charge, in so far as its resources may permit, economic plants in such quantities as may be deemed necessary for the planting up and development of 50 acres of any area of land agreed to be purchased from the Crown under these Regulations.

Partially or wholly developed estates can sometimes be purchased by private treaty.

(To be continued.)

THE debate in the House of Commons on January 11th, on the motion of Mr. Hewins for a consultation of the Government with the Governments of the Dominions, "in order to bring the whole economic strength of the Empire into co-operation with our Allies in a policy directed against the enemy," was most encouraging. There was a complete agreement between Free Traders and Tariff Reformers that our fiscal policy must be readjusted. Sir Alfred Mond said that Germany might be certain that no adherence to shibboleths was going to be exercised in her favour by the Government or by this House or this country at the end of the war. Mr. Runciman, as spokesman for the Government, said that there should be no essential article either for the arts of war or peace upon which we could not lay our hands. When the war came to an end and Germany was beaten she might wish to embark upon a new economic campaign. It would be necessary for us in making peace to see to it that she did not raise her head. Mr. Hewins' resolution was adopted without a division.

CANE EXPERIMENTS IN BARBADOS.

An Interesting Progress Report.

It would be doing Professor d'Albuquerque and Mr. J. R. Bovell an injustice to summarise their report on sugar-cane experiments in Barbados for 1913-15 in view of the fact that it contains nearly 100 pages of matter and statistics, which it would be impossible to condense within the compass of the space available in the CIRCULAR.

Their conclusions regarding seedling cane as compared with the White Transparent may, however, be given in their own words:—

As it is most important to the sugar-cane growers as a whole that the results obtained with the better seedling varieties should be compared with the White Transparent, the standard cane, so as to obtain some idea of their comparative values, forms were sent to 318 out of the 328 estates in the island asking for a return of the results obtained with the seedling and other sugar-canes grown for the crop of 1915. Replies were received from 45 estates. Of these, for various reasons, eleven returns were of no value, so that the comparative results could only be compiled from thirty-four estates. Of these, twenty-two were from the black and twelve from the red soil districts.

In the black soil districts the yields of the plant canes were on the average as follows:—B. 6450 from 990.52 acres 25.04 tons of canes per acre, B. 376 from 315.5 acres 20.75 tons of canes per acre, B. 147 from 150.34 acres 21.34 tons of canes per acre, and the White Transparent from 40.03 acres 17.91 tons of canes per acre, differences in the yield over the White Transparent of 7.13, 2.84 and 3.43 tons per acre respectively. Further, in the red soil districts the yields of the plant canes were on the average as follows, viz:—B. 6450 from 319.25 acres 28.28 tons of canes per acre, B. 376 from 218.75 acres 24.17 tons of canes per acre, and the White Transparent from 7 acres 14.67 tons of canes per acre, differences over the White Transparent of 13.61 and 9.5 tons of canes per acre respectively.

On the black soils the yields of the first ratoons were on the average as follows, viz:—B. 6450 from 93 acres 17.55 tons of canes per acre, B. 376 from 120.24 acres 13.43 tons of canes per acre. No returns were received for the White Transparent. The difference therefore could only be calculated between the B. 6450 and the B. 376, and this was 5.88 tons of canes per acre. On the red soils the average yields were as follows, viz:—B. 6450 from 137.25 acres 22.47 tons of canes per acre, B. 376 from 222 acres 19.24 tons of canes per acre, and the White Transparent from 13 acres 12 tons of canes per acre, differences over the White Transparent of 10.47 and 7.24 tons of canes per acre respectively.

On the red soils the yields of the second ratoons were on the average as follows, viz:—B. 6450 from 33 acres 22.53 tons of canes per acre, B. 376 from 117.5 acres 18.22 tons of canes per acre, and the White Transparent from 12.5 acres 19.04 tons of canes per acre, differences when compared with the White Transparent of +3.49 and -0.82 tons of canes per acre respectively.

In the reports for the years 1911-13 and 1912-14

estimates were made as to the value to the island of the B. 6450, which has for the past several years given such satisfactory results as compared with the White Transparent, the standard cane, and a similar estimate is made again this year. At the present time about 30,000 acres of canes are reaped annually, and the average yield of plants and ratoons in the black and red soil districts was 8.7 tons of canes per acre more than the White Transparent, excluding the results of the ratoons of this variety in the black soils. Assuming that, owing to the low saccharose content of the juice of the canes towards the close of the reaping season due to the rains that occurred, the increased yield of the B. 6450 was only equal to half a ton of dark crystal sugar per acre, the corresponding yield would be, if the 30,000 acres were B. 6450, about 15,000 tons of sugar. This at £10 16s. 1d., the average price at which dark crystals sold for the past twenty years, not including the one under review, in which prices were abnormal owing to the war, would be something like £160,000.

CANE PLANTING MACHINES.

Replying to an enquirer in Natal regarding the efficacy of cane planting machines in use in Queensland, the Editor of the *Australian Sugar Journal* states that they are certainly a commercial proposition, and are generally used throughout the cane-growing districts. The cane used for plants is cut into lengths before being planted, and these "plants" are fed into the hopper of the machine by hand. There are some half-dozen different patterns in use, as well as a number of machines made by the farmers themselves, and several still in the experimental stage. The highest priced machine on the market runs up to £45, but some are purchasable at a much lower figure. The average acreage planted by one of these machines in a day would be about four. The usual plan is to run out the drills with a double mould-board plough, and follow with the cane-planter, which opens the bottom of the furrow to the required depth, drops the "plant," and covers it shallow or deep, as necessitated by the character of the season. The cane-planting machine is operated with two or three horses, but is generally regarded as unsatisfactory on hillsides, where, as a rule, hand planting is resorted to. The plants can be dropped at any required distance apart; but only a single row is planted at a time.

The prominent Canadian financier, Sir William Maxwell Aitken, M.P., who has been elected Chairman of the Colonial Bank for the ensuing year in succession to the late Mr. Charles Gurney Hoare, only joined the Board of that Institution in 1914. He is also practically interested in the British West Indies through his connection with the electric companies in Demerara and Trinidad. He has represented Ashton-under-Lyne in Parliament since 1910 as a Unionist, and it will not be surprising if he succeeds to high office before very long. At present he is attached to the Canadian Expeditionary Force as official "Eye-witness."

COCO-NUTS IN PORTO RICO.

A Yield of 140 Nuts per tree.

The Report of the Porto Rico Experiment Station for 1914 contains, among other valuable information, a further instalment of the results of the coco-nut experiments which have been going on for the last two years. These experiments, which include fertilization and culture, have not only been continued but new cultural experiments have been undertaken in parts of the island where different weather conditions prevail. As coco-nuts form a profitable crop, and one to which but little experimental attention has been given in Porto Rico, it was decided to extend the lines of the work already undertaken and to include fertilization, seed-nut selection, and nursery and orchard culture. In the fertilization experiments started in June, 1912, eight harvests were made, and the number of nuts taken from each tree and the diameter of the nuts from the different plots recorded for each harvest. The yield in the plots given complete fertilizers was in excess of that in the check plots for the last crop, although between the complete and incomplete and check plots but little differences had so far resulted. The number of nuts harvested in the experimental field hardly averaged 30 per tree, with an average diameter of nut of 4.8 inches. As the trees under observation were old palms on sandy beach land, apparently an ideal situation for coco-nut culture, the results of the harvests show how slowly old palms give returns for fertilizer investment. It is stated that as the yield per tree is far below what it should be, an early increase is expected in the fertilizer plots.

Aside from the notes on fertilization, valuable data are recorded in the report as to the number of nuts gathered from the individual trees. Some trees were bearing over 100 nuts per year, exceptional ones over 140, while a number, which were from all appearance thrifty, were producing annually not more than 10 nuts each, and a few not more than 5 nuts each. As there is a good stand of trees in the experimental plots, and productive and unproductive ones are found growing side by side throughout the field, the importance of seed-nut selection by those contemplating a new grove is plainly shown. In connection with selection work, records are being made showing the constancy in shape and size of both husks and nuts borne by individual trees.

In co-operation with Mr. A. J. Harvey, experiments were being conducted on his plantation to determine the advisability of growing leguminous cover crops in a young coco-nut grove. This plantation is situated a few miles east of San Juan on a sandy coastal plain within half a mile of the ocean. Jack beans (*Canavalia ensiformis*) and a few species of velvet beans (*Stizolobium* spp.) planted in April all made good growth; and as they crowded out all native weeds and grass, cultivation was dispensed with, except for cutting the leguminous vines near the palms every few weeks, until the plants died in the following winter. The *Stizolobium* species proved to have a longer growing season and to produce a heavier crop of vegetation than the *Canavalia* and are, therefore, preferable in coco-nut planta-

tions. The type of land suitable to coco-nut culture, if not cultivated, will, for most of the year, be overgrown with wild vines and weeds. These wild vines are stated to be almost as troublesome as the *Stizolobium* in their habit of climbing over the young trees, while they store no nitrogen from the air and add much less humus to the soil. Coco-nut palms should be set further apart than other orchard trees, and the cultivation of the larger area and the improvement of the soil can, it is stated, be facilitated by the judicious use of leguminous cover crops.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Dutch Cocoa.

The year 1914 was on the whole a very favourable one for the cocoa manufacturers in the Netherlands. In spite of the difficulties which were experienced shortly after the war broke out in obtaining regular supplies of the raw material, manufacturers were able to make good profits. With the exception of two or three weeks in August, when practically all cocoa factories closed down, the works were manufacturing at their full capacity and sold their products at rising prices. The industry in general has, as indeed have all producers of food-stuffs, undoubtedly benefited by the war. The imports of raw cacao into the Netherlands were as follows:—

January 1st to October 31st—	Tons.
1912	33,599
1913	39,263
1914	43,459

Factory Improvements in the Philippines.

The exports of sugar from the Philippine Islands in 1914 showed an increase of nearly 78,000 tons, or 50 per cent. in weight and £839,000 in value over that of 1913. About 75 per cent. of the better qualities went to the United States, and the remainder chiefly to China and Japan. Notwithstanding the high prices sugar planters met with considerable financial difficulties, and for a time it looked as if a portion of their crops would not receive the necessary attention owing to the lack of financial facilities. Finally, however, support was received in the shape of loans from the Insular Government, which was required not because the industry was not in a good condition, but owing to the fact that planters generally had extended their planting considerably and improved their machinery and implements. Unfortunately for the planters, when the big rise in price of sugar took place in consequence of the European war, practically all the crop had been sold.

The San Carlos (Negros) Sugar Central, which completed its first year's operations during the early months of 1914, is the first large modern plant in the islands to be completed and put into full operation. The new central at the Calamba estate was completed and put into operation during the year. The results obtained at both milling centrals, according to a report issued by the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture, are such as to warrant the immediate construction of others in the principal sugar-producing districts of the islands.

SOME SUGAR STATISTICS.

A Memorandum prepared by the Dominion's Royal Commission which has just been published as a Blue-book [Cd. 8123] contains the following state-

ment showing the quantities of unrefined sugar (distinguishing beet-root and cane sugar) imported into the United Kingdom, the total imports and re-exports, and the quantities retained for refining or consumption in the United Kingdom in each year from 1901 onwards:—

Year.	BEET-ROOT.			CANE AND OTHER SORTS.								Total Imports of Unrefined Sugar.	Re-exports of Unrefined Sugar.	Quantities retained for refining or Consumption in the United Kingdom.
	From Austria-Hungary.	From Germany.	Total Imports of unrefined Beet-root sugar.	From British West India Islands (including British Guiana).	From Mauritius.	Total from all British Possessions.	From Brazil.	From Cuba.	From Java.	From Peru.	Total Imports of Unrefined Cane Sugar, &c.			
	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.	Million Cwts.
1901	0.1	4.4	10.0	0.9	0.4	1.5	0.3	—	0.2	0.1	3.4	13.4	0.1	13.3
1902	0.3	6.6	9.5	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.6	—	—	0.2	3.8	13.3	0.1	13.2
1903	1.7	5.8	8.8	0.7	0.3	1.3	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4	3.8	12.6	0.1	12.5
1904	1.0	6.2	8.9	1.0	0.5	1.7	0.1	0	2.1	1.1	5.8	14.7	0.1	14.6
1905	1.1	5.5	8.2	1.2	0.2	1.8	0.2	—	2.5	1.2	6.5	14.7	0.1	14.6
1906	0.4	8.6	11.0	1.5	0.1	1.9	1.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	4.3	15.3	0.2	15.1
1907	1.1	7.3	9.5	1.2	0.5	2.1	0.2	0.1	1.5	0.6	5.5	15.0	0.1	14.9
1908	1.7	6.4	9.7	0.9	0.4	1.6	0.2	—	1.2	1.1	5.0	14.7	0.4	14.3
1909	2.0	7.3	10.3	1.2	0.4	1.7	0.9	0	1.7	0.8	6.0	16.3	0.1	16.2
1910	1.2	4.6	6.2	1.6	0.8	2.6	1.6	1.9	2.4	0.9	11.4	17.6	0.4	17.2
1911	1.2	7.8	10.1	1.1	1.1	3.5	0.3	0.1	3.3	0.5	9.1	19.2	0.1	19.1
1912	2.2	3.3	7.3	0.8	0.6	1.9	0.2	1.7	3.7	1.2	10.9	18.2	0.2	18.0
1913	3.2	9.4	13.5	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.1	4.5	0	0.5	7.4	20.9	0.1	20.8
1914	1.3	3.0	4.9	1.4	1.0	2.7	0.4	5.2	5.8	0.2	17.1	22.0	0.2	21.8

Note.—The imports of molasses and glucose are not included in the above table.

Only a small proportion of the quantity of unrefined sugar imported is entered for consumption as such, the bulk being refined in bond.

Amongst the self-governing Dominions, Australia and the Union of South Africa (Natal) produce cane sugar. To encourage the production of sugar by white labour, considerable sums are paid annually by way of bounties in the Commonwealth, but the output has to be supplemented by imports. Some quantities of sugar are shipped from Australia, especially to South Africa, but these consist mainly of re-exports. The production in Natal during the 1912-13 season was 96,000 tons, and in 1913-14, 97,000 ton (of 2,000 lbs.).

Countries not specified above which regularly or occasionally ship unrefined beetroot sugar to the United Kingdom are Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, and Russia, whilst the following are among the unenumerated sources of supply of unrefined cane sugar:— British India, Central America, Dutch Guiana, Hayti, San Domingo and the Philippine Islands; British India sending the unusually large quantity of 1,300,000 cwt. in 1911.

The total quantities of raw and refined sugar retained for consumption in each year from 1902 onwards, expressed in terms of refined sugar:—

Year.	Total Quantity.	Quantity per Head of Population.	Year.	Total Quantity.	Quantity per Head of Population.
	Million Cwts.			Million Cwts.	
1902	27.6	73.9	1909	32.0	80.4
1903	25.3	67.0	1910	31.3	78.0
1904	29.7	78.2	1911	32.4	80.2
1905	27.0	70.4	1912	32.3	79.1
1906	29.8	77.1	1913	33.9	82.5
1907	30.8	78.8	1914	32.9	79.4
1908	30.4	77.2			

Note.—The above figures represent the imports less total exports, the quantities of British refined sugar exported on drawback being also deducted.

A NEW department has been set up by the Foreign Office to deal with questions regarding trade with enemy persons or associations in neutral countries and to carry out the policy of the Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers Act). It is called the Foreign Trade Department and has its offices at Lancaster House in the Mall, London. The licensing of exports will be controlled by the War Trade Department of the Board of Trade as hitherto.

THE MAP OF THE WEST INDIES.

THE West India Committee Map of the West Indies is by far the clearest and best map of those colonies which has been published in recent years. Its use is being extended by the Educational Authorities in the British West Indies, and orders are now being received for it from schools in this country. To business men connected with the West Indies the map is almost indispensable, giving, as it does, the distances by various trade routes, and coaling and wireless stations, besides valuable statistics as to the area of the various colonies and population.

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 Jamaica Government has removed the embargo on the exports of logwood and logwood preparations to the extent of permitting shipments to be made to British possessions in America and to French and Italian ports.

OBITUARY.

MAJOR CHARLES ARCHIBALD PHILIP, V.D.

We regret to state that Major Charles Archibald Philip died at his residence, 21, Dennington Park Road, West Hampstead, on January 7th.

Major Philip was the son of the late Mr. James Philip, at one time a merchant in St. Vincent, and later a planter in St. Kitts, and a grandson of the late Mr. Philip, of Wingfield Manor Estate, in the last-named island. Mr. Philip, Sen., who suffered with other planters in the West Indies from the decline in the sugar industry owing to the Continental bounty system, eventually came to England and, in 1878, founded the Pure Cane Sugar Company at Fenchurch Buildings. For many years this concern did admirable work in the direction of calling attention to West Indian produce in this country, and though it had many imitators, none survived. Mr. C. A. Philip succeeded his father as proprietor of the business, and won for the firm many awards and medals at exhibitions in which he participated. In 1905, after the very successful Colonial Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, it was felt that a movement for popularising West Indian produce on a larger scale was desirable, and some members of the West India Committee formed an organisation called the West Indian Produce Association with this object in view. This new body took over the Pure Cane Sugar Company, and Major Philip was appointed manager and director. He was a keen volunteer, and later an equally keen Territorial, and he was for many years Quartermaster of the 28th (County of London) Battalion London Regiment, better known as the Artists' Rifles, in which crack corps he rose to the rank of Major. He received the Volunteer Decoration and the Territorial Medal, besides the Coronation Medal, and it was a matter for the deepest disappointment to him that he had, through ill-health, to sever his active connection with the regiment before the outbreak of war. A man of boundless energy, he threw himself with enthusiasm into whatever he undertook, and he was a general favourite among both officers and men. Unfortunately, he over-taxed his strength in bouts of single-stick and bayonet exercise in the drill hall, and this is believed to have brought on the fatal illness, from which he suffered for nearly three years before he died. Two years ago he was compelled through ill-health to relinquish the active part which he had taken in the management of the W.I.P.A. since its formation, but he still took a lively interest in its affairs, and scarcely a day passed on which he was not in touch with his colleagues over the telephone. Major Philip was gifted with a most generous and unselfish disposition, and behind a somewhat brusque manner he had a heart of gold.

MR. RICHARD GRIGG.

Mr. Richard Grigg, Commissioner of Commerce in the Canadian Trade and Commerce Department, has died suddenly at Ottawa.

Mr. Grigg, who was a native of Plymouth, was appointed head of the British Intelligence Service in Canada. In that capacity he evinced considerable interest in the question of closer trade between the Dominion and the British West Indies, which formed the subject of one of his reports. His ability was soon recognised by the Canadian Government, and he was eventually appointed Commissioner of Trade and Commerce.

A correspondent who signs himself "Uncle Tom" writes as follows:—

Sir,—"Cesar," whose epitaph you reproduced in your issue of December 14th, was, I think I am correct in saying, Sir William Byam's butler. A daughter of his lived in Antigua up to a few years ago, and I hope she still lives, for she was a chip of the old block.

It would be interesting to ascertain—if it were possible—in these days of freedom, enlightenment, and progress, how many West Indian servants deserve, and how many masters or mistresses would be generous enough to accord, a like token of affection and esteem.

The charger, to which you also refer, was ridden by Sir William at Waterloo, and taken by him to Antigua subsequently.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE question of the action of phosphates and sulphates on soil bacteria has recently been made the subject of investigation by Messrs. Fred and Hart, and the conclusions arrived at are that probably the increased crop production of a soil from the application of soluble phosphates is in part due to the promotion of bacterial activity, and that sulphates, although as low in amount in most soils as the phosphates, do not, in all probability, have the same general crop-producing power as the phosphates.

* * *

CHLOROSIS is a common malady in plant life and corresponds to the anaemia of the animal kingdom. P. Maze has recently been experimenting on the subject, and has found that in maize the disease can be induced by a lack of iron, sulphur, manganese and other bodies. Iron quickly recalls the green colour to the leaves of plants where deficiency in this respect is the cause. Chlorosis, due to lack of magnesium, Mr. Maze states, is less easily controlled, while want of manganese causes a special type of the disease. The most common cause of chlorosis is that due to iron deficiency.

* * *

ACCORDING to the *Monthly Bulletin*, a new method has been discovered for preserving liquid manure. The process is based on the fact that there are in nature, not only lactic acid bacteria capable of preserving forage, but also lactic acid bacteria able to preserve the fresh urine of animals. These bacteria require for their normal development a small amount of carbo-hydrate in the form of sugar in addition to nitrogen and salts, and sugar is added to the liquid manure to this end. The amount of sugar necessary for the preservation of 100 tons of liquid manure is 0.5 tons.

* * *

THE ferment used in the preserving operation is *Bacillus cucumeris fermentati*, widely used in Germany in preserving potatoes. 10 per cent of a broth made from sugar beet is mixed with 90 per cent. of water, and to this are added pure cultures of the above bacilli. The whole is thrown into the manure pit, and the liquid manure thus treated contains, after one or two days, the maximum amount of lactic acid necessary for its preservation. In order that the latter may be complete, it is necessary for the bottom and walls of the pit to be impermeable, which may be insured by tarring them. In addition, a small quantity of oil should be thrown into the pit to exclude air.

* * *

EXPERIMENTS as to the effect of heavy dressings of lime on moor soils have shown that in the untreated acid soils the conditions unfavourable to bacteria hinder the bacterial decomposition of nitrates. If these soils are neutralised, on the other hand, a rapid breaking up of the nitrates takes place, together with great loss of nitric acid and total nitrogen. These losses appear to be in proportion to the amount of lime applied.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. FREDERICK CHARLES PREVITE has been admitted a partner in the firm of Messrs. Previté and Co., West Indian Merchants, of 2, Crosby Square.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated to the Rectory of Denton, Norfolk, the Rev. T. Herbert Bindley, D.D., Rector of Hedenham, and Rural Dean of Brooke, Eastern Division.

THE War Office has announced that for the present, save in exceptional circumstances, temporary Commissions in the Regular Army will only be given on the recommendation of a Commanding Officer.

THE West Indian Contingent Committee aims at providing for the welfare of all who have come over from the West Indies to serve their King and Empire and will be pleased to hear from any men from those Colonies who may be in need of comforts in the shape of mufflers, mittens, etc., or of advice.

DURING the last fifty years the Cuban sugar crop has risen from 612,000 tons to 2,582,845 tons. The lowest figure reached since records were first carefully kept in 1853 was in 1897, the year before the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, 212,051 tons only were reaped. The remarkable developments in recent years have, of course, been mainly due to the preference given to Cuban sugar by the United States.

MR. SAMUEL CAMERON has been elected Chairman and Mr. W. H. Alty has been re-elected Deputy Chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool for the period ending on the date of the Annual General Meeting in 1918. Mr. Cameron has been associated with the British West Indies for many years, having first visited Demerara in 1879. He entered the firm of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co. in Liverpool in 1880, and has been with them ever since.

COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR BASIL DAVIS, of "E" Company of the B.W.I.s. writes to us as follows:—

The N.C.O.'s and men of the St. Kitts Contingent would like to thank their Government for the very generous presents for Christmas; Mr. John Evelyn for the fund he raised locally for them; the R.M.S.P. Co. for presents of chocolates, and the West Indian Contingent Committee for Christmas puddings; also Mrs. Wade, who has been very kind in sending us presents of warm gloves, sweets, cigarettes, etc.

We would be very much obliged, Sir, if you could spare room in your journal to express our thanks.

In response to the appeal for "alpagatas," those leather-soled, canvas-topped slippers so popular in Central and South America, for a hospital in France—l'Hôpital de Notre Dame des Grèves—which was published in the CIRCULAR of November 2nd, Mr. Maduro, a merchant of Curaçao, and Mr. Ivan B. Laing, the British Consul in that island, have kindly forwarded to the West India Committee five dozen

pairs, which, like those already presented by Mr. Climaco Vargas, will be most acceptable. It is found that alpagatas are most convenient for the use of patients when they have to cross the courtyard in the damp, as they are often compelled to do.

THE New Year has opened auspiciously for the West India Committee, there being already sixteen candidates awaiting election. It may be pointed out that any members may propose or second candidates for election. 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.

ACCORDING to the Chief Hydrographer of the Panama Canal Zone a novel means of attracting fish is in vogue along the lower reaches of the Trinidad River, an important tributary of Gatun Lake. As the water rose numbers of ants and other crawling insects were marooned on the trees which were partly submerged. Many of these trees have rotted at the roots and fallen down, and the natives were not slow to discover that the fall of a tree attracted fish in search of a meal. Now, according to the *Canal Record*, when they wish to catch fish the natives either push over a rotting tree or throw in a limb or log to make a splash. This method, though calculated in ordinary circumstances to frighten fish away, attracts the lake fish in great numbers.

THE ninth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which was to have been held at Toronto this year has been postponed until 1918. Meanwhile, however, the Executive Committee realising the necessity of further consolidating inter-Imperial trade, and rendering the Empire more and more self-supporting, are convening a purely business Conference, confined to members of the Council for the week beginning June 5th next. An agenda paper specifying the subjects for discussion is in preparation, and will be circulated prior to the meetings in sufficient time to permit of affiliated Chambers instructing their representatives in regard thereto. It is hoped that the Chambers of Commerce of sugar-growing colonies will take the opportunity of calling attention to the importance of developing the British sugar industry.

The object of the West Indian Contingent Fund (a further list of subscriptions to which is given on page 17) 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.

THE LONDON LETTER.

THE West Indies were represented in the New Year's Honours list by the Hon. William Lamond Allardyce, Governor of the Bahamas, and Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, Governor-Elect of the Leeward Islands, who are created K.C.M.G., and by Hon. Adam Smith, who is made a C.M.G. The promotion of the two Governors may be taken as a compliment to the above-mentioned colonies apart from its personal significance. Mr. Adam Smith is a Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, and Honorary Secretary of that very useful body the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated), which was founded in 1879, and is, perhaps, the most active and influential commercial body in the British West Indies.

The honour conferred on Major James R. Boose, V.D., who becomes a C.M.G., will be received with particular satisfaction in colonial circles. In his capacity of Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, Major Boose is at present touring the West Indies, where the immense value of his work as successively Librarian and Secretary of that body is duly appreciated. The List was very catholic in character, including politicians of every shade of opinion and nearly every branch of the public service. It included two new Garters, one Viscount, six Peers, six Privy Councillors (among whom are Will Crooks and George Barnes, the Labour leaders, an appointment which is generally applauded), three Irish Privy Councillors, thirteen Barons and twenty-eight Knights. Accompanying the Honours a lengthy list of those mentioned in despatches by Sir John French, now Lord French of Ypres, was published on New Year's Day.

The Royal Colonial Institute deserves well of the Dominions for having commissioned Sir Rider Haggard to visit Australia and New Zealand, Canada and South Africa to ascertain what opportunities they will afford for land settlement and the employment of soldiers and sailors who may desire to make their homes in those parts of the Empire. Land settlement in the West Indies is not on quite the same footing as in the Dominions, the possession of a certain amount of capital being essential for emigrants to those tropical islands. Still it would be a capital thing if Sir Rider could be persuaded to return from Canada via the Caribbean, and the writer proposes to "sound" him on the subject.

The subject of compulsory military service is the all-absorbing topic at present, and the opponents of the measure speak and write as if such a system was completely foreign to British traditions. It is not generally known that both Cavaliers and Roundheads in the Great Civil War were largely recruited by forcible service, and Cromwell's Ironsides in particular. The great dictator would have made short work of the conscientious objector had he been in power at the present day.

An interesting event is to take place, in the form of the marriage of Miss Ruth Bagot Steele to Lieut.

Clifford Francis, which will be celebrated at Portsmouth on the 15th. Miss Steele is the granddaughter of the late Mr. George Bagot Steele, so well remembered by Demerarians, while the bridegroom, who is in the East Surrey Regiment, is the second son of Colonel Claude Francis, at one time Deputy Inspector-General of Police, British Guiana.

ALTHOUGH Sir George Reid was a Free Trader until he forswore politics on becoming High Commissioner for Australia, and may be one again now that he has retired from that position, his election to Parliament for St. George's, Hanover Square, for which he was nominated by the Unionist party, will be welcomed in the Dominions and Colonies. At present Colonial affairs have too often to yield to the politics of the Parish Pump in the House of Commons, and the presence of a statesman of the calibre of Sir George will be a distinct gain.

THERE was spirited competition at the weekly cacao sales at the London Commercial Sale Rooms on January 11th, when seven bags of Grenada cacao consigned to the West India Committee as a gift to the British Red Cross Society's "Our Day" Fund by the Hon. Grahame Lang on behalf of the people of St. Andrew's, Grenada, were offered for sale. Arrangements for the sale were made by Messrs. Jonas Browne and Son, and the brokers were Messrs. Paines and Reid, both firms kindly waiving all fees. After some spirited bidding the cacao was knocked down to Messrs. Theo Vasmer and Co., at the record price of 125/- per cwt., or 50 per cent. above the current market value. The highest price which Grenada cacao has hitherto fetched is 122/6, which was reached in September, 1907.

THE issue of Exchequer bonds bearing interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum in small amounts was begun at the Post Offices on January 10th, and the experiment will be watched with close interest. At present £5 is the smallest denomination that can be applied for, but it is understood that an attempt will be made to attract the weekly savings of the smaller wage earners by making arrangements by which they can place smaller amounts to their credit through the medium of the Post Office Savings Bank. The bonds are repayable in five years, and can be deposited at the Post Offices in much the same way as larger bonds can be registered or inscribed at the Bank of England.

Our Consumption of Beer and Spirits.

On December 23rd, Mr. McKenna, replying to Mr. Laurence Hardy, gave the following figures to show the consumption of beer in the United Kingdom for the year after the imposition of the Beer War Duty and the consumption in the previous year before the imposition of the duty; and the consumption of gin, whisky, and rum in the United Kingdom during the same periods:

	1914-15.	1913-14.
Beer—	Barrels.	Barrels.
Imported	23,100	68,600
Home-made	28,730,000	35,407,000
Spirits—	Proof galls.	Proof galls.
Imported Geneva	382,800	400,800
.. .. . Rum	4,629,900	3,328,700
.. .. . Other Spirits	1,735,700	1,835,500
* Home-made	28,316,100	25,855,800

* No separate figures can be given for whisky or gin. The month of November, 1914, being that in which the change in Beer Duty took place, has been omitted in the periods given.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Owing perhaps to the Christmas holidays, which were approaching, fewer letters than usual were received from the West Indies by the American mail. It will be a matter for satisfaction to readers interested in Tobago that the consideration of the question of curtailing the steamer service between that island and Trinidad has been deferred. The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

BRITISH GUIANA—Mr. Buck on the Sea Defences.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, DECEMBER 18th.—The weather has continued much too dry. Showers have fallen at intervals, but they have not been heavy enough for requirements.

Mr. and Mrs. Clementi propose to leave on a visit to Roraima and the Kaieteur Fall on January 20th. The Mail Edition of the *Argosy* (December 11th) gives a verbatim report of Mr. Buck's speech on Mr. Sherlock's motion in the Combined Court to appoint a Committee on the subject of the coast defences. He recalled that when he first came to the colony he had advocated a reclamation scheme by use of a suction dredger costing \$160,000 that would pump clay. Since then more than \$268,000 had been spent on sea defences exclusive of their maintenance. In the same period 7½ miles of his scheme could have been carried out at a less cost. Mr. Sherlock's motion was accepted. The same issue gives the text of His Excellency the Governor's proposals for the retirement of the public road at Buxton.

JAMAICA—An Offer to Convalescent Officers.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., JANUARY 6th.—On the north side of the island the weather during November was very stormy, with heavy rains and floods. St. Thomas, St. Mary, and Portland were the parishes most affected. Landslides occurred in many districts, and several bridges have been carried away or rendered useless. The Johnston and Yallahs rivers were down for some time, and at some points are impassable. The railway line to Port Antonio became blocked again, and the arrangement for re-starting the regular service could not be carried through. Mr. Yorke Slader, the Resident Magistrate for St. Ann, visited Turks Island during the month, where he went to try some civil cases.

The receipts of the Jamaica Government Railway for the month of October show an improvement over previous months, being £11,272, compared with £12,713 for the corresponding month last year. The Customs receipts also show an improvement generally.

Captain Peel, R.M.L.I., the N.I.O. in Jamaica, has been promoted to the rank of Major. Mr. T. N. Aguilar has been appointed Chairman of the Victoria Mutual Building Society, to succeed Mr. Jordan Andrews, deceased.

The indications point to a very large sugar crop throughout the island this season, and it is confidently expected the coming crop will exceed that of several past years.

Jamaica's first Contingent, 700 strong, under command of Major W. D. Neish, left for England on the 8th. This Contingent will be kept up to full strength, and drafts of 75 men will be recruited monthly and sent forward by every opportunity. The Imperial Government have since accepted an offer by the Colonial Government for a second Contingent of 1,000 men. This means that 230 men per month will have to be recruited to be sent forward as reinforcements, and 900 men will be available for transport overseas every four months. It is expected that arrangements will shortly be made for the despatch of a larger force, and in some quarters 10,000 men is stated to be the number that will eventually be offered. The cost will be met by a loan from the Mother Country.

Captain C. S. Sanguinetti, of the Railway Stores Department, has been granted a Commission in the new battalion.

The War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	9,860	13	7
Jamaica War Contingent Woman's Fund	2,112	17	0
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	4,119	10	9
Suffering Jews in Poland Fund	783	9	0
Trafalgar Day (British Red Cross)	1,415	3	9
Miss Douet, Hospital	422	19	0
Jamaica Contingent Recreation Room Fund	318	8	0

It is reported that a suggestion has been offered to the owners of the Constant Spring Hotel to turn the hotel into a convalescent home for officers and soldiers. It is understood that the military authorities here have moved in the matter, and the result of their inquiries is being eagerly awaited.

ST. KITTS.—The New Medical Officers.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, DECEMBER 3rd.—We have had a continuance of showery weather, which has been favourable to the continued growth of the 1916 cane crop, which promises to be a large one. We have had five inches of rain since the 28th ulto., and it is still very dull and overcast.

£226 6s. 5d. was forwarded from this Presidency on the 26th ulto. to Lord Lansdowne for the Red Cross Society, made up of subscriptions from St. Kitts, £155 1s. 3d.; Nevis, £34 16s.; and Anguilla, £36 9s. 2d. A successful Sale of Work, held at Old Government House by Mrs. Roger on the 18th ulto., realised £45 for the relief of destitute Belgian children.

It is with deep regret we learn of the death of Major G. P. Molinex Montgomerie in Flanders, and also of the death of Mr. E. A. Agar in Dominica.

The S.S. *Korona* on the 26th ulto. brought two doctors from the United States to fill the vacancies here and in Nevis. Dr. Purrington is taking charge of District No. 3 here, and Dr. Lisle going to Nevis. I hear there were 1,100 applicants, so these islands must have been pictured as really Arcadian.

TOBAGO The Coastal Steamer Service.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, writing on December 15th, said that a general opinion prevailed that the Royal Mail Company had been "high-handed" in regard to the mail service, though cargo boats and the French Mail would meet the colony's needs for the moment. With regard to the coastal service, very vigorous protests were being made against the proposals to operate it with a single steamer, which would render it practically impossible except for those districts adjoining Scarborough. The more serious outcome would be the practical cutting off of the north coast bays from communication with the outside world except over hilly roads, good for foot traffic, but almost impossible for transport of produce. The coastal steamers were chiefly intended for the development of these out-districts, all of which are prospering on account of the facilities for shipment, and it would be a serious matter to deprive these peasant proprietors now of the means of marketing their produce. Occasional sloops used to call at these out-bays, but the steamers have practically ousted them, and there is therefore no substitute to fall back on.

TRINIDAD The Coastal Service Question.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 20th.—The Intercolonial boats will cease running at the end of the month. Now that the fine boats of the Royal Mail Company performing the Canadian contract arrive bi-monthly, calling at the other islands en route, we shall not feel the absence of the other steamers so much. None the less, I fear that all the saving in subsidies effected by the suspension of the transatlantic and island services will not recompense us for the loss of trade and position we have occupied since we became the central and transshipment port. With regard to the proposal to do away with one of the two steamers performing the round the island and Tobago service, when I intimated that this further retrograde step was being borne light-heartedly, I was wrong. On the agenda of last Friday's meeting of the Legislative Council the first resolution printed was by the Colonial Secretary:—

"That this Council approves of the proposal . . . for a modification of the Coastal Service Contract so as to provide that the remainder of the service shall be performed by one steamer instead of two, and the annual subsidy reduced from £7,250 to £3,625."

This was introduced without any previous reference to the Finance Committee, or to the Agricultural or Commercial bodies who were primarily interested. Fortunately there is a Chamber of Commerce. An extraordinary meeting was held on Thursday, when the Royal Mail Company's proposal, supported as it was by the Government, and, incidentally, but evidently on faulty information, by the Secretary of State, was torn to ribbons. Those most intimately connected with the trade demonstrated clearly that it would be impossible for one boat to handle with anything like satisfaction the growing cargo and passenger traffic. No one objected to economy or inconvenience in this time of stress, but it was false economy to obstruct and hinder trade from which revenue was derived. In the result a strong resolution expressing regret that the Government should have acted without consulting those who knew, stating that the curtailment would be a retrograde step from which great inconvenience and loss would result, and protesting against any interference with the terms of the contract, which has still seven years to run, was passed and entrusted to the Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Mr. Adam Smith, to present on the morrow before the Government resolution came on in Council. Next day Mr. Smith fully justified the confidence reposed in him. After a very telling speech, the officials retired from the position with the best grace possible, and the matter was referred to the Finance Committee, to come up again in February.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 9th inst., Mr. Henry Warner, one of the approving pioneers of the cane farming industry, moved that it was desirable, in order to avoid critical disputes and delays, that the Government should take steps to propound a scale of prices for farmers' canes, and that a Committee should be appointed to consider the feasibility of legislation in the matter. The resolution was carried, but only by a bare majority. The industry has become a very important one now, and it is much to be regretted that some of the old differences of years ago between farmer and factory owner have been revived. This state of things has been brought about by the high prices of the past year, in which farmers claim to share, notwithstanding that there was nothing in the strict letter of agreement with the factory owners by which they could demand it. Proprietors have, however, in view of abnormal conditions, in most cases granted a special bonus on every ton of cane handed in. As one unfortunate result of the dispute, it is now announced that Messrs. Tennant, Sons and Co. will abandon the manufacture of cane at their Malgretoute Factory after next crop, and transfer all their cones by arrangement to the Usine Ste. Madeleine. In a recent number of the CIRCULAR, Mr. J. H. Smith was credited with a subscription of £200 towards the Chamber of Commerce Warplane. This should have been £400.

Cacao is coming in hand over fist, and it seems as if there will be a record December shipment. This is as it should be. Everyone is able to face the Christmas season cheerfully, and the New Year with a better heart. Money is apparently plentiful, and the stores have been crowded with cash customers for the last fortnight. If the war cloud will roll by, rolling up Germany at the same time, the future of Trinidad never looked more assured than it does on the eve of 1916.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Trinidad-Tobago Steamer Service.

Dear Sir,—The decision of the Executive to deprive us of our coastal steamer and effect a saving of £3,625 per annum is a death-blow to the progress of the island. It nullifies at a bound the recommendations for close communication between Trinidad and Tobago made by the Royal Commissioners in 1883, The West India Royal Commission in 1897, and the Imperial grant of £15,000 made at about the same time for the upkeep of roads and bridges in furtherance of the above suggestions. The exports were then valued at £20,000; last year they exceeded £66,000, and indicated an upward tendency. The late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, when Colonial Secretary, showed keen interest in the development

and progress of Tobago, and its present prosperity is due to this, backed by the solid foundation previously laid by the late Sir (then Mr.) John Carrington. The vital stab in the dark is simply "backing the clock," and if it is true that the Colonial Office no longer exercise control over the fiscal system of the colony, then this is a clear case of "the devil take the hindmost." Tobago is not represented in the Councils. Had it been, and by such men as the Hon. William Gordon-Gordon or Mr. Robert S. Reid, this retrograde step could never have been taken. The progress of the island is doomed. The Collector of Customs and the Director of Public Works are in London; both are men of broad views and progressive ideas. I solicit their attention to this matter, and crave the support of our late Governor, Sir George Le Hunte, to prevent the perpetrating of this grave injustice to Tobago. If it is purely a matter of finance, then additional revenue can be easily had by substantially increasing the liquor licences, a special tax on c.o.d. parcels, a poll or head tax on all well-to-do foreigners (not allies), and in many other ways, without having recourse to sending Tobago to the dogs at express speed. Those responsible for this retrograde step should be retired; new blood with Imperial ideas will be welcomed. The report of the Trinidad Postmaster-General that the present service by one steamer is satisfactory is incorrect, and no one knows this better than the Deputy-Governor. As an instance, the *Belize* hurriedly left Port of Spain at short notice on the 6th inst., unable to take all our cargo. Arriving here next morning, she raced round the island, calling in at few of the sixteen depots, and sailed at midnight on the 8th on her return to Port of Spain. She is back again to-day, after a lapse of eight days, to repeat her frantic haste around, hardly stopping anywhere. The distance from Scarborough to Port of Spain is but eight hours. This is the highly unsatisfactory system that has won the commendation of those in authority, and which they so strongly advocate. Had Mr. Chamberlain been alive and in office, would they have dared to put such proposals before him? I think not.

G. DAVID HATT.

Scarborough, Tobago, B.W.I.
December 17th, 1915.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

The West Indian Contingent Fund now amounts to £3,336 os. 11d., excluding the amounts earmarked for Christmas and New Year Gifts which is £871 10s. 6d.

Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received.

	£	s.	d.
J. W. McCarthy, Esq.	25	0	0
Collected by the Hon. Benj. C. Frith, Turks Island:—			
Proceeds of Midnight Picnic at Palm Grove	3	13	0
Hon. Benj. C. Frith	1	6	0
Miss Virginia Sawyer (U.S.A.)	1	0	0
Joseph Geoghegan, Esq.	10	0	0
Noel B. Livingston, Esq.	10	0	0
C. H. Yorke-Slader, Esq.	10	0	0
W. R. Tatem, Esq.	5	0	0
Simon Ivamback, Esq.	7	0	0
L. E. Carrley, Esq.	2	0	0
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The Hon. C. Gideon Murray	8	3	0
Mewburn Garnett, Esq.	5	5	0
Hon. G. Laurie Pile	5	5	0
Benckendorff, Berger & Co. (earmarked for medical comforts)	5	0	0
Miss McHugh (expenses of St. Lucia gifts)	2	0	0
Albert Cherry, Esq.	2	0	0
C. Guy A. Wyatt, Esq.	1	1	0
E. L. Agar, Esq.	1	1	0
S. D. Malone, Esq.	1	0	10
John S. Owden, Esq.	1	0	0

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

BANK RATE. Remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 89½, Old War Loan at 90½. Consols stand at 58½.

SUGAR. The history of sugar during the past year has been one of exceptional interest by reason of the abnormal circumstances given rise to by the continued locking-up of the enemy sugar, which has led to an extensive redistribution of the world's supplies.

On the 31st of December, 1914, the stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom stood at the abnormally high figure of 465,000 tons, having accumulated as the result of the heavy August-October buyings of the Sugar Commission, which had recklessly purchased nearly six months' supplies of sugar in slightly over two months. These stocks mainly consisted of Java sugars, the white kind of which was of extreme value in augmenting the deficient output of our refineries. Between the end of the year and the 13th of March, further purchases took place on behalf of the Commission of 364,550 tons of raw sugar and 50,000 tons of white; American granulated and Dutch cubes figured prominently in the latter. No official records have been published of the subsequent buyings of the Commission, but there is every reason to believe that they have been on a scale sufficient to maintain in view a supply of several months' requirements.

On the 1st of January, 1915, the price of the world's sugar, as indicated by the c.i.f. value of 96° raw sugar in New York, was \$3.00 per 100 lbs., while the value of granulated in the same market was \$4.85 per 100 lbs. representing an export value of somewhere about \$3.50 per 100 lbs. In the United Kingdom the bond value of first quality granulated was 25/8 per cwt.

At that time there was every prospect of the Cuban crop—the dominating factor in sugar economics under present conditions—falling considerably below the estimate of 2,600,000 tons. Although there was plenty of cane on the ground, the quality of the juice was poor, and the weather unfavourable for grinding operations; and it seemed almost certain that the above estimate would not be realised. These fears were groundless, the crop ultimately turning out at 2,595,000 tons but little short of the estimate.

The event of the year as regards sugar in the United Kingdom was the increase in the sugar duties. The duty on sugar which obtained at the beginning of the year was a legacy from the Boer War. Free sugar, the paradise of the sugar using trades, had existed since 1871, but revenue requirements caused imported sugar to be again taxed in 1901, when a duty equivalent to £4 3s. 4d. per ton on 98° polarisation and over sugar was imposed. This was reduced in 1908, when the Customs duties were fixed at 16/8 a ton for sugar polarising 76° and under, rising by increasing increments to £1 16s. 8d. per ton for sugars of 98° and above. By this year's Budget, however, the duty was increased fivefold, 76° and under sugars having to pay a duty of £4 10s. per ton, and sugars of 98° and over £9 6s. 8d.

A notable feature in the Budget was the fixing of an Excise duty on sugar as the outcome of the Cantley Sugar Factory operations in East Anglia. This factory has been working for several years, and has received, as an act of grace, protection to the extent of the amount of the import duty. When, however, the duty was raised from £1 16s. 8d. per ton to £9 6s. 8d. per ton, it was necessary to fix an Excise duty, as otherwise the protection given would be in excess of the £2 10s. per ton allowed by the Brussels Convention, to the principles of which Great Britain still adheres although no longer remaining one of the signatories. An Excise duty was then fixed, rising from £3 6s. 8d. per ton for sugar polarising 76° and under, and rising in gradually increasing proportions for degree to £7 per ton. United Kingdom sugar, therefore, now receives a recognised protection to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. per ton for first quality sugars, a protection which, in the form of a preferential tariff, Great Britain, in common decency, must extend to her colonial sugar.

At the same time that the Customs duty was increased, the Commission took the opportunity of lowering the wholesale price of its sugar by £3 per ton. The resultant effect of these operations was that the general

public had to pay £4 10s. a ton more for their sugar than before the Budget, or roughly 3d. per lb. To meet the occasion, the retail price of granulated was raised from 3½d. per lb. to 4d. per lb. In order, however, to check the consumption of cube sugar, the Commission raised its wholesale price to £50 per ton, and the retail to 6d. per lb. The outcry that rose from this action, however, was such that the wholesale price was quickly lowered to £40 10s., and the retail to 5d.

Following the drop in prices made by the Sugar Commission, the bond value of West Indian grocery crystallised became correspondingly depressed, and fell from about £26 per ton for best quality to £23 per ton in bond.

During the year, 1,482,136 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom. Of this amount, 93,117 tons came from Holland, 397,684 tons from Java, 353,905 tons from Cuba, 111,875 tons from Mauritius, and 115,645 tons from British Guiana and the British West Indies. The exports amounted to 2,043 tons.

The stocks at the beginning of the year amounted to 465,000 tons; at its close 135,760 tons. The consumption of sugar, therefore, was 1,809,323 tons, which was over 50,000 tons more than last year, and more than 120,000 tons less than that of 1913.

The New York market experienced big variations in price during the year. On January 4th, 1915, the c.i.f. price of 96° was \$3.00 per 100 lbs. In the course of the next few weeks, on account of the uncertainty as to the Cuban crop being realised, values soared, until on the 8th February the figure of \$4.01 was reached. Variation within moderate limits then took place until the end of June, when a steady drop was experienced from \$3.66 to \$3.38, the latter figure being reached on the 29th July. A recovery then took place, and on the 13th August \$3.84 was reached, but a further drop supervened, the values being, with two spasmodic attempts at recovery, steadily on the down grade until the 4th of October, when the low figure of \$2.66 was reached. A prominent cause of this decline was the prospect of free sugar on the 1st of May, 1916 in the United States, the Western beet sugar manufacturers determining to market the whole of their new crop as soon as possible before that date; but a semi-official announcement that the sugar import duties would be continued at once changed the position of the market, and prices rose rapidly, and after some intermediate fluctuations rose to \$4.17 on the 2nd of December, from which point a decline took place, and on the 30th of December the value of 76° c.i.f. sugar was \$3.63. Granulated did not fluctuate to the same extent as raw sugars. The lowest point was \$4.80 at the end of September, and the highest \$6.05 on the 10th of December.

There is nothing special to chronicle in the world's cane crops during the year. As already mentioned, the Cuban crop practically reached its estimate. The Java crop realised 1,275,000 tons—about 28,000 tons short of its original estimate. The Australian crop was short to the extent of about 100,000 tons; but taking the producing countries as a whole, there has been no shortage in production so far as cane sugar is concerned. As regards beet, the European crop outside of the enemy countries realised, in round numbers, 3,500,000 tons, as against 3,800,000 tons in 1913-14. The German and Austrian sugar amounted to 4,100,000 tons in 1914-15, as against 4,450,000 tons in 1913-14.

The Mauritius 1915-16 vesou crop was purchased under embargo by the Sugar Commission, but this was the only instance of British colonial sugar being commandeered during the year. In this connection it may be pointed out that in the last Summary 7/6 per cwt. was given as the difference between the landed and selling price of some of this sugar. The figure should have been 2/5 per cwt.

A new feature in demands has been that of Russia, which has made purchases of granulated sugar in New York at a time when her own production was in full swing.

As regards the supplies of sugar during the coming year, although Cuba is likely to turn out 550,000 tons more than last year, the Java crop may fall a little short of last year's results. There will be a shortage also of sugar from Mauritius to the extent of, say, 50,000 tons, while the Argentine crop will also be short. On the whole, however, the next calendar year will show a considerable increase in the supplies of cane sugar—probably to the extent of 500,000 tons.

On the other hand, there will be a further shortage of European beet to a total extent of about 1,430,000 tons, 1,100,000 tons of which will be in enemy countries, leaving an amount to be deducted from the available supplies of 330,000 tons, it being taken for granted that the Allies will no longer allow the shipment of enemy sugar to neutral countries.

It may therefore be expected that the supplies for the year 1916 will meet the requirements to the extent they have done in 1915, and unless the War ends in the next three months there is not likely to be any material change in the general situation. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that the shortage in the world's production is entirely due to Continental beet, and that, given factories, and sowing in due season, the deficiency in the world's sugar could well be made up in the course of twelve months.

There is, however, one difficulty which is becoming more accentuated every day in connection with the distribution of sugar, and this is the question of freights, the shortage of steamers rendering prompt supply a matter of great difficulty. There is also the point to be considered that the sugar supply of the United Kingdom was a much less strain upon shipping when the bulk of the supplies came from Europe than now, when the whole world is drawn upon for sugar for the purpose.

In the London market sales were resumed on the 4th inst., when 970 tons of grocery crystallised were offered and met with ready sale at an advance of 6d. to 7d. per cwt. 8,746 bags Demerara sold at 30/9 to 32/3. Syrups and muscovado were in good request at previous rates. 7,512 bags of Demerara syrups sold at 27/- to 28/3, and 976 bags of Barbados muscovado were part sold at 27/9 to 28/1.

On the 7th, 700 tons grocery crystallised were offered and eagerly competed for, selling at an advance of 3d. to 6d. per cwt. Surinam sold at 31/6 to 32/6, and Demerara at 31/3 to 32/6. Syrups were also in good demand, 401 bags Demerara selling at 27/6 to 28/3. At auction yesterday, 680 tons of West Indian grocery crystallised were offered. The market was well supported, and all was sold at an advance of 3d. on previous rates.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st, 1915, to December 31 were:—

	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Imports ...	53,781	31,196	39,585	27,151	35,195
Deliveries ...	48,690	38,139	29,476	29,720	35,892
Stock (Dec. 31)	11,100	7,256	21,178	22,636	24,417

The New York market has been in a quiet state since the date of last Summary, and now stands at \$4.52 for duty paid 96¢, and \$5.65 for granulated. A sale of 30,000 of 30,000 tons of granulated is reported for Europe at \$4.34 f.o.b. New York.

RUM. During the year 1915 the market for rum of all descriptions has been a strong one, proof kinds, which were quoted in January at 1/9 per gallon, being valued at 3/4 in December, Jamaicas also participating in the advance, their values closing at from 4/4 to 4/9 for ordinary home trade varieties. The higher values have, however, been subject to the higher freights obtaining towards the end of the year, which have materially reduced the profits which would otherwise have accrued from the higher prices.

The legislation imposed by the Immature Spirit Act was the great event of the year as regards rum. By this Act, rum of under three years of age only can be taken out of bond for consumption. To meet the case of rum, of which stocks were relatively small, on the representations of the West India Committee, the privilege was granted for one year, with the promise of extension if necessary, of taking rum out of bond after nine months' warehousing.

Business during the year was much delayed by the delay experienced—which still continues—in furnishing samples, gauges, and strengths of shipments of rum landed at the London docks. Indeed, rum landed in September last has not yet been deliverable on this account. Preference is naturally given to rum for Government use, and it is a question whether arrangements might not be made by which the present system of sampling the contents of every package might not be much simplified. Meanwhile the West India Committee has

verbally called the attention of the Board of Customs to the matter, and it is hoped that some improvement may result.

During the year substantial quantities of spirit from the Argentine were imported, admitted by the Customs as rum, which excited a considerable amount of indignation among the legitimate rum brokers. This spirit was made from cane products in a cane-producing country, and therefore came under the definition of rum, but as it was distilled at a strength of 68° over proof, it contained mere traces of the desirable attributes of rum, and a considerable quantity of the undesirable, and the use of this spirit for blending purposes, was naturally apprehended as being calculated to prejudice the reputation of West Indian rum.

The quantity of rum imported into the United Kingdom during the year as given by the Board of Trade returns, expressed in proof spirit, was 10,472,792 gallons, and the exports 527,947 gallons, as against 5,672,487 gallons imported and 705,046 gallons exported in 1914. The stock of rum in the United Kingdom on the 31st December, 1915, was 9,121,000 proof gallons, as against 5,892,000 gallons on the same date in 1914.

The market both for Jamaica on the spot and to arrive, and for proof descriptions, remains strong. Prices show a further advance.

The stocks in London on January 1st were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	6,268	6,504	6,459	7,268	8,692
Demerara ...	3,641	5,344	6,826	5,638	5,487
Total all kinds ...	20,540	17,684	20,626	21,178	22,636

COTTON. Since our last report a limited business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton. About 130 bales have been sold, which include St. Vincent 16½d. to 17d., St. Kitts 15½d. to 17d., Anguilla 14½d., and Nevis 15½d., with stains 9½d. to 11½d. Prices are firm, but there is no stock.

There were no imports of West Indian cotton into the United Kingdom for the current year up to the 6th January.

CACAO. The end of 1914 saw the cacao market in a firm and promising condition. The closing of the Hamburg and other Continental distributing centres had led to more work of this description being thrown upon London, and on this account both imports to, and exports from, the United Kingdom had enormously increased. At the end of December, fine quality Trinidad was selling at 78/-, and fine Grenada at 76/-. Early in January, on account of the large amounts of the exports to neutral countries on the Continent, the British Government prohibited the export of cacao from the United Kingdom to Continental countries other than Russia, Belgium, France, Spain, and Portugal; and an immediate drop in prices occurred, fine Trinidad being quoted at the nominal price of 71/-, and fine Grenada at 68/-.

Early in February the prohibition was removed, and a steady demand followed, prices rising until the middle of April, when 100/- was reached for superior Trinidad. Subsequently prices declined heavily, under apprehension as to further Government action, and this caused holders to unload, with a further drop in prices, the value of fine Trinidad falling in the early part of June to 79/-. A reaction then occurred, prices again advancing, until at the end of July, Trinidad was sold at 85/-, and Grenada at 80/-.

On the 31st July the prohibition for exports, except under licence, and then only to recognised firms so far as neutral countries were concerned, was re-imposed. Business went on steadily under these conditions, prices materially improving, until at the end of the year the value of Trinidad was 94/- to 95/-, and of Grenada 84/- to 91/-. Other West Indian kinds being worth 83/- to 84/-. For the seven months the imports were 122,931,239 lbs., at the average rate of 17,561,605 lbs. per month, as against 60,499,441 lbs., or 3,641,491 lbs. per month, for the same period in 1914. The exports for these months were 34,734,902 lbs., or at the rate of 4,962,129 lbs. per month, as against 9,422,113 lbs., or 1,346,016 lbs. per month, in 1914. For the last five months of the year, during which the prohibition was in force, 54,173,339 lbs. were imported, averaging 10,834,667 lbs. per month, as against 33,021,855 lbs. and 6,604,370 lbs. respectively for the same months in 1914.

The . . .

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ILLUSTRATION:—

A Quaint Piece of Eighteenth Century Embroidery
to face 24

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SRETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.,

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

January 26th, 1916.

SHIPPING FREIGHT RATES.

IN our issue of December 14th last we expressed the opinion that it was a matter for serious consideration whether the Government should not take steps to regulate freight rates, which were getting beyond all bounds. Since then the situation has become greatly aggravated, scarcely a day passing on which some increase in the already exorbitant freights has not been recorded. The primary cause of the present trouble is, of course, the shortage of merchant shipping due to the requirements of the Admiralty, which has commandeered a large portion of the available tonnage. In a letter published in the *Times*, SIR ALFRED BOOTH, the Chairman of the Cunard Line, has pointed out that the tonnage entrances into ports of the United Kingdom in 1915 were 8,395,528 tons, of which 5,728,259 were British, against 12,634,518 tons, including 8,347,584 British, in 1913 under peace conditions. "Therefore under war conditions the British tonnage entrances have fallen 31 per cent., the foreign tonnage entrances 37 per cent., and the total tonnage entrances 33 per cent. To put the question in another form, these figures mean that during the last three months we had the carrying power of 67 ships to do the work of each 100 ships employed in times of peace, and of these 67 ships remaining available 46 were British and 21 foreign." In the same letter he expressed

a belief that it would be possible by more careful management of the ports and channels of distribution to increase the ocean carrying power at our disposal. With this we are in full agreement, knowing as we do how many vessels have been hung up and delayed at the London docks owing to the dilatory methods of the Port of London Authority, which have been of late a too frequent cause of complaint. But, SIR ALFRED points out, "no management will ever enable 67 to do the work of 100 ships. Further, whilst we can regulate as we please the employment and the freights of the British ships, we can only retain the services of the foreign ships so long as we are prepared to pay for them as high freights as they can get in any other trade in the world that is open to them. We can therefore only regulate the employment and freight of 46 out of every 67 of the ships that are now bringing in our imports—that is, we can control the movements and freights of less than one-half of the shipping we employed in times of peace." In conclusion, SIR ALFRED BOOTH suggested that the only alternative would be for the State to prohibit the importation of all cargoes other than those necessary for the successful conduct of the War and to the existence of the Nation. In the House of Commons on January 19th, in reply to several questions which were put to him, MR. RUNCIMAN said that the subject, which was undoubtedly one of the most important problems to be faced at this stage of the War, had for some time past been receiving the constant attention of the Government. The Government had, he said, gone fully into the question of commandeering the whole of British tonnage in order to regulate freights, and came to the conclusion that this particular remedy would only aggravate the shortage of tonnage available for the United Kingdom and the Allies. He added that they were now taking steps to co-ordinate more closely the demands for tonnage for military and naval purposes and for munitions and food for ourselves and the Allies; to secure further economy in the use of requisitioned tonnage; and to increase the amount of tonnage available. The taxpayer may well ask, Why was this not done before? It is the very general belief, which was voiced by MR. HOUSTON, M.P., that there has been a great and extravagant waste of the tonnage requisitioned by the Admiralty. Meanwhile it may be noted that the *Times* is conducting a campaign in favour of the exercise of greater control over all British ships, and as we go to press there is good reason to believe that early steps will be taken to restrict the importation of luxuries such as motor-cars, etc., which would materially relieve the situation, setting free as it will a certain amount of tonnage for indispensable foodstuffs which have recently risen considerably in price.

SEA DEFENCES IN BRITISH GUIANA.

THE recurrent, if not ever-present, trouble regarding the sea defences of British Guiana is again occupying the serious attention of the authorities of the colony. The subject was discussed at the recent session of the Combined Court, and as a result the Governor, SIR WALTER EGERTON, has appointed an influential Commission, comprising prominent planters, engineers, and Government officials, under the chairmanship of the HON. J. J. NUNAN, K.C., to inquire into the whole question with a view of recommending the best means for grappling with the difficulty, which at the present time appears to be a very pressing one, especially on the East Coast and Corentyne districts. It may be remembered that in the 'eighties BARON HORA SICCAMA was specially engaged as an expert to inspect the coasts of the colony and inquire into the matter of sea defences, and that he submitted a very full and elaborate report on the subject, which has been taken as a text by successive Directors of Public Works—namely, MESSRS. HUTCHENS, DICKSON, BELL, and PARK—until the present Director of Public Works, MR. E. C. BUCK, appeared upon the scene within the last few years. All these engineers, following the lead of BARON SICCAMA, confined their attention, so far as was practicable, to stone protection and groynes along the foreshore, the former to act as wave-breakers to lessen the force of the Atlantic surf on the sea dams, and the latter as sort of "persuaders," aiming at the encouragement of deposit in front of the dams of banks of drift-mud, sand, and shell, transported by littoral currents along the shores. The good result of such groynes may be noted at the Kitty Corner, near Georgetown, where the long stone groyne run out in a northerly direction, has induced the formation of a long sand beach to windward, extending across the frontage of the Kitty village to Pt. Belair, a section of the East Coast that not many years ago was subject to a very severe "wash," or tidal erosion. Some years ago, during MR. A. G. BELL's regime, MR. A. H. CASE, who was invited to visit the colony, advocated the adoption of his system of low training groynes for encouraging the deposit of protective mud banks along the foreshore of the East Coast in the neighbourhood of Belfield, but with what success we are not in a position to state definitely. MR. E. C. BUCK, the present Director of Public Works, soon after his appointment made an entirely new departure by recommending the adoption of what we have heard described in Creole parlance as a "timber and putta-putta scheme," consisting of a dredging system working at or outside of low-water mark, and depositing, through a series of delivery pipes, liquid clay or mud, behind a breastwork of the colony's greenheart, erected along the foreshore in front of the sea-dams, and so forming a protection to them. MR. BUCK estimates the cost of the complete dredging plant and its appurtenances at \$160,000, to which has to be added the cost of the heavy greenheart breastwork, braced and stayed to resist the force of the waves and the weight of the clay backing, which would probably be not less than \$6 per lineal foot, aggregating a considerable sum of

money over the threatened sections of the sea-defences. The main objections to this scheme are the more or less perishable nature of the wooden breastwork and the resistance offered by such a vertical erection to the force of the waves, it being generally found in such cases that an easy sea-slope is the best "line of least resistance" to adopt. The ideal sea-defence is, of course, a sea-wall of stone, such as that erected under the successive direction of MESSRS. BOURNE, NICHOLSON, POLLARD, and SICCAMA, for the protection of the city of Georgetown, extending from Fort William Frederick to the Kitty Corner, a distance of about two miles. We do not know exactly how much money this fine and efficient structure cost, but its construction lasted over some thirty years—from 1852 to 1882—and it has proved itself a valuable asset not for Georgetown only, but also for the colony as a whole. We shall watch with interest the outcome of the present Commission, and we wish it every success in its deliberations towards a satisfactory solution of a difficult problem, but one of much importance to the colony of British Guiana.

THE SUGAR TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

THE question of trade after the War continues to engage the attention of the business community. It is now generally accepted that our commercial relations with the countries with which we are at present at war cannot be resumed on the old footing when peace is once more restored. In this connection a series of recommendations which have been adopted by the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce are significant. In the old days the Council—as distinct from the Chamber—held distinctly "so-called Free Trade" views. One rubs one's eyes too, on reading a series of resolutions passed by the Confectionery and Preserved Food sections of the Chamber, which lead to the hope that, after all, the lessons of the War will not be forgotten, and that the British sugar producers and the consumers will shortly be on the same platform, and that former controversies and antagonism will be forgotten. But it is to the future that we have to look, and not the past. Briefly, the confectioners are now staunchly advocating the encouragement of the production of sugar within the Empire, so that the sugar-using industries may be independent of enemy supplies—that is to say, we assume, supplies from the countries with which we are now at war—and the adoption of "strong steps" to prevent dumping. This is distinctly encouraging, and we trust that the sugar-using trades will realise that the only means by which the British sugar industry can be developed sufficiently to bring about the desired object is by according to it preferential treatment. Under a system of preference the output of sugar from Cuba has risen from 212,051 tons to 2,582,845 tons, and there is no reason whatever why, if similarly encouraged, the British sugar industry should not show a still greater increase. It being granted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to budget for at least £300,000,000 per annum for many years to come, it is clear that the consumers cannot hope for the early removal of the sugar duties. In the

circumstances, would they not welcome their reduction in favour of sugar within the Empire, if it would ultimately lead to larger supplies of British-produced sugar being available?

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee for the year was held at 15, Seething Lane, on January 13th. Mr. Middleton Campbell presided, and members also present were Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. G. Carrington, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. C. Gurney, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

On the motion of Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, seconded by Mr. Rutherford, Sir William Trollope, Bart., was elected a member of the Executive.

The following were admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder
William McMillan (British Guiana)	{ H. L. Humphrys. { C. Algernon Campbell.
O. T. Cazabon, J.P. (Tobago)	{ G. David Hatt. { Isaac S. Hope.
Jules Mahabir	{ Rev. C. D. Lalla. { Edgar Tripp.
L. J. Sorzano (Tobago)	{ W. F. O. Paul, J.P. { G. David Hatt.
M. A. Ghany (Trinidad)	{ Rev. C. D. Lalla. { Edgar Tripp.
P. M. H. Allabar (Trinidad)	{ Rev. C. D. Lalla. { Edgar Tripp.
Frank Mahabir	{ Rev. C. D. Lalla. { Edgar Tripp.
J. B. Taylor	{ E. A. de Pass. { W. Middleton Campbell.
Walter D. Mallet	{ Alfred Sterry. { Captain T. H. Disney.
Alex Duncan (Dominica)	{ K. P. Penchoen. { S. W. Howes.
S. Cameron	{ A. McConnell. { W. H. Alty.
William Renwick	{ John D. Smart Dalgleish. { E. R. Davson.
David Gill (Grenada)	{ G. MacGregor Frame. { Stephen Ewen.
Wales Estates (Demerara), Ltd.	{ R. M. B. Parker. { H. Deverill.
Lady Northcote	{ W. Middleton Campbell. { R. Rutherford.
W. H. McTurk (British Guiana)	{ John Brummell. { E. R. Davson.

Mr. Davson reported an interview at the Custom House with regard to the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, and it was decided to press for an extension of the concession to rum under the Act.

A letter from the War Trade Department (December 22nd) was read in which it was stated that applications for Licences for the export of sulphuric acid to the British West Indies for the manufacture of rum would receive careful consideration.

Mr. Rutherford reported that the Committee of Sugar Importers, after meeting the leading Brokers, recommended that action in the direction of alter-

ing the terms of sale of grocery sugar in London so as to bring them into accord with those prevailing at other ports, should be postponed for the present.

A discussion took place on the subject of East Indian Immigration.

The Secretary reported that on behalf of the Army Council, the Committee had now received and distributed over 9,000 packages of fruit, principally oranges, limes, and grapefruit among hospitals receiving sick and wounded soldiers. The fruit was the gift of planters in Trinidad, Jamaica, Dominica, and Grenada, and had been mainly collected by the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the Dominica Agricultural Society, and Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of the *West Indian*. The Committee had also received and forwarded to the British Red Cross Society, 1,100 gallons of lime juice, besides many other gifts. The total expenditure for rail carriage approximated £600, which was recoverable from the War Office.

CONFECTIONERS AND BRITISH SUGAR.

The Views of a Prominent Confectioner.

In view of the forthcoming business Conference of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, the Bakery and Confectionery, Canned Goods and Preserved Food Sections of the London Chamber of Commerce have passed the following important resolutions, among others:—

That the Government be urged to encourage the production of sugar within the Empire, so that the sugar-using industries may be independent of enemy supplies.

That strong steps should be taken to prevent dumping and under-valuation on similar lines to those adopted by Canada and the United States of America.

The adoption of these resolutions affords the hope that it may eventually be realised that the interests of British Sugar producers and consumers are not divergent, as they appeared to be in the old days of the anti-bounty agitation.

Further indications of a *rapprochement* are afforded by a paper from the pen of Mr. George Mathieson.

It is satisfactory to find that the views of this gentleman, who is the Managing Director of Clarke, Nicholls & Coombs, the well-known confectioners, on the sugar question have undergone considerable modification as the result of the War. In a paper entitled "Sugar: Past, Present, and Future," which has been published by the Directors of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, he says: "It is well known that of recent years Great Britain has drawn its main supplies of sugar from Germany and Austria, but the War will leave memories that may render it undesirable to lean too much on the Central Empires in the future for sugar or anything else. Their proximity and their manufacturers' adaptability in providing sugar in the exact forms desired by consumers amply ex-

plain the great hold that the Germans had acquired on the British market. But we must now think of the future, and take what steps may be necessary to provide a full alternative supply. Fortunately, this does not seem a very difficult problem, when the present course of development in the production of sugar, especially that derived from cane, is taken into consideration."

After referring to the rapid growth of the cane sugar industry, he points out that "The difficulty has hitherto been that cane sugar has reached us almost wholly in the raw state, but of late less costly processes of partial refinement have been discovered and several cane-growing countries can now send us sugar in a sufficiently refined form to go into direct consumption. The finer grades can be produced by our British refiners from cane sugar, as it seems extremely doubtful whether any manufacturers of cane sugar will be able on their plantations to produce the fully refined article demanded by the more fastidious British consumers. But white sugar, quite good enough for ordinary grocery purposes and for everything but higher-class manufacturing, can now be made very economically at the places where the sugar cane grows. The advantages of this are many, as the Germans discovered years ago in regard to beet. A few of these advantages may be mentioned. Labour at the place of growth is very much cheaper. One continuous handling transforms the cane or beet into sugar fit for consumption, and much less labour is needed than for the divided operations. One bagging suffices, saving several pence per cwt. Less freight has to be paid, as the eliminated impurities are left to fatten the parent soil, instead of being transported over the oceans to places where the dirt is not needed, and thus increasing the cost of carriage.

"Since the War began there has been at no time a scarcity of raw sugar. The occasional scarcity has been entirely confined to white sugar, as British refiners have been overwhelmed. The refiners have undoubtedly increased their output; but, naturally, they could not be expected immediately to so increase it—especially suffering, as others are, from a shortage of labour—as to compensate for the large quantity of white sugar which in pre-war years was imported from the Continent."

Asking himself the questions, How do we stand now? and, What is the outlook? he shows that there is no need to fear a shortage of sugar this year, and with regard to the future, however, he points out that "Consumption of sugar will grow, and it may not be safe to rely indefinitely on American surpluses, although the capabilities of Cuba, for instance, would not be exhausted if its present production were doubled. The area of suitable land is ample, but labour might be short for a very rapid increase.

"But if our own authorities would act with intelligence and energy, there are excellent prospects within our own dominions of being able, in a short space of time, to supply the British market with all its needs. Some increase might be made in our West Indian Colonies by more intensive and extended cultivation, but the labour problem is a handicap."

It is to India that Mr. Mathieson looks for an increase in the British sugar supply, and he urges the Government to undertake the development of cane cultivation and sugar manufacture within that great Empire. He then goes on to say, "Canada grows so fast that our West India Colonies could always find an outlet for the bulk of their sugar there, as they do now. It is most unlikely that beet growing will ever have a permanent hold in Canada. Circumstances are against it as a practical proposition. Besides this, the West Indies are pretty sure to give more and more attention to the growth of cacao and other products that pay much better to cultivate than sugar. In this country there always will be a demand, at a remunerative price, for crystallised cane sugar, and it might be greatly developed if the various Colonies would unite in promoting its consumption instead of wrangling about its particular origin. The consumer is absolutely indifferent as to this, so long as the sugar itself is what he wants. He cares not whether it comes from Tipperary or Timbuctoo. All he thinks about is its complexion, grain, and cane origin."

Mr. Mathieson devotes the remaining paragraphs of his most interesting article to the prospects of the home beet industry, in which he is no believer. Briefly, he feels that land in this country can be put to better economical use than sugar beet cultivation.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Some Significant Resolutions.

The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce have adopted the report of a special committee which has been sitting to discuss the question of trade during and after the war. Among the more important recommendations are the following:—

- i. That any measures which may be considered in connection with trade during and after the war should provide:
 - (a) For preferential reciprocal trading relations between all parts of the British Empire;
 - (b) For reciprocal trading relations between the British Empire and the allied countries;
 - (c) For the favourable treatment of neutral countries; and
 - (d) For regulating, by tariffs and otherwise, trade relations with all enemy countries, so as to render impossible a return to pre-war conditions and for stimulating the development of home manufactures and the consequent increased employment of native labour.
- ii. That steps should be taken to prevent the dumping (and under-valuation) of enemy goods into British markets after the war.
- iii. That discriminatory taxes be levied upon the tonnage of all enemy ships using the ports of the British Empire.
- iv. That the Government be urged to encourage the production and utilisation of raw materials and manufactured goods within the Empire under such legislative conditions as will prevent their being con-

trolled by or on behalf of subjects of enemy countries.

v. That the naturalisation laws of the Empire be amended so as to prevent the abuses which have been disclosed since the commencement of the war.

vi. That further legislation, especially in regard to enemy holdings in British companies or firms, is necessary to safeguard British subjects from the consequences of the policy of the German Government in organising its subjects residing in any part of the British Empire for commercial, industrial, financial and economic purposes in time of peace, with a view to military aggression in time of war.

vii. That His Majesty's Government be urged to guarantee for a period of years the continuance, by subsidy or otherwise, of new, or "key," industries established prior to and since the commencement of the war.

viii. That, with a view to promoting the development of British trade under altered conditions caused by the war, His Majesty's Government should appoint a Minister of Commerce of Cabinet rank, to whom certain of the functions of the Board of Trade and other Departments should be relegated.

SOME CACAO STATISTICS.

The following table, which is taken from a memorandum prepared by the Dominions' Royal Commission recently published as a Blue-book [Cd. 8123], shows the quantities of the imports of cacao into the United Kingdom, the re-exports, and the amounts entered for home consumption for the past fourteen years.

Year.	IMPORTS.								RE-EXPORTS.	QUANTITIES ENTERED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.*	
	From British West Africa.	From British West India Islands.	From Ceylon.	Total from all British Possessions.	From Brazil.	From Ecuador.	From Portugal and Portuguese Possessions.	Total Imports.		Total.	Per Head of Population.
	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Million lbs.	Lbs.
1901	0	16	4	21	3	5	14	52	11	42	1.0
1902	0	20	5	25	5	6	14	58	13	46	1.1
1903	0	15	5	21	3	4	14	50	11	41	1.0
1904	2	20	5	27	4	8	15	61	9	45	1.1
1905	2	17	5	24	2	7	15	54	10	46	1.1
1906	2	15	4	22	5	6	13	52	11	44	1.0
1907	3	13	7	24	4	6	16	57	11	44	1.0
1908	6	19	5	30	6	12	13	67	14	46	1.0
1909	10	21	6	37	11	12	9	77	15	53	1.2
1910	11	19	6	36	8	12	3	71	15	53	1.2
1911	14	17	4	35	9	13	3	73	15	56	1.2
1912	15	17	4	37	11	9	4	75	14	62	1.4
1913	20	16	5	42	13	9	3	78	15	61	1.3
1914	21	22	3	46	13	23	3	94	27	64	1.4

*"Cacao," "The Banana" (7/6 each; post free 8/4), and "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," the new edition of which contains chapters on the Spanish Main, the Bahamas, and Bermuda (5/-; post free 5/4), are obtainable at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

SHADE FOR CACAO.

The Importance of its Regulation.

"R. N. L." discusses the much-debated question of shade trees for cacao in the *Tropical Agriculturist* for December. If, he says, shade may be regarded as an important factor in the successful cultivation of many of Ceylon's products, especially when bushes or small trees, it should be carefully regulated so that while affording the required protection it may not obstruct light and air and check the crops. To illustrate this point we may take the case of cacao, also of forest origin (basins of the Amazon and Orinoco), and which in Ceylon can sometimes be observed almost overwhelmed with shade trees. Cacao belongs to that category of products in which we depend for crop upon a good flowering, and flowering is promoted by light and air. Some cacao manuring experiments were begun at Peradeniya in 1906. Liberal dressings of manure were applied annually (except to controls) till 1912, when manuring was stopped to watch the effect of the unexhausted residue.

The crop from all the plots averaged for these seven years 4.7 cwt. per acre. In 1914-15, after three years of no manuring, the crop averaged 6.1 cwt. per acre. But in the interval the shade trees, which had grown very large, were pruned back. The late Dr. Lock drew attention to the remarkable results at Peradeniya following pruning. In 1907-8 the yield from eight acres of unmanured cacao yielded at the rate of 5.8 cwt. per acre. The group suffered from an excess of shade, having between 300 to 400 shade trees per acre, but in 1907 these were cut out to one-tenth. The next year, 1908-9, the crop jumped to 7.8 cwt. per acre. To show conclusively

that this improvement was due to reduction of shade, Dr. Lock tabulated the yields from an adjacent field of 42 acres in which the shade had not been cut out. For the same years the yields were 3.2 cwt. and 2.5 cwt.—i.e., instead of a rise of 2 cwt. per acre, a drop of 1.7 cwt.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

More Munitions Wanted.

Mr. Asquith has told the House of Commons that the existing arrangements for providing a supply of labour for the manufacture of munitions "falls lamentably short of the national requirements." The Government have, therefore, decided to amend the Munitions of War Act without further delay, as otherwise our soldiers in the trenches would suffer. The loyal support of employers and trade unions has been secured so that the change will be brought into practice with the minimum of friction. The Government is convinced "that the adoption of dilution in employment of semi-skilled and unskilled and female labour in the class of work on which it can be usefully employed, so as to set free skilled workmen, offers the only prospect of securing a sufficient supply of munitions to enable the war to be brought to a speedy and successful conclusion."

The Greek Theatre of War.

General Sarrail, who is now in command of the Anglo-French troops at Salonika, is making his position secure. The latest instance is the blowing up of the bridge at Dimir Hissar and sixty miles of railway in order to prevent a flank attack by the Bulgars. But the great Austro-German-Turco-Bulgarian offensive is delayed just a little longer. The explanation is the success of the Russians in the Bukovina, which has compelled the Germans to recall a great part of their forces in the Balkans so as to throw them on the south-western front. Hence the Bulgarians find themselves isolated and too weak for an organised attack on Salonika. If this theory is admitted it is clear that the Russians are playing a similar part in relation to the Balkans as they played in relation to France by their offensive in East Prussia at the beginning of the war. A second explanation is that the enemy has no idea of attacking Salonika. His aim is to entrench from the Greek frontier to the southern Albanian mountains, and hold us up in the Balkans as he has held us up on the Western front for so long. If this is his plan the reason for his occupation of Montenegro is plain. One end of his line is to end in the Adriatic, the other in Greece. But while the Montenegrins hold out, the position can be turned. They must be supported, and that soon, or we shall have another "too late" to register.

For military and naval reasons the Allies have occupied, in addition to Lemnos, Salonika, and a large part of Macedonia, Mytilene, Castellorizo and Corfu. No wonder the Greek king indulges in periodical outbursts in the friendly ear of American journalists. But the remedy is in his own hands.

The Serbian Army has been transported to Corfu, which was used by the Germans as a base for submarines. Here they will rest and refit. The other alternatives were to keep them in Albania, where tens of thousands of Italian and Albanian labourers are engaged in making roads, or to convey them to

Salonika in order to provide a reserve for the Anglo-French forces.

On the Russian Front.

In the Bukovina there has been a temporary lull in hostilities owing to a thaw, which rendered the ground unfit for military operations. The Russian climate is liable to a sudden change of temperature, varying as much as forty degrees in twenty-four hours, greatly to the discomfort of the Austro-German soldiers, who are not used to such conditions. With the return of frost fighting is being renewed. The enemy has converted Kovel into a vast depot, but, with the Russian advances in the valleys of the Styr and Strypa, he is preparing to take the necessary precautions in view of possible eventualities. The Austrians deny that they have suffered any check. But, if so, why have they evacuated Bessarabia?

In the north severe frosts have had the same effect as the thaw in the south. But before they set in von Hindenburg attempted to break the Russian lines, but admitted having to withdraw before superior forces.

In the Black Sea Russian torpedo-boats have been active. They have destroyed 163 enemy sailing ships, 73 of which were laden with provisions. At the same time an Allied squadron bombarded the Bulgar port of Dedeagatch.

In Montenegro.

By means of sheer weight of numbers and the pressure of attacks on three sides, the Austrians have occupied Mount Lovtchen, which is nearly 5,700 feet high, and commands the Montenegrin capital. It also overlooks Cattaro, the second in importance of the Dual Monarchy's naval bases. The position has always been coveted by the Austrians for its strategic value. If Italy compels the evacuation of Pola, Cattaro would be a much safer naval base than Fiume, the only alternative shelter for Austria's harbour-keeping navy in the Adriatic. It does not seem that the Allies have done anything to save little Montenegro, which is less than half the size of Belgium, with a population of about 300,000, and, apparently, King Nicholas, who is more diplomatist than soldier, agreed to negotiate a surrender to the hereditary enemy to gain time. But true to her traditions, Austria made the conditions so hard that the Montenegrins even in the extremity have refused to accept them, and fighting has been renewed. They have so long and so brilliantly maintained their independence against Turkish Sultans and Austrian Emperors that they feel able to hold out till the Allies begin to turn the enemy's flank in the Balkans. Though they are only as one to ten, the nature of their native country is favourable to guerilla warfare, consisting as it does of a confusion of hills, caves, rivulets, and lake basins. Moreover, so strong is the fighting spirit in the people that the baptismal blessing over a new-born child is, "May you never die in bed." Apart from Cattaro, the real objective of the enemy is further south in Albania, so as to shorten their line in Serbia. Thus Montenegro should be held as Salonika is held.

The Situation in Asia.

From the mountain fighting in Montenegro to the river fighting in Mesopotamia is a far cry. The news from this theatre of war is, however, heartening. As a result of a fierce encounter, in which cavalry, artillery, and infantry took part, at Sheikh Saad, 25 miles from Kut-el-Amara, the Turks were compelled to withdraw from both banks of the river. The relief force under General Aylmer, in spite of weather, heavy fighting and the natural obstacles of the terrain, continued his advance towards Kut. When within seven miles of it his forces were fiercely attacked by the Turks, the losses on both sides being reported as heavy. Floods have prevented the renewal of the fighting.

In the Caucasus the Grand Duke's thrust has sent the Turks in flight across the plain of Erzeroum. It was a surprise to them as they have held their positions on a front of seventy miles in Armenia since the stubborn fighting here in November, 1914. The warfare, in fact, took the form which we know so well in the West. When, therefore, the new Russian offensive was launched a fortnight ago it was assumed to be an ordinary incident of trench fighting, and so the Turks were taken at a disadvantage. The positions on which they are retiring have been made exceptionally strong under German direction.

American Trade with Neutrals.

The publication of official statistics, showing the enormous trade between the United States and neutral countries adjacent to Germany, has caused a great sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. In ten months of 1915 the increase of imports, including cereals, bacon, boots, motor cars and other vital necessities from America into neutral countries roughly corresponded to the decrease of imports from America into Germany. It is an insult to the intelligence to suppose that their ultimate destination was friendly territory. They found their way to the enemy there is not the slightest doubt. That the figures, if taken month by month, will show an increasing stringency of the blockade, may be true enough, but their effect on British opinion will be a demand for complete freedom to the Navy in putting pressure on the enemy. Their effect in the United States will be to modify the clamour for a blockade in case Great Britain should adopt the form which closed the ports of the South in the Civil War.

Another sensation of the past fortnight was the publication of the criminal correspondence of Captain von Papen, who was, until lately, German Military Attaché in Washington. He seems to have supposed that the British safe conduct extended to his papers, which was an unconscious tribute to British chivalry, but an unmistakable proof of German stupidity. He seems to have been the principal in the series of outrages in the United States, having for its object the destruction of munition factories, the revelation of which is most embarrassing to Count Bernstorff in his attempt to embroil England and the United States.

The War in the Air.

For the first time since October 13th last, the Germans successfully raided the East Coast, and

though little damage was done, and only one life was lost, no doubt the most will be made of it by the sensation-mongers who are trying to scare the public with wonderful accounts of the Fokker aeroplane, whose speed and climbing power are greater than in any other machine yet invented. But they have to be so light that the enemy is keeping them on his own side of the battle front. Will the "Mosquito" aeroplane of this year achieve any more than the "Dreadnought" of last year, which was to end our supremacy in the air?

(To be continued.)

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.

- Bethell, Trooper Bruce (of the Bahamas), 5th Reserve Cavalry Regiment.
 Bethell, Trooper Herbert (of the Bahamas), 5th Reserve Cavalry Regiment.
 Brock, Private C. C. (of Jamaica), 16th Lancers.
 Bryden, 2nd Lieut. W. F. (son of Mr. A. S. Bryden, of Bridgetown, Barbados), 12th Batt. South Lancashire Regiment.
 Coombs, Commander W. H., R.N. (late Protector of Immigrants for Trinidad and Tobago), appointed to H.M.S. *President* for Special Service.
 Dayle, Private Hugh (of Jamaica), 16th Lancers.
 Davis, Private (of Jamaica), 16th Lancers.
 Flint, Lieut. Algernon H. (Estates' proprietor, Dominica), Royal Garrison Artillery.
 Fraser, Alexander (of Caba), 2/2nd Lovat Scouts.
 Hale, 2nd Lieut. Charles Maynard (of British Guiana), 3rd Sherwood Foresters.
 Manley, Bombardier N. W. (Jamaica Rhodes Scholar, 1914, Jesus College, Oxford), Field Artillery.
 Manley, Bombardier D. R. (of Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.
 McPhail, Private J. H. (son of Dr. D. M. McPhail, of St. Lucia), Honourable Artillery Company. *At the front.*
 Pawsey, 2nd Lieut. A. M. (son of Mr. Alfred Pawsey, of Kingston, Jamaica), 1/12th Batt. Royal North Lancashire Regiment.
 Randell, 2nd Lieut. A. S. (of Dominica), 9th South Wales Borderers.
 Vernon, Lieut. Lawrence T. G. (son-in-law of the late Rev. H. R. Holme, M.A., Bishop of British Honduras), 2nd Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
 Wakefield, Ivor MacRae (son of Mr. A. Wakefield), St. Paul's School O.T.C.

Wounded.

- Haughton, Second Lieut. Harold M. S. (son of Mr. R. S. Haughton, of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Engineers, has been wounded in France.
 Wylie, Lieut. Angus, M.B. (late Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery, was wounded in Gallipoli.

Honours.

- Lieut. H. Dancombe Bindley, R.E., wounded and invalided home, was mentioned in General French's last despatch.
 Lieut. H. F. Calvert Jones, R.A., and A.D.C. to General Caulfield, C.C.O. (son of the Rev. Michael Jones, and grandson of the late Hon. B. Howell Jones, of Demerara), was mentioned in Sir John French's last despatch.

Alterations and Corrections.

- Jarvis, 2nd Lieut. Edward Vesey Hill (son of Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Assistant Chief Secretary of the Uganda Protectorate, and late Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands), Royal Garrison Artillery.
 Morris, 2nd Lieut. W. Andrew (elder son of the late Mr. Arthur H. Morris, formerly of Dewall Court, Herefordshire, and nephew of Mr. Frederick J. Morris, many years a resident in Demerara and Trinidad), 11th (Reserve) Batt. East Surrey Regiment.

RECRUITS FROM THE WEST INDIES.

Contingents from Barbados and Trinidad.

The second Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, and the first Barbados Citizens' Contingent reached Tilbury in the R.M.S. *Balantia* on Monday, January 17th, after a protracted voyage of nearly three weeks' duration. The Trinidad men, numbering over 70, were under the charge of Mr. J. B. L. Todd, of the firm of Davidson & Todd, of Port of Spain, who will shortly be returning to Trinidad after a too brief visit, while those from Barbados 23 in number, were in the care of the senior of them, Mr. H. P. Bailey. All were in the best of spirits.

The party were met at Tilbury by the Secretary of the West India Committee and several recruiting officers, and on arriving at Fenchurch Street Station, they found awaiting them on the platform, Mr. G. F. Huggins—the father of the Trinidad merchants' recruiting movement—who had kindly made arrangements for their accommodation pending enlistment, at the Little Theatre, near Charing Cross, which has been transferred into a dependency of the Young Men's Christian Association.

On the following day the two Contingents, headed by a band of the Royal Fusiliers, were marched to the Mansion House, where they received a cordial welcome from Sir Charles Wakefield, the Lord Mayor, who has made his official residence one of the most important recruiting centres in London.

After the inspection the Lord Mayor, addressing the men as "sturdy sons from far-away Trinidad and Barbados," said it was with the greatest possible pleasure and as a particular privilege that he welcomed them to the City of London. "I have inspected you this morning," he proceeded, "and I am greatly struck with your fine physique. Not only are you physically strong, but you are strong in moral quality, because you have left your wives, your homes, your businesses and other interests to come here, thousands of miles overseas, to fight for your King and your country.

"We have had a very memorable recruiting campaign recently, but this incident to-day will stand out in our great week in letters of living light. I see here listening to me men of the City of London who have not yet come into the Mansion House to join up in this great fight. To-day when they look at you, men who have made so great a sacrifice, and they listen to my voice, no further appeal will be necessary. If you men have made this great sacrifice on behalf of your King and country, surely the men of the City of London can do so! If there has been any indecision, surely this sight will be the deciding factor, and they will roll up in their hundreds. Otherwise they will go down to posterity unwept, unhonoured, and unused. But I think more of them. I have faith in the young men of the City of London that they will come here and do their duty as you men are going to do to-day."

Many of the Trinidad men were attested on the spot, and later in the day the Barbados men proceeded to the rooms of the West India Committee where they were met by Mr. Rutherford, Deputy

Chairman, who spoke a few words of welcome. Arrangements were then made to enable the men to join the regiments of their choice.

The Trinidad Contingent was selected and sent over by a Committee comprising the Mayor of Port of Spain; Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.; Hon. Hugh McLelland, Hon. R. S. Aucher Warner, K.C.; Mr. J. Howard Smith, Mr. John Phillips, Captain Randolph Rust, Mr. John Moodie, and Mr. Edgar Tripp.

The Barbados recruits were similarly chosen and sent over at the expense of the Barbados Citizens' Committee, of which Mr. Dudley G. Leacock is Chairman, Mr. J. E. Mayers Hon. Secretary, and Rev. H. A. Dalton, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. R. G. Cave, Mr. E. A. Hinkson, Mr. Harold Wright, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. A. J. Mascall, Mr. W. Bowring, and Rev. Fred Ellis are members.

The arrival of the young and enthusiastic men, has, not unaturally, created an admirable impression in the Metropolis, and it may be taken for granted that their march through the streets of the city will have an excellent effect on recruiting. The men from the Land of the Humming Bird wore uniforms of khaki drill with "B.P." hats, while those from Little England wore civilian clothes and what the press described as "Alpine hats."

The members of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent have been dealt with as follows:—

25th COUNTY OF LONDON REGT. (ARTISIS' Rifles).
Bailey, H. P. Bowen, Edgar.
Berkeley, Murray. Edghill, A. G.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS.
Inniss, W. L. Gill, A.

3rd PRINCE OF WALES (CIVIL SERVICE) RIFLES.
Archer, Cecil. Hutchinson, Leo R.
Armstrong, Frank. Learb, C. C.
Barnes, F. V. Pilgrim, K. F.
Branch, L. H. Seale, B. T.
Burgess, Charles L. E. Tyrrell, F. H.
Corbin, G. S. Walcott, L. Hinds.
Davis, L. A.

4th BATT. KING'S ROYAL RIFLES.
Edghill, H. S.

THE ROYAL NAVY.
Honeychurch, George I.

The following have still to be dealt with:—
Browne, E. Kirton. Gill, W.

The names of the second Trinidad Contingent will appear in next issue.

The West Indian Contingent Committee aims at assisting not only all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, but also all men who have come over or who may come over to join the Imperial Forces. They will be glad to hear from men from the West Indies at the front or in this country who may be in need of mufflers, socks, mittens, etc., or similar comforts. They acknowledge with thanks the following additional gifts:—

Collected by Miss D. A. Morris:—
Miss Thornhill, 1 box of apples.
Miss Dalton, 1 belt, 1 muffler.
Miss Wall, 3 prs. mittens.
Miss Parry, 2 mufflers, 2 prs. mittens, 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Turner, 3 chest protectors.
Mrs. Bovell Jones, 2 prs. cuffs.
Mrs. Williams, 3 prs. mittens.
Mrs. Arthur H. Morris, 1 muffler.

Collected by Miss Morris (continued)—

- Miss Annie Francis, 3 prs. mittens.
- Mrs. Croft-Smith, 1 chest preserver, 2 prs. mittens.
- Miss M. C. Croft-Smith, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Mrs. Thomson, 2 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
- Lady McLadyean, 6 pocket handkerchiefs, 2 prs. socks, 4 prs. mittens, 2 mufflers.
- Miss Fisk, 1 muffler.
- Mrs. Craigen, 2 mufflers.
- Mrs. Finney, 2 mufflers, 2 prs. cuffs.
- Mrs. Byill, 3 prs. cuffs.
- Miss Clarkson, 10 swabs, 1 muffler, 2 bags, 1 pr. bed socks, 2 prs. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Mrs. Edwards, 1 muffler, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Miss Eveline Morris, 1 pr. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Miss Fowler, 1 muffler, 1 pr. mittens.
- Mrs. Fisher, 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. W. M. Haywood, 2 shirts, 2 handkerchiefs, 2 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Bigg and Miss Evington, 16 prs. socks, 3 mufflers, 3 prs. mittens, 3 prs. cuffs.
- Miss Norah Dalton, 1 pr. socks.
- F. N. Martinez, Esq., and Mrs. Martinez, 2 dozen walking-sticks for the wounded.
- Miss Gladys Wilkinson, 1 scarf.
- Lady Llewelyn, 46 prs. socks, 9 prs. mittens, 1 shirt, 5 mufflers, 2 vests, 1 pr. drawers.
- Mrs. Richmond, 15 prs. mittens.
- Miss Cowie, 2 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens, 3 helmets.
- Miss L. Cowie, 2/6.
- Mrs. G. B. Arthur, 3 prs. socks, 1 scarf, 1 cap.
- Mrs. Tertius Wilson, 2 scarves, 4 shirts, 3 belts (for Trinidad men).
- Lady Hayes Sadler, 7 prs. gloves, 2 scarves.
- A Friend in Ashterton, 1 scarf.
- Mrs. Harold Henriques, 2 knitted jackets, 2 prs. mittens, 1 pr. socks.

The West Indian Contingent Fund now amounts to £3,494 16s. 1d. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Stephens Bequest Fund (per J. W. Stephens, Esq., Trinidad) ...	100	0	0
E. Williams, Esq. (proceeds of concert in Nevis) ...	9	7	0
Miss Ida Malone (proceeds of a Jubilee Sale in Nevis) ...	9	7	0
Per Miss D. A. Morris—			
Fredk. W. Morris, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Craigen ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Rattiscombe ...	20	0	0
Mrs. Godson ...	30	0	0
Miss Morris ...	10	0	0
The Misses Champion "A Friend" ...	3	0	0
Mrs. H. E. Stooke ...	5	0	0
Miss A. G. Morris ...	2	0	0
Fredk. Arthur Morris, Esq. ...	3	0	0
"F. K." ...	2	6	0
Mrs. Fisher ...	2	6	0
	6	0	0
MacDonald Bros. (St. Vincent) ...	5	0	0
N. F. Briggs, Esq. ...	5	0	0
St. Andrew's Race Club, Grenada (Cambridgeshire Sweepstake) ...	2	3	7
Henry D. Nicholl, Esq. ...	2	3	0
Treasury Staff, Barbados (2nd donation) ...	3	3	0
Murray, T. Gow, Esq. ...	1	4	0
A. Wakefield, Esq. ...	1	3	0
H. R. McVilvie, Esq. ...	1	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

The Grand Concert in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund, which was held on Tuesday last, January 25th, in the Great Gallery of the Royal Automobile Club, proved an extremely successful affair.

The audience was a large one, made up chiefly of people connected in some way or another with the British West Indies. H.H. Princess Marie Louise, with Miss Hawkes in attendance, was present, and was received on her arrival by Sir James and Lady Hayes Sadler, Sir Frederick Hodgson, Lady Philipps, and Mr. and Mrs. John Bromley. A bouquet of Harrisii lilies (the Princess' favourite flower) was presented to her by Miss Daphne Napier, daughter of Mrs. W. E. S. Napier, of Milliken, St. Kitts.

Amongst the well-known people to be distinguished in the packed audience were Sir Alexander and Lady Swettenham, Sir Hesketh Bell, who is shortly leaving for Mauritius; the Countess of Stamford, President of the Ladies' Committee, and Lady Philipps, Chairman, and Miss Mary Moseley, Hon. Secretary; Viscountess Hood, Hon. Mrs. Bethell, Sir William Trollope, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Moseley, Lady Davson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Jarvis, Sir James and Lady Hayes Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Cathcart Wason, Sir Henry Berkeley, Sir Frederick and Lady Hodgson, Lady and Miss Llewelyn, Lady Hay, Mr. T. du Brissou, Sir William and Lady Grey-Wilson, Mr. Robert Hichens, Sir H. Walpole, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ashton Jonsor, Mrs. Vere Oliver, Mr. Jackson, the new Colonial Secretary of Bermuda and son of the late Sir Henry Jackson; and Miss Jackson, daughter of the late Bishop of Antigua; Lady Sendall, and many others.

The artistes who contributed towards the programme were equally representative. That delightful singer Miss Louise Dale charmed her hearers in Gounod's "Quand tu Chantes," with violin obbligato very sympathetically rendered by Miss Sylvia de Gay. Miss Ethel Hook's rich contralto, very reminiscent of that of her famous sister, Miss Clara Butt, gained great applause, as likewise did Miss Flora Woodman, a young singer of great distinction who conquered her public at a very early stage of her career, and has still farther to go.

Mr. Thorpe Bates and Mr. Walter Hyde need no introduction, and each in their respective styles were highly appreciated, while Mons. Boris Lensky, a young Russian baritone, with his beautiful voice gave a temperamental rendering of Tchaikowsky's "During the Ball," and "Canzone di Taormina," accompanied by Miss Maude Valérie White, the composer, brought down the house.

Dr. Rumschisky, a fellow-countryman of M. Lensky, contributed two delightful pianoforte solos, and the artistic cello playing of Mr. Felix Salmond was keenly appreciated.

The lighter side of the entertainment consisted of a duologue, "A Pair of Lunatics," played most delightfully by Miss Gregory Jones and Mr. Dawson Milward. This was followed by an intensely amusing song at the piano by Mr. Ernest Hastings, and to conclude, the Rev. Dr. Houstoun Collisson, whose untiring efforts for the Waifs and Strays, and

latterly for the Disabled Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund, are so well known and appreciated, convulsed the audience with his witty stories, chiefly with an Irish flavour, sending his hearers away highly amused and in the right frame of mind for tea, which was served in the restaurant of the Club.

The West Indian Contingent Fund should benefit greatly from this concert, which was admirably organised by Mr. and Mrs. John Bromley, who received valuable assistance from Mr. Aston Johnson, an influential member of the Committee of the Royal Automobile Club, and Miss Moseley, who were indefatigable in their efforts, their appreciation of which the Contingent Committee will no doubt in due course place on record.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Some Notes from Seaford.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has just presented to the 1st and 2nd Battalions a quantity of sporting impedimenta, including twelve footballs, eight sets of boxing-gloves, eight cricket bats and four complete cricket sets.

Lieutenant H. V. Jervis Read, from the 11th Batt. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and 2nd Lieutenant F. C. Wheeler, from the 15th Batt. Middlesex Regiment, have joined the 2nd Batt. The British West Indies Regiment.

Lieutenant McCulloch and 2nd Lieutenant Bynoe have returned to the 1st (Service) Battalion from Oxted, where they have been attending the School of Instruction, and Lieutenant Harragin rejoined on January 16th on completion of a course at the Hythe School of Musketry.

An illustration of the regimental badges of the British West Indies Regiment is given on this page. At present the cap badge is the Royal cypher. The shoulder badges are the initials of the regiment. They certainly have the merit of simplicity, but it is hoped that it may be possible to provide the men with some rather more distinctive badge a little later on.

It is with regret that we have to record several more deaths at Seaford. Private C. A. Mais, "B" Company, died at the Surrey Home on January 12th, Private Daniel on the 18th, and Private R. H. Laing on the 20th. These poor fellows, who served their King and Empire as truly and well as any soldier who has fallen at the front, were laid to rest with full military honours.



ST. LUCIA.

ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

(Continued from page 9).

LOCAL LABOUR CONDITIONS.

The agricultural labourers of the island are chiefly negroes, with a small sprinkling of East Indians.

Wages range from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per day for men, according to district and nature of the work, 10d. for women, and 6d. to 8d. for boys. On large estates most of the work is done by task or piece work.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The chief products of the island are sugar, molasses, rum, cacao, limes, fruits, vegetables and fuel wood. Cattle raising occupies the attention of a few of the leading planters and this is an industry that may well be extended on more scientific lines.

SUGAR.

In spite of the many vicissitudes through which the sugar industry has passed since 1884 it still remains the principal product of export from the island.

The great fall in prices which commenced about 1883-1884 brought about the complete ruin of the muscovado sugar planters throughout the West Indies, and to-day it is only the large central factories, with their superior machinery and higher scientific knowledge, that has enabled them to obtain greater yields and so withstand the ill-effects of the great fall in prices.

There is something like 6,000 acres of land in St. Lucia admirably suited to this cultivation, but only about half of this area is at present under this crop, and it is not likely that there will be any very great permanent extension of this area unless there is some certainty of the continuation of the remunerative prices which have been realised since the outbreak of the war.

There are four large central factories, owned by private companies, turning out a high grade usine sugar. These factories, which are equipped with the most modern and up-to-date machinery, are situated in the fertile valleys of Grand Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Dennery, and in the flats of Vieux-Fort.

The Bourbon cane, the mainstay of the plantations throughout the West Indies some years ago, has gradually been replaced by the more productive and disease resisting seedling canes. B. 208, B. 6450, B. 147, B. 1753, D. 625, Seely Seedling, and the Blue cane are among those finding greater favour in St. Lucia.

Since the outbreak of the war prices for sugar have greatly improved, causing a happy extension in the cultivation of sugar-cane among the peasant proprietors, and several of the numerous muscovado mills scattered along the leeward coast are again becoming active.

The highest sugar production was reached in the year 1875, when 13,100 hogsheads of sugar, 2,473 puncheons of molasses, and 36 puncheons of rum were exported from the island, in addition to the

amount used for local consumption. The following table shows the annual exports of sugar during the last five years.

Year	Usine Cwt.	Muscovado. Cwt.	Value. £
1910	103,680	76	65,737
1911	85,760	172	54,090
1912	82,922	3,223	50,439
1913	91,547	503	65,512
1914	74,653	1,331	44,041

RUM.

There are two large distilleries at work in the island, and the average annual production of rum is about 53,389 Imperial gallons. The cost of a still licence is £5, and without regard to the capacity or extent of its operations, and each distiller pays a fee of 3s. for each day's attendance of the Revenue Officer. The Winchester liquid measure was in force until the year 1912, when a change was made in favour of the Imperial measure.

The excise duty has recently been increased from 4s. to 5s. a proof gallon, and revenue from this source reached its highest record in 1902-1903, when a sum of £14,154 was realised. At this time Castries was a garrison town and the construction of military works was in full swing.

There is an average local consumption of rum of something like 30,000 gallons a year, whilst the annual exports of this article is between 15,000 and 20,000 gallons, the bulk of which is shipped to London and Belgium.

The production and disposal of local manufactured rum during the last five years is shown below:—

Year.	Total Quantity. Gallons.	Local Consumption. Gallons.	Exported. Gallons.
1910	49,265	43,602	4,662*
1911	63,961	44,516	12,787*
1912	59,739	31,865	26,577†
1913	94,145	30,654	29,120†
1914	42,634	29,079	13,240†

* Winchester measure † Imperial measure.

In addition to these figures there is a limited sale of rum reduced in strength and supplied as ships' stores.

MOLASSES.

In addition to the large quantities of molasses used in the production of rum a considerable quantity is consumed locally.

The exports for the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Molasses. Gallons.	£
1910	95,220	1,914
1911	74,306	1,400
1912	12,545	508
1913	6,135	155
1914	39,346	443

LINES.

Limes grow and thrive remarkably well in the soils and climate of St. Lucia provided they are protected from wind.

Unfortunately no practical attention was paid to this crop until the year 1902, and even then the activity was confined to one or two planters. During the last few years, however, considerable extension in the area under this cultivation has taken place, and there is now every prospect of this industry

becoming the principal one of the island. It is estimated that the area under lime cultivation at present is about 3,000 acres, and this extends at the rate of about 500 acres each year.

The limes produced are large fruit with thin rinds, juicy, and of a rich acid content, yielding eight gallons of raw juice to the barrel, the average capacity of a barrel is about 4.55 cubic feet.

The distribution of lime plants from the Government nurseries during the year exceeded 63,000 and since planting commenced in 1902 no less than 498,015 plants have been distributed from this source.

Notwithstanding the fact that these plants are sold at considerably less than the cost of production the peasants have been slow to take up this cultivation, but now that arrangements have been made which enables them to sell their fruit to the Government on a profit-sharing basis they are making up for lost time and rapidly extending their areas.

Although St. Lucia did not take up lime cultivation as early as some of the neighbouring islands she has lost no time in making a name for concentrated juice on the European markets where, through its careful preparation, it has attracted the best buyers, and regularly commands the highest market prices, which during the year rose to £52 10s. per standard pipe of 108 gallons testing 64 ozs. to the gallon.

The bulk of the crop is disposed of in the form of concentrated juice, there is a small export of raw juice to the United Kingdom and green limes to the United States, and this trade is increasing yearly. No citrate of lime is manufactured in the island.

LIME OILS.

"OTTO OF LIMES" AND "DISTILLED OIL OF LIMES."

"Otto of Limes" is obtained from the rind of the lime and is extracted by a process known as ecuelleing.

The fruit is rolled individually under good pressure exerted by the palm of the hand, over blunt brass spikes about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch long firmly fastened to a saucer-shaped copper pan. A hollow handle is attached in the centre of the pan to the underside, this handle keeps the pan steady when held between the knees during the extraction of the oil and serves as a receptacle for the oil as it runs between the brass spikes.

The yield varies considerably on different estates. The conditions of the fruit and the skill of the worker being the chief factors in this variation.

On one estate in St. Lucia the most skilful women working under the best conditions obtain an extraction of 6½ ozs. of oil per barrel of fruit and ecuelle five barrels of limes per day. The average extraction for the whole island is about 3 ozs. of oil per barrel.

"DISTILLED OIL."

Only a portion of the essential oil can be removed from the rind by ecuelleing, the remainder is recovered from the raw juice by distillation. The whole of the juice being passed through a still where the oil is removed previous to concentrating.

The average yield obtained is at the rate of .8 ozs. per gallon, or 7.4 ozs. per barrel of fruit.

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERS OF LIME OILS.*

Description.	Otto of Limes. Golden yellow liquid having a fragrant odour of lime fruit.	Distilled Oil Water-white liquid having an odour somewhat resembling turpentine.
Specific Gravity at 30°/30° C.	0.8659 to 0.8859	0.8540 to 0.8858
Optical rotation 100 mm. at 31° C.	31.38° .. 34.89°	33.09° .. 34.89°
Refractive index 32° C.	1.4789 .. 1.4836	1.4702 .. 1.4713
Acid number	1.35 .. 2.8	0.76 .. 1.3
Citral content	2.2 .. 6.6%	1.2 .. 2.0

GOVERNMENT LIME JUICE FACTORY.

To encourage the planting of limes among the peasantry the Government has created a Central Lime Juice Factory where limes and raw juice are purchased on a profit-sharing basis.

The factory is worked by the staff of the Agricultural Department.

The business is conducted on a co-operative basis. Produce is purchased on a sliding scale, based on the market price of concentrated lime juice. The price paid for the produce in the first instance ensures a profit to the factory.

From the proceeds of the sales the cost of produce, together with all working expenses, plus interest, depreciation, and sinking fund, are deducted and the balance considered as profits, which are then divided between the Government and vendors in the form of a bonus.

The initiative on the part of the Government has been greatly appreciated by the peasants, and the number of vendors having business dealings with the factory increased from 96 to 728 during the last twelve months.

Although the lime plantations in St. Lucia are in their infancy the following statistics show that considerable increase is taking place annually in this industry. The lime crop for the last five years is recorded below:—

Year.	Green Limes. Brls.	Concentrated & Raw Juice. Gals.	Lime Oil. Gals.	Total Value. £
1910	35	2,940	No record.	333
1911	234	2,058	..	290
1912	85	5,694	5	1,085
1913	481	7,964	758	3,108
1914	679	11,113	230	6,451

(To be continued.)

Any members of the West India Committee may introduce candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. 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.

* The writer is indebted for the information contained in this section to work performed by Dr. H. A. Tempny and N. Greenhalgh, B.Sc., and published in Pamphlet No. 72, issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

MESSRS CRAWLEY and CADY have been making some interesting experiments on the loss of manures through rainfall in the soils of Porto Rico. Four descriptions of soils formed the basis of the experiments, viz., a clay loam from the lowlands, red clay from the hills, red sandy clay and light coloured sandy clay. The fertilizers were well mixed with the first inch of soil, the total depth of soil being nine inches.

THE results showed that nearly all the phosphoric acid of superphosphate applied was absorbed except in the case of the light coloured sandy clay, where 15 per cent. was lost after an application of eight inches of water at the rate of one inch per application over a period of one month. The nitrogen of sulphate of ammonia was also retained by the loam and clay soils, though there was a loss of 88.5 per cent. in the case of the light coloured sandy clay. The potash of sulphate of potash was only removed in small quantities from the loam and clay, while as much as 56 per cent. was lost with the light coloured sandy clay.

SODIUM arsenite has been shown to be an extremely effective weed destroyer, but little is known as to its effect upon the soil and the subsequent growth of plants. To gain information on these points the Honolulu Experiment Station recently took in hand an extensive series of experiments, and the results of these are given by Mr. W. T. George in a recent number of the *Bulletin* of that Institution.

It was found that the neutral arsenite was the best salt to use. Plant growth was shown to be very sensitive to arsenite of soda, the resistance varying with the different plants and the different types of soil. It is assimilated by the plant, and analysis of the dead plants showed that it was distributed through the tissues. The physical condition of the soil is materially altered by its presence, its action primarily being that of a deflocculatory agent, the movement of water being thus interfered with.

As to the effect of arsenite of soda on the soil bacteria, it would appear that its influence varied considerably with different types of soil. It is strongly fixed in the soil, resisting even the washing from excessive rains, and is shown to accumulate in the top layer. A sample of soil taken from land which had been sprayed with arsenite of soda five years back showed all the arsenic to be present in the top four inches of soil. The conclusion arrived at was that, while there was no immediate danger from the use of arsenite of soda for killing weeds, it should not be used in excessive amounts if, as these experiments indicate, the accumulation in the top layer of soil is to continue indefinitely.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR MAX ATKEN, in his capacity of Canadian Eye-Witness, has just written a very readable book, entitled "Canada in Flanders." It is quite one of the best accounts of recent fighting that has been published as yet.

COMMANDER W. H. COOMBS, R.N., late Protector of Immigrants for Trinidad and Tobago, has once more been placed on the active list, having been appointed to H.M.S. *President* (the old *Buzzard*, once familiar in the West Indian waters) for special duties, which are those of Transport Officer at Liverpool.

Both battalions of the British West Indies Regiment will shortly have drum and life bands, the West Indian Contingent Committee having presented to them two complete sets of the necessary instruments. The bandsmen of the 1st Battalion are already able to evolve a recognisable tune from the fifes.

COPIES of directions which have been drawn up for the guidance of friends and relatives desirous of sending gifts to soldiers and sailors can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or from Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

MR. A. K. AGAR, the brother of our late Correspondent in Dominica, and himself a planter in that island, is now a lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, stationed at Malta. He is hoping that he may see and extend hospitality to any Dominicans who may be touching that island, and would be pleased to hear from any of them, his address being Headquarters, Army Service Corps, 28 Strada Britannica, Malta.

A COMMITTEE of scientists and engineers appointed by the National Academy of Sciences visited the Panama Canal Zone at the end of last month to study the slides in the Gaillard, or Culebra Cut, and to make suggestions for dealing with them. On December 20th six light-draught vessels were able to pass through the Canal, but though progress is being made in the removal of the slides, no date can yet be fixed for the re-opening of the waterway to traffic.

IN a letter in the *Standard* commenting on the death of 63,000,000 bees owing to the "Isle of Wight disease," Mr. Barton Scammell writes:—"The honey (laid up by the bees for their food during the winter) is removed from the hive, and to support them a syrup of sugar and water is provided. In every case where the syrup is made from genuine cane sugar the bees survive, but if beet sugar is used they die. As I have consistently pointed out for some years, cane sugar contains a vital principle which is absent from beet sugar—important alike to bees and human beings, especially children."

THE marriage of Captain Sydney A. Boddam-Whetham, Royal Field Artillery, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Boddam-Whetham, of Earlscliffe, Folkestone, and formerly A.D.C. to Sir William Grey-Wilson, Governor of the Bahamas, to Miss Edith Sybil Brinkley, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Brinkley, of Allershaw, took place on the 19th inst. at Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Canon Gardiner, the bride being attended by her sister, Miss Brinkley, and Mr. C. A. Fraser, formerly Commandant of Police, Bahamas, acting as best man. A reception was afterwards held at the Grand Mansions Hotel. The bridegroom, who has been at the front since a short time after the outbreak of war, and received the Military Cross early in 1915, is now in command of a battery, and returned to France a few days after the wedding.

IN a notice of "Historic Jamaica," by Mr. Frank Cundall, the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts says: "The record [of historic sites in Jamaica] is considerable, and appears to be complete, as indeed might be expected from so painstaking a student as its author. It is arranged under the fifteen parishes into which the island is divided, each parish being allotted a chapter to itself. There is also an historical introduction dealing with the original inhabitants, the Arawaks, the Spanish occupation, the English possession, the physical features of the island, its products, etc. Amongst other matters may be noted a good account of the Botanic Gardens of Jamaica, since it was due to the efforts of the Society of Arts from 1760 onwards that the first attempt was made to establish in the West Indies 'gardens or nurseries for the making experiments in raising such rare and useful plants as are not the spontaneous growth of the kingdom or of the said colonies.'" The price of the volume, which is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, is 5/-, or post free in the United Kingdom 5/5, or abroad 5/8.

A QUAINT PIECE OF EMBROIDERY.

THE West India Committee is indebted to Sir William Trollope for the quaint piece of eighteenth century embroidery depicted on the page facing 24. The subject embroidered is perhaps rather mournful, representing as it does a graveyard in this country—the trees seem to be European, one being obviously a pear tree—but it has a distinct West Indian interest, one tomb being that of Mr. William Smith, "who went to the West Indies in 1783 and died in 1787 . . . in the Province of Spring, Villa Rio Nova, St. Mary's, Jamaica." Perhaps some correspondent in Jamaica may be able to throw some light upon this interesting piece of work.

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 LONDON LETTER.

THE name of Professor Cadman was inadvertently omitted from our reference to the New Year's Honours list in last issue. Professor Cadman, who received a well-deserved C.M.G., was appointed Government Mining Engineer for Trinidad and Tobago in 1904, and has since assisted very materially in the development of the oil industry of the colony. Professor Cadman is still on the right side of forty, and should have a distinguished career before him.

QUITE a sensation has been caused at Covent Garden by the arrival of a consignment of coco-nuts from Jamaica of such prodigious size that they have been valued at sixpence apiece. These nuts—80 of which fill a bag which would hold 100 ordinary nuts—were produced on Cardiff Hall Estate, a property now owned by Colonel Blagrove, in whose hands it has been (as we are reminded by Mr. Cundall's work, "Historic Jamaica") since the middle of the seventeenth century.

ATTENTION is being drawn in the Press to the increase in juvenile crime which is taking place, in striking contrast to adult crime, which has enormously diminished during the War. There is little doubt that the conditions which obtain—darkened streets, war pictures, and war incidents—have strongly stimulated the imagination of the young. The high wages boys can now earn has also contributed to a mental exaltation which finds vent in theft and acts of violence, and one of the difficult measures to be taken after the War will be the control of youth, so that they may be placed in their proper position again.

THE battle of the blockade is in full progress, and figures are being cast broadcast with a view of showing how Germany is being allowed to be fed by our Government—or how she is not. Boiling the whole matter down the true position probably is that a certain amount of foodstuff does find its way to enemy countries through neutrals. The statement made the night before last in the House of Commons by Mr. Pretyman, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, to the effect that, if the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Bill becomes law, possibly thousands of firms in this country would have to be dealt with, certainly bears out this conclusion.

THE first group of Derby recruits to be called up presented themselves for enrolment on January 20th. Contrary to expectation, no stirring scenes were witnessed at Scotland Yard and other recruiting centres. This was due to no lack of armleteers, but to the organisation, which was perfect, each man having been allotted his day and even hour for enrolment. The result was that, though hundreds of men were dealt with, there was no crowding and no confusion. The Barbados men were early afield, and formed a picturesque group for a whole bevy of Press photographers on the doorstep of the chief re-

cruiting office of the Empire. The Trinidad lads who had not already joined the Royal Fusiliers were also conspicuous.

THE Hotel Metropole—a favourite resort for visitors from the Colonies—has been compelled to close its doors to guests, the Government having taken over the entire building for the use of the Ministry of Munitions. The Whitehall Rooms, which form part of the hotel, besides being the lecture-hall of the Royal Colonial Institute, have been the scene of many banquets given by the West India Committee, not the least successful of which was the one which was held to celebrate the grant of the Royal Charter in 1904. To visitors from overseas especially the temporary passing of the hotel would be a matter for regret were it not for the indication it affords of the immense scale on which munitions are now being made. The Royal Colonial Institute have changed their lecture venue to the Hotel Cecil.

AS a reprisal for the seizure of mails, the Swedish Government have prohibited the export of paper pulp from Sweden. This announcement has caused many heartburnings in Fleet Street, and the possibility of an increase in the price of our daily papers is already being discussed. Among all the great newspapers, it is probable that only the foreseeing Northcliffe Press can view the prohibition with comparative unconcern, the Harmsworths having some years ago developed a valuable alternative source of paper supply in Newfoundland. We are reminded that it was Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, the guiding spirit of the Anti-Bounty League, and a true friend to the West Indies, who organised their paper works at Grand Falls, and that it was Sir Ralph Williams, a former Governor of the Windward Islands, who first set the machinery running.

REFERENCE was made in last London Letter to the Imperial mission which Sir Rider Haggard is about to undertake with the view of investigating the openings afforded by the Dominions for the settlement of soldiers and sailors after the war. The hope was expressed that the British West Indies would be included in his itinerary, and we promised to sound Sir Rider on the subject. We have since done so, and have received a reply from the distinguished novelist, who writes from Ditchingham House, Norfolk, under date January 20th:—

I have to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 19th inst., kindly offering me the assistance of the West India Committee, should I be able to visit the West Indies during my tour to the Dominions.

I cannot say at the moment whether it will be possible for me to do this, but if I should, I will bear the points you mention in mind, and gladly avail myself of any help you can give me.

The various local Chambers of Commerce should take the opportunity of the present visit of Major J. R. Boose, Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, to the British West Indies to extend to Sir Rider Haggard, through him, an invitation to include those colonies in his tour.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Cocoa Exports to Neutral Countries.

In the House of Lords on January 13th, Lord Sydenham raised the question of the excess of exports of cocoa from the United Kingdom during the war and asked whether steps were being taken to regulate them. The statistics were, he said, very disturbing. The total exports from the United Kingdom to all countries from August, 1913, to July, 1914, were only 6,638 tons, as compared with 32,086 tons in the corresponding war period. During the first 16 months of the war, our total exports were 33,357 tons, whereas they had only been 8,883 tons in the corresponding period of 16 months before the war. That gave, roughly, an average export of 2,000 tons monthly during the war and only 500 tons before the war.

Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden took between them only 1,161 tons in 1913, against 7,581 in 1914 and 15,316 tons up to December 21, 1915. Our exports to Holland were 984 tons in 1913, and ran up to 5,048 tons in 1914, after less than half a year of war. These figures were very significant. It was quite impossible that all these neutral countries could have increased their home consumption by these enormous amounts. Holland prohibited the export of cocoa and cocoa butter some months ago; but he imagined that manufactured cocoa was not prohibited and was exported from Holland, while under the secret agreement made with the Danish traders the export of cocoa was allowed from Denmark. The noble marquis (Lord Lansdowne) had said on December 20 that the question of fat and oil had given the Cabinet the greatest anxiety for a long time. But cocoa contained very nearly half its weight in fat, and was twice as nourishing in the form of human energy as bread. Had these great exports from this country been permitted through the *entrepôt* system, or to break down Germany's exchange, or out of tenderness for neutrals, who had in this war enjoyed greater prosperity than in any previous war? He did not see why cocoa should not have been made contraband a long time ago.

LORD LANSDOWNE'S VIEWS.

The Marquis of Lansdowne said that he entirely agreed with his noble friend in what he had said as to the importance of cocoa as a source of military supply. He believed he was right in saying that cocoa contains all the ingredients of one complete food and in particular a large proportion of those fatty substances the absence of which had been so severely felt in Germany and Austria. Therefore there could not be two opinions as to the desirability of preventing cocoa from finding its way to the enemy. Figures showed that some neutral countries contiguous to Germany had been receiving an amount of cocoa so out of proportion to their size that no other conclusion was possible except that a great part of that cocoa was finding its way to the enemy. He believed these figures were on some points open to question, for the monthly figures were compiled from the Customs returns, which had reference, not to the actual transactions which took place in the month, but to the transactions recorded in a month. There was one circumstance which materially affected the figures. Since the war there had been a very great alteration in the cost of freight. Before the war Hamburg was the great *entrepôt* for cocoa, and immense quantities passed through Hamburg to those neutral countries mentioned. A great amount of cocoa went from our own West African colonies to Hamburg and found its way to Scandinavian countries. When the war broke out Hamburg ceased to be the *entrepôt*, and a great deal of the business previously done there came to this country with the result of a great inflation of the amount of cocoa passing through Great Britain. That, at first sight, would be a circumstance for congratulation, for it would show that we were capturing business which formerly belonged to Germany. But there was a great deal more in it than this.

Whereas the imports of cocoa into this country during 1913 amounted to 78,000,000 lb., they amounted in 1915 to 187,000,000 lb. Of that amount 69,000,000 lb. were entered for home consumption. That was a very large increase, as the figure for 1913 for home consumption was only 56,000,000 lb. But even allowing for what came to this country for

the purpose of home consumption, it was quite clear that there was an enormous balance of cocoa unaccounted for, which it was reasonable to presume found its way to the enemy countries.

It was not till last January that cocoa was added to the list of restricted goods, but the decision then come to was held to affect only cocoa powder, and it was so limited in the Proclamation issued during the spring and summer. It was only on July 30 that an amended Proclamation was issued adding to the restricted list raw cocoa of all kinds and all preparations of cocoa, including cocoa husks and shells and chocolate. From July 30 the restriction applied to all cocoa, so that it was only in the period subsequent to that date that one must look if one were to find the real results accomplished by the policy of restriction. He claimed for that policy that it had been attended on the whole by a very fair measure of success.

During 1915 Norway took about 820 tons from the United Kingdom, and of that only about 200 tons had been shipped under licences since the prohibition was imposed. Cocoa was allowed to be shipped only to manufacturers and in no case in excess of their normal requirements. The maximum allowed for any one month was fixed at 50 tons. The normal wants of Norway prior to the war were about 100 tons a month from all sources. To Sweden there were over 6,000 tons exported in 1915, and less than 200 tons had been exported since the prohibition was imposed, a very marked falling off, and even that figure included a certain amount of cocoa released from the Prize Court. In regard to Denmark the total export for the year had been 4,570 tons, although only 500 tons had been shipped under licence since July, including also some consignments released by the Prize Court. In all these cases licences were issued to the manufacturers, limiting their shipments to their normal requirements, and guarantees were required that the cocoa would be consumed in the country concerned and not re-exported.

The case of the Netherlands was somewhat different. There were at least two large businesses, Messrs. Turner and Messrs. Van Houten. They took large quantities of raw cocoa from this country and returned it to us in the manufactured state. About 90 per cent. of the raw material that they took came back in the manufactured state for consumption. In addition to the transactions with these two firms, 300 or 400 tons a month, or 30 or 40 per cent. only of the normal requirements of the Netherlands, had been licensed, in every case to manufacturers who were believed to be trustworthy, and in all cases it was arranged that the cocoa should be sent to the Netherlands Oversea Trust. If we were too strict in our requirements and if they appeared to be vexatious there would be a very considerable risk that the Netherlands would be obliged to get their goods through another channel. We should then lose the opportunity of which we now availed ourselves for issuing licences to them and otherwise making convenient arrangements for the control of the export. Apart from that the result would be that the same amount of cocoa, instead of reaching the neutral countries through British channels, would reach them overseas, and we should have to fall back upon the much more precarious and difficult methods of intercepting goods with which we had to be content when we were dealing with overseas traffic.

IMPORTS TO NEUTRALS FROM OVERSEAS.

No doubt the noble lord was aware that the amount of cocoa which went to these neutral countries through British channels was very small compared with the amount which reached them overseas, and it was when we come to deal with that part of it that our real difficulties begin. Take the case of Sweden, for example. In the first 11 months of 1915 the amount which reached Sweden overseas was 11,120 tons, as against a normal 1,595 tons, and with the larger figure no less than 7,213 tons reached Sweden from the United States of America. He would not dwell further on the difficulties of dealing with the contraband which passed through neutral countries to the enemy overseas. We had to depend upon our power to satisfy the Prize Court that the goods were really destined to the enemy, not always a very simple or easy task.

The best way of securing ourselves against a miscarriage of justice was that we should have recourse to the kind of agreements into which we had entered with the Netherlands Overseas Trust and with the two great Danish trading

associations and with other traders and combinations of traders. The foundation of those agreements was found in what are conventionally known as the "rations" as far as the neutral country was concerned, being approximately what the reasonable requirements of the neutral country were. If an agreement could be arrived at as to that you had at any rate when you took it before a Prize Court, means of establishing inferentially a strong presumption that the goods, if they were in excess of the normal amount, were of enemy destination, and that at any rate helped to some extent in securing their confiscation by a Prize Court.

Since cocoa had been added to the list of prohibited articles there had been a very considerable improvement in the figures, but he was very far from suggesting that nothing more could be done. There could be no reasonable doubt that considerable amounts in spite of all precautions continued to reach the enemy through these channels. This matter was engaging the most careful consideration of the War Trade Department and of the Government. It was now possible to obtain fuller and more accurate information as to the factories in the different countries and their requirements. He believed it possible to do more in the way of restricting licences to cocoa consigned to the firms referred to, and also to do something in the way of arriving at agreements with the shippers under which shippers would undertake not to consign except to the firms thus selected. He had no doubt it would be possible to obtain more effectual guarantees against re-export from neutral countries, and in cases where the imports, tested in the manner described, were shown to be excessive, there, of course, they were able to refuse licences and to resort to the ultimate remedy, which was to take the goods before a Prize Court and to establish, if possible, their enemy destination.

Lord Harris said it was difficult to avoid the inference from what the noble marquess had said that the large quantities of cocoa that had gone into enemy hands might have gone from the West Coast of Africa through British firms in England to importers on the Continent. In that case, was there no way of preventing this? Could not some influence be brought to bear on those British firms?

[We have followed Hansard in using the term "cocoa" throughout the above report. Much confusion would be avoided in this discussion if the raw material were correctly given in the Press as "cacao" and the manufactured product as "cocoa."—ED.]

Bacterised Peat.

Replying to Mr. Ginnell on January 12th, Mr. Russell said that the department of Agriculture had arranged for a supply of bacterised peat, with which their experiments, commenced in 1915, would be continued on a larger scale in the current year. The Department was not prepared to recommend any particular system of bacterising peat or to pay any royalty to patentees for permission to manufacture this material or to superintend its preparation. It was believed that a supply of bacterised peat sufficient for experimental purposes would be available in the current year.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOSEPH MARSHALL STURGE.

The death occurred on Monday, January 10th, of Mr. Joseph Marshall Sturge, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr. Sturge was the youngest son of Mr. Charles Sturge, of Edgbaston and Bewdley, a nephew of Mr. Joseph Sturge, the prominent abolitionist. Sixty years ago he went out to the West Indies, and remained for some years in Montserrat, where the family owned sugar estates. He became a member of the local legislature, and married a daughter of Mr. Francis Burke, a prominent resident in the island, who first started lime cultivation there in 1852. Mr. Sturge successfully developed the industry on the family estates, and when the island was devastated by a hurricane in 1900 he replanted several hundreds of acres with lime trees to the great benefit of the inhabitants.

A BARBADOS APPOINTMENT.

Mr. T. E. Fell has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados in succession to Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G.

Mr. Fell, who hopes to leave for Barbados at the end of February, comes to the West Indies from Ashanti, where he has been a Provincial Commissioner since 1907. Educated at the Royal Grammar School, Lancaster, and Owens College at Manchester, he proceeded to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1897. In the same year he went out to the Gold Coast as Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ST. VINCENT—Agricultural Enterprise.

MR. W. N. SANDS, DECEMBER 24th.—St. Vincent, in common with many other parts of the Empire, is passing through a dull period in trade, but we have hope that during the coming year we shall see things brighten up. Although our arrowroot is slow of sale and cotton crop poor, yet considerable enterprise is being shown by planters in connection with the planting of other crops, and sugar cultivation has been extended up to the capacities of the small factories. Coco-nut planting is also making good progress. Corn, peas and ground-nuts and ground provisions are all being grown on an extended scale for export. There is little land lying idle notwithstanding the unsettled condition of affairs in general. Considerable decreases in general revenue are shown in Government import duties on merchandise, and, this being so, great care has now to be exercised by Government Departments in the matter of expenditure.

We have had the pleasure of a ten days' visit from Dr. F. Watts, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. Dr. Watts visited both the Leeward and Windward Districts, and, besides, addressed a representative meeting in Kingstown, of planters and merchants on cotton, coco-nut, Indian corn, sugar and other questions. His address was much appreciated. It was good news to us to learn that we are to have a fortnightly mail and passenger service by the Royal Mail Canadian Service, via the other islands to and from Canada.

TOBAGO—The Coastal Steamer Service.

G. DAVID HATT, ESQ., DECEMBER 23rd.—The weather for the past fortnight has been satisfactory, cool from sunset to sunrise, bright clear days with rain at intervals. First crop cacao is drawing to an end, also tobacco, and the exports of fruits, vegetables and live stock are at a standstill owing to the withdrawal of our coastal steamer. The Friendsfield and Bacolet estates commenced cane crushing on the 8th inst. Dr. Blane, our chief doctor, is ill, Dr. Gibbons got married last week, and is enjoying his honeymoon preparatory to taking up an appointment to Princes Town, Trinidad, and Dr. Smith's district at Windward is extensive by the people being thinly scattered over long distances, which prevents him attending to other parts except to the neglect of his own; the position at present in so far as medical aid is concerned can be better imagined than described. If we continue to be deprived of our coastal steamer the future prospects of the island are doomed. We need closer linking up with Trinidad instead of almost complete severance as now, and I confess that the idea of jeopardising exports valued at over £66,000 in order to save £3,625 puzzles one. Mails from London per *Catalina* arrived here in 24 days after a delay of four days in Port of Spain to travel the eight hours' journey.

MARRIAGE.

Bourne-Sabey.—On January 15th, at St. Barnabas' Church, Beckenham, Kent, by the Rev. S. Howard Hayward, Quartermaster-Sergeant Arthur Wilfred Bourne, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson Bourne, of Bromley, Kent, to Violet Milfred, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Sabey, of Beckenham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The B.W.I.s—An Historical Parallel.

The late West Indian Mail Service.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—Referring to a letter to the Secretary of the G.P.O., dated September 9th, 1915, from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., copy of which appears in your November issue—I think it only fair to the Islands and all concerned that the other side should be stated.

As one who has frequently drawn the attention of the Islands to the methods of this Company, it is a source of pleasure to me, that at last the Islands are awakening to the fact that they have been played fast and loose with by this Company. (*Denverian Chronicle*, Mail Edition, November 29th, 1915.)

All admit the present times are abnormal, but, is it not so with other shipping companies? And yet on reading the last report of the P. & O., the Chairman stated, "That no less than 42 of their steamers had been made use of by the Government, and they had not been obliged to cancel a single departure;" and incidentally it may be noticed that the *SS. Persia* of this Company carried over 40,000 bags of mail and hardly any freight; this mail would naturally be carried free, according to contract.

What a contrast, when we consider the treatment of the West Indies. The contract cancelled (as if it were merely 'a scrap of paper'), and this Company have the effrontery to offer to run two steamers (*Danube* and *Magdalena*) if the Government will pay a fixed sum of not less than £4,000 per voyage (and very nice, too).

They say their average loss on these steamers is £5,600 per voyage, omitting to mention that their joint cargo boats, which have been running very regularly, and only sailing a few days prior to the mail boats, have been full and left freight on the wharf—and, at what price—100/- per ton Manchester, 90/- per ton London cargo.

I do maintain, that if they had allowed the latter boats to be taken by the Government, their mail boats would not have been able to carry the freight offered outwards and homewards. Has not Jamaica on her own been able to fill steamers (loaned by the Government)? Therefore, as their cargo boats carried the freight, their mail boats would naturally run at a loss. What else could anybody expect?

Let us, for argument's sake, take the West Indian-Canadian Service, which, the Company admits, is paying very well. Suppose they run in between the sailing of these steamers a freight service, would they then approach the Canadian Government and say, the mail service was running at a dead loss. The positions are identical with regard to the English Mail Service. Therefore, I do maintain the cargo boats are carrying the freight their mail boats should carry. Moreover, the maintenance of these high freights will ultimately ruin this cargo service.

If, at the conclusion of the War, the Islands approach the Canadian Government to build their own steamers to run from England to Canada via the Islands, and *vice versa*, the Royal Mail Company will only have themselves to blame.

At one time there were from 30 to 40 steamers running to the West Indies from this country, and it is obvious that six steamers purchased by the Canadian Government, but managed by Shipping Agents strictly on commission basis, would pay well.

If the Government were to regulate freightage on a mileage, then we should not have the anomalous position where freightage to the West Indies, three to four thousand miles, is the same as that to New Zealand and China, twelve to fifteen thousand miles.

I can very well leave the treatment of the Islands by this Company to the judgment and well-merited condemnation of those who have been victims of their greed and selfishness.

In conclusion, is it conceivable that they are likely to get any further subsidy? Let them try it on, and then, in the classic phrase of Mr. Asquith, "wait and see."

Yours truly,
W. ABBOTT.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—The following summary, culled from "The Life of Lord Viscount Nelson," by Mr. Harrison, and published by the Ranelagh Press in 1806, may be of interest to West Indians in particular, and Jamaicans in general, especially at this juncture, when they are assembled at the North Camp, Seaford, Sussex—over 3,000 men of the British West Indies Regiment, with other contingents to follow:—

"When the gallant Nelson was Captain of H.M.'s Frigate *Hinchinbrooke*, then cruising with the British Squadron in West Indian waters, it was reported that a French fleet with 25,000 troops on board would make an attempt to capture the island of Jamaica. Fortunately the threatened invasion was never attempted, and the troops in Jamaica ready to oppose the landing of the enemy [now our trusted Allies] were utilised, shortly after, in invading the Spanish possessions in Central America. The Expedition consisted of the 60th and 70th British Regiments, stationed there, strengthened by local forces made up of the loyal Irish Corps and Jamaica Volunteers.

"A difficulty, however, arose, as the long continued Martial Law, and military preparations against the possibility of a French invasion, had almost exhausted the island of military stores and provisions. This embarrassment, not to be viewed without regret, was, however, surmounted by the patriotism of Hercules Ross, a merchant of Jamaica, who practically financed the Expedition."

History is now repeating itself in every British possession in the West Indies, and the representative contingent now here will convince the great Motherland of our loyalty and practical appreciation of the righteous principles the Empire is striving so hard to vindicate, not only for our nation, but for the brotherhood of man in general.

There has been no time in the history of the Empire when the opinion of the people was sounder than it is at the present moment, and there never was a time when Britishers were more sensitive of the honour of their glorious heritage, or more ready to defend its shores in any part of the world, no matter if that territory be even a coral reef. It is British soil, no matter its intrinsic worth; the spirit of freedom and justice breathes over it, and we are therefore determined to insist on equal rights for weaker nations, and there will be no peace until we have crushed the unscrupulous Hun.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM H. ORRETT.

17A, Warrington Crescent,
Maida Vale, London, W.
January 6th, 1916.

School Discipline.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—In your London Letter, in the issue of November 2nd, you draw a parallel between a recent case at Radley College and a suit which was brought in 1910 against the Governing Body of Harrison College. May I point out that, with reference to the latter, you are mistaken as to the facts? The boy was not, as you say, "expelled from Harrison College for breaking his leave with his father's consent, so that he might attend a race meeting." He was, with several other boys who had absented themselves from school in spite of a direct warning, condemned to a very mild punishment—one hour's detention after school hours. The other boys remained for the detention. This boy was forbidden by his father to do so. When the father, after several attempts at persuasion on my part, continued to refuse permission, the boy naturally had to leave the school.

The Chief Justice of Barbados, in his summing up, expressly laid it down that the parent had broken his contract, and that removal was the proper course. He recommended the jury, however, to find a verdict in the parents' favour on the ground that I, as Headmaster, had allowed the boy to remain in school on two separate days, while I was corresponding with his father in the hope of maintaining discipline with his consent.

I desire to make no comment, but shall be obliged to you if you will publish this statement of the facts.

I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours,
HERBERT A. DALTON.

Harrison College, Barbados.
December 20th, 1915.

Trade after the War.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—It is always prudent to take time by the forelock, and British West Indians should at once arrange a Congress to formulate measures to prevent the Germans, when the War is over, from having the same trade privileges as they previously enjoyed.

The Huns are already reckoning that we, being good natured and easy going, will readily agree to let the past be forgotten, and again throw open our markets to the shoddy goods of Germany, so that they might be dumped at the expense of the British manufacturer, and the profit of German concerns, willing to sell at any price, so as to obtain money to keep their works going.

Germany, for many years to come, will be in a desperate economic position, and she will stop at nothing to try and get back her commercial advantages, in the markets now closed to her. Our duty is to see that she does not succeed, as otherwise it will be placing her in a position of commanding success to pay the taxes on her mammoth War Loans, and to meet indebtedness incurred abroad.

Loyal West Indians will, doubtlessly, appreciate that the more they support British manufacturers, the easier it will be for the Homeland and Canada to meet interest and sinking fund on the billions they have spent, and are still spending, in keeping together our glorious Empire.

As Sir E. Carson said in a recent speech at a meeting held under the auspices of "The New National Business Policy":—

"We did not desire, and had not desired, to force any of our ideals, or ideas, upon our fellow countrymen beyond the seas. We admitted to the whole extent the services they had rendered us. They had shown themselves more enthusiastic in their loyalty than ourselves, and to any extent they desired it, and it was for them to forward proposals, they must be incorporated in our Imperial Councils, and we must run our commercial policy to our mutual benefit and not for the benefit of foreigners."

And I will add to this, *more especially the Germans*; and I venture to advise all West Indians interested, as they ought to be, in the industrial life of the British Empire, to support the "Institute of Industry of Great Britain and Ireland (Limited)."

"Verbum satis sapienti."

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM H. ORRETT,

17A, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale,
London, W.

The Wonder Book of Empire for Boys and Girls. With fifteen coloured plates and over three hundred illustrations. Edited by Harry Golding. London, Melbourne and Toronto: Ward, Lock & Co. Price 3/6. This gift-book does not belie its name. It tells of the wonders of our vast Empire, and is essentially an Imperial work. Not the least striking feature is a diagrammatic table showing the relative size of the lesser British possessions overseas and the United Kingdom, which shows the great area of British Guiana to advantage. The letterpress includes accounts of the British West Indies, Guiana, and Honduras. This volume forms one of a series of "wonder books," the remainder being devoted to animals, railways, ships, and soldiers; we venture to think that it will be by no means the least attractive to the younger generation. From an educational point of view the illustrations alone would make the book worth buying.

A FURTHER list of those connected with the West Indies who are serving in the Imperial Forces will be published in next issue.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

BANK RATE. Remains at 5 per cent. as from the 5th of August, 1914. Old War Loan is quoted at 89½; New War Loan at 97. Consols stand at 94½.

SUGAR. As regards the world's sugar, the important point in the last fortnight has been the still lowered estimate of the Continental beet crops. In our last Summary, the 1915-16 crop outside the enemy countries was taken as likely to be something over 300,000 tons short of the 1914-15 crop. Owing, however, to the increasing shortage of the Russian crop, which is estimated as likely to be, in the most favourable circumstances, 400,000 tons short of last year, it is possible that this figure may be increased to 500,000 tons—a figure which will counter-balance the estimated excess of cane sugar. Germany and Austria, also, will probably have much shorter crops than then allowed for, and a deficiency of probably 1,250,000 tons may be expected in this respect. In connection with Russia, it is reported that the Government contemplate taking over sugar and working the business on the same lines as the recent vodka monopoly.

Some exceedingly interesting figures as to the United States sugar supply and consumption for 1915 are given by Messrs. Willett & Gray. It appears that the consumption totalled 3,801,551 tons, or 1.082 per cent. in excess of that of 1914. The sources of this sugar were: Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona, 224,768 tons; United States beet, 769,457 tons; Hawaii, 509,263 tons; Porto Rico, 300,310 tons; Philippines, 120,202 tons; various sugars, 15,400 tons—forming the domestic supply and amounting to 1,939,200 tons. Cuba supplied in addition 1,841,602 tons, while 20,720 tons were imported, on which the full duty was assessed. The total amount of refined sugar consumed, including the United States direct consumption beet production in this category, was 3,648,108 tons, 153,423 tons being consumed in the raw state.

The United States refiners exported during the year 386,951 tons of sugar, of which 211,554 tons went to Great Britain, 137,573 tons to France, and 14,828 tons to other European countries, including Russia, Norway, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, and Belgium. The balance, 22,966 tons, went to various ports in Australia, China, Philippines, Egypt, Liberia, British, French, Spanish, and Portuguese African possessions, Central and South America, Canada, and the West Indies.

The average price for granulated during the year was \$5.559 per 100 lbs., and for duty paid 96°, \$4.642. The highest price paid for granulated was \$6.027 on the 6th of December, and for 96° sugar \$5.20 on the 2nd of December. The lowest price was \$4.704 on September 23rd for granulated, and \$5.70 on October 2nd for 96° sugar. The average price of granulated was \$5.559 per 100 lbs. in 1915, as against \$4.683 in 1914, and of 96° sugar, \$4.64 in 1915, as against \$3.814 in 1914.

The Cuban crop is nearly in full swing. On the 25th inst., 164 of the 188 factories were in operation. The prospects of crop are distinctly favourable, although some factories have not yet gone about on account of machinery delays. Mr. Timely speaks of the yield from the canes as being about 1 per cent. better than last year's figures, varying from 9 per cent. in parts of the island where the yields are generally poor to 10½ per cent. in one part of the Oriente province, where such a high result has never been before obtained so early in the crop. This promises well for the crop prospects, and is in striking contrast to the position that obtained in this respect at the same period last year.

From the *Planters' and Commercial Gazette* of Mauritius we learn that the total quantity of the 1915-16 crop of sugar shipped up to the 26th of November was 69,191 metric tons, as against 89,342 tons in 1914 and 64,982 at the same time in 1913. Of this, 61,119 tons had gone to Great Britain, 7,251 tons to India, 272 tons to New York, and 555 tons to Bihoniti.

The Jamaica Government has forbidden the export of sugar from that island.

Dr. Prinsen Geerlign, in a recent number of the *Louisiana Planter*, refers to the gradual falling-off of the Java crop. In 1913 a crop of 1,465,975 tons was recorded, from which point there has been a steady decline. Plan

ters in Java assign as the cause bad seasons, and fondly look forward to better results in the future. Dr. Geerligs, however, points out—and no one is better qualified to express an opinion on the subject—that the primary cause is not the seasons, but that the cane suffers from disease, which is more keenly felt in dry years than moist ones.

The canes now cultivated in Java are practically new canes, the old and long-established variety having gone with the serah disease some years back.

In the London Market, West Indian sugars have been in request. At auction on the 14th inst., 1,754 bags of crystallised Demerara were sold at 31/9 to 32/6 for middling to good yellow, and 21 bags Demerara syrups sold at 27/3 to 28/- for good brown to middling yellow. On the 18th inst. 1,546 bags of Demerara met with good demand, 31/- to 32/6 being realised. On the 21st, only 90 tons of grocery crystallised were offered. This met with a strong demand, selling at an advance of sixpence, realizing 32/9 to 33/-. On the 25th the Government raised the price of granulated sugar 2/6 per cwt. At auction sales on that day 390 tons of crystallised West Indian were sold at an advance of 1/9 to 2/9 per cwt.; 909 bags Demerara realised 34/6 to 35/6; 755 bags of Trinidad fetched 35/6 to 35/9; 1,920 bags of Surinam 34/6 to 35/6.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to 15th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	2,857	3,572	1,500	3,446	554 Tons.
Deliveries ...	2,321	1,920	1,689	1,520	1,883 ..
Stock (Jan. 16)	11,636	7,661	12,417	3,765	3,161 ..

The New York Market has been steady, with a rising tendency. On the 17th, the value of duty paid 96% sugar rose to \$4.58, further increases taking place on the following days, until on the 19th the value rose to \$4.77, at which point it stood on the 24th. The price of granulated has remained at \$5.75.

RUM remains very firm and the tendency is towards higher prices for any lots that can be taken out of bond without delay. For Demerara, prompt delivery, 4/- per proof gallon has been obtained.

The stocks in London on January 16th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	6,247	6,130	6,226	7,021	8,486 Puns.
Demerara ...	3,955	5,857	7,645	6,157	5,759 ..
Total, all kinds ...	20,337	17,392	20,509	21,270	22,640 ..

CACAO. Since the date of last Summary there has been a good deal said in Parliament on the subject of cacao being allowed by our Government to get through to enemy countries by means of export to neutrals from Great Britain, the arguments being based on the enormously increased exports of this commodity since the war began, and it was admitted by the Government there was good ground for such complaint. The figures of cacao exports from this country, as given by the Board of Trade, however, in no way justify such a conclusion being drawn.

Early in January the export of cacao to European neutral countries was absolutely forbidden, a prohibition which was withdrawn in the middle of February. For these two months the average export per month was 3,225,230 lbs. On the 31st July the prohibition was again enforced, with, however, the power of export under licence to properly authenticated firms in the European neutral countries. For the months March-July the average export of cacao was 5,656,888 lbs. per month. For the months August-December—that is to say, for the months of licensed export, the shipments amounted to 5,380,357 lbs. per month.

The above figures show clearly that there is very little ground for the accusation that the enemy is being supplied with cacao through the United Kingdom, the non-prohibition months showing only five per cent. more of exports than the prohibition-cum-licence months. The real fact of the matter is that London has taken the place of Hamburg as a distributing centre for Europe and the Mediterranean, and the exports in consequence loom largely compared with those of pre-war years.

As regards manufactured cacao—cocoa powders and chocolate—the position is slightly different. In respect of this commodity the prohibition has been maintained throughout the year, coming under the licence modifica-

tion on the 31st of July. For the months January-July the shipments were at the rate of 230 tons per month; for the months August-December they averaged 158 tons per month. These exports, however, are small as compared with the 2,400 tons or so monthly shipments of the raw article, and certainly do not indicate trading with the enemy.

It is, however, a well-known fact that large quantities of cacao find their way to Germany through neutral countries from America and producing countries other than the British possessions. Seeing that the cacao bean contains 50 per cent. of fat, it is clearly the duty of the Government to declare cacao contraband of war. Any doubtful cargoes from foreign countries could then be seized and their true destination established.

The cacao market has been easier, and prices have declined. At auction sales on the 18th, 11,788 bags were offered, but sellers have to meet buyers to the extent generally of 2/- to 3/- per cwt. All the West Indian cacao with the exception of Grenada, of which 4,728 bags were offered, and mostly sold at 81/- to 84/5, was bought in. No public sales took place on the 25th, and the market is quiet and unchanged.

The stocks in London on January 16th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	7,054	5,792	8,367	3,432	3,146 Bags.
Grenada ...	6,607	5,153	3,736	2,311	7,220 ..
Total, all kinds	99,116	54,616	75,775	69,687	98,267 ..

COTTON. About 100 bales of West Indian Sea Island have been sold since our last report, chiefly St. Vincent at 16½d. to 18d., with a few bales of Nevis and Montserrat at 15½d., and stams at 12d. Prices are inclined to advance in sympathy with the rise in Sakellarides Egyptian and American Sea Island, and quotations have been raised 1d. a pound. The amount of West Indian cotton imported for the year up to the 20th inst. has been 90 bales.

COPRA. The tendency of the market has become easier during the last few days, and prices have given way 1/10s. per ton. West Indian has been sold at £37, and there are further sellers.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: There has been no demand for handpressed, and the nominal value is 6/6 to 7/-. Distilled is quiet, and some sales have been reported at 6/3. Lime Juice. Raw is firmer and further sales of Jamaica are reported at 2/9 per gallon. There is no business to report in Concentrated. Citrate of Lime would be worth £25.

SPICES. The markets for Nutmegs and Mace have slightly strengthened; 100's/80's nutmegs are valued at 7d. to 9½d.; 120's/140's, 6½d. to 7d. Good to fine mace is worth 2/- to 2/6; red to good, 1/7 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/3 to 1/6; broken 6½d. to 1/2. The market for Jamaica Ginger remains firm but quiet and parcels in importers' hands are held for full rates. Present quotations are 67/6 to 85/- per cwt. Pimento, fair to good, 2½d. to 3½d.; ordinary to middling, 1½d. to 1¾d.

ARROWROOT. There has been a fair demand during the fortnight, and sales of 450 barrels at 2½d. to 4½d. have been reported. Present quotations are unchanged.

HONEY. Jamaica was 2/- dearer at auction with a good demand. Dark liquid and set is valued at 32/- to 34/-; setting palish to pale 35/- to 38/-.

COCO-NUT OIL. Market steady. Ceylon is scarce, and 57/6 is quoted by sellers for February/April delivery. Cochin is not in demand and may be quoted at 60/- c.i.f. London.

RUBBER. There has been a considerable drop in prices since last Summary, due mainly to less American demand, and the market is now quiet. Fine Plantation Crepe may be quoted at 3/7, with smoked sheet at 3/6½. The value of Fine Hard Para is 3/5½, and of soft 3/5.

BALATA. The market for Venezuelan block is quiet, with business reported at 2/- c.i.f. for near shipment. Panama block is quoted by shippers at 1/9 c.i.f.; but spot parcels have been sold at the comparatively cheaper rates of 1/9 to 1/9½ full landed terms. The shipments of West Indian sheet are rather smaller than usual, and first-hand sellers now ask 2/6½ to 2/7, London landed terms.

PETROLEUM OIL. American red., water white 11d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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February 9th, 1916.

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.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

THE great meeting of business men which was held at the Guildhall on January 31st afforded further evidence of the change which has come over public opinion as a result of the War. Convened by the LORD MAYOR, and organised by a joint Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce and the National Patriotic Association, it was attended by nearly eighty Lord Mayors, Mayors, and Provosts, and representatives of the leading Chambers of Commerce, and trade and industrial associations, besides the Agents-General for the Dominions. The object was to discuss the question of trade and employment after the war, and the principal business resolution urged the formation of a Ministry of Commerce "to carry out a constructive commercial policy for this country." In seconding the resolution, MR. LIONEL A. MARTIN, Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce, reminded the audience that that body had recently adopted three recommendations for reciprocal trade between all parts of the Empire, for preferential trade with our Allies, and for the penalisation of foreign countries by tariffs or otherwise, and he added that these resolutions had been adopted unanimously by Free

Traders and Tariff Reformers. Following MR. MARTIN, LORD DESBOROUGH, President of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, moved a resolution in favour of the improvement of the commercial relations between the United Kingdom, the Dominions overseas and the Allies, which was seconded by LORD HOLLENDEN and carried unanimously. Perhaps scarcely less significant was the report of the sub-committee of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence with regard to the steps which it might be desirable to take to secure the position of certain branches of British industry after the war, which was published a few days later. For a fuller summary of the report than that given on another page we must refer our readers to the daily newspapers of February 3rd, and it must suffice here to refer to one only, in which, recognising the existence of a strong desire to respond to the feeling in our Dominions in favour of an Imperial preference, the sub-committee find that it will be necessary to impose some widely-spread import duties, and recommend that a larger proportion of revenue should be raised by reasonable import duties. They further advocate the adoption of steps to prevent the position of industries likely to be affected being endangered after the war by the dumping of accumulated stocks. Coming especially, as it does, from a body having official imprimatur, and including SIR ALGERNON FIRTH, President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and MR. STANLEY MACHIN, Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce—and incidentally we may add a prominent confectioner—this cannot be regarded as otherwise than extremely significant. It is evident that the movement in favour of the policy of Imperial preference, and the protection of our trade from the aggressive commercial warfare waged in the past by the countries with which we are now at war, is steadily gaining momentum.

INDENTURED IMMIGRATION.

IN our issue of December 28th last we published a reply given in the House of Commons by MR. C. ROBERTS, on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in answer to SIR J. D. REES, who asked whether the Government of India had recommended the abolition of the indentured labour system. MR. ROBERTS said that a communication had been received 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. There is nothing in this reply to justify the assumption of a certain section of the Indian native press—whose unreasonable opposition to indentured im-

migration, which was originated as much for the benefit of the labourer as for that of the planter, has lost little of its vigour since the death of MR. GOKHALE—that LORD HARDINGE has recommended the total abolition of the system of indenture. At the same time we are forced to admit that our advices from India point to the possibility—if not a probability—of a decision being arrived at which may be very far-reaching in its consequences to British Guiana and Trinidad, and to a lesser extent Jamaica. To the two first named colonies in particular the continuance of immigration in some form or another is absolutely essential, and, having regard to the information now before us, we have no hesitation in saying that it is high time that the Governments and agricultural and mercantile communities in them should be bestirring themselves and preparing a case for submission to the Government of India through the Colonial Office. In India the objections to the emigration of labourers under indenture is purely sentimental, and one cannot help feeling that if the Indian and Colonial Governments were to put fairly and squarely before the proletariat the circumstances attending emigration to the British West Indies, a different view would be taken of the situation. But unfortunately events have moved rapidly, and those colonies, like the British West Indies, who welcome East Indians and give them every opportunity of settling on the land and residing permanently in the country of their choice, have to suffer because of the attitude adopted by the Dominions towards the would-be East Indian settler. Commission after Commission have reported in favour of the East Indian immigration, and it would be strange if after the encomiums of LORD SANDERSON'S Committee of 1910 and of MR. McNEIL and MR. CHINMAN LAL, who toured the islands as recently as 1912-13, were allowed to go by the board. Whether or not matters have gone too far to justify the despatch of representatives of the East Indian communities, who form nearly half the population of British Guiana and fully a third of that of Trinidad, to India to demonstrate what a grand field those colonies afford for Indian colonisation, is a question which can only be decided when the Viceroy's despatch is made public. Meanwhile we can only urge that ample opportunities may be afforded to the colonies now receiving East Indians to consider the matter in all its aspects and to discuss it freely with the Government of India before any announcement is made which may close the door on the indenture system.

THE PROPOSED FRUIT PROHIBITION.

COVENT GARDEN and provincial fruit distributing centres are not unnaturally perturbed at the hint given by MR. RUNCIMAN that the importation of certain classes of fruit into this country may shortly be prohibited. In the trade the impression seems to prevail that bananas will be exempted from the prohibition order on the grounds that they now form an important item in the food supply of the masses, and importers claim favoured treatment for apples from the British Dominions for similar reasons. We are, of course, chiefly concerned with

bananas. The consumption of this fruit here has risen from 2,200,000 bunches in 1901 to no fewer than 8,500,000 in 1914; and it may fairly be argued that if the supply of bananas were checked the appetite of the people would need to be satiated with other and perhaps more costly foodstuffs. The direct effect of the prohibition of fruit generally on the British West Indies would be comparatively negligible, the imports of bananas from those colonies having amounted to 500,000 bunches only in 1914, and those of oranges having been only 100,000 cwts. out of a total of 5,500,000 cwts. in 1913—the last year for which statistics are available. Indirectly, however, the effect would be very serious indeed for the millions of bunches of Costa Rica and South America bananas would be directed to other markets, notably America, with the result that prices would come down with a run. If this were to help win the war the planters would, we like to think, face the outlook with equanimity; but we do not think that it will be claimed that the prohibition, which is aimed at relieving the shipping congestion, will do much in that way. We believe that we are correct in stating that the Admiralty have already requisitioned as many steamers of Messrs. Elders and Pyffes—the fruit carrying line—as they require, and that those remaining are needed for carrying out the arrangement recently arrived at with the Government for the maintenance of a fortnightly mail service between Jamaica and this country. Apart from this the steamers have been specially built for fruit traffic and are unsuitable for general cargo. In view of these facts, which will no doubt be submitted by the West India Committee to the Board of Trade, it is reasonable to hope that if there must be prohibition of fruit, it will not extend to bananas. But the fruit trade point out, not without reason, that if apples are excluded and bananas are admitted, the prices of bananas will rise, and that the American Company which owns the plantations in Costa Rica and South America will benefit at the expense of the fruit producers of Tasmania, British Columbia and other British places where the apples come from. In 1914 our imports of apples amounted to 1,400,000 cwts. from the United States, 1,300,000 cwts. from Canada, and 300,000 cwts. from Australia. In the circumstances if the prohibition of certain kinds of fruit is persisted in it would be best to apply it only to fruit from foreign countries which could be perfectly well dispensed with.

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.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

It is an ironic comment on the false prophecies of self-appointed war critics so popular for a year of the war, that, months after Germany was on the point of exhaustion for want of numbers, money, munitions, and food—especially food—there should have been a debate in the House of Commons on the question as to whether we are helping to supply her with supplies and raw materials. The result may be that the Navy will be given a free hand in the prosecution of the war at sea—or maybe not until worse happens.

The greatest conquering nations of the past never dreamed of such far-flung power as England wields to-day on land, as well as on sea. At one and the same time our troops are fighting in Belgium and the Balkans the scientifically armed and trained legions of the Kaiser; in Mesopotamia, East Africa, the Cameroons and the Western Frontier of Egypt, the fiercest of Islam's warriors, directed by the greatest military Power of the West. The fanatical Senussi tribesmen of the Sahara, after six weeks of hostilities, have, however, been dispersed by General Wallace, and their camp burned. This is sure to have a quietening effect on Egyptian opinion.

On the Western Front.

The enemy has been showing great activity at various points, but the only gain he has to his credit as a result is on the Somme, where he has captured the village of Frise, beyond which is a swamp, so of little military value. At Ypres and near Kemmel Wyttschaete, where a party of British troops scored a success, and in Alsace, the Germans were beaten back. But the plain fact is that after eighteen months of war the enemy's lines on the West are practically unchanged. Even the St. Mihiel salient is still intact, and what ground has been gained amounts to only a few square miles. That the lines could be broken is admitted, but evidently it is held that the cost in blood and treasure would be too great. But one wonders if the daily loss of life and war expenditure while we are at a standstill are not in the aggregate as heavy as would ensure a successful thrust and big advance.

The Eastern Front and the Balkans.

Scutari and Alessio have fallen. The Italians are fortifying Valona and Durazzo with a view to creating a diversion in Albania, which will hold in front of her considerable Austrian and Bulgarian forces. Meanwhile the Serbians are maintaining their resistance in Elbassan, Rissad Pasha is organising his tribesmen in Central Albania, and we are in strength at Salonika. With more effective co-operation between the Allies and the recognition in their plans that the battle-fronts are one, it is possible that the

decisive theatre of the war may be in the Balkans and on the Eastern front.

Russia, by throwing her army into Galicia and the Bukovina after it had gained all possible advantages by its pressure in Bessarabia, has upset the designs of the German General Staff. Mackensen's offensive against Salonika stopped short and he himself returned to the scene of his one-time successes. Almost the whole of Gallwitz's army was withdrawn from the Balkans to reinforce the Austrian right wing. These movements reacted in the Bulgarian forces, which had to perform a task single-handed when they expected the co-operation of powerful allies. Hence the escape of the Serbian Army and the paralysis of the Bulgarian offensive against Salonika. For them to undertake the task "on their own" would raise the whole Greek nation against them. It is Russia's advance, then, which has enabled the Anglo-French to fortify Salonika and its environs.

Again, a successful thrust on the Eastern front is more practicable than on the Western because the terrain is less developed. The enemy's lines are divided by the Pinsk Marshes, in which artillery cannot be used, and the science of the engineer is useless. South of them the Russians are approaching Kovel, and thence to Czernovitz a system of entrenchments has been constructed. But these may be turned, and, if they should be, Bulgaria would be up against Russia, and the Germans would have to fall back to the Carpathians.

In the Caucasus and Beyond.

While we are holding on at Kut our Russian Allies 500 miles away are pressing the Turks very hard, scattering their field armies, and threatening their hold on Erzerum, the central pivot of the strategy of their Empire in Asia. By the loss of Kynnskala, which should enable the defences of Erzerum to be turned, and retreat on Mush, near the eastern Euphrates, the left wing may be caught between the Russians pursuing them and the Russians on the southern shore of Lake Van. Their only alternative is to reach Baghdad, 100 miles further west, driven by a relentless enemy. Russia is, indeed, achieving a series of successes from all along her Asiatic front from the Black Sea to Lake Van, and beyond that to Khangavar and Lake Urmia in Persia. Like all the other belligerents in this theatre of the war, her objective is Baghdad, held by a great Turkish army and stiffened by Germans, whose, also, is the supreme command. Eighty miles south is the British Expeditionary Force, 200 miles north-east are the Russians, pushing on Kermanshah, 250 miles north are other Russian columns. They have to make their way through difficult mountain country deep in snow, but, as they have already traversed 250 miles from the Caspian, they are equal to the job. On the south the British have covered a similar distance from the coast, so that about some 200 miles separate them. But will the Turks allow them to effect a junction, and so isolate Baghdad, as a prelude to its fall? Rather than see their dominion in Mesopotamia shattered they would sue for peace.

The Position in Mesopotamia.

General Townshend's force is still besieged in Kut. But, being on high ground, it has escaped the worst consequences of the floods. The Turks, on the other hand, have been obliged by the rising waters to fall back some 2,000 yards from before the British north-western front, evacuating 22 immensely deep trenches and miles of communication trenches. General Aylmer is in a strong position on the Tigris, but is 23, not 7 miles distant from Kut, as through an error in the transmission of the despatch, was first announced. As the river is falling no doubt military operations will soon be resumed.

The United States' Changed Tone.

President Wilson has come to the point at which all true statesmen arrive in due course. He is telling his countrymen that, if they are to maintain the honour of their country, they must be in a position to defend it. This has been the burden of at least two of his speeches lately. His "too proud to fight" attitude is being abandoned under the pressure of events. The United States is warned by its pacifist President that it must be ready for emergencies.

The War at Sea.

Once more interest centres in the war at sea. The story of the *Appam* is even more sensational than the story of the *Königsberg*. She was captured when on her way home from Dakar in West Africa, by the *Möwe*, which in a week sank seven British merchant vessels, and brought into the port of Norfolk, Virginia, by a prize crew, consisting of German prisoners captured by us in the Cameroons. No two accounts agree as to the character of the *Möwe*, which the enemy tries to make out is an auxiliary cruiser. But she is believed to be a new steamer, built for the fruit trade, which can be converted into a tramp or a warship at will. The Americans appear to regard the *Appam* as a prize, which means that she, together with her prize crew, will be interned until the end of the war, and her passengers released. As for the sixteen British reservists on board they should also be released.

In the shallows of the Dutch coast a British submarine has run aground. Part of the crew was rescued by a British destroyer, and the rest by a Dutch war vessel. These, it is hoped, will not be interned, negotiations having been opened with the Netherlands Government for that purpose. The Dutch are indignant at the Germans, which stopped the *Artemis* in home waters, and afterwards tried to torpedo her, though in this they failed.

Activity in the Air.

An air raid on the Kentish coast, after more than three months' immunity, was mainly remarkable because it took place in bright moonlight. A second raid was of a more serious character. The squadron of Zeppelins, headed off London, sailed

north-east and west. . . . The total casualties were 160, including 68 women and 8 children. Though about 200 bombs were dropped the damage was not in proportion. The greatest sufferers in this respect were certain towns in Staffordshire.

A wrecked Zeppelin, the L19, has been sighted in the North Sea by French and English trawlers, probably the one which sank the *Franz Fischer*, a captured enemy vessel, employed as a coasting collier. She was brought down by Dutch guns when attempting to cross by way of Holland. An English trawler had speech with her crew, but as there were 30 of them to his 9, he prudently sailed away. When British torpedo boats went in search of her she was gone. The Germans admit her loss.

For the first time in ten months Paris has experienced an aerial raid. As usual no military damage was done, and relatively little to civilian property. There were about twenty-five deaths and twenty-five wounded. The Zeppelins seem to have been concealed by a bank of cloud on their way up the valley of the Marne, and so escaped the French airmen. They were similarly concealed over Paris even with searchlights playing on them. The moral effect of this raid, as well as of a second and minor one, was negligible. The Parisians were more curious than terrified. Reprisals are demanded in both capitals as the only way of preventing these cruel and useless attacks on harmless people. Our gun-fire, it is proved, causes greater loss of life than the bombs of the Zeppelins.

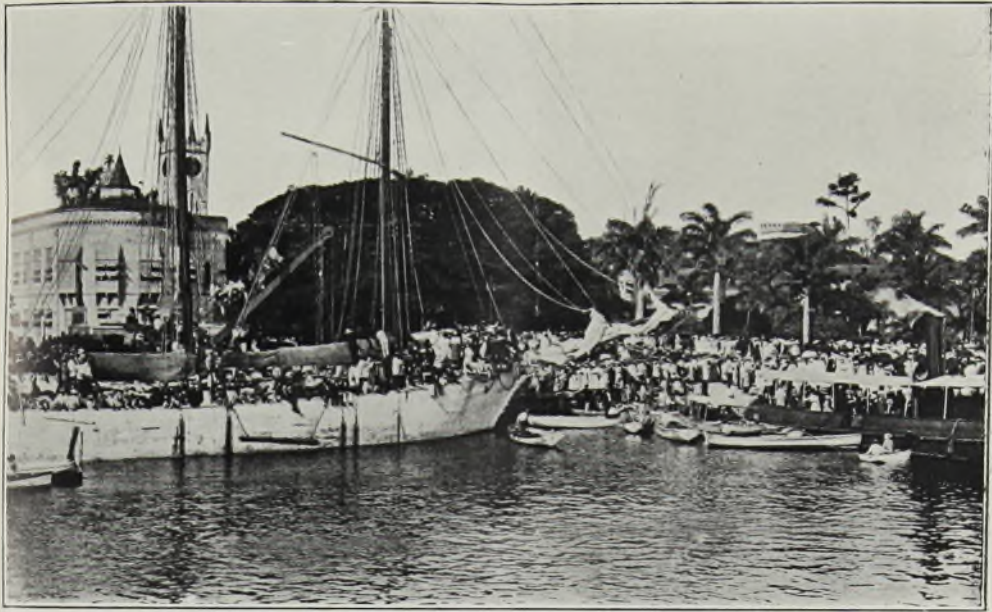
The Allied tactics in the raid on Metz were novel, the bomb-dropping aeroplanes having been accompanied by aircraft, which kept off the enemy's machines designed to repel such attacks, and several stirring fights in the air took place. This was more than scouting, it was more like reconnaissance in force. An Allied air attack on the Bulgarians has resulted in 1,000 casualties. It took place on Petritch in the Strumna Valley.

In the Cameroons.

Since Jaunde was occupied on New Year's Day the converging drive in the Colony has reached the Njong River, where about twenty or thirty French and British prisoners were released, and, after effecting a junction of several columns near Eden, is continuing its resistless pressure on the enemy. In order, if possible, to prevent his forces from escaping into Spanish Guinea, whither the German Governor, Commandant, and 700 civilians have betaken themselves, two French columns are advancing from the coast, which is clear of the Germans, and the French Congo. As the posts are being evacuated a day's march from the Spanish frontier, it is evident that the campaign is nearing its end, and the last but one of Germany's oversea possessions is doomed.

(To be continued.)

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.



DEPARTURE OF THE BARBADOS CITIZENS' CONTINGENT FROM BRIDGETOWN.



THE SECOND TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENT AT PORT OF SPAIN.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

The Report of a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence with respect to measures for securing the position, after the war, of certain branches of British industry, has been published as a Parliamentary White Paper. [Cd. 8181.]

The enquiry was directed to the following branches of industry :—

Paper Manufacture.	Glassware.
The Printing Trade.	China and Earthenware.
The Stationery Trade.	Toys.
The Jewellers' and Silversmiths' Trade.	Electrical Apparatus.
Cutlery.	Brush, etc., Trade.
Fancy Leather Goods.	Hardware.

The sub-committee, of which Sir Algernon Birth is Chairman, and Mr. A. J. Hobson, Mr. Stanley Machin, Mr. E. Parkes, and Sir Albert Spicer, M.P., members, make various recommendations in connection with scientific industrial research and training, but conclude by saying: "We are of opinion that where the national supply of certain manufactured articles, which are of vital importance to the national safety, or are essential to other industries, has fallen into the hands of manufacturers and traders outside this country, British manufacturers ready to undertake the manufacture of such articles in this country should be afforded sufficient tariff protection to enable them to maintain such production after the war.

"With reference to the strongly-expressed opinion of many of the witnesses that the enactment of protective duties on the industries other than those referred to in the preceding paragraph, which have formed the subject of our inquiry, is essential to their maintenance, we wish to report that in view of the following considerations :—

"(a) that there exists a strong desire to respond to the feeling in our Dominions in favour of an Imperial preference in trade, and that there is also a strong desire to arrange preferential trading with those who are our Allies in the present war, and

"(b) that the present high direct taxation tends to raise the rate of interest on money, and cheap and abundant capital for the employment of their labour is of the greatest importance to the working classes,

it will be necessary to impose some widely spread import duties, and we are therefore prepared to recommend that a larger proportion of the Revenue should be raised by reasonable import duties. We are of opinion that such import duties would go a long way towards satisfying the requests for special protective treatment for the industries which we have had under consideration.

"We would only add that in view of the threatened dumping of stocks which may be accumulated in enemy countries, the Government should take such steps as would prevent the position of industries, likely to be affected, being endangered after the war or during the period required for a wider consideration of the whole question."

Sir Albert Spicer, M.P., made the reservation that, in view of the recommendations, "which are all protective in effect, and of the fact that during the continuance of the war manufacturers are automatically protected and that for some years after the war protection, equal to import duties, is likely to be afforded by the prejudice against German and Austrian goods, I feel that the consideration of a tariff for these special industries should wait until after the war, unless it can be undertaken earlier, when the whole issue can be again considered in the light of what, I hope, will be an agreed policy with our Dominions overseas and our present Allies."

TROPICAL SANITATION.

AN ADDRESS BY SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS.

Surgeon-General W. C. Gorgas delivered an important address on tropical sanitation at the fifteenth Annual Conference of Health Officers of New York State at Rochester. At the outset he reminded his hearers that the losses caused by yellow fever to military expeditions in the West Indies in the old days were astounding. "The English Army in 1794 under Sir Charles Grey lost 6,000 out of a total strength of 12,000 men. The French army in San Domingo in 1798, out of a total strength of 25,000 lost over 22,000 from yellow fever. Again in 1802 the French army in San Domingo, out of a total strength of 40,000 lost 20,000.

During the nineteenth century the United States was so frequently ravaged by epidemics of yellow fever, and such great loss of life and loss of wealth was thereby brought about, that the people were willing to go to great expense or submit to drastic measures for the purpose of getting protection therefrom. It was very evident to sanitarians who had given any study to the matter, that the epidemics which affected the United States were imported from the endemic focus, which had existed at Havana, Cuba, for the preceding one hundred and fifty years. The United States was, therefore, very anxious to get rid of Havana as an endemic focus.

General Gorgas proceeded to recall the experiments of Reed, Lazear, Agramente and Carroll, which demonstrated the correctness of Dr. Finlay's view that yellow fever was a mosquito-borne disease.

Following these experiments the Sanitary Board of Havana, which, in spite of the city having been cleaned up, remained a hot bed of yellow fever, worked out measures whereby they might be made of practicable effect in the fight against yellow fever. A quarantine was established whereby all infected ships or persons coming into the harbour of Havana were cared for; and a system of inspection whereby all such persons coming in by land were looked after. A yellow fever patient was so screened and cared for that the mosquito could not bite him. The attempt was made to kill by fumigating all mosquitoes that might have become infected from each case. And, finally, the attempt was made to destroy all mosquito larvae breeding anywhere within the city limits. In the long run, however, it was found the

destruction of the larvae to be of more importance than all the other measures put together.

Anti-mosquito work was commenced at Havana in February, 1901. The last case of yellow fever in the city occurred in September of the same year. Havana had been the great endemic focus of yellow fever for all the northern hemisphere during the preceding one hundred and fifty years. Since the extinction of yellow fever in Havana fourteen years ago, this disease has practically disappeared from the northern hemisphere.

In 1898 Sir Ronald Ross of the English army had demonstrated that malaria was conveyed from man to man by another species of mosquito, the anopheles. He, and other workers, had established much the same condition as to the transfer of malaria as that described with regard to yellow fever. It was evident to the sanitary authorities, therefore, that a very slight extension of the work against yellow fever ought to cover work against malaria. This has turned out to be the case. Malaria rapidly decreased with the inauguration of the anti-mosquito work, and has since become practically extinct.

Dealing with the steps taken to eradicate yellow fever from the Panama Canal Zone, General Gorgas said that shortly after his arrival he increased the wages of the labourers, which resulted in a great general improvement in all living conditions—more room, better food, and better clothing. He went on to say: "I am satisfied that to this improvement in social conditions caused by our high wages we principally owe our extraordinary improvement in general health conditions. It is a health officer's duty to urge forward in his community those measures which will control individual diseases, but my long experience has taught me that it is still more his duty to take that broader view of life which goes to the root of bad hygiene, and do what he can to elevate the general social conditions of his community. This, my experience has taught me, can best be accomplished by increasing wages. Such measures tend at the same time to alleviate the poverty, misery and suffering that is occurring among the poorest classes everywhere in modern communities. At Panama we increased wages by the edict of the government. But our government got this money by taxing the people of the United States. It would have been of little benefit to our labourers if we had increased their wages by 10 cents an hour and then taxed them by 10 cents an hour in order to raise this money."

In conclusion General Gorgas said: "I have been fortunate enough to labour as health officer in a field where very great health results have been produced, but they would be small as compared with the health results produced by securing for mankind natural wages. It stirs my enthusiasm to think of the glorious opportunities before the young health officer just commencing life. I have spent my sanitary life killing tropical mosquitoes, and I hope have thereby benefited my fellow man. I would give a good deal to spend another sanitary life in the ranks of the coming generation of health officers doing my share in the fight that is before us, the fight for the greatest of all sanitary measures, natural wages."

THE HEALTH OF DOMINICA.

A Plea for a New Hospital.

Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, Senior Medical Officer of Dominica, in his report for the year 1914-15, complains that the anti-malarial law is not being properly enforced by the municipal authorities of Roseau, with the result that there are often mosquito breeding places in the town—an indictment the cause for which should be immediately removed. With proper care and surveillance a small town like Roseau should be completely freed from epidemics of malaria.

Dr. Nicholls voices the need of an entirely new hospital on a healthier and better site, pointing out that the mortuary and other out-buildings are in a dilapidated condition and ought to be pulled down and rebuilt. The south wing of the hospital, which is a one-storied brick building erected early last century to serve as a soup kitchen, and afterwards the nucleus of the old Roseau Infirmary into which the present hospital has developed, requires extensive repairs. The lower portion, which is level with the ground and unventilated underneath, forms the Inray Ward; and on the upper floor is the Glover Ward. Both these wards are used to accommodate ulcer and other cases that cannot be put into the newer north wing in which are treated surgical and acute medical cases. The old south wing is quite unsuited for the treatment and accommodation of hospital cases, and so it will be a mistake to remove the rotten roof and put on a new one. The present site is unhealthy, it is low-lying land near to the river and within the malarial zone. Many of the patients admitted for other diseases contract malarial fever during their stay in the hospital, and members of the resident staff all suffer at times from malarial diseases.

The hospital, too, is bounded on three sides by public streets, and it is separated by one of these streets from the Bath Estate, the owners of which have erected a large iron building in the immediate vicinity which is used as a depot for empty puncheons imported and for filled packages to be exported. "As the firm has not utilised a portion of its contiguous lands for an estate yard, the streets by the hospital have been practically used for that purpose. Dozens and dozens of empty packages are sometimes rolled up and often piled up along the hospital walls, drays are filled and unloaded in the street whence they are drawn away by a team of oxen or by a noisy steam traction engine, and the din created by all these operations and by the cooping of the casks, which, at times, is done in the streets, has become an intolerable nuisance to the hospital. In certain acute cases, more especially where insomnia is a troublesome symptom, it can be readily imagined how this noise proves a serious handicap in the treatment of the patients."

It will be generally admitted that Dr. Nicholls has made out a good case for the establishment, in a healthy position, of a hospital more creditable to the Presidency.

During the year 180 cases of yaws (*frambæsia*) were treated, ten of them in the out-patient's de-

partment, and there were no deaths. A number of the cases discharged were cured with intra-muscular injections of arsenobenzol (*arsenobillon*)—a French preparation which, on account of the war, has been substituted for the well-known German product—salvarsan, with which it is said to be practically identical. Dr. Nicholls, who is a recognised authority on yaws, finds that arsenobenzol is as good a remedial agent as salvarsan. No untoward symptom followed its employment in a considerable number of cases, but unfortunately its supply had been stopped temporarily at the time of writing the report.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

The Native Indian View.

Mr. T. K. Swaminathan, Editor of the *Indian Emigrant*, which is described as "A monthly record of the status and doings of Indians in British Colonies and foreign countries and an advocate of equal rights of British citizenship within the Empire," in the November issue of that Journal says: "It is somewhat comforting to hear that His Excellency the Viceroy has sent a despatch to the Secretary of State recommending the total abolition of the system of indenture. If this were so, we are then entering the threshold of a new era in the history of Indian Emigration to be inaugurated by His Excellency. To his far-sighted statesmanship and liberal policy will be associated several reforms in the external policy of the administration of the country, not the least of which will be the abolition of the indenture. Under the enlightened regime of His Excellency Lord Hardinge, popular opinions have tended to awaken in the Government a true conception of its duty and obligations to the people and to break down much of the bureaucratic spirit of high handedness and intolerance that once characterised the Government."

Leading up to this pronouncement Mr. Swaminathan vigorously attacks the indenture system. In his statements, as for example when including Jamaica and the Windward and Leeward Islands among the corners of the world colonised by India, he is not always accurate, but his views command interest as representing those held by a certain section of native opinion. He submits that there was nothing inherently wrong with the immigration system when it was first introduced in 1834. "All possible precautions were taken by the Government of India and whenever it was made known that evils did exist, the Government passed at once measures to counteract such tendencies. This is revealed in the early history of Indian Emigration. As a matter of fact when Indians first entered these different Colonies, the system of indenture was not in vogue and they were regarded as free labourers, at liberty to enter into contract with any planter or employer. In certain Colonies, the immigrants were under no obligation beyond the statutory hiring of one month. Gradually this term was increased to six months and then to three years, and in 1862 the term of

first indenture was fixed at five years. But the turning point in the history of Indian Emigration was in the year 1867, *i.e.*, five years after the first indenture period was fixed at five years. In that memorable year, the first batch of ex-indentured immigrants who had completed in full their term of indenture wanted to become free and independent men and wished to settle down in the Colony as peaceful citizens of the Empire. But the money-grabbing instinct of the predominantly powerful planters of the Colony would not tolerate any such idea, for the simple reason that they wished to have cheap labour, and so they kept Indians out of the labour market. They imposed restrictions through legislation compelling the coolie population to re-indenture themselves rather than allow them to settle down as free labourers. In 1867, an Ordinance to that effect was passed and it was allowed by the Indian Government to pass without objection. There was not then a single public man or body in India who understood what this Ordinance really meant to the future of India's population to protest against this Ordinance. It is now forty-eight years since, and what have the Indians, public men and politicians, done to better the conditions of our countrymen abroad? Have they organised any single institution in this country for their welfare? Have they visited them periodically and ascertained what their grievances were? Have they not neglected them and spurned them as outcasts? Alas! what a noble work would have been turned out to the advantage of the mother-country had only Indians at home realised earlier the potency and the possibilities of these Indian Colonies."

Mr. Swaminathan then sets out his objections to what he describes as "this disgraceful system of indenture" (though successive Commissions and Committees of enquiry have reported strongly in favour of it, as benefiting not only the Colonies receiving the immigrants but the immigrants themselves). "The strongest argument" for its discontinuance is, he states, "based on the offensive regulations and the penalising conditions attached to the system, *viz.*, the resort to Criminal Courts for breaches of civil contracts. This has been considered a serious blot in the system to which the members of the Sanderson Committee have called attention more than once. The unfair and iniquitous law, which sends a labourer to prison for absenting himself for a day or two from the plantations, shall be no guarantee that he will be treated with care and consideration if he is disabled to do work from natural causes. This conception of law is altogether foreign to the British mind and has never entered the statute book of any civilised country in the world. If societies exist for the prevention of cruelty to animals, does not humanity dictate that there should be a God and a conscience to those who use labour so mercilessly?"

But the imprisonment clauses have already been dropped in Fiji, and amendments to the Immigration Ordinances in British Guiana and Trinidad are being made with the same object in view.

He proceeds to discuss the question of wages, which he considers far too low, expressing the

belief that the reason why the Dominions object to the introduction of East Indians is lest it should be followed by a reduction in the general rate of wages. With regard to the inducements offered to East Indians to reside permanently in the countries of their choice, he holds up for praise Dutch Guiana as the only one where colonisation has been stimulated and actively encouraged, adding: "We regret to point out that the British Colonies have not only not afforded facilities for agricultural settlements by Indians but have actually thrown obstacles in the way of free Indians from settling down as peaceful agriculturists. We are of opinion that the future of the Colonies lies not in the continuance of a semi-slavery labour but in the perpetuation of a prosperous class of peasant proprietors."

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee held at the Colonial Office on February 9th, Sir Everard im Thurn presiding, Sir Frederic Hodgson was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman, and Sir Henry Blake a member of the Committee.

The Executive of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee have held several meetings at their headquarters at 5, Trevor Sq., London, since their doings were last recorded in these columns. Working parties are now being held every Wednesday at Lady Philipps' residence 76, Eaton Square, for the members of the Committee and others interested, and efforts are being made to meet not only the requirements of the British West Indies Regiment, but also those of all connected with the West Indies who have come over to serve the Empire. Lady Philipps, as Chairman of the Committee, is taking a keen personal interest in the work, in which she is ably assisted by Mrs. Napier, and Princess Marie Louise has been present on several occasions.

Particulars regarding the garments, etc., needed are obtainable at 5, Trevor Square, from Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, who will be glad to hear from ladies willing to help. During the past fortnight the following gifts have been received:—

Miss Ferrall, 4 helmets, 1 pr. gloves.
 Mrs. Gill, 18 prs. socks, 4 mufflers.
 Mrs. Moody Stuart, 5 shirts, 10 scarves, 13 prs. socks, 10 prs. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs.
 Lady Llewellyn, 28 prs. socks, 12 prs. gloves, 4 prs. mittens, 7 mufflers, 6 cap comforters, 5 helmets, 1 chest protector.
 Miss G. K. Phillipps, 23 prs. socks, 23 prs. mittens, 17 scarves, 1 pr. wristlets (for Jamaica Contingent).
 Anonymous, 3 mufflers, 3 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Paine, 2 helmets, 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. Nourse, 6 mufflers.
 Miss L. Churcher, 18 mufflers.
 Mrs. Mewburn Garnett, 10 prs. mittens, 6 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
 Mrs. Woodroffe (per Miss Morris), 1 muffler.
 Mrs. Gall, 2 mufflers.

The Contingent Fund.

In view of the greatly increased strength of the West Indian Contingent, three Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment having already been formed, the Contingent Fund will remain open. The object of the Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee, which has been formed at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 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.

The total of the Fund is now £3,637 10s. 5d., exclusive of sums earmarked for special purposes. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of Concert held at Royal Automobile Club on January 25th (per John Bromley, Esq.)	10	0	0
Septimus Burt, Esq.	5	5	0
"W."	5	5	0
Thomas Osment, Esq. (collected by)	5	0	0
W. H. Pretz, Esq., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Edin.	1	1	0
Mrs. Russell	10	0	0

A depot of the British West Indies Regiment has been established at Plymouth and placed under the command of Colonel Wilson, who will be assisted by a permanent staff of ex-regular soldiers.

The West Indian Contingent Committee will welcome and gratefully acknowledge gifts of musical instruments (such as banjos, "peppy whistles," mouth organs, etc.), footballs, cricket bats, boxing gloves, playing cards, draughts and dominoes for the men of the three battalions of the British West Indies, whose strength is already over 3,000 men.

We regret to learn of the deaths, through pneumonia, of Private D. Fevrier (St Lucia) on January 23rd, and of Private G. H. Jacobs (Trinidad) on the following day, both of the 1st Battalion, and of Private L. G. Bennett, of the 2nd Battalion, who came over with the Jamaica Contingent, from rubella and pneumonia on January 30th. Like their fellow men who have died since their arrival in this country, they were buried with full military honours.

A 3rd Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment has now come into existence. All its officers and men come from Jamaica, and it has been placed under the command of Major C. Wood Hill, and is at present in camp near Plymouth. No doubt the West Indian Contingent Committee will do for this Battalion what it has already done for the 1st and 2nd in the matter of the provision of games, drums and fifes, etc., besides interesting itself in the personal welfare and comfort of the men.

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:—

Bryden, 2nd Lieut. W. E. (younger son of Mr. A. S. Bryden, of Bridgetown, Barbados), 12th Batt. South Lancashire Regiment.
Burnside, 2nd Lieut. George E. C. (son of Mr. F. A. Burnside, of Nassau, New Providence, and grandson of Sir Bruce Burnside, of the Bahamas), 11th Batt. The Devonshire Regiment.
FitzPatrick, Rev. Fennel (second son of Mr. Edwin FitzPatrick, Clerk of St. Michael's Cathedral, Barbados), Chaplain to the Forces at Salonika.
Harragin, 2nd Lieut. Piercy (son of William C. Harragin, Esq., Retired Stipendiary Magistrate, of British Guiana), 11th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. *At the front.*
Harragin, 2nd Lieut. Walter (son of William C. Harragin, Esq., Retired Stipendiary Magistrate, of British Guiana), Royal Field Artillery.
McLachlan, Lieut.-Colonel J. D. (A.D.C. to Sir William F. Haynes-Smith when Governor of the Bahamas), 1st Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.
Ozard, Gunner (son of Dr. Ozard, of Demerara), Gun Section, 2nd King Edward's Horse. *At the front.*
Shankland, Private Charles Raymond (son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shankland, of Georgetown, Demerara), The Durham Light Infantry.
St. Aubyn, Lieut. Francis Cecil (son of the late Hon. Arthur J. D. St. Aubyn, Police Inspector, Jamaica, nephew and heir of Lord St. Leven, and grandson of the late Dr. J. C. Phillippo, D.M., President of the Legislative Council of Jamaica).
Swan, Captain R. Arthur (son of Mr. R. A. Swan, late First Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago), 13th (Service) Batt. The Essex Regiment.
Williams, 2nd Lieut. George B. (son of Mr. George B. Williams, Chairman of the Castries Town Board, St. Lucia), 575th The Prince of Wales' North Staffordshire Regiment.

Died of Wounds.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. B. HODSON, C.B., D.S.O., who has died from wounds received at the Dardanelles, was a brother of Lady Haddon-Smith, wife of His Excellency Sir George Haddon-Smith, Governor of the Windward Islands. He entered the Army in 1882, and at the outbreak of war was Assistant Quartermaster-General in the Indian Army. He had a brilliant military career, serving with distinction in Burma and Southern Nigeria, and in Gallipoli.

Honours.

Captain Walter B. Haddon-Smith, of the 2nd The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, son of Sir George Haddon-Smith, Governor of the Windward Islands, who was killed at Festubert on May 10th last, was mentioned in Sir John French's despatches on January 1st. He was the first man from the Bahamas to offer himself for active service and to arrive at the front.

Lieut.-Colonel J. D. McLachlan, of the 1st Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, formerly A.D.C. to Sir William F. Haynes-Smith when Governor of the Bahamas, was mentioned in Sir John French's despatches on January 1st.

Alterations and Corrections.

Haddon-Smith, Major H. B. (son of Sir George Haddon-Smith, Governor of the Windward Islands), 26th Divisional Train, Army Service Corps, is acting as Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General at Salonika.
Ozard, 2nd Lieut. R. (son of Dr. Ozard, of Demerara), 14th Batt. Durham Light Infantry.

BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD CONTINGENTS.

All the members of the first Barbados Citizens' Contingent are now accounted for. The names of twenty-one men with the units which they joined were given in last issue. To these can now be added the following:—

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.
Gill, W. H. J.

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.
Browne, E. Kirton, Chief Petty Officer Telegraphist.

It may be mentioned that Chief Petty Officer Browne is one of the young amateurs who erected the wireless plant at Barbados just after the outbreak of war, as described by Major J. A. Burdon in his report on the Blue-book of the Colony for 1914-15, which is quoted on page 23. The others whose names also deserve to be recorded were H. C. Rose and R. B. Armstrong.

Through the courtesy of Mr. G. F. Huggins it is now possible to give the names of the members of the second Trinidad Merchants' Contingent and the Regiments which they have joined. They are as follows:—

INNS OF COURT OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.
Cooke, L.

25th COUNTY OF LONDON REGIMENT (ARTISTS' RIFLES).
Gurley, A. L.

THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY.
Gilbert, Harold.

KING'S ROYAL RIFLES.

Ilanos, C.	Meides, A.	Thavenot, J. R.
THE ROYAL FUSILIERS (CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT).		
Agostini, D.	Farrell, G. H.	Parsons, G.
Ahloy, J. L.	Fergus, C.	Pautin, A. H.
Bernard, T.	Gomez, G. R.	Pegus, F.
Burnett, C.	Green, A. L.	Redman, V.
Carabache, G.	Fernandez, G.	Richardson, C.
Cadiz, G. N.	Holliday, J. H.	Robinson, G.
Cameron, R.	Herrera, F.	Sheppard, A.
Correia, J.	Harris, F.	Syder, J.
Defren, A.	Joseph, A.	Smith, H.
Dupres, H.	Jack, H.	Sanchez, F.
De Castro, F.	Knowles, S.	Sing, A.
De Gannes, R.	Ligoure, J.	Valdez, B.
Dash, H.	Marsden, F. S.	Vire, G.
Dash, C.	Masson, E. P.	Williams, C. C.
D'Abreu, A.	McDonald, I.	Winsborrow, T.
Eversley, G.	Murphy, M. D.	Whiteman, G.
Ferreira, A.	Murray, E.	Wilcox, W.
Francis, G. L.	Pouchet, F.	Yhal, H.

The following had not enlisted at the time of going in press:—

Abrams, L. E.	Donawa, G.	Lausden, A.
Crichton, J. F.	Doyle, R. C.	Pollonais, C.
Cummings, P.	Johnstone, R.	

THE remarkable adventures of the Elder Dempster SS. *Apham* will still be fresh in the memory of our readers. When she was reported to be ten days overdue on her voyage from West Africa her passengers, who included Sir Edward Merewether, the Governor-Elect of the Leeward Islands, and Mr. Stanley Sproston (a member of the well-known Demerara family who came over with the first West Indian cricket team) were quite given up for lost. The startling news that she had been taken by a German prize crew to the United States was received with profound relief, and it is hoped that the passengers, including those above-named, may shortly arrive safe and sound in this country.

THE DEMERARA STEAMER SERVICE.

An Interesting Document of 1837.

We reprint below an interesting old document of 1837, containing a proposition for the establishment of a steam boat service on the River Demerary, British Guiana, some seventy-eight years ago, when Sir James Carmichael Smyth was Governor, and "the general prosperity of the colony" warranted such an enterprize.

It may be noted that guilders and stivers were used in the colony at that time.

"Among other proofs of the general prosperity of the Colony, the rapidly increasing number and extent of small Settlements on both Banks of the River Demerary for some time past, is a circumstance of such general notoriety, as to render unnecessary any further proof of it, than the bare mention of the facts, that lots of land in favorable situations have doubled their value within the last two years, and that many persons of small Capital are at the present moment seeking locations within a tide's distance from town.

"Under these circumstances, it is considered, that a Small Steam Boat might be most beneficially employed for the general interest of the Colony, and at the same time realise a handsome profit to the Owners—in affording the means of Transport to and from Town, of these small Settlers, and of the Produce which they raise, with far greater convenience, and at a much less expense than they can at present compass it, as well as in encouraging the extension of industry in this channel.

"Several Gentlemen, impressed with these views, —and themselves connected with the River; having determined if possible, to carry them into effect, have formed themselves into a Provisional Committee, for the purpose of drawing up a sketch of the intended operations and of procuring Subscriptions to the undertaking. The result of their calculations is as under:—

"A Sum of £3,000 will be required; which it is proposed to raise in Sixty Shares, and when the number of Shares is filled up, to call a Meeting of Shareholders, and make such Appointments and Regulations for the management of the Company as may be found expedient.

"Previous enquiries having enabled the Provisional Committee to ascertain that a large proportion of the Capital will be required at the outset, they think it necessary here to state that the first instalment will not fall short of £20 per share.

"With this Sum raised as above, it is proposed to have built in the Clyde an Iron Boat of 75 to 80 tons burthen, of Wrought Plates, to be fitted while at the Builders', with a 25 horse power Steam Engine, and then taken to pieces and shipped for this Colony, where the interior fittings of the Cabin, &c., will be completed under the directions of the Manager of the Company.

"The Boat is intended to be built solely for Passengers and their luggage in boards but to be also calculated for tuggage of heavier freight, such as Punts, Corials, &c.

"The general occupation of the Boat is intended to be between the Sandhills and Town, for Passengers, &c., on alternate days, or twice a week, as experience may prove to be most expedient, it will be available at other times for parties of Pleasure, &c.

"The yearly Expenses of the Vessel, the Provisional Committee have estimated as under:—

Interest on Capital, at Five per Cent, is	f2,100	
Wear and Tear, do. Ten do. ditto	1,200	
Engineer, per annum	2,200	
Stoker, ditto	500	
Three hands, ditto	1,200	
Captain	2,200	
Clerk and Rent of Office, do.	2,200	
Mill Grease, Packing, &c. do.	300	
Say for Coals, 150 Hogsheads per annum,		
f20	3,000	
		f18,000 f18,000

One Hundred and Fifty Trips up and down, is 300 Passages,
Each Passage to comprehend, say for the whole distance—

Five Cabin Passengers, fo	1/30
Eight Forecastle ditto, 2	16
Intermediate Cabin and Forecastle Passengers, say, average Four Cabin, f3	12
Twelve Forecastle, 1	12
Extra Luggage, per Trip, say	6
Tuggage, at the rate of f3 per ton, for the whole distance,	15
Freight of Small Packages, per Trip,	6
300 Passages	167 f29,300

"It is calculated in the foregoing Estimate of Returns, that all the Apprenticed Labourers belonging to No. 1 Canal, who at present walk to the Ferry with their loads of provisions, &c., would prefer saving their walk down the River, and take passage with the River Boat.

"It is intended that certain Stations, or places of call, shall be selected for the delivery and receipt of letters, small parcels, newspapers, &c.

"An Iron Boat is preferred to a wooden one, on account of its superior cheapness, durability, and lightness—light draught of water being frequently an object of the utmost importance.

"A small Boat is preferred in the first instance, both because the outlay will be less, and, should the traffic fall short of what is expected, it will be better adapted for Parties of Pleasure than one of larger dimensions; and if, as may with greater reason be expected, it be found advisable to extend the business of the Company, and import a larger Boat for the use of the lower part of the River—from the Sand-Hills downwards,—then the smaller Boat will find no difficulty in cutting out work for itself, from the Sand-Hills upwards, as experience has shewn that, in a new and fertile country, make a road and traffic will follow the line.

"A single Engine is preferred to two, on account of the saving thereby effected; as when the Engines are below a certain size, the rate per horse-power increases enormously.

"The Steam Boat terminating her voyage at the Sand-Hills, will cause that spot to become a rendezvous for the Passengers resident higher up the River: hence will naturally spring up an Establishment for their accommodation, and as the site is not

unfavourable, in all probability a Village will arise in the course of a comparatively short time; and, as the Company extends itself, similar results will ensue, until the banks of our Rivers present as animated a scene as the facilities to be afforded them entitle us to expect.

The foregoing Proposals having been submitted to the Governor, His Excellency was pleased to reply as follows:—

"I very much approve of this Scheme, which I think calculated to do a great deal of good, and to promote much useful intercourse.

J. CARMICHAEL SMYTH.

10th March, 1837."

ST. LUCIA.

ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

(Continued from page 32).

THE CACAO INDUSTRY.

It is estimated that the area under this cultivation amounts to nearly 6,000 acres which is well distributed throughout the island. Formerly this cultivation was almost entirely in the hands of the peasants, but after the sugar crisis greater attention had to be paid to other crops, and cacao began to receive the attention of the larger proprietors. Cacao now forms the second largest item of export from the Colony.

Extensive experiments in cacao cultivation and manuring have been carried out for a number of years by the Agricultural Department in various parts of the island.

These experiments consisted of taking up the most unhealthy portions of cacao fields on various estates and by approved cultural methods, such as forking, draining, manuring, pruning, etc., with the object of bringing them into a healthy and productive state.

These experiments proved very successful, and, after a period of three years, the yields were in some cases increased from 56 lbs. to 1,400 lbs. per acre of dry cacao.

To further encourage the peasant growers money prizes were awarded annually for the best holdings worked under the direction of the Agricultural Department.

During the last few years considerable progress in cultural methods has been made in the chief cacao plantations, and planters fully recognise the importance of keeping under control the pests and diseases to which the trees are subject.

Growers also find that it pays to give special attention to the careful preparation of the cured product for market, and their efforts in this direction have resulted in St. Lucia estates cacao ranking today with some of the best grades on the market.

These satisfactory results are in a great measure due to the adoption of artificial driers, of which there are several on the market, such as the "Gordon's Patent Drier," "Scott's Vacuum Drier," and the "Hamel-Smith Rotary Drier," and to the installation of machine polishers, such as "Barnard's Patent Cacao Polisher."

The use of artificial driers prevents the heavy losses that occur when sun-drying is adopted and the weather remains unfavourable for several days at a time, and the sun heat proves insufficient to prevent the growth of fungi, which readily attacks the undried beans.

Some users of rotary driers experience considerable trouble through the beans adhering in lumps to the side of the drier when revolving, and for this reason they are sometimes condemned. This difficulty may, however, be readily overcome by first placing the cacao in sun-drying trays for a couple of days, then pass through the polisher and complete the drying in the rotary drier, in this way the most attractive cacao is obtained.

The old-fashioned method of dancing the cacao in iron taches with the naked feet is no longer practised on the up-to-date plantations. The use of a machine polisher enables the crop to be handled in a cleaner and more efficient way, less labour is required, which is an important point in districts where labour is scarce and the work is done more cheaply and thoroughly, a bright, uniform, attractive polish being obtained.

The "Barnard's Patent Cacao Polisher" consists of a hollow cylinder, through which passes a shaft on which are keyed a number of eccentrics, attached to the underside of these are jointed pedals covered with hard rubber pads which give under pressure and so prevent the beans from being crushed.

The cylinder and shaft revolve in opposite directions and so ensures the thorough stirring of the beans and enables each one to get a uniform polish.

The machine will take a charge of twelve baskets—about 600 lbs.—and the time taken to polish is between seven to twenty minutes, according to the amount of water used. A crop of seventy bags which formerly took several days to polish by the old method is now easily handled in one morning.

Large numbers of cacao plants, specially selected, are raised annually at the Government Nurseries and sold to residents in the Colony at less than cost price.

There are many cacao plantations still in their infancy that have not yet come into bearing, but which give good promise for the future, and there are still large areas of fertile land awaiting development.

The average yield of estate cured cacao throughout the island is estimated at from three to five bags per acre (200 lbs. to the bag).

There has been a falling off in the exports of cacao during the last few years due to a large number of our peasant growers having abandoned their holdings through being attracted by the higher wages offered in the Panama Canal Zone, and the imagined brighter prospects of the Cayenne gold-fields.

The exports of cacao for the past ten years are as follows:—

	Lbs.
1905	1,893,600
1906	1,579,200
1907	1,739,700
1908	1,345,000
1909	2,171,000
1910	1,637,100
1911	2,075,600
1912	1,914,541
1913	1,633,866
1914	1,593,996

MINOR PRODUCTS.

COTTON.

Sea Island cotton can be successfully grown along the coastlands, and strenuous efforts were made for many years by the Agricultural Department to establish this industry.

A few of the leading planters also took up the cultivation to encourage the peasants, and prizes were awarded by the Agricultural Society for the best peasant cotton cultivation during the year.

A sample bale of St. Lucia grown cotton was submitted to the British Cotton Growers' Association, who reported on it as follows: "Clean and bright, staple strong and bold, moderately fine, value 14d. per lb." The Brokers reported as follows: "The cotton is better than the product of most of the islands. It is more after the character of St. Kitts than St. Vincent. In quantity it might be worth 15d. If such cotton continues to be grown in St. Lucia it will command a ready sale in ordinary markets."

These efforts proved that the soil and existing climatic conditions were capable of producing a good commercial grade of cotton, but owing to the constant attention required to obtain the best results, cotton cultivation failed to prove attractive to the ordinary peasant, who, if an annual crop has to be grown, much prefers a food crop, and one which requires little or no attention after it has been planted until reaping time, such as sweet potato or cassava, and for this reason the industry failed.

COCO-NUTS.

The coco-nut grows luxuriantly throughout the island, the soils and climatic conditions being well suited to its requirements.

A considerable amount of attention has been paid to this cultivation during the last few years and the young groves give every promise of a flourishing industry being established in the near future.

There are large areas of land along the Leeward and Windward coasts where coco-nuts can be profitably grown.

Large numbers of coco-nuts are used for local consumption.

The annual exports of copra which is sun-dried have not yet reached any great figure, but there is every indication that this article will soon occupy a prominent position in our exports.

The exports in nuts and copra in recent years are shown in the following table:—

Year.	Nuts. Number.	Copra. Cwt.	Value. £
1910	No record.	No record.	58
1911	20,280	18	145
1912	43,164	14	126
1913	80,097	69	302
1914	53,638	142	470

COFFEE.

During the French occupation coffee was one of the principal crops grown in the island, and it is recorded that in 1843 there were no less than twenty large estates devoted to this cultivation.

There are still small areas of coffee grown in various parts of the island, the produce from which is mostly consumed locally. The Liberian variety flourishes and bears heavy crops and appears as well

sited to the dry coastlands as to the more humid climate of the interior.

Renewed interest is now being taken in coffee cultivation, and with the introduction into the island of the true type of *Coffea robusta* from Java it is hoped that a considerable extension in the present area will take place.

There are good tracts of fertile soil in the interior where coffee cultivation would thrive luxuriantly.

RUBBER.

Some attention has been paid during recent years to the cultivation of rubber and although both *Castilloa elastica* and *Hevea Brasiliensis* grow and thrive well the labour conditions are such as to render the cultivation and preparation of rubber unprofitable.

A sample of Castilloa rubber grown in the island was sent to the Director of the Imperial Institute and reported upon as follows:—

"Results of Examination of Castilloa rubber from St. Lucia.

"Imperial Institute, No. 25,630.

"Number or mark and weight of sample.

"Small slab of biscuit rubber, *Castilloa elastica*, from International Rubber Exhibition, London. Weight, 85 grams.

"Description.

"A small cake of rubber about 9 inches long, 3-4 inches wide, and 1/4-inch thick. The rubber was almost black, but was clean and well prepared; its physical properties were very satisfactory."

Result of Examination.

	Sample as received.	Composition of dry rubber
Caoutchouc, per cent. ...	88.6	88.9
Resin, per cent. ...	9.1	9.1
Proteids, per cent. ...	1.3	1.3
Insoluble matter, per cent. ...	0.7	0.7
(Ash), per cent. ...	0.46	0.46

"Commercial value.

"About 3s. 6d. per lb. in London, with fine hard Para from South America quoted at 4s. 3/4d. per lb.

"Remarks.

"The analytical results show that this Castilloa rubber from St. Lucia is of good quality, although the percentage of resin is a little high. This slight defect may possibly disappear as the trees become older. Consignments of similar character to the present sample would be readily saleable, and if the rubber could be prepared lighter in colour, a higher price than that quoted above would be realised."

TOBACCO.

Tobacco cultivation, which was one of the chief resources of the island during the early part of the eighteenth century, has almost died out.

Occasional small plots are grown which, when cured, find a ready sale locally. The curing is not successfully done, and would need expert attention before the quality would be good enough for export.

DRUGS.

KOLA (*Cola acuminata*).

There are no actual plantations of kola in the island, but the tree is planted throughout some of the leading cacao estates as wind-belts and shade trees.

It grows and thrives well under such conditions, and the nuts, which are used in the manufacture of stimulating local beverages, are also exported to the United Kingdom, where they obtain prices ranging from 2d. to 2/- per lb., according to the demand. At the time of writing St. Lucia Kola is fetching 7d. per lb., this being a great advance on prices realised during the last few years.

The average annual export of kola nuts exceeds 7,000 lbs.

PAPAIN.

The papaw tree (*Carica papaya*) is to be found in almost every peasant holding, and is the source of vegetable pepsin, known on the market as papain. The fruit when young and in a green state is cooked as a vegetable and is a good substitute for vegetable marrow. When ripe the fruit is used for dessert, and the leaves are bruised and wrapped around meat to tender it tender.

Papain is obtained by bleeding the fruit in a green state and drying the milk collected. Some attention has recently been paid to this preparation of papain and a sample submitted to a Canadian firm of pharmaceutical produce manufacturers was valued at 12s. 6d. per lb.

CASSIA FISTULA.

The long cylindrical pods of this ornamental tree are exported to some extent to London, where the pulp surrounding the seeds is used in medicine.

The average market price being about 20s. per cwt., and the average annual export ranges from 7,000 to 8,000 lbs.

(To be continued).

CHANGES AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

Consequent upon the promotion of Sir George Fiddes to be Under-Secretary of State as announced in the CIRCULAR of December 14th, Mr. H. J. Read, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle and Mr. H. C. Lambart have, we understand, been appointed Assistant Under-Secretaries of State for the Colonies. Mr. Read has been for some years Chief Clerk in the East African Department, Mr. Grindle has been similarly associated with the West Indian Department, and Mr. Lambart has been Accounting Officer.

Mr. Read has been brought into close touch with the West Indies through his interest in the cause of tropical medicine, while Mr. Grindle's name is a household word among all connected with those colonies. An accessible and essentially human official he enjoys a well deserved popularity.

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 7/6 each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8/4; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5/- for each copy in sheet form, post free 5/7 inland, and 6/4 to British Possessions; and 8/6 per copy, or 8/9 post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

COLONIAL REPORT.

The Affairs of Barbados.

In his report on the Blue-book of Barbados for 1914-15, Major J. A. Burdon states that the principal effects of the War felt by the colony during 1914 were the rise in price in imported goods, a decrease in the volume of shipping, a serious decrease in the coaling trade, and a cessation of the tourist trade. As there is no foreign colony in the island no alien difficulties arose. Whilst there were any enemy ships at large, defence measures were kept in force, and steps were taken towards preventing an enemy ship from obtaining the particular commodity which would be most likely to tempt an attack. These were approved by officers of His Majesty's ships as efficient for the purpose aimed at, and the most satisfactory that could have been adopted.

The most valuable addition to the defensive organisation was the erection by some members of the Volunteer Force of a wireless station, the story of which deserves to be placed on record:—

Prior to the outbreak of war a "wireless club" existed in Barbados, the youthful members of which learnt and practised by talking to each other on little home-made installations erected on bamboo poles or palm trees. Amongst the members were certain volunteers. On the outbreak of war these Volunteers offered to erect something for the service of the Colony if a little financial help could be given for the purchase of material. Ten pounds was subscribed privately by the Governor and the members of the Legislative Council; permission was given, and within five days of the declaration of war an "umbrella" installation, capable of calling up to 15 miles, was at work, operated night and day by an unpaid volunteer staff.

A week later a 10-inch induction coil was borrowed from the Hospital. This increased the transmitting range to 40 miles. At the beginning of September a generous gift of part-worn material by a steamer of the Booth Line (to which Company the gratitude of the Colony is due) increased the transmitting range to 60 miles. In the middle of September the utilization of power from the Electric Supply Corporation, together with certain home-made improvements to the apparatus, increased the range to 150 miles. In the middle of October the loan (on deposit) of a lattice mast by the Electric Supply Corporation (whose manager is a member of the Volunteer Force) enabled the "umbrella" installation to be converted into an "inverted L" aerial, and increased the transmitting range to about 220 miles. The island was thus placed in wireless touch with Trinidad and with any British warship which might happen to be within that radius. The greatest credit is due to the keen young Volunteers who achieved this success at a cost to the Colony of under £60, and who until October 1st gave their services night and day to the station without remuneration.

Success being now demonstrated, specific votes were obtained from the Legislature for the purchase of a proper transmitting apparatus, and the little "toy" plant evolved out of nothing in August became by the end of the year an efficient and thoroughly dependable two-kilowatt installation, maintained for defence purposes only. There

existed obstacles to its conversion into a commercial station, but every facility compatible with military considerations was given to merchants and shipping agents for its use gratis.

The Revenue and Expenditure and the value of Imports and Exports of the colony for the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	%Imports.	Exports.
1910-11 ...	213,298	211,949	1,345,194	1,088,830
1911-12 ...	221,906	218,697	1,539,710	1,005,931
1912-13 ...	221,621	221,340	1,405,431	1,085,569
1913-14 ...	214,865	222,177	1,353,059	856,618
1914-15 ...	223,091	236,796	1,300,073	915,099

* For calendar years 1909-1914.

The revenue included a loan of £9,000 to meet expenditure incurred in 1912-13 for the purpose of the purchase of military property, and also a loan of £20,000, the colony's war contribution to the Colonial Government, which also appears in the expenditure.

The balance to the credit of the general revenue, which stood at £49,316 at the close of the previous financial year, was thus reduced to £35,617 on March 31st, 1915.

The exports of sugar and molasses in the last five years, in terms of sugar alone, have been as follows:—

Year.	Tons.
1910 ...	52,300
1911 ...	47,610
1912 ...	44,817
1913 ...	31,359
1914 ...	53,560

CONSULAR REPORTS

Oil in Venezuela.

During the year 1913-14 the trade between Venezuela and Trinidad was as follows:—

	£
Imports ...	69,061
Exports ...	233,131
Total ...	302,192

There are three petroleum companies exploiting oil concessions in Venezuela: the Caribbean Petroleum Company (American), the Venezuelan Oil Concessions (British) and the Colon Development Company (also British). The first two have sunk several wells and claim to have found large quantities of good oil, and the last-named has excellent signs, and doubtless its efforts will also be crowned with well-deserved success. A great deal of the work in all these companies, however, had to be closed down on account of the war.

The exports of cacao from the Gold Coast for the year ended December 31st last were 20,128,680 lbs. as compared with 124,046,720 lbs. in 1914. In December, 1915, the exports were 32,217,920 lbs. as compared with 27,054,600 lbs. in the corresponding month of 1914.

OBITUARY.

SIR FRANCIS HENRY LOVELL, C.M.G., LL.D.,
F.R.C.S.

We regret to state that Sir Francis Henry Lovell died in Hampstead on January 28th.

Sir Francis Lovell, who was in his seventy-second year at the time of his death, was Dean of the London School of Tropical Medicine. In that capacity he visited the British West Indies in 1909 with the view of interesting those colonies in the work of the school and of obtaining financial support. This he did successfully, and wherever he went he received a cordial welcome. He was no newcomer to those colonies, however, for from 1893 to 1901, when he retired from the Colonial Service, he had been Surgeon-General of Trinidad and Tobago. Sir Francis was the son of Dr. Henry Hill Lovell, D.C.L., and was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. His public career dated from 1873, when he went out to West Africa as Colonial Surgeon of Sierra Leone, a position which he filled until 1878, when he was appointed Chief Medical Officer of Mauritius. In Mauritius he became a member of the Legislative Council, and in Trinidad he sat on both the Legislative and the Executive Councils for the joint colony. Throughout his official career he had been brought into close touch with tropical disease in all its forms, and he was therefore particularly well qualified to appeal for funds towards alleviating the suffering caused by it. He was created a C.M.G. in 1893, and was knighted seven years later. Gifted with a kindly and gentle disposition, Sir Francis Lovell had many friends.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WILLIAM J. SLACK.

We regret to announce that Lieut.-Colonel W. J. Slack died at Belize, British Honduras, on January 26th.

Lieut.-Col. Slack was son of the Rev. W. D. L. Slack, Wesleyan Minister in Southport, and Joint Secretary of the local Free Church Council. On completing his education at Kingswood School, Bath, he was articled to Mr. Edward Cooper, a solicitor of Blackburn. He took honours in the final law examination, and subsequently became chief clerk to a firm of solicitors in Liverpool. At the age of twenty-three he went out to British Honduras as assistant to the Attorney-General, but two years later he embarked on a private practice with a friend, the firm being one of the best in the colony. He joined the local volunteer force soon after arriving in the colony, and as Major Commanding brought over a detachment of the regiment to take part in the Coronation festivities in 1911. On returning to the colony he was promoted to be Lieut.-Colonel. He was in this country at the outbreak of war, and immediately offered his services to the War Office, who at that time, however, felt that he could best help by returning to the colony and preparing for its defence against possible attack. Thenceforward he devoted his energies towards securing the representation of British Honduras among the Imperial Forces at the front, and we have before us a letter from him, dated November 14th, 1914, in which he wrote:—

"Is nothing being done in the way of representatives from the West Indies being sent to the Front? I believe that one or two battalions could easily be obtained. . . . Possibly some of the Colonies might be able to bear the expense in connection with the men they send, or, at any rate, a part of that expense. It may be that, in view of the menace of an attack by a German cruiser, though I myself think that rather remote, the authorities may consider it necessary to keep the local forces where they are at present, but that we hope will not continue much longer."

It did not, and Lieut.-Colonel Slack lived to hear of the safe arrival at Seaford of the British Honduras Contingent which he was largely instrumental in raising. The subject of this memoir took a prominent part in the public life of the colony which he and his brother Harold, who survives him, made their home, being Vice-Chairman of the Belize Town Board and other local bodies. He was twice married. His first wife died from burns received at a cinema fire. Both were daughters of the late Hon. Arthur Williamson, of Belize, and he leaves four children.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. J. J. EASTICK, the well-known chemical engineer, has two sons serving in King Edward's Horse, 2nd Lieut. J. C. N. Eastick and Sergeant A. G. Eastick.

The Swiss Government has established a State sugar monopoly. This is probably due to the great reduction in the German beet crop which is foreshadowed for the current year.

MR. W. A. M. GOODE, the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club, has returned from the United States, where he has been organising the American branch of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, of which he is Hon. Secretary.

LIEUT.-COLONEL NEILL MALCOLM, D.S.O., who has just been gazetted temporary Brigadier-General, is a son of Colonel F. D. Malcolm, C.B., of Portlough, a Crimean veteran, and the owner of Knockalva estate, near Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The high prices now ruling for logwood in this country in consequence of the shortage of synthetic dyes have resulted in the development of a new source of supply in Mauritius. A trial shipment of this logwood was found to be of excellent quality, and, in 1912, an offer to take a considerable quantity of it was obtained from a leading British dye firm. At that time, however, the price offered for the wood was not high enough to encourage the export, but, in view of the higher value at present ruling, the Imperial Institute has now succeeded in arranging for a considerable supply of Mauritius logwood to be utilised in this country.

MR. ANDREW LA NAUZE, for sixteen years a stipendiary magistrate in Mauritius, who died at Arundale, Victoria, on September 14th last, was brother-in-law of Mr. R. A. Swan, formerly 1st Puisne Judge in Trinidad. One of Mr. Swan's nephews Captain Charles la Nauze, of the 11th Australian Regiment, was killed at the Dardanelles in June, while another nephew, George la Nauze, who is a member of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company's Staff, sent the wireless message from Cocos Island warning the Commander of H.M.A.S. *Sydney* of the proximity of the German cruiser *Unden*. Mr. Swan's son, Captain R. Arthur Swan, of the 13th Essex Regiment, has just been invalided home from "somewhere in France."

HITHERTO polariscopes have come almost exclusively from Germany and Austria, but at a meeting of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry at Burlington House on February 7th, polarimeters and other optical instruments used in the sugar-producing industry which have been made

for the first time by English firms were exhibited. Mr. A. R. Ling, who presided, said the present highly-developed state of the sugar industry was to be ascribed more to the control exercised in that industry by the polarimeter than to any other cause. Quartz-compensating polarimeters ought not, he said, to be employed in the investigation of alkaloids and optically active substances other than sugar, since the rotatory dispersion of these differed from that of quartz.

SOME further particulars are now available regarding the new company which is in course of formation to control numerous sugar estates in Cuba. It is entitled the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation, and it is being organised by J. & W. Seligman & Co., with the support of J. P. Morgan & Co. and the Guaranty Trust Company. The company will have \$50,000,000 cumulative 7 per cent. preferred stock and 500,000 shares of common stock of no par value. Among the companies likely to be included are the Central Mercedez Sugar Company, the Stewart Sugar Company, the Socorro Sugar Company and the Cuanjal Sugar Company. The directors will probably include Mr. C. N. Bliss, Jr., Mr. James N. Jarvie, Mr. Horace Havemeyer, Mr. Manuel Rienda, and Mr. C. A. Spreckels, President of the Federal Sugar Refining Company.

THE Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply issued the following statement on February 8th:—

"Owing to the great shortage of tonnage and the consequent necessity of deciding what proportion of the amount available shall be allocated to sugar requirements, having regard to the claims of other articles of import and to the demands of the public service, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply finds that it will be necessary, during the coming months, to restrict the importation of sugar within narrower limits than have hitherto obtained. The supplies of sugar at disposal for consumption will therefore be appreciably reduced.

"In spite of the fact that since the beginning of the War the price of sugar has been never less than 50 per cent. above the normal, and is now practically double, there has been no considerable or general reduction in the amount consumed. It is therefore evident that further economies in its use can be effected, and the Commission desires to impress upon the public the urgency of the obligation to use every effort to effect such economies.

"It accordingly requests all classes to reduce their consumption, not only of sugar, as such, but also of—

Jams,	Sweetmeats,
Biscuits,	Chocolate,

and other goods of which sugar is an important constituent.

"If due care is exercised, and individual consumption is kept within reasonable limits, such restriction will not cause anything in the nature of a shortage of adequate supplies of these foodstuffs, and will afford no ground for an increase in prices.

"A reduction in consumption will afford material assistance in solving the problem of tonnage, and will in this way help to keep down the prices of other commodities. Moreover, as all sugar consumed here is imported from abroad, economies in its use will tend to influence rates of exchange in favour of this country."

This announcement is no doubt attributable to the difficulty which the Commission is experiencing in securing tonnage to convey the supplies of sugar which it has already purchased to this country. The West Indian situation should not be affected.

THE LONDON LETTER.

AN increase in the rate of infantile mortality is causing concern in some quarters. For the whole of England and Wales the deaths per thousand infants under one year of age rose from 105 in 1914 to 110 last year. In the 94 great towns, including London, the infantile death rate was 117 per thousand, in the 148 smaller towns 114, and in the rest of England and Wales 98. These figures sink into insignificance compared with those from the West Indies where, unfortunately, an infantile death rate of well over 200 per thousand is not uncommon.

THE speeches of the Chairmen of the Joint Stock Banks at this year's meetings have attracted more interest than usual in view of the references which they contained to the soundness of our National finances. Sir Edward Holden's remarks on foreign exchanges, a subject regarding which the man in the street is profoundly ignorant, were particularly noteworthy. He pointed out that since the war broke out we had raised about a thousand millions sterling in fixed loans at an average rate of 3½ per cent. net, and he strongly advocated that the income tax should be limited to a fixed rate on any new loan that might be offered.

THE S.P.O. is in future to be known as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Overseas. The words "in Foreign Parts" are dropped. This is as it should be, since the Society's operations are mainly conducted in our colonies. In this connection it may be noted that until last year the column devoted to the produce markets was invariably headed "Foreign Produce," though it included sales of sugar from the West Indies, cacao from West Africa and rubber from Malaya. The writer called the attention of the Editor to this anomaly, and since then the title Colonial and Foreign Produce has been substituted. These may seem small matters, but "Britishers" do not like themselves or anything that is their's being called foreign.

LADY GROGAN, who is doing admirable work in administering the Doctors' and Nurses' Equipment Department of the Serbian Relief Fund, will be remembered in the West Indies as Lady Thompson. Her first husband, Sir H. Langhorne Thompson, was successively Administrator of St. Vincent and St. Lucia. While residing in the West Indies, Lady Thompson, as she then was, was identified with many charities, and did much for the poor and needy, who were particularly numerous after the hurricane of 1899. With the assistance of Mrs. Laborde, wife of the present Treasurer of Grenada, she founded the Thompson Home in Kingston, St. Vincent. Lady Grogan's husband, who is the second baronet, holds a staff appointment at Salonika.

SIR CLEMENTS MARKHAM, the distinguished explorer and former President of the Royal Geographical Society, who died at his London residence on January 30th, visited the West Indies in 1887 as the guest of his cousin, Commodore Markham, aboard the *Active*. The "Pocket Guide to the West Indies" records that he was present at Portsmouth, Dominica, when some middies of an enquiring turn of mind opened the tomb, popularly known as Prince Rupert's Tomb, at the head of the Bay. No vestige of any remains were found in it, but as it is marked on an old War Office plan dated 1771 as Lord Cathcart's monument it is possible that its occupant may have been Lord Cathcart, who died at sea. Prince Rupert, who was referred to by Governor Searle as a Grand Pirate, performed some brilliant exploits when he visited the West Indies in 1652 in the Royalist cause.

SIR CECIL CLEMENTI SMITH, who died at his residence, the Grange, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, on February 6th, had a distinguished Colonial career, having been Lieutenant Governor of Ceylon, Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner and Consul-General for Borneo and Sarawak successively. He will be chiefly remembered for his work in the Straits Settlements in suppressing Chinese secret societies. The son of the Rev. John Smith, rector of Buckhurst Hill, by his marriage with a daughter of Muzio Clementi, the composer, he was uncle of Mr. Cecil Clementi, the Government Secretary of British Guiana. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith visited the West Indies in 1903, ten years after his retirement, as President of the Committee of Inquiry into the regrettable "Red House" riots at Port of Spain, Trinidad, in that year. Latterly he maintained his active interest in the Colonies as a member of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the Jamaican Agricultural Society, growers of oranges and grapefruit in Florida are now fighting the worst trouble they have ever had in those groves, due to citrus canker, a pest which appears to have come from Japan on some imported citrus stock. As a remedial measure spraying is useless. Citrus canker spores actually grow in Bordeaux mixture, and the most careful methods of dealing with plant troubles known up to recently are said to spread the pest rather than check it.

THE manner in which the situation is now dealt with is as follows. Canker inspectors go over suspected groves looking for the pest. They wear light linen suits which are sterilized in bichloride of mercury, after each day's work, and also dip their hands in a sterilizing solution after handling infected trees. The trees are carefully examined, and every infected tree is marked and guarded. The tree is then saturated with oil and burned.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

The Germans claim to have manufactured a synthetic albumen out of sulphate of ammonia and sugar. These two agents are fermented by means of a particular kind of yeast in open vats. Five hours are sufficient for the operation, and, says the *Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence*, the product may be fed to animals in a concentrated food.

The particular yeast employed differs from ordinary brewers' yeast by its very intense growth and its power of assimilating cane sugar directly. It is stated that 100 lbs. of sugar produce 76 lbs. of food material containing 50 per cent. of albumen, which is very suitable for live stock. The cost of production of the dry food is estimated at about twelve shillings and sixpence per cwt. for factories producing 4,000 to 10,000 tons of dry food per annum.

In Java there exist what are known as white clay sugar-cane soils, and the cause of the unproductiveness of some of these has recently been enquired into by Messrs. Ledebour and A. E. Berkhout. Analysis showed that the soils in question were relatively poor in nitrogen and phosphoric acid, but contained larger quantities of sodium carbonate—as much as 0.321 per cent. Experiments showed that, with the use of acid fertilisers, lime and stable manure, complete manuring with lime and the addition of ammonium sulphate with lime produced better cane crops than complete fertilisation without lime or the addition of ammonium sulphate and stable manure.

The subject of sugar as a food is constantly coming forward. Given the muscles in good condition and thoroughly built up, all that is necessary in the way of a meat diet is provision for their wear and tear, fat, sugar, and other carbohydrates providing the necessary power. When, therefore, muscular work has to be done, sugar is the best means of supplying the power on account of its ready absorption and almost immediate action. The work done by the steam engine is not due to a supply of iron or brass, but to steam, and in the same way the energy of the animal body is not produced by tissue-forming nitrogen foods, such as the protein of meat, but by non-nitrogenous bodies, such as sugar, which are readily assimilated in the system.

SEETH, the residue of the indigo plant after the extraction of the Indican, is a valuable manure for tobacco, its usefulness depending usually on its power of aerating the soil and giving the tobacco roots an ample supply of air. According to the *Indian Trade Journal*, experiments are at present being conducted at the Agricultural Research Institution, Pusa, with the object of securing better returns from seeth. Evidence has been obtained that if the tobacco lands are mixed with small pieces of tile, the amount of organic matter for the crop can be reduced. The cost is stated to be not very great, and a plot which was improved in this way at Pusa nine years ago still shows its superiority.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Generally speaking these have been conspicuously absent during the past fortnight. Some letters have been received via New York, but no direct steamer has arrived since the *Balantia*, which reached Tisbury on January 17th. The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Demand for Logwood.

MR. G. E. GRAHAM, JANUARY 5th.—The Christmas season has passed very quietly. Less than half the usual number of people came into Belize, and I fear the store-keepers must have suffered considerably in reduced sales.

The prospects for the coming year are considerably brighter with the revival in the demand for logwood, but the need of shipping facilities is a cause of great anxiety. The Government have promised help in the matter, but at present it only amounts to one small steamer expected shortly. Another has been promised later on in the year, and from the latest reports it appears the Home Government realise the extreme importance of providing the colony with export facilities, apart from the urgent need at home for some of its products. It is, however, not much use providing the shipping facilities without some control over the freight rates. Present quotations are practically as prohibitive to export as the lack of steamers, and as things now stand, mologany cutting, the principal mainstay of the colony, has to be greatly curtailed for these two causes. It is truly fortunate the demand for logwood has come about and given employment to the available labour, for, had it not been so, it either meant serious trouble to the Government, or the labourers drifting away. This is the last thing wanted, for the shortage of labour is already a serious problem, so you can realise the anxiety that prevails both in regard to finding employment for the labourers and getting away the products. Accumulation of stocks cannot go on indefinitely. I think the colony has very strong claims for consideration, and for its size I doubt if any part of the Empire has done better in the way of financial help to the many War funds. It has also provided a Contingent of its own; 120 men have already left, and a similar number are anxiously awaiting the arrival of a transport, and I believe there are many more both anxious and willing to come forward.

The weather continues unusually wet, and a spell of drier weather would be welcomed.

ST. KITTS—His Honour Major Burdon Sworn in.

MR. E. J. SHEPHERD, JANUARY 6th.—Owing to the exceptionally small sugar crop and the general failure of the cotton crop, the year just passed away has not been a bright one financially, notwithstanding fair prices. 1915 gave us an abnormal rainfall. Estates in the Basseterre Valley district recorded about twelve inches above the average for the last fifteen years, and estates in the N.E. and N.W. parts of the island recorded from 30 to 40 inches above the average. There is every prospect that the Central Factory's working capacity will be fairly tested with this crop's campaign, and the general outlook is a bright one from our staple crop's standpoint.

Your article in the *Circular* No. 448, "Mauritius and the Sugar Commission," is both interesting and depressing to Colonial sugar producers. The fetish of buying in the cheapest market is so deeply ingrained in most Englishmen that I am not surprised to learn that there are some who even now are talking glibly of handling German beet sugar after the War; and, come what may, the blame will not lie so much with these individuals as with the Home Government if it continues to persist in a Free Trade policy for sugar after the War.

Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., landed here at 10 a.m. on the 2nd inst., and was duly sworn in as Administrator at the Court House on the following day. Mr. E. D. Dobridge has been appointed to the control of Buckley's Estate, succeeding his father, who died last year.

ST. LUCIA—Mr. Walton Acting Administrator.

When the Hon. Gideon Murray left the island on leave of absence on December 17th, the Hon. George O'Donnell Walton, Attorney-General, assumed the Administration of the Government as Senior Resident Member of the Executive Council.

TRINIDAD.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, writing from Port of Spain, states that cacao supplies for December were unusually large, amounting to no less than 8,192,099 lbs., which constitutes a record for the month. The nearest approach to this figure is found as far back as 1908, when the shipment was 8,134,378 lbs. Total shipments for the year are quite up to expectations, and, although short of 1914 by 9,386,424 lbs., are well above the average of the last few years. Reports from the country are on the whole favourable, and given ordinary weather conditions, prospects for 1916 are bright, and more so if prices at present ruling are maintained. During the month the demand was brisk, but, owing probably to plentiful supply, the market weakened somewhat, closing at \$16.75 ordinary, \$17.00 estates, with a downward tendency. Venezuelan cacao has come forward freely. The latest reported sales were \$17.00 to \$17.25, as in quality. Advices from Guayaquil show that there is still a very considerable shortage on the previous year's crop.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of December, 1915, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
B. N. America	161,380
United Kingdom	501,699
United States America	6,279,924
France	1,417,349
Italy	431,756
Total for December	8,192,099
Shipped previously	48,869,353
Total from 1st January	57,061,452
To same date, 1914	63,447,876
" " 1913	48,116,377
" " 1912	41,625,625
" " 1911	46,799,353
" " 1910	57,839,071
" " 1909	51,575,951
" " 1908	47,632,438
" " 1907	41,938,204

BIRTH.

Morris.—On 13th December, 1915, at Natabua, Lautoka, Fiji, the wife of Herbert Stanley Morris (née Sylvia Harford), of a daughter—Mary Lillian Agnes.

MARRIAGE.

Hurford—Middleton.—On 5th February, at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, by the Rev. V. W. Magrath, Ernest William Harford, 2nd Lieut., Royal Garrison Artillery, youngest son of the late Hon. Frederick de Creeth Harford, of L'Esterre, Grenada, West Indies, and Mrs. Harford, of Highgate, Barbados, West Indies, to Ethel May, only daughter of the late Col. Beckford Middleton, D.S.O., 21st Madras Infantry, and Mrs. Middleton, of Clifton, Bristol, England.

THE subject of Professor Bottomley's "humogen," or bacterial peat, is still attracting considerable attention. In the discussion following a paper recently read at the Royal Society of Arts by Mr. Arthur Hutton on the effect of the war on cotton growing within the Empire, Mr. Alfred Machen referred to the wonderful results obtained in cotton growing at Kew with the use of humogen. In this connection it is interesting to be able to record the fact that Professor Bottomley has promised the West India Committee sufficient of the fertilizer to carry out experiments in the West Indies so soon as the National Society which is being formed to deal with it is in operation.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 30th of August, 1914. Consols stand at 88½. Old War Loan is quoted at 88½; New War Loan at 97.

SUGAR. A striking feature in the United Kingdom market is the high value of West Indian grocery crystallised as compared with white kinds. At the present moment the bond value of the best quality of the former is nearly £4 more than that of first-class refiners' granulated. This is mainly due to the absence of supplies, and should not lead West Indian producers to believe that, high-class as their sugar may be, the present relation of price is based on intrinsic value under normal conditions. The "Demerara" sugar market is a limited one, and, although there is an increasing appreciation of the dietetic value of the so-called raw sugars, it will never seriously displace white granulated in the public taste. The attention, therefore, of West Indian sugar producers should not be diverted from the question of the direct, or semi-direct, manufacture of white crystals, a question which is likely to assume especial prominence if—as there is little doubt there will be—preferential treatment of British Colonial sugar in the United Kingdom Customs tariff is one of the results of the present war.

At the present moment the refineries in this country are not in a position to turn out more than 750,000 tons of refined sugar. Some 600,000 tons more are required for general direct consumption purposes, while the sugar-using trades take about 300,000 tons of second-class whites. White Colonial crystals will therefore meet with a ready and profitable sale in the United Kingdom when the long-desired reform in the Customs tariff takes place.

Nothing has taken place in the sugar world to indicate an alteration in the forecast given a month ago in the Summary as to the sufficiency of the world's supply of sugar for the current six months. The question of freights is, however, growing more acute, and it is quite possible that serious shortages may occur from this cause.

This is evidenced by the Board of Trade returns for January, which show the increasing want of supplies. The stocks in the United Kingdom on the 31st of January had sunk from 135,760 tons on the 31st December—a low enough figure—to 93,550 tons, as against 455,000 tons at the corresponding date last year. The consumption for the month was 129,787 tons. The amount of sugar imported was 87,779 tons, of which 36,610 tons was refined from the United States. Of the large purchases of Cuban sugar made by the Government, only 7,881 tons arrived during January.

The Sugar Commission has issued a notice through the Press Bureau pointing out the difficulty in obtaining tonnage for sugar, and urging the public to economise as much as possible in the use of sugar. This looks very much as if the sugar position in the United Kingdom is likely to become acute as regards supplies in the near future. The present high prices have failed materially to reduce consumption.

The Cuban crop is progressing satisfactorily, and the high returns from canes is continuing. Recent advices from Mr. Hinely state that in the famous Oriente province, a per cent. more sugar is being obtained from the cane than last year, while in the rest of the island 1 per cent. to 1½ per cent. has been gained. This means that the canes are yielding 12 per cent. to 20 per cent. more sugar than last year. The weather has been exceedingly favourable for sugar-making, but, complementarily, unfavourable for next crop's canes. The output is in advance of last year, but machinery difficulties were still retarding the crop, according to latest advices. On the 27th there were 177 factories in operation, as against 161 at the corresponding period last year.

The War has had a striking effect on the sugar consumption of the enemy countries. Mr. Otto Licht, in a special letter to Messrs. Willett & Gray, states that the German consumption for 1914-15 was 74.95 lbs. per head of population, as against 41.13 lbs. in 1913-14; while the Austrian consumption had increased from 29.17 lbs. to 37.38 lbs. As regards the Allies, the consumption of Russia increased from 25.43 lbs. to 29.26 lbs., while the consumption of France has decreased from 43.83 lbs. to 39.01 lbs.; of the United Kingdom from 93.47 lbs. to 89.69 lbs., and of Italy from 11.68 lbs. to 10.45 lbs.

There is no appearance as yet at Washington of legislation to deal with the postponement of the free sugar period in the United States. Under the present Tariff Act, this is timed to come into force on the 1st of May. The Committee of Ways and Means, who have to deal with the matter, are not expected to take the matter up until Congress meets, when the increased expenditure necessary for the defence of the country will be decided. As Messrs. Willett & Gray point out, the effect of this will be to postpone action on the sugar question for several months, while there are less than three months left of the present duties.

In the London market, the usual auctions were not held on the 28th ult. from want of supplies, but were resumed on the 1st inst., when 400 tons of West Indian grocery crystallised met with good competition, selling at from 6d. to 1/- per cwt. advance. Demerara realised 35/6 to 36/6, and Trinidad 36/- to 36/3. On the 4th there was a further advance of 6d. to 1/-; 380 tons of crystallised were offered. Demerara sold at 36/6 to 37/9, and Surinam at 36/- to 36/9. Syrups were disposed of at 33/- to 34/-.

On the 8th, 280 tons of grocery crystallised were offered and met with keen competition. A further advance of 6d. per cwt. was made, Demerara selling at 37/- to 38/3, and Surinam at 37/- to 37/3. Demerara syrups were disposed of at 34/6, and Mauritius syrups at 31/9 to 32/-.

The West Indian statistics from the 1st to 29th January are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	2,857	3,983	3,870	4,885	2,154
Deliveries ...	4,676	3,240	2,995	2,853	2,895
Stock (Jan. 29)	9,281	6,752	13,481	3,871	3,749

The New York market has been steady, with a slightly rising tendency, and 96° sugar, duty paid, may now be sold at \$4.83, with granulated at \$5.90.

RUM. The West India Committee and the Wine and Spirit Trade Association are now in touch with the Government with the object of securing the extension of the short-time concession to rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act. The enormous increase in stocks in the United Kingdom promises that in time the three-years bonding clause may be easily met; but in the meantime there is a considerable increase in consumption, the great expansion of the Army also occasioning an increasing demand on the part of the Government.

Both Jamaica and proof kinds maintain a strong tone, especially as regards anything that can be cleared from bond before the middle of May.

The stocks in London on the 29th January were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	6,101	5,605	5,956	6,722	8,242
Demerara ...	4,319	5,689	8,730	7,612	6,439
Total, all kinds ...	20,904	16,790	21,544	22,525	22,860

The stocks of rum in the United Kingdom on the 31st January were 9,005,000 proof gallons, as against 5,819,000 gallons and 6,015,000 gallons at the corresponding period of 1915 and 1914 respectively.

CAOAO. The market has been quiet during the fortnight, and a still further fall in prices has taken place. At auction sales on the 1st, 7,400 bags were offered, which met with poor demand. 680 bags Trinidad were in part sold at 90/-, a decline of 1/- to 2/- per cwt. on previous prices. 827 bags of Grenada were mostly sold at 80/- to 84/6 previous rates. Other West Indian sold at slightly easier prices. Lucia at 78/6 to 83/-, and Dominica at 75/6 to 82/6. The Jamaica lot was bought in.

The Board of Trade returns for January show that the imports of cacao for the month were 24,593,194 lbs., as against 12,433,475 lbs. in January, 1915, and 14,480,069 lbs. in 1914, with exports 7,648,449 lbs., as against 3,411,929 lbs. and 1,575,951 lbs. in January, 1915 and 1914 respectively. As the result of the representations of the West India Committee, the countries of import and export are now inserted in the returns. The British West Indies furnished 2,553,047 lbs. of the imports, British West Africa 17,883,021 lbs., Ceylon 774,100 lbs., the balance coming from foreign countries. As regards exports, Holland received 3,523,542 lbs., as against 846,779 lbs. in January, 1915, and the United States 1,181,263 lbs. as against 43,807 lbs.

The following were the stocks in London on the 29th January:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	6,591	6,061	7,891	3,885	3,892
Grenada ...	8,715	3,313	6,454	3,175	9,654
Total, all kinds	99,652	52,302	81,773	68,110	108,045

COTTON. There have been considerable fluctuations, with a rising tendency, in American and Eastern cotton. The imports of British West Indian cotton into the United Kingdom since the beginning of the year up to the 3rd inst. amounted to 90 bales.

COPRA. The market has been very firm, and record prices have been paid, closing steady at £35 to £36.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed firmer with sales at 7/- per lb. Distilled dearer. Good business has resulted from 6/6 to 7/6, which is the present quotation. Lime Juice: Raw. Some Dominica has sold at 2/9, and 3/- is now asked. Concentrated is unchanged, with no business to report. Citrate of Lime is quoted at £24 per pipe c.i.f. New York.

SPICES. Nutmegs and Mace unchanged. Nutmegs may be quoted 100/80's 7d. to 9½d., 120/100's 6½d. to 7d., 140/120's 6½d. to 7d. Mace, good to fine, 2/- to 2/6; red to good, 1/7 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/3 to 1/6; broken, 6½d. to 1/2. Ginger: There is very little Jamaica in importers' hands, and prices are very firm, say about 70/- to 85/- per cwt.

ARROWROOT. The market continues very steady, and the action of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association in reducing the prices of the higher grades has not had the depressing effect which might have been expected. About 1,500 barrels reported sold at 2½d. to 3½d. At the former price there is very little obtainable. Quotations nominally 2½d. to 4½d.

HONEY. No auctions have taken place since our last, and importers' stocks are very firmly held. Values: Jamaica is quoted at 30/- to 38/6.

COCO-NUT OIL. The market remains steady, with both small supplies and demand. Cochin may be quoted at 58/-, with Ceylon at 57/-.

RUBBER. There has been considerable fluctuation in the rubber market during the fortnight. In the earlier part of last week increasing weakness was shown, but lowered prices brought about increased buyings, and an advance took place. Fine plantation may be now quoted at 3/3, with smoked sheet at 3/2. Fine hard Para is now valued at 3/2, with soft at 3/1. Castilloa sheet is worth 1/11, and scrap 1/7.

During 1915, 186,702,256 lbs. of rubber were imported into the United Kingdom, as against 151,519,600 lbs. in 1914, and 157,443,900 lbs. in 1913. Of this, no less than 147,464,400 came from British possessions and dependencies in 1915, as against 72,473,400 in 1913. The exports in 1915 were 142,943,300 lbs., as against 100,826,900 lbs. in 1913. Of these, in 1915, 25,906,100 lbs. went to Russia, 15,209,700 lbs. to France, 831,801 lbs. to the United States, and 17,989,500 lbs. to "other countries."

In January, 147,798 lbs. were imported, as against 173,079 lbs. in January, 1914; while 1,270,327 lbs. were exported, as against 457,188 lbs. in the same month of last year.

BALATA. The market for Venezuela block has shown some improvement, and sellers are very firm. Some business has been done at 2/2½ London landed terms. Panama block is rather more in demand. Sellers ask 1/9½ landed terms, against buyers' price of 1/9½. West Indian sheet is scarce, and prices have suddenly advanced. Sellers now ask 2/8 landed terms.

PETROLEUM OIL. American rod., water white, 11d.

WOODS. Fustic, 6/- to 7/-. Jamaica Logwood, 8/- to 8/10. Cedar, Honduras, 4½d. to 7d. Lignum Vitæ, £4 to £15. Honduras Mahogany, 5½d to 7d. St. Domingo Satin-wood, 9d. to 1/6.

TIMBER. British Guiana Greenheart, £11 to £13 per load of 50 cubic feet.

The . . .

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February 23rd, 1916.

A CANADIAN ON IMMIGRATION.

MR. WATSON GRIFFIN'S report to the Commissioner of Commerce of the Dominion of Canada on the trade conditions of the British West Indies, sections of which have already appeared in the admirable *Weekly Bulletin* of the Department of Trade and Commerce, has now been published in full, and issued with the authority of SIR GEORGE FOSTER. It forms a volume of nearly two hundred pages, and is embellished with numerous illustrations. The report is, of course, primarily intended for the edification of Canadian shippers, who will no doubt greatly benefit from the advice it contains regarding the best means of developing a trade in the hundred-and-one commodities with which the great Dominion is in a position to supply to her sister Colonies in and adjoining the Caribbean Sea. Still, West Indians will find much to interest them in MR. GRIFFIN'S well-told story of their colonies and their resources, which is accompanied by much statistical information of a useful character. Of particular interest to readers connected with British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica will be his remarks on the labour question, and we would fain wish that his views on East Indian immigration could be widely disseminated in native circles in India, together with the accompanying illustrations of a wealthy Trinidad East Indian and his family and a prosperous East Indian merchant surrounded by his clerks. These speak volumes for the system which, as we showed in last CIRCULAR, has been the subject of much adverse criticism in native circles in India.

Dealing with the question of population, MR. GRIFFIN reminds us that the total number of inhabitants in the colonies which joined in the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was 1,086,028, making, with 939,871, that of the colonies remaining outside, a total of 2,025,899 only. He proceeds to show that if these colonies were as densely populated as Barbados they would have a population of 113,777,978, and that British Guiana alone, if it had as many inhabitants as Java, would be supporting a population of 53,714,800. We gather that he sees no reason why these figures should not eventually be reached. But as yet British Guiana has only 300,000 inhabitants settled on the narrow fringe of the coast lands. Still, only a few years ago people were despondent about the slow increase in the population of Canada, believing that it would never have more than a handful of settlers on the northern boundary of the United States. They were wrong about Canada, and MR. GRIFFIN hopes that the critics of the West Indies are also at fault. In the succeeding chapter he deals with East Indian immigration, to the continuance of which he looks for the increase of the population of the British West Indies. He regards the general success of the East Indians in Trinidad and British Guiana as most remarkable, having regard especially to the fact that they are drawn from the poorest classes in India. He points out that "Out of their meagre earnings these people save money. They send money to relatives in India, and those who return to their native land carry surprisingly large amounts with them in money and jewellery," a statement in support of which he furnishes official figures. Again, MR. GRIFFIN says, "The most gratifying evidence of the material progress of the East Indians in Trinidad is the fact that the number who own land is steadily increasing. A considerable proportion of the East Indians save enough during the period of indenture to buy land. The East Indian usually buys a plot of five acres of forest land from the Government, paying twelve dollars per acre. While they are clearing the land of forest and preparing it for cultivation they work on sugar and cacao estates for about four days a week, devoting the remainder of their time to the improvement of their little properties." To quote MR. GRIFFIN further, "Both among the immigrants and the native born East Indians there are a considerable number who have cacao estates with trees in full bearing. Many of them are increasing their acreage." In concluding this, not the least interesting, part of his report, MR. GRIFFIN says, "In considering the progress made in the British West Indies by East Indians of the poorest classes, one cannot help wondering what would be the result if East Indians of a better class—men of sufficient means to develop from ten to twenty acres of land—could be induced to emigrate to these colonies. In British Guiana they could probably get free grants

from the Government on condition that they put the land under cultivation within a reasonable time. The British Provinces of India increased in population 12,661,000 during the ten years between 1901 and 1911. They did not need that increase. If an emigration equal to even a small proportion of this annual increase of 1,266,000 could be directed to the British West Indies under proper regulations for placing the people on the land, how quickly the resources of these colonies would be developed, and how wonderfully their trade would expand." Mr. GRIFFIN'S remarks afford food for reflection, and we trust that copies of his report may find their way to India. Though Canada may be unwilling to encourage East Indian immigration to her shores, it cannot be too widely known that the British West Indies welcome East Indians and afford every opportunity to them of becoming permanent settlers.

THE WEST INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

WE have not referred for some time to the proposals for the formation of an Association of Chambers of Commerce in the British West Indies which were under discussion just before the outbreak of war. It will be recalled that these proposals had been submitted to the various Chambers of Commerce and to most of the Agricultural and Commercial bodies in the British West Indies, and that they had been unanimously approved. Draft Articles of Association, which were drawn up with the object of making the Association something more than a "rope of sand," had been submitted, and Mr. W. GORDON-GORDON, of Trinidad, the Hon. G. RUSSELL GARNETT, of British Guiana, and Mr. HANSHELL, of Barbados, had by general consent been nominated the first Committee of the Association. Then came the War, which naturally absorbed attention to the exclusion of other matters. In view, however, of the present movement in relation to trade after the War, and to the forthcoming meetings which are to be held in this connection, the time would appear to be ripe for holding the inaugural meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies which will then fall into line with the similar bodies already existing in the Dominions. The Associated Chambers of the United Kingdom are to meet at the end of this month to discuss what should be done, and the British Council of Commerce will hold a meeting on the subject in June pending the reassembling of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in Canada in 1917. All these arrangements point to the desirability of the West Indian Chamber starting upon its career of usefulness as soon as possible, in order that it may crystallise or focus and communicate to the West India Committee the views held locally on the many commercial problems which will have to be dealt with after the War. Meanwhile we are glad to learn that LORD DESBOROUGH, as Chairman of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, has extended an invitation to a representative of the "Association of Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies in process of formation" to attend the forthcoming meetings.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided at the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee at 15, Seething Lane, London, on February 10th. The members also present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. W. H. Alty, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. Cyril Gurney, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

The Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,547. The following new members were admitted:—

Capt. Ernest B. Connell	{Mr. G. MacGregor Frame. Mr. G. R. Alston.
Dr. S. Vassallo, M.D. (Dominica)	{Mr. A. P. Skeat. Mr. H. W. Everington.
The Frame Food Co. (Messrs. Callard, Stewart & Watt, Ltd.)	{Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. F. N. Martinez.
Mr. James Potter (Tobago)	{Mr. G. David Hatt. Mr. Isaac Hope.
Dr. E. W. R. Branch, M.B., C.M. (Antigua)	{Mr. A. P. Cowley. Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin.
Dr. J. S. Gabriel, M.R.C.S.E. (Antigua)	{Mr. H. Haynes. Mr. A. P. Cowley.
Mr. Robert Catton	{Mr. W. M. Campbell. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Miss M. R. Berkeley	{Mr. H. A. Berkeley. Mr. Cyril Gurney.

The recommendation of a meeting of proprietors held on January 28th that Mr. Bonar Law should be invited to receive a deputation on the subject of East Indian immigration was approved.

The Sugar Preference Sub-Committee appointed on October 8th, 1914, reported further progress, and submitted a Memorandum stating the case of the British sugar industry for preferential treatment under the Customs tariff. This was approved, and it was decided to send copies to the Prime Minister, various Government departments concerned and to the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee it was further decided to establish a British Sugar League on the lines of the Anti-Bounty League with the object of securing the development of the British sugar industry, by the establishment of a differential Customs tariff, and, if necessary, duties countervailing bounties should Germany and Austria reinstate that form of protection, with the view of securing an all-British supply of sugar for the requirements of the United Kingdom.

A discussion took place regarding the excessive freight rates, and it was pointed out that, high though these were, amounting as they did to 100/- per ton for sugar and 8d. per gallon for rum, they were not so high in the West Indian trade as in others.

The question of the threatened prohibition of

fruit imports was raised in connection with its bearing on the banana industry. The points set out in a leading article in last CIRCULAR were considered, and it was decided to address an enquiry to the Board of Trade on the subject.

It was decided to invite Mr. S. Cameron, as Chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool, to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee *ex officio*.

ST. VINCENT BOTANIC GARDEN.

A Memorial to the Hon. J. G. W. Hazell.

The many friends of the Hon. J. G. W. Hazell, the respected merchant of Kingstown and a member of the Executive and Legislative Council of St. Vincent, who died last year, will be glad to learn that a memorial has been erected to his memory in the island of his adoption. It takes the form of a temple and fountain in the Botanic Garden, which, having been established in 1763, is the oldest agricultural station of the kind in the New World. The idea of the memorial originated with Mr. Gideon Murray, the late Administrator, who, with Mrs. Murray, drew up the design, which was carried out by the Public Works Department. The lily pond and surrounding grounds were planned by Mr. W. N. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent, to whom we are indebted for the photograph on another page.

The memorial temple and fountain, which represents the flower of the Allamanda, or "yellow bell," is executed in reinforced cement, and a plate at the base is inscribed:—

"Erected by the members of the Kingstown Club and a number of his friends in memory of the Honble. J. G. W. Hazell, member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, who ever took an active interest in the social and public affairs of the Colony, and in these Gardens. 1848-1915."

In the circular lily pond there is a fine collection of beautiful tropical water-lilies, including the superb *Victoria Regia*, kindly presented to the Gardens by the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The pond is stocked with the useful "millions" fish (*Girardinus pascioides*), and serves as a permanent source of supply to out-districts of the noted natural enemy of mosquito larvae.

SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER, K.C.M.G.

Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.M.G., Governor-Elect of the Leeward Islands has consented to attend a meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in that colony at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m. No further notice will be issued, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will endeavour to attend.

Particulars regarding membership of the West India Committee—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 Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Passed by the Press Censor for publication.)

Lord Kitchener's recent speech should effectually damp the sensation-mongers who have been playing the German game. For weeks past criticism, most of it uninstructed, has been running riot in describing the deficiencies of our air service, not only at home, but in Flanders, and calling for this or that public man to set things right. But Lord Kitchener, while promising energetic action in the future, as much as said that quite a good deal had been done up to the present. As for the German air raids which have already taken place, they have had no military effect in the War whatever, and in France our airmen continually fly over the enemy's lines, whereas their airmen are shy of flying over ours. To urge civilian control of the air service is to mistake the situation entirely, the mischief of such a move having been proved in France, as well as in England. If the naval and military officers responsible for the job were only allowed to do it in their own way, they would soon restore the Allied Air Service to the level of efficiency, which reached its maximum in the raid on Karlsruhe. In France, as a result of the Zeppelin raids on Paris, civilian control of the French air service has been swept away, and competent military authorities are once more in possession of their own.

Zeppelin v. Aeroplane.

This question has been debated in Parliament with greater or less wisdom, but it remains very much where it was. After all, it is not so easy to deal with the raiders of the night as some excited people suppose. Moreover, in the Plutonian darkness of the high altitudes favoured by Zeppelins, would dirigibles, supposing that we had them, be able to seek out and fight the brigands of the air better than our aeroplanes? It should be remembered, too, that the aeroplane is the only type of aircraft which has so far succeeded in bringing down a Zeppelin.

The French communiqué of February 21st records a handsome bag of enemy aircraft, namely a Zeppelin brought down in flames by an incendiary shell, near Brabant le Roi, one Fokker, one Albatross, and two nameless aeroplanes. Two other enemy machines were compelled to land.

The report that the Germans have lost yet another Zeppelin is confirmed. It descended in Dutch territory a total wreck, with the crew all killed.

Two German seaplanes have visited Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Three bombs were dropped in a field and four on a girls' school, in which two people were injured. On a later date Lowestoft and Walmer were also bombed—quite ineffectively from a military point of view. A church was damaged, and a civilian was killed.

On the Western Front.

Artillery exchanges of a violent character continue to be the principal feature of the operations in this theatre. Both sides advance and recede at certain points, involving heavy loss of life. Apparently the Germans are at their old game of testing the

whole length of the Allied fronts in order to find a weak place. To do this they launch small offensives, and then abandon them, a method which, owing to the limited number of troops employed, can never lead to a big offensive or successful advance. The closing of the Swiss frontier by the Germans at the extreme end of the French front may be a sign that there will be a German attempt to turn the Allies' right flank by breaking through Switzerland, in which the enemy has powerful friends, as was revealed by the scandal in connection with the Swiss General Staff, the Chief of which, with one of his subordinates, having conveyed to the enemy information about the Allied Armies gained as responsible servants of the Swiss Government.

On the Eastern Front.

The Russians are across the Dniester at Uscieczka though at this point the enemy had constructed the most elaborate defences, designed to play the same part as those which have held the Allies for so long in the West. The new point gained lies 41 miles north-west of Czernowitz, and seven miles to the south-west lies the town of Howdenka, on a railway connecting up the main line from Vienna to Czernowitz. The Russians are thus menacing the enemy's lines of communication, and exerting such pressure that his line in this part of Galicia is being converted from a straight one into a crescent with Tarnopol and Czernowitz as the points. Therefore, in spite of his losses, he is compelled to lengthen his lines. With the retention of the capital of the Bukovina, great military and political issues are bound up—the neutrality of Rumania and a comparatively short front. For a retirement on Kolomea would enable the Russians to envelop Rumania's extreme northern and her western frontier, and threaten the main line to Buda Pesth and Vienna. A surrender of Czernowitz without the most desperate fighting is unthinkable. But to hold on to it, should the Russians advance, would mean the envelopment of the garrison.

The Russian Triumph.

In spite of the terrible climatic conditions in the Caucasus region, the forces under the command of the Grand Duke followed up the retreating Turks to Erzerum, whose vast perimeter could not be defended by the broken and dispirited centre of the great army which had held the Caucasus front for so long. But that this fortress, believed to be impregnable, should have been taken in five days the most sanguine could not have anticipated. The amount of booty captured must be huge, as Erzerum was the central depot for the supply of war material to the Turkish army in Armenia. The garrison, however, got away, as the place was not invested, but carried by assault. But their condition after such a series of catastrophes must be such that they can offer no further organised resistance. The Russians, having occupied Khinis, 45 miles south-south-east of Erzerum, bar any continued advance southwards to the Lake Van region. The lake itself, though in Turkish territory, is patrolled by Russian gunboats. In the Black Sea the Russian Fleet co-operated with the military forces

in the operations, which have inflicted such a staggering blow to Turkey, upsetting the German plans for an attack on the Suez Canal and a victorious advance on Baghdad. The effect will, also, be considerable in Europe, Turkish troops being employed in the Balkans as well as on the Galician front. With Armenia slipping from her grasp, will not Turkey insist upon a disposition of her military forces so as to serve her own interests rather than those of Germany? In Mesopotamia, where General Townshend is maintaining his position at Kut, the Russian exploit must have far-reaching consequences. One of the contributing causes to the fall of Erzerum was the fact that Russia possessed better railway facilities than Turkey. Whereas the one had a terminus 50 miles from the fortress, the nearest station of the other was 380 miles.

Meanwhile the Russians in Persia continue to advance, and ere long may effect a junction with the British forces at Kut.

In the Balkans.

The Turko-German onslaught in Salonika has not yet materialised, and probably nothing of the kind was ever intended. What the enemy is most likely doing is to entrench himself from Durazzo to the Greek frontier. The most important event in this theatre of late was the fall of Elbasan, which withstood the Bulgarians so long. Our airmen have followed up their brilliant raid on Petrich with one on Strumnitza.

The New "Frightfulness."

The enemy has announced to neutrals that on March 1st a new form of "frightfulness" is to put terror into the Allies on the sea. His U boats are to torpedo on sight any merchant ship they encounter flying the flag of a Power belonging to the Quadruple Alliance. He therefore warns neutrals not to travel on any merchant vessel belonging to the Allies. But his object now is practically what it was on February 8th, 1915, when England was to be starved into surrender by pirate submarines. So that the new era of "frightfulness" is not likely to achieve any more than the old. But it may force us to arm our merchant ships for offence as well as defence, so as to sink every German submarine encountered on the high seas. In other words, the vessels of our mercantile marine would in effect act as auxiliary cruisers. So clearly was this perceived in the United States that naval opinion, nervous for the defence of the American coastline in view of the development of the submarine, induced Mr. Lansing to agree to the disarmament of merchant vessels. But he assumed that "pirates and sea rovers were swept from the main trade channels of the sea." The privateering career of the *Möwe* will no doubt induce Washington to maintain the view of President Wilson that merchant ships are entitled to man guns for defence. If so, a new issue will be raised between the United States and Germany. Once again Count Bernstorff's patient diplomacy, which had reached a point that promised future complications between England and America, has been upset by the hysterical hatred of Prussianism demanding piracy on



THE MEMORIAL TO THE LATE J. G. W. HAZELL.
In the Botanic Gardens, Kingstown, St. Vincent.

the sea on a greater scale than ever. But Germany, with a year's experience of the game, must indeed be desperate when she yields to her Junkers in the matter.

The War at Sea.

The loss of the *Arethusa*, a new light cruiser of high speed, is deeply to be deplored. She was sunk by a mine off Harwich. Fortunately only ten lives were lost. It will be remembered that the *Arethusa* took an active and brilliant part in the Heligoland engagement. Off the coast of Syria a raft was found bearing fifteen seamen, only one of them alive, belonging to the *Amiral Charner*, which was sunk by a German submarine.

The Russian Fleet has again been active in the Black Sea, bombarding three Turkish naval ship-building yards and sinking forty sailing ships which were engaged in the coastal trade between Anatolia and Constantinople.

In East Africa.

General Smuts, the Union's brilliant Minister of Defence, has been appointed to succeed General Smith-Dorrien in command of the East African Forces. It is with great regret that the Army will hear of General Smith-Dorrien's relapse into bad health, but he could not have a better successor, for it was largely due to General Smuts' ability as a commander and organiser that the conquest of South-West Africa was carried out in such a masterly manner.

The outrages in Canada, believed to be instigated and perpetrated by Transatlantic Germans, continue. The American Club in Toronto has been destroyed with the loss of two lives.

(To be continued.)

THE Colonial Bank has opened branches at Mahaica, on the East Coast in British Guiana, and at Port Maria and St. Ann's Bay in Jamaica.

THIS winter the transatlantic steamers of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are proceeding to and from St. John, New Brunswick, direct, instead of Halifax. It is claimed that this change enables several days to be saved on the voyage, and permits of passengers and mails for Western ports reaching their destinations more quickly.

It is estimated that no fewer than 50,000 tons of canes were destroyed by the froghopper in Trinidad last crop. In other words, this pest was responsible for a loss of about 5,000 tons of sugar. In the circumstances it is particularly satisfactory to know that the Finance Committee of the local Legislature have agreed to the vote of half the salary of an entomologist to combat the pest, the estates proprietors being responsible for the other half. Mr. G. Williams, of the John Innes Horticultural Museum, who has been selected by the Imperial Bureau of Entomology to fill the post, will leave for Port of Spain at an early opportunity.

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.

The Local Commission's Report.

On account of the serious condition of portions of the British Guiana sea defences, notably on the East Coast of the county of Demerara, a Commission was appointed on the 16th of December, 1914, for the purpose of enquiring "into the existing system of maintaining the sea and river defences of the colony, and the incidence of the cost thereof."

The names of the Commission were Mr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., Attorney-General; Mr. J. Hampden King, Immigration Agent-General; Mr. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works; Mr. H. A. Cameron, Acting Colonial Treasurer; Mr. Frank Fowler, Commissioner of Lands and Mines; Mr. A. P. Sherlock, Mr. P. N. Browne, Mr. J. P. Santos, Mr. F. Dias, Mr. J. S. McArthur, Mr. J. M. Fleming, Mr. H. Deverill, Mr. W. M. Bryce Shields, Mr. E. A. Luckhoo, Mr. J. G. Gillespie, Mr. W. H. Parratt, Mr. R. R. Patea, Mr. R. Strang, and Mr. H. I. Humphrys, and on the 17th January last, after holding many meetings and hearing much evidence, the Commissioners sent in their report to the Governor, Sir Walter Egerton.

The report is very unfavourable to the Public Works Department as it now stands. Referring to the inroads of the sea on the East Coast, it says:—

"The fact that breaches between the December and January spring-tides at Triumph and Beterverwagting could not be filled by sheet piling in the interval and that the proposed retirement of the dam at that salient would not be completed by manual labour in time to be of any use in preventing the sea from sweeping across the public road and doing very great general damage has occasioned serious consideration. The equipment, organisation and finance of the Sea Defence Authorities are inadequate. No clear understanding between them and the estates and villages for the supply of local labour in emergencies exists. The economic conditions of the colony as well as some physical difficulties have made manual labour preferable on various grounds in many forms of estate work. It is not easy to procure skilled mechanics in this colony for unfamiliar forms of mechanical appliances. Both labourers and employers are conservative. The only steam pile-driver and the only stone-crusher of the Department are out of order and have as yet no trained crews. Mr. Buck (who is a comparative newcomer) and his staff have our sympathy on many grounds. Had a couple of steam pile-drivers or steam winch and boiler contrivances been available for Triumph or a mechanical shoveller been at work at that point the breaches might have been repaired between springs. As it is the retired dam cannot be constructed with present equipment even before the next high tides and with strong winds the attempt to repair in the interval may prove unavailing. Further large damage may be anticipated."

On the subject of Baron Siccama's recommendations of 1881, to which reference was prominently made not long ago in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and which were shelved by the authorities at the time, the report has much to say.

"We are compelled to return to the year 1881, the date of an important report of Baron Siccama, a Hollander who arrived in this colony as an hydraulic engineer to deal with the question of water supply, but who became chief of the Public Works Department for some eighteen months, when he resigned. He completed the Sea Wall from the neighbourhood of Camp Street to Kitty Groyne, and wrote various valuable reports, to which very little attention has been paid by those whose interests are involved. One of his recommendations greatly concerns the

City of Georgetown. . . This recommendation was the removal and reconstruction of the East Best Groyne at another angle . . . so as to prevent the Essequibo drift from continuing to silt up the Demerara harbour mouth. He believed the result would make Georgetown as good a harbour as any on the South American Continent. Incidentally the Organisation Committee thinks it would have greatly benefited the West Coast and West Bank of Demerara and might have saved Windsor Forest and other estates. Georgetown Harbour has continued to silt up, although there is no real bar, only a shallow foreshore. The West Coast estates were one after another abandoned and others were only saved by the diversion of the wash combined with some locally suitable works of defence carried out by advice of the West Coast property owners."

A Crushing Indictment.

A further crushing indictment of the Government work since 1881 follows. After alluding to the inroads of the sea at Pln. Lusignan, it says:—

"Meanwhile the question of sea defence has apparently been looked at by a succession of engineers and others from behind the dams. The actual causes of coast erosion have not been studied and defence works have been put up without regard to the actual development in the sea in front of them. Works which might be suitable for one cause or form of coast erosion may be ruinous folly when dealing with another. The Pilot Office and Harbour Department have kept no record of periodicity (if any) of wash, winds, currents, tides, freshets of the Essequibo, Demerara and other rivers (due to rainfall or cloud bursts) or of successive sand, mud, and shell deposits and their relationship, and the Public Works Department has been almost equally unconscious of the necessity of collecting data. One engineer after another has come and gone and generally has left behind him a reputation for large and increasing expenditure barren for the most part of permanent result. Millions of dollars have been spent and the sea steadily advances. No sequence in work can be traced. The scheme followed by one officer has been almost invariably abandoned by his successor. The groyne or wall built by one has sometimes been taken down by his successor and no record left as to the reason. The advances in sea defence made in countries like the United States have been overlooked or neglected, and the modern experience of the advantage of properly placed groynes has not been closely followed. All this must cease.

"We recognise that good work has been done by individual officers and managers, and the fact that he is a recent arrival (1914) and has had multifarious duties makes us desirous of exculpating the present Director of Public Works from our general criticism. But the coast is strewn with the wrecks of isolated and inconsequent experiments carried out at the expense of the agricultural interests of the colony. We recognise that Mr. Buck has had an impossible task and we desire to see him placed in a position where equipment, organisation and funds may enable him to effect useful, correlated and permanent work to which his exclusive attention may be devoted, pending an independent expert opinion and the actual appointment of a recognised authority as head of a new Sea Defence Department."

The Commissioners "recommend the creation of a new Sea Defence Department, the engagement of an expert to report, the seconding for one year of Messrs. Buck, Nightingale and Lea to carry out the experiment of a 1,000 feet concrete wall and apron at Lusignan corner and 600 feet apron at Leonora. Similar works have succeeded at Galveston and in Holland. The two dangerous corners should be cut off at Lusignan point by diverting the road (where at this section two cars can pass one another only by going on to the parapet high above deep trenches) past Lusignan gap to Nog Bens on a quarter mile front. This diversion will secure a safe road even in case of failure of the scheme when the sea is let in on the experiment which will be constructed along the present road dam. In regard to the head of the new Department, if a new man, he need not and should not, at least at first, be a permanent Government Officer, but should be engaged for a term of six years with the possibility of renewal. The works might be carried out by some great firm of contractors specialising in coast erosion works.

"The suggested retirement of the road along the Walseley dam about a thousand feet inland would be even more useful but for our purpose is unnecessary and as the dam does not cross Annandale would take too long. The experiments and diversions are to be completed under our scheme in three months. We are opposed to any policy of retirement of sea defences where the necessity is not fully proved. Considered as a road improvement proposal, we welcome His Excellency's scheme of a 4-mile road from Success corner to Buxton as shortening the main road by about a mile. If and when Mr. Buck's experiment succeeds we can see no objection from a sea defence point of view to this road being undertaken. It will take a couple of years to build. There is a strong determination on the part of the estates involved to resist anything which they regard as a preliminary to retirement of the actual line of sea front. They claim that too much has been lost already by feeble or unintelligent attempts at protection. They point to the history of abandonments on this Coast, and they declare that their very existence is in danger. The question of this particular road should be dealt with as a road-making proposal independently of sea defence questions, and the fears of the estates should be allayed on this point."

The Financial Aspect.

The financial scheme is set forth as follows:—

"We request the Colony to take over the burden of permanent work when such is planned and accepted. At the present time none is being carried out. During 1910 it is unlikely that more will be undertaken than the above-mentioned experiments. For one (Mr. Nightingale's) the funds are available. For the other (Mr. Buck's wall and apron scheme) only \$20,000 is required. We ask the Government, however, to allocate \$150,000 out of the war tax for 1915 and 1916, as a large surplus is anticipated to provide the \$35,000 (work \$20,000, road \$5,000, expert \$10,000) which is all we require at the moment, and leave a balance for extensions of the experiments if they prove successful. The maintenance work is to be paid for by graduated assessment varying with the district but equal in its incidence. We agree with the Villages Committee in recommending the increase of the Villages grants-in-aid (now \$3,000) to \$5,000, as the burden on the East and West Coast Villages is heavy, and they have not the ability of the estates to endure it. This will reduce their assessment from \$2.25 to sixty cents on these coasts. The estates on both coasts will pay \$1.20, but the East Coast, which will receive an immediate relief, will have the prospect of further relief and will have a scheme of permanent defence undertaken which will ultimately (say in ten years) make the assessment a very moderate amount for maintenance.

"The Finance Committee points out that its scheme will not involve the Colony in any greater expenditure than is at present incurred. It will not require additional taxation. The money is available and will continue available unless unforeseen events occur. We do not contemplate the perpetual retention of the War Tax or any part of it for this or any other purpose. If the Colony undertakes the obligation it must not select any particular industry to bear it alone. At the same time we recognise that, however provided for, it must in some shape or other be borne by agriculture, as there is little else which is revenue producing in the Colony.

"The proposed loan of \$350,000," the report goes on to say, "spread over four years and including \$50,000 for plant (exclusive of a tug as one may be hired) may strike some critics as inadequate. We base it on Mr. Buck's views as to the probable rate of progress of his own or of any permanent works whatever. We have nothing else to guide us and we only estimate for requirements actually in sight. We indulge in no dreams of constructing unnecessary works of merely theoretical superiority. The colony must deal with its problem as it offers itself. Certain works are necessary now. History shows that by the time they have been constructed the wash may have moved on and attacked another place, Georgetown or elsewhere. The permanent works will then be apparently useless, but if history is correct will be useless only for the time being, as the wash may again visit that part of the coast. On the other hand, if it is necessary even to double the proposed loan, making it \$7,000,000, on the advice of any expert, we claim that the additional burden

could be borne by the present revenue without increase of taxation. In the last three years over a million dollars has been allocated to works of a character less vital than the defences of the whole Colony. Moreover, should it be possible to have the works carried out by some great contracting firm, greater rapidity of construction might be ensured."

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

The Views of a Confectionery Organ.

Dealing with the question of trade after the war, *Confectionery*, of February 12th, expresses its accord with the desire to do as little business as possible with those who have betrayed humanity and plunged Europe in blood. They add that they are also desirous of trading on preferential terms with those who have supported us so staunchly in the great conflict, though they feel that it will be difficult to prevent goods of enemy origin finding their way into our markets indirectly. They proceed:—

"We have not here, however, to deal with the wide question of the fiscal policy of the nation, except so far as any wide movement in the direction of the imposition of import duties must necessarily affect every industry and every consumer in the country. We cannot legislate in this way in compartments, but it would be equally foolish not to endeavour to protect our own industries, and the War has changed many opinions that were firmly, and, perhaps, correctly, held before it broke out. Our industry requires, and has a right to expect, cheap sugar, but cheapness is not the sole object of an industry or of a nation. If it were, our sugar market would again be flooded at the opportune moment with the products from the great beet fields of Central Europe. For the last eighteen months we have done without the products of these countries, and that has been accomplished without paying too dearly for it. But it cannot be denied that circumstances have had to be met in an exceptional manner, and in a way that would be impossible in the normal conditions of commerce. It is always difficult to contrast business results in an exceptional time with those that preceded it, or to endeavour to foretell those that will succeed it. Whilst sugar has been relatively dearer than in pre-war times, it has not gone up to the famine prices that some of us dreaded. All other ingredients used in confectionery have increased in price, so that the prices of the finished articles have had to be correspondingly increased. Under normal conditions there is no doubt but what the increase in price would inevitably and seriously have checked the consumption. But trade has been good, wages have been high, unemployment has been practically unknown, and all these factors have assisted the confectionery trade to maintain a fairly high standard of output, although, in many instances, with a marked lowering in profit. We, therefore, urge that it is undeniable that cheap sugar, and, consequently cheap confectionery, are necessary for the success of our trade. We do not mean that the industry should be flooded with goods at three or four ounces a penny, but that relatively all classes of quality of confectionery should be cheap enough to be easily attained by the different classes in the community. That can only be accomplished if a constant supply of moderately priced sugar is available for manufacturing purposes. It ought to be the object of this country to aim at counter-balancing the power of Central Europe in the sugar markets of the future. When the War ends, the production of these countries will be quite different from what it was before. Money will be scarce and dearer, debts will have to be liquidated, heavy taxes will require to be imposed to meet the burdens brought about by the struggle, and all these factors will reflect upon the cost of production of sugar, as well as of other things. What the position of the sugar-growing countries of Europe will be under the Brussels Convention it is difficult to say. In order to find their way into the European markets, Austria and Ger-

many may consider it desirable to revert to the system of giving bounties. The old arguments which we have used ourselves in the past, and which was constantly used, of freedom of trade and the right of the purchaser to buy in the cheapest market, will not be so popular. Cane-grown sugar, especially from British possessions, will not be allowed to suffer by any system of bounty-giving on the part of the Central Empires. For one thing, it will take more than a generation to re-establish the close commercial relations that existed before the War, and for another, cane sugar is now in a better position to meet its old competitor than ever it has been."

After discussing Mr. George Mathieson's memorandum which was quoted in the CIRCULAR, No. 452, of January 27th last, *Confectionery* concludes by saying:—

"The War has taught the country the necessity of thinking imperially, and that will pass as a necessity and grow into an ideal. No part of our wide-flung Empire will be neglected, because we will realise that the strength of the Empire is in the whole of it, and it will be the duty and the pride of every British statesman of the future to develop the latent resources of the many different sections of the great Empire. . . ."

OUR SUGAR SUPPLY.

The position of West Indian Crystallised Sugar.

The warning issued by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply calling upon people to consume less sugar had the result which many anticipated. It was followed by a repetition of the panic buying which characterised the early days of the War. This was not confined to the general public, who soon bought up all the grocers' available supplies, many public bodies, hospitals, etc., buying, or trying to buy, larger quantities than they had bought for many a long day. On February 15th the following further announcement was made:—

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, having received requests for more specific information as to the extent of the reduction in the imports of sugar, of which warning was given on the 9th inst., now notifies that the supplies that will be available for the current year will probably fall short of those imported in the year 1915 by from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. An equivalent reduction in consumption will therefore be necessary, and it is the hope of the Commission that all consumers alike will aim at restricting their use of sugar in that proportion. No increase has been made in the present scale of prices at which sugars are issued by the Commission, and no increases in retail prices are therefore justified over those that have prevailed since January 24. The Commission will be prepared to investigate any cases brought to their notice in which excessive prices are charged to purchasers; and where it is proved that a retailer has taken advantage of the scarcity to obtain for himself an undue profit on sugars issued by the Commission, he will not be allowed to receive further supplies from that source.

Meanwhile sales of West Indian crystallised sugar having been effected at the high figure of 50/- per cwt., and it appearing that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply were likely to take steps to regulate values the West India Committee addressed the following letter to Sir Henry Primrose on February 14th:—

14th February, 1916.

Sir,

My Committee having had their attention called to the high prices realised for West Indian crystallised sugar at a recent sale by auction, feel it right that you should be placed in possession of the circumstances which brought them about.

2. After full enquiry they are satisfied that the rise has not been due to any withholding of supplies on the

part of the importers, but to the public announcement by the Royal Commission of a restriction of imports which led to manufacturers fearing a shortage of their usual supplies, coming forward as buyers of this class of sugar instead of that which they generally use.

3. We would point out that this rise in price has occurred just at the close of the Demerara crop season and before the commencement of the West Indian Islands' crops, and that it is anticipated that supplies of West Indian crystallised sugar from the islands should shortly be available for shipment, which should not fail to relieve the situation materially.

I have the honour, etc.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Right Hon. Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I.,

Chairman, the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply.

Several meetings were subsequently held, and Mr. Rutherford, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. Edward R. Dawson, and the Secretary of the West India Committee had interviews with the Chairman of the Royal Commission on February 15th and 17th with reference to the position of West Indian crystallised sugar. Though no announcement can be made at the moment it seems certain that licences to import West Indian crystallised sugar will still be granted, though measures will be adopted to prevent the price of this class of sugar reaching an abnormal figure.

GRAFTED CACAO.

Work in Dominica and Trinidad.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, on January 14th, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Assistant Director of Agriculture, made an interesting statement regarding the progress made with cacao budding and grafting on an estate scale. The question of budding, he said, had often been before the Society. The late Mr. J. H. Hart exhibited the first specimens of grafted cacao in the colony, but it was never taken up seriously, and there were no areas under grafted cacao, which as a consequence had never come to any great economic advantages as in other countries. In Dominica there were a certain number of grafted trees giving good results at the Botanical Station, but since the work in grafting was done and carried to a successful conclusion, interest in cacao in Dominica had considerably waned, owing to the larger profits got from limes. Whilst passing down the islands recently, on the way down from Canada, he got some figures on grafted cacao in Dominica from Mr. Joseph Jones, Curator, who had done much for agricultural interest in Dominica.

There were various prejudices put forward against grafted cacao, but the plots in Dominica thrived well and gave good bearing results. In one plot of 288 trees in 1915, there was a yield of 126 pods per tree, another seven-year-old plot of 42 trees gave 149 pods per tree, but it subsequently was attacked by disease, and the yield reduced to 89 per tree. A third plot planted in 1910 gave 23 pods per tree in 1914, and 41 in 1915. In Trinidad they had no grafted cacao of bearing age, except perhaps the one tree at St. Clair at the present time, but they had planted out a quarter acre at St. Augustine three years ago.

In 1913 he exhibited some specimens of budded cacao at the Board of Agriculture, which up to that time had not been accomplished there. The speaker then gave statistical data of the experiments in grafting and budding which were being made at St. Augustine, and the River Estate, with a view of testing their relative value under practical conditions, as compared with ordinary cacao. Curiously enough, this year, budding on quite young trees gave better results than when more grown. He did not wish it to be understood that the Department at the present time was advocating that planters should proceed wholesale with the budding of cacao. They were carrying out experimental work, and in a few years would be able to give data as to whether budding ought to be recommended.

A CACAO tree on an Estate in the Tamana Ward in Trinidad has set botanists talking by producing two distinct kinds of cacao pod on the same branch, a red pod of the *forastero* variety and a yellow one of the *calabacillo*. At a recent picking the tree yielded eleven yellow pods and seven red ones.

Admittedly the best work on cacao is "Cacao; Its Cultivation and Curing," by the late J. Hinchley Hart, F.L.S., which is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 7/6, or post free 8/4.

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, K.C.M.G.

His Views on East Indian Immigration.

The departure from Mauritius of Sir John Chancellor, the Governor-elect of Trinidad and Tobago, has been delayed through lack of steamer facilities, which are far less frequent than those between this country and the West Indies. According to the newspapers of Port Louis, the planting community of Mauritius is genuinely sorry at losing whom they regard as essentially an agricultural Governor. *The Planters' and Commercial Gazette* claims that Sir John was the first Governor, who, apart from his manifold official duties, found time to personally study the sugar industry on the spot. In so doing he visited nearly every factory in the island; and the knowledge thus acquired at first hand no doubt enabled His Excellency to deal with the many difficult agricultural questions which arose during his proconsulship in Mauritius with confidence and ease. *The Gazette* continues:—

"We note that the Governor looks upon the coolie question as a serious one, and, knowing how strenuously he has laboured for the planters in the past, we feel confident that when he returns to London and renders an account of his stewardship of our colony, he will still insist upon the necessity of the re-opening of coolie immigration to Mauritius."

West Indians will also hope that he will appreciate the importance of the continuance of East Indian immigration into Trinidad and Tobago.

MR. T. E. FELL left for New York on Saturday last en route for Barbados to take up his duties as Colonial Secretary of that island.

ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT.

The report of the Committee of Management of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association for the year 1915 is now published. It had been intended to embark on a scheme proposed by a firm of food advertising experts for introducing into the United Kingdom a proprietary article in the preparation of which St. Vincent arrowroot would be used; but this and a proposal to show arrowroot at the Grocery and Confectionery Trade Exhibitions were deferred owing to the War. In Canada progress was made in promoting the sale of the Association's arrowroot under the trade-mark "No-Wyta."

Owing to the rise in freight rates it was found necessary to increase the minimum price of all grades of arrowroot by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

The system of grading recommended by the Grading Committee in London in 1914 and adopted with the approval of the Association was practised throughout the year 1915 with a measure of success. It has considerably lessened the evil of under-cutting to which the Association arrowroot, bound to a single fixed minimum price, was subjected by vendors of peasant arrowroot. It offered an effective inducement for the enrolment of a few more producers and shippers on the list of members of the Association, and it enabled a considerable quantity of Association arrowroot of the common grade to sell at figures slightly below those fixed for better qualities. It has, however, appeared to some members that the number of grades were too numerous, and that the reduction to six or seven from the present number of twenty-six would result in a more practical system and be sufficiently discriminatory for commercial purposes. The London Grading Committee prefers to adhere to the existing system of grading, feeling that it has worked satisfactorily, and that if given a fair chance it would continue to give entire satisfaction to all.

Generally, the interests of the Arrowroot Association have been very adversely affected by the War. The advertising work done in the direction of extending trade in the markets of Europe has been rendered futile owing to the disturbance in the cities of England's Allies, and to the prohibition against the export of arrowroot to enemy countries and even to several neutral ports. The Association, however, accepts the position with a spirit of loyalty, the members being willing to bear, to the extent of their power, their share of the nation's difficulties so long as the War lasts. In other respects the industry continues to hold a favourable position. Many members have greatly improved the quality of their product. Progress is still the watchword, and although curtailment of production is at present expedient owing to the exigencies of the industry, the island is capable of doubling its yield of arrowroot if that be necessary to meet any demand that might be created on both sides of the Atlantic when the War is over.

During the year the sum of £594 19s. 8d. was collected under the authority of the Arrowroot (New Market Fund) Ordinance. This sum, added to the Treasury Credit Balance of the previous

year, amounts to £931 5s. 5d., against which £129 18s. 6d. has been withdrawn for expenditure in the manner shown, leaving a balance of £801 6s. 11d. as at 31st December, 1915.

ST. LUCIA.

ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

(Continued from page 53).

DRUGS. (Continued).

FUSTIC (*Chlorophora tinctoria*).

Fustic, the tree from which a yellow dye is obtained, also thrives in various parts of the island. The wood is also largely used in the local manufacture of carpenters' tools and wheel naves.

ANNATTO (*Bixa Orellana*).

This shrub is often grown as dwarf wind-belts and hedges. The dye is obtained from the crimson covering of the seeds and is used to colour butter and cheese. Its value varies from about 3d. to 6d. a lb.

TURMERIC (*Curcuma longa*).

Turmeric is not cultivated to any great extent, but exists in many native gardens. The rhizomes are ground into a fine orange-yellow powder which is used as a condiment in native cookery. It also yields a dye which is used in the manufacture of silks.

FRUITS

ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT.

Increased attention has been paid recently to the cultivation of orange and grapefruit, and a few small groves of special varieties are being planted up in the island.

Considerable quantities of excellent fruit are produced annually which find a ready local sale and a good business is carried on with the numerous steamers calling at Castries, though at present there is no systematised export trade to Europe or America.

Budded plants are distributed from the Government Nurseries at 6d. each, and these include all the best known varieties such as: *Oranges*, Washington Navel, Tardiff, Parson Brown, Whittaker, King, Ruby, St. Michael's Blood, Joppa, Jaffa, etc. *Grapefruit*, Jamaica, Triumph, Mark's Seedless, and Manvillis improved.

MANGOES.

Large quantities of the common mangoes are exported to the neighbouring islands, their average annual value being £587.

The local favourite variety is "Père Louis," which possesses a firm flesh, little fibre and a good clean semi-acid flavour.

This mango, unlike many of the grafted varieties, is a good shipper, and it should find a ready market in the United Kingdom and America.

A consignment of twenty-eight boxes, each containing one dozen fruits were forwarded to Messrs.

Pink and Sons, London. Every fruit arrived in sound condition and sold at 2½d. each.

There is an increasing demand for improved grafted varieties, and the following are to be found fruiting profusely throughout the island: Julie, Reine Amelia, D'Or, Divine, Gordon, Malda, Mulgoba, etc.

PINE-APPLES.

Pine-apples grow particularly well in the drier coastlands and fruits of good quality are produced.

Large numbers are grown to supply the local demand but unfortunately they are in most cases gathered before they are properly mature, and this depresses the market.

The "Black Antigua" variety is in greatest demand, and a shipment to London of 200 fruits of this pine netted over 7d. each.

Suckers of the "Red Spanish" and "Smooth Cayenne" varieties have recently been introduced from Florida and these are undergoing trial.

BANANAS.

There is no export of bananas from the island but considerable quantities are grown as catch crops between young cacao trees, etc., and these find a ready sale locally.

GROUND-NUTS.

Ground-nuts (*Arachis hypogæa*) grow well in the light soils near the coast and produce heavy crops.

Varieties bearing small nuts such as the "Gambia" are in greater demand than those bearing large nuts such as the "Dixie Giant" or the "Virginia Bunch."

In 1911 ground-nuts to the value of £200 were exported, but during recent years the supply has not been equal to the local demand.

OTHER FRUITS.

Other kinds of fruits are plentiful, such as: Sapodilla (*Achras Sapota*), Soursop (*Anona muricata*), Sugar Apple (*Anona squamosa*), Star Apple (*Chrysophyllum Cainito*), Java Plum (*Eugenia Jambolana*), Genip (*Melicocca bijuga*), Water lemon (*Passiflora laurifolia*), Pomegranate (*Punica Granatum*), Golden Apple (*Spondias lutea*), Guava (*Psidium pyriferum*), Rose Apple (*Eugenia malaccensis*), Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*), Muscat Grapes (*Vitis vinifera*), Grandilla (*Passiflora quadrangularis*), Mammee Apple (*Mammea americana*), etc.

VEGETABLES AND OTHER CROPS.

Many of the English vegetables and shrubs, such as carrots, beet-root, onion, lettuce, tomato, cabbage, turnip, mint, garlic, etc., are grown in large quantities for the local market.

This trade is entirely carried out by the natives, and the care which they bestow on the preparation of this produce for market is surprising and would do credit to many an English fruiterer.

The principal native food crops are cassava, sweet potatoes, breadfruit, plantain, pigeon peas, etc. Maize is grown in most gardens but not in sufficient quantity to supply the local demand. Rice is also grown in small patches by the East Indian labourers working on the large sugar estates.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

The Roll of the Officers.

We give below the names of the officers of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Service Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment:—

FIRST BATTALION.

Colonel A. E. Barchard,	2nd Lt.	L. R. Wheeler.
Officer Commanding,	"	R. P. Johnstone.
Major G. W. R. Jenkins,	"	J. P. Thomson.
Second in Command,	"	E. V. Bynoe.
Capt. A. P. J. Tibbitt,	"	P. E. F. Cressall.
Adjutant,	"	G. Challenger.
Lieut. H. C. Crowden,	"	E. R. Lichfold.
Quartermaster,	"	E. K. Walcott.
Major V. G. T. Gane,	"	I. Campbell.
Capt. G. J. L. Golding,	"	Robertson.
Capt. H. C. V. Porter,	"	W. Hermas-Bell.
Capt. W. J. Reusly,	"	E. K. C. Weatherhead.
Lieut. R. J. Craig,	"	D. I. Johnson.
Lieut. A. E. Harragin,	"	G. E. Browne.
Lieut. H. J. Cavanaugh,	"	W. H. C. Kerr.
Lieut. W. H. Thorne,	"	Surg.-Capt. W. D. Neish.
2nd Lt. H. C. Whitelegg,	"	Surg.-Lieut. W. S. Mitchell.
" C. C. Paul,	"	Rev. P. Egan (Chaplain to the Forces).
" T. H. Irving,	"	
" A. S. Lawson,	"	
" U. G. Chisholm.	"	

SECOND BATTALION.

Lieut.-Colonel B. Faunce,	2nd Lt.	C. A. Wheeler.
Officer Commanding,	"	W. L. Emtage.
Major C. McD. Ogilvie,	"	A. H. Shepherd.
Major J. H. L. Poe, P.R.I.	"	A. J. K. Ferguson.
Lieut. L. H. Tinney, Ad-	"	R. H. Furness.
jutant,	"	W. R. C. Kerr.
Lieut. G. E. Salmon,	"	R. C. Ratty.
Quartermaster,	"	G. E. Brown.
Capt. F. W. Woolnough,	"	C. I. Farquharson.
Lieut. J. C. Hatten,	"	G. S. Cox.
Lieut. H. V. Jervis Read,	"	C. F. Morgan.
Lieut. J. Tough,	"	R. C. Ripley.
Lieut. F. L. Roper,	"	W. L. Thomas.
Lieut. L. N. S. Stuart-	"	I. V. Stockhausen.
Campbell,	"	Surg.-Lieut. A. G. Curphey.
Lieut. E. G. Orrett,	"	Medical Officer.
Lieut. C. L. Roper,	"	

THIRD BATTALION.

Major C. W. Hill, Officer	2nd Lt.	F. D. McPhail.
Commanding,	"	A. H. Spyer.
Lieut. J. V. Kirkland, Ad-	"	J. A. V. Thompson.
jutant,	"	L. H. McKay.
Capt. C. S. Sanguinetti,	"	R. S. Martinez.
Capt. E. H. Quin,	"	D. R. Ballard.
Capt. C. D. A. Robinson,	"	J. F. Hart.
Lieut. F. Gowenlock,	"	E. M. Lord.
Lieut. H. F. Donald,	"	S. F. Biins.
Lieut. C. F. Jacobs,	"	H. D. O'Donnell.
Lieut. C. E. Sharp, Medical	"	C. H. Delgado.
Officer (attached),	"	W. H. Kieffer.
2nd Lt. W. L. Philips,	"	C. Barrett.
" K. D. Andrews,	"	

With the removal of the 2nd and 3rd (Service) Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment from Seaford there has been some improvement in the health of the men. We have, however, to record with regret several deaths: Private McFadyen succumbed to an attack of pneumonia at sea on the voyage from Jamaica on January 15th, while Private Gale died at Plymouth on January 26th, Private A. C. McLennon on February 6th, Private A. J. Baker on February 11th, and Private J. Rhoden on February 2nd. All belonged to the 3rd Battalion and came from Jamaica, except Private Rhoden, of Grenada, who was in the 2nd Battalion.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

The Legislature of the Bahamas has voted a further sum of £2,000 for raising and despatching a third contingent of 65 men, and for making provision for the necessary reinforcements to maintain the number of men contributed by the Colony at two hundred.

The weather at Withnoe Camp where the 3rd, Jamaica, Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment are stationed, has been particularly trying, there having been incessant rain, accompanied by heavy squalls and piercing cold winds. The camp lies a few miles outside Plymouth, and the men are in huts, which are, fortunately, rain and wind proof.

Two gymnastic instructors from Aldershot put the men daily through an hour's course of physical drill, which is having a marked effect on their bearing. A regimental sergeant-major and 17 non-commissioned officers have been appointed and are now undertaking the important duties of company sergeant-majors and company quarter-master sergeants. Most of these non-commissioned officers have been to the Front, and have had actual experience of modern conditions of warfare, and they should therefore be of great help in the training of the men.

A correspondent in a position of authority writes from Withnoe Camp: "It will be a real kindness if you will endeavour to dissuade those kind people who wish to, and constantly do, send presents and gifts of food-stuffs, old newspapers, etc., to the men of the British West Indies Regiment. Such parcels give the regimental, and also the railway authorities endless trouble, and are really not worth the time and labour expended upon them, especially when it is taken into consideration that we are working at very high pressure, and that the steamships and railways should only be carrying what is absolutely necessary. A postcard, a money-order, or a postal-order, of course, will always be appreciated by the individual, and is by far the best gift." This support the advice already given by the West Indian Contingent Committee.

On Saturday, February 12th inst., the 3rd Battalion was inspected by Lieut.-General Sir Pitcairn Campbell, Commander-in-Chief, Southern Command. Sir Pitcairn expressed himself as quite satisfied and pleased with all that he saw. He expressed the hope that for the sake of the men the Battalion would be sent to its overseas destination as soon as possible for no doubt England in winter time was a very trying place for people who have been born and bred in the tropics.

The West India Committee Map of the West Indies is being put to a useful and interesting use in the 1st B.W.I.'s Orderly Room. 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.

The total of the Fund is now £4,549 17s. 6d. Of this amount £935 14s. 11d. has been subscribed for special purposes.

Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

West Indian Friendly Societies in Colon ...	£	s	d.
A. W. Duncan, Esq. ...	20	16	8
H. Thompson King, Esq. ...	2	1	8
Per H. Thompson King, Esq.:—			

Mouachanna List.—H. M. Europe, 1/2 S.M., 4/2; I. Dickson, 2/1; J. Harewood, 2/1; J. Wellington, 2/1; P. C. Clarke, 1/1; P. C. Rose, 1/1; P. C. Garrett, 1/0; P. C. King, 1/0; P. C. Jones, 2/1; P. C. France, 1/1; P. C. Joseph, 1/1; J. P. C. Clarke, 2/1; C. A. France, 2/1; F. Lewis, 2/1; L. D. France, 2/1; G. Waddy, 1/1; M. G. Pereira, 6/3; E. Farnum, 6/3; Pablo, 6d.; J. Pestano, 6d.; H. S. W. Sealy, 4/2; A. A. Abraham, 4/2.

Jyakaka List.—I. Welcome, 2/1; W. T. Benjamin, 1/1; P. Atkinson, 1/1; B. Solomon, 1/1; G. Anderson, 6d.; P. N. Weber, 1/1; T. Rose, 2/1; M. Welcome, 1/8; J. A. Cipriani, 4/1; P. Gouveia, 1/1; R. Mercurius, 1/1; J. L. Stott, 1/1; D. Price, 1/1; A. Pereira, 6d.; M. McAnderson, 1/1; J. Eswick, 2/1; A. Portsmouth, 1/1; S. Taylor, 1/6; D. Lawson, 1/1; F. Morgan, 1/1; B. Robinson, 6d.; F. Wilkinson, 6d.; H. Cipriani, 1/1; E. Phillips, 2/6; D. Solomon, 10d.; G. Matthews, 1/1; D. Stanford, 6d.; S. Floriman, 6d.; L. Benjamin, 2/1; C. Bruster, 6d.; J. Greaves, 6d.; E. Baptiste, 1/1; G. Portsmouth, 1/1; D. Rodway, 1/1; T. Andrews, 2/1; W. Low, 1/1; P. C. Waddle, 1/1; P. C. Hazel, 4d.; P. C. Fingall, 1/1; P. C. Adams, 1/2; P. Gunbo, 6d.; F. L. Corbin, 1/1; P. C. Hopkinson, 1/1; W. G. McBurnie, 4/1.

Yarakita List.—A. Garcia, 4d.; H. D. Binlayson, 6/4; Mohamed Ali, 4/2; R. Valenzuela, 2/1; J. R. Gibbons, 6d.; Copt. Johnson, 1/1.

Basamami List.—J. E. Harry, 6d.; J. Thornhill, 1/1; J. Allsing, 1/1; R. Allan, 4d.; R. Bradshaw, 6d.; J. King, 6d.; Rumpersaud, 6d.; T. Marshall, 6d.; I. Patterson, 6d.; S. Lewis, 6d.; A. Baker, 1/1; Copt. Henery, 1/1.

	£	s	d.
	7	10	
			Total
Ben Edwards, Esq. ...	5	5	0
Sir Gilbert Carter, K.C.M.G. ...	2	10	0
Lady Carter ...	2	10	0
Treasury Staff, Barbados (3rd donation) ...	1	1	0
H. E. Murray, Esq. ...	1	1	0
G. Campbell Arnott, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G. ...	1	0	10
W. Codrington Smith, Esq. ...	1	0	10
Thomas Baden Powell, Esq. ...	1	0	0
H. E. Haynes, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Brodie ...			5

Particulars regarding the garments, etc., needed are obtainable at 5, Trevor Square, from Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, who will be glad to hear from ladies willing to help. During the past fortnight the following gifts have been received:—

- Anonymous, 1 pr. socks, 2 prs. mittens.
- Miss Saitman, 1 jersey, 2 prs. socks.
- E. R. Darnley, Esq., 1 scarf, 1 pr. mittens.

Lady Fremantle, 2 jerseys, 2 undervests, 1 flannel shirt, 2 chest protectors, 1 helmet, 2 scarves, 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Howell Jones, 6 khaki shirts, 6 handkerchiefs (for British Guiana men).
 Mrs. Richmond, 18 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. E. J. Cameron, 6 prs. socks, 6 prs. mittens, 2 prs. gloves, 1 pr. bed socks, 6 handkerchiefs, 2 scarves.
 Mrs. Eliot A. De Pass, 13 prs. socks, 12 prs. cuffs, 1 pr. mittens.

Lady Llewelyn, 20 prs. socks, 1 jersey, 1 helmet, 1 pr. cuffs. (This gift of socks makes a total of 50 pairs in all given to Lady Llewelyn by the Highland Parish Church at Campbelltown.)

The West Indian Working Party at Lady Philipps' residence in Eaton Square, 47 carbolised shirts, 15 scarves, 4 prs. mittens, 5 prs. socks, 13 hospital bags, 1 day shirt.

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:—

Bevan, Lieut. (late Assistant Master, Wohner Grammar School, Kingston, Jamaica), Jamaica Militia Artillery.
 Castle, Lieut. C. W. M. (Resident Medical Officer, Public Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Champness, Lieut. Francis Quiller, R.N. (son-in-law of the late Hon. S. S. Ingham, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Bermuda).
 Eccles, Private Hilton (son of the late Mr. John Eccles, of Orange Grove, Trinidad), Canadian Contingent.
 Eccles, Lieut. Vernon (son of the late Mr. John Eccles, of Orange Grove, Trinidad).
 Knaggs, 2nd Lieut. Jack (son of Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago), 4th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
 Thomson-Evans, 2nd Lieut. J. (Proprietor of Harding Hall Estate, Green Island, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.

Died of Wounds.

CAPTAIN ALLAN ERNEST MESSER, 1st King's Royal Rifle Corps, we regret to state, died of wounds at the Lahore British General Hospital at Calais on February 17th. Captain Messer, who was only 21 years of age at the time of his death, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Messer, of 2, Lyall Street, Belgrave Square, S.W. He was born at Georgetown, British Guiana, where his father practised for some years as a solicitor, and educated at St. Andrew's, Eastbourne, Rugby, and St. John's College, Oxford, where he had been in residence for a year when the War broke out. At Rugby he got his Cap for football, and at Oxford his rowing career was precisely the same as that of his father before him. Both won the Torpid Fours in their first term, rowed in their College Torpid in their second term, and in their College (St. John's) Eight in their third. He served in the O.T.C. at Rugby and Oxford, and obtained a commission at the outbreak of war in the 5th King's Royal Rifle Corps. In December, 1914, he went to the front, being attached to the 1st Battalion of his regiment, and in January, 1915, was promoted lieutenant. In May, 1915, he was wounded in a night attack at Festubert. On recovery he was promoted captain in October, 1915, and in the following month rejoined his battalion. He was seriously wounded visiting an advanced post of his company at midnight on January 22nd last.

Wounded.

Private John Henry McCoy (son of Mrs. McCoy, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 16th Batt. Canadian Expeditionary Force, was wounded in France in January.

Honours.

Corporal Alfred K. Curry (son of Mr. Adolphus Curry, of Rock Sound, Eleuthera, Bahamas), who enlisted in the British Columbia Regiment, and came over with the first Canadian Contingent, and has been at the front since February, 1915, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was one of a small party of Canadians who took a German trench at Messines in October last, and succeeded in killing or capturing all the Germans, who outnumbered the Canadians considerably, while sustaining only one casualty (accidental) themselves. Corporal Curry is the first Bahamian to win the D.C.M.

Captain S. B. Buckland-Cockell, late Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in Jamaica, who has been acting as Embarkation Officer at a port in France, has been mentioned in Lord French's despatches.

Captain Wyrriott Owen, of the 1st Welsh Regiment, son of Commander W. H. Owen, R.N., Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, was mentioned in Lord French's despatches in January, and has since been awarded the Military Cross. Captain Owen has been twice wounded at the front, and his brother, 2nd Lieut. Meredith Owen, was killed in action in France.

Alterations and Corrections.

Alston, 2nd Lieut. G. R. (son of Mr. G. R. Alston, and nephew of Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago), passed through Woolwich after serving with the Honourable Artillery Company at the front, and has been gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery.

Bell-Smyth, Brigadier-General, C.M.G. (son of the late Hon. J. Bell-Smyth), previously Colonel of the King's Dragoon Guards, now commanding Brigade of Cavalry.
 Eccles, 2nd Lieut. W. H. (son of the late Mr. George Eccles, of Trinidad), has been transferred from the 16th Royal Fusiliers to the British West Indies Regiment.

Jones, Lieut. H. P. Calvert, R.A., and A.D.C. to General Caulfield, G.C.O. (son of the Rev. Michael Jones, and nephew of the late Hon. B. Howell Jones, of Demerara), was mentioned in Sir John French's last despatch.

Ryland, Private H. C. (of Aston W. Gardner & Co., of Kingston, Jamaica), has been transferred from the Royal Army Medical Corps to the 28th Batt. London Regiment. *At the front.*

St. Aubyn, Lieut. Francis Cecil (son of the late Hon. Arthur J. D. St. Aubyn, Police Inspector, Jamaica, nephew and heir of Lord St. Leven, and grandson of the late Dr. J. C. Philippo, M.D., President of the Legislative Council of Jamaica), Grenadier Guards.

OBITUARY.

DR. CHARLES DENNEHY, M.R.C.S.

We regret to learn that Dr. Charles Dennehy died at his residence, The Caribbees, St. Lucia, on Jan. 2nd.

Dr. Dennehy, who was born in Ireland in 1833, entered the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company after completing his medical studies. He joined the island medical staff in Antigua in 1871, and was appointed Colonial Surgeon of St. Lucia six years later. He retired on pension in 1903. He leaves a widow and several children, one of whom, Private C. Dennehy, of the Irish Canadian Contingent, is a prisoner of war in Germany, having been wounded and captured at Ypres on April 25th last, while another, Nurse Bertha Dennehy, is serving with the Red Cross in Alexandria.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY SHERLOCK.

We regret to state that Mr. William Henry Sherlock, late of British Guiana, died on February 7th, at his residence, West View, Caterham Valley, Surrey.

Mr. Sherlock was out and about on Saturday, February 5th, but on the following Monday he succumbed to a heart attack. Mr. Sherlock began his business career as

an accountant in a bank, from which he joined the staff of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., the West India merchants of Liverpool. In the early 'seventies he went out to Demerara to audit the accounts of the local firm, and was instrumental in discovering the defalcations of a member of the Combined Court. Later he was admitted a partner of the firm, and was brought into close association with the late Mr. William Russell, the "Sugar King," who was also a partner. He retired about twenty years ago, and sold his residence, "Kitty Cottage," in Georgetown, where he had dispensed hospitality with a lavish hand. He then came to reside in England. Mr. Sherlock, during his residence in British Guiana, took an active part in the commercial, social, and religious life of the colony. He was a member of the Court of Policy, and later of the Executive Council. He was also a Director of the Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company. He leaves a widow, who was a Miss Gregg, of County Cork, two sons and four daughters. His eldest son the Hon. A. P. Sherlock, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., now occupies a prominent position in the political and commercial life of British Guiana, being a member of the Executive Council and of the Court of Policy of the colony. The funeral took place on February 17th, and two old residents of British Guiana, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., and Mr. Guy Wyatt, were among many who were at the graveside.

MR. DONALD FORTESCUE WILBRAHAM, B.A.

We regret to learn that Mr. Donald Fortescue Wilbraham, who was only recently appointed a puisne judge in the Leeward Islands, has died in Dominica.

Mr. Wilbraham, who was 50 years old, was the eldest son of the late Mr. Henry Wilbraham, of Overdale, Sandiway, Cheshire. Educated at Trinity College, Oxford, where he graduated, he was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1891, and five years later he went to Sierra Leone as Master of the Supreme Court and Registrar-General. He was appointed Attorney-General of that colony in 1908, and while he held that position he edited a revised edition of its laws.

LIEUT.-COLONEL WILLIAM J. SLACK.

The homeward mail has brought the news that Colonel Slack, to whose death reference was made in last issue, was murdered. The *Clarion* of British Honduras gives the following account of the occurrence:—

"On Tuesday, January 25th, at about 2 p.m., Lieut.-Colonel Slack was leaving his office to go to lunch. One of his clerks told him that Johnston the barber wished to speak to him. It appears that the only others of the office staff in the building were Mr. Barker and the messenger-boy Sabido. Two men were paying money into the office, and Mr. Barker was writing a receipt. Colonel Slack apparently met Johnston near the front door on the verandah and told him that he would see him after lunch. Johnston asked for a moment's conversation and at once drew his revolver and shot Colonel Slack through both lungs and the heart, and he fell dead instantly. Mr. Barker left his desk and went to the front door, but Johnston, seeing him, pursued him and shot him through the heart, mortally wounding him, in one of the side rooms. Mr. Barker managed to get downstairs and, after saying "Go upstairs," fell at the entrance to Cuthbert's Hardware Department, groaning piteously, and died in a few minutes."

Johnston subsequently shot Police-constable Burgess, who fell mortally wounded. It appears that Johnston owed a debt which he refused to pay, and that a warrant for commitment to prison had been issued. This it was that made him vent his spite against Colonel Slack.

SIR NATHANIEL NATHAN.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Nathaniel Nathan, of St. James' Court, Buckingham Gate, London, which took place on February 18th.

Sir Nathaniel Nathan was called to the Bar as a member of the Inner Temple in 1866, and went the Midland circuit. He went out to Jamaica in 1888 as Resident Magistrate of St. Thomas, and was transferred to Kingston in 1890. In 1891-2 he acted as Judge of the Supreme Court, and in 1893 was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. On January 1st, 1898, he was appointed Attorney-General of the colony, a position which he continued to hold until his retirement in 1903. In 1900-01 he acted as Chief Justice for a while, and in 1903 he received the honour of knighthood.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

A NEW process for the preparation of commercial rubber from latex has been successfully tried in Malaya. According to the *Malaya Tribune*, the process consists of treating the rapidly-stirred latex in a tank with a mixture of benzine and methylated spirit, forced in at the bottom of the tank by a $1/32$ in. bore injector. The clot forms rapidly, and can soon be removed from the tank and creped. It is stated that a more resistant rubber is obtained in this way.

WRITING in the *Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist*, Mr. C. A. Retan strongly advocates the use of charcoal for the purpose of improving the structure and properties of the soil. When used in gardens, nursery beds, and in intensive cultivation, it offers, he says, the best physical condition for the growing crop, with a decrease of loss from fungoid attacks. The physical conditions are so improved that the air, heat and moisture coming to the crop is regulated in the most advantageous manner, while the subsoil beneath charcoal beds is of a better colour and better physical structure than soil from the surface of untreated beds.

THE *Journal of Agricultural Research* for January 24th contains an article on the banana as a host fruit for the Mediterranean fruit fly. The observations were conducted in Hawaii, and the conclusions arrived at are that since neither the Chinese banana, *Musa Cavendishii*, nor the Jamaica banana exported were found not to be infested by the fly, whilst other varieties were, the cause must lie in some special condition of these varieties. This condition is the tannin-laden peel of the green though mature fruit, the sap from which effectually destroys the eggs of the fly when punctured.

MR. W. S. HOPKINS, Secretary of the Conference of Chemists and Engineers, has stated that every ounce of cacao is potentially gunpowder of a most dangerous kind. He adds that the German chemists can extract from cacao approximately 50 per cent. of fat, and from this fat 10 per cent. of glycerine. From this glycerine can be manufactured nitro-glycerine. Every 100 tons of fat will yield 10 tons of glycerine, which in its turn will yield 25 tons of nitro-glycerine. In short, 200 tons of cacao will yield 25 tons of nitro-glycerine.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, the Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, left Jamaica for St. Lucia on February 10th.

THE *Port of Spain Gazette* reports the expected arrival of the *Teal*, the Colony's first local oil tanker. She is to be used for carrying oil from Port Fortin to the capital.

VARIOUS matters of considerable interest are dealt with in the Produce Markets' Summary, a feature of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR which, it will have been noted, has recently been considerably developed.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between John Howard Rapsey, second son of the late Mr. John Alfred Rapsey, and Ruth, eldest daughter of the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Deputy-Governor of Trinidad and Tobago.

A DISTINGUISHED member of the Combined Court of British Guiana was recently credited with the perpetration of a delightful Irish Bull. He referred to a certain action of the Government as "muzzling the ox that lays the golden egg." Curiously enough, nobody seemed to notice it.

MRS. MACDONALD, who, we regret to learn, died at the residence of her son, Dr. G. A. Macdonald, 94, Dora Road, Wimbleton, on February 8th, was the widow of Mr. Duncan Stewart Macdonald, a prominent planter and member of the Legislative Council of St. Vincent, who died in 1885.

MR. E. ALEXANDER DUFF, who died on February 22nd, was a Director of the Colonial Bank. Originally a member of the staff of the private banking firm of Barnetts, Hoares, Hanbrys and Lloyd, he became manager of the West End branch when it was taken over by Lloyds' Bank, of which he eventually became the General Manager.

THE Uba cane is a great favourite in Natal and Mozambique, on account of drought-resisting properties. The *Louisiana Planter* thinks that this cane originally came from Japan, as specimens of the cane which originally came from that country to Louisiana were forwarded through a South African firm to Natal many years back. It is probably the Japanese cane called *Lwinga*.

THE Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown, British Guiana, are contemplating the remodelling and improvement of the scavenging service of the city on modern lines, and towards that end have commissioned their former Town Superintendent, Mr. Luke M. Hill, to inspect and report upon the different types of electrically driven vehicles, now being employed for such purpose, in many cities and towns in England.

ALTHOUGH potash, *per se*, in the form of chloride or sulphate, is now unobtainable, there are still a few forms in which agriculturists can supply it

to the cultivation. One of the most useful is that of genuine Peruvian guano, which can still be obtained through the usual channels. In 1915, 26,720 tons of guano were imported, as against 25,548 tons in 1913, so that the War has had no particular effect on the quantity available.

THE King gave an audience to Sir Edward Merewether on February 22nd and invested him with the insignia of K.C.M.G. We are glad to learn from His Excellency that neither he, himself, nor Lady Merewether—who is a daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Braddell, C.M.G., Attorney-General of the Straits Settlements—are any the worse for their recent experiences in the *Appam*. Their chief complaint was of the weariness of the voyage, for they had no idea where their German captors were taking them to.

IN a letter published in the *Daily Mail* of February 14th, Mr. F. Stanley Clarke states that considerable quantities of sugar may be saved in the preparation of tarts, stewed fruits, etc., by neutralising the excessive acidity with a little bicarbonate of sodium instead of endeavouring to cover this with considerable quantities of sugar, which is the method usually adopted. He adds that if care is taken only to add the bicarbonate of sodium so long as brisk effervescence occurs, the result will be very satisfactory, both as regards taste and economy. This sounds medicinal, and does not appeal to us.

FORTY-ONE casks of concentrated lime juice were shipped from the Government Lime Juice Factory in St. Lucia up to December 1, and fifteen awaited shipment, making a total of 59 casks against a total output of 43 for last season. According to the *Agricultural News* some trouble was experienced in getting the peasants to come forward with their vouchers and receive the sums due to them. As the principle of profit-sharing becomes better known, this difficulty amongst the peasants should gradually disappear. It seems that there is a certain amount of suspicion that the bonus is in the nature of borrowed money, and will eventually have to be repaid to the Government! The parish priests have, however, been endeavouring to enlighten the people on this point. It may be added that the Lime Juice Factory has proved so successful financially that it is intended to institute an extension. This includes a large boiler and a Crossley oil engine.

THERE is a rumour—at present nothing more—that the United States are likely to make another bid to purchase the Danish West Indian Islands. In this connection it may be of interest to recall that in 1867 a proclamation was issued in St. Thomas announcing the early cession of the island to the United States, whose Senate, however, declined to ratify the bargain which had been provisionally arrived at. In 1901 negotiations for the purchase of the islands—that is to say, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix—were reopened, and the Danish Folkething voted for the transfer, but in 1903 the proposed sale was rejected by the Landsting by a tie vote.

THE LONDON LETTER.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Thomas Gordon Audley Miles, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Audley Miles, of 24, Norfolk Square, Hyde Park, and nephew of Colonel C. N. Miles, C.B., M.V.O., of Ingelbourne Manor, Malmesbury, and Lady Joan Margaret Montagu-Stuart-Wortley, youngest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Wharncliffe. Mr. Audley Miles was a director in the firm of Thomas Daniel and Company, a firm for many years prominently connected with Barbados.

* * *

LONDONERS have gone one better than the traditional West countryman who endeavoured to rake the reflection of the moon from a pond, believing it to be a green cheese, and thus earning the name of "moonrakers" for his fellows. A few days ago the writer saw quite a small crowd of cockneys outside the Mansion House gazing at those magnificent planets Jupiter and Venus in the belief that they were airships. The only excuse was that the War Office had announced earlier in the day that some of our anti-aircraft guns were to be fired for practice purposes.

VISCOUNT RIDLEY, who died at Newcastle-on-Tyne on February 15th, was for some years a member of the West India Committee. He succeeded Mr. C. Arthur Pearson as Chairman of the Executive of the Tariff Reform League in 1905, a position which he filled with energy and enthusiasm until 1913, when he was appointed President in succession to the late Duke of Sutherland. At Lord Ridley's town house in Carlton House Terrace—overlooking the Duke of York's steps—which is at present being used as a hospital for officers, the meetings of the Colonial Nursing Association have often been held.

* * *

It is known that six Colonial Rhodes' Scholars or ex-Scholars have lost their lives in the present war, among them being D. P. Stephenson, 1911 (Lincoln College), and K. W. Calder, 1912 (Corpus Christi), both of Jamaica. According to the statement for 1914-15 issued by the Rhodes Trust, up to the present 167 scholars and ex-scholars are known to have taken commissions or enlisted in the Imperial Army and its Colonial Contingents. Of these South Africa has contributed 53, Australia 43, Canada 42, Bermuda 8, Jamaica 8, Newfoundland 6, New Zealand 6, and the United States 1. No reference is made in the annual statement to the position of the German scholars.

* * *

LONDON'S County Councillors will have to wait for some little time longer before they will be able to emulate Members of Parliament and invite their friends and constituents to "tea on the terrace." Work on their great Hall, which is raising its stately form on the right bank of the Thames, nearly opposite the Palace of Westminster, has been entirely suspended as a measure of economy. For the same reason the London museums, with

one or two exceptions, are to be closed on and after March 1st. The saving effected by closing the museums will only amount to £50,000 a year, but this sum should be more than sufficient to defray the cost of the protection of our art treasures from aerial attack. In the case of the famous Parthenon frieze at the British Museum, this amounted to £3,900, while £1,900 only has been spent on Buckingham Palace.

* * *

THE *Spectator*, one of the most prominent—we can no longer say bigoted—of the Free Trade organs, is among the latest converts to the policy of a general tariff with a preference to the Colonies. In a noteworthy article published in its issue on February 12th, our contemporary not only gave it as its opinion that the time had come when the Government should impose a general tariff with the object of raising revenue and lowering freights, but even outlined the form which the tariff should take. Briefly it advocates a 10 per cent. ad valorem rate levied on all imports. "Next," it states, "we would in the case of *bona-fide* Imperial products give a rebate of 5 per cent., or rather reduce the tariff . . . to 5 per cent.

"As the tariff is to be imposed for revenue and to cut down tonnage, there would be nothing wrong *per se* in maintaining the 10 per cent. against all comers. We feel, however, most strongly that when we consider not only the gallantry with which the overseas Britons have fought for us, but also the generosity with which they are bearing a large part of our burdens, we must, if only by way of compliment and as a salute of gratitude to our own flesh and blood, give a special welcome at our ports to their goods."

* * *

WHEN the case for raising revenue by a general tariff has been admitted, as is now universally the case, our contemporary notes that "no Free Trader will raise objections to Colonial Preference as long as it is properly and wisely worked"; for every concession to the Colonies will be a concession to the Free Trade principle. Our ideal will not be merely to give preference to the Colonies by halving the tariff, but to trade, at any rate with them, absolutely freely." To the British West Indies, which since 1913 have given the same tariff preference to the mother country as it is giving to Canada, these will be words of comfort and encouragement.

* * *

IN a letter published by our contemporary a week later Lord Cromer expressed himself in general agreement with the *Spectator's* views, which, he declared, were in no way opposed to Free Trade principles. One of the main objections to preference to the Colonies was that it necessarily involved the imposition of a general tariff. Now that such a tariff has become necessary, this objection disappears.

"For the rest, in view of the staunch loyalty shown by the overseas Dominions of the Crown in the hour of our trial, it appears to me perfectly legitimate that political should be allowed to predominate over economic reasons to such an extent as to allow a preference for Indian and Colonial produce."

Lord Cromer, we believe, voices the feelings of the majority of Free Traders in this country. Even Manchester is coming round.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The West Indian mail arrangements show no improvement, and few letters are delivered which have been less than a month en route. The following notes are extracted from letters received from our Hon. Correspondents by occasional opportunities:

BARBADOS—The Export Duties Re-imposed.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., JANUARY 25th.—As the second half-company which we are raising for the West Indies Regiment cannot be sent home until after the winter, the men are being drilled here. At the inspection of the Volunteer Force by the Commandant of the Local Forces on the 20th inst., twenty-five men of the Service Company were on parade, and they acquitted themselves very creditably indeed, although they had only had three weeks' drilling.

There have been nice showers off and on during the month, and they have been of great benefit to the young crop, as it may be called now. Reaping is more general than it usually is at this time of the year. A good crop is expected, and prices are satisfactory. The House of Assembly have passed a Bill re-imposing the export duties on sugar and molasses for another year, the revenue to be devoted to War expenditure. A Bill to impose stamp duties is now being considered by the House.

The office of Parochial Treasurer of St. Michael, vacant by the death of Mr. Racker, has not yet been filled. A Bill dealing with the emoluments of the office is now before the Legislature, and it is not likely that anyone will be appointed until the Bill has been passed.

The election of members of the various vestries took place on the 3rd inst. There were very few changes, except in St. Michael, where a large number of new members were elected.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Col. Slack Murdered.

MR. G. E. GRAHAM, JANUARY 27th.—I have to report a very sad tragedy on the 25th inst., when Lieut.-Colonel Slack, Commanding Officer of the Volunteer Force, and head of the firm of Messrs. Woods, Slack & Franco, solicitors, was shot dead in his office, together with his clerk and a policeman who ran up the stairs to arrest the murderer, one Johnston, a hairdresser. It appears Johnston had a judgment out against him for debt, and Messrs. Woods, Slack & Franco had been instructed to take out a warrant for his arrest. The tragedy has caused deep feeling in the Colony. Colonel Slack had many friends, and his death will be severely felt, for he is an old resident, and took a great and keen interest in the affairs of the Colony, and was a most able Commanding Officer of the Volunteers. It has been largely due to his efforts that the British Honduras Contingent has been raised. He leaves a widow and five young children, who have the deep sympathy of the community in their sad and tragic loss. The following special order has been issued by His Excellency the Governor:—"The Governor and Commander-in-Chief announces with profound regret the death of Lieut.-Colonel Slack, the officer commanding the local military forces. Lieut.-Colonel Slack's death deprives the Colony, at the time when they are most needed, of the services of a very efficient officer, who for eighteen years has been associated with the Colony's defence force, and who during the past year has rendered unusual services to his country. The deepest sympathy of all classes in the Colony will be with the bereaved family."

The prohibition of logwood exports has been withdrawn. Personally I do not think it had the least effect on the Colony, for there has been no export except to the United Kingdom for several years past, and, even up to the time of the issue of the Proclamation, no inquiries had come from anywhere else.

The Belize Estate and Produce Co., Ltd., practically control the supply, and, except in one case, the Americans have not interested themselves in it, and in this case they entered into a contract with the Belize Estate and Produce Co. to deliver to them the whole of the sup-

plies they were able to obtain delivery of during the current year. The prohibition, therefore, did not seem to affect the Colony in any way, nor was any particular interest shown when it appeared. Since its withdrawal we have one or two enquiries from the United States, but their ideas of prices are certainly not in keeping with those of the United Kingdom. It would seem the whole interest of the United States lies in Jamaica, and I am of opinion that the prohibition of export from British Honduras should have been allowed to stand.

The industry has been at a low ebb for several years past, and it is a matter of time before it can be developed again. The labouring classes do not take kindly to the work, and there is considerable difficulty in obtaining sufficient men to complete the gangs. Much of the wood is found in swamps (that on the drier lands is scarce), and the work is both arduous and unhealthy compared with mahogany-cutting. In addition, the labour supply is short. Many labourers left the Colony last year when certain mahogany works were shut down, and it will be a long time before they return. Further, the shortage will be made greater by the active recruiting going on. Some 120 men have already left, another 100 are already ready, and every effort is being made to raise the number to 500 before the end of March, so you can realise the effect this is likely to have on industry in the Colony, which even in normal times has an extreme shortage of labour. Great efforts have been made to bring forward all possible supplies during the current year, but at the most I do not think the total will exceed 8,000 to 10,000 tons, and that even is very dependent on weather conditions. So far the season has been abnormally wet.

The great drawback is uncertainty of freight. People hesitate to operate, not knowing when there may be an opportunity for shipping or what the freight charges may be. Also, there is not the capital available to accumulate large supplies which may be left on hand for months, and, further, there is a chance of a sudden drop in prices the moment the War ends.

No steamer has taken any of the Colony's produce home since last August until the 14th inst., when the *Gonsec* arrived, and left on the 25th with 1,600 tons logwood, leaving 800 tons on the wharves at Belize, as she was under contract to take a further 1,000 tons logwood from Jamaica. We do not think the Colony has been at all fairly treated on this matter, for Jamaica has had far more opportunities for shipping, and, further, has the exporting facilities to America.

The price of logwood has risen considerably here, and is now nearly double that of last year and the previous year.

JAMAICA—The State of the War Funds.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during December was seasonable but hot; the total rainfall was .056 inch.

It is generally understood that the Legislative Council will assemble on February 17th. Major J. R. Boose, Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, who arrived from England on the 14th, received a most cordial welcome everywhere.

Colonel Gruchy, the Vice-Principal of Mico College, has resigned owing to failing health. The Hon. J. R. Williams, Director of Education, who has been in poor health for some time, has tendered his resignation, and will retire shortly. Mr. C. C. Anderson, the Island Treasurer, has returned from England and resumed his duties. Dr. Frank Saunders, who has been abroad for some months, has returned and resumed his practice.

Mr. J. Tapley has resigned the Secretaryship of Messrs. Nathan & Co. in Jamaica, and will take over the accountant's business hitherto managed by Mr. Cunha, who died on the 22nd.

The 23rd annual meeting of the Jamaica Telephone Co., Ltd., was held on the 13th. The net revenue for the year was £1,706 16s. 7d., and a dividend of 2/6 per share was declared. The Company has been granted a licence for a period of ten years by the Government, and the Directors will now be in a position to take up the question of improving the service.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Amity Hall Sugar Factory was held on the 17th. The net profit of the Company for the year was £564 17s. 8½d. The crop this year is expected to prove the largest taken off this estate for years.

The revenue of the Jamaica Government Railway for the month of November shows a falling-off of £2,843 as compared with the same month last year. The main decrease was under the head of bananas and coffee.

The following is a full list of the War Funds, etc., started in the island since the beginning of the War:—

Jamaica Government gift of sugar	£50,000	0	0
Jamaica Relief War Fund	9,193	6	0
Give a Cigar Fund	346	7	4
Central War Fund	11,950	9	3
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	7,835	15	10
Women's Fund and their Flag Day for Jamaica War Contingent	2,129	3	3
Trafalgar Day Fund	358	13	5
British Red Cross Fund	2,183	13	6
Palace War Fund	3,9	8	8
Serbian Fund	12	8	6
Montenegrin Fund	12	8	6
Belgian Orphans' Fund	74	8	10
Miss Doney's Fund	407	6	7
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	4,205	5	4
Contingent Recreation Room Fund	426	11	3
Contingent Prayer Book Fund	34	0	10
Polish Jews Fund	1,251	10	0
Contingent Christmas Dinner Fund	230	0	5
Contingent New Testament Fund	24	13	6
	£91,005	11	0

Of the above funds, the Jamaica Relief War Fund and the "Give a Cigar Fund" are now closed.

TOBAGO The Urgent need for Doctors.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, JANUARY 28th.—Our exports for the past year were valued at £73,886, as against £60,583 for 1914 and £60,095 for 1913. The increase is mainly in cacao, copra and vegetables. It comprises animals, £9,738; cacao, £36,647; cotton and cotton seed, £20; eggs, £166; vegetables, £9,693; fresh fruit, £672; coco-nuts, copra and coco-nut oil, £12,691; hides, £137; bay oil, £25; spices, £30; sugar, £294; tobacco, £2,541; turtle and turtleshell, £358; native lumber, £869. The island is on the high road to prosperity. Our immediate requirements to place us more firmly forward are few, i.e., a fourth doctor, six subsidised dispensaries, and replacing us on the itinerary of the Canadian steamers on their way from Grenada to Trinidad and vice-versa, as before. This will give us the much desired direct communication with Grenada and Barbados, whence we get an excellent class of settlers, and were it found feasible to include St. Vincent, as formerly, it would result most favourably for us and them, as previous experience proves. The week-end connection with Port of Spain will greatly facilitate trade, which is handicapped by only a weekly departure both ways. To lift Tobago out of its present isolated position presents no difficulty whatever, and the immediate gain will be apparent in the improved prosperity of the island in various ways. An hour's stay of the steamer at Scarborough will be sufficient. We are now accustomed to receive and dispatch oversea mails weekly, which is a distinct improvement on past methods; the only drawback is the long delay at Port of Spain when the mails arrive there after the departure of the once-a-week coastal steamer. As an instance, the mails per *Sylvanian* took four days to reach us, the *Dees* two days; but more frequently than not, seven days to travel the 80 miles from Port of Spain to Scarborough once the *Barima* is missed. Making us a link in the chain of ports of call by the Canadian steamers will do away at once with the vexatious delay. The weather is tip-top for this part of the island, but I am afraid the moisture consequent on the frequent showers is rather trying to the cacao plantations in the rich highlands of the Windward district. The following table is interesting and significant:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1913	808	971	119
1914	844	485	131
1915	865	418	114

TRINIDAD—Two Valuable Reports.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JANUARY 22nd.—Everyone was glad to learn of the safe arrival and good health of the second draft of the Merchants' Contingent, and gratified at the special notice taken of the men by the Lord Mayor.

The Horticultural Club, which numbers over 200 enthusiastic members, held a Flower and Fruit Exhibition

in the grounds surrounding the house in the Botanic Gardens now occupied by the Assistant Director of Agriculture and Government Botanist, Mr. W. G. Freeman, on the 15th inst. There was a beautiful show of flowering and foliage plants, fruit, and vegetables. No more charming site for the purpose could be selected. Tents and marquees containing the exhibits were dotted here and there on the spacious lawns, whilst the inner man was not altogether forgotten in the way of refreshments, so that everything tended to a delightful afternoon which was passed notwithstanding that it was ushered in by very unfavourable weather. Additional interest was added by the proximity of the Nursery, recalling the names of Kruger, Presto, and Hart, who had all in turn resided on the spot and given a life's labour of love to their work. I had not seen the Nursery for some years, and could not fail to be struck with the improvements effected under the present able management. No tourist should omit a visit.

The same afternoon the annual Fire Brigade Competition took place on the Savannah, when teams from Port of Spain, San Fernando, and Arima competed. Excellent work was, as usual, shown; indeed, of all the efficient bodies of which Trinidad can boast, there is perhaps hardly one that equals the Fire Brigades.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society a letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that the Society's representation with regard to fixing a scale for farmers' cases would receive the very careful attention of the Government. Since then it is understood that a meeting summoned by the Government has been held, which was attended by most of the leading proprietors and factory owners. The result is not known, but one thing seems certain—that in the interests of both planters and farmers some arrangement will have to be come to so as to avert the constantly recurring differences which cannot but be hurtful to all concerned. At the same meeting of the Society Mr. Freeman gave a most interesting account of the important budding and grafting experiments that are being carried out at the St. Augustine and River Estates by the Department of Agriculture.

The annual carefully-drawn report of the Registrar-General has appeared, and contains the usual but necessary references to unsatisfactory as well as satisfactory features in regard to the population. Illegitimate births, to our shame be it said, averaged 70 per cent., of which the general population was responsible for 8,332 and the East Indian for 3,886. In justice to the latter it should be said that by a continued and regrettable indifference to the manners and customs of these valuable people, the authorities continue to class as illegitimate the large numbers of the children of those who prefer to marry according to their own rites and belief, and omit the registration, which to their mind, and as a matter of fact, does not affect the tie or the obligation of married life among them. On the satisfactory side we find that during the year fourteen persons lived to 100 years and over. The death rate was 22.53 for the whole colony, but from this has to be discounted the continued discredit of the high percentage of infant mortality, amounting to 111.20 per 1,000.

Another valuable report is that of the Surgeon-General for the year ending 31st March, 1915. The net cost of medical services for the year was £72,038, representing 4/0³ per head of population. The daily average in the hospitals was 2,093, and the number of paupers, etc., attended 44,841. Dr. Clare is of opinion that if the former standard and prestige of the medical service are to be maintained, it will be necessary to revise the present conditions, formulated when colonial appointments held our greater attractions to the young practitioner at home than they do now. The present initial rate of pay, he considers, is quite inadequate to tempt suitable candidates to forego the advantages and amenities of life in the British Islands for the comparative isolation and other drawbacks of residence in the tropics. The report is a most illuminating one, embracing a complete review of the various diseases prevalent, with their causes, and instructive suggestions for their amelioration, and is a further record of the splendid work accomplished under difficult conditions by the Department. A marked feature is a reference to the success of the International Health Commission in connection with Ankylostomiasis (Rockefeller Foundation), to which Dr. Clare pays a grateful tribute of thanks.

TURKS ISLANDS—6/- per head for War Funds.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., LTD., DECEMBER, 1915.—Business generally has been exceptionally quiet. With the unusual number of labourers away, 60 being on contract at La Romana, and three gangs on ships of the Clyde Line, few have been idle. Salt has been raked during the month at both Salt Cay and East Harbour from deep-water pans. At Grand Turk practically nothing is doing in the salt business with the exception of shipment of a small cargo of fishery salt occasionally. With the opening of the New Year, should the weather prove favourable, the proprietors will start cleaning their ponds for the coming season.

Consignments of Conch shells and canned lobster were shipped to the United States by the Caicos Development Company during the month. Work is still in operation on the fibre plantation at Grand Turk.

The telephone system is working well and giving satisfaction. During the year the Dependency contributed £1,000 to War funds, and have just contributed a motor-ambulance at a cost of £500. Besides which private subscriptions to the amount of £250 have been subscribed for various relief funds. This works out at about 6/- per capita for our entire population. It is to be regretted that men could not have been sent from here to help swell the Jamaica Contingent.

AT WESTMINSTER.**Imported Cocoa Preparations.**

Replying to Mr. Butcher on February 17th, Mr. Ruttiman gave, in a written answer, the following statement showing the quantity and value of "preparations of cocoa" consigned from Switzerland into the United Kingdom during the period of six months ended 30th June in each of the years 1913-14-15:

	Quantity, Cwts.	Value, £
January to June, 1913	11,512	341,019
" " 1914	52,355	434,703
" " 1915	96,594	817,564

In a verbal reply to the same member, Mr. Preyman said that he was aware that some, at least, of the chocolate imported from Switzerland contained sugar of enemy origin, but it was the practice to allow the importation of goods for our own use manufactured in neutral countries from materials which were partly of enemy origin, provided that the proportion of value due to such materials did not exceed 25 per cent. He had had inquiries made, which showed that this proportion was not, in fact, exceeded in the case in question, and he was not prepared at present to prohibit the importation of Swiss chocolate and cocoa preparations. These preparations were, of course, already dutiable, and the hon. and learned Gentleman would not expect him to make a premature announcement as to any possible increases in Customs duties which might or might not be in contemplation.

Mr. Butcher then asked if there was any reason why we should permit the import into this country of foreign-made luxuries, such as chocolate. Mr. Preyman, who replied, said there was only a small proportion, under 25 per cent., of this chocolate which was of foreign enemy origin, and that was the rule which applied to these cases.

Brewing Sugar.

On February 17th Mr. Whitehouse asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the brewing trade was able to purchase from the Sugar Commission all the sugar it required for the purpose of brewing.

Mr. McKenna, in reply, said that the answer was in the negative. The Commission did not control the importation of, or deal in, the class of sugar generally used in connection with the brewing industry.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. The New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 97½, the Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 88½. Consols stand at 58½.

SUGAR. We announced in our last Summary that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had issued a notice stating that, on account of freight difficulties, the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom would have to be restricted, and impressing upon the public the necessity for economy in its use. The immediate effect of this notice was to cause a rush on the part of the public to acquire what sugar it could at existing prices. As the sale price of Government sugar is restricted, no increase took place in the value of sugar generally, but the effect on the sale of West Indian crystallised was at once marked. For some time past, as supplies of sugar became less, and the stocks of sugar generally attenuated alarmingly, there had been a steady rise in the price of this sugar, high-class varieties selling on the 8th inst. at 38 5. On the 9th the notice referred to above was published, and at auction sales on the 11th a top value of 50/- was reached, with a corresponding rise in the price of syrups. The cause of this phenomenal rise was the competition of the sugar-using trades, notably the confectioners, who came into this market as the result of the notice of the Royal Commission. On the 16th a further Government notice was issued, stating that no increase in the price of official sugar was contemplated, but that consumption was going to be restricted to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent. This means a diminution in consumption to the amount of 450,000 tons per annum, and this quantity of sugar liberated for the use of the outside world will have a considerable effect upon the world's prices in the direction of lowering prices.

The sharp rise in the price of sugars imported privately by licence from the Government at once attracted the attention of the Sugar Commission, and further sales were suspended pending negotiations. The West India Committee promptly placed themselves in communication with the Royal Commission, and as the result of several meetings an arrangement will probably be arrived at very shortly.

The curious part of the official position towards sugar is that it is looked upon as being a luxury instead of a necessity. Sugar is a valuable food product, and there is not the slightest doubt that the demand for sugar is essentially physiological. It stands in an absolutely different position from tobacco or alcohol, which are substantially drugs, and in considering the question of food imports generally, due allowance should be made for the food value of sugar.

Fortunately, the greater part of the money paid for sugar goes into the hands of foreigners. Last year the value of the sugar imported was £51,832,944. Of this, only £5,180,158 went to British producers. This did not represent the entire consumption, as there were nearly 350,000 tons more sugar in hand at the commencement than at the end of the year. It is, therefore, not too much to say that for our last year's sugar over £30,000,000 was paid to foreign countries, which might have been kept in the Empire had the Government adopted a preferential treatment for British sugar when the sugar tax was re-imposed in 1901.

New figures are now supplied by Messrs. Willett and Gray for the 1915-16 Continental beet crop. Germany is credited with 1,720,000 tons, as against 2,500,000 tons in 1914-15, and 2,720,000 tons in 1913-14. The shortage in Austria also is considerable, only 1,101,400 tons being secured, as against 1,602,315 tons and 1,703,000 tons for 1914-15 and 1913-14 respectively. The French crop, which realised 805,000 tons in 1913-14, and which had sunk to 150,000 tons in 1914-15, has experienced a further drop to 150,000 tons. The Belgian crop, which was 219,048 tons in 1913-14, and 204,697 tons in 1914-15, is now 120,000 tons. Holland is also short as compared with last year's crop, turning out 240,000 tons, as against 302,455 tons, but is still a shade above the 230,000 tons of 1913-14. Russia's big 1914-15 crop of 1,967,336 tons is reduced to 1,581,452 tons, which is less than the 1913-14 crop by 103,000 tons. The other countries in Europe account for 663,650 tons, as against 678,008 tons in 1914-15 and 709,243 tons in

1913-14. The total European crop, excluding Great Britain, is estimated at 5,489,592 tons, as against 7,557,775 tons in 1914-15 and 8,179,013 tons in 1913-14.

A feature of the fortnight has been the large buyings of granulated and cubes in New York for the European market. The supplies of white Javas are practically exhausted, Holland is supplying fewer cubes than last year, but little of the Mauritius sugar is suitable for direct consumption, and the United Kingdom, in the absence of sufficient refining capacity, is practically dependent at the present moment on the United States for sugar to make up her refining deficiencies.

At a Council Meeting of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, held on the 22nd inst., it was unanimously resolved that the attention of the Government should be drawn to the advisability of stopping the imports of hops, which occupy excessive space in shipment, and of substituting sugar, so as to enable the public to make full use of rhubarb and fruit crops.

The Cuban crop is progressing satisfactorily, although Mr. Himely's figures for the output up to the 31st January showed only 23,000 tons in excess of that to the corresponding date in 1914. The crop was, however, nearly 200,000 tons in advance of last year's figures. The last week's figures recorded were 135,653 tons, as against 90,154 tons and 94,064 tons for the corresponding periods in 1915 and 1914 respectively. These show a great increase in producing power.

It is reported that labour strikes in Porto Rico have considerably interfered with the progress of the crop in that island.

The imports of sugar into India for the eight months ending December 31st, 1915, amounted to 362,390 tons, as against 294,795 tons for the corresponding period in 1914. This is at the rate of 550,000 tons per annum, and is still considerably below the 800,000 tons imports of 1913.

A new proposal is on foot as regards the Cantley beet sugar factory in Norfolk. According to "East Anglia," in the *International Sugar Journal*, at an extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Netherland Sugar Corporation, to which the Cantley factory belongs, resolutions were passed approving the sale of shares of the Algemeene Suikermaatschappij held by the Corporation, the purchase and cancellation of a large proportion of the debentures, and the formation of a new Company. The proposed capital of the new Company, which will take over and work the Cantley factory, is £100,000 in ordinary shares and £40,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares. In addition there will be a debenture issue of £90,000 bearing 5 per cent. interest with profit-sharing privileges. These debentures are guaranteed by Messrs. Marx and Co., the bankers, of Rotterdam, and are secured by the factory plant, stocks and stores. The purchase price of the factory will be £100,000. Is there no British capitalist to bring the concern into British hands?

In this connection it is interesting to note a considerable reduction in Dutch sugar production, the beet growers finding it more profitable, even at the high price of sugar, to grow wheat and other foodstuffs.

Reuter states that the export of sugar from the Argentine has been prohibited. The 1915-16 crop is very short, and probably the Argentine Government is anxious to keep a sufficiency of sugar in the country for its wants.

In the London market on the 11th, 400 tons of grocery crystallised were offered and sold at extreme prices. 2,504 bags Demerara fetched from 44/- to 47/3; 521 bags Trinidad from 48/- to 50/-; and 500 bags Surinam 44/3. 355 bags Demerara syrups sold at 40/- to 42/-. Auction sales have been suspended pending the settlement of negotiations between the Sugar Commission and the West India Committee.

The West Indian sugar statistics for the period 1st January to 12th February are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	4,372	4,240	3,888	5,332	2,525 Tons.
Deliveries	7,093	5,043	4,143	3,943	4,567 ..
Stock (Feb 12)	8,389	5,206	12,351	3,228	2,448 ..

The New York market has strengthened since the date of 1st January, the value of 96° duty-paid landed sugars rising from \$4.83 to \$5.08 on the 17th inst. Since then the market has weakened, and these sugars may now be valued at \$4.00. In sympathy, and as the result of large buyings for Europe, granulated has advanced to \$6.15.

It is interesting to note that in the last week in January Norway purchased 35,000 tons of American granulated in New York.

RUM. Proof kinds remain steady, both on spot and to arrive. Any Demerara which can be taken out of bond before the 16th of May has sold at full rates. Values, 4/- to 4/3 per proof gallon. Jamaica is steady, with fair demand at late rates. Values, common to fair, 5/3 to 6/- per gallon.

The stocks in London on February 12th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	5,840	5,257	5,698	6,466	7,878 Puns.
Demerara ...	5,343	5,741	9,262	7,520	7,528 ..
Total, all kinds ...	21,791	17,017	21,621	21,900	23,612 ..

CACAO. At auction sales on the 15th, the large supply of 15,907 bags were offered, of which 10,250 bags were British West Indian. The demand was good, and values generally dearer. The Trinidad lot was bought in, with the exception of 101 bags, which changed hands at 88/-. Grenada met with good competition, and 4,852 bags out of 5,158 bags were sold at 1/- advance for fine quality. The prices realised were 79/6 to 85/6. Out of 460 bags Dominica, 420 bags sold at 75/- to 85/-, an advance of 1/- for best quality. 1,866 bags of St. Lucia were offered, of which 1,593 sold at 79/6 to 85/6, and advance of 1/- being also recorded for fine. Of 354 bags Jamaica, 151 sold at 78/- to 79/-; 87 out of 99 bags St. Vincent were sold at 80/- to 83/-. No further auction sales have taken place during the fortnight, and the market is quiet.

The stocks in London on February 12th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	7,744	6,238	7,291	3,079	4,806 Bags.
Grenada ...	9,149	5,086	4,962	3,087	10,319 ..
Total, all kinds	102,180	57,429	82,087	68,735	108,050 ..

COTTON. The market for American has been, on the whole, weak, although some recovery has taken place. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that the only business in West Indian Sea Island cotton has been confined to about ten bales, which includes odd bags of St. Vincent at 17d. to 27d., and stains at 12d. There is practically no stock, otherwise a considerable business would ensue.

The imports of West Indian cotton for the year to the 17th inst. amounted to 90 bales.

COPRA. After a period of dullness, more enquiry set in, and the market is now firm. West Indian is quoted at £37 to £37 10s. per ton.

COCO-NUT OIL. Market remains steady, and prices may be quoted at 59/- to 60/- for Ceylon, and 60/- to 61/- for Cochbin.

SPICES. Nutmegs: With strong demand and small supplies, prices have increased 3d. to 2d. per lb. 100/80's are now quoted at 8d. to 11d.; 120/100's and 140/120's, 7½d. to 8d. Mace is steady at last quotation. Values, good to fine, 2/- to 2/6; red to good, 1/7 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/3 to 1/6; broken, 6½d. to 1/2.

Ginger: Stocks in the hands of importers are now practically finished. The present spot values of Jamaica are 75/- for Rhatoon, 80/- for ordinary small, and 85/- to 90/- for middling to bold.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed dearer, with sales up to 8/- per lb. Distilled again dearer, and business has resulted from 7/6 to 8/- per lb. Lime Juice Raw, quiet but steady; nominal quotation 3/- to 3/6 per gallon. Concentrated unchanged; no business to report. Citrate of Lime: No sales to report.

RUBBER. The market for plantation has slightly improved. Fine plantation is now quoted at 3/5½, smoked sheet at 3/4½. Para has been dull, with lower prices. Fine hard is quoted at 3/1½, and soft at 2/11.

BALATA. The market is generally firm. A considerable business has been done recently in block Venezuela up to 2/2 c.i.f., sellers now asking 2/2½ c.i.f. Panama shows an advance of 3d. to 4d., sales having been made at 2/- landed. West India Sheet is also firm, with buyers at 2/9 landed; sellers are asking 2/10 to 2/11 landed terms.

PETROLEUM OIL. American, 10d.; water white, 11d.
February 23rd, 1916.

West India Committee Circular.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 1916.

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March 8th, 1916.

THE SEA DEFENCES OF BRITISH GUIANA.

MR. J. J. NUNAN, the Attorney-General of British Guiana, is to be congratulated upon the ability and characteristic energy which he brought to bear upon the proceedings of the Commission appointed to investigate the sea defences of the Colony. The comprehensive report of that body which was summarised in last issue of the CIRCULAR, bears ample evidence of the painstaking and thorough manner in which the enquiry was conducted, and it should be the aim of all classes of the community of British Guiana to see that the very practical recommendations which it contains are carried out without unnecessary delay. The Commission performed its task with commendable speed, and its labours were no doubt expedited by some fresh breaches of the sea dams on the East Coast of a serious nature which were made whilst the Commissioners were actually sitting, and served as a reminder that the matter under consideration was urgent. The report, besides containing many technical and financial recommendations having for their object the settlement of the troublesome sea defence question for many a long day to come, furnishes an interesting summary of the history of the subject. Whilst this is for the most part perfectly accurate, we may be pardoned, perhaps, for calling attention to one slip. In reference to BARON SICCAMA's report of 1907, it is explained that this gentleman was brought out from Holland as a hydraulic engineer to report, primarily, on water supply, and that afterwards, he was incidentally asked to report on sea defences. As a matter of fact it was rather the other way

about; the Baron was, if our memory serves us aright, primarily commissioned to report on the sea defences of the Colony, the deepening of the Demerara Bar, the improving of the approaches to the harbour, and the water supply of the East Coast and the city of Georgetown, which at that time was the subject of much discussion in view of the rival schemes which had been submitted by MR. WILLIAM RUSSELL and MR. ROBERT SMITH. It was later that BARON SICCAMA was requested to report on the drainage of Georgetown, and the establishment of irrigation and drainage polders along the coasts of the Colony. On all these subjects he submitted to the Government a series of most elaborate and valuable reports, which were supplemented at a later date after his visit to British Honduras and the levees at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Most of these reports, though fully appreciated at the time, were, we fear, "pigeon-holed," and to some extent forgotten or lost sight of, a generation having in the meantime arisen who, apparently, "knew not Joseph," until the recent Commission, in a measure, re-discovered at least one of them. It is within our knowledge that BARON SICCAMA took infinite and painstaking care in course of his investigations to ascertain the nature, course and velocity of river and coastal currents, as affecting the question of sea defences and the other subjects he was dealing with. He subsequently filled the position of Colonial Civil Engineer, or Director of Public Works as the officer was afterwards named; and he carried out certain works, including the completion of the Georgetown sea wall as far as the Kitty corner. We mention this in the interest of historical accuracy, and because we have felt that BARON SICCAMA's schemes never received the attention which they deserved. Coming to the report now before us, it will have been noted that the Commissioners make a sweeping charge against the Public Works Department for neglect in keeping records, and in not carrying out any properly defined scheme of sea defence since BARON SICCAMA's time, each succeeding "chief" having been apparently a law unto himself, and distinguishing his *regime* by nothing more tangible than an increase of expenditure. From this serious indictment the Commissioners are, however, careful to exclude MR. E. C. BUCK, the present Director of Public Works, himself a member of the accusing body who has yet to be tried. Amongst the recommendations made by the Commissioners is the establishment of a separate Department of Sea Defences, under the control of MR. E. C. BUCK, who they think should be "seconded" for the purpose, pending the appointment of a permanent head, who, it is proposed, should be a special expert with practical training in Holland or the United States. The Governor has already given effect to this recommendation by provisionally appointing MR. BUCK for one year at a

salary of £1,200. The only fear now is that there will be some difficulty in procuring the services of a qualified expert from Holland at the present time, where the serious condition of the sea defences, through the bursting of the dykes on the Zuyder Zee and other portions of the north-west coast, are engaging the attention of all the available hydraulic engineering talent of that country. The Commissioners, very wisely, we consider, have apparently abandoned the proposed timber and "putta-putta" scheme in favour of an experimental section of more permanent character, consisting of 1,000 feet of reinforced concrete wall and apron to be constructed at Lusignan, on the East Coast, and 600 feet of apron at Leonora, on the West Coast. The financial aspect of the report was fully set forth in the abstract published in last CIRCULAR, embracing a proposed loan of nearly a million dollars, and an increase of from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in the annual contribution of the city of Georgetown in respect to the protection afforded by the sea wall and other adjacent works. This has already been agreed to by the Mayor and Town Council. In conclusion, we may express a hope that the inauguration of a new policy of sea defence for the entire colony, under charge of a responsible special department of the Government, will be followed by a full measure of success. Hitherto there has been an absence of the necessary cohesion amongst the people most interested, and a lack of uniformity and continuity in the carrying out of any properly recognised scheme of work. There has also been a somewhat cowardly tendency to retire to the first line of defence rather than fight against the advance of the sea by permanent works, such as has been practically and successfully demonstrated by the construction of the Georgetown sea wall.

AGRICULTURE IN ANTIGUA.

AT the recent Annual Meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua, MR. A. P. COWLEY, the Chairman of the Society and our Hon. Correspondent, read an interesting report in connection with the agriculture of the island in 1915. Prominent among the important subjects dealt with was that of prædial larceny, or the theft of the growing crops, that thorn in the side of successful agriculture in the West Indies. The theft of growing provisions, the robbing of the work of the industrious agriculturist just as his labour is about to reap its reward, is a standing difficulty in the way of peasant and even larger forms of agriculture. In British Guiana, Trinidad, and elsewhere in the West Indies, legislation provides for severe penalties on the prædial larcenist, but it has failed to put a stop to this form of crime, and it cannot as yet be said that the punishment fits the crime. Mr. COWLEY refers to the recommendations of the Committee appointed for the purpose of dealing with the question in 1914. These included the establishment of more police stations and the holding of more magistrates' courts, while the compounding of offenders by estates managers, who too often refrain from prosecuting thieves, so as to save themselves trouble, was deprecated. In the latter

connection, MR. COWLEY considers that the planters are much to blame, and lays the greatest stress upon the necessity of reporting all cases to the police. As an instance of the evil effect of this especially pernicious form of crime, the failure of vanilla cultivation in Mauritius may be cited. The increase of vanilla production was advocated in that colony as a remunerative industry, involving large returns from a small acreage, but efforts in this direction have been crippled by the prevalence of prædial larceny. As elsewhere in the West Indies, the subject of maize growing has received considerable attention in Antigua. The granary initiated by SIR H. HESKETH BELL for the kiln-drying of the maize has not yet had time to demonstrate whether successful results or otherwise are to be obtained from it, but MR. COWLEY recognises the fact that it has greatly increased the local knowledge of corn markets, though he considers that it is not until maize is grown and shipped as estates produce that its value will be shown. While he advocates strongly the growing of maize in the island, he gives a word of warning as to the necessity for carefully watching the crops for disease. Another matter dealt with in the report was the deplorable condition of the roads of the island, a subject which was also raised by MR. H. D. SPOONER at the meeting of the West India Committee attended by SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER, the new Governor of the Leeward Islands, on March 2nd, and MR. COWLEY states emphatically that it is not the fault of the Committee of the Society formed to report on the matter that it remains where it does. The cotton industry, as might be expected from the uncertainty as to price and the long time elapsing before valuation, sale, and remittance of proceeds, is not spoken of as being in a particularly satisfactory condition, but MR. COWLEY is much averse from this industry being abandoned. "It has," he says, "helped us in the past, and will do so again." Antigua is to be congratulated upon its Onion Growing Association. It has proved a great success, and MR. COWLEY was able to place on record the fact that last year the first consignment of onions ever sold in Antigua by cable in advance was shipped. One of the great advantages of the system pursued by the Association is that the small growers are as well assured of fair treatment and prices for their produce as the larger proprietors are. As regards sugar, MR. COWLEY wishes it to be clearly understood that although prices for produce have been high, the cane grower, who suffered from the short crop, was "not the millionaire that some people in authority thought he was." We make this brief reference to MR. COWLEY'S speech in order to indicate what a wide field of local affairs the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society covers, and what a useful position it fills in the community under its present able management.

It is hoped that members of the West India Committee will help to strengthen that body 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 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 Press Censor for publication.

The Battle of Verdun.

The Battle of Verdun is proving the most violent battle of the War since the second battle of Ypres. It raged desperately for five days, slackened, and then began again with renewed intensity. Since the early days of the year the enemy has been making his preparations for breaking the French line at this salient under cover of small offensives at widely-separated points, and it may be that the operations at Verdun may themselves be designed to cover greater to come somewhere else. The attack opened on a front of 25 miles, taking the form of a huge concentration of artillery followed by infantry attacks on a large scale. For this purpose great siege guns, as well as large bodies of troops, were brought from the Eastern front and from Serbia. But, so far, the enemy has not attained his objective, though he carried positions to a depth of from three to four miles, which is a record in the West. Out of their varied experience since the War began the Germans must, therefore, have evolved some means of maintaining control over the progress of protracted operations on the great scale with which the present war has familiarised us, and, up to a certain point, they succeeded. But the maze of trenches at Verdun was too vast for the complete co-ordination of the action. The further the Germans advanced the more they dispersed themselves and lost touch with the directing brains.

Though at least seven army corps were employed, the forces were not large enough for their task. Otherwise the French, whose front was restricted, must have been driven back. As it was they were able to withdraw from their advanced positions with ease in the night. For the same reason the Germans instead of delivering attacks on the centre and on the right and left wings simultaneously delivered them in succession. They are now concentrating their efforts at Douaumont to the north-east of Verdun, and along the Woivre plain to the hills. The desperate attempts of the enemy to carry the village of Douaumont have been renewed several times. In one of them hundreds of the famous 3rd Brandenburgers succeeded in getting into the fort only to be surrounded by the French. The great outstanding feature of the battle is that the Germans, in spite of the material means at their disposal, and the determination of their troops, which

in many places advanced waist-deep in mud, have not succeeded in breaking the French line.

A British Success.

The position known as the "International," to the south-east of Ypres, has once more changed hands. It was captured by the Germans last month, and they have held it ever since. Now it is ours once more. In addition British troops have captured a small salient in the original British line.

The War in the Middle East.

The combined naval and military operations in Armenia have rendered the position of the Turks untenable, and it is said that they are evacuating Trebizond, their chief port on the Black Sea. It is at least significant that the Grand Duke has arrived from Tiflis at Erzeroum, which, if Trebizond is available as a supply base, would make an excellent headquarters for the Russians. Part of the force, which crossed the route north of Bashkala, traversing the wild country where Russia, Turkey and Persia meet, apparently joined the main army which took Erzeroum, and is now advancing on Trebizond so as to secure the line of communication between the two centres. To the south of Erzeroum the Russians occupy Mush, and Cossack cavalry are already in Bitlis, which will soon be in their hands. Ninety-five miles distant is Nisibin, which is supposed to be the terminus of the Baghdad Railway. But it may well be advanced towards Mosul.

The effect of the Russian success in Armenia has been felt to the advantage of the Allies all along the different fronts, since in reality they are all one. The Turks have their hands so full that they can think neither of Egypt or the Balkans. With the fall of Erzeroum Germany lost at a single blow the use of the seven Turkish armies, which instead of furthering the plans of the Central Powers either in Macedonia or Thrace, are required to save the Ottoman Empire in Asia Minor. For the Turks in Mesopotamia are not likely to be heartened by the disasters in Armenia. What they have to consider is not only the British Expeditionary Force holding its ground at Kut, but the advance of the Russians from Kermanshah. Then on the north are two columns, one of which was last reported at Vasan, on Lake Van, the other at Lake Uruma. They should soon be able to come into action, and when they do there should be some striking developments.

The advance of the Russians has been so remarkable since they broke the enemy's lines in the Caucasus that there is no telling what they may achieve. It is, however, possible that when they reach Diarbekir, that the Turks, rendered desperate, may make a strong stand in the Karajah Dag, a rugged chain, which runs south and west of Diarbekir. But should they again collapse the Turkish armies operating beyond Angora will be in a critical position.

The New Situation.

It has now been demonstrated that the best defence of Suez was to remain at Salonika, and with the victory of Erzeroum, the object of the British army in Egypt has disappeared. It is true that Djemal Pasha's army is still in Syria and that the Turks

can bring up reinforcements from Constantinople. But can they turn the tide of ill-fortune with the Russians and British operating against them? Even their powers of defence may not prove equal to a task which is every day becoming more strategically difficult.

Affairs in Persia

After the defeat of the Turco-German forces at Hamadan, the advance of the Russians lay through rugged country. Moreover, enemy engineers fortified two passes, one of them considered impregnable. But both were stormed and captured by the indomitable Russians, who have continued their victorious progress to Kermanshah, the last German stronghold in Persia, which is now in their hands. They are thus brought to a point about 150 miles distant from the British at Kut. Kermanshah is enthroned in the mountains. But the Russians should be able to make their way along the valley of the Karkhar for forty miles, when they will find that the river bends, thereafter skirting the mountains until it crosses the plain which lies between Kermanshah and the last range separating the Russians from the valley of the Tigris. Therefore on the east and the west two of their armies are converging on Baghdad.

In the Italian Theatre.

Wintry conditions prevent any marked activity being developed in this region, although the Austrians still continue their efforts to shake the Italian position around Gorizia. In the air there has been some liveliness, enemy machines raiding Milan and other historic towns, the Italians replying by an attack on Saibach.

The Italian Caproni craft carry three as a crew, and a fine story is told of how, when the two observers on one were killed, the pilot, although terribly wounded, took his machine back safely, being unconscious when he landed.

The War at Sea.

Another P. & O. liner, the *Maloja*, has been sunk. Of the 456 souls on board 155 are missing, and the loss of life would have been greater only that the disaster happened off Dover. It was at first supposed that the *Maloja* was sent to the bottom by a mine, but, as a vessel which went to her assistance was also sunk, some people believe that a torpedo was the cause. The loss of such a fine ship was a tragic opening to Germany's new campaign of "frightfulness" on the sea. The Admiralty have issued a statement showing that the enemy sank 40 British *unarmed* ships without warning in 1915 and 14 neutral vessels. The same day that the *Maloja* was lost the French auxiliary cruiser, *Provence II.*, which was conveying troops to Salonika, was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. Of them 870 were saved, but 930 are missing. Every day several ships are reported as sunk in European waters.

In the Atlantic the *Möwe* is emulating the exploits of the *Emden* in the Indian Ocean. She has sunk at least five more vessels, four of them off the

coast of Brazil. Ultimately she will be hunted down, unless the German claim that she has returned to port is justified, but, in the meantime, she is a serious menace to commerce, making further inroads on our shipping tonnage, already inadequate to our needs. Happily the Portuguese Government has eased the situation by seizing 35 German vessels which have been interned in the Tagus since the outbreak of the war, and eight more at Cape St. Vincent, Cape Verde, and Madeira. Besides these there are other enemy vessels in Portuguese harbours which will swell the tonnage released for purposes of trade to not less than 150,000 tons.

In the Air.

Climatic conditions are against great activity in the air. But the French have achieved a notable success near Revigny, where one of their 75 mm. guns mounted on a motor brought down the Zeppelin ZL77 with a timely shot from an incendiary shell. The entire crew were burned to death. The French have also put out of action seven aeroplanes lately, besides making several raids.

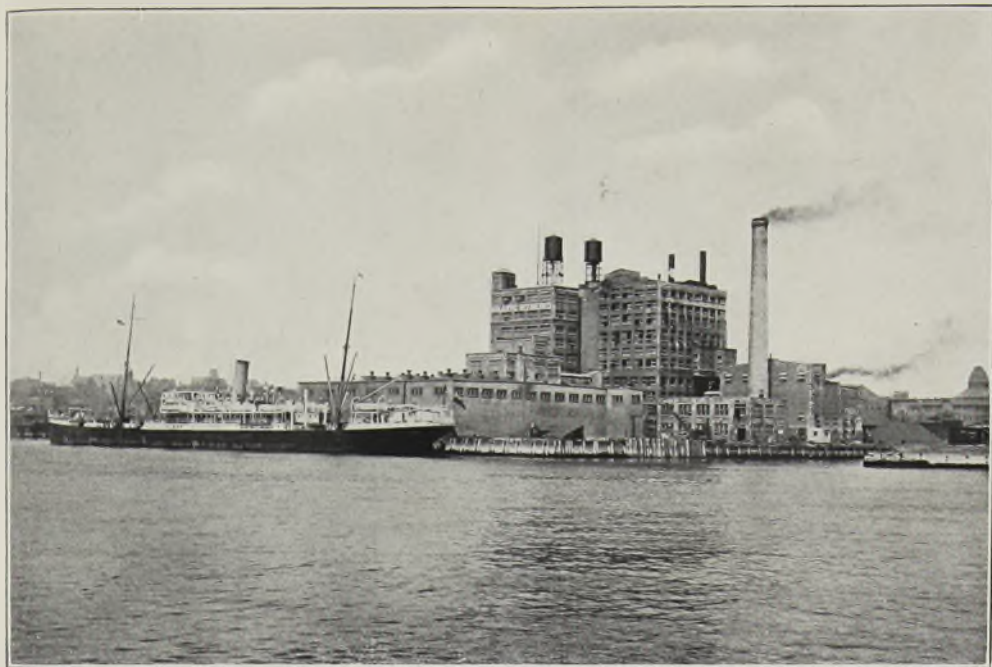
In Flanders a British airman attacked and shot down a hostile aeroplane, which fell a short distance in front of the Belgian lines. A German seaplane, dropping bombs, passed over a part of the South-East Coast at twilight on March 1st. One child was killed. As for the damage done it was slight. This was the third enemy seaplane raid, none of them, so far, having achieved much.

The theories of aeronautical "experts" who told us that Zeppelins would never venture out when there was snow about have been completely upset. On March 5th three Zeppelins visited Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex and Kent while snow was falling. Two terraces of houses were destroyed, an office, a public house, a café, and several shops were partially destroyed, a block of almshouses was badly damaged, and 3 men, 4 women, and 5 children were killed. The raiders were evidently quite ignorant as to their whereabouts.

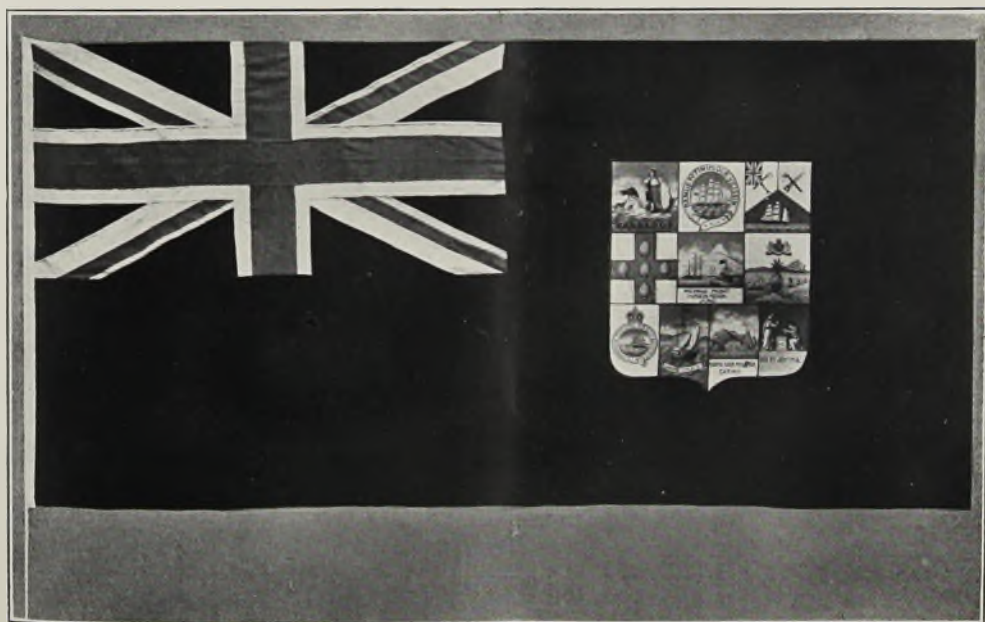
(To be continued.)

TRAWLEY AND CADY have recently been experimenting in Porto Rico on the subject of the conservation of moisture in soils devoted to cane cultivation, and the conclusion arrived at is that frequent weeding and mulching with cane trash has the best effect in that direction. With three plots, one fallow, another mulched with a six-inch layer of cane trash, and the third hoed to a depth of two or three inches once a week, it was found that the percentages of water in the soils were 27.8, 31.9, and 29.7 respectively after nine months. These figures are not very conclusive, and it is questionable whether the control plot should have been fallow instead of under canes.

A further list of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their country will be published in next issue.



THE SUGAR REFINERY AT ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK.



A SUGGESTED WEST INDIAN FLAG.

SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER.

Sir Edward Merewether, the new Governor of the Leeward Islands, attended a meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in that Colony at 15, Seething Lane, London, on March 2nd. In the absence of Mr. Middleton Campbell through indisposition, Mr. T. Du Buisson, senior partner in the firm of Henckell, Du Buisson and Co., which has extensive interests in Antigua and St. Kitts, presided, and the members also present were:—

Mr. Edward W. Baynes, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Dr. J. H. Cooke, B.A., M.B.; Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. R. A. de Pass, Mr. John T. Greg, Mr. W. A. Griffin (Gillespie Bros. & Co.), Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mr. Horace Peel, Mr. F. B. B. Shand, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. H. A. Trotter (Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Co.), Captain Nigel Walker (Messrs. Boddington & Co.), and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

Mr. Du Buisson, introducing Sir Edward to the meeting, referred to the distinguished career which his Excellency had had in Malaya and Sierra Leone, and assured him of a cordial welcome to the British West Indies.

Mr. W. A. Griffin said that he wished to call the attention of His Excellency to the cessation of the call of the Royal Mail steamers at Nevis. That island had always been a port of call of the intercolonial steamers which ran in connection with the transatlantic steamers, and when those were taken off it had been arranged that the Royal Mail steamers of the Canadian service should call at all the smaller islands instead of only occasionally, as they used to. Nevis, however, had been left out, and it was the only one that had been. This was a great hardship to the island. The steamers had to pass by it, and the roadstead was a good one. The passengers and freight offering were as important as those at some of the other islands called at, and both had now to go in an open boat to St. Kitts, a distance of 13 miles, to catch the Canadian steamers.

Mr. H. D. Spooner, of Messrs. Lee, Spooner & Co., raised the question of the incidence of the Export Tax on sugar recently imposed in Antigua. He stated that Sir Hesketh Bell, in introducing this measure in the Legislative Council, had stated that the tax would be borne equally by the factories and the cane-supplying estates. The present arrangement might, however, very well result in the factories paying the larger share, or perhaps the whole of the tax. He—Mr. Spooner—did not think that the Legislative Council had considered the matter from the point of view of the existing contracts between the factories and the cane suppliers as regulating the price to be paid for cane. In the case of the factories, the cane suppliers received an initial payment for cane based on the f.o.b. price of sugar. Bendals paid for cane 53 per cent. of this price, whereas Gunthorpe's paid only 5 per cent., and the Basseterre factory in St. Kitts 42 per cent. It was obvious, therefore, that the balance of profit (if any) remaining to be distributed under the conditions of the cane contracts equally between the cane suppliers and the factory owners would be smaller at Bendals than in the case of Gunthorpe's or the Basseterre factory. Had the tax been in existence in the past season, the whole of it would have been paid by the Preference and Ordinary shareholders of Bendals, and the cane suppliers would have paid nothing towards it.

The Roads of Antigua and St. Kitts.

Mr. Spooner then referred to the condition of the roads in Antigua and St. Kitts. Until within a few years ago the roads in St. Kitts had been maintained by the estates, and the cost of keeping them in order had been paid wholly or partly by the Government. A spirit of friendly

rivalry had existed between estates to keep their portion of the roads in the very best of condition. He believed that a good many years ago this system prevailed in Antigua also. The result in St. Kitts from his personal knowledge was that the roads were formerly kept in excellent condition, so that it was quite a pleasure to take a drive round the island. Within the last two or three years, however, the Government had changed this system in St. Kitts, and had taken over the control of the roads themselves, appointing a principal officer, who had charge, and some subordinates to look after the distant parts. The new system had not worked at all well from the point of view of the users of the roads, notwithstanding that there was far less heavy traffic now upon them, since the Basseterre factory lines took the bulk of the cane formerly carried over the main roads. He did not know what saving, if any, had been effected by the change of policy, but he was only too painfully aware that the condition of the surface had gone back terribly, and that the roads in St. Kitts were now no better than those in Antigua were a few years ago, and that they required a very heavy expenditure to be made upon them to bring them back again to their old condition. In Antigua, through want of funds, an inadequate amount in recent years had been spent on the roads (and he feared not well spent, either), so that many of them were little short of a public disgrace. When he was in the island last year the road between Bendals' factory and the town resembled a ploughed field in parts, and on making representations to the Governor, he had been informed that there were not sufficient funds to enable the roads to be put into good condition. The policy of putting down light friable stone without rolling it in on a road like the Bendals road, which was subject to heavy flooding, and which had frequently been flooded in the last twelve months, led to a waste of public money from which no good results were obtained. Two years ago Bendals' Factory Company sent out to Antigua a powerful motor lorry for hauling sugar from their factory into town, but they were unable to use the tractor last year at all, and in the previous season it had only been run some 160 miles, the damage to springs and tyres, etc., owing to the state of the road, making it impossible for it to do further work.

Mr. Spooner then expressed the hope that Sir Edward Merewether would take steps to carry out some further experiments (in which they at Bendals are most willing to bear their share) in prosecuting further enquiries and experiments into the question of water supply. There was little doubt that in the south and south-west part of Antigua there existed natural reservoirs for conserving large quantities of water now allowed to run into the sea. The soil in this part of Antigua was mostly of heavy clayey nature, and of a kind that would enable irrigation to be practised successfully, and he might add that they had commenced the erection of a dam for the purpose of irrigating some of their own cane lands. Sir Hesketh Bell obtained a grant of £100 for conducting some experiments, and a dam was built, but, alas, so badly built that the first heavy rain washed part of it away. An experiment in irrigation on a very small scale was being conducted under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, but he did not know whether the Government's dam had been strengthened in the meantime to enable the work to be proceeded with.

Sisal Cultivation in Antigua.

In conclusion, Mr. Spooner mentioned that he had recently received from Antigua some samples of fibre grown on Montpelier Estate, and also a sample taken from an uncultivated plant found growing in the neighbourhood of Bendals. These fibres were reported on by a broker in London as of good quality, especially in the case of the sample taken from the wild plant. The history of the plants now growing at Montpelier was as follows:—A good many years ago, when Sir William Haynes Smith was Governor, he obtained some "suckers" of Sisal from the East, and planted them on the Government's estate of Piccadilly. His (Mr. Spooner's) brother, Mr. Archibald Spooner, some years ago collected a few of the "suckers" from the Piccadilly plot and planted them at Montpelier; about an acre of Sisal was now growing there. Considerable dispute had arisen in the last year or two as to the nature of the plants, and an idea prevailed that they were

not true Sisal, but from the samples which had been sent to London, it now appeared that this view was not correct, that the plants growing at Montpellier were of a true Sisal character, and that the fibre appeared to be commercial Sisal. The wild plant fibre was a Sisal of an exceptionally good nature. The present value of the fibre he understood was in the neighbourhood of £45 to £50 a ton. Although this was a price much above the general average, he was led to believe that round about £30 a ton for Sisal might be obtained in ordinary years. There was an immense quantity of land out of cultivation in the Windward district of Antigua which seemed specially favourable for growing Sisal. Indeed, nothing struck one more pertinently when visiting the high Windward district of that island than the luxuriant growth of this and other similar drought-loving plants. He hoped that Sir Edward Merewether might, in conjunction with the Agricultural Society, take steps to encourage the growth of this plant in those lands which at present were bringing no revenue to the Government by way of Land Tax. His (Mr. Spooner's) firm has given instructions for an acreage of fifty acres to be planted up in Sisal at Montpellier Estate as soon as the necessary "suckers" have been obtained.

The Uses of Dominica Lime Juice.

Mr. Duncan Mackintosh said that he had been asked to say a few words about Dominica, an island in which he was interested. His Excellency would find that there were one or two vexed questions still agitating the community in the island. These were, first, the state of the roads and communications, and, secondly, the labour market. He (Mr. Mackintosh) did not want to say too much about the former subject just then, as he believed the Government, in the person of Mr. Mahaffy, the present Administrator, are honestly making an effort to bring about a better state of affairs, which would be attained when a motor road existed round the island and to its centre. As Government work was in progress, the labour question was to a certain extent influenced by it, as it was a long-standing convention that the Government rate of pay was above that of the planters, and less work was obtained for it. They all knew what was called the "Government stroke" amongst the labourers, even in this country. However, prospects in Dominica were bright, and, as was well known, it shared with Montserrat the production of practically the whole of the lime juice supply of the world. What was less well known was the actual use to which lime juice was put. The impression among the public was that it was drunk as a beverage out of long bottles, but by far the greater proportion was used in the manufacturing art, such as dyeing, photography, medicine, etc. A few days ago he had had the advantage of talking to the late Chairman of the Calico Printers' Association of Manchester, who gave him a brief account of the use of citric acid, the derivative of lime juice, which it might be of interest to those present to know. He stated that citric acid, or pure lime juice, was indispensable to them, and was employed as a "resist" or "discharge" in calico printing, not as a "mordant," as many people thought. On the contrary, when it was desired to produce a red handkerchief with white spots, the spots were printed on the handkerchief with citric acid suitably mixed with gums to stiffen it. Then the article was dipped in Turkey red, and it was found that wherever the citric acid had been applied they dye easily washed out and formed the required pattern.

On this branch of manufacture the fortunes of Dominica were practically dependent, since cacao and coco-nuts are by-products compared with its staple industry—lime cultivation.

Mr. Davson referred to the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies which was now in process of formation, and in the establishment of which the West India Committee were taking an interest. He said that the scheme had been placed before the Agricultural Societies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and had been approved by them, and it was hoped to hold the inaugural meeting of the Association next year. The relations between the Government and the Agricultural Societies of the Leeward Islands were closer than in the case of some of the other islands, and he hoped that His

Excellency would give his benevolent consideration to any points which might come before him in regard to this matter.

Mr. Shepherd called attention to the work which the West India Committee had done and were doing to secure preferential treatment under the Customs tariff in the United Kingdom for British-produced sugar. The Committee were, he said, sending in an important Memorandum to the Prime Minister.

Sir Edward Merewether thanked the gentlemen present for having given him an opportunity of meeting them, and he assured them that he would bear in mind the various points to which they had called attention.

A West Indian Club Luncheon.

Sir Edward Merewether, Governor-elect of the Leeward Islands, was entertained at luncheon by the members of the West Indian Club on February 29th. His predecessor, Sir Hesketh Bell, presided, and in proposing the guest's health referred to the capture of the *Appam*, and offered to him his hearty congratulations upon his recent escape from the enemy. The Leeward Islands were, said Sir Hesketh, one of the most loyal dependencies in the Empire, and Sir Edward would find there all that a Governor could wish for—admirable colleagues, a loyal staff, and a kindly people. Even the smallest efforts of the Governor in agricultural and commercial interests received there the heartiest encouragement and the fullest recognition.

In responding to the toast, which was cordially honoured, Sir Edward Merewether said that from all that he could gather, the colony to which he was going was a very charming one. It was a matter of deep satisfaction to him to know that the community there was so ready to assist the Governor. In response to the request for an account of his experiences in the *Appam*, Sir Edward related the circumstances of her capture and of her subsequent voyage to America, which are already familiar to readers of the daily Press. Incidentally he mentioned that the graphic and lurid account attributed to him had not emanated from him at all. On arrival in America he had been absolutely besieged by reporters. They asked him if he had been well treated, and his reply, "Yes," had been expanded into about two columns of matter. (Laughter.)

Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock then proposed the health of the Chairman, who, he said, had been a member of the Club for no fewer than fourteen years. Sir Hesketh Bell, in replying, said that he hoped that some day he might return to the West Indies. The proceedings were then brought to a close.

The company present included, in addition to those mentioned above:—

Sir William Trollope, Bart.; Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G.; Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. R. Shephard, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. W. R. Hunt, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. J. F. H. Grant, Mr. F. J. Rayment, Mr. R. H. Parker, Mr. H. Fox, Mr. C. H. Paterson, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. R. Parkinson Goffe, Major Bath, Dr. G. B. Mason, Captain H. G. Boyle, Captain Tebbs, Dr. Ernest Sturridge, Major R. B. Todd, Colonel Owen Thomas, Colonel Murphy, Mr. F. C. Messum, Mr. J. Bastiaans, Mr. G. Perch, Dr. C. W. M. Castle, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

A Suggested West Indian Flag.

It will be recalled that in 1913 the suggestion was made in these columns that the West Indian colonies should have a joint flag, in addition to their individual flags, for use on ceremonial occasions and popular festivals, with the object partly of keeping our oldest group of colonies in the public eye and partly of welding them still further together by the bond of sentiment. The proposal was subsequently submitted to the Governments of the various colonies and was very favourably received in the islands. The Governor of Trinidad and Tobago in particular took up the proposals very warmly and consulted the neighbouring colonies regarding them, and a design, prepared by Mr. Cundall, was submitted for approval. The Governments of Barbados, Jamaica and the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands, besides that of Trinidad and Tobago expressed their willingness to join in the scheme, though those of British Guiana and British Honduras declined to do so.

Mr. Harcourt, the then Secretary of State to whom the correspondence was referred, expressed the opinion that there should be "a much more general agreement" among the Colonial Governments concerned before any steps were taken to give effect to the proposal, and the war then supervened and the matter was temporarily set on one side.

Now, however, when men from every West Indian colony are standing shoulder to shoulder in the British West Indies Regiment and when those colonies are more united than they have ever been before in the face of a common foe, the moment seems opportune for reviving the proposals to establish a West Indian flag.

For such a flag to receive official imprimatur consultation with the Foreign Office and Admiralty would be necessary, and it will be obvious that it would be undesirable to burden those departments which are already over-worked with fresh problems at the present time. Meanwhile we publish on another page a West Indian flag which has been prepared for the CIRCULAR to show how one would look if prepared on the lines of those of the Dominions. The flag is the Blue Ensign on which are emblazoned the arms of the various West Indian colonies, which are readily recognisable. Avoiding heraldic technicalities, the badges shown are those of (top row) Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, (second row) Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands, (3rd row) the Bahamas, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. The Leeward Islands being a federal colony, their separate badges are not shown. As the badges are little known in this country, the words, "The British West Indies," should appear in a scroll below them.

On this West Indian Flag are shown the badges of all the colonies which are contributing units to the British West Indies Regiment, and it is suggested that one or more of the flags might be presented to each battalion of the regiment and flown over the regimental institute. Perhaps some reader will provide the funds for this to be done.

The Atlantic Refinery.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Robert Anderson, for many years our Hon. Correspondent in Montreal, and now manager of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd., we are able to publish an illustration of that Company's refinery at St. John, New Brunswick. Alongside the building, which stands near the entrance to the harbour, is seen one of the Canadian steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company discharging her cargo of British West Indian sugar. The capital of the Company, of which Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon is president, is \$10,000,000. The refinery was constructed under the direction of Mr. J. F. Stillman, who erected Arbuckle Refinery in Brooklyn, and it is said to be the last word in modern buildings of the kind. The refinery is now in full working order and is doing so well that an extension of its capacity will be necessary in the near future.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

The Conference of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom assembled at the Hotel Cecil on March 1st. No fewer than 500 delegates from every part of the country were present, and after various patriotic resolutions had been adopted, Sir Algernon Firth, on behalf of the Executive Council, moved a resolution submitted by the Norwich Chamber:—

This Association desires to place on record, for the guidance of those who follow us in days to come, its firm conviction, based on experience of war, that the strength and safety of the nation lie in the ability to produce what it requires from its own soil and factories rather than in the possession of values or symbols of value which may be exported and exchanged for such products and manufactures of foreign countries as can be procured abroad and imported here from over the seas to meet this nation's needs.

The resolution having been seconded by the Hon. Rupert Beckett, Colonel Hughes (Sheffield) proposed an amendment substituting the word "Empire" for "Nation," and omitting the latter part of the resolution from the words "soil and factories." He said we could not fight single-handed against Germany without the assistance of the Empire. We could not keep this country going on the basis of nationalism only. England as a water-tight compartment would rapidly sink to the level of a third-rate Power.

Lord Joicey supported the amendment, saying that at a time when the Empire was combined for military purposes we should be extremely careful not to separate it for commercial purposes. The Council accepted the amendment and the resolution was then adopted amid cheers.

The resolutions favouring the appointment of a Minister of Commerce having been carried unanimously, and dealing with trade with enemy countries having been carried, Mr. Lionel Martin moved on behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce:—

That this Association is of opinion that, with the object of maintaining and increasing our trade after the conclusion of the War, it is necessary that the different parts of the British Empire be drawn into closer commercial union,

and that our trading relations with our Allies be fostered, and that for the accomplishment of this purpose it is desirable that provision should be made:

- (a) For preferential reciprocal trading relations between all parts of the British Empire;
 (b) For reciprocal trading relations between the British Empire and the Allied countries;
 (c) For the favourable treatment of neutral countries; and

(d) For restriction, by tariffs and otherwise, of trade relations with all enemy countries so as to render dumping or a return to pre-war conditions impossible, and for stimulating the development of home manufacture and the consequent increased employment of native labour.

Further, that the Government be without delay requested by deputation from this Association to invite representatives from the Colonies and the Allied countries to confer, in the first instance separately and subsequently collectively, with representatives of this country with the object of arriving at common action.

The resolution which embodied the sense of 16 resolutions submitted by different Chambers was adopted.

Mr. McKenna's Views.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was the guest of honour at the inaugural luncheon, and in the course of a speech which is fully reported in the Press he made the following significant statement: "We have seen a nation which in profound peace planned, prepared for, and eventually provoked war. We have found ourselves dependent on that nation for many essential matters of our own trade. I do not think that as a nation, whether by the individual efforts of our traders or with the necessary assistance of the Government, we ought ever to allow ourselves to be placed in that position again. (Loud cheers.)

"I am not touching upon controversial matters (Laughter). I believe that upon the great issue which once divided the nation probably the opinions of most of us remain unchanged. But it does not follow, because upon that great issue we stand where we stood before—basing our opinions, each according to his own lights, on theoretical principles—that there is not a very large field for common agreement between us. It does not follow, though trade may be free, that the help of the Government should not be given to assist our traders. We are prepared, and we have already shown in a way which I am not yet able to state to you that we are prepared, to give the assistance of the Government to the development of foreign trade in order to ensure that those rivals who are now our bitter enemies shall not have the control of foreign trade which they have enjoyed in the past." (Cheers.)

In conclusion he expressed the hope that old controversies might never be revived.

THE *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts for March 3rd refers to an article in the *Revue Générale des Sciences* which describes the potash beds in Alsace. These were discovered in 1904, and cover an area of some 50,000 acres. It is estimated that the beds contain some 3,000,000 tons of pure potash. The most important constituent of the Alsatian deposits is Sylvinit, a mineral in which the chloride of potassium predominates, which can be used as a fertiliser immediately after pulverisation.

BURNING SUGAR CANES.

A Harmful Practice to be Avoided.

Amongst the many interesting points raised during a conference of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association in Brisbane, says the *Agricultural News and Sugar Planters' Gazette*, one of the most interesting was that of the deterioration of burnt cane. This was most startlingly exemplified in the report presented by Mr. Mayers, as prepared from actual experience by the chemist of the Mulgrave Mill, near Cairns. This report included elaborate tables showing the daily deterioration in a field of lowlands Badila ratoons, and it may be said that they fully bear out the conclusions advanced by the mill chemist. It was pointed out that from the farmers' standpoint there is a loss in weight, never less than 4 per cent., and probably as high as 6 or 7 per cent. on the average. This is accompanied by an increase in the percentage of fibre, correspondingly adding to the difficulties of extraction. When cane is burned the cells are killed, and even if it be left standing, the deterioration is more rapid than in green cane cut and left in the field.

It is given as a personal opinion, well thought out, and based on many experiments, that with an average interval of three days between burning and milling (the whole of the cane being milled within six days), the minimum average reduction in the value of the cane is not less than 20 per cent., and possibly much more. We give the shorter of the two tables compiled, as presenting the case in a nutshell, as follows:—

Date.	Brix.	Cane Sugar.	Quotient of Purity.	Glucose.	Glucose Ratio.	P.O.S.
Oct 28	24.19	22.36	92.43	0.41	1.83	17.92
.. 30	23.96	22.13	92.36	—	—	17.72
.. 31	23.72	21.90	92.33	0.71	3.24	17.53
Nov. 1	22.38	19.74	88.20	—	—	15.36
.. 2	22.93	21.05	91.80	0.76	3.61	16.70
.. 3	21.89	19.84	90.64	1.25	6.30	15.71
.. 4	22.32	19.45	87.14	1.72	8.84	15.02
.. 5	20.93	17.32	82.75	2.68	12.01	12.93
.. 6	20.59	14.95	72.61	4.17	27.89	10.07

Daily samples of freshly cut burnt cane.

"The burning of cane, either by accident or design, has become so common that it is of the greatest importance that the whole subject should receive careful attention in the light of facts above stated. We commend the various problems involved as worthy of exhaustive examination by the Sugar Examination Bureau. If anything like the stated percentage of loss arises from the burning of cane, every effort should be made to stop so ruinous a practice. We may add that it was resolved by the Council of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association to deal with the whole matter at their meeting."

At the half-yearly meeting of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association, held at Brisbane, a report was read by Mr. Mayers from the chemist of the Mulgrave Mill, concerning the heavy loss during the past season due to the burning of cane.

While from burnt cane it was taking from 10 to 12 tons to make a ton of sugar, the green cane took a little over seven tons. During the previous year

the loss from this source has been so severe that it would counterbalance anything the Federal Government could do for them, even if they granted all the requests of the growers.

SEA ISLAND COTTON.

The United States Department of Agriculture have recently issued a Bulletin embodying the results of an investigation carried out in the Sea Island cotton areas of Carolina and Georgia in 1912-13.

It seems that a large proportion of the Sea Island crop is exported from the United States instead of being used in American mills, while Egyptian cotton is imported. During the last few years the imports of the Egyptian variety into the United States have been practically uniform, but in 1912-13 the consumption of Egyptian fine staple increased greatly, to the detriment of the producers of Sea Island cotton.

The most important cause of the decreased consumption was the deadlock of 1912-13 when growers refused to sell at the price offered them by the buyers. The result was that the buyers turned to Egypt, and supplied their year's need at prices and on terms more satisfactory than those offered by the holders of Sea Island cotton. But apart from any hitch in the usual methods of buying and selling, Sea Island cotton was sooner or later bound to meet Egyptian, and especially Sakellarides, in competition. Some of the reasons given by spinners for preferring Sakellarides to Sea Island are that: (a) it is manufactured with less waste; (b) it works better in the card room; (c) it makes stronger yarn and stronger cloth; (d) better buying terms; and (e) the difficulty of changing back to Sea Island cotton when Sakellarides has found a use in any special line.

Another reason for the falling off in the consumption of Sea Island cotton is that its quality in America is not so uniform and good as it was formerly. The most serious cause of deterioration in the interior regions has been the refusal of the Carolina growers to sell planting seed to others. This decision not to sell planting seed came about as the natural result of a situation in which the American planters found themselves. In 1902 the culture of Sea Island cotton was introduced into the West Indies. Seed was bought from the best Carolina plantations by Sir Daniel Morris, on behalf of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and some of the expert Carolina growers were engaged to teach the people of St. Vincent, Antigua, Barbados, and other islands how to raise and prepare this crop for market. The effort to grow the cotton in the West Indies was successful beyond expectations, and within five or six years the Carolina farmers commenced to feel the West Indian competition. They resolved to cease selling seed to any one—not only to the West Indies, Florida, and Georgia, but also to their fellow islanders. The consequence was that the general standard deteriorated, because the small grower was dependent on the large grower for good quality seed. Another calamity was the introduction of Upland cotton, which led to considerable cross fertilization between the short and long stapled varieties, and this occurred in the most

favoured section of the Sea Island producing area.

Another cause for decreased consumption has been changes in fashion, together with enforced economy of production. An article which is essentially made to sell at a cheap rate cannot generally be expected to contain Sea Island cotton of good quality, and those manufacturers who are concerned in the production of a popular article generally supposed to contain Sea Island cotton, very seldom use that kind. Automobile tyre cloth forms a good example. Sakellarides and good quality Sea Island are still used in America to a limited extent in the manufacture of tyre fabrics, but the bulk of this product is from the lower grades of the long staples, especially Egyptian. This shifting of the tyre cloth trade largely to other cottons has almost closed the largest outlet for Sea Island consumption in America, and is a serious menace to the very existence of the Sea Island industry of that country. However, the final word has not yet been said in the tyre cloth business, and it is still possible that the wearing qualities of tyres constructed from low grades of cotton will prove unsatisfactory to their users, and that there will be a return to the old standard quality in tyres.

How the Crop is Marketed.

The Bulletin gives some interesting information concerning the system of marketing. It appears that a very important middle man is the Factor, from whom the spinner buys, and to whom the grower sells. Indeed the Factor advances money and supplies to the farmers to enable them to make their crops, and collects the amounts when due. Perhaps one of the most notable of the labour conditions of the South Carolina market is the fact that a single firm of cotton buyers usually purchases over three-fourths of the Carolina crop. Four firms of Factors make practically all the advances towards raising the crop, and the firm of buyers and all four of the Factors do their banking with the same institution. The cotton-buying firm is represented on the Directorate of the Bank. The potential power of a firm of cotton buyers in such a position is, of course, great.

Another detrimental condition that exists, arises from the excessive use of the hoe in the cultivation of American Sea Island, which is very expensive. Yet another unfavourable condition is that there are too many kinds of cotton. It is suggested that an attempt should be made to grow medium and uniform cotton. There can be no objection to a few planters growing the extra staple Sea Island cottons if they choose to do so, but it would not be advisable to increase the production of these extra staples under the present conditions.

If the prospects before Sea Island cotton in America are not bright, the farmers have little to worry about, because they can turn their attention to alternative crops which can easily be made as profitable as cotton. Finally, the prospects for a continuance of the industry in the Southern States is rendered very uncertain by the approach of the boll weevil. At the present rate of progress, it is stated that this pest will overrun the entire Sea Island area in from five to eight years. Those best posted concerning the nature and habits of this pest are agreed in saying that it may put an end to

the profitable production of Sea Island cotton in America.

The special conditions attendant on the industry in Georgia and Florida are of interest. In most of Georgia, and in much of the Florida Sea Island area, Upland cotton grows well, and Upland is encroaching on Sea Island in every county in which both are being grown. Mention should be made of the good work of the ginning companies in these States, many of which have gone to considerable trouble in order to secure and distribute the best seed available for planting.

Basing its views on the Bulletin summarised above, the *Agricultural News* believes that not much hope is held out for long-continued existence of the Sea Island cotton industry in America. It goes on to say: "It would seem that in the near future, say, within the next five years, the British West Indies may hold a real monopoly, if Egypt can be excluded. It is important for West Indian cotton growers to keep up a high standard, and not to reduce the acreage. The information that has been afforded by this Bulletin greatly strengthens the position of the West Indian grower in relation to the spinners, as well as to his American competitor."

THE SUGAR COMMISSION.

Following the interviews referred to in last CIRCULAR (p. 67), and correspondence between the West India Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, the latter have decided that the importers will be at liberty to sell average qualities of this class of sugar at the same gross price as that of American granulated offered by the Commission; the range of prices on either side of the standard to be one of 3/- or 1/6 per cwt. up or down from the standard.

A Committee of brokers has been nominated by the West India Committee to deal with the scheme on the lines agreed, and it is understood that the granting of licences to import West Indian crystallised sugar will now be resumed.

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 7/6 each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8/4; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5/- for each copy in sheet form, post free 5/7 inland, and 6/4 to British Possessions; and 8/6 per copy, or 8/9 post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

THE PROPOSED FRUIT PROHIBITION.

The West India Committee has received the following letter from the Board of Trade in reply to an enquiry addressed to them regarding the position of Colonial fruit with respect to the proposed prohibition of the importation of fruit into the United Kingdom.

Board of Trade (Commercial Department),
Gwydyr House,
Whitehall, London, S.W.
2nd March, 1916.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd February, relative to the proposed prohibition of importation of fruit, I am directed by the Board of Trade to inform you that such prohibition, if and when imposed, will not extend to Colonial fruit, including bananas.

The Board, however, are not yet in a position to make any statement as to the importation of foreign bananas.

I am, Sir, etc.,

H. FOUNTAIN.

The Secretary, The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

It will be recalled that this question formed the subject of a leading article in the CIRCULAR of February 10th, in which it was urged that the prohibition might not be applied to Colonial fruit. Arguments were also put forward in favour of a concession to bananas. It was pointed out that in 1914 the consumption of this fruit amounted to no fewer than 8,500,040 bunches, and that if the supply were checked the appetite of the people would need to be appeased by other and perhaps more costly foodstuffs. Again, though the bulk of the bananas consumed here came from foreign sources their diversion to other markets might lead to a serious reduction of the price of the Jamaica fruit. Should, however, foreign bananas be prohibited it would be open to Messrs. Elders and Fyffes to load their vessels for the United Kingdom at Jamaica, and to divert the Central American fruit to the United States.

In the House of Commons on March 7th, Mr. Runciman said that the proposed restriction on the importation of fresh fruit would not in any case affect Jamaica bananas or any other fruit really produced within the Empire.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The State Sugar Purchase.

Replying to Mr. Butcher on February 29th, Mr. McKenna said that the Return regarding the Government's sugar purchases promised on the 10th of March, 1915, was given on the 11th of May following.* He was prepared to give a similar Return in respect of the 1915 crop as soon as it could be conveniently prepared.

Mr. McKenna, replying to a further question by Mr. Calhoun Watson, said the quantity of sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, glucose, and saccharine, used in brewing in the year ended 31st December, 1915, was 132,292 tons. There was no information available as to the quantity of sugar used in the manufacture of ginger ale, ginger wine, and lemonade. He had noted his hon. Friend's suggestion that the use of sugar in drink should be curtailed as much as possible, having in view the fact that the manufacture of much jam had been prevented last year by the price of sugar.

* The figures were published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 434, of May 18th, 1915, pp. 223-224.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee is indebted to Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce of the Dominion of Canada, for copies of the Canadian Year Book, 1914, from which the statistical table published below is taken. This table shows the value of imports and exports from and to the British and foreign West Indies from 1901 to 1914. It will be noted that while the imports into the Dominion from the British West Indies and British Guiana have increased just over fivefold, those from the foreign West Indies and foreign Guiana show a far larger expansion, the total for 1914 being over twelve times as great as that for

1901. The reciprocal Trade Agreement between Canada and the British West Indies came into force on June 2nd, 1913, and the reason that the imports into the Dominion from those Colonies have not expanded in consequence is, of course, due to the War which diverted nearly the entire British Guiana and much of the West Indian sugar crop to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the exports from the Dominion to the British West Indies show a steady expansion which indicates that Canada is benefiting to the full extent from the trade arrangement. Now, however, that the Government purchases of British West Indian sugar have practically ceased, refining sugar is once more finding market in Canada.

Fiscal Year.	IMPORTS FROM			EXPORTS (DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN) TO		
	British West Indies and British Guiana.	Foreign West Indies and Foreign Guiana.	Total.	British West Indies and British Guiana	Foreign West Indies and Foreign Guiana.	Total.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1901 ...	1,406,480	594,768	2,001,248	2,297,804	984,306	3,282,110
1902 ...	1,702,293	539,697	2,241,990	2,456,132	1,339,408	3,795,540
1903 ...	2,415,608	596,970	3,012,578	2,699,167	1,471,843	4,171,010
1904 ...	7,006,892	667,232	7,674,124	2,662,524	1,423,542	4,086,066
1905 ...	8,589,656	714,339	9,303,995	2,872,770	1,460,801	4,333,571
1906 ...	7,521,360	657,081	8,178,441	2,847,381	1,831,656	4,679,037
1907*	5,208,892	524,599	5,733,491	2,188,542	1,497,240	3,685,782
1908 ...	9,291,804	525,026	9,816,830	3,090,468	2,096,502	5,186,970
1909 ...	9,088,596	605,260	9,693,856	3,054,073	2,006,362	5,060,435
1910 ...	9,004,421	1,815,110	10,819,531	3,697,872	2,384,296	6,082,168
1911 ...	10,262,613	2,062,006	12,324,619	4,736,005	2,501,599	7,237,604
1912 ...	10,550,491	2,891,199	13,441,690	4,617,961	2,925,246	7,543,207
1913 ...	9,443,393	4,941,127	14,384,520	4,591,105	2,327,508	6,918,613
1914 ...	18,045,844	7,600,817	25,646,661	5,142,605	2,554,591	7,697,196
Total	99,540,343	24,735,231	124,275,574	46,954,409	26,804,900	73,759,309

*Nine months.
NOTE.—Foreign West Indies include Cuba, Danish, Dutch & French West Indies, Dutch & French Guiana, Hayti, Porto Rico & San Domingo.

A BARBADIAN'S ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

Chief Petty Officer Kirton Browne, one of the members of the first Barbados Citizens' Contingent, was a passenger on the P. & O. Liner *Maloja* which was sunk off Dover at 11 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, February 27th, by a mine or torpedo. He was on his way to join his ship in the Mediterranean and had a miraculous escape from drowning. Mr. Browne has given the CIRCULAR the following account of his experiences.

The S.S. *Maloja* was bound from London to Bombay, and had left Tilbury at 1 o'clock the day before. Instead of continuing down Channel, however, she lay off the *Nore* that night, and did not finally leave until half-past six next morning.

The day was rather cloudy, with a choppy sea and very cold. I was on the after part of deck, on the starboard side of the smoking room, when the explosion occurred almost under me. The column of water that came over smashed all the glass in the saloon ports, knocking me down at the same time. Several people received nasty cuts from the glass and splinters, while one or two were killed and knocked overboard. I was partly dazed, but otherwise unhurt by the explosion, and soon jumped up and began to put on my lifebelt. Four blasts were blown on the whistle, which was the alarm signal, and everyone was rushing about strapping on lifebelts and making for the boats. The scene was terrible; several women had deep cuts on their faces, others were trying to find their children, and a few fainted, but still, on the whole, there was not very much panic. One boat was smashed in the

explosion, and a couple of others capsized when they were launching them. I got in one boat that was already full, but I soon jumped out again, as it had jammed against the side, and with all our combined efforts we could not get it clear, so it had to be abandoned. After that I jumped overboard and tried to swim for it. I soon found that impossible, as I was weighted down by my overcoat and clothes; also the swirl set up by the propeller and the choppy sea made it more difficult. After a time I managed to take hold of a plank with a half-dead Lascar lying on it. This helped me a bit, but by this time my limbs were so numb and stiff with cold that I could barely even do that.

In the meantime the cries and shrieks were awful, and I was beginning to think that all was up, too, when a ship's boat came along and picked me up. I must have been in the water over half an hour, and it was some time before I was able to move at all, so numb was I with cold. We were picked up by a trawler that took us into Dover, where we were quartered at the Lord Warden Hotel until next morning. As nearly everyone was soaked through, we had to be fitted out in pyjama suits by the Red Cross people, in which we had to stay until our clothes were dry. Report says that 155 are missing out of a total of 450, also that a column of water was sent up about 150 feet by the mine or whatever it was. Well, I am only too thankful to have escaped as I did, and I hope the letter will interest you, as I am one of the few Barbadians to have had an experience like that.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

ST. LUCIA.**ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.**

BY ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

(Continued from page 70)

SPICES.**NUTMEGS AND MACE.**

The nutmeg tree (*Myristica fragrans*) thrives well under similar conditions to cacao and produces heavy crops.

The average annual export is about 2,700 lbs. of nutmegs and 600 lbs. of mace.

The market price of nutmegs varies from about 5d. to 1s. 4d. per lb., and mace 8d. to 2s. 11d.

VANILLA.

Vines of *Vanilla planifolia* are to be found in almost every small holding and no difficulty would be experienced in developing a profitable industry if a quick, simple and satisfactory method of curing the beans could be found.

This is receiving the attention of the Agricultural Department, and it is hoped that good results will follow.

The vines grow vigorously, and when attended to and not allowed to be overshadowed by the head of the stocks upon which they are grown, produce heavy crops.

The most suitable support for vanilla is undoubtedly *Gliricidia maculata*. This plant is readily propagated by branches three to four feet long, and although of rapid growth does not produce dense shade. A sample of St. Lucian grown and cured vanilla was valued at 15s. per lb.

BAY OIL.

With the excellent shipping facilities afforded by the port of Castries, the natural supply of wild and semi-wild bay leaves and the local production of rum, no island in the West Indies offers greater inducement for the establishment of a bay oil and bay rum industry.

A small factory for the distillation of bay oil from the leaves of the *Pimenta acris* has recently been opened and the trials made have proved that with better machinery and certain alterations in the business methods adopted, there is every likelihood of a permanent industry being established.

The price at present paid for the fresh leaves being low does not permit of them being profitably gathered except in the immediate neighbourhood of the factory and along some of the coastlands, and this prevents the large natural supplies existing throughout the island being tapped.

Better machinery is now being erected and with careful supervision and the rejection of the inferior varieties of bay leaves which are often mixed with the true leaves offered for sale at the factory a greater yield of oil will be obtained and higher prices can then be paid which will make it profitable to gather the leaves from every district of the island.

The bay tree grows luxuriantly in every district, but large areas have already been totally destroyed by the wholesale cutting of the branches for exportation to neighbouring islands where the sticks are used as hoe handles.

The demand for bay oil and bay rum increases yearly and with proper care and skilful preparation St. Lucia should be able to supply a grade of oil and rum equal to any on the market.

OTHER SPICES.

Such spices as Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum Zeylanicum*), Cloves (*Eugenia caryophyllata*), Ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), Pepper (*Piper nigrum*), etc., thrive well and are worthy of greater attention.

St. Lucia ginger has been reported upon by experts as being equal to Jamaican, and sold at 76s. per cwt. in the London market.

DYES.**LOGWOOD (*Hæmatoxylon Campechianum*).**

At one time logwood was one of the principal exports of the island. The tree having been introduced from Central America soon became naturalised and spread throughout the drier coastlands where it still flourishes.

The sap-wood is clipped off and the heart-wood and roots are exported for the extraction of logwood dye which is used in the manufacture of woollen and silk goods.

This industry has, unfortunately, been allowed to decline through no efforts being made to replant the areas felled.

In two years, 1893 and 1894, logwood to the value of £71,111 was exported from St. Lucia, and the average annual value has now fallen to £4,295.

Logwood thrives best in dry shallow soils such as are found along the Leeward and Windward coasts. There are large tracts of land in these regions which are not bringing in one cent to the owner, being abandoned to hay grass (*Sporobolus Jacquemontii* Kunth. in the belief that they are unfit for any crop.

This land had to be purchased with the rest of the property and in its present condition represents a certain sum of money paid out as capital but earning no interest.

To replant such lands with logwood during the rainy season would entail but little expense or trouble and in ten years the owner would have valuable areas of logwood which could be felled when the market was remunerative.

CATTLE RAISING.

There are a few small stock farms in different parts of the island which could be extended with advantage. The local consumption of meat is something like 6,000 head of stock per annum, the bulk of which is bred and raised in the island.

There are large areas of land in every district well adapted for stock raising, and with our abundant and even distribution of rain it should not be necessary to import cattle from the neighbouring islands to supply the local demand for meat, but rather we should be in a position to carry on an export trade. Something over £2,500 worth of cattle is imported annually into St. Lucia, and this is so much money lost to the local breeders and should receive their close attention.

(To be continued.)

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,580 6s. 8d. Of this amount £935 14s. 11d. has been subscribed and earmarked for special purposes.

Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Walter Abbott, Esq.	10	10	0
H. H. Murray, Esq.	5	4	2
Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada	5	0	0
N. J. A. Bascom, Esq.	3	2	6
G. V. Hepburn, Esq.	2	9	6
C. W. Dooley, Esq.	2	2	0
John T. Haynes, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Estridge	1	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Sergeant-Major Stone, of the Army Gymnastic Staff, who was attached to the 1st (Service) Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, and Sergeant Bryant, who helped to train the 2nd Battalion, are now attached to the Depot of the Regiment at Withnoe Camp, Plymouth.

Mr. W. F. Albury, who came over in charge of the 1st Bahamas Contingent and left England with the 1st Battalion B.W.I. Regiment as a sergeant, has been gazetted as a 2nd lieutenant, his commission dating from the 1st February. Mr. Albury was the first man to take the King's shilling in the Bahamas. Before enlisting he was on the staff of the Bank of Nassau, in which he had for many years held a responsible position.

Colonel Charles Wood-Hill, whose promotion to the command of the 3rd (Service) Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, which was recruited entirely in Jamaica, is announced, was educated at Westward Ho! and the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. All his military service has been with the West India Regiment. At the outbreak of war he was stationed in Jamaica. He is a good all-round sportsman and a keen polo enthusiast.

We are now permitted to confirm the rumour which has been prevalent in West Indian circles for some little time that the British West Indies Regiment is to be stationed in Egypt where the 1st, 2nd, and part of the 3rd Battalions have already arrived. Letters and parcels for members of the West Indian Contingent serving in Egypt should be addressed with the usual details as to the addressee's name, number, rank and battalion, "British West Indies Regiment, Egypt."

A correspondent in the 1st Battalion informs us

that the men had a pleasant voyage out, though there were two deaths and burials at sea and some cases of pneumonia. The men are naturally delighted at finding themselves once more in a congenial climate. Their arrival created no small interest and from remarks which were overheard it would seem that the people in Egypt are quite as ignorant about the West Indies as those at Seaford were. "Do they talk English?" was frequently asked, and the reply in the affirmative seemed to give rise to no little surprise. The games presented by the West India Contingent Committee are proving a great boon, and cricket and football are played with energy every evening.

While the activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee are temporarily lightened through the departure of so many men for Egypt that organisation is finding plenty of scope for work in providing for the welfare of men from the West Indies who have come over and joined the Army independently. These men, like those of the B.W.I.s., feel the present cold weather acutely, and many letters which have been received testify to their appreciation of the comforts with which the Ladies' Committee is providing them. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Ladies' Committee would be grateful for gifts of cardigans and woven under-vests, which are in great demand at present. Books, writing paper, games (such as draughts, dominoes, etc.) and cigarettes are also badly wanted for men of the B.W.I. Regiment still in hospital at Seaford and Plymouth. Such gifts may be sent direct to Miss Moseley, Honorary Secretary, The Ladies' Committee, West Indian Contingent Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W.

- Mrs. G. Campbell Arnott, 2 mufflers, 1 pr. gloves, 4 prs. mittens, 4 prs. socks, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Miss Goffe, 2 prs. gloves, 1 pr. mittens, 3 prs. socks, 1 doz. bags, 19 swabs.
- Per Miss D. A. Morris: Mrs. Woodroffe, 1 muffler, 1 helmet, 2 prs. mittens, 1 pr. socks; Lady Godfrey, 3 prs. mittens, 2 mufflers, 2 prs. cuffs; Mrs. and Miss Gwyther, 2 mufflers, 1 helmet, 2 prs. mittens; Miss H. Morris, 1 pr. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs; Mrs. W. Williams, 2 prs. mittens.
- Mrs. Brodie, 14 mufflers, 52 prs. socks, 4 prs. mittens, 3 prs. cuffs.
- Mrs. Gall, 2 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens.
- Berwick Guild of Aid (D.G.V.O.), 12 helmets, 25 mufflers, 1 leather waistcoat.
- Miss Maude Valérie White, 6 helmets.
- Mrs. T. H. H. Berkeley (of St. Kitts), 3 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens.
- Lady Owen Philipps, 300 prs. mittens, 20 helmets, 30 mufflers, 20 bed jackets, 6 nightingales, 48 flannel belts, 50 shirts.
- The Sister Margaretta, St. Mary's Home, Wantage, 11 prs. socks, 3 mufflers.
- Mrs. Wade, 7 prs. mittens, 1 glove for injured hand.
- Miss B. Skinner, 1 pr. mittens, 3 prs. socks.
- Miss Clarice Porter, 4 mufflers, 1 belt, 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
- Mrs. J. Bromley, 1 muffler, 3 prs. socks.
- Lady Philipps' West Indian Working Party, 45 carbonised shirts, 2 day shirts, 3 mufflers, 7 prs. socks, 1 pr. slippers.
- Miss C. B. Hamilton, 3 prs. socks, 6 prs. mittens, 1 body belt.

THE BARBADOS AMBULANCES.

On behalf of the People of Barbados, the West India Committee forwarded to the British Red Cross Society, on February 8th, a further sum of £200 collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore towards the upkeep of the motor ambulances presented by the island. The following acknowledgment of this generous gift has been received by the Secretary and is published below for information.

British Red Cross Society,
83, Pall Mall, S.W.
February 9th, 1916.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. enclosing cheque for £200, the same being a further contribution from the people of Barbados towards the upkeep of the two motor-ambulances so kindly presented by them to the Joint Committee at the instance of Mr. F. A. C. Collymore.

Will you kindly convey to Mr. Collymore, and, as far as possible, to the subscribers generally, our grateful thanks for this further handsome contribution. I note that in addition to the ambulances, their total gift has now reached £1,300, which is a most magnificent effort.

The money for running expenses is a most welcome gift, and is most gratefully received. I have just returned from a six days' visit to the front, and I found that, as a result of the bad state of the roads, our cars are constantly going into the works for repairs, and we have found it necessary to largely increase our capacity for repairing broken-down cars. All this means extra labour, and therefore we greatly welcome all help towards our maintenance and upkeep expenses.

I enclose herewith official receipt in duplicate, as requested.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. M. CLARKE,
Director, Motor Ambulance Department.

VANILLA CULTIVATION.

Why it has failed in Mauritius.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Agriculture of Mauritius an interesting discussion took place regarding minor industries. The increase of vanilla production was advocated as a remunerative industry, involving large returns from a small acreage. Some years ago vanilla was taken up with enthusiasm in the island, but the industry fell into disrepute owing to disease due to over fecundation and to an equally dangerous enemy, praedial larceny, which, one gathers, is as rife in Mauritius as it is in the British West Indies. The result has been that though vanilla forms an important staple in Réunion, the Seychelles, and Madagascar, where perhaps the praedial thief is dealt with more drastically, it is an industry of little importance in Mauritius.

Maize was another potential industry which came under discussion. As a diet Indian corn is apparently not much appreciated, for it was mentioned that since maize had been adopted as a ration in various Government institutions, including the gaol, there had been a noticeable decrease of crime. Maize cultivation, however, on an extensive scale on the estates as cattle food both as fodder and as grain was advocated, and the hope was expressed that its presence in cane fields might act as an effective check on noxious cane destroying insects which at present cause much havoc in the cane fields, and consequent anxiety to the planters in certain districts.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

PROFESSOR OWEN, of the Louisiana State University, has recently been drawing attention in *Sugar* to a new aspect of the case as regards the beneficial effect of heat and disinfectants on soils. The Russell and Hutchinson theory is that these agents destroy the malignant protozoa in the soil, and thus give the surviving beneficent bacteria full liberty of action in the direction of providing a supply of utilisable food for the plant. As against this Professor Owen adduces the results of the work of Greig Smith in Australia and of Messrs. Kelly and McGeorge in Hawaii.

THE former experimenter claims that the beneficial effect of heat is entirely independent of its action upon soil protozoa, and that he has found the same benefits are obtained in soils which had been previously freed of living protozoa before the heat was applied. Smith maintains that the good results obtained from heating the soil come from the destruction of bacterial toxins in the soil, which, produced by bacteria in the course of their development, tend later to limit the further development of these micro-organisms. By heating the soil this inhibiting factor is destroyed, and the soil bacteria are enabled to increase more rapidly.

A DIFFICULT point about Smith's theory is the fact that certain volatile disinfectants act upon the soil in the same way as heat does. The explanation he gives of this is that soils contain a waxy body which coats the soil particles. This is dissolved by the carbon-disulphide, chloroform, or toluol used, is carried to the surface of the soil, and is there deposited by the evaporation of the solvent. In this way the nutrient material of the soil, before not get-at-able, is made available. This theory, it will be noticed, completely separates the fertilising action of heat from that of disinfectants.

MESSRS. KELLY AND MCGEORGE applied themselves entirely to the heat question, and found that the increase of ammonia following treating was very striking. The soil was treated from 150° to 250° C. and under pressure of two atmospheres. The ammonia content of the soil materially increased up to 200° C., from which point it decreased. There was also a considerable decrease in nitrate nitrogen, which was found to begin at a temperature of 150° C. The nitrates were completely destroyed at a temperature of 200° to 250° C. The solubility of soil nitrogen was also considerably increased.

WHEN the soil was dried at 100° C. an increase in the water soluble manganese, lime, magnesia, phosphoric acid, sulphates, and bicarbonates resulted, and in about 50 per cent. of the cases an increase in the water-soluble potash occurred. The theory advanced by Messrs. Kelly and McGeorge as to the action of heat upon soils is that the soil is so altered in its physical condition that the film pressure is destroyed, and the solvent can establish more intimate connection with the soil constituents. This theory is rather in accord with Greig Smith's.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A MILESTONE in the Bermudas is inscribed, "London 3,076 miles."

* * *

Mrs. HAYES arrived safely in England on Saturday, February 26th, after a very enjoyable visit to Australia.

* * *

Mr. JAMES BRODIE, of Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, and Belize, British Honduras, died of heart failure at 35, Arkwright Road, Hampstead, on February 29th.

* * *

The business of Climaco Vargas has been formed into a private limited company, registered under the name of Climaco Vargas, Ltd. The directors are Messrs. R. A. Vargas, C. A. Vargas, F. N. de la Torre and J. A. Edwards.

* * *

Miss BERTH E. TINNE, who died at Delfield, Aigburth, on February 23rd, was the daughter of the late Mr. John A. Tinne and sister of Mr. J. E. Tinne, of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. She once visited Demerara, when she stayed with her nephew, Mr. C. T. Berthon.

* * *

ACCORDING to *Reuter* the United States' Senate has ratified the treaty with Haiti, under which the United States takes over the control of the finances and police, guaranteeing Haiti's territorial integrity, and undertaking to develop its resources. The treaty has already been approved by the Haitian Congress.

* * *

Mr. ROOSEVELT and family arrived at Barbados on February 26th on their way to Demerara and Trinidad. When the last mail left Port of Spain arrangements were being made by the Chamber of Commerce and Agricultural Society to entertain the ex-President at a Banquet at the Queen's Park Hotel.

* * *

In a letter published in the *Economist* of March 4th, Mr. Herbert J. Fairrie complained that the sugar refinery of Messrs. Fairrie and Co., Ltd., was completely stopped in January because the Government failed to supply raw sugar. He added that he believed that practically all the refiners in England and Scotland were compelled to cease work owing to the same cause at about the same period.

* * *

Mrs. SOMERS-COCKS, the wife of the senior assistant Master of Harrison's College, Barbados, recently got up an entertainment in the island in aid of the Blue Cross Fund for the care of horses at the front. It resulted in £60 being raised, and that sum, which the Royal Bank kindly sent over free of charge, has been forwarded by the West India Committee to the Secretary of the Fund on behalf of Mrs. Somers-Cocks.

A CORRESPONDENT in Nigeria informs us that limes grow in almost every part of that Colony and produce good crops. In some places the fruit is almost twice as large as the ordinary West Indian lime. Our informant indeed picked as many as 170 lbs. of fruit from one tree at a single picking. At the same time he considers that a lime industry in Nigeria would have little chance of success unless it were run by the Government, which is at the present time loath to enter into any new business.

* * *

MUCH sympathy is felt with Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., Commissioner of Montserrat, on the death of his brother, Lieut.-Colonel C. E. D. Davidson-Houston, D.S.O., who has given his life for his country at the front. The Commissioner's brother was returned as "wounded and missing" on September 25 last, and is now reported to have been killed in action. Lieut.-Colonel C. E. D. Davidson-Houston had a distinguished military career in India. He gained the D.S.O. at Givenchy.

* * *

DURING the enquiry at Liverpool, on February 26th, into the loss of the British steamer *Pelorusa* last year off Barbuda, Captain Barrett, master of the R.M.S. *Danube*, gave some interesting evidence as to the effect of hurricanes on ocean currents. He said that on the voyage from Trinidad to Puerto, Colombia, he encountered a current against him instead of one in his favour. He always found that when there was a depression in the West Indies it affected the currents to a certain extent—sometimes considerably so. It might last for only about twelve hours, and then the ordinary current would go on again. He was of opinion that the current spread over a considerable portion of the West Indies. He would not expect to find the current setting him to the south-east, but it might be possible if it were disturbed by a hurricane.

* * *

At a luncheon held in connection with the meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce on March 1st, Mr. Bonar Law dropped the first hint that the question of trade policy now and after the war was to be the subject of a Conference of the Allies. On March 8th, Mr. Asquith, replying to a deputation from the Chambers, who pressed for the appointment of a Minister of Commerce, went further, and said that the Conference of the Allies would be held in Paris in the next fortnight or so. In the course of his speech at the luncheon Mr. Bonar Law showed clearly what the German intention had been by quoting the following extract from a work of Dr. Schulze Gaevernitz, the German economist —

"By its free trade England has helped us more than it has injured us by all the political opposition taken together. Where would be the sugar industry—this first leader of our rising trade—where the German textile industry; where, indeed, the newly-created German capital without the rich English market always ready to receive our goods? On the back of free-trade England we have dared to grasp at the trade mastery of the world."

THE LONDON LETTER.

THE death occurred on February 24th, at Wimbledon, of Mrs. Kynaston, widow of the late Mr. Edward Kynaston, of Albert Hall Mansions and Mincing Lane, one of the staunchest friends the West Indies have ever had. Anti-bounty campaigners of the 'nineties will remember Mr. Kynaston's WEST INDIA CIRCULAR, whose outspoken leaderettes assisted towards ventilating the sugar bounty question.

* * *

THE Volunteers in Great Britain, who comprise a force running well into six figures in strength, are at last to receive official recognition. A Bill with this object in view was introduced into Parliament some little time ago, but it was dropped owing to the insistence of the Irish party that its provisions should be extended to Ireland, which would have secured the recognition of the bodies of volunteers raised for political objects before the War. The difficulty has now been overcome by putting into force the Volunteer Act of 1863. Under this our National Guard and cognate bodies, which have reached a high degree of efficiency, will be properly constituted and recognised as a military force solely for home defence. The officers and men will have military rank, and, in a word, the force will be in precisely the same position as that of the old Volunteers.

* * *

THE return of Sir Owen Philipps to Parliament gives the Executive of the West India Committee a second Member in the House of Commons, the other being Mr. W. Mitchell Thomson, M.P., who sits for West Down. Sir Owen Philipps was returned unopposed for Chester on February 20th. He is not a newcomer to Parliament, having represented the Pembroke and Haverfordwest District in the Liberal interest from 1906 to 1910. Mr. Mitchell Thomson has for many years held a watching brief for the British West Indies at Westminster, and has frequently raised debates on matters of interest to those colonies. With the advent of Sir Owen Philipps, and with Sir Max Aitken, the Chairman, and Sir Edward Goulding, a Director of the Colonial Bank, also on the green benches, our oldest group of colonies will now be better represented at Westminster than they have been for many a long day.

* * *

AT a Privy Council at Buckingham Palace on February 20th, the King followed the time-honoured custom of "pricking" the Sheriffs. With a silver bodkin he pricked the roll of names of those selected to serve as the chief officers of the Crown in the various counties of England and Wales for the ensuing year. Among those so honoured was Mr. Cyril Gurney, of Henlow Grange, Biggleswade, who now becomes High Sheriff for Bedfordshire. Mr. Gurney is well known in the West Indies as an Honorary Treasurer of the West India Committee, and a partner in the firm of Thomson, Hankey and Company, West India merchants, who are largely interested in Jamaica and other islands. By a curious

coincidence another member of the Executive of the West India Committee and a partner of Mr. Gurney has been similarly honoured, Mr. H. A. Trotter having been appointed High Sheriff of the County of London. The best that we can wish these gentlemen is that they may not during their tenure of office have to perform the functions of a "Jack Ketch," for in the absence of the hangman and the Under Sheriff it would fall to the lot of the High Sheriff to launch the condemned criminal into eternity.

* * *

THE report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases is summarised in the London newspapers of March 3rd. For the recommendations of the Commissioners we must refer readers to the document itself. Incidentally it may be mentioned that high tribute is paid to the efficacy of Salvarsan (606) a drug belonging to the arsenic group, which has proved of such immense value in the treatment of yaws (*grambæsia*) in the West Indies. It is unfortunately a German product, but substitutes have been prepared, the most important being Kharsivan and neo-Kharsivan and arsenobenzol-Billon, English and French products respectively. Reports of the use of these drugs are very satisfactory. The report points out that syphilis can be cured if promptly treated by a doctor, and it is recommended that the public should be informed that the disease may be acquired by kissing and by using the same eating or drinking utensils or tobacco pipes as a syphilitic person. The statistics of the social distribution of the disease appear to show that unskilled labourers head the list. Next comes "intermediate labour," and then the upper and middle classes. At the bottom of the list are miners and agricultural labourers.

* * *

SOME prominent members of the Temperance Party have suddenly evinced concern regarding the freight question and are—not disinterestedly—urging that the supply of sugar to brewers may be cut down with a view of relieving the situation. A correspondence in the *Times* under the caption "Sweets and Beer" has resulted. To this Sir Lauder Brunton contributed on March 3rd a letter bearing eloquent testimony to the value of sugar. He wrote:—

"The nutritive value of sugar is so great that the Germans, some years ago, added it to their soldiers' rations. In addition to this, sugar renders palatable food which might otherwise be insipid, or even distasteful, and it has been shown by the distinguished Russian physiologist I. P. Pavlov, whose recent death we greatly deplore, that food which pleases the palate is much more digestible than food which is insipid. Sweets have the additional power of supplying a craving which is sometimes felt, even after a full meal, a fact which is usually recognised by their being placed on the table along with dessert after a public dinner. They satisfy also a vague desire which is sometimes felt at other times, and, instead of leading to indulgence in alcohol or tobacco, they supply the place of these stimulants. Over-indulgence in sweets between meals, especially in children, is apt to lead to indigestion, but sweets taken along with, or just after, meals are of advantage. As sugar when converted into beer or spirit loses most of its nutritive power, it is a much greater economy to the country to keep sugar in its own form and not convert it into beer."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The following notes are extracted from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

ANTIQUA—Prædial Larceny Rampant.

MR. A. P. COWLEY.—The weather for the past fortnight has been windy and very squally. At the General Meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on Feb. 7th, the following officers were elected for the coming year:—A. P. Cowley, Esq. (Chairman); Hon. R. Warneford (Vice-Chairman); R. Bryson, Esq. (Deputy Chairman); L. S. Cranston, Esq. (Treasurer); T. Jackson, Esq. (Hon. Secretary); Hon. D. McDonald, Dr. H. A. Tempary, L. I. Henzell, Esq., and R. S. D. Goodwin, Esq.

Prædial larceny is as rampant as ever, but the Government do not seem very much concerned about the matter, and have not adopted certain recommendations which were made by the Agricultural Society last year. The magistrates' courts are too distant from each other, and in some cases are only held once a fortnight, so if a case of stealing takes place on the day after a sitting, two weeks elapse before the charge can be laid and two weeks more before the case is heard. Another matter which is becoming more and more serious is the state of the public roads. Up to the present we cannot persuade the Government to take steps to remedy the existing state of affairs, which is a scandal in view of the tax which we have to pay.

In an earlier letter, dated January 1st, Mr. Cowley referred to the send-off given to Sir Hesketh Bell. Many addresses were presented to His Excellency expressing appreciation of his services to the Leeward Islands.

BARBADOS—Recruiting Proceeding Apace.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., JANUARY 31st.—The weather has been dry, though very cool and pleasant. On Thursday, the 27th, the Recruiting Committee held a meeting in the parish of St. George. The Rector of the parish took the chair. The speakers were Dr. Boxill, M.C.P.; Mr. Cave, M.C.P.; the Rev. Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Byer, the Master of St. George's Church Elementary School. A squad of the new recruits which was marched past the platform showed the effect of their training. The speeches were good, and should appeal to the young men to do their duty. The next meeting will be held in St. Andrew's.

BRITISH GUIANA—Oil-Drill for the North-West.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, writing on the 20th and 22nd of January and the 12th of February, mentions that the weather has been satisfactory for agriculture, good showers and abundant sunshine prevailing. Mr. C. A. Parrett, the respected proprietor of Broomlands, Mahabony, had been killed on the 19th of January in a motor-car accident. In company with two friends, he started to return from a recruiting meeting in his motor, and while some distance from home the steering wheel gave out, with the result that the motor overturned, Mr. Parrett being pinned underneath the car. He subsequently died from syncope due to shock. The half-yearly meeting of the East Demerara Water Supply had been held, and satisfactory reports presented. The oil-drilling plant for the North-West District had arrived and was being shipped to its destination. Interesting results were expected from its operation. The Bel Air Park Races were held on the 26th and 27th of January, and an excellent two days' sport resulted. As the result of the report of the Sea Defence Commission, Mr. Buck, the Director of Public Works, had been seconded from that department and placed in charge of the new Sea Defence Department pending the appointment of a permanent head.

NEVIS—The Absence of Steamer Facilities.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, writing on January 18th, complained bitterly of the inconvenience suffered through the Canadian steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company not calling at the island. The weather continued seasonable for cane crops, though there was perhaps a little

too much moisture for cotton, and a short cotton crop was again likely to be reported from all round the island. The rainfall to 31st December, 1915, was 51in. 9.3 parts. Preparations for grinding are being made all round, one or two estates having already started.

TOBAGO—The Cruise of a "Peace Ark."

MR. G. DAVID HATT, FEBRUARY 11th.—The rainfall at the Botanic Station for January was 7.48 inches, as against 4.02 for the corresponding period last year, 2.28 for 1914, and 5.07 for 1913. One would have to go back many years to find recorded such a heavy rainfall as last month.

It would be a distinct blessing to us all if the inexpensive scheme for training nurses in midwifery in St. Vincent were introduced here. It was inaugurated by the Hon. C. Gideon and Mrs. Murray, and proved such a grand success as to merit warm commendation from Princess Marie Louise during her sojourn there. The immediate result would be an appreciable decrease in the mortality of infants under one year.

A three-masted Nova Scotia schooner in the harbour discharging lumber from up North is a sure sign of our growing prosperity; pity we are so severely handicapped in other vital directions. The intention of the authorities to dispose of 400 of the 600 acres of land comprising the Stock Farm is a wise one. If offered at moderate rates, free from building restrictions and on a time payment basis, the lands will not remain long unsold or uncultivated. English mails per Liverpool steamer arrived in twenty-three days, with a three-days delay in Port of Spain; by the French mail steamer in twenty-seven days, including six days awaiting transit by our once-a-week coastal steamer. The weather is excellent—bright, cool days and cooler nights. Tobacco and cacao continue to come into market. Canes will be planted this year as they never were for the past twenty-five years, and with the brilliant example set by Mr. Gardiner, the far-sighted and plucky manager of the Hope and Belmont group of estates, sugar will again rank high in our exports. The sugar estates are preparing to reap this year's crop.

The appearance of the first motor-car on the road between King's Bay and Scarborough in Tobago last month appears to have created no small stir, to judge from a letter received from a correspondent in the island. The car, which, being a Ford, is called locally the "Peace Ark," belongs to Mr. Thomas, and covered the journey between the two towns in 11 hours, as against a previous record of four hours. The people were greatly excited, and the congregations left the churches (it was on a Sunday), and crowds lined the roads from morning until afternoon awaiting the car.

TRINIDAD—Cacao Shipments for January.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, FEBRUARY 5th.—The honour conferred on the Hon. Adam Smith is welcomed throughout the colony as a fully deserved one. He has proved a worthy citizen in every sense of the word, and as a member of the Council has acted with independence and judgment that have amply justified his appointment. But his chief claim to respect and gratitude is in the admirable direction of the affairs of Port of Spain during the years he was Chief Commissioner. He has also been Hon. Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for many years, and altogether has done much useful public service modestly and quietly, but none the less effectively.

The public and the Constabulary alike regret the departure of Colonel Marshall, Deputy Inspector-General, who retires from the Service owing to failing eyesight. He was a strict disciplinarian, but the most kind-hearted of men, and was deservedly popular with all classes.

The Naparima District Agricultural Society held a successful exhibition at San Fernando on 31st January. The Acting Governor and party went down by special train, and the show was opened in a happy speech by His Excellency. The exhibits, if not so numerous as expected, were of excellent quality. Great credit is accorded to Mr. T. F. Eversley, the untiring Hon. Secretary of the Society, who worked very hard, but had his reward in the result. The Naparima Society has the great advantage of possessing as Chairman Sir Norman Lamont, who takes the deepest personal interest in its progress, and it has made considerable strides in usefulness under his guidance and encouragement. To him and

the Hon. H. McLelland the guests to the exhibition from Port of Spain were indebted for hospitality on the occasion.

The cacao shipments reported below, amounting to 5,085,123 lbs., do not represent the receipts coming forward during the month, as considerable quantities were stored waiting shipment to Europe. As a matter of fact, deliveries from the country were fairly up to the average for January. The fall in prices both in London and New York has naturally reacted on our market, and recent sales of "Estates" and "Ordinary" are reported at \$15.25 to \$15 per fanega of 110 lbs., with a downward tendency. The weather has continued very favourable to cultivation, and the indications are that fair pickings will continue for some months. Receipts of Venezuelan have fallen off as compared with December, due probably to the recent invasion of locusts in that Republic. Such shipments as have come forward were disposed of readily at prices varying from \$17.50 to \$15.75. Small lots have quite lately realised \$15.60, and it would appear as if prices are going even lower.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,276,641
B. N. America	65,560
United States America	3,431,522
France	311,400
Total for January	5,085,123
To same date, 1915	7,406,433
" " 1914	8,751,685
" " 1913	3,854,745
" " 1912	10,757,066
" " 1911	5,848,611
" " 1910	9,386,702
" " 1909	8,451,141
" " 1908	7,986,902

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Constitution of the Bahamas.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
Sir,

In a recent issue of your CIRCULAR you make the interesting suggestion that the Bermudas, Barbados, and the Bahamas should be represented on the Empire Parliamentary Association, and you stated that the Bahamas Constitution dated from 1728. This date is correct so far as the present or Royal Constitution is concerned. For the present House of Assembly is in continuous succession of the one which met in consequence of the Royal Order in Council of 1728. But may we not also take notice of its predecessor, the Proprietary House, which was brought into existence by the Lords Proprietors soon after the Royal Charter was granted to them in 1670, and which was very active during their régime? Of course, there was no House of Assembly from 1718, the date of the Royal resumption of the civil and military government of these islands, to 1728, the date of the creation of the present House.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
HARCOURT MALCOLM.

House of Assembly,
7th February, 1916.

[We are much indebted to Mr. Harcourt Malcolm for his interesting statement. As Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Bahamas he is entitled to speak with authority on such a subject as the Constitution of the colony, of whose history he has made a close study.—ED.]

MARRIAGE.

Duncan-Smallman.—On the 29th February, at Christ Church, Paddington, London, by the Rev. Ed. W. French, Major A. Briton Smallman, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., to Alice Florence, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Duncan, of The Lindens, Farnborough Park, Hants.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 87½; New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 96½. Consols stand at 57½.

SUGAR. Since the issue of the last Summary the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has raised the price of sugar 2/- per cwt. This was rendered imperative by the increased value of the world's sugar and the high freight charges which prevail. Indeed, if current freight rates are included in the Commission's cost of placing sugar in the United Kingdom, the present values of home and imported granulated are much below their actual value. The supply of sugar in retailers' hands is becoming more and more limited, and only small quantities can as a rule be purchased at the same time by customers. Indeed, some grocers decline to sell sugar by itself.

The negotiations on the subject of the sale of privately imported West Indian crystallised which have been going on between the West India Committee and the Sugar Commission are now concluded. The sugar will continue to be imported by licence, but it will be sold at the current price in London of the Commission's American granulated for average qualities of West Indian crystallised, with a margin of 1/6 per cwt. each way for superior and inferior qualities respectively. The grading of sugar for purposes of sale is to be done by a Committee of brokers to be appointed for the purpose, and the buyer of such sugar may not resell at a greater profit than 2½ per cent., thus bringing the terms of sale of these privately imported sugars into line with Government sugars. There is also a proviso that any sale of West Indian crystallised made to manufacturers is to be reported to the Sugar Commission, so that the quantity may be deducted from that allowed the particular buyer by the Commission.

The Board of Trade figures for February show that only 100,797 tons of sugar were imported for the month into the United Kingdom. Of this, 15,191 tons came from the United States in the form of granulated and cubes; 63,313 tons as refinery sugar from Cuba; 2,494 tons of grocery white and 17,553 tons of lower-grade white from Mauritius. The stocks on the 29th of February had dwindled from the already low figure of 91,550 tons on the 31st January to 73,200 tons. The consumption, based on imports, was 121,147 tons, as against 134,964 tons for February last year. The amount of sugar refined in bond was 50,278 tons, as against 63,163 for the same month last year, the lessened output being due to want of supplies, which, in one case at least, led to the closing down of the refinery.

The Cuban crop is progressing well, but the excess of production is not at present what it should be to give a crop of 3,175,000 tons, which was Mr. Himely's estimate. It is considered, however, that a 3,000,000 ton crop is assured. The Cuban planters, with well-lined pockets, are making the most of the world's necessities, the position being aggravated by freight difficulties. Stocks on the 26th ult. were 110,000 tons above what they were for the corresponding period of last year. On the other hand, stocks in the United States are still low, and with the heavy outside demands for refined sugars and considerable shipments from Cuba eastwards, the situation is one of considerable tension. Indeed, the refining power of the United States is likely to be considerably taxed in the near future, perhaps to an extent above its capacity.

A Bill revoking the free sugar clause of the Underwood Tariff has been introduced into the American House of Representatives, and should become operative before the 1st of May. There is no alteration in the sugar tariff of the new Canadian Budget.

At a conference which took place at Berlin between the German Sugar Organisations and the German Minister of the Interior, the representatives of the Union of German Sugar Producers advocated an increase in the price of beets by 7 marks (7/- with the mark at par) per ton, but as on account of the higher cost of manufacture due to the War, there would have to be an increase in the price of raw sugar to the extent of 12 to 15 marks per cwt. to compensate for this. In peace time the average cost of production of a ton of raw sugar was 136.5 marks for the beets (at the rate of 21 marks per ton), and 49 marks per

ton for the manufacture, or 185.5 marks, equivalent to 50 ss. (mark at par) per ton. The proposed increased payment for beets, 28 marks per ton as against 32 marks demanded by the growers, and the increased cost of manufacture, on the average 79 marks per ton, would mean a cost of production of 261 marks, or £13 1s. per ton. In order, therefore, to secure increased sowings, with a view to an adequate supply of sugar for Germany itself, and a few hundred thousand tons for export, the producers insisted upon a rise in the official price of sugar to take effect from the 1st September next. The German manufacturers are evidently anticipating that their sugar will be received with open arms by this country when the War is over!

The recent accounts of the Java crop are more favourable. The weather has been suitable for growth, and the chances have been making good progress.

There has been a considerable amount of correspondence in the Press on the subject of the Government's restriction of sugar supplies. It is felt that brewers are especially favoured by the importation of a bulky article like hops. There is, however, a better way of economising in the direction of sugar, and that is the withdrawal of the Excise permission for the use of sugar in making beer. No less than 120,000 tons per annum of a valuable food product would thus be saved for public—not public-house—purposes. Sugar has no business in brewing, and a return to the genuine malt and hops article would be a distinct gain to the general public.

The West India Committee have sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister, pointing out the dependence of the United Kingdom on foreign sugar and the large amount—considerably more than sufficient for the whole of this country's present and prospective needs—which could be grown in the British Colonial possessions provided adequate preferential treatment were given in the Customs tariff.

According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the total imports of sugar into France in 1915 amounted to 578,151 tons, of which 289,659 tons were raw and 288,492 tons refined. Of the raw sugar, 107,923 tons came from French colonies, 50,526 tons from the United States, 15,753 tons from Peru, and 42,714 tons from Java. To the 50,871 tons of raw beet which come from European countries, Italy contributed 18,446 tons and Denmark 20,125 tons. Of the direct consumption sugars, 134,349 tons came from the United States, 62,410 tons from Java, and 24,353 tons from Italy. The exports amounted to 116,185 tons, including 60,028 tons for Morocco and 34,743 tons for Algeria.

No auction sales have taken place in London during the fortnight.

The London West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to February 26th are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	4,389	7,579	4,781	5,887	2,816 Tons
Deliveries ...	9,784	6,475	5,023	4,762	5,841 ..
Stock (Feb. 26)	5,705	7,113	12,364	2,964	1,465 ..

The New York market is very strong. 96° sugars, which at the date of the last Summary stood at \$5.02 duty paid, rose on the 1st inst. to \$5.14, and next day to \$5.25, reaching \$5.27 on the 4th, and \$5.36 yesterday. Granulated has risen to \$6.40, and large sales are reported for Europe.

RUM. The market in all departments keeps very firm, and further business is reported in Demerara at full rates both on the spot and to arrive in London and Liverpool. Spot value is 4/3 per proof gallon for ordinary marks. The firmness of the proof market has favourably affected the market for Jamaica, and values are rather dearer in consequence of increased demand.

The stocks in London on February 26th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	5,894	5,012	5,472	5,951	7,667 Puns.
Demerara ...	5,714	6,379	9,619	8,114	8,600 ..
Total, all kinds ...	22,170	17,127	21,895	21,895	24,200 ..

CACAO. The market has been firm, with rising prices. At auction sales on the 29th ult., 6,134 bags were offered, of which 754 bags were British West Indian. Of

the 575 bags of Trinidad offered, 100 bags sold at 91/-. The small quantity of 15 bags of Grenada was sold at 85/6. The 4 bags of Dominica changed hands at 82/-; 86 bags of the 99 bags put up of St. Lucia were disposed of at 78/- to 83/-. The Jamaica lot of 61 bags was bought in.

The amount of cacao imported into Canada for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1915, was 5,760,873 lbs., of the value of \$710,407, of which 2,700,373 lbs. came from British possessions.

The stocks in London on February 26th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	6,160	6,989	6,480	2,938	5,648 Bags
Grenada ...	10,487	4,347	6,762	4,914	12,984 ..
Total, all kinds	99,678	49,873	80,037	70,984	113,583 ..

COTTON. There has been more steadiness in the American market. Messrs. Walstenholme and Holland report that no business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since the date of last Summary.

The imports of West Indian for the year to the 4th inst. were 350 bales.

COPRA. The market is steady, with very little demand in London. The value of West Indian is £36 10s. to £37 c.i.f.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, small sales up to 8/6; distilled, fair business at 8/6; stocks very low. Lime Juice: Raw firmly held, but demand has not set in yet. Concentrated, no change to report.

SPICES. Nutmegs have been in demand, and prices have gone up 1d. all round. 100/80's are quoted at 9d. to 1/-, and 140/100's at 8½d. to 9d. per lb. Mace: Good to fine is unchanged at 2/- to 2/6; other qualities are higher—red to good, 1/8 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/5 to 1/7; broken, 11d. to 1/4. Ginger: The market for Jamaica remains very strong, but there is little doing, owing to the scarcity of supplies. We leave our last quotation unaltered at 75/- to 90/- for Rhatton to good clear. The price of Pimento has steadily improved, and there has been a good demand, with spot sales at 3½d. per lb.

ARROWROOT. Sales of about 500 barrels reported at 2½d. to 4½d. All the lower qualities have been cleared off the market, and the demand is rather quiet. Quotations nominal at 2½d. to 4½d.

COFFEE. The demand generally has improved, but there has been an absence of buyers for Jamaica. Good ordinary palish may be quoted 53/- to 54/-, with fine ordinary greenish 56/- to 57/-.

HONEY. At a private auction sale on the 24th ult., 330 packages Jamaica changed hands at about 2/- advance; fermenting, 32/- to 36/-; dark, 37/- to 38/-; palish to pale, 38/6 to 43/-. 71 cases of St. Lucia were also disposed of, dark to good darker liquid, 37/- to 41/- per cwt.

COCO-NUT OIL. The market generally has been firm, with considerable business passing. Ceylon may be quoted at 57/- c.i.f., and Cochin at 58/-.

RUBBER. Market very quiet, but steady. Prices for plantation have improved, fine being quoted at 3/8, and smoked sheet at 3/7. Para has also improved; fine hard 4s now valued at 3/2½, and soft is nominal at 2/1½.

BALATA. A rather good business has been done, and prices have again advanced. Venezuelan block is being sold up to 2/5½ c.i.f. Supply of Panama block is small; sellers' price is 3/2 to 3/3 landed terms.

WOODS. Fustic, £10 to £12. Jamaica Logwood, £8 to £8 10s. Cedar is quoted at 8d. to 9d. per foot; Lignum Vitæ at £4 per ton; Honduras Mahogany 5d. to 8½d. per foot; St. Domingo Satinwood 9d. to 1/6 per foot.

TIMBER. British Guiana Greenheart is nominally quoted at £14 to £18 per load of 50 cubic feet.

PETROLEUM OIL remains at 10d., with water white at 11d.

March 8th, 1916.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell	Mr. John T. Greg	Miss E. Robinson
H. E. Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G.	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. F. B. B. Sband
Mr. D. C. Cameron	Mr. P. L. Guppy	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. A. Campbell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. Thos. Thornton
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Clement Malone	Hon. H. B. Walcott
Dr. J. H. Cooke	Mr. A. L. McColi	C.M.G.
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. A. E. Perkins	
	Mr. W. C. Robertson	
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.		
Lieut-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bittern Southampton.		
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.		
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.		

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.
Mar. 15	"Direct" Line	Surgasso	London	A. B. E. F. G. I K. L. M. N.
.. 16	"Direct" Line	Conway	London	D.
.. 18	Leyland Line	Seythian	Liverpool	A. F.
.. 18	Booker Line	Imutaku	Liverpool	B.
.. 20	Elders & Fybes	Caevina	Bristol	D.
.. 24	Leyland Line	Belgian	Liverpool	D.
April 1	Harrison Line	Engineer	Liverpool	A. B. E. F. G. I K. L. M. N.
.. 3	Elders & Fybes	Camido	Bristol	D.
.. 15	Leyland Line	Orubian	Liverpool	A. E.

FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Mar. 31	Royal Dutch	Jan van Nassau	Amsterdam	B. E.
April 7	.. A Steamer	..	..	..

FROM CANADA				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
April 7	R.M.S. P. Co.	Coraque	Halifax, N.S.	A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. L. M. N.
.. 21	..	Chaleur	..	..

FROM THE UNITED STATES				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Mar. 28	Trinidad Line	Makara	New York	L. E. B.

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Divid.	Latest Quotations.			PRICES
				Mar. 28
4 %	Antigua	.. 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	..	77
3 3/4 %	Barbados	.. 3 3/4 % 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	..	79
4 %	Jamaica	.. 4 % Redeemable 1934	..	82 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	.. 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	..	70
3 %	Jamaica	.. 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	..	75
4 %	St. Lucia	.. 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	..	77
4 %	Trinidad	.. 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	..	82
3 %	Trinidad	.. 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	..	64 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank	..	..	99 1/2
7 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	..	..	101 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	..	..	82 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	..	..	87 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	..	..	88 1/2
4 3/4 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 3/4 % Debentures	..	..	94 1/2 sd
6 %	Angosura Bitters Part. Preference	..	..	10
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	..	..	97
7 1/2 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	..	..	9 1/2
7 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1/1 shares)	..	..	5 1/4
7 %	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	..	..	10/3
7 %	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)	..	..	..
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	..	..	27-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Pref. Pref.	..	..	95-100
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 3/4
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	..	..	7 1/2
6 %	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 Jan. 27, 1916			Jan. 1 to Jan. 31, 1915	
Sugar	13,552	7,172 Tons.	1,947	22 Tons
Molasses	..	Puns.	..	..
Rum	664,004	592,706 Pf. Gls.	4,398	15,638 Gall.
Molascuit, &c.	100	187 Tons.	..	..
Cacao	3,303	11,202 lbs.	166,512	365,120 lbs.
Coffee	..	160 "	342,528	922,768 "
Coco-nuts	163,768	89,063 No.	363,569	1,369,870 No.
Oranges	..	..	205,300	262,150 "
Bananas	..	..	19,327	133,676 Stems.
Cotton	..	..	..	..
Pimento	..	..	2,757	4,352 Cwts.
Ginger	..	..	350	204 "
Honey	..	..	105	166 lbs.
Dye-woods	..	..	936	3,393 Tons
Gold	2,316	6,520 Ozs.	..	..
Diamonds	..	..	..	..
Rice	1,675,876	2,452,857 lbs.	..	..
Balata	84,823	183,291 "	..	..
Rubber	..	..	..	..
Timber	1,275	19,293 cub. ft.	..	..
Lumber	76,992	2,653 ft.	..	..
lime (hydrate of)	..	..	..	..

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 1916		Jan. 1 to Feb. 3, 1915	
Sugar	..	..	..
Molasses	276	322 Puns.	..
Rum	731	949 "	..
Coco-nuts	803,840	547,340 No.	..
Asphalt	3,373	2,949 Tons.	..
Manjak	108	..	..
Bitters	2,077	1,756 Cases.	..
Coffee	480	.. lbs.	..
Crude Peitrol	1,509,979	41,769 Gall.	..
Cacao	9,152,400	9,564,200 lbs.	..
Cotton	..	..	..
.. Seed	..	..	..
Copra	3,427	1,589 Bags.	..
Spice	..	..	..
Kola	..	..	..

Grenada.		
Oct. 1 to Nov. 28, 1915		
..
..
..
..

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.): Feb. 28th, "Weather dry"; Mar. 4th, "Weather favourable."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended Feb. 9th: Port Antonio, 3rd to 7th, "Fair"; 8th-9th, "Rainy"; Kingston, "Fine."

WANTS.

Wanted.—Wanted to purchase, July issue of the *International Sugar Journal*, 1916. Apply G., West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

For Sale.—Bound volume of *The Sugar-Cane (International Sugar Journal)* for year 1889. Apply P., West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Timehri.—Wanted to purchase, Part II. of *Timehri* for 1891, and Part II., 1898. Apply M. L. F., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

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.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SERRING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.4.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

March 22nd, 1916.

INDENTURED IMMIGRATION.

THE article on East Indian immigration into the West Indies which was published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR on February 10th will have prepared our readers for the announcement, now made officially, that the Government of India has decided to terminate the present indenture system. A resolution with this end in view was introduced into the Legislative Council on March 20th by MR. PUNDIT MALAVIYA, and was supported by the VICEROY. According to a report of HIS EXCELLENCY'S speech which appeared in the *Times* of the following day, LORD HARDINGE, who admitted that he had always felt a prejudice against indentured emigration, said that the Government had addressed the Secretary of State last autumn, reviewing the whole position in the light of Messrs. Macneill's and Chiman Lal's report, and had urged abolition in Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, Fiji, and Dutch Surinam. The Government had alluded to the feeling against the system, which had intensified yearly. The Secretary of State had agreed to the policy of total abolition, but had pointed out that the existing system of recruiting must be maintained until the new conditions had been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned and reasonable time given them to adjust themselves to the change. LORD HARDINGE added that he was confident that India would accept the proposal in a reasonable and generous spirit. A marked improvement in conditions had been made, and other improvements were in process of realisation. We must defer comment on LORD HARDINGE'S speech until the full report reaches us. Meanwhile we need hardly point out that the decision now arrived at will give rise to a labour pro-

blem in British Guiana and Trinidad, and to a lesser extent in Jamaica, which will not be an easy one to solve. It will be noted, however, that the door is not closed to East Indian emigration generally, but only to indentured, and it is, in the circumstances, to be hoped that the Indian authorities will give a liberal interpretation of the "reasonable time" which is promised to the colonies concerned to enable them to meet the altered conditions.

THE WHITE PLAGUE IN THE WEST INDIES.

THE annual report of the British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis and the report of DR. H. L. CLARE, Surgeon-General of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended March 31st, 1915, remind us that the dreaded White Plague is alarmingly prevalent in the West Indies, where it continues to pursue its course of havoc. It is shown that in British Guiana no fewer than 338 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year 1915, and that the number of deaths resulting from consumption were some 500, whilst in Trinidad the death-roll from tubercular diseases numbered 564 in the same year. In Georgetown alone there were 150 deaths from tuberculosis in 1915, and it is pointed out that the worst epidemic of yellow fever in the colony never caused such a mortality in that city. "Some of us," states the report, "are old enough to remember the excited state of the place in 1887 when we had a small (and the last) epidemic of yellow fever in this town. There were 81 cases only, and some 30 or 35 persons died." Yet the people remain apathetic and unmoved by the serious and altogether unnecessary death-rate from consumption. The prevalence of this terrible disease is attributable principally to overcrowding and lack of ventilation, and it is the object of voluntary associations in British Guiana and Trinidad to educate the people as to the advantages of light and air, to provide adequate nursing accommodation, and to prevent the spread of infection by detaining and isolating really serious cases. If evidence were needed as to the bearing of housing accommodation and light and air on the disease it would be found in the East Indian population, who are much better provided for in this respect than the "native" population—as for want of a better term we must term the rest of the resident population. The East Indians who, during their residence on the estates are housed in light and commodious "barracks," are notably free from tubercular complaints, as a reference to the reports of the Immigration authorities demonstrates. In view of the deplorable state of affairs now shown to exist, it is a matter for grave reproach to those interested in British Guiana that the preven-

tive work undertaken with such success by the local Tuberculosis Society should be hampered by want of funds. It seems almost incredible that the income of the Society for 1915 should have been only \$1,531.84. Yet it is a fact, and we are forced to agree with the strictures of MR. A. P. SHERLOCK, one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the Society, who regarded it discreditably to the colony that there should have been only thirty-three subscribers in the list. It is impossible to dismiss lightly his suggestion that when there was an epidemic of yellow fever there was a howl, not because people were dying, but because ships were not coming to Georgetown, and there was no trade, though we must remind MR. SHERLOCK that the number of white people attacked by yellow fever was comparatively far greater than that of the black inhabitants suffering from consumption. Still, MR. SHERLOCK'S was a grave indictment, but it was one which no one ventured to contradict, though it is hard to believe that the people of any colony could be altogether so mercenary. But apart altogether from the philanthropic aspect of the case, it is clear that a sparsely populated colony like British Guiana, with a population of a little over three souls to the square mile, can ill afford to lose 500 of its inhabitants in a year, or 5,000 in ten years—the figures soon mount up—through a disease which medical science has clearly proved to be preventable. We hope that now that conditions are more normal in the West Indies, arrangements may be made for convening the Inter-colonial Conference on Tuberculosis which was to have been held last year, but which had to be postponed owing to the War. Meanwhile we earnestly appeal to our readers to support the admirable work which is being done by the voluntary associations for the prevention of tuberculosis in British Guiana and Trinidad, and we need hardly add that we shall be glad to forward to the proper quarter any subscriptions which we may receive towards this object.

FRUIT FOR THE WOUNDED.

NOW that over 10,000 packages of fruit, preserves, lime-juice, and other similar gifts, have been received from the British West Indies and distributed by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE among hospitals receiving sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, the ships of the Grand Fleet, and the troops at the Front, it may be desirable to place on record some further details of what has been done in this connection. The organisations responsible for collecting and despatching the various gifts are the JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, whose Secretary, MR. JOHN BARCLAY, is quite untiring in his efforts; the useful TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ORANGE AND LIME COMMITTEE, an organisation established *ad hoc*, which owes its inception to the exertions of CAPTAIN RANDOLPH RUST and MR. L. M. HOBSON; and the DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, whose President, DR. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS, has received the ungrudging assistance of MR. JOHN FADEN and MR. J. G. MCINTYRE. In this connection we may remind our readers that the idea of sending over these gifts of fruit originated with a few planters in Dominica, who began send-

ing over a few cases of limes and oranges in the very early days of the War. The fruit was so much appreciated that it was decided to launch out on a much larger scale, and the assistance of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in the matter of distribution was invoked, and has since been ungrudgingly given. Jamaica and Trinidad soon joined in the movement, with the handsome result recorded elsewhere, and on behalf of the Army Council the Committee is receiving and distributing the fruit from those colonies also. Were we to publish only a tithe of the letters of thanks which have been received for these gifts of fruit, it would be necessary to increase the size of the CIRCULAR by very many pages, a contingency which cannot be entertained in view of the restrictions recently imposed on the importation of paper, and it must suffice to say that the acknowledgments have been sent periodically by the hundred to MR. BARCLAY, CAPTAIN RUST, and DR. NICHOLLS, who will no doubt be glad to show them to any members interested. MR. C. F. P. RENWICK, the Editor of our contemporary the *West Indian*, has also collected and despatched fruit from Grenada, and several other individuals have also sent over consignments, though with less success, for while, generally speaking, the fruit sent over by the organisations in Jamaica, Trinidad, Dominica, and Grenada have been excellent in quality, the same cannot be said of that sent by individuals. The handling of such large consignments of fruit and gifts is no light task for an office staff whose usefulness in time of peace lies in other directions, and we may perhaps be pardoned for pluming ourselves for the manner in which, though already depleted by the claims of the War, they are performing it, and for recording our appreciation of the services of MR. G. P. OSMOND, the Chief Clerk of the Committee in this connection, who has devoted much of his private time towards ensuring the smooth working of the arrangements made. In conclusion we are glad to learn that the directions which were circulated by the WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE earlier in the year have effectively checked the indiscriminate sending over of gifts by individuals. Experience soon showed that, though the givers were prompted by the kindest possible motives, their generosity was frequently thrown away. Parcels oozing jelly at every pore, boxes without their contents and labels separated from the parcels to which they were attached no longer arrive, and it fortunately seems at last to be appreciated that the space in the mail bags and steamers can more usefully be appropriated by articles for which there is a real need, and that individual gifts are best sent by money order.

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, K.C.M.G.

Sir John Chancellor, the new Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, has consented to attend a meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in that colony at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th. No further notice of this meeting will be issued, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will endeavour to attend.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Battle of Verdun.

This titanic struggle has been going on for three weeks, rising and falling in its intensity, but though the French remain undaunted, the Germans are still formidable, and show very little sign of discouragement, unless it is in the contraction of the front. They cannot extend their wings as they desire to do, and provide men for the main thrust against the northern edge of the Heights of the Meuse in the vicinity of Douaumont and Vaux. There are two explanations accounting for the fact that the enemy's attacking front is contracted to three or four miles on the plateau north-east of Verdun. One is that in advancing to the south he exposed his right wing to the enflading fire of the French artillery on the western bank of the Meuse, whereas by moving a little to the east he is protected by intervening hills. Another explanation is that his losses have been so heavy that he is obliged to fight the succeeding stages on a shorter front than the first. The attacks west of the Meuse and in the Woivre plain are distractions, whose object is to lighten the task of the troops engaged in trying to break the French line at Douaumont and Vaux.

Douaumont and Vaux.

Since the Meuse flows N.N.W. just below Verdun, and follows a winding course, while the French lines run from east to west, the trenches therefore facing north, the enemy in this region occupies both banks of the river. Not only can he advance along the valley, but command some of the heights of the Meuse. Because of these natural advantages he possesses, north of Verdun is one of the weakest points in the French lines, and it was this reason chosen by the Germans for their great new offensive in the West. After their advance towards Douaumont some of the French positions around Regneville came under the direct fire of the enemy, when he made a determined attack from Forges, which ended in the capture of Hill 265, dominating the main road along the left bank of the river towards Sedan. But every step he gains is paid for at a frightful cost. After taking Hill 265 he endeavoured to storm the Côte de l'Ois and to debouch from Béthincourt towards the Bois des Corbeaux, both of which attempts failed. Unable to conquer the whole of Douaumont and gain possession of the crest behind it, the Germans delivered a violent assault on Vaux, so as to gain possession of the ravine that leads up to the Douaumont crest, and thus take it from the rear. They managed to enter the village, but were at once driven out at the point of the bayonet. Five attacks have since been repelled in the vicinity of Mort Homme.

On the Eastern Front.

Matters are still almost at a standstill in this region, though the Germans have shown some activity around Friedrichstadt and Tarnopol, and

large concentrations have been discovered in the region of Baronavitschi, in Southern Poland. It is believed in Russia that the enemy will begin where he left off last year with a new offensive of the familiar type. The encircling movement will probably have the Pinsk marshes for a centre. But the conditions this year will be more favourable to Russia than they were when her armies were forced back from the Dunajetz, because she is now well supplied with munitions.

The Bedouin Collapse in Africa.

Sollum, the frontier post evacuated by the British in December last, has been re-occupied. The retreating enemy, who blew up his ammunition stores, was successfully pursued, prisoners and guns being captured. The Senussi, though disheartened by the severe checks they have experienced, have only sent in tentative offers of peace, but the Bedouins, who are utterly demoralised, are flocking into our lines, and one of their chiefs has surrendered, while the headmen of other tribes are asking for pardon. All danger from this side is at an end. So that one of Enver Pasha's allies in the projected attack on Egypt has been knocked out before he is ready to start.

The Situation in Asia.

A fortnight ago General Aylmer's force advanced along the right bank of the Tigris as far as El Sinn, eight miles from Kut. Here the Turks hold a strong position, inasmuch as an old canal run dry provides an entrenchment ready made, and German engineers have further strengthened the defences by the construction of a fortified camp. Not only was the relief force compelled to halt, but, presently, for lack of water, to fall back, an operation which was carried out in good order. The Turks, who thereupon occupied an advanced position, were promptly turned out. No special anxiety is felt with regard to General Townshend's force, as its supplies will last for some months yet; but dissatisfaction with the War as a whole in this area is finding expression. In particular, ugly tales are coming home that the wounded are suffering unnecessarily.

The Russians have advanced from Kermanshah to a point north of Harunabad, whence the advance westwards towards Baghdad should be relatively easy, the forcing of the Pushti-Ka range excepted. These mountains lie almost in the Turco-Persian frontier, and can be seen in the blue of distance by our troops on the Tigris. The Turks may defend the main pass stoutly, but their resistance has collapsed so often lately that there is no telling what they will do. As the Russians have occupied Karina, on the west side of the Pushti-Ka range, it is evident that they are not going to advance on Baghdad by the shortest route, and thus effect a junction with the British forces, but intend to take Baghdad in the rear.

Russian forces have landed at Rizeh, on the Black Sea, and are advancing through the coastal regions towards Trebizond, which is now menaced from the south, west, and east.

Portugal Intervenes.

Though Portugal's seizure of interned German

vessels, some of which were being secretly armed, was not an act of war, Germany has chosen to consider it so, and another European nation has been drawn into the European struggle for liberty. Ever since it began, our ancient ally has maintained an attitude of benevolent neutrality, and long ago voted the credits necessary to her participation in the War when it should become advisable. The deciding factor was the scarcity of tonnage due to enemy submarines and mines, but the opening of the British offensive in East Africa was also a consideration, which was not overlooked. Portuguese territory lies south of German East Africa, and no doubt the Germans hoped to counter British military successes in the colony by using Portuguese territory as a haven of refuge. All Germans at Beira have been interned, and it is to be hoped those in Delagoa Bay will share the same fate.

The War at Sea.

We have lost the destroyer *Coquette* and the torpedo boat No. 11, both of which struck mines in the North Sea and foundered, with the loss of four officers and 41 men. The *Coquette*, one of the "D" class, was a vessel of 325 tons displacement, completed in 1897. The torpedo boat was comparatively new. The loss of these ships is no doubt due to the mine-laying activity of part of the German fleet which came out into the North Sea last week.

Another British vessel of the Auxiliary Fleet was sunk off the East Coast, the *Fauvette*, with the loss of two officers and twelve men. The rest of the ship's company, 42 in all, were saved.

Though Admiral von Tirpitz has resigned as Secretary of the German Navy, there is no alteration, so far, in the enemy's submarine policy. The latest victim is one of the two finest liners in the Dutch merchant service, the *Tubantia*, which was torpedoed off the Noord Hinder lightship. She carried 87 passengers, most of whom, together with the crew, were saved by torpedo boats. Another merchantman, the *Silius*, a Norwegian ship with Americans on board, was torpedoed off Havre on her way to New York. No wonder there is indignation, as well as anxiety, in the United States and Holland.

In East Africa.

General Smuts is repeating in this theatre of the War the swift encircling movements which proved so successful in South-West Africa. After capturing Tateva, a British station on the frontier, the Imperial Forces attacked the enemy in the densely wooded and steep Kitovo Hills, which were strongly fortified and held. The fighting was hot, positions having been taken and retaken several times. A final attack with the bayonet at night seems to have finally dislodged the Germans, who, next morning, were seen streaming away towards the south-west, leaving many dead and some guns. In the meantime a Mounted Brigade was clearing the Kilimanjaro foothills of the German forces cut off by the rapid British advance from Kateva, and another strong column seized the Arusha-Moshi road in the rear of the German concentration. In consequence, the enemy is quickly retreating southwards, aided by the Tanga railway, whereas our course is impeded by the many rivers in this area.

Currency Matters.

The Scandinavian capitals continue to raise the exchange rate against Germany. At Copenhagen the rate is 62.50 per 100 marks, and in Stockholm and Christiania 62.70, the normal rate being 89. The German exchange on New York shows a depreciation of 25 per cent.

The War in the Air.

In the air there has been great activity. Four German seaplanes dropped bombs on Dover, Deal, Margate and Ramsgate on Sunday last. Our airmen chased the raiders off, and Lieut. Bone accounted for one of the enemy, which he overhauled and brought down after a chase of thirty miles. In the early hours of the following morning a combined force of approximately 50 British (Naval), French, and Belgian aeroplanes and seaplanes, accompanied by 15 fighting machines, carrying on the average 200 lbs. weight of bombs each, attacked the German Seaplane Station at Zeebrugge and the Aerodrome at Houtade, near Zeebrugge. Considerable damage was believed to have been done. All the machines returned safely.

(To be continued.)

OUR ILLUSTRATION.

A Quaint West Indian Print.

The West India Committee is indebted to Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co. for the curious coloured print reproduced facing this page. It is described as "An Allegorical Representation of His Majesty King George the Third. Wherein he is seated on the Throne, attended by Wisdom, Justice and Liberty, also Science, Navigation, and Commerce laying at his feet a map of the West India Islands." It will be noted that this very interesting old print is dated 1st September, 1794, the year of the capture of Martinique, Guadeloupe, and St. Lucia by General Sir Charles Grey and Admiral Sir John Jervis, which it was no doubt intended to commemorate.

IN further response to the appeal for Venezuela Alpagatas for the hospital of Notre Dame des Grèves at St. Malo, which was published in the CIRCULAR of November 2nd last, the West India Committee have received and forwarded to their destination a case containing five dozen pairs of these comfortable and useful slippers from Mr. Ivan H. Laing, British Consul of Curaçao, and Mr. Maduro, a merchant of that island. In thanking these gentlemen for their kind gift, Mr. Hutton writes from St. Malo:—"The Alpagatas arrived safely, and were handed over to the Matron, who is delighted to have at last a really practical foot covering for the men in hospital. I am sure that similar contributions to any military hospitals would be welcomed, especially if the slippers are of the larger sizes. Very often a slipper has to be put on over a bandage, and the size which will fit a bare foot will not stretch over a stockinged or swollen foot."



311 An Allegorical Representation of his MAJESTY KING GEORGE the THIRD.
*Wherein he is seated on the Throne, attended by WISDOM, JUSTICE, & LIBERTY, also Science, Navigation & Commerce,
 laying at his Feet a Map of the West India Islands.*

GOD SAVE THE KING

God save great George our King,
 Long live our noble King,
 And save the King
 send him victorious,
 Happy and glorious,
 Long to reign over us,
 God save the King.

Send our good King
 And make them full,
 Command their Politicks,
 Frustrate their bad Designs,
 On our our hopes are fixed,
 God save the King.

The church sits in, there,
 In him be pleased to pour,
 Long may he reign:
 May he defend our laws,
 And ever give us cause,
 To sing with heart and voice,
 God save the King

Oh grant him long to see,
 Friendship and unity,
 Always increase,
 May he his sceptre sway,
 All loyal souls obey,
 With heart and voice Intend,
 God save the King

While France her children mourn,
 And pierce our throats,
 We happy live,
 Since discord with thy reign,
 Thy ruffian arms are vain,
 For Louis Britain's song,
 God save the King

Published in 1763 by R. LAURENCE & J. WHITTAKER, No. 52.

A QUAIN PRINT OF WEST INDIAN INTEREST.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The table given below, which is taken from the official Canada Year Book, gives the quantities and values of the imports into Canada from British and Foreign West Indies during the fiscal year 1914:—

Dutiable Articles	British West Indies and British Guiana.		TOTAL IMPORTS FROM Foreign West Indies and Foreign Guiana.		Total from West Indies and Guiana.	
		\$		\$		\$
Arrowroot lb.	59,934	3,977	—	—	59,934	3,977
Coco nuts, imported						
direct No.	454,748	11,991	—	—	454,748	11,991
n o p.	110,433	3,201	—	—	110,433	3,201
Cocoa beans, not roasted, crushed or ground cwt.	2,374	34,138	—	—	2,374	34,138
Fruits—						
All other n.o.p. dried lb.	9,722	417	—	—	9,722	417
All other fruits and nuts \$	—	754	—	—	—	754
In air-tight cans, etc. \$	65,615	4,285	63	3	65,678	4,288
Hats, grass, straw, etc. \$	—	2,032	—	—	—	2,032
Honey in the comb lb.	251,127	15,251	150	10	251,277	15,261
Iron, cast, scrap iron ton	30	166	—	—	30	166
Iron, cast, scrap, steel, wrought cwt.	2,303	587	—	—	2,303	587
Lead, old scrap, etc. cwt.	978	3,570	—	—	978	3,570
Packages \$	—	7,347	—	4,049	—	11,396
Spices—						
Ginger, n.o.p. unground lb.	485,753	28,481	—	—	485,753	28,481
Nutmegs and mace, whole or unground lb.	41,528	4,913	—	—	41,528	4,913
Spirits—						
Rum gal.	131,062	46,995	118	86	131,180	47,084
Other spirits	320	1,693	—	—	320	1,693
Sugar lb.	265,565,242	5,735,799	317,657,675	6,398,439	583,222,917	12,134,238
Tobacco—						
Cigars lb.	905	3,935	142,581	612,855	143,866	616,790
Other mfs. of \$	—	2	1,612	4,652	1,613	4,654
Vegetables \$	—	1,574	—	3,114	—	4,688
Other dutiable articles \$	—	12,182	—	6,432	—	18,614
Total dutiable		5,923,293		7,029,640		12,952,933
Free Goods—		\$		\$		\$
Salt cwt.	236,577	21,616	3,672	367	240,249	21,983
Logs and Lumber \$	—	1,368	—	—	—	1,368
Hides and skins, raw lb.	183,430	21,423	—	—	183,430	21,423
Cocoa beans, not roasted per lb.	1,806,806	234,365	—	—	1,806,806	234,365
Coco nuts, imported						
direct No.	3,325,753	94,812	—	—	3,325,753	94,812
Bananas Bunches	10,212	5,838	—	—	10,212	5,838
Lemons and Limes \$	—	5,683	—	15	—	5,698
Oranges & Shaddocks \$	—	78,074	—	21,800	—	99,874
Pineapples No.	680	35	11,670	837	12,350	872
Tobacco, unmanufactured for Excise purposes lb.	—	—	1,285,584	543,811	1,285,584	543,811
Lime juice, crude gal.	9,224	1,836	—	—	9,224	1,836
Molasses not over 56 deg. gal.	6,290,820	1,592,678	—	—	6,290,820	1,592,678
Coffee, green, imported						
direct lb.	374,532	49,724	25,690	4,103	398,222	53,827
Drugs, crude, etc. \$	—	4,478	—	—	—	4,478
Canadian articles returned \$	—	1,456	—	—	—	1,456
Articles for exhibition \$	—	2,239	—	—	—	2,239
Other articles \$	—	6,926	—	244	—	7,170
Total free goods		2,122,551		571,177		2,693,728
Total dutiable and free		8,045,844		7,600,817		15,646,661
Imported through foreign countries \$	—	1,460,464	—	3,520,070	—	4,980,534
Imported direct \$	—	6,585,380	—	4,080,747	—	10,666,127

CROWN LANDS FOR SOLDIERS.

A St. Lucia Settlement Scheme.

In the hope of tempting men who have been serving in the Navy or Army to settle in St. Lucia when peace is once more restored, the Administrator has caused to be issued certain additional regulations with respect to the sale of Crown lands. In view of the fact that fully one-third of the island is still under forest, it will be appreciated that St. Lucia offers ample opportunity for agricultural development.

In the regulations now published it is pointed out that such lands in blocks of not less than 100 acres will be sold at 15/- per acre up to 100 acres, and 10/- per acre for every acre in excess of that area. The purchase price may be spread over five years, the first instalment not being payable until the end of the sixth year of occupation. Half the cost of survey (£20 14s. for 100 acres) is payable prior to occupation, and half in the second year of occupation.

Arrangements have been made for the local Agricultural Department to supply free of charge such economic plants as may be considered necessary for planting up and developing 50 acres of any area of land taken up from the Crown under this system. The occupier, on his part, will during the first three years of occupancy have to clear and plant in economic crops to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Superintendent not less than fifty acres of land.

Provisions are embodied in the regulations to prevent absenteeism, and the Government wisely insists that every applicant for Crown lands shall prove that "his financial position will permit him to cultivate satisfactorily and expeditiously a reasonable proportion of the lands for the purchase of which application has been made." It would have been helpful if a note had been added to indicate what capital would be required to develop, say, 100 or 200 acres. In Mr. (now Sir) Edward Cameron's admirable little "Hints to Settlers in St. Lucia," which has just been republished by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, it is stated that "a settler who intends to take up the cultivation of cacao, limes, oranges, or similar permanent crops in St. Lucia should preferably have for a cultivation of 50 to 100 acres, a capital of about £2,000 to £3,000, though small beginnings may be made with less." It is added that even with such a sum it would be necessary to proceed cautiously and to study economy until his plantations begin to give some return. In view of these figures, it is to be feared that the prospects of attracting the "file" of His Majesty's Forces are remote, though many of the young "rank" might very well select St. Lucia as the scene of their activities after the War.

WITH reference to the London mileage inscribed on the Bermuda milestone mentioned in our last "Notes of Interest," a correspondent writes to tell us that in Zanzibar he saw a milestone inscribed, after other items of distance, "London 6,355 miles."

MANURING BANANAS.

Mr. R. G. Bartlett communicates to the *Queensland Agricultural Journal* a resumé of his investigations on the subject of the manuring of bananas. Potash has hitherto been regarded as essential for manurial purposes and planters have been placed in a quandary owing to the fact that the sole source of supply of that product is in Germany, and therefore out of their reach. Dealing with the influence of lime, Mr. Bartlett points out that the chief function of lime is a mechanical or physical one on the soil texture. Heavy clayey soils are rendered more friable and less tenacious, whilst on the other hand, light sandy soils are made more retentive by its use. It is the chemical action of lime, however, which concerns us most closely at present. Lime counteracts any acidity and destroys the ill-effects of certain soluble iron salts. It, again, liberates valuable mineral plant foods, chiefly potash existing in unavailable form, and helps in the decomposition of organic (vegetable, etc.) matter.

Lime favours bacterial activity by counteracting the formation of excessive and undesirable acidity. Particularly does it assist the valuable bacteria of nitrification, which change ammonia salts into nitrates, and in making the nitrogen available to plant life. It is only by the action of the myriads of bacteria, with which every fertile soil teems, that the different plant foods in organic materials are made available to the crops. Lime, as a direct plant food, is commonly present in most comparatively virgin soils in sufficient quantities. With constant cropping, cultivation and the action of the continuous use of certain fertilizers, such as sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate, dried blood, etc., the lime becomes gradually removed, so that the soil, besides becoming possibly actually deficient in lime as a plant food, also acquires an acidity or sourness unfavourable to successful plant growth. It therefore follows that, where orchards have been previously manured heavily with potash and dried blood, sulphate of ammonia, or superphosphate, without periodical applications of lime, great results may be expected from applying heavy dressings of lime, followed two months later with applications of dried blood and superphosphate.

In order to demonstrate this, the bananas on the school plot were given a heavy dressing of lime—4 lb. to 5 lb. per stool—at the end of July, while this month (October) 2 lb. of dried blood and 1½ lb. of superphosphate were applied to each stool.

Slaked lime (agricultural lime) is recommended in preference to the stone screenings which, though cheaper, are slower in action. It must not be inferred that potash manures can be dispensed with altogether, but that, so long as sufficient potash is present in a soil, either naturally or as a result of previous heavy potash manuring, liming and manuring as above will help to temporarily dispense with the necessity to use further potash.

Remarkable improvement is noticed in the school vegetable plot from the use of lime this year. Hitherto only very average results have been obtained, even when manuring the vegetables with farmyard manure, with the addition of dried blood,

superphosphate, and potash. So much has this been the case that successful vegetable growing under ordinary conditions was almost despaired of. Lime has changed all that. Light dressings of lime before digging up the beds and the additions of small quantities of lime to the water-tank and the vegetables, now bear comparison with the best, even though artificial fertilizers have been dispensed with.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, at which Sir Everard in Thurn, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. R. Rutherford and the Hon. Secretary were present, on March 17th, Sir Sydney Olivier gave a report on a visit of inspection which he had paid to Withnoe Camp. He found all the arrangements satisfactory and the health conditions greatly superior to those which had prevailed at Seaford.

Pending the receipt of mails from Egypt where, as already stated, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment now are, the activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee are chiefly centred in providing for the well-being of the men who have come over independently or with the various private contingents. Several men have received assistance on coming out of hospital, and the Committee have arranged for the repatriation of one man who has been rejected as medically unfit.

The West Indian Contingent Committee is in communication with two prisoners of war in Germany hailing from the West Indies, Captain H. G. S. (Selwyn) Branch, of the 12th Yorkshire Regiment, and Private George C. Baber, of Barbados, who was in the Canadian Contingent. Captain Branch's address is, "Offizier-Kriegsgefangenenlager, Haus C., Gütersloh," while Private Baber's is, "Canadian No. 2 Battalion, Mannschafts-gefangenenlager, Truppenbungs-platz, Alten Grabow."

Lady Philipps' West Indian Working Parties on Wednesday afternoons, at 76, Eaton Square, are well attended by members of the Ladies' Committee and other interested workers. Her Highness Princess Marie Louise was present on the 15th instant, and among others there were Lady Davson, Lady Hodgson, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Hayes-Sadler, Mrs. E. J. Cameron, who has recently joined the Committee, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. Bromley, Mrs. Vere Oliver, Mrs. Laborde, Mrs. W. R. Hunt, Mrs. Bonyun and Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary. Many of these ladies are regular attendants, and some of them are also assisting Lady Hayes-Sadler at another working party she has kindly started on Friday afternoons from two to six at the Indian Room at Whiteley's, when the members of the Eastern League work for West Indians. The Ladies' Committee have recently supplied warm clothing and comforts to many of the men in the

Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, besides taking care of an ever-increasing number of West Indians in English Regiments, and several prisoners of war in Germany.

The Contingent Fund.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,628 6s. 10d., of which amount £960 14s. 11d. has been subscribed for special purposes.

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. L. Rose and Co. (earmarked for Dominica men)	25	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—			
Claude Hadley, Esq.	3	2	6
Messrs. Lawlor & Co.	3	2	6
D. Hadley, Esq.	2	1	8
G. V. Ballantyne, Esq.	1	0	10
W. Cuddeford, Esq.	1	0	0
H. F. D. Gall, Esq.	1	0	0
J. R. McLeod, Esq.	10	0	0
Harold & Co.	5	0	0
L. V. Brown, Esq.	4	2	2
Miss Marie Moss	4	2	2
A. S. McConnie, Esq.	4	2	2
J. E. Marshall, Esq.	4	0	0
S. Balcombe, Esq.	2	0	0
Per month:—			
Kingstown Club	1	7	0
P. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
C. E. F. Richards, Esq.	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	0
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	0
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
A. L. Gillezean, Esq.	2	0	0
E. Hopley, Esq.	2	0	0
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	0
	16	10	2
J. P. Gunn Munro, Esq.	2	2	0
G. H. Hudson Lyall, Esq.	1	1	0
Treasury Staff, Barbados (4th Donation) ...	1	1	0
J. H. Boyce, Esq.	1	0	10
W. C. Browne, Esq.	1	0	10

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

Contingent Gifts.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W.

- Miss Ferrall, 2 scarves, 3 helmets.
- Miss T. E. Findlay, 18 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Campbell Arnatt, 1 muffler, 4 prs. socks, 6 prs. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs.
- Mrs. E. B. Arthur, 2 helmets, 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
- Miss Swinnerton, 1 pr. socks, 2 prs. mittens.
- Mrs. F. C. Skinner, 4 scarves, 1 pr. mittens.
- Mrs. Arthur Johnson, 6 prs. socks, 6 mufflers, 6 prs. mittens.
- Lady Philipps' West Indian Working Party, 37 carbolised shirts, 3 mufflers, 9 prs. socks, 1 pr. pyjamas, 15 flannel vests, 2 flannel shirts, 17 prs. slippers.

We regret to learn that Lady Snagg, widow of the late Sir William Snagg, Chief Justice of British Guiana in 1868, died suddenly at 6, Chandos Street, Broadstairs, on March 20th.

WEST INDIAN GIFTS.

It would not be easy to give a complete enumeration of the many gifts received from the West Indies since the War began. Any list would be incomplete before it were issued, for every homeward steamer brings news of several additions. It may, however, be safely stated that when the promised Colonial White Paper is published after the War, it will be found that the West Indies will, for their size, have done as much in the direction of providing men, money, and gifts as the Great Dominions.

The last homeward mail brought a further contribution of £250 collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore from the people of Barbados towards the Motor Ambulance Fund of the British Red Cross Society. This brings the total contributed from this source to the handsome total of £2,350. The following letter of acknowledgment and thanks dated March 15th has been forwarded by the West India Committee on behalf of the British Red Cross Society to Mr. Collymore:—

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., No. 328, enclosing a cheque for £250, the same being a further contribution from the people of Barbados, collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, for the maintenance of the ambulances presented by them. In addition to the gift of two ambulances, this brings their total contribution for maintenance to £1,550.

It is really a most splendid gift, and I shall be extremely obliged if you will convey to Mr. Collymore, and as far as possible to the subscribers generally, our very grateful and sincere thanks for this kindly help. I am always so very grateful for gifts for running expenses, as with the very large fleet we now have to maintain, the question of upkeep is always one of some anxiety.

I have pleasure in enclosing official receipt in duplicate as requested.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. M. CLARKE,

Director, Motor Ambulance Department.

Since the gifts of fruit were referred to in these columns, 1,444 packages have been received from the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the *Camilo* (Dec. 20th) having brought 344 cases, the *Coronado* (Jan. 3rd) 356, the *Chagres* (Jan. 17th) 162, the *Cavina* (Feb. 1st) 206, the *Camilo* (Feb. 14th) 153, and the *Coronado* (Feb. 28th) 223, the latter being the twentieth shipment for which Mr. John Barclay was responsible.

From the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee the following additional gifts have to be acknowledged:—Per S.S. *Salybia* (Dec. 10th), 28 packages lime juice (420 gallons) and 7 cases preserves; *Balantia* (Jan. 18th), 323 cases of oranges and 10 packages of lime juice (204 gallons); *Spheroid* (Feb. 25th), 23 cases of fruit and 18 cases of preserves; and *Savan* (Jan. 20th), 13 cases of preserves and 4 packages of lime juice (174 gallons).

Mrs. Archibald Spooner, of Antigua, and the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, of Grenada, have kindly sent further cases of clothing for the Belgian refugees, which have been gratefully acknowledged; while Mrs. Brodie (Grenada) sent four barrels of fruit and a case of clothing, and Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, Editor of the *West Indian*, Grenada, five barrels of fruit.

In response to Lord Lansdowne's "Our Day" appeal for the British Red Cross Society's fund, the colony contributed £1,200, in round figures, this amount being contributed partly in cash and partly in gifts of cacao and spice. The produce was shipped to the West India Committee, and, thanks to the assistance of Messrs. Jonas Browne & Sons, it realised prices considerably above market values. Seven bags ex *Crown of Navarre* fetched 125/- per cwt., five bags ex *Crown of Leon* 105/-, and fifteen bags by the same steamer 100/-. Three barrels (327 lbs.) of spices ex *Balantia* changed hands at 1/- per lb.

Seventeen bags of Grenada cacao still remain to be sold. The "Direct" line of steamers kindly carried this Grenada gift cacao free of charge, and Messrs. Jonas Browne & Sons, Messrs. Paines & Reid, and Messrs. Weber, Smith & Hoare consented to waive their usual fees.

To revert to the gifts of fruit, preserves, etc., it may be noted that over 10,000 cases have now been received and distributed by the West India Committee. The colonies contributing towards this total were:

Jamaica	4,759
Trinidad	4,549
Dominica	810
Grenada	156
	10,274

TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY.

In his Blue Book report, which has just been issued, the Hon. S. W. Knaggs records that on March 31st, 1915, there were ten Companies engaged in winning oil in Trinidad, of which two commenced operations during the preceding twelve months. The work done during the year was satisfactory, 65 new wells having been drilled with an aggregate depth of 57,969 feet—19,516 feet on private lands and 38,453 feet on Crown lands. Oil was struck in 38 of the new wells. The total number of wells drilled up to March 31st was 239, 112 of these being on Crown lands. The amount of oil produced during the twelve months was 14,230,871 imperial gallons more than in 1913-14. The production of the last three years had been:—

1912-13	17,626,563 imp galls.
1913-14	22,523,060 ..
1914-15	36,753,931 ..

The royalty collected on the oil won from Crown lands amounted to £9,467. Refining has not up to the present been carried on any large scale, but several small refineries are in operation which produce petrol for the local market and for exportation to the neighbouring colonies. Several of the sugar estates now use the crude oil or its residue in their furnaces.

The two companies engaged in mining for Manjak continued their operations during the year, though at one time they were considerably hampered by the War. 479 tons were exported of the value of £1,994. It is estimated that some 2,800 persons are employed throughout the year in the oil and mining industries.

ST. LUCIA.

ITS AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES.

By ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, F.L.S., F.C.S.,
Agricultural Superintendent.

(Continued from page 92 and concluded.)

CATTLE RAISING.

An investigation of the pasture grasses of the island is being carried out by the Agricultural Department with the assistance of Professor A. S. Hitchcock, Systematic Agrostologist, of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the information already obtained shows that the pastures are rich in grasses of high feeding value. Hides to the average value of £1,300 are exported annually.

BEE-KEEPING.

A fair amount of attention has been paid to bee-keeping during the last ten or twelve years, and the apiaries are extending.

The colonies are particularly free of disease, Foul Brood and other serious bee diseases do not exist in St. Lucia. The law prohibits the importation of bees or bee material into the island unless accompanied by a certificate approved by the Agricultural Superintendent to the effect that the disease known as Foul Brood does not exist in the apiary from which the bees or material was taken.

There are large quantities of logwood (*Hæmatoxylon Campechianum*) growing in various parts of the island and other bee-flowers are numerous, such as sweet potato (*Ipomœa batatas*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus indicus*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), etc., and with the extension of the lime cultivation there is an abundance of material upon which the bees can work.

Little attention is given to the production of section comb honey, most of the apiarists find that the extracted liquid honey is more profitable.

The minor industry has received a decided check during the last three years through a few of the leading apiarists having left the island.

There is a ready local sale and the following figures give the value of honey exported during the last five years:—

Year.	Value. £	Year.	Value £
1905	233	1910	402
1906	386	1911	447
1907	360	1912	704
1908	355	1913	495
1909	478	1914	370

FORESTRY.

The forests of the island are very similar to those of Trinidad, Jamaica, and Dominica. They are made up of palms, bamboos, hard- and soft-wooded trees. No gregarious forest exists in the island.

Laurier of all kinds and Balata (*Mimusops globosa*) are plentiful throughout the high-lands. White Cedar (*Tecoma leucoxyton*) Bois d'Inde (*Pimenta vulgaris*) are to be found on all the Crown Lands north of the Mabouya valley, and Laurier is plentiful to the south of this valley. In the Anse-la-Raye quarter Laurier and Balata are abundant. The sale of timber from Crown Lands is small, as many of the private estates contain sufficient natural forest of their own to supply the timber required.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining complete botanical material for the identification of the various species it is not possible to furnish a complete list of the timber trees of the island. There are, however, many valuable woods known to be fairly common in various parts of the island, among which are following:—

Red Cedar (*Cedrela odorata*), Coconier (*Ormosia dasycarpa*), Courbaril (*Hymenaea Courbaril*), Galba (*Calophyllum Calaba*), Satin wood (undetermined), Bullet wood (*Mimusops globosa*), Mastic (*Mimusops* sp.), Contrevent (*Lucuma multiflora*), Fustic (*Chlorophora tinctoria*), Angelin (*Andira inermis*), Laurier Canelle (undetermined), L. Cyp (*Oreodaphne cernua*), L. Mabre (*Nectandra membranacea*), L. petite feuille (*Nectandra exaltata*), L. Rose (undetermined), Bois Lezard (*Villex divaricata*, Sw.), Yellow Sanders, etc., etc.

The following table shows the amount of wood and timber shipped during the past three years:—

Year.	Cedar C. ft.	Logwood C. ft.	Pimento C. ft.	Unclassified C. ft.	Firewood C. ft.	Shingles C. ft.
1912	117	271,125	12,713	1,603	134,009	76
1913	1,003	130,569	10,685	19,174	153,098	50
1914	4,117	104,800	3,163	22,159	144,675	127

SHIPPING AND COALING.

Port Castries is placed by the Board of Trade fifteenth in the list of the principal ports in the self-governing Dominions, Crown Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates.

The harbour is fully equipped with excellent facilities for entering the port. Tapion rock at the southern point of the entrance is fitted with a strong flash light, and a powerful light visible 30 miles seaward has recently been erected at Vigie the northern point.

A lighthouse, fitted with a 70,000 candle-power light giving a white flash every five seconds and visible at 40 miles seaward, has also recently been erected at Moule-a-Chique, the extreme southern point of the island.

The popularity which Port Castries enjoys is entirely due to the prompt despatch rendered to all vessels. The rapidity with which coal and water is delivered day and night is unequalled at any port in the West Indies, or for the matter of that in very few other parts of the world.

Steamers drawing 27 feet of water can lie alongside the massive concrete wharves and be supplied with coal at the rate of 200 tons an hour.

High water mark was reached when 1,116 tons of coal was delivered to H.M.S. *Cumberland* in 5½ hours, this being at the rate of 203 tons an hour, a rate far in excess of any other port in the West Indies.

As an instance of the fast night service the following is taken from the Treasurer's Report for the year 1912: "the SS. *Craster Hall* arriving after sunset on the 13th February, 1913, was supplied with 570 tons and was away before daylight next morning."

Large stocks of coal are always maintained, and filtered fresh water is delivered at the rate of 4,000 gallons an hour at 1/- per 100 gallons to ships of war, and 1/6 per 100 gallons to other vessels.

The figures below show the shipping entered and cleared during the past four years:—

	1911		1912		1913		1914	
	Entered and Cleared.	No. Tonnage	Entered and Cleared.	No. Tonnage	Entered and Cleared.	No. Tonnage	Entered and Cleared.	No. Tonnage
Steam vessels	1,885	3,980,897	1,699	3,475,413	1,670	3,528,539	1,482	3,176,747
Sailing ..	446	15,266	492	14,629	562	18,151	526	15,684
Total	2,331	3,996,163	2,191	3,490,042	2,232	3,546,690	2,008	3,192,437

The coaling business fluctuates with the trade to South American ports, and, in common with all other coaling stations, Castries has suffered from the effects of the war. The following figures show the amount of business done during the last four years.

Year.	Steamers Bankered.	Coal Delivered. Tons.
1911	648	139,331
1912	585	134,783
1913	535	117,532
1914	454	95,893

TOTAL VALUE IN STERLING OF THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF THE COLONY FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Total Imports. £	Total Exports. £	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.
1910	277,208	238,955	116,307
1911	318,590	311	113,607
1912	315,361	187,716	108,514
1913	388,405	274,459	117,700
1914	306,152	241,422	99,657

Special attention is directed to the following annual imports of agricultural produce.

ANNUAL IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE. VALUED TO THE NEAREST £.

Year.	Corn and Cornmeal	Beans and Peas.	Coffee. Raw.	Ground Nuts.	Bay Rum.	Spices.
1911	960	1,053	2,239	200	386	102
1912	1,141	1,105	2,062	98	438	108
1913	795	713	1,775	119	534	85
1914	1,066	866	1,578	176	419	109

As shown by the statistics given above these imports are worth the careful consideration of local planters, as they represent a fair amount of money lost to the island annually.

Every one of these crops can be grown in the Colony, and in greater quantities than are required for local consumption, and without in any way interfering with the present crops grown.

Corn grows well in most districts throughout the island and large quantities are raised for local use, but the difficulty is in the storage of the grain. Beans and peas are also grown in considerable quantities, but, like corn, in the absence of suitable machinery, the crop cannot be stored for any length of time without injury from weevils.

A scheme for purchasing beans and peas on a profit-sharing basis has recently been started by the Government in the hope that additional attention will be paid to the cultivation of these crops.

If suitable machinery for shelling, husking and drying could be erected on co-operative lines similar to the Government Lime Juice Factory, there is every reason to believe that not only would sufficient corn, beans, peas and coffee be grown to supply the local demands, but an export trade could be developed.

Increased attention is already being given to bay-rum, ground-nuts, and spices, and an early drop in these imports is expected.

Until 1905 little attention was paid to the natural resources of the island. The colony had almost entirely depended upon its coaling business and the garrison for its existence, but when the latter was withdrawn, necessity forced attention to be directed to the numerous agricultural possibilities of the island and extension of the staple crops began and new minor industries sprang up.

In spite of all the adverse circumstances and unfavourable contingent created by the present war, it is doubtful if at any time in the whole of the history of St. Lucia her future has given greater promise.

Unlike many of her less fortunate sister islands she is untied to any one particular crop, and at the time of writing all her staple crops, sugar, rum, molasses, cacao, lime juice, etc., are realising the highest market prices.

Owing to the vigorous progressive policy of the present administration local loans are being raised, roads are being opened up throughout the island, bridges erected to facilitate the transport of produce, and money at a low rate of interest is being provided for the peasants by means of Government Co-operative Agricultural Banks to enable them to work and develop their properties and initiate new industries, and so add to the general growing prosperity of the island.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Members are informed that the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee, to be convened in accordance with Clause 9 of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, will be held at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 4th next.

The following members were present at the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee which was held at 15, Seething Lane, London, on March 9th: Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman; Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy-Chairman; Mr. Cyril Gurney, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.; Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The minutes of the preceding meeting and of a meeting held on February 28th to consider the immigration question having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,555. The death of seven members was recorded, and the resignations of eighteen members on December 31st, 1915, were accepted. The following were then admitted members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. R. O'R. L. Thompson (Tobago).	Mr. W. F. O. Paul, J.P. Mr. G. David Hatt.
Miss Alice James (Barbados)	Mr. R. Rutherford. Hon. A. C. Ponsoby.
Mr. Sydney A. Howard (Trinidad)	Mr. M. Hamel Smith. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. W. P. Bull, K.C., L.L.B. (Canada)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. R. Rutherford.

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:—

- Board, A. Vyyyan (a member of the West India Committee), 52 Co. Machine Gun Corps. *At the front.*
 Bradbury, 2nd Lieut. Dennis (Born in Antigua. Son of P. J. O'L. Bradbury, M.A., Acting Assistant Director of Education, Jamaica).
 Campbell, Ivor Henry (son of Mr. Dugald Campbell, of Linstead, Jamaica), 20th Middlesex Regiment.
 Donawa, Gerald G. (of Trinidad), The Queen's Westminster Rifles.
 Gordon, Quartermaster-Sergeant E. M. B. (son of the late Mr. Robert Gordon, formerly of Barbados and Nevis), 1st Batt. London Rifle Brigade. *At the front.*
 Gresham, Private Hubert (son of Canon Gresham, of Calliqua, St. Vincent), The South Wales Borderers.
 Gresham, Private Aubrey (son of Canon Gresham, of Calliqua, St. Vincent), The Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Halley, Private Harry (of Trinidad), The Canadian Contingent.
 Johnson, 2nd Lieut. Frank L. (son of Mr. Frank H. Johnson of St. Lucia), British West Indies Regiment.
 Labbett, 2nd Lieut. (of British Honduras), 13th Batt. The Worcester Regiment.
 Leckie, Captain Victor (of British Honduras), The Army Veterinary Corps.
 Martinez, Harry E. N. (son of Mr. F. N. Martinez, merchant and shipper, of London and Barbados), The Artists' Rifles (28th London Regiment).
 Mason, Lieut. G. B. (eldest son of the late John P. Mason, Esq., Senior Member of the Barbados House of Assembly) The Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Melhado, Allan (son of Mr. Reginald Melhado, of St. Andrew's, Jamaica), Royal Naval Air Service.
 Rose, 2nd Lieut. O. H., London Rifle Brigade.
 Scholefield, 2nd Lieut. (of British Honduras), The Durham Light Infantry.

For the names of officers and men from British Honduras which have been published under the above heading, the CIRCULAR is indebted to the *Clarion* of Belize, and not as previously stated.

The Roll of Honour.

CAPTAIN EDWARD WORRELL CARRINGTON, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who was killed in action in September, 1915, was the son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington, C.M.G., of Barbados, who, after occupying several important posts in the West Indies, became Chief Justice of Hong Kong, and died in 1913. Captain Carrington was a grandson of Nathaniel Carrington, of Industry St. Joseph's, Barbados.

LIEUT.-COMMANDER HARRINGTON DOUTY EDWARDS, R.N., D.S.O., who was lost at sea on about March 11th, was a grandson of Dr. Edwards, of Antigua. The son of Lieut. C. R. Edwards, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Edwards, of Cambridge, he became a naval cadet in 1902, and was promoted Lieutenant-Commander in October, 1914. He received the D.S.O. in August, 1915, the service for which the honour was awarded not being stated.

The promotion of Second Lieutenant J. A. L. Sturridge, who was accidentally killed on December 30th last, as recorded in the CIRCULAR of January 13th, to be Captain, to date from September 17th, 1915, was gazetted on February 25th. It is a matter for congratulation to his parents that the worth of this gallant young officer has thus been corrected.

Honours.

MAJOR CYRIL DE PUTRON, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who is part proprietor of La Gloria Estate in Trinidad, has been decorated with the Croix de Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur and also the Croix de Guerre.

LIEUT. LEONARD TINNE BERTHOE, of the 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, brother of Mr. C. T. Berthoe, the well-known consulting engineer, was mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's Gallipoli despatches.

Alterations and Corrections.

- Aird, Lance-Corporal J. (late British West Indies Regiment), 31st Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
 de Pass, Lieut. Elliot Archibald (son of Mr. E. A. de Pass), 3rd County of London Yeomanry, The Sharpshooters, has been seconded for service with the Royal Flying Corps.
 Duke, Private A. St. A. (late of the British West Indies Regiment), 31st Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
 Evelyn, Private C. (late of British West Indies Regiment), 31st Batt. Royal Fusiliers. Machine Gun Section.
 Mordecai, 2nd Lieut. Leslie R. (son of Mr. E. R. Mordecai, or Jamaica), Lancashire Fusiliers.
 Ozzard, 2nd Lieut. Harold (son of Dr. Ozzard, of Demerara), 9th Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers.
 Ryan, Private F. E. (late of British West Indies Regiment), 31st Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
 Todd, Private C. C. (late of British West Indies Regiment), 31st Batt. Royal Fusiliers. Machine Gun Section.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

British Guiana.

Mr. George D. Bayley, Assistant Government Secretary of British Guiana, records in his report on the Blue-book of the colony for 1914-15 the various steps which were taken to cope with the situation arising from the outbreak of the European War.

The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last six years were as follows:—

	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	593,499	575,639	1,811,180	1,850,713
1912-13	580,446	575,859	1,703,355	1,576,988
1913-14	608,633	592,532	1,694,155	1,992,884
1914-15	586,598	622,025	1,596,985	2,623,064

*Calendar years 1911-1913.

The revenue for the year under review fell short of the estimate by £3,842. The colony's gift of sugar and rice to the Mother Country cost £20,637, while special War expenditure to 31st March, 1915, amounted to £12,536. These items and other minor ones would have increased the deficit on the year's working to £61,750 but for it having been found possible to effect savings to the extent of £26,323, diminishing the actual deficit to £35,427, which, however, absorbed all but £51,237 of the accumulated credit balance of £86,665 on 31st March, 1914.

The total quantity of sugar exported during the year was 107,138 tons, valued at £1,574,823, being the largest output for any year since 1909-1910, the year before the drought visitation. Of this quantity 52,191 tons went to Canada, 52,162 tons to the United Kingdom, and 2,735 tons to the United States. The exports of rum showed the large increase of 228,743 proof gallons over those in the preceding year, and the novel suggestion is hazarded that the stoppage of the supplies of neutral spirit from Germany probably stimulated the demand for rum.

Exports of coffee were very satisfactory, 238,784 lbs. being shipped; while in the case of coco-nuts

a record was established, 1,889,921 nuts having been exported. Quite a large number of coco-nut trees have been planted in the colony within the past seven years, and the exports should continue to increase for some time to come, particularly if the coco-nut values, which have ruled high in the world's markets for the past year or two, are maintained. There were also increases in the exports of coco-nut oil and copra. Rice exports showed a falling-off owing to a temporary prohibition of the exports.

While the coast industries flourished, the mining and forest industries, with the exception of gold, suffered from the War. Thus balata was completely disorganised, Germany having been a large buyer of this product.

With regard to the future, it is suggested that there is room for considerable development of the colony's fisheries in several directions, especially in sea fishing, curing with the aid of ice, and smoking. A fair supply of sea fish is generally kept at the ice depot, but ice is not generally used. In early times smoked or barbecued paku was got from the north-west in large quantities, but is now rarely seen. Salt cod, herrings, and mackerel are imported in quantity, but no colony fishes are cured. Fresh-water fishes are obtainable in the markets, but not to the extent desired; in fact, the supply is precarious. Rarely can a particular kind be got to order. The angler may enjoy good sport with tarpon or cuffum, as well as several other fish that are more grateful to the palate. The river fishing in the interior is exceptionally good. Fish glue or isinglass from the gilbaker was exported to the amount of 11,861 lbs., value £786 17s. 6d.

It is satisfactory to note that anti-malaria and anti-mosquito measures are being generally and gradually enforced, with visible signs of success. In 1906-1907, 33,748 cases of malarial fever were treated in the sugar estates hospitals; at the end of 1914-1915 the numbers have fallen to 8,421. Quinine has been for some years sold at all Post Offices to the general public at cost price. It is also distributed at the sugar estates free to their labourers. Prisoners, members of the police force, the inmates of the industrial school at Ouderneeming and the orphan asylum, and the attendants at the public institutions are also supplied by the colony with free quinine. Administration of quinine to school children is now adopted in 106 schools out of 227. Ankylostomiasis, which has engaged the attention of the Medical Department for some years, has considerably decreased on the sugar estates. This is attributed to improved sanitary measures and the erection of latrines. The International Health Commission, Rockefeller Foundation, has carried out an active campaign against this disease in the villages.

Trinidad and Tobago.

The year 1914-15 opened favourably for Trinidad and Tobago, but the outbreak of war upset all calculations. Still, a perusal of the Hon. S. W. Knagg's interesting report on the Blue-book of the colony shows that the colony's main industries have prospered, and that the revenue has suffered less than might have been anticipated. The

revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the last five years have been:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.*	Exports.*†
1910-11	948,383	927,034	3,343,011	3,467,588
1911-12	959,744	959,551	5,018,848	4,769,486
1912-13	932,513	947,221	4,682,325	4,472,577
1913-14	970,789	951,982	4,968,360	5,205,673
1914-15	934,544	999,716	4,183,297	4,201,341

*Calendar years 1910-1914.

The imports include goods to the value of £1,204,765 imported for trans-shipment. The asphalt industry was seriously affected by the War, and the loss in revenue from the export duties and royalty during 1914-15 was £35,148.

The cacao and sugar crops were however excellent, the former being the largest on record while the latter was better than in any of the previous ten years. The cacao crop was 63,447,876 lbs. of the value of £1,469,893, and this was 5,589,236 lbs. larger than the previous record crop in 1910. The sugar crop was estimated at 58,000 tons of which 48,088 tons were exported. The total value of the exports of sugar and its by-products was £613,082.

The coco-nut industry on the other hand did not do so well, the value of the exports having fallen from £85,369 in 1913 to £66,132 in 1914, owing to the crops having been affected by the excessive droughts of the last few years. The exports of copra, 2,358,154 lbs., went principally to the United Kingdom, and of coco-nut oil, 3,560 gallons, to the United States. The Director of Agriculture reports that large areas both in Trinidad and Tobago are being planted up in coco-nuts, and that the exports may be expected in a few years' time to largely increase.

The quantities and values of the exports of local produce in 1915 as compared with those of 1914 were:—

	1915.	
	Quantity.	Value. £
Asphalt, Crude	73,044 tons ...	71,671
" Epuré	15,651 tons ...	8 31,995
Bitters	25,266 galls ...	25,266
Cocoa ...	63,447,876 lbs. ...	1,469,893
Coconuts	15,571,407	66,132
Copra	2,358,154 lbs. ...	20,558
Fruit ...	...	5,537
Molasses	423,942 galls. ...	4,078
Rum ...	174,657 galls. ...	17,811
Sugar ...	48,088 tons ...	591,193
Petroleum, Crude	12,153,784 galls. ...	64,735

	1914.	
	Quantity.	Value. £
Asphalt, Crude	186,995 tons ...	191,724
" Epuré	19,421 tons ...	38,841
Bitters	32,234 galls. ...	32,234
Cocoa ...	48,116,377 lbs. ...	1,403,397
Coconuts	16,390,897	85,369
Copra	1,154,539 lbs. ...	11,545
Fruit ...	...	11,794
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

From this table it will be noted that asphalt was the only industry prejudicially affected by the War. The shipments of asphalt were almost stopped by the outbreak of the War, the European market

being entirely closed, and the United States, the principal consumer, taking only a very reduced supply. There was also from the same cause a smaller trade in Angostura Bitters. The cacao and sugar crops were, on the other hand, excellent, the former being the largest on record, while the latter was better than in any of the previous ten years. The cacao crop was 63,447,876 lbs., of the value of £1,469,893, this being 5,589,236 lbs. larger than the previous record crop in 1910. The sugar crop was estimated at 58,000 tons, of which 48,088 tons were exported, the total value of sugar and its by-products exported being £613,082.

The Leeward Islands.

According to Mr. T. A. V. Best's report on the Blue-book of the Leeward Islands for 1914, although there was a small decrease of revenue as compared with the transactions of the preceding year, the general situation during 1914 was satisfactory. There was a considerable increase in the value of both imports and exports, and in every Presidency trade showed a steady degree of expansion. Efforts were made to foster new industries, and the prospects in almost every direction are encouraging. The revenue of the Presidencies in each of the last five years was as follows:—

Presidency.	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
Antigua	52,326	52,292	53,490	52,218	53,517
St. Kitts-Nevis	52,748	58,002	57,078	53,880	50,337
Dominica	41,473	43,719	45,185	48,742	48,895
Montserrat	12,262	12,915	11,932	12,881	11,674
Virgin Islands	5,566	7,860	4,795	7,335	4,993
Total	164,375	174,818	172,480	174,456	169,326

The expenditure in the same years was:—

Presidency.	1910-11	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15
Antigua	53,495	53,652	53,193	51,018	54,849
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,872	50,737	53,415	55,061	62,109
Dominica	39,059	38,399	40,123	47,482	53,454
Montserrat	11,366	10,030	10,556	11,531	13,403
Virgin Islands	5,480	6,107	4,980	6,036	5,551
Total	159,263	158,925	162,267	171,128	189,369

The surplus of assets over liabilities on March 31st, 1915, amounted to £65,471, as against £84,282 at the same date in the preceding year. The public debt of the colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £261,450. 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.
1910	170,033	192,541	140,925	29,718	8,496
1911	181,331	302,865	161,701	34,166	9,226
1912	168,274	252,637	154,776	31,492	10,753
1913	159,397	197,539	167,190	31,787	7,949
1914	165,226	199,976	195,193	33,831	8,939

Year.	Exports.				
	Antigua.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	Dominica.	Montserrat.	Virgin Islands.
1910	196,184	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	37,409	7,301
1914	162,368	168,007	235,323	32,827	6,728

Sugar is still the principal manufacture in the

Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, where the distilling of rum is also of some importance. The staple in Dominica and Montserrat is lime juice. The production of citrate of lime in those islands is being developed. There is a sulphur mine at Soufrière, in Dominica, but it is not worked at present. Phosphate of lime is found in Barbuda, and phosphate of alumina in Redonda. There is no recognised fishing industry in the colony. Fish are caught for local consumption only, except in the Virgin Islands, whence large quantities are exported to the neighbouring Danish Island of St. Thomas.

With regard to sugar, the successful working of the central sugar factories in St. Kitts and Antigua is recorded, and it is pointed out that in those islands the value of good cane-growing land varies from £4 to £8 per acre, and that in Antigua there are over 2,000 acres of Crown land at Piccadilly, Red Hill, and the Ridge, on which there is much valuable timber, and that in the event of the erection of a sugar factory in that district, favourable sections of these lands will doubtless be taken up for the cultivation of sugar-cane.

Dr. Tempany, who writes on the agriculture of Antigua, refers to the serious effect which the War has had on the cotton industry, and reminds us of the increased stability of the industry which has resulted from the Fine Spinners' Association agreeing to purchase the 1915-16 crop at fixed minimum prices.

A serious setback to the cotton industry was averted by the decision of the Fine Spinners' Association to guarantee minimum prices for 1915-16. The Dominica lime crop was equivalent to 388,011 barrels, valued at £187,031; but a combination of factors combined with a series of unfavourable seasons kept back the Montserrat lime industry. The exports of cacao from Dominica showed a further decline, leaving that island practically dependent on a single industry. The development of the coco-nut industry in Nevis and those of onions and maize in Antigua showed further progress.

MR. GEORGE CARRINGTON was one of the principal speakers at Eton on Saturday last on the occasion of the presentation of four ambulance motor launches by Princess Alexander of Teck to the British Red Cross Society for use on the Tigris. The owner of the estate in Barbados which bears his name, Mr. Carrington resides at Missenden Abbey, in Buckinghamshire, and takes a prominent part in many movements, political—he is a staunch Tory—and otherwise in the county. Owing to the floods being out, a procession of the Eton boats which had been contemplated had to be abandoned, but notwithstanding this disappointment, the ceremony was a very picturesque one.

Particulars regarding membership of the West India Committee—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.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Copra in the East.

The War has swept away from the Society Islands the chief and strongest competitor of the English merchants, a German house which did one-fourth of the trade of the colony. The chief industries of the islands are copra and mother-of-pearl shell.

Sea Island Cotton.

The total crop of Sea Island cotton of Georgia and North and South Carolina in 1914 was 85,544 bales, against 68,080 bales in the preceding season and 122,956 bales two years ago. Of the entire crop Georgia raised 48,313 bales, against 43,628 bales last season and 75,138 bales two years ago.

The United States Sugar Tariff.

Porto Rico's prosperity, which has been steadily on the increase since the American occupation, received a severe check by the alteration in the United States tariff in 1913. According to the Tariff Act of August 5th, 1909, a duty of 0.01675 c. per lb. had been collected on sugars polarising 96° imported into the United States, from which Porto Rico, as American territory, was exempted. In this way the sugar industry, the island's principal source of prosperity, received a bonus of £7 16s. 4d. per ton, which gave an immense stimulus to agriculture, and incidentally to commerce and labour. The new Tariff Act passed by Congress on October 3rd, 1913, which took effect on March 1st, 1914, reduced the duty on the same class of sugar to 0.01256 c. per lb., thus reducing the bonus on Porto Rico sugar to £5 17s. 3d. The Act provided furthermore that from May 1st, 1916, all sugars should enter the United States free of duty. The Bill was presented in April, 1912, and before it became law its disastrous effects were, says, Mr. Acting Consul Waymouth, felt in Porto Rico, as the following figures show:—

In 1911-12 the island produced 367,145 tons of sugar, which sold at an average price of £17 18s. per ton. In 1912-13 there was an increased production amounting to 382,700 tons, but the value, owing to the difference in duty, was only £14 9s. 9d. per ton; and in 1913-14 the production dropped to 327,626 tons with an average value of £13 4s. per ton.

It will be observed that each year the tendency of the crops had been to expand, and it is fair to suppose that had no change been made in the tariff the 1914 crop would have approximated 400,000 tons, and that figure could be taken as a basis for estimating the loss to the island, but leaving supposition aside and taking into account only the facts, it is found that, compared with 1912, the 1914 crop showed a loss of £2,263,613, owing to the tariff.

Nor was this the only injury sustained. In face of an expected competition with Cuba, Santo Domingo and other sugar producing countries, on equal terms, sugar making in Porto Rico became, in the opinion of the bankers who had been financing the planters, an unprofitable business, and every support was withdrawn, which had the effect of forcing a great many factories into the hands of receivers.

Mr. Waymouth adds that the general hope and expectation, however, is that, before the consummation of the drastic measure imposing free sugar in 1916, something will transpire to ward off the blow, in which case prosperity will return.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* for February contains a useful article on the harvesting and preparation of coffee for shipping. There is in this one point of especial interest in connection with the method employed for drying. Comparative figures, the article states, relating to sun-dried and artificially-dried coffee show that artificial drying results in less shrinkage of the bean than sun-drying, and consequently a very large increase in the proportion of the higher grades, a matter, of course, of material importance.

THE same organ, writing on the subject of the moisture in vanilla beans, points out that, in the absence of a standard proportion of water being required in the trade, the amount of this constituent present varies from 10 per cent. to 50 per cent. Fancy quality beans of both the Mexican and Bourbon types are generally higher in water content, and while the Tahitis have improved in recent years, they are still a very moist bean. A great disadvantage in moist beans is the tendency to become mouldy, and to undergo other forms of deterioration, diminishing their sale values. Our contemporary considers that 30 per cent. of water is sufficient to allow for satisfactory curing.

* * *

LIPMAN has recently been investigating various problems in connection with the subject of arid soils, and the *Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence* for December gives the conclusions that he has arrived at in this connection. These are that (1) the introduction and maintenance of a good stock of organic matter in the form of green manure or dung should be practised on all soils deficient in nitrogen or organic matter; (2) that the nitrogenous manures applied to these soils should be high-class organic manures such as steam-bone flour, cottonseed meal, sewage residues, and in other cases sulphate of ammonia; and (3) that it is necessary to prevent heating of the soil, excessive evaporation and oxidation of organic matter by means of a mulch of straw or dung, especial importance being attached to this procedure.

EXPERIMENTS have recently been made in Java on the oxidisability of rubbers made from the same latex, but prepared by different processes. The conditions of experiment were absolutely similar, sunlight and diffused daylight being used. According to the *Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence*, the results showed that rubber prepared by the total evaporation of *Hevea* latex resists oxidation better than rubber prepared by coagulation; that the low oxidisability of rubber obtained by the evaporation of the latex is connected with the presence of the soluble impurities; that it has not so far been ascertained which of these bodies exercises the restraining effect; and that there is every reason to suppose that the chief advantage in the Brazilian method of preparing rubber does not consist in the smoking part of the operation, but in the retention of the soluble impurities.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR FIELDING CLARKE, late Chief Justice of Jamaica, has been appointed Chairman of the Appeal Tribunal, under the Military Service Act, for the county of Essex.

LIEUTENANT F. G. W. DEANE, of Barbados, has been gazetted a member of the No. 1 Travelling Medical Board of the Royal Army Medical Corps, under the Scottish command.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Lieut. Henry Hamilton Kitchener, son of the late Lieut.-General Sir Walter Kitchener, Governor of Bermuda, and nephew of Lord Kitchener, and Miss Winifred, daughter of the Hon. A. W. and Mrs. Black, of Bermuda.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Lieut. T. H. Willes Chitty, R.F.A. (T.), elder son of T. Willes Chitty, Esq., barrister-at-law, of 48, Queen's Gate Gardens, and Violet Elizabeth, only daughter of Major E. F. Becher, R.F.A., of Sherwood, Dominica, now stationed at Leiston, Suffolk.

It is estimated that the total expenditure in the United Kingdom on tobacco and smoking paraphernalia—excepting smoking-caps and carpet slippers—in the year 1915 was £38,480,910. This figure is an increase of £4,840,084 over that for the preceding year, owing to the rise in prices and the high wages earned by the working classes.

LORD BRASSEY'S historic yacht *Sunbeam*, which visited the West Indies on three occasions, has made her final yachting voyage, her owner having presented her to the Government of India as a hospital ship. It was the *Sunbeam's* voyage to the West Indies that was so charmingly described in the first Lady Brassey's "11,506 Knots in the *Sunbeam* in 1883," a copy of which (printed for private circulation) is in the Library of the West India Committee.

AMONG the many War workers connected with the West Indies should be included the names of Miss E. M. and Miss Gladys Llewelyn, daughters of Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, 1900-06. Miss E. M. Llewelyn is at present acting as housekeeper of the Moray Lodge Hospital, while Miss Gladys Llewelyn is doing V.A.D. work and helping with the local branch of the Vegetable Committee.

MR. J. F. N. GREEN, B.A., has been promoted to be Principal Clerk at the Colonial Office, and has been placed in charge of the West Indian Department in succession to Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., who has now assumed the duties of an Assistant Under-Secretary of State. Mr. Green, who was born in 1873, took his B.A. degree at Cambridge in 1893 as a Scholar of Emmanuel College, after being bracketed 15th Wrangler. He entered the Colonial Office in 1896 after a competi-

tive examination, and was successively private secretary to Sir Edward Wingfield and Sir Montague Ommamney.

SIR GILBERT AND LADY CARTER, who have been spending the winter in Barbados, are so charmed with the climate of the island, which they regard as the finest in the world, that they have decided to make their principal domicile there. It will be recalled that Sir Gilbert was Governor of Barbados from 1904 to 1911. Until recently it was extremely rare for a Governor even to re-visit the colony with which he was officially connected; but in selecting the West Indies as his home, Sir Gilbert Carter has a precedent, Sir Alexander Swettenham having resided in Jamaica since he relinquished the government of that island in 1907.

THE Collector of Customs of Trinidad and Tobago has furnished an interesting comparative statement of the importations during 1914 of the articles on which the United Kingdom, Canada, and Newfoundland are allowed a preferential rate of duty. He states that in the absence of the necessary proofs of origin only goods to the value of £139,072 and £311,462 from the United Kingdom and Canada respectively were admitted at the preferential rate, the preference amounting in the one case to £2,205, and in the other to £12,180, a total of £14,385. He notes that with the exception of flour, fish, oats, etc., the preferential tariff does not appear to have had to any appreciable extent the effect of transferring the trade to the United Kingdom and Canada, and that while Canada has made no progress in supplying the colony with manufactured articles on which a preference has been granted, the concession has had but little or no effect in increasing the trade in these articles with the United Kingdom.

AN abstract and review of the legislation of the British West Indies for 1914 is contributed by Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shephard, M.A., of Lincoln's Inn, to the latest number of the *Journal* of the Society of Comparative Legislation, an organisation of proved value which aims at keeping the social reformer, statesman, lawyer, or legislator informed as to what other nations and countries than his own are doing in the same sphere. The Society, which was established twenty-one years ago, has enjoyed the advantage of having had Mr. Shephard as a contributor from the start, with the result that the legislation of the West Indies throughout that period has been digested in such a manner as to facilitate greatly reference to any particular subject dealt with. For the abstract of the legislation of the Bahamas, another painstaking barrister, Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., Speaker of the local House of Assembly, has been responsible with equally satisfactory results. For the guidance of those of our readers who may desire to know more of this extremely useful Society, it may be mentioned that the Secretary is Mr. Edward Manson, who is assisted by Mr. R. E. Willcocks, to whom, at 3, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C., all communications should be addressed.

THE LONDON LETTER.

UNTIL the War broke down—let us hope for ever—the present line of cleavage of political opinion, candidates for membership of the stately City Carlton Club had to pledge themselves to “profess and support Conservative and Unionist principles and acknowledge the recognised leaders of the party.” Now, however, the far-seeing Committee of the Club have announced their willingness to accept an alternative profession of faith. Henceforward a candidate may be admitted as a yearly member if he declares his determination to support the “principle of maintaining the unity of the British Empire”—a far more glorious need. Many see in this the thin end of the wedge, and believe that other “party” clubs will follow the example of the City Carlton.

MR. W. M. HUGHES, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, who is now with us, is essentially a live man. He has already delivered several notable speeches, which must have put to shame the Little Navyites and those who ridiculed Lord Roberts's warning as to our unpreparedness before the War. Referring to the work of the British Navy, at a dinner given in his honour by the British Imperial Council of Commerce on March 15th, he said:—

“Behind that impregnable wall of triple steel we have had opportunity to remedy in some fashion our lack of preparation. But is there a man among us who does not pale as he looks back and sees the awful gulf which he has missed by a hair's breadth; who does not rejoice that there were men among us who shut their ears to the cries for a smaller Navy? Think of the hundreds of millions we are spending to-day on this awful war; think of the spectacle of the civilized world wallowing in blood, straining every energy in this awful work of mutual destruction. Think of the holocaust of lives, the fearful sufferings, and then think that, had Britain taken heed of Lord Roberts's warning voice, had we been as well prepared on land as we were on the sea, the peace of the world would have been, in all probability, unbroken.”

CONTINUING, Mr. Hughes added that miracles did not repeat themselves, and that we should take this solemn lesson to heart. We should without delay proceed to devise a policy for the British Empire which would cover every phase of our national economic and social life. Earlier in his speech he urged that the relations between modern trade interests and the national welfare should not be treated as if they were distinct subjects, and he advocated not merely a change of fiscal policy, but also a fundamental change in our ideas of government as applied to economic and national matters. With regard to Free Trade, he himself had been a Free Trader, but it had always been disconcerting to him how blind the world had been to the great virtues of Free Trade. Indeed, it would appear that Great Britain was the only country in the world that was in step!

* * *

SPEAKING at the City Carlton Club on March 20th, Mr. Hughes eloquently urged that the trade

policy of Britain after the War should be settled without delay. After referring to the stupendous folly which placed the monopoly of tungsten in the hands of Germany, he referred to sugar. The Empire was capable of providing all the sugar consumed in Great Britain, yet we placed ourselves in bondage to Germany and Austria, eating an inferior article because it was cheap, while fertile sugar-producing lands throughout the Empire were allowed to lie idle. This War had rung the death-knell of a policy of cheapness that took no thought for the social and industrial welfare of the workmen, that mistook mere wealth for greatness, no matter whether the wealth was in our hands or those of German Jews. “Well, after this War, where are we going to get our sugar?” he asked; “from the Empire, or from Germany and Austria?” This was one of the questions that ought to be answered now. To wait until the end of the War was to play directly into the hands of our enemy.

HIGH prices were, as usual, realised by the West Indian stamps offered for sale at the National Philatelic War Funds Auction held recently at Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's. Four St. Lucia, 1860, 4d. blue fetched £15, and one of four sets of Trinidad, 1891, overprinted to commemorate a visit paid by the King when Duke of York to the colony, and presented by him to the Philatelic War Fund in March, 1900, realised 452. A British Guiana, 1850, 8c. green changed hands for £10. Apropos of stamps, we are often asked whether there are not any valuable specimens among the old records and papers of the West India Committee. The reply must, alas, be in the negative, for repeated searches have resulted in no remarkable “finds” beyond an early franked envelope which is quite common.

LADY DUNSANY, who died at Dunstall Priory, Shoreham, Kent, on February 28th, was the owner of the historic Drax Hall Estate in St. George's Parish, Barbados, which was established by her ancestor, Colonel James Drax, who, for his loyalty, was created a knight, in 1661, after the Restoration. Schomburgk states that Drax Hall was one of the first spots in Barbados to be cleared and cultivated. Ligon relates that Sir George Drax fared like a prince, and Oldmixon asserts that, from three hundred pounds, the gallant Colonel raised the greatest estate of any planter of his time, with the single exception of Mr. Richard Walter, who was also a merchant. Lady Dunsany, who before her marriage to John William Plunkett, 17th Baron Dunsany, in 1877, was Miss Ernie Elizabeth Maria Grosvenor, was a lineal descendant of Sir James, by the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth with Thomas Shatterden of Popes Co., Hertford, whose son, Thomas, assumed the name of Drax on the death of his uncle, Henry Drax, childless. Her son, the 18th Lord Dunsany, who has already made a name for himself in the world of art, was born in 1878, and succeeded his father in 1899. He married Lady Beatrice Villiers, youngest daughter of the Earl of Jersey in 1904.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS

Homeward mail opportunities are still rare from most of the West Indian colonies, whose residents must envy Jamaica, which now enjoys a regular fortnightly mail and passenger service between Kingston and Avonmouth by the Elders & Fyffes' banana fleet. The following notes are extracted from letters received by occasional opportunities:—

BARBADOS—Fairly Good Returns per Acre.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., FEBRUARY 18th.—The weather has been on the whole favourable to reaping, which has become general. Returns of sugar per acre are fairly good and will improve as the canes get ripe. Prices are satisfactory. There will probably be great difficulty in the matter of freights, and like every one else we shall have to pay very high rates, but, as you say, the West Indies are not the only sufferers.

The Recruiting Committee held a meeting in the parish of St. Andrew on Thursday, 10th February. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. M. Alleyne, the rector of the parish, and speeches were made by Mr. Douglas Pile, senior representative of the parish, Dr. Briggs Clarke, junior representative of the parish, Mr. F. N. A. Clairmonte, Mr. Toni, of the Barbados Railway, and Mr. Nichols, appealing to the patriotism of the young men of the parish and giving very strong reasons why they should obey the King's call for men. The members of the Recruiting Committee and most of the speakers went down in a special train, very kindly placed at their disposal by Mr. Toni, who did all he could to promote the success of the meeting. There are now above one hundred recruits for the B.W.I. Regiment being drilled here, and in a short time there will be one hundred and fifty of them under training.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Demand for Logwood.

HON. A. R. USHER, FEBRUARY 14th.—Every effort is being made here to get the 400 men required for the next Contingent, and I have no doubt that they will all be knocked into shape by the time they are ready to leave. Logwood is a great demand in the United States, and the price has consequently gone up here, and as much as \$26.00 per ton is being paid now. Mahogany: Owing to the scarcity of tonnage and the prevailing high rate of freight, very little wood is being produced at present.

DOMINICA—The Death of Judge Wilbraham.

A correspondent writes from Dominica, under date February 13th.—I regret to say that Mr. Justice Wilbraham, First Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, and resident in Dominica, had a fit in the Court House on the 25th ult., from which he never recovered. He died this morning, and was buried in the English Church Yard this afternoon. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Antigua, assisted by the Rector of St. George's, and the funeral was attended by the Administrator, the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, Mr. Justice Comacho and all the members of the Bar, the members of the Roseau Town Board, and a large number of the leading officials and residents.

On January 28th, owing to the illness of Judge Wilbraham, the following temporary legal appointments were made by the Acting Governor:—Mr. Justice Pemberton to act as First Puisne Judge, and to reside in St. Kitts; the Hon. M. J. Comacho, Crown Attorney, to act as second Puisne Judge, to reside in Dominica; Mr. T. Couls Lartique, the Registrar, to act as Crown Attorney; and Mr. A. Welby Solomon, the Chief Magistrate, to act as Registrar in conjunction with his own duties.

The Hon. M. J. Comacho's promotion, although temporary, is well earned. He is an able lawyer, and is held in high estimation in the island. His promotion to the Bench leaves the Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O., Treasurer, and Dr. the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., Senior Medical Officer, as the only two official members of the Executive Council.

The enormous rise in freights to England is becoming a very serious matter, for whilst freights are increasing, the value of our staples in the home markets is not

increasing with them. It is to be feared that this will mean a diversion of a considerable part of the produce to the United States. The annual election of members to serve on the Roseau Town Board has lately taken place. All the old members, with the exception of Mr. W. W. Wyllis, the Editor of the *Voice of the People*, who was defeated narrowly by Mr. Cecil Kawle, a local barrister, were re-elected. Many regret the absence from the Board of Mr. Wyllis, for he was an energetic and outspoken member. An agitation against his return was got up mainly by Mr. Steber, the Editor of the *Dominica Guardian*, and since the election the wordy warfare of the rival Editors recalls to mind the much wilder conflict of the rival Editors in "Pickwick." Last year was the wettest on record for a considerable period of time. The estates near town recorded about 25 per cent. increase on the usual annual return. At the Botanical Gardens the precipitation for the year topped the 100 inches. It is said that the Curator of the Botanical Gardens on the morning of December 31st was worrying because he only wanted 40 "parts" to reach the century, when, lo and behold, as the day gave out, the heavens opened, and rain came down galore. So one man in Dominica was happy on New Year's morn.

Mr. A. J. Brooks, the able and energetic Superintendent of Agriculture in St. Lucia, who has been very ill, is now in Dominica in search of health, which, happily, he is finding. Mr. W. Morris Fletcher has been appointed temporarily unofficial member of the Executive and Legislative Councils in the place of the Hon. Acton Lockhart, who has gone to England on six months' leave. Mr. Fletcher, who is an old Indian official and a successful Dominica planter, is likely to perform useful service in his new positions.

JAMAICA—The Tonnage Question.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPPS, FEBRUARY 21st.—Recruiting is almost uppermost in the minds of all people, and His Excellency the Governor, in addition to the many calls, has had to be touring the island on these matters. The Legislature will meet early in March, and until then no one knows what financial arrangements will be suggested. The tonnage question is a serious one, as rates are continually increasing, and c.i.f. sales impossible. Sugar to-day to London is £6 per ton, rum 9d. per gallon, pimento £10 per ton weight, coco-nuts and copra £8 per ton weight. Had it not been for these frightful rates, prices of commodities would not have soared so much, and certainly producers have not benefited in proportion.

The steamers of the United Fruit Co. have done splendid service by taking cargo for the United States of America, but at the moment even this regular service has much more freight offering than they can handle, as all shippers clamour for space. We are having very fine seasons, but although the fruit crop promises good, there, again, tonnage will hardly permit more than 50 per cent. being marketed. We hear with pleasure your suggested British Sugar League, formed with the view of securing preference on sugar, and our sugar planters are certain to fall in and appreciate your action. The boom in logwood has helped the island considerably, and our output for 1915 ought to be 150,000 tons.

ST. VINCENT—A Short Sea Island Crop.

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 8th.—The rainfall statistics show that last year was the wettest experienced here for fifteen years. At the Botanic Gardens 122.74 inches were measured, and at other places the rainfall was correspondingly high. The output of Sea Island cotton will, unfortunately, be very short. Bad weather and pests have taken even more than their usual toll, and this on top of a reduction in acreage planted of 50 per cent.

The partial eclipse of the sun on the 3rd proved a very striking phenomenon. It was a fine, clear day, and from start to finish the different phases could be observed. Here quite nine-tenths of the sun was covered at the maximum point of obscuration and the soft mellow evening light that resulted formed quite a remarkable feature.

In the Government Gazette is published a list of the officers and men born in St. Vincent who have served, or are serving, with His Majesty's Land Forces in the War. The total number so far is 126, but there may be others whose names are not known. Letters from the

United Kingdom now take a month or more to reach us, and are often brought by sailing craft from Barbados or Grenada. I am afraid your West Indian mail must be a very uncertain one nowadays. [It is.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

The Monumental Inscriptions in the Churches and Churchyards of the Island of Barbados, British West Indies. Edited by Vere Langford Oliver, M.R.C.S. London, Mitchell, Hughes and Clarke, 140, Wardour Street, W.

In the winter of 1913-14, Mr. Oliver, who is well known as the Editor of *Caribbeana*, that delightful journal of West Indian antiquarian lore, paid a visit to Barbados. As might be expected, the evidences of the departed afforded by the monumental inscriptions in the Churches and graveyards received his close attention, and the result of this labour of love is the admirably got up volume under review.

There are few countries which possess such interesting historic associations as Barbados. In the uninterrupted possession of the English since its settlement in 1620, its records are closely connected with those of Cavaliers and Roundheads and other Empire builders whose names are household words in English history. Naturally, the stirring events of the strenuous life of Barbados is reflected in its monumental and church memorials of its immortal dead, and not only recall the great men who have been inseparably mixed up with its fortunes, but also form a record of the humbler inhabitants of the island. Mr. Oliver has performed his self-appointed task with enthusiasm, and the value of his book is greatly increased from the tendency to destruction of property which hurricanes—fortunately few and far between are liable to effect. Indeed, the hurricane of 1831 destroyed no fewer than seven parish churches and six chapels of ease, and, although a few years back, the Legislature ordered transcripts of all parish registers to be made and deposited in the local Record Office, there is always the chance of loss. In these circumstances Mr. Oliver's printed and published record is especially valuable. It is interesting to note that Mr. Oliver found the churches throughout the island scrupulously clean and better attended to than most of those in England, the absence of glass windows and the consequent free current of wind keeping them fresh and sweet. The churchyards, also, he found all walled in and well kept.

Nothing seems to have escaped the eagle eye of Mr. Oliver, who observes, for example, that no steps have been taken to erase the "Sir" from the modern (1888) brass to Christopher Codrington in the chapel of the College of which that Governor was founder. It is of interest to note in passing the number of burials which took place on the plantations, reminding us that in the eighteenth century it was a common practice to lay the owners to rest under the shadow of the Great Houses in which they had resided during life. From the inscriptions to the memory of those who have died in quite recent years, which are now published for the first time, it is pleasing to note that in these days of hustle and bustle the practice of recording the merits of the deceased has not entirely fallen into desuetude. After turning over the pages of Mr. Oliver's book we are led to express the hope that the author will soon revisit the West Indies and eventually give us similar works upon the monumental inscriptions in other islands.

In conclusion we may say that a comparison of the present volume with Lawrence-Archer's "Monumental Inscriptions of the West Indies," published in 1875, leaves one in no doubt that Mr. Oliver's is far the more comprehensive and accurate work of the two.

Copies of all books noticed under the heading "Our Library" are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone : 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.
March 22nd, 1916.

BANK RATE continues at 5 per cent. from the 8th of August, 1914. Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) stands at 87½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 92½. Consols are quoted at 57½.

SUGAR. The rise in the world's price of sugar has continued, and the value of Cuban 96's in the New York market is now \$5.77 duty paid; representing an f.o.b. price of about £20 per ton. The present position of sugar is most interesting on account of the statistical position being apparently at variance with the high prices ruling. On the one hand there is the Cuban crop in full swing, the factories turning out something like 25,000 tons per week more than last year at this time, with a monthly total of fully 550,000 tons, fully 100,000 tons in excess of the consuming requirements of both the United Kingdom and the United States, an output which will continue for the next three months. In addition the crops of Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines and the West Indies are in progress, representing another 200,000 tons a month. Again, in spite of the repeated reports as to the dry weather in Cuba, which, it may be pointed out, in no way prejudices the present crop, but is only unfavourable to the growth of cane for the next year's reaping—there is every prospect of Mr. Himely's estimate of 3,175,000 tons being realised. On the other hand, stocks in the United States and the United Kingdom, and probably elsewhere, are low, and there is a constant demand of sugar for Europe to help fill the gaps made, in France by the reduction in the sugar crop of that country by 500,000 tons, in the Scandinavian sugar supplies from the inability of Germany to export the usual 150,000 tons per annum or so to these northern countries, in the Mediterranean countries by the cutting off of Austrian sugar, and possibly to some extent in Russia from reduced crop. A contributory cause of shortage is, also, the difficulty the Cuban planters are experiencing in marketing their sugar on account of want of railway facilities, the supply of cars on the Cuban railways being insufficient to cope with the bigger output. But another and very important factor in the situation is the fact that the Cuban planters are well supplied with money, and naturally are not averse to taking advantage of the position in this respect and of the place which Cuba now holds in the world's supplies, to hold their sugar.

The Java crop is expected to reach 1,400,000 tons, the gloomy anticipations of the planters on the subject some months back not being realised. The first supplies of this sugar should be available at the end of June.

Mr. Himely reports that, up to the 28th of last month, 126,017 tons of Cuban sugar had been shipped to Great Britain and 30,000 tons to France since the beginning of the year. The receipts of this crop's sugar at Cuban ports up to the 20th instant have been 1,488,784 tons, as against 1,064,527 tons up to the corresponding date of last year. In this connection it should be borne in mind that the stocks at the factories are, for reasons given above, larger than usual, and that the actual output of this current crop at the above date is really greater than the port figures indicate. The stocks at the Cuban ports were, on the 20th, 596,000 tons, as against 436,000 tons at the same date last year.

Further conversations have taken place between the West India Committee and the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on the subject of West Indian sugar imported under licence. It will be remembered that the price of crystallised of average quality was fixed at that of the Commission's price of American granulated at the time of sale, with a maximum limit of 1/6 per cwt. above for best quality, and 1/6 below for the lowest grade. Now, the price of average Muscovado has been fixed at 1/- per cwt., and that of syrups at 2/-, below that of American granulated, in each case with 1/6 per cwt. limits above and below for best or lowest qualities. One of the effects of the new arrangement will be the abolition of sugar auctions. Under the title of the "Committee of West Indian Brokers," a committee nominated by the West India Committee has been established to grade the sugars

and to carry out generally the arrangements agreed upon. Its members are Mr. C. Hales (J. V. Drake & Co.), Chairman; Mr. A. H. Dix (B. D. & F. Man), Mr. H. Marks (C. M. & C. Woodhouse), Mr. C. Worters (C. Czarnikow & Co.), and Mr. H. Carey (Carey & Browne).

In the House of Commons on the 16th inst. Mr. McKenna stated that the restricted supply of sugar was assured, and that restriction was merely due to shortage of tonnage. He has also promised that the account of the purchases of the Sugar Commission for last year shall shortly be laid on the table of the House.

In his speech at the recent City Carlton Club luncheon, Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier, laid stress on the self-supporting power of the Empire if its resources were properly developed, and made especial reference to its sugar-producing capabilities.

The London West Indian sugar figures from January ist to March 11th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	4,914	8,165	5,506	6,398	3,204 Tons.
Deliveries ...	12,250	7,688	5,943	5,690	6,698 ..
Stock (Mar 11)	3,769	6,486	12,169	2,547	996 ..

RUM. Both proof and Jamaica descriptions maintain a strong market. Extreme rates have been paid for some 2½ and 3-years-old Jamaica, which comes under a lower scale of duty. Demerara remains unchanged at 4/3. Rum is not included in the Government spirits import prohibition.

The stocks in London on March 11th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	5,830	4,723	5,681	5,700	7,394 Puns.
Demerara ...	7,198	6,511	10,259	8,459	8,302 ..
Total, all kinds ...	23,352	17,226	22,852	21,875	23,547 ..

CACAO. The market has been firm with a fair demand. At auction on the 14th, 10,011 bags were put up, of which 5,894 were British West Indian. Of the 1,608 bags of Trinidad offered, 169 bags were sold at 89/- to 93/6, an advance of 1/-; Grenada was in good demand, 3,490 bags out of 4,202 bags being sold at prices ranging from 81/- to 87/-, the advance being from 6d. to 1/-. Of 40 bags St. Lucia a small part sold at 75/- to 83/-, while 23 bags Jamaica were all sold at 83/-; 16 bags Dominica were partly sold at 84/6; 5 bags of St. Vincent were bought in. At sales on the 21st, a quiet tone prevailed. The sales included 1,702 bags of Trinidad, which were bought in; 1,737 bags Grenada, which were mostly sold, prices ranging from 78/- to 85/6; 41 bags Dominica, in part sold at 80/-; 303 bags St. Lucia, part sold at 80/- to 85/-; and 43 bags Jamaica, part sold at 78/-.

The Government has limited the quantities which may be taken out of bond to the average of the last three months' outdrawings. This is taken as meaning that the duty on cacao will be increased in the coming Budget.

The Board of Trade Returns for February showed that 10,248,131 lbs. of cacao were imported into the United Kingdom for that month, of which 94,066 lbs were from Ecuador, 261,328 lbs. from Brazil, 25,423,216 lbs. from British West Africa, 574,700 lbs. from Ceylon, 2,289,089 lbs. from the British West India Islands, and 1,608,592 lbs. from other sources. For the year to date 54,841,325 lbs. have been imported, British West Africa being conspicuous with 43,306,237. The British West Indies come next with 4,842,136 lbs. "Other countries" account for 4,464,146 lbs.; Ceylon has provided 1,348,237 lbs., while Ecuador and Brazil have sent 357,104 lbs. and 522,902 lbs. respectively. Last year for the same two months, 29,901,885 lbs. were imported. Of these British West Africa only provided 2,505,820 lbs., a striking difference to the position obtaining this year. On the other hand Ecuador provided 3,010,036 lbs., Brazil 4,386,503 lbs., Ceylon 2,197,671 lbs., and the British West Indies 7,390,394 lbs.

The exports of cacao for the month were 2,667,948 lbs. only, the principal customer being the United States with 73,015 lbs.

Holland received 687,851 lbs., and Russia 15,910 lbs. For January and February 10,216,397 lbs. were exported. Holland figuring largely with 4,217,393 lbs., the United States receiving 3,004,637 lbs. As compared with 8 months last year, the exports have been less by 3,765,937 lbs.

For the two months of the present year 2,524 tons of cocoa preparations, including chocolate, have been im-

ported, as against 245 tons exported. In January and February, 1914, before the War had begun, 769 tons were exported as against 7,551 tons imported.

It is interesting to note that the first shipment of cacao, 400 tons, from the Cameroons, now in British possession, arrived on the 14th.

The stocks in London on March 11th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	4,324	7,801	6,269	3,561	5,657 Bags
Grenada ...	9,680	7,691	8,701	6,526	10,985 ..
Total, all kinds	87,179	55,478	86,974	78,082	112,452 ..

COTTON. The market for American varieties has fluctuated considerably, but a quiet tone now obtains. As regards West Indian cotton, Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that about 60 bales of Barbuda cotton have been sold at 155d., and 10 bales poor quality Jamaica at 15d., and that prices are firm.

The imports of raw cotton into the United Kingdom for January and February of this year amounted to 421,638,600 lbs., as against 618,809,400 lbs. in the same months of 1915 and 1914 respectively. Of this amount 286,350,400 came from the United States, 9,500 lbs. from Brazil and 7,639,700 lbs. from other foreign sources. British possessions contributed 127,659,000 lbs., including 116,180,500 lbs. from Egypt, 10,421,700 from the British East Indies and 76,800 lbs. from the British West Indies. The exports for the two months were 62,550,300 lbs., of which 43,656,900 lbs. went to the United States of America, Holland coming next on the list of countries of export with 3,734,800 lbs. The exports in January and February of 1914, before the war, were 44,607,300 lbs., exports to the United States being 29,852,000 lbs. less than for the same months of the present year.

The quantity of West Indian imported for the year up to the 16th inst. was 759 bales.

COPRA. Market firm. Value of West Indian, £37 8s. per ton.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Both handpressed and distilled are quiet, there being no sales to report since our last. Values are unchanged at 8/6 per lb. for both qualities. Lime Juice: Raw and concentrated are unchanged, with no sales to report. Citrate of Lime: Value £26 per usual basis.

SPICES. Nutmegs are stronger; 100/80's are quoted at 9d. to 1/-, 120/100's at 8d. to 9d., 140/120's at 8d. to 9d. Mace is unchanged; values are, good to fine, 2/- to 2/6; red to good, 1/2 to 1/8; blood red to medium red, 1/5 to 1/7; broken, 11d. to 1/4. Ginger: The market for Jamaica is very firm, stocks being much lower than they have been for a long time past. The present value is 85/- to 100/-, according to quality.

ARROWROOT. Business has been restricted, chiefly owing to the absence of lower priced grades, for which there is enquiry. Quotations are nominally 2d. to 4d.

COFFEE. There has been a good demand at auction sales, with dearer prices. Good ordinary palish Jamaica has sold at 55/-.

HONEY. No Jamaica has been offered since last mail. There is, however, a good demand, and anything available would sell readily at full rates.

COTTON SEED OIL. Little business doing. Refined is quoted at £48 10s. to £53 per ton.

COCO-NUT OIL. No sellers for Ceylon, the value of which may be quoted at 57/- c.i.f. Buyers are asking for Cochin, value 58/- c.i.f. London.

RUBBER. There has been some fluctuation in plantation, but the market is now steady, with prices slightly lower than at the date of last Summary. Fine plantation is valued at 3/7, and smoked sheet at 3/6. Para is slightly easier, fine hard being quoted at 3/2; soft remains at 2/11d.

BALATA. The market is very firm, with little business to report, owing to scarcity of supplies. Venezuela block is quoted, sellers at 2/7 c.i.f., buyers at 2/6 c.i.f. Panama block, sellers 2/2½ c.i.f., buyers 2/1½ c.i.f. Business has been done in West Indian sheet at 3/1 spot landed terms.

PETROLEUM OIL stronger. American may be valued at 11d., and water white at 1/-.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell Mr. John T. Grogan Mr. A. L. McCall
H. E. Sir Hesketh Bell Mr. Wm. Greig Mr. A. E. Perkins
K.C.M.G. Mr. P. L. Guppy Miss E. Robinson
Mr. D. C. Cameron Mrs. E. Haynes Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Mr. A. Campbell Mr. A. R. Kirby Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart Hon. A. Don. Lockhart Hon. H. B. Walcott
Mr. R. P. Gibbs Mr. Clement Malone C.M.G.
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
Lieut-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Southampton.
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton.
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

THE WEST INDIAN MAILS.

MESSRS. FOLDERS & FYFFES, LTD.—Sailing from Avonmouth to Jamaica, Port Limon and Colon, per SS. Camilo, April 3rd.

Mr. G. H. Birchall Mrs. C. Bourke Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Evers
Mr. J. Horder

ADVANCE BOOKINGS from Avonmouth to Jamaica, Port Limon and Colon, per SS. Coronado, Avonmouth, April 17th.

Miss F. M. Crooks

ADVANCE BOOKINGS from Avonmouth to Jamaica, Port Limon and Colon, per SS. Corina, May 1st.

Mrs. Thomson Mr. A. Syms Wood

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Table with columns: Dividend, Latest Quotations, Prices Mar. 22. Rows include Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, The Colonial Bank, Demerara Railway Company, W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

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

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller): Mar. 14th, "Good showers generally throughout the island." British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.): Mar. 10th, "Weather showery and favourable"; (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), Mar. 18th, "Weather favourable." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), fortnight ended Mar. 1st: Port Antonio, 17th-19th "Rain," 20th-23rd "Fine," 24th "Rain," 25th-28th "Fair," 29th-Mar. 1st "Rain." Kingston, 17th-18th "Fine," 19th-20th "Showery," 21st "Fine," 22nd-23rd "Overcast," 24th-25th "Rainy," 26th-Mar. 1st "Fine."

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.

Table with columns: Date, Line, Steamer, Port of Dep., Destination. Rows include Harrison Line (Engineer), Elders & Fyffes (Camilo), Direct Line (Spheroid), Leyland Line (Orubian), Elders & Fyffes (Curanado), Direct Line (Silybia), Leyland Line (Antillian).

Table with columns: Date, Line, Steamer, Port of Dep., Destination. Row: Royal Dutch (A Steamer) Amsterdam to B.E.

Table with columns: Date, Line, Steamer, Port of Dep., Destination. Rows: R.M.S.P.Co. (Chaleur) Halifax, 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.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

Table with columns: British Guiana, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada. Rows include Sugar, Molasses, Rum, Cocoa, Coffee, Coco nuts, Oranges, Bananas, Cotton, Pimento, Ginger, Honey, Dyewoods, Gold, Diamonds, Rice, Balata, Rubber, Timber, Lumber, Lime (Citrate of).

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.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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April 5th, 1916.

BRITISH SUGAR AFTER THE WAR.

ELSEWHERE in the present issue of the CIRCULAR we publish the text of a letter and memorandum which have been forwarded to the Prime Minister by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE on the subject of the development of the hitherto sadly neglected British Sugar Industry. In this memorandum attention is called to the overwhelming dependence of the United Kingdom on foreign countries for its sugar supply—in 1913, out of 1,969,259 tons of sugar imported, no fewer than 1,296,401 tons came from Germany and Austria, and only 72,019 tons from British sources—and the preferential treatment of British sugar in the Customs tariff is advocated with a view of rendering this country eventually independent of foreign sources of sugar supply, enhancing the prosperity of His Majesty's sugar-growing possessions, and securing the opening up and development of areas within the British Empire which have hitherto not been cultivated. It will be recalled that, doubts having been expressed as to the ability of the British Empire to become self-supporting as regards its sugar requirements, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE instituted an inquiry into the subject. Letters were sent to the Governors of our sugar-growing possessions and tropical colonies asking what openings existed for the extension or establishment of sugar cultivation. Copies of the replies received were appended to the memorandum, with which they have since been published in pamphlet form.* They prove convincingly that, even leaving out of consideration the possibilities of India and England as sugar producing countries, considerably more sugar could be produced within the British Empire than would be sufficient for the

requirements of the United Kingdom. At present the production of sugar within the Empire (leaving out of consideration the 2,000,000 tons produced and consumed in India) is, taking the average crops of the last three years, only 880,000 tons, of which 573,000 tons are exportable. It is now shown that under favourable conditions at least 4,541,000 tons could be produced. This figure includes 2,500,000 tons from British Guiana, which could only be produced if labour were imported on a very large scale. But even if that colony were only credited with double its present production, or, say, 200,000 tons, the total amount of British sugar available would be far more than enough for the needs of the British consumers.

The COMMITTEE are satisfied that to secure the needed development it will be necessary to give adequate preferential treatment in the Customs tariff for a period of not less than ten years. In this connection it will be recalled that when the British Government gave their adherence to the Brussels Convention for the abolition of bounties in 1902, they undertook that during the continuance of that agreement no preference would be granted in the United Kingdom to Colonial sugar as against sugar from the Contracting States. It will further be remembered that in 1911, when they finally denounced the Convention, they were misguided enough to renew their pledge not to give a preference to sugar from British colonies. This might at first sight seem an obstacle in the way of the consummation so devoutly wished, not only by the producers, but also, as it now appears, by many consumers of sugar—the development of the British sugar industry by the reduction of the sugar duty in favour of our colonies. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE are, however, advised that the Brussels Convention of 1902 and all agreements, etc., connected with it, including the self-denying pledge above referred to, have been absolutely annulled by the state of war which supervened in 1914, and that Great Britain has recovered full liberty of action. But even if this view is not shared by His Majesty's Ministers, it must be remembered that Great Britain reserved the right to change her policy in this connection on giving six months' notice to the signatories of the Convention, and it is much to be hoped that such notice will be given if such a step is felt to be an essential preliminary to the grant of preferential treatment of British produced sugar. It will have been noted with satisfaction that MR. BONAR LAW, who has such a thorough knowledge of the sugar question in all its aspects, is to accompany MR. RUNCIMAN as a British delegate to the forthcoming meeting on the subject of Trade after the War in Paris, and it is not too much to hope that sugar will form one of the subjects for discussion on that occasion.

* "The British Sugar Industry." London: The West India Committee Rooms.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

AN interesting and important point in connection with the Trade Agreement between Canada and certain West Indian Colonies, which was signed on April 9th, 1912, must shortly come up for consideration. It will be recalled that by Section 3 of that Agreement it was laid down that Canada should extend to the Bahamas, British Honduras, Grenada, and Jamaica, which remained outside, the preferential concessions under the Agreement for a period of three years from the date on which it came into operation, and that it was further provided that at the end of that period these concessions might cease and determine as regards any of the Colonies which had not meanwhile granted to Canada reciprocal advantages. Grenada subsequently gave her adhesion to the Agreement, but the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Jamaica still stand aloof. The Agreement came into force on June 2nd, 1913, and it remains to be seen what attitude Canada will adopt when the period of grace which the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Jamaica have been enjoying expires on June 2nd next. It is impossible to contemplate for a moment that Canada will penalise these three Colonies, seeing that she has voluntarily and without asking for any reciprocal advantages extended the benefit of the British preferential tariff to the Fiji and Mauritius, besides other British Colonies, unconditionally—a concession which has resulted in nearly twelve million dollars worth of sugar having been imported into the Dominion from Fiji in 1914-15. In face of this, Canada can hardly close her preferential tariff door to the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Jamaica if they do not adhere to the Agreement.

The figures which we published in the last two CIRCULARS show conclusively that the reciprocal Trade Agreement has not resulted in any material increase of trade between the two parts of the Empire. Thus, the imports into the Dominion from British West Indies and British Guiana, which were \$10,550,491 in 1912, have actually fallen to \$8,045,844, but this, as we pointed out, was attributable to the fact that the bulk of the British Guiana sugar crop of 1914 was commandeered by the British Government, and consequently diverted from Canada. The exports from Canada to the British West Indies make a better showing, having risen from \$4,617,961 in 1912 to \$5,142,605 in 1914, and it might appear from this that Canada has made the best of the bargain, which we feel sure the West Indies would not grudge her, especially when it is remembered that the Dominion has generously provided the West Indies with their only regular mail service, and has further enabled them to secure the sweeping reduction in cable rates by contributing substantially to the subsidy of one of the Cable Companies. But in considering whether or not they should join the Trade Agreement, the three West Indian Colonies now outside it will no doubt take a broader and more Imperial view rather than look only to the immediate financial gain. The War has brought its lessons, not the least of which is that of the vital importance of drawing closer the bonds that bind the various parts of the Empire, and we are pleased to notice that this aspect of the question is already being ventilated in Jamaica con-

sequent upon the visit of two managers of influential Canadian Banks. We never believed in the bogey of American retaliation which undoubtedly influenced Jamaica when the question of participation in the Canada-West Indies Agreement was under discussion, and we are glad to notice that it now appears to be losing its terrors to the merchants and planters of our largest West Indian Colony.

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

On March 4th the West India Committee addressed the following letter to Mr. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P., Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, on the subject of the development of the British Sugar Industry:—

March 4th, 1916.

Sir,

We have the honour to transmit herewith, by direction of the Executive of the West India Committee, a Memorandum with reference to the development of the British Sugar Industry.

2. In this Memorandum, the West India Committee calls attention to the recent dependence of the United Kingdom on foreign countries, and notably Germany and Austria, for the bulk of its Sugar Supply. It also urges that preferential treatment in the Customs tariff may be given to Sugar produced within the British Empire with a view of

- (a) rendering the United Kingdom independent of foreign countries for its Sugar Supply;
- (b) enhancing the prosperity of the British Sugar-producing possessions; and
- (c) securing the development under Sugar of areas in British tropical Colonies which have hitherto not been developed.

3. Accompanying this Memorandum are official reports from the Governors of various British possessions which show that, given adequate preferential treatment, more than enough sugar could be produced within the Empire to meet the requirements of the United Kingdom.

4. We venture to hope that this Memorandum may receive the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government.

We have the honour, etc.,

W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL,
Chairman.
R. RUTHERFORD,
Deputy-Chairman.
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Right Hon.

H. H. Asquith, P.C., M.P., K.C., etc., etc.,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury.

[Enclosure.]

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.
MEMORANDUM REGARDING ITS DEVELOPMENT.

1. In the year prior to the outbreak of the present War the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom from all sources amounted to 1,969,259

tons. Of these, 1,296,401 tons were imported from Germany and Austria, 600,839 tons from other foreign countries, and only 72,019 tons from British sources. In the same year the amount of sugar produced within the British Empire and available for export was only 571,746 tons.

2. The cause of the lack of development of the British Sugar Industry and the consequent dependence of the United Kingdom on foreign countries, notably Germany and Austria, for its sugar supply was the competition in the past with subsidised Continental beet sugars. These foreign sugars were stimulated directly as to outside markets by export bounties supplemented by the protection in their home markets afforded by a substantial difference between Excise and Customs duties. This protection enabled foreign producers to form cartels or trusts and dump sugar on the English market below the cost of production. Supplies from all other sources were, in consequence, restricted.

3. Direct bounties were abolished and the power to form cartels was limited by the international agreement embodied in the Sugar Convention, which was signed at Brussels on March 5th, 1902, by Representatives of Great Britain and the principal European sugar-producing countries, whereby the latter agreed to abolish bounties on September 1st, 1903.* By the terms of that Convention (to which further reference is made in pars. 10-13), however, the High Contracting States were permitted to maintain a difference between the Customs and Excise duties of £2 10s. per ton. All the Contracting States, except Holland and Great Britain, availed themselves of this protection to their home sugar industries, which has enabled them to retain their hold on the markets in the United Kingdom.

4. The result has been that the British sugar industry has been unable to expand as it would have done had competition been based on natural conditions.

5. In order to demonstrate that sufficient sugar could be produced within the Empire to meet the present and prospective requirements of the United Kingdom, the West India Committee, in October, 1914, addressed a circular letter of enquiry to the Governments of the principal tropical possessions, asking what openings there were in them for the expansion of the sugar industry.

6. The replies received, which are appended to this Memorandum,† show clearly that, given equitable treatment, more than enough sugar to meet the present and prospective requirements of the United Kingdom could be produced within the British Empire.

7. The views of the West India Committee as to the form in which this encouragement should be given are expressed in the following resolution, which was adopted at a meeting of the Executive on February 11th, 1915:—

“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.”

8. The Committee believes that the adoption of this recommendation would

(a) render this country eventually independent of foreign sources of sugar supply;

(b) enhance the prosperity of His Majesty's sugar-growing possessions; and

(c) lead to the opening up and development of areas within the British Empire which have hitherto not been cultivated.

9. As an example of what can be done under a system of preference the Committee would cite the case of Cuba. In 1903 the United States extended to that Republic preferential treatment in their Customs Tariff, as a result of which the exports of sugar from Cuba have risen from 850,182 tons in 1902 to over 3,000,000 tons estimated for the current crop, which is nearly three times the size of the largest crop reaped before the preference was given, namely, 1,054,214 tons in 1894.

10. In this connection a further reference must be made to the Brussels Sugar Convention. A Penal Clause (Article IV.) in this Convention provided that the High Contracting Parties should impose a special duty on the importation into their territories of sugar from those countries which might grant bounties either on production or on exportation. As an alternative they reserved to themselves the right to prohibit the importation of bounty-fed sugar. Great Britain adopted the latter course.

11. The High Contracting Parties also agreed to limit the difference between their Excise and Customs duties on sugar to 6 francs per 100 kilos (£2 10s. per ton) on Refined Sugar and 5.50 francs (£2 5s. 10d. per ton) on other sugar (Article III.), and by the final Protocol (A. 2) the Government of Great Britain undertook that during the continuance of the Convention, no preference would be granted in the United Kingdom to Colonial sugar as against sugar from the Contracting States.

12. In 1907 an Additional Act releasing Great Britain from the obligations under the Penal Clause was agreed to,‡ and in March, 1912, the High Contracting States, Great Britain excepted, signed a Protocol, which was subsequently ratified, providing for the continuance of the Convention until 1918.‡ In August, 1912, the Government of Great Britain gave notice of withdrawal from the Convention as from September 1st, 1913.‡ In giving notice of withdrawal, Sir Edward Grey stated that

* Commercial No. 10 (1907) Cd. 3780.

† Commercial No. 3 (1912) Cd. 6146.

‡ Commercial No. 5 (1912) Cd. 6325.

* Miscellaneous No. 4 (1902) Cd. 1003.

† See page 5 and summary on page 52.

His Majesty's Government had no intention of departing from the fundamental principles of the Convention by themselves giving bounties on the export of sugar, or by giving preference to sugar produced within the British Empire on importation into the United Kingdom, and on June 12th, 1913, he confirmed a decision of the Permanent Commission under the Sugar Convention at its 102nd sitting held at Brussels on May 26th and 27th, 1913, that the Government of Great Britain would give not less than six months' notice in the event of their deciding to give a preference to sugar produced within the British Empire on importation into the United Kingdom.* The High Contracting States on their part agreed not to modify in an unfavourable manner the system applied by them to English sugar and sugared products.

13. This Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, the Additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations, and Agreements were, so this Committee are advised and believe, absolutely annulled by the State of War which supervened in 1914, and Great Britain and all signatory Powers to that Convention have, by its abrogation, recovered full liberty of action.

14. Great Britain being now free to take what action she may think fit, the West India Committee wishes to urge upon His Majesty's Government the desirability of taking early steps towards the establishment of a differential Customs Tariff in favour of the British Colonies, and, if necessary, of duties countervailing bounties, should Germany and Austria reinstate this form of protection.

15. Should, however, His Majesty's Ministers consider themselves still morally bound by the pledge referred to in paragraph 12 of the present Memorandum, the West India Committee desires to urge that Great Britain may give to the Powers which were signatories to the Convention, notice of the termination of that pledge with a view to carrying out the measures for securing the development of the British Sugar Industry on the lines above indicated.

(Signed) W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL,
Chairman.

R. RUTHERFORD,
Deputy-Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE
(Incorporated by Royal Charter),
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.

March 4th, 1916.

The letter of enquiry addressed by the West India Committee to the Governors of the sugar-growing possessions and various tropical colonies and the replies received have already been published in the CIRCULAR, and it is only therefore necessary

to give here a summary. It will suffice to state that the official replies indicate the possibility of the expansion of the British Sugar Industry from a production of 880,000 tons to over 4,540,000 tons made up as follows:—

	Present Sugar Crops (average of three years). Tons.	Possible Sugar Crops. Tons.
Barbados ...	35,000	51,000
British Guiana ...	105,000	2,500,000
Jamaica ...	15,000	35,000
Trinidad ...	50,000	87,000
The Windward & Leeward Islands ...	26,000	67,000
Mauritius ...	244,000	305,000
Fiji ...	97,000	164,000
British East Africa ...	—	500,000
Queensland ...	*217,000	1,500,000
Natal ...	*91,000	1,332,000
	880,000	4,541,000

Northern Nigeria.—“The possibilities of Nigeria as a source of supply are well worthy of the most careful enquiry.”

Southern Nigeria.—“Many thousands of acres—admirably adapted for Sugar-growing.”

Uganda.—“Sugar should be grown in fairly large quantities.”

At the annual meeting of the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, held on February 23rd, the following resolution was agreed to:—

“The Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance desires to call the attention of H.M. Government to the desirability of encouraging the growth of sugar-canes within the Empire, so as to render this country more independent in future of supplies of beet sugar from enemy countries, and directs that this resolution be sent to the Ministers interested.”

Members of the West India Committee are invited to strengthen that body 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. Forms of application for 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.

* Consumed in Colony

† Less local consumption, at present 275,000 tons per annum.

‡ Less local consumption, at present 120,000 tons per annum.

* Commercial No. 3 (1913) Cd. 6877.



COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S ARRIVAL AT ROSEAU, DOMINICA.



A View of CHRISTIANSEED in the Island of St. Croix taken from Christianseeds Key.

A SKETCH BY POCOCK IN THE LOG OF THE "MINERVA," 1776.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

An Historic Conference.

The Allied Conference which met in Paris recently was more representative than any of its predecessors. In all, eight nations were represented—Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, and Portugal. It must have been disagreeably enlightening to Germany, who has been trying to convince her own people and neutrals that the Allies were weakened by dissensions. But it is not enough to preserve solidarity in devotion to the common cause. We must attain more of that unity of purpose and direction, which is one of the main sources of the enemy's strength. It is not in the nature of things that the Entente Powers should arrive at a position in which all follow the lead of one. But they can agree upon collective instead of more or less isolated action, or, in other words, when they strike, their blows must be simultaneous and on a preconceived plan.

British Line Extended.

From a casual reference in a recent report by Sir Douglas Haig, it is plain that we have relieved the French of another portion of their trenches in the Artois region, to wit, Souchez, which has been, and is, a fiercely-contested part of the Western Front. At St. Eloi, after exploding mines, Northumberland and Royal Fusiliers assaulted the German salient here, carrying the first and second line trenches on a front of six hundred yards, and successfully holding them against enemy counter-attacks.

The Eastern Front.

With the approach of Spring the Russians are developing an offensive along their whole front from the Rumanian frontier to the Baltic. In the Dyvinsk sector, notably around Jacobstadt in the north, and Lake Narotch in the south, they have been so active as to cause the enemy anxiety. Operations are, however, being hampered by the thaw, which has covered the ice on the rivers, lakes and marshes with water. But in spite of these conditions the Russians have recovered from the enemy the southern part of the forest of Mochritza, south of Lake Narotch, and thirty miles north of Pinsk they have driven the enemy to the other side of the Oginski Canal. Their object everywhere is to secure dominating positions; in some places to thrust the Germans into the low ground before it is flooded, in others to facilitate a speedier advance when the time comes. Our Ally is full of hope and quiet confidence. Not only is she better able to provide the munitions and numbers necessary to a vigorous offensive than she has been, but she knows that the situation is pregnant with possibilities in her favour.

On the Dniester.

The unceasing pressure of the Russians in the Bukovina continues. The Austrians themselves admit that they have been compelled to evacuate the bridge-head and fortifications of Uscieszka, a breach having been made about 1,000 feet

in width by overwhelming numbers of Russians. In attempting to cross the river in boats to the left bank of the Dneister, the retreating Austrians came under a direct concentrated fire, and so were driven either to fight their way through Uscieszka, which was no longer theirs, or fall back on a position lower down the river, which the remnant of them did. The great importance of Uscieszka lies in its proximity to the Vienna-Czernovitz railway, and that from it to a position north-west of Michalarze, where a similar bridge-head has been captured, our Ally holds both banks of the Dniester.

Verdun.

The day of fortresses, when they form part of a vast system of field entrenchments, is not yet over. Verdun can stand and resist any number of frontal attacks, while foiling turning movements with comparative ease. That must be one of the military conclusions of the past few weeks, for the Germans have, for the time being, at any rate, abandoned direct assaults on Verdun by way of Douaumont and Vaux and have attempted a flanking operation on the west of the Meuse between Malancourt and Avocourt. The attack was prepared in the usual manner by prodigious artillery bombardment, after which the infantry advanced only to be thrown back except in Malancourt Wood, where a little ground was gained. Until Mort Homme is really in German hands, and not in vain boast, they cannot make much headway here. But after each failure they renew the attack as fiercely as ever. The result in the Malancourt district is that they have made a slight gain by capturing an advanced post north of the village. But it was off-set by one of General Petain's counter-attacks, which enabled our Allies to recover the south-eastern part of Avocourt Wood, together with the important work called the Reduit d'Avocourt. After directing a fruitless effort to capture it again, the Crown Prince renewed the attack on the Douaumont Fort on the right bank of the Meuse, at its approaches causing discharges of liquid flames. But the French stubbornly held their ground, and hurled back the enemy with heavy losses.

In Asia.

With the occupation of Ispahan by the Russians, the last German hope of coercing Persia has been shattered. In Asia Minor the drive is proceeding satisfactorily. In the north, Trebizond is being approached from the east and south, and, as our Ally has the control of the Black Sea in this part, she is able effectively to support her troops on land. Towards Erzigan her army in the west is approaching at the rate of about eight miles a day. The force which occupied Bitlis is now in Hizau, 36 miles to the south-east of that town, while another is marching southwards towards Mosul. Then there is the Russian column advancing from the Persian frontier towards some point north of Baghdad, where it can cut the Baghdad railway. Thus there are five distinct columns each operating against a vital point in Asia Minor.

A Fight in the Desert.

A striking story is told of the pursuit of the Senussi after the occupation of Sollum by a detach-

ment of armoured motor-cars under the command of the Duke of Westminster. At first the going was bad, but when the Derna road was reached, a speed of 40 miles an hour was possible. On arriving at the Senussi camp, two cars were detached from the main body, and struck to the south, afterwards approaching the enemy from the south, while the rest of the cars charged in line. The result of these tactics was the demoralisation and flight of the Senussi, leaving their artillery in our hands. Their casualties were 50, whereas we had only one officer wounded. A romantic touch to the episode was the rescue of 61 prisoners, the half-starved survivors of the *Tara* and *Morvino*, torpedoed in November last by enemy submarines in the Bay of Sollum.

The End of a Commerce Destroyer.

The duel between the *Carmania* and the *Cap Trafalgar* was one of the most spirited incidents early in the War. On March 20th one even more exciting took place in the North Sea. The combatants were the *Alcantara*, a Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's liner converted into a cruiser, and the *Greif*, sister ship to the *Mowe*, but more powerfully built. She steamed under the Norwegian flag and fought under the Norwegian colours throughout. Unlike her adversary, the *Alcantara* was not armoured, and carried inferior armament. That she was able to give such a good account of herself adds another fine chapter to the history of the mercantile marine. Only that she was torpedoed towards the end of the engagement, it is possible that she would have remained afloat. As it was, both ships went down, and Britain is the poorer by the loss of five officers and 60 seamen. But they rid the seas of a dangerous raider first, and so all honour to them.

Losses at Sea.

On March 21st three German torpedo-boats or destroyers put out from Zeebrugge and were chased by four British destroyers, a running fight ensuing. Two enemy boats were observed to have been hit, but were able to reach port. Three days later a cross-Channel steamer, the *Sussex* was torpedoed without warning. She had on board nearly 400 people, including many Americans, and of these 100 were drowned. The *Sussex* herself was able to reach port in a badly damaged condition. The record of ships, Allied and neutral, sunk by the enemy increases day by day. The biggest ship torpedoed since the *Tubantia* was the *Minneapolis* (13,453 tons). All on board were saved except 11.

A Schleswig Raid.

This was the most daring and exciting combined operation of seaplanes, cruisers and destroyers since the raid on Cuxhaven. Their objective was the airship sheds at Tondern in Schleswig-Holstein, east of the island of Sylt, to which the seaplanes were conveyed by the warships. Accounts from Danish sources give sensational details of the fighting, which, however, was not so conclusive as it should have been owing to fog and snow. The Admiralty baldly reported that two enemy armed patrol vessels were set on fire, and, later, that a German destroyer had been sunk by H.M.S. *Cleopatra*, a light cruiser. Three of our seaplanes which took part in the attack are missing, and five of our airmen were taken

prisoners. The torpedo-boat destroyer *Medusa*, which collided with the *Laverock*, was lost in the heavy weather prevailing. But by a fine feat of seamanship on the part of the destroyer *Lassoe* her crew was saved.

The War in the Air.

A daylight raid on the Kentish coast ended in an exploit by Flight-Commander Bone, R.N., who pursued the Germans in a single-seated scouting machine, and brought down one of the machines after a duel over the sea. At least 48 bombs were dropped, one falling on the Canadian Hospital at Ramsgate, doing material damage, but fortunately injuring no one. In this raid eleven people were killed and many injured.

After a long interval, an Allied aerial squadron has attacked the German seaplane station at Zeebrugge and the aerodrome at Houtade. It consisted of fifty British, French, and Belgian aeroplanes, accompanied by fifteen fighting craft. Each of the raiders carried about 200 lbs. weight of bombs, which must have done considerable damage. All the machines returned safely, but one Belgian officer was wounded. It is to be hoped that there will soon be a raid in the enemy's country like those which so much alarmed the Germans at Friederichshafen and Karlsruhe.

A Daring Raid in Egypt.

The Turkish power station and reservoir at Bir-el-Hassana, fifty miles east of Suez Town, which has taken months to prepare, was destroyed by four machines of the highly-efficient flying corps in Egypt. Two proceeded from one point, and two, after an interval, from another, so that the destruction begun by the former should be completed by the latter. The pilot of one aeroplane flew so low as to open fire on some Turkish infantry, scattering them across the desert.

Three Air Raids on the East Coast.

On the night of March 31st and the two succeeding nights the East Coast was visited by a number of Zeppelins and one detached ship, all of them having a separate objective, and dropping bombs by the score. On the second night it is believed that five Zeppelins took part in the raid. One of them, L15, a new and powerful unit of the Kaiser's aerial fleet, was struck down. Lieut. Brandon, a New Zealander, on rising to 6,000 feet, saw the Zeppelin 3,000 feet above him, and mounted forthwith so as to be able to attack it from above. Though fiercely attacked by the enemy's fire, he dropped bombs on it from two different points. Fortunately it descended in the Thames Estuary, off the Kentish Knock, and here the crew were taken off, though one remained behind to blow it up at the sacrifice of his life. It would appear that London's defences are more effective than they were, since the enemy of late has sought country districts for the scene of their operations. On the third night Zeppelins raided the south-eastern counties of Scotland. The casualties in all three raids were 69 persons

killed and many injured. Though much damage was done to private property, no military harm was done.

(To be continued.)

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, K.C.M.G.

Major Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., the newly-appointed Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, attended a meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in that colony at 15, Seething Lane, London, on March 30th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and those present included: Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy Chairman; Sir William Trollope, Bart.; Mr. A. G. Bell, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works of Trinidad and Tobago); Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Alex. Duckham, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.; Mr. G. Macgregor Frame, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. Moodie (Tennant's Estates, Ltd.), Lieut. Mark S. Moody Stuart, Mr. George F. Huggins, Mr. N. Maude Roxby, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. Thomas Prentice (representing the West India Association of Glasgow), Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. F. I. Seard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. Louis Souchon, Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, M.A.; Mr. R. J. R. Warner, and Mr. Algernon B. Aspinall, Secretary.

Mr. Campbell, in introducing Sir John Chancellor to the meeting, referred to the reputation which His Excellency enjoyed in Mauritius of being essentially an agriculturists' Governor. Sir John had, he believed, gained much experience regarding the question of East Indian Immigration, which should prove valuable to the colony to which he was now going. Trinidad was a beautiful island with varied resources, and His Excellency would be certain of receiving a cordial welcome there.

The Venezuelan Surtax.

Mr. G. R. Alston referred to the importance of securing a continuance in some form or other of East Indian Immigration, which was essential for the sugar industry. In certain parts of the island, where the factories were near the villages, there was an adequate supply of labour, but in districts where the mills were situated at a distance from the villages it was impossible to get sufficient agricultural labourers. Mr. Alston then proceeded to refer to the surtax of 30 per cent. imposed by Venezuela on imports from the West Indies in contravention to existing treaties. It had, he said, been alleged that this surtax had been imposed in retaliation for revolutions having been hatched in Trinidad, but it was now generally believed that German influence had been at the back of it. There were many German firms in Venezuela, which he was glad to say had now been black-listed in Trinidad. This question of the surtax had frequently been ventilated by the West India Committee, but German influence had prevented the removal of the injustice.

Mr. G. F. Huggins said that he had no hesitation in stating that the 30 per cent. surtax had obliterated the legitimate trade between Venezuela and Trinidad, which should, in consequence of its geographical position, be the *entrepôt* of that trade.

Twenty-five years ago, when he first went to Trinidad, there was evidence on every side of the immense traffic which was passing between the island and Venezuela. Now the trade could only be maintained by smuggling, and he strongly urged His Excellency to take the matter in hand. If Sir John could secure the removal of the surtax, Trinidad would have a great deal to thank him for, even if nothing else were accomplished during his term of office. Sugar seemed to be entering a new era of prosperity, but the termination of the indenture system would prove a serious blow to the industry. He hoped, however, that some means might be devised for bringing agricultural labourers to the colony from India. The colony certainly could not get on without them. Most of the vast cacao estates in Trinidad had been built up from the small plots cultivated by East Indians, who were a remarkably fine people and the most loyal citizens. He did not doubt that if a vote were taken, they would express their satisfaction with the conditions prevailing, and he was satisfied there was no strong opposition to the present immigration system in the island. With regard to the future, it was clear that the strictest economy would be necessary for many years to come, and in this connection the question of harbour schemes for Port of Spain would require very serious consideration. All would like to see a suitable harbour established, but he believed that the colony could not afford the great expense which would be involved. Meanwhile much could be done by the provision of electrically-driven cranes and other facilities for the rapid discharge of cargoes from the lighters, etc., which under present conditions sometimes lay for days alongside the wharves.

Dealing with the amenities of Trinidad, he said that there was no island in which he would sooner live his life. He believed that the colony had a great future before it, especially if the oil industry turned out as they all hoped it might do. In conclusion, he said that he was pleased to see that Trinidad and Tobago were to have a young Governor, though he had no wish to make any reflection on any Governors who had preceded him, since all had done their best, and he assured His Excellency of the absolute loyalty of all classes of the community.

The Immigration Question.

Mr. Thomas Prentice referred to the recent decision to terminate the Indenture Immigration system, which had come like a bolt from the blue. He begged His Excellency not to come to any decision with regard to this important question until he had seen for himself the local conditions prevailing. He believed that when His Excellency had done so he would appreciate that there was no cause for the threatened restrictions so far as the British West Indies were concerned. He hoped that the termination of the system would be postponed until some means had been devised for increasing the labour supply in the island. It was always believed that those connected with the sugar estates were making their fortune, but he could state that the property with which he was connected had not been able to pay a dividend for ten years. In the

circumstances he trusted that the sugar industry might be granted preference in the markets of the United Kingdom. Sugar had been badly hit by the frog-hopper pest, to deal with which an entomologist had been sent out at the joint expense of the Government and the proprietors. His term of employment had expired, and quite recently a second expert had left for the colony.

War Taxation.

Mr. R. Rutherford took the opportunity of referring to the inequality of War taxation in respect of sugar and cacao for the coming year, the basis being 2/6 per 1,000 lbs. of sugar, 6d. per 100 lbs. cacao, and 1d. per gallon of rum. These figures indicated a reduction of the tax on sugar from 3/- to 2/6, an increase in the rate on cacao from 2d. to 6d., and the effect of the new tax on the crop for 1914 was practically to draw the same amount of taxation from the sugar estates, since they alone produced rum, and to increase the income of the island by about £10,000. This matter had formed the subject of representations by certain Trinidad proprietors to the Colonial Office. Taking the Trinidad Government export valuation of cacao and sugar at the same figure as in 1914, viz., £52 and £12 7s. 6d. respectively (as shown by the Council Paper 53/1915, pages 55 and 60), the tax on cacao worked out at 21/6 per cent. ad valorem, and on sugar at 45/2 ad valorem, or more than double the rate on cacao. It must be borne in mind also that the export tax on sugar was almost entirely paid by proprietors of sugar estates who were resident in England, and were, therefore, in addition, liable for Income Tax and Excess Profits Tax, from which the cacao proprietors in Trinidad were exempt. Taking the relative taxation per acre, they found the average yield of cacao per acre was about 500 lbs., on which the tax amounted to 2/6, whilst sugar, with a yield of about 4,000 lbs. per acre, paid 10/-, or four times the amount levied on cacao.

Sir John Chancellor, who, on rising, was greeted with applause, said that all that he had heard of the islands to which he was going made him sometimes feel amazed at his good fortune in having been selected to govern them. Agriculture was a personal hobby of his, but he could assure them that he would spare no efforts to enhance the prosperity not only of agricultural but of all the industries of the islands. He fully appreciated the importance of the immigration question, which would receive his close attention. With regard to the oil industry, he felt very strongly that the control of the oilfields of the colony must remain in British hands.

The *Salybia*, of the "Direct" Line, has fallen a victim to German submarine warfare. She was on her homeward voyage from the West Indies with a cargo of sugar, rum, and other West Indian produce. The crew and passengers, who included Mr. and Miss Dinsey, Miss Baker, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. D. A. Sousa from Demerara, and Mrs. Solim and child from Dominica, were fortunately saved.

CACAO IN DUTCH GUIANA.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to "The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal" of New York for the following article by Mr. J. B. Percival, of Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, on cacao culture and preparation.

Cacao, or the cocoa of commerce, is the seed of an evergreen tree, the *Theobroma cacao*, growing from 12 to 20 feet high. There are nine or ten other species, however, enumerated by botanists. The fruit or pod resembles a short, thick cucumber, and contains from 20 to 40 seeds enclosed in a pulp somewhat like that of a watermelon.

When Cortez and the Spaniards entered the vast empire of Montezuma, they found that the use of cocoa or chocolate as a beverage was common. The Emperor drank it, flavoured with vanilla, from a golden cup. When Cortez sent to Charles V. the principal products of the New World he included cocoa. The conquerors were not slow to appreciate its excellent qualities, and introduced it into Spain. For some time, however, Spain depended on the colonies for the manufactured article, but when the art of preparing it was brought across the sea the raw material was also imported.

By jealously guarding the method of manufacture, the Spaniards were able to retain a monopoly of the trade in chocolate for many years. It was probably more than a century after the introduction of cocoa in Europe before the English became acquainted with it. For many years England imported, in its manufactured state, all the chocolate she consumed, but about the beginning of last century she began its manufacture on her own.

The main cacao divisions.

The best quality cacao, irrespective of treatment, is produced from the *criollo* variety of the *Theobroma* species by the Spanish inhabitants of Trinidad, who almost monopolise its cultivation, and it is getting scarce. The pods are smaller than those of the better varieties of other kinds, but the seeds are thicker, shorter, and almost globular. The interior of the seed is of a pale crimson, toning down into pink, and the taste is slightly bitter.

The *forastero* varieties are also much prized; then there is the *cundeamor* variety of two kinds, one with yellow, the other with red pods. The former is sooner fit for drying; it has the largest seeds, which are easily fermented and prepared. They are of a pale crimson, approaching the *criollo*.

The *amelonado* comes next, and then the *calabacillo*, which is the lowest kind; its seeds are small and very bitter, and the crimson pigment is so dark that it is very easily distinguished from the other varieties by this mark alone.

Cultivation and preparation.

An old "black letter" treatise in French, which I have in my possession, contains a description of the cultivation, preparation and uses of cocoa in the Spanish Main. Its title is "Histoire Naturelle du Cacao. Second edition. Published anonymously at Amsterdam, 1720." The following description is translated from an account furnished by M. F. Madinier to "Des Annales de l'Agriculture des Colonies," and is interesting because, though pub-

lished nearly two hundred years ago, it describes the methods of cultivation and preparation in vogue to-day. In fact, there have been practically no changes, except that artificial drying is now often resorted to:—

"When commencing a cacao plantation, the first step is necessarily the clearing and preparation of the ground. This is generally done in the summer, so that all work may be terminated before the first rains of winter commence. Rows of plantains are then set out to give shade to the young cacao trees until the 'cucares' (species of erythrina) are advanced enough to form shade trees. The plantains are set at stated distances so as not to crowd the young trees, but a great deal depends on the nature of the soil and the species of cacao planted.

"In a virgin soil, where the tree is likely to attain a good size and the 'Creole' species is planted, the trees are placed 14 or 15 feet apart, so that in a space 12½ feet square there would be one at each angle of the square. This distance is reduced where the soil is poorer. Some planters, by a system of false economy, plant their trees closer; but this is a bad system, for though there may be a greater number of trees to the acre, the production and vigour will be less from want of air, the trees will shoot up thin and weak, and produce less fruit.

The importance of drainage and shade.

"If the ground is to be planted with bananas, as soon as it is possible trenches are made to draw off the water. Nature can best be followed in this by affording facilities for carrying off the excess of water arising from the heavy rains. In this consists the principal work of the planters of the Rio Choco, and it entails the heaviest expense, because many insist that there should be a trench to each row of trees to ensure good crops and the healthy durability of the tree. The more it is intersected with channels for drainage the more prosperous will a plantation be.

"When the land has been planted with its rows of bananas and furnished with its water channels, the next step is to plant young trees of *cucare* (*Erythrina umbrosa* and *E. velulina*).

"The cocoa tree requires the protective shade of another tree to thrive, and the younger it is the more it requires shade, hence the banana or plantain suffices at first, but the *cucare* protects it during its after life. This shade tree is planted either by suckers or seed in the interval between every three cocoa trees, or about 25 to 35 feet apart.

"At the same time that the operation of preparing the plantation is going on, the nurseries or seed beds of young plants should be attended to, so that they may be ready for moving when about eight or ten months old. The work of transplanting requires great care, so as to have a ball of earth around the roots, and care must be taken not to injure them, for if these are damaged the plant dies. The younger the plants are when transferred the better they succeed.

The best plantation from seed.

"It is better to form a plantation from seeds, if the necessary care can be given to the young growing trees without too much expense. In forming

seed-beds the finest fruits are chosen fully ripe; they are opened with care so as not to injure the seeds, which are set a foot apart in furrows about two inches deep, and slightly sprinkled over with earth and then covered with plantain leaves. After fifteen days the leaves are removed, as the seeds will have sprouted. From this time to transplanting all the care necessary is to keep down weeds, which might choke the young plants.

"The tree requires to be kept free from weeds and ants, which are fond of its young leaves, and boring grubs which attack the bark.

"At three years the trees begin to flower, and a year after they produce some fruit; but it is not until seven or eight years that they give a good crop. The age of fruiting varies. In the interior of Central America it is about eight years; in the vale of Guapa, seven; and about Equador and the banks of the Rio Negro, five years.

(To be continued.)

THE INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA.

An addition to the History Gallery.

There have recently been added to the History Gallery in the Institute of Jamaica photographic copies of eleven sketches by Nicholas Pocock. They are entitled "Port Royal from the Shipping in the Bay," "Port Royal," "Port Royal," "Yellows with the Blue Mountains over Morant Bay," "Yellows," "Jamaica, E. End," "East End," "Morant Bay," "Salt Pond Hill and Port Royal," "Salt Pond Hill, Kingston."

They form four sheets of an original log-book kept on a "Journey from Bristol towards Nevis in the *Snow Minerva* begun April 24th, 1776."

Nicholas Pocock, the son of a Bristol merchant, was born about 1741. When his mother was left a widow with three sons, the support of the family devolved on Nicholas. He early went to sea, in the employ of Richard Champion, uncle of Richard Champion, the Bristol ceramist, and the *Minerva* above mentioned was one of Champion's ships. "His talent for art showed itself in his six journals, which are illustrated by charming drawings in India ink of the principal incident of each day. Six volumes of these journals were in the possession of his grandsons, George and Alfred Fripp, painters in water-colours." The log-book mentioned above is one of the series.

In 1782 he, encouraged by Reynolds, exhibited at the Royal Academy for the first time, and he continued to send pictures till 1815, leaving Bristol in 1789 for London, where he established a reputation as a painter of naval engagements. He died in 1821. His picture of the "Memorable Victory over the French commanded by the Comte de Srasse in the West Indies, April 12th, 1782, by Sir George Bridges Rodney," is in the possession of the Bristol society of Merchants. An engraving of it by Francis Chesham is in the History Gallery of the Institute.

F. C.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Sir John Chancellor was entertained at an informal luncheon given by the West Indian Club on Tuesday, March 28th. Lord Glenconner, a Vice-President of the Club, took the chair, and in proposing the health of the guest, referred to the question of indentured labour in Trinidad, and said that it was gratifying to know that only 17 per cent. of the East Indians employed in Trinidad in the past had returned to their own country. He paid a high tribute to those West Indians who had served and were serving as soldiers of the King, and to the services rendered to the Empire by the West Indies in the War. In concluding, his Lordship assured Sir John Chancellor of a most cordial welcome to Trinidad, and wished him a happy and successful career in that colony.

Sir John Chancellor, thanking the Club for its hospitality, said he would spare no energy and no effort in administering the island. The health of the Chairman was proposed by Sir Owen Philipps, who said he hoped that the planters in the West Indies would have far better treatment with regard to sugar in the future.

Amongst those also present were:—

Sir William Mercer, K.C.M.G., Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., Mr. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart., Capt. L. C. Tebbs, Mr. F. P. C. Messum, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Oscar Thompson, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. R. D. McCarthy, C.M.G., Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Sir J. Roper Parkinson, Lieut. C. J. H. King, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. Taylor, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. Howard South, Mr. Huggins, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. L. Keir, Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, Major R. B. Todd, Mr. A. N. Labbock, Mr. A. N. Homer, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Trade between Canada and the West Indies, which was adversely affected after the outbreak of war by the British Government's purchase of nearly the entire sugar crop of British Guiana, has since shown satisfactory recovery. The returns of the imports into Canada from the West Indies and the exports from the Dominion to the West Indies to November last show that in that month the trade, as compared with that of the corresponding month of 1914, was as set out below:—

	1915		1914	
	Imports. \$	Exports. \$	Imports. \$	Exports. \$
British Guiana	489,154	107,480	159,104	35,271
British Honduras	—	196	—	825
British West Indies	212,823	402,672	425,724	275,408

For the first eight months of the financial years 1914-15 and 1915-16 the following results were shown:—

	1915-16		1914-15	
	Imports. \$	Exports. \$	Imports. \$	Exports. \$
British Guiana	2,885,518	671,214	1,670,807	340,310
British Honduras	294,012	1,348	338,718	7,304
British West Indies	4,850,341	2,420,171	5,806,928	2,754,881

The imports of cacao and cacao preparations into

Canada from all sources in November, 1915, were as under:—

	1915		1914	
	Dutiable.	Free.	Dutiable.	Free.
United Kingdom	47,501	20,835	66,784	758
United States	115,207	—	74,229	—
Other Countries	11,949	18,885	11,638	4,861
Totals	174,657	39,720	152,651	5,619

During the first eight months the imports of this commodity were as follows:—

	1915-16		1914-15	
	Dutiable.	Free.	Dutiable.	Free.
United Kingdom	333,446	75,592	624,310	59,693
United States	718,311	—	447,324	—
Other Countries	90,846	211,089	241,229	151,143
Totals	1,142,603	286,681	1,312,863	210,836

Towards these totals the British West Indies contributed cacao beans to the value of \$217,687 in 1915, as compared with \$131,368 in the preceding year.

The imports of sugar into Canada in November showed a notable increase, the value being \$2,390,095 as compared with \$1,078,792 for the same month in the preceding year, while for the first eight months of the financial year the imports of sugar were valued at \$15,598,835, against \$12,888,532 for the corresponding period in 1914-1915. In November, 1915, the imports of sugar not above No. 10 Dutch Standard in colour was as follows:—

	November.		Eight months to Nov.	
	1915 Dutiable. \$	1914 Dutiable. \$	1915 Dutiable. \$	1914 Dutiable. \$
United Kingdom	—	—	—	—
United States	668,364	255,487	2,027,639	468,746
British Guiana	484,771	155,073	2,853,518	1,641,214
British West Indies	136,493	359,212	3,523,961	4,159,204
Cuba	256,162	—	884,949	608,654
Dutch E. Indies	—	—	—	71,577
Piji	292,104	119,000	1,065,813	530,700
Germany	—	—	—	21,858
Peru	98,550	—	266,525	971,942
San Domingo	239,666	—	3,052,257	1,698,985
Other Countries	74,469	36,920	518,678	255,800
Totals	2,241,579	925,692	14,193,340	10,428,680

We are reminded that the actual transfer of the management of the Imperial Institute from the Board of Trade to the Colonial Office which is about to be effected was advocated as far back as 1906 by Sir Charles Bruce, Governor of the Windward Islands from 1893 to 1897. Sir Charles Bruce pleaded successfully for the co-ordination of the various departments working as part of or in conjunction with the Colonial Office, or dealing with finance and public works, sanitation and health, agriculture, and commerce and manufacture. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain warmly approved of Sir Charles's proposals, in which His Majesty the King, then Prince of Wales, took a personal interest. On the second reading of the Bill introduced for effecting the change, Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., congratulated the Government upon their action in the matter.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,671 5s. 11d., of which amount £975 5s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes.

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
"W. L. C."	25	0	0
Mais and Sant	2	2	0
J. Darrell Ward, Esq.	1	1	0
Per the Colonial Bank, Dominica—			
P. Woolward, Esq.	5	0	
R. B. Skinner, Esq.	3	0	
Miss Lockhart	2	0	
	—	—	—
		10	0
	£28	13	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W.

- Mrs. Archibald Pile, 9 prs. socks, 3 mufflers, 3 prs. of cuffs.
- Mrs. Arthur Johnson, 6 prs. socks, 6 mufflers, 6 prs. mittens.
- Miss Philipps, 5 mufflers, 6 prs. mittens, 4 prs. socks.
- Typing Section, National Health Insurance Commission, Buckingham Gate, an assortment of preserved fruit, chocolate and tinned sweets.
- Mrs. Charles Leslie and Mrs. Herbert Teague, 4 scarves, 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. mittens, 1 pr. muffatees.
- Mrs. Richmond, 10 prs. mittens.
- Per Miss Cowie, from the Misses D. and H. Simmons, 5 scarves, 2 prs. mittens, 12 prs. socks.
- Mrs. J. Gardiner Austin, Miss Gardiner Austin and Miss Dickson Park, 4 scarves, 4 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens.
- Lady Philipps' West Indian Working Party, 150 carbolised shirts, 9 prs. socks, 1 scarf and 1 pr. mittens.

The Directors of the Bank of England who have just been re-elected for the ensuing year include two members of the West India Committee, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman, who was Governor of the Bank from 1907 to 1909, and Mr. H. A. Trotter, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Thomson, Hankey & Company. In these days especially, the position of Director of the Bank of England is no sinecure, and scarcely a day passes which does not bring its abstruse financial problem to be solved. The staff of the premier Bank, like that of many other banking institutions, is now largely recruited from women.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Sugar Import Restrictions.

Replying to Mr. MacCullum Scott on March 21st, Mr. McKenna said that the restriction on the importation of sugar was now in operation and had been made necessary by the shortage of tonnage. It was not yet possible to say what future arrangements might be found practicable.

Asked if it were true that the supplies of sugar to preserve makers had been restricted by 25 per cent., Mr. McKenna said that a restriction was being made, but he hoped that it would not be necessary to continue it long.

The Importation of Rum.

On March 21st, Mr. Wing asked the President of the Board of Trade if his attention had been called to the increase in the import of rum, the import for 1915 being 3,000,000 gallons in excess of that imported in 1914, almost double in one year; and, seeing that such import was detrimental to the use of tonnage for foodstuff, would he say if any steps were being taken to limit such imports.

Mr. Runciman said, in reply, that as at present advised the Government was not prepared to take steps with a view to prohibiting the importation of rum, which, as his hon. Friend was doubtless aware, was largely bought by the War Office for the use of His Majesty's Forces.

Government Sugar Purchases and Sales.

Mr. McKenna, in reply to a question asked by Mr. Butcher, M.P. on March 21st, gave the following figures showing the purchases and sales by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply up to the 31st December, 1915:—

WHITE SUGAR PURCHASES.

		1915 Crop.			
Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Price.	Dis-	itions.
		tons.			
1915					
Feb. 3-6	Java	50,000	14/6		f o b.
March 6	Holland	500	24/6		"
" 8	"	500	24/6		"
" 8	"	500	24/6		"
" 8	"	500	24/6		"
" 9	"	6,500	24/6		"
" 10	"	500	24/6		"
" 10	"	1,000	24/6		"
" 18	"	75	24/6		"
" 18	"	500	24/9		"
" 19	"	250	24/9		"
" 19	"	500	24/9		"
" 31	Russia	1,990	19/6		c. i. f.
April 6	Holland	150	24/9		f o b.
" 6	"	70	24/9		"
" 6	"	100	24/9		"
" 14	"	125	25/0		"
" 14-15	Argentina	6,600	19/6		c. & f
" 14-15	"	13,400	18/6		"
" 16	Java	20,000	17/6		f. o. b.
" 16	Holland	750	23/3		"
" 21	"	75	23/6		"
" 21	"	75	23/6		"
" 22	Australia	1,130	21/0		c. i. f.
May 11	Argentina	6,500	19/6		c. & f
" 11	"	2,000	20/6		"
" 12	Holland	1,500	23/9		f. o. b.
" 12	"	250	23/9		"
" 12	"	250	23/9		"
" 12	"	800	24/0		"
" 12	"	200	23/10½		"
" 12	"	150	23/7½		"
" 12	"	200	23/7½		"
" 12	"	500	23/7½		"
" 12	"	1,250	23/6		"
" 12	"	1,000	23/0		"
" 12	"	800	24/6		"
" 12	"	7,000	23/6		"
" 12	"	1,500	26/6		"

1915					RAW SUGAR PURCHASES.				
Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity	Price.	Con- ditions.	1915 Crop.				
1915					Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Price.	Con- ditions.
May 12	America	5,000	4.52c.	f.o.b.	Feb. 3	Java	47,000	12/6	f.o.b.
12	"	3,000	4.52c.	"	to	"	10,000	12/9	"
12	"	5,000	4.52c.	"	March 17	"	68,000	13/0	"
12	"	3,500	4.55c.	"	1	"	14,000	14/0	"
20	Java	5,300	21/6	c.i.f.	3	Cuba	30,000	3.50c.	"
26	Holland	792	23/6	f.o.b.	17	"	20,000	3.40c.	"
27	Argentina	1,200	19/6	c. & f.	3-23	Java	11,000	14/3	"
June 9	Peru	620	21/9	c.i.f.	17	Peru	600	17/6	c.i.f.
19	Mozambique	300	19/9	c. & f.	17	"	595	17/6	"
24	Costa Rica	28	23/0	D.P.	17	"	2,032	17/6	"
24	"	133	21/6	"	17	"	130	17/6	"
25	Spain	500	22/10 1/2	c. & f.	18	"	965	17/6	"
30	America	50,000	4.65c.	f.o.b.	31	Mozambique	410	17/6	"
30	"	5,000	4.60c.	"	31	"	4,520	17/6	"
July 2	Holland	400	23/6	"	31	"	253	17/6	"
14	"	2,000	22/0	"	31	Peru	436	17/6	"
19	"	250	24/9	"	31	"	454	17/6	"
19	"	500	26/6	"	31	"	2	17/6	"
20	Mauritius	143,300	17/6	"	April 1	Mozambique	170	17/6	"
22	Peru	72	21/0	c.i.f.	1	"	380	17/6	"
22	Holland	500	26/6	f.o.b.	6	Brazil	24	17/6	"
23	"	1,000	22/6	"	13	Mozambique	86	17/6	"
28	Costa Rica	259	Var.	D.P.	14	Brazil	117	17/6	"
30	Holland	100	24/6	f.o.b.	14	"	375	17/6	"
30	"	500	26/6	"	14	Cuba	25,000	3.50c.	f.o.b.
Aug. 2-3	America	1,500	4.90c.	"	16	"	8,000	3.50c.	"
5	"	90	4.40c.	"	24	Peru	100	17/6	c.i.f.
5	"	10,000	4.35c.	"	25	Cuba	17,000	3.50c.	f.o.b.
6	"	500	4.80c.	"	29	Peru	500	17/6	c.i.f.
6	"	1,750	4.85c.	"	May 4	Mozambique	6,000	15/6	f.o.b.
6	"	300	4.80c.	"	4	Cuba	3,500	3.50c.	"
6	"	10,000	4.40c.	"	11	"	33,000	3.75c.	"
6	"	300	4.80c.	"	12	"	20,000	3.75c.	"
6	"	400	4.80c.	"	17	Brazil	100	18/6	c.i.f.
6	"	500	4.75c.	"	18	West Indies	12,450	17/0	f.o.b.
6	"	500	4.70c.	"	18	"	2,774	17/0	"
6	"	1,000	4.60c.	"	19	Peru	490	18/6	c.i.f.
6	"	5,000	4.27c.	"	June 1	Brazil	1,500	18/6	c. & f.
6	"	5,000	4.27c.	"	4	"	200	18/6	"
7	Holland	150	24/9	"	8	"	480	18/9	c.i.f.
7	"	450	26/6	"	10	Argentina	1,200	18/6	c. & f.
9	America	500	4.80c.	"	14	Brazil	500	18/3	"
10	"	1,000	4.90c.	"	23	Mozambique	1,000	15/6	f.o.b.
10	"	650	4.85c.	"	23	Peru	3,200	19/0	c. & f.
10	"	1,000	4.80c.	"	26	Mozambique	3,938	16/0	f.o.b.
12	Holland	1,500	26/0	"	28	Brazil	400	18/6	c. & f.
12	"	200	49.0c.	"	July 3	Peru	5,800	15/6	f.o.b.
12	Holland	250	26/0	"	5	"	4,000	15/0	"
12	"	1,500	26/0	"	5	"	1,500	14/6	"
12	"	75	24/3	"	7	Mozambique	500	16/0	"
12	"	300	24/3	"	9	Peru	2,440	15/0	"
23	"	30	24/6	"	12	"	2,500	15/0	"
25	"	200	23/3	"	15	Brazil	170	18/3	c.i.f.
25	Costa Rica	116	Var.	D.P.	19	"	500	17/9	c. & f.
26	America	900	4.75c.	f.o.b.	19	Peru	3,600	15/0	f.o.b.
26	Holland	30	23/3	"	21	Mozambique	250	17/9	c. & f.
30	"	10,000	22/0	"	23	"	400	17/9	"
Sept. 2	America	500	4.85c.	"	28	Peru	1,500	15/0	f.o.b.
9	"	20,000	4.25c.	"	29	"	625	18/9	c.i.f.
9	"	1,500	4.80c.	"	29	Cuba	30,000	3.60c.	f.o.b.
10	Holland	10	24/9	"	Aug. 6	"	20,000	3.40c.	"
10	"	100	22/6	"	13	Brazil	300	17/6	c. & f.
10	America	163	4.75c.	"	14	Mozambique	500	16/0	f.o.b.
13	"	15,000	4.10c.	"	24	"	1,000	15/0	"
14	"	15,000	4.10c.	"	25	"	1,000	15/0	"
14	"	10,000	4.05c.	"	26	Brazil	200	17/6	c. & f.
15	"	5,000	4.00c.	f.o.b.	27	Peru	200	15/0	f.o.b.
15	"	5,000	4.00c.	"	27	"	240	17/9	c.i.f.
17	Japan	30	26/6	c. & f.	Sept. 3	"	1,000	15/0	f.o.b.
23	America	10,000	3.70c.	f.o.b.	14	"	1,000	15/0	"
24	"	10,000	3.65c.	"	Oct. 1	Cuba	2,300	2.75c.	"
24	"	10,000	3.65c.	"	5	Peru	400	14/9	c. & f.
25	"	10,000	3.65c.	"	14	Cuba	30,000	2.90c.	f.o.b.
28	America	625	4.30c.	f.o.b.					
29	"	2,000	4.45c.	"					
Oct. 12	Costa Rica	341	27/0	D.P.					
Nov. 5	America	10,000	4.25c.	f.o.b.					
5	"	20,000	4.30c.	"					

Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity	Price.	Con- ditions.
1915		tons		
Nov. 5	Cuba	15,000	3.20c.	f.o.b.
" 8	"	10,000	3.20c.	"
" 25	Peru	300	18/0	c.i.f.
" 25	"	150	18/0	"
" 25	Mozambique	100	17/9	c. & f.
Dec. 3	"	100	17/9	"
" 7	"	240	17/9	"

WEEKLY LIST OF SALES TO REFINERS AND OTHERS.

Week ending.	Sales to Refiners	Sales to Others
1915.		
March 20	18,895	7,673
" 27	18,077	18,717
April 3	16,149	9,133
" 10	16,331	12,631
" 17	20,244	29,914
" 24	19,450	24,302
May 1	18,642	20,239
" 8	18,403	14,297
" 15	17,650	11,255
" 22	16,390	9,762
" 29	14,728	3,250
June 5	16,497	10,692
" 12	17,407	9,942
" 19	17,621	10,676
" 26	17,919	22,556
July 3	14,588	11,295
" 10	14,928	14,619
" 17	16,778	15,994
" 24	18,203	17,351
" 31	16,438	33,604
Aug. 7	13,910	12,181
" 14	17,199	9,674
" 21	15,970	13,291
" 28	16,616	17,190
Sept. 4	16,860	16,672
" 11	16,224	19,626
" 18	16,498	6,856
" 25	16,403	12,334
Oct. 2	17,466	15,746
" 9	18,049	15,260
" 16	18,120	16,038
" 23	18,555	8,827
" 30	18,204	17,979
Nov. 6	18,195	11,277
" 13	16,946	19,926
" 20	15,857	17,676
" 27	16,593	13,962
Dec. 4	15,715	8,525
" 11	15,702	8,612
" 18	16,090	7,896
" 25	11,204	6,104
1916.		
Jan. 1	8,816	7,270

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. BERNARD BONYUN, of Barbados, who kindly acted as Assistant Honorary Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee when on leave last winter, has been appointed a Supervisor of Customs, First Grade, and Assistant Censor at Bonny.

THE office of Mr. C. W. Stevens at 16, Great St. Helens, E.C., was closed on March 15th, and all outstanding business in the names of C. W. Stevens or the Executors of C. W. Stevens, deceased, will be completed under the personal supervision of Mr. George Parrott at the address of Messrs. Frame & Co., 21, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. E. G. L. Goffe, M.D. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, London, son of the late J. B. Goffe, Esq., J.P., St. Mary, Jamaica, West Indies, to Miss E. M. Powell, eldest daughter of the Rev. Edward Powell, M.A., of Sutton, Surrey.

WE regret to learn of the death of Mr. Emanuel Xavier Leon, which took place at his residence, Argyle, Jamaica, at the close of last year. Mr. Leon, who was born in Kingston, started life as a merchant's clerk, and, after becoming wharfinger to the Hon. George Solomon, he embarked most successfully upon business on his own account. He was one of the founders of the Jamaica Telephone Company, and was prominently connected with the Jamaica Electric Light and Power Company until it was merged into the West India Electric Company, the Kingston Ice Making Company, the West India Aerated and Mineral Waters Company, the Jamaica Marine Insurance Company, the People's Discount Company, and the Jamaica Co-operative General Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Leon, who was in his 74th year, was a member and a staunch supporter of the West India Committee.

THE Lyceum Club, which has on several occasions entertained West Indian and other Colonial officers, extended its hospitality last week to the ladies whose relatives are with the overseas forces. Among the distinguished guests present at the very pleasant At Home were the High Commissioners of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, with their wives, the West Indies being represented by Sir Frederic Hodgson, Sir William and Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Davson, Mrs. John Bromley, Mrs. Vere Oliver, and others. Mrs. Parker, Lord Kitchener's sister, on behalf of the Club, welcomed the guests in a most genial manner, and an excellent musical programme was greatly enjoyed after tea. On the previous day the United Empire Circle of the Lyceum Club entertained at luncheon Mrs. Hawkes, General Botha's sister, who is its new Vice-President for South Africa, and Mrs. Parker. Lady Frances Balfour presided, and ladies from all parts of the Empire were present to welcome the sisters of our two most distinguished Generals. The West Indies were represented by Mrs. Yorke Trotter and Miss Moseley.

READERS of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR will remember that some years ago the use of molasses as a fertiliser was extensively discussed in connection with Mr. W. P. Ebbel's suggestion that the sugar contained formed a stimulating food for the beneficent bacteria of the soil. A new process for molasses manuring has now been devised by Wilkering, of Hanover. The molasses, after having been mixed with peat dust, is at once inoculated with *Azotobacter* to produce fermentation. The latter transforms the betaine (sugar), and the fertiliser, losing its adhesiveness, is evenly spread on the soil by a distributor. There is some association in this process with Professor Bottomley's bacterised peat, only in the latter product sugar is not used.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Mauritius' Record Sugar Crop.

A total of 159,172 acres were under sugar cultivation on December 31st, 1914, or 5,756 acres more than in the preceding year. This increase was made up as follows:—

On Estates		+ 74 acres.
By Farmers	As "Metayers"	+ 5,682 acres.
	On Estates + 7,754 acres (Off Estates — 2,072 ")	

The area under cultivation by estates has not varied to any extent, relatively large increases in some districts being set off by the "morecellement" of estates in others. The increase in area under sugar-cane is due to farmers' cultivations. Of the total area of 159,172 acres under sugar-cane, farmers cultivated 66,584 acres, of which 53,127 acres were cultivated by small planters of Indian origin. The principal extensions in sugar-cane cultivation have taken place, as during the year 1913, in the districts of Pamplémousses, Grand Port and Rivière du Rempart.

The total output of the factories for the 1914-15 crop-year was 277,180 metric tons, of which 252,302 were exported up to the 31st of May, 1915. This is the largest crop the island has ever produced, and with the high prices realised has placed the industry in a very sound financial condition. The information in respect of the average selling price, gathered by the Statistical Division of the Department of Agriculture, shows that it will approximate Rs. 11.20 per 50 kilograms, giving to the crop a monetary value of Rs. 62,088,000.

The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last five years is shown below:—

Years.	Total Produce Tons *	Monetary Value. (Unit: Rs. 1,000,000).
1910-11	222,830	31.6
1911-12	169,550	32.9
1912-13	213,059	29.8
1913-14	249,793	34.7
1914-15	277,180	62.1 estimated.

The high price realised for the 1914-15 crop was due to the War in Europe. Of this crop, over 161,000 tons were sold to His Majesty's Government, and the planters of the colony presented for the use of His Majesty's Army and Navy a free gift of 1,000 tons of high-grade vesou sugar.

During 1914 some improvements were made in the machinery of factories. Two mills were added during the year, and the number of boilers added was five. "Secheries" or megass driers were decreased by three and economisers increased by seven. The number of decanters was increased by 764 and the defecators reduced by 29. The number of crystallisers-in-motion was increased by 80, and five Weston-type centrifugals were installed.

A FURTHER list of those connected with the West Indies who are serving their King and Empire will be published in next issue.

* Metric ton = 1,000 kilogrammes.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT IN DOMINICA.

Colonel Roosevelt, who has been visiting the West Indies and British Guiana on his way to South America, received a cordial welcome from the people of Dominica upon his arrival there on Monday, February 21st. The ex-President of the United States, who was accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt, landed at Roseau from the Quebec Line steamer *Guiana* at about 10 a.m., and was received by His Honour Mr. A. W. Mahaffy, the Administrator of Dominica, and the members of the Town Board in the presence of a large concourse of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. At the top of the landing steps a Guard of Honour, under the command of Captain Skirving, presented arms, and Mr. Cecil E. A. Rawle read an address of welcome, which bore the signatures of Mr. Donald O. Riviere, Mr. J. R. H. Bridgewater, Mr. W. C. Winston, Mr. Daniel Thaly, Mr. C. H. Grell, Mr. A. Mon-desire, Mr. Hamilton Rolfe, Mr. S. L. V. Green, Mr. S. Didier, Mr. W. P. L. Dupigny, and Mr. W. Stedman Archer, besides that of the speaker.

In his reply, Mr. Roosevelt, after expressing the pleasure which it gave him to visit an island of which he had heard so much, said:—

"I take off my hat especially to these brave soldiers who have volunteered for service at the front in this most important war into which Great Britain has entered in the great cause of Justice and Liberty, and I am sure that their action is highly appreciated. For I must say that I consider them a mark above the ordinary citizen who stays at home, for they are about to give all for their country and for a good cause.

"What I admire most in this great struggle, is the manner in which the great commonwealths of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, the peoples of India and the islands of the seas have volunteered for service, and a special recognition is due these brave men, for they render the greatest service in coming forward to the call of their empire."

The ex-President evinced particular interest in the appearance of the Contingent of Dominicans in training for active service, who were drawn up near Bell's Jetty.

In the course of the day Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt were motored up the Imperial Road by Mr. Noble, the Colonial Engineer, as far as Sylvania, lunched at Government House with Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffy, and dined at Camfield, the estate of Mr. Andrew Green, a citizen of the United States.

Among those privileged to meet Colonel Roosevelt was Mr. J. Hilton Steber, proprietor and editor of the *Dominica Guardian*, to whom the CIRCULAR is indebted for the photograph of the landing of the ex-President on the page facing 124. This enterprising journalist secured an interview with the distinguished visitor, which is published in his paper of February 24th. Colonel Roosevelt spoke freely on various topics of local interest, and expressed the greatest delight with the charms of the island.

MR. H. E. McCULLOCH, formerly of British Guiana, and now manager of Alma Estate, in the Straits Settlements, is retiring from active work in Malaya in April. He leaves for England on the 29th of next month, and proposes to reside in this country.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Some 60 or 70 men of the British West Indies Regiment will shortly be returned to the West Indies as medically unfit.

Without disclosing any secret, it may be stated that the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd British West Indies Regiments are now "somewhere" on the fringe of the desert in Egypt. The men are revelling in the sunshine, which affords a pleasing contrast to the conditions that prevailed at Seaford.

The camp was recently inspected by Sir H. C. Selater, the General Officer Commanding the Southern district, who appeared to be much pleased with the tone and bearing of the men. The Senior Medical Officer of the Command has also visited the camp, and it is hoped that now the raging winds of March have been succeeded by mild spring weather, the health of the men, which has not been altogether satisfactory, will rapidly improve.

A correspondent writing from Withnoe Camp, Plymouth, where the depot of the British West Indies Regiment is located, refers to the valuable work which is being done by the V.M.C.A., whose hut is in the middle of the camp. The non-commissioned officers and men are extremely grateful to the hard-working manager for his efforts to provide for their comfort. Concerts are held periodically, and the tables set apart for reading and writing are deservedly popular.

Lady Philipps has felt compelled to resign from the position of Chairman of the Working Committee of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee owing to the many calls upon her time in connection with other war work in which she is actively engaged. She is succeeded by Lady Davson, who has always shown a sympathetic interest in West Indian affairs, while Lady Hodgson has, we learn, been appointed Deputy-Chairman.

THE BUDGET.

For the details of Mr. McKenna's second Budget, which was introduced on April 4th, readers are referred to the daily papers of the following day. The estimated expenditure for 1916-17 is £1,825,500,000, of which £1,150,000,000 is for War services, and the estimated revenue is £502,000,000, leaving a deficit of £1,323,500,000. The proposals for new taxation, which have been—with the exception, perhaps, of that on railway tickets—most favourably received, include an increase in the income tax to a maximum of 5/- in the £1, an increase in the excess profits tax from 50 to 60 per cent., an extra ½d. per lb. on the sugar duty, and increases in the cocoa duty from 1½d. to 6d. per lb., and on coffee and chicory from 3d. to 6d. per lb. The licence duty on motor-cars is to be doubled, and in some cases trebled, and new taxes are proposed on matches, mineral waters, amusements and railway tickets. The extra ½d. on sugar is expected to yield £7,000,000, and the cocoa and coffee duties £1,650,000 and £300,000 respectively.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

IN one of the January numbers of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, Mr. H. E. Bonham, of the Vermont Agricultural Station, gives an interesting account of experiments conducted with the view of ascertaining the effect of the extreme cold of Northern countries on fungi and bacteria. The investigator does not arrive at any definite conclusion beyond the fact that certain fungi and bacteria are able to withstand extreme cold, while others succumb to it.

THE *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for January states that on a banana plantation in Upper St. Andrew an insect pest has been discovered which makes its home in the banana stems and roots. The borers are small weevil-like beetles, and the larvae, which are hatched and fed in the banana bulbs and lower part of the stems are of the same nature as the large fleshy grubs commonly found in rotten wood. It is similar to a banana borer which has caused great loss in Fiji. A line of treatment has not yet been formulated.

IT has been looked upon as a clearly established fact that it is only the *Leguminosae* that possess the power of assimilation of nitrogen from the atmosphere by means of the bacteria-charged nodes formed, where necessary, on the roots. Dr. Mamelli and Professor Pollacci, however, have recently shown that many other flowering plants make use of atmospheric nitrogen. Among these are *Cucurbita pepo*, *Acer negundo*, and *Polygonum fagopyrum*, and the water ferns. *Azolla Caroliniana* and *Salvinia natans* are also stated to possess the nitrogen fixing power.

EXPERIMENTS have recently been made in Germany on the subject of the use of acorns for feeding fowls. The acorns were decorticated, pounded, dried, and mixed with sugar. An ounce of this mixture was given daily to each fowl, which received, in addition, a mixture of bran, potatoes, and green fodder. According to the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence*, the results were disastrous. The fowls began to lay less eggs, and finally ceased laying altogether. The tannin contained in the acorns is assigned as the cause. Egg-laying was resumed on the discontinuance of the acorn diet.

ACCORDING to the results of Mr. F. L. Mockeridge's researches, the growth of *Azotobacter* is only obtained with humates when the organic matter is supplied as ammonium humate. Benzene derivatives prove totally unable to provide a source of energy to this bacillus, while the availability of glucosides was restricted by the products of their decomposition. The carbohydrates showed themselves in general to be readily available sources of food for *Azotobacter*. Mr. Mockeridge concludes that the wide range of compounds which *Azotobacter* is capable of assimilating shows that any ordinary soil must contain abundant food material for the growth of the organism.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

We give below extracts from letters received by occasional opportunities from our Honorary Correspondents in the West Indies. It will be noted that several complain bitterly of the high freight rates, whilst the withdrawal of one of the Trinidad and Tobago coastal steamers has further estranged the people in those islands from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

DOMINICA—The Size of "Penny Bread."

A Correspondent writes, under date February 28th:—A few weeks ago the War Food Committee (The Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O., Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., and Hamilton Rolle, Esq.) decided that the penny loaf of bread should weigh five and a half ounces, and a Government decree promptly gave legal effect to this decision. The little elongated loaf, pointed at either end, known amongst the people as the "penny bread," was becoming in weight out of all proportion to the cost of the imported flour. The "penny bread" is popular with the labourers of both sexes, each labourer usually buys one to take with him or her when going out to work, and with a number of them it is their only sustenance until their day's task is over. For the bakers, therefore, to add to their profits by unfairly curtailing this real labourer's staff of life could not be allowed.

The Administrator with the two non-official delegates from the Legislative Council left for Antigua on the 25th inst. to attend the Federal Council which opens to-day. The Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O., as Senior Resident Member of the Executive Council was sworn in as Acting Administrator on the morning of the 26th. Mr. Porter has acted as Administrator for over twenty-five times, and yet he is still Treasurer of Dominica at £400 a year. He ought to have been promoted years ago.

The exportation of lime fruit and lime fruit products has gradually decreased, and will soon near the vanishing point until the new crop comes in. Usually at this time a good many lime trees bear fruit, but last year's hurricane is responsible for the dearth of fruit now. The prospects for the coming crop are good, but what is worrying producers is the serious question of exorbitant freight charges. The steamship companies have got their thumbscrews on shippers and they are without mercy when they think it time to give the screw an extra turn or two. It is a pity they cannot be dealt with as the Dominica Food Committee dealt with the local bakers.

The rainfall returns for 1915 have been published by the Agricultural Department. The mean rainfall for 34 stations was 137.11 inches. The highest rainfall was at Glean Marrioc, nearly in the centre of the island, and there it reached 289.81 inches; the lowest fall was at Batalie, on the Leeward Coast, where the precipitation was only 70.60 inches.

JAMAICA—The Question of Trade with Canada.

A correspondent writes under date March 6th:—The question of freights has been receiving the attention of the various commercial bodies in Jamaica, and though no decided progress bringing satisfactory results has been accomplished, the Governor has now taken up the matter with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I am hopeful that some relief can be obtained from shortness of freight service as well as from high cost of freights. Our Legislative Council meets on the 7th, and has to face a very considerable deficit somewhere under £200,000, largely on account of military contributions and services. We are quite able to find the money by extra taxation and on War profits for this deficit, and in view of the object for which the deficit has arisen—namely, to help Great Britain by doing our "little bit" in the great struggle of the Empire—the people of this loyal colony are prepared and willing to make sacrifices. I agree with the Circular that Jamaica has done excellently, and the spirit which pervades the colony is of the very best kind.

The local press have been ventilating the question of closer trade with Canada. It will be recalled that though Jamaica did not enter the trade agreement which came into force in 1913, Canada consented to give the colony the benefit of the preferential tariff for three years. This period of grace—which, by the way, was extended unconditionally to Fiji, Mauritius and other British Colonies—will shortly expire, and a declaration of Canada's policy is awaited with interest. In some quarters confederation with Canada is being mooted. Meanwhile, the present movement is attributed to the visit to the island of two prominent Canadian bank managers, and to the great growth of Imperial sentiment due to the War.

Mrs. J. C. Hagen, wife of the local Manager of the Direct West Indian Cable Company, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, Mrs. Bertram, the Misses Bonitto, Miss Thompson and Mrs. Lang, organised a very successful Ceramic Exhibition, which was held at the Constant Spring Hotel, on March 1st and 2nd, in aid of the Red Cross Fund. On each day there was a large gathering, amongst those present being His Excellency the Governor, His Lordship Bishop de Carteret, Mrs. Trefusis, and His Worship the Mayor of Kingston. All expressed much admiration for the work of Mrs. Hagen and her pupils. The Exhibition realised over £160, a result upon which Mrs. Hagen and her friends are to be warmly congratulated.

MONTSERRAT—Monthly War Gifts.

MR. K. P. PENCHOEN, FEBRUARY 12th.—We have had excessive rains since November, with disastrous results to the cotton crop. The SS. *Spheroid*, of Scrutton line of steamers, took close on 600 bales of cotton on the 4th inst. There is not much more to be shipped. The Montserrat Co., Ltd., have chartered the Danish schooner *Ellen Benyon*, now loaded for Liverpool.

There was a most enthusiastic meeting held at the Court House last month, got up by our Commissioner, Mr. Jarvis. Monthly subscriptions were raised then to close on £20 per month for the different War funds. A Committee has been appointed, and Mr. M. Auchinleck, Clerk to the Commissioner, is Hon. Secretary. This is the best Montserrat has done yet. It should have been done before.

NEVIS—Sugar Estates all Reaping.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 26th.—The SS. *Serana* came into port and took 228 bales of cotton. The members of the Federal Council have left for Antigua; the Council will sit on February 29th. When this reaches you, all the sugar estates will be reaping, some grinding, and others sending their canes across to St. Kitts to the factory there. The weather for all crops has been very propitious for the year past, and the cane crop certainly will come up to expectation. Provisions are abundant, and consequently cheap; only the imported articles have risen in price.

ST. KITTS—Major J. A. Burdon's Speech.

In his speech at the opening of the Session of the Legislative Council in February, Major J. A. Burdon referred to the harmonious relations existing between the Administrator and the Council. He expressed warm appreciation of the very satisfactory condition in which Captain the Hon. Archibald Roger had handed over the Presidency. The War had had a very serious effect on the financial position. The surplus, which amounted on July 31st, 1914, to £30,956, had been reduced by March 31st, 1915, to £17,345; and it was estimated that by the 31st March this year it would have fallen to £7,746. An average loss of some £90 a month caused by the preferential duty on flour had been brought to an end by Ordinance No. 9 of 1915, and the increase, for this crop, of the export duty on sugar, together with a similar imposition of an export duty on molasses and syrup, enabled the colony to look forward for the coming year to the equation of revenue and expenditure, provided the latter was rigidly curtailed to a degree which could only be described as parsimonious.

ST. VINCENT—Vincelonians for St. Lucia Roads.

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 21st.—The weather is wet for the time of year; so far we have had no dry spells. The Spring is likely to come in early as a result. The arrowroot growers meet to-day to discuss the new and higher steamer rates of freight on arrowroot which are to come into operation from 1st March. Our cotton is hung up for lack of shipping facilities, and no one can tell when such will be available.

The Government are calling for fifty more men for the second St. Vincent Contingent for active service, and there should be little difficulty in obtaining them. The Government of St. Lucia are advertising for fifty local labourers for work on the new roads to be made in that colony.

TOBAGO—The Royal Mail Company.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, FEBRUARY 24th.—The *Quillotta* mails were landed in Trinidad the day after our *Barima* sailed, and we are without home printed news or letters, which in these war days are very anxiously awaited. It never occurred, evidently, to the Postmaster-General to delay the coastal steamer for a day to enable us to get our letters a week sooner.

We have just heard from Trinidad that one of the coastal steamers is to be taken off the route after all, on the plea, it is said, of military necessity. In these war days there is, of course, no thought of opposing such a plea, but there is a distinct feeling here that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is not playing the game in this matter. The first suggestion to withdraw one steamer was made on the plea that it would be an economy for the local Government. Fortunately, the necessities of the outlying ports of Trinidad and Tobago were considered of more importance than the saving of £3,600 annually, and, as His Excellency the Governor admits in his opening financial address at the Legislative Council, there is no need for such economy at the present time. Now military necessity is pleaded, but how much use can a 1,000-ton steamer built for the tropics be in European waters? The *bona-fides* of this request certainly make some of us exceedingly doubtful, to say the least of it! So far as Tobago is concerned, the loss of a regular weekly service will mean a severe set-back to the outlying districts. Vegetables and fruit cannot be made to ripen to accommodate fortnightly steamers, and the natives will naturally conclude that there is no use growing more than they can eat if the means of marketing be restricted.

The high price of imported foodstuffs and sugar is a serious drawback, especially as the wholesale houses are said to be coining money at the expense of consumers. Government may have to interfere to regulate prices, and it has been suggested that the steamers ought to restrict other goods and leave more space for food. With German raiders still further reducing the number of British steamers, the outlook is far from pleasant, and drastic measures may yet be necessary. The action of the Home Government in this direction is timely, but must make "Free Traders" squirm. As the action of a Free Trade Government, it may, of course, pass muster. Fortunately, ground provisions are plentiful and reasonable in price in this island, but corn is scarce, and the high cost of flour is a serious matter.

Almost throughout February there have been light showers, and vegetation is green almost as in the rainy season. In low-lying fields the cacao pickings have been abundant, but the hill crop is late. It now looks more promising, and with a continuance of favourable weather the crop seems likely to continue on to May or June. The few *Muscovado* Estates (mostly on the Metayer system) in the Leeward are now hard at work, but the barrels of sugar produced will barely number the tons of bygone days. As most of the canes are grown between young coconuts, the production of sugar in Tobago will soon be a thing of the past. I notice an enquiry for lands in Tobago for a cattle ranch. The conditions in the Leeward are favourable, but most of the land is now under coconuts, and I fear the available land is too scattered now to be serviceable. The Governor, in his recent address, stated that 13,784 acres of Crown lands in Tobago are

open for sale, and that it was a matter for surprise to him "that such lands were not in greater request with the advantages offered by Tobago in regard to climate, fertility, and facilities for communication." He evidently overlooked that steamer facilities were about to be curtailed; but this is only temporary, and Home settlers and others all hope that "after the war," soldiers "tired of war's alarms" may make their homes in this pretty little island.

There was a successful bazaar and dance at Captain Short's residence, Richmond Estate, last Friday, at which over £20 was raised for the Red Cross Society. The local Secretary, Mrs. Sworder, is about to leave for England with her husband, who is reported to be volunteering for the Navy. Mrs. Gray, wife of the popular agent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in Scarborough, will probably take Mrs. Sworder's place.

We miss the *regular* CIRCULARS, but when they do come they are greatly appreciated and interesting as ever.

TRINIDAD—Colonel Roosevelt's Visit.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 4th.—The termination of the Indenture system would be a grave blow to the welfare of this colony. It is certainly the fact that the Indian himself has most reason to appreciate all that immigration to Trinidad has done for his race. In addition to being re-elected for a second term as Mayor of Port of Spain, the Hon. Doctor Prada has been re-appointed as a member of the Legislative Council for another five years; in both cases this is only just appreciation of excellent and able services to the borough and the colony. Colonel Roosevelt landed here yesterday morning, and will stay for some days. He has accepted the joint invitation of the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society to a banquet some day next week.

The Session of the Legislative Council is now proceeding in weekly sittings. The most important announcement in the Acting Governor's opening address was that the income tax will be added to other imposts we are gladly bearing these war times. Owing to the mishap to the *Tennyson*, news of which only reached here about the time she was due, and when many letters had already been routed by her, there has been a long interval between the outward mails. The irregularity both outward and inward is most inconvenient, but cannot be helped. Regarding the proposed removal of one of the Contract Tobago boats, the Legislative Council has resolved that it is prepared loyally to defer to the decision of the Secretary of State with regard to the Coastal service if he thinks the step necessary, but in view of the serious inconvenience which will result, the Government is urged to supplement the service by a small steamer of a class not likely to be required for imperial purposes. At the annual sale at the Government Stock Farm, there was a large attendance, and capital prices were realised all round. This was due principally to the much improved condition of the stock, which was generally recognised.

Sir Norman Lamont has a motion standing in his name at the Legislative Council to impose an excise tax equivalent to the export tax in aid of immigration on all sugars of local production sold locally. There is much to be said for and against this proposal, and a lively discussion may be anticipated. The Committee to whom the Government submitted the question of payment for farmers' canes on a sliding scale reported favourably through the Board of Agriculture, where the report was adopted, in spite of strenuous opposition led by Sir Townsend Fenwick in an able speech, but, according to Sir Norman Lamont, "a dangerous one." The question now is, What will the Government do? It is always a serious matter to trench upon the right of private agreement.

With weather still favourable, the anticipations of fair pickings of cacao for some months to come seem likely to be fully realized. The market has been very unsettled during the month, prices rising and falling almost from day to day. A good foreign demand, however, continues and indications point to values being maintained. Receipts from Venezuela have not come up to expectations, whilst the greater part of the arrivals are being held, the consignees being apparently of opinion that better prices will shortly prevail. Hence quotations for Venezuela are

out of proportion to Trinidad. Shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of February were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,141,187
British North America	127,312
British West Indies	3,360
Other British Colonies	4,312
United States America	6,197,406
Total for February	8,813,679
Shipped previously	5,085,123
Total from 1st January	13,898,802
To same date 1915	15,871,474
" " 1914	16,414,320
" " 1913	12,580,244
" " 1912	18,966,875
" " 1911	10,870,541
" " 1910	15,764,034
" " 1909	14,841,342
" " 1908	16,103,820

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Demerara Railway Co.

The Directors have decided 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 3½ per cent. per annum on the Preferred Ordinary Stock.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st, 1915, show a net profit of £22,070 os. 2d., making with £30,889 15s., the balance from the preceding half-year a total of £52,959 15s. 2d. Out of this the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent. less income tax for the half-year ended 31st December last, which will absorb £17,850, leaving £35,109 15s. 2d. to be carried forward. The capital of the Corporation remains at £2,000,000 in 100,000 shares of £20 each, on which £6 per share, or £600,000, has been paid up. The reserve fund stands at £100,000, and the special reserve for depreciation of investments at £50,000. Notes in circulation figure at £425,126 8s. 4d.; deposits at interest, current accounts, etc., at £2,199,693 9s. 10d., and bills payable and other liabilities at £642,005 10s. On the credit side of the accounts appear: specie £370,095 18s. 5d., cash at London bankers and at call on short notice £142,662 5s. 2d. English and Colonial Government securities and other investments of which £150,000 is lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies as security for Note Issue as required by the Colonial Bank Act of 1898) £1,019,923 7s. 6d., bills receivable, etc. £1,191,919 os. 10d., due in the Colonies on current accounts £362,798 7s. 4d., bills discounted in the colonies, bills in transit, advances on security, etc. £902,387 18s. 1d., bank premises and furniture in London and the Colonies £80,000. The directors in their report record with great regret the death of their valued colleagues, Mr. Charles R. Gurney Hoare, a director for over 30 years and chairman for four years, and Mr. E. Alexander Duff, and also the retirement on account of ill-health of Mr. H. C. Morgan, who was a director for 19 years and chairman for a short time. On 31st December, 1915, the Bank's investments, amounting to £1,019,923, and including £250,000 in 4½ per cent. War Loan, stood in the Bank's books, together with the provision which had been made for their depreciation, at £19,000 less than the market value at that date. On the 15th March owing to the removal of the minimum price on many stocks they stood at £9,000 more than the market value, including the depreciation in the £250,000 War Loan. As the Bank now holds a very small amount on which a minimum price remains there can be no further serious loss by the removal of other minimum prices.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.
April 6th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th August, 1914. Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 87½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 96½. Consols stand at 37½.

SUGAR. The Budget was introduced by Mr. McKenna on April 4th. The duty on sugar has been raised 3d. per lb., making the entire duty on 98° and over polarisation sugar 14/- per cwt., with proportionate increases for lower polarisation sugars down to 6/9 for 76°.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply have remodelled their prices accordingly, and these now stand at 47/1½ for Tate's No. 1 Cubes, 42/1½ for Lyle's No. 1 granulated, 31/7½ for American granulated, 40/1½ for fair average quality Java, and 39/7½ for fair average Mauritius crystals.

According to the agreement come to between the West India Committee and the Sugar Commission, whereby average quality crystallised is to be sold at the same duty paid value as American granulated, average Muscovado at 1/- less, and average syrups at 2/- less per cwt., the bond values of average West Indian produce will be—crystallized 29/11, Muscovado 30/5, and syrups 30/- per cwt. Syrups under the heavy customs duty are therefore of greater value to the importer than the crystallized, to which they are secondary products.

Invariably at this time of year the question of the probable extent of the Cuban crop excites considerable attention, and leads to considerable speculation. So far as can be judged, the position is that the output of the factories is quite in accordance with the realization of Mr. Himely's estimate of 3,175,000 tons. There are, however, points in this connection which require consideration. Dry weather, and up to recently the weather had been exceptionally rainless, is extremely favourable to reaping operations, and unless there is an abnormally large stand of canes on the ground, the period of crop is necessarily shortened, and high output leads to an exaggerated perspective of the total crop. On the other hand, the dry weather has had an extremely good effect in ripening the bulk of the canes to be ground this crop. Mr. Himely, indeed, reports as much as 13½ per cent. of marketable sugar as having been obtained from the cane in some instances, or slightly under 7½ tons of canes to the ton of sugar, a record for Cuba. This, naturally, is all in favour of a big crop. Another important factor in sugar-making in districts not blessed with a good water supply, is the amount of water available for condensation purposes. Although the water is cooled and re-used, and although it is augmented to a considerable extent by the water evaporated from the juice, the loss is considerable. In addition, unless renewed from time to time with fresh water, the condensation water becomes foul from admixture with products from the juice, until an unworkable point is reached. It is possible, therefore, for factories whose natural water supply is deficient to be compelled actually to shut down in a season of drought, and wait for rains, with great loss of crop, both present and prospective. This danger, however, is over for the present in Cuba, moderate rains having fallen throughout the island, which will also materially help the growth of next year's canes, although Mr. Himely fears that the canes planted last spring for this crop's cutting will be too immature to be reaped.

The amount of sugar received at Cuban ports up to the 1st inst. was 1,815,392 tons, as against 1,288,527 tons to the corresponding date last year, and, should the present favourable weather conditions continue, the crop should be realised earlier than usual, although the invariable prolonged tailing off is bound to occur.

The New York market has been very strong during the fortnight, 96° Cubans reaching \$6.02 duty paid, yesterday's value being \$5.95, with granulated at \$7.00. The causes enumerated in our last Summary still continue—shortage of freight, holding by producers, European demands from Cuba and the United States. In addition another interesting factor is becoming evident, viz., the

increasing demand for sugar and sugar products by the general population as the result of the increased wealth of the nation from the war. As regards demands from Europe, Messrs. Willett and Gray report that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply entered into a contract early in March with the American Sugar Refining Company to refine raws for them to the extent of 50,000 tons.

There has been an unexpected demand for sugar from Italy, 30,000 tons being asked for by that country. The Italian 1913-14 crop was in the neighbourhood of 325,000 tons, her 1914 consumption being 172,000 tons. The cause of the present demand is, therefore, not quite clear, but probably arises from lessened production and increased army requirements, and possibly demands from the Mediterranean hitherto met by Austria.

The report of the American Sugar Refining Company for 1915 shows that only 2 per cent. on the amount of sales was obtained in the way of profits. The amount declared as dividend was \$6,299,972, nearly 7 per cent., on a capital of \$90,000,000. This is in striking contrast to the big dividends shown by some of our refining concerns, and illustrates the keen competition that obtains in sugar in the United States.

The Austrian Government's sugar allowance is 33 lbs. per head of population, independent of trade usings. Our pre-restriction direct consumption was about 65 lbs. per head.

About 1,000 tons of new crop West Indian sugar were lost in the torpedoed *Salybia*. Up to now West Indian producers have been singularly free from loss from the enemy's submarine tactics.

The scarcity of sugar in the United Kingdom, or rather the insufficiency of the supply to meet the demands of consumers, continues. This attempted maintenance of the high *per caput* consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom in the face of restricted supplies is by no means one of the least interesting points brought out by the war, and demonstrates in an unmistakable manner that sugar has become an absolutely essential constituent of our food supplies, in spite of what technical and other theorists say on the subject.

The Sugar Commission, in view of the scarcity of grocery sugars, have distributed the more suitable descriptions of Cuban 96° sugars among the wholesale grocers for direct consumption. This heavy brown sugar, intended originally only for refining purposes, is now to be seen generally in grocers' shops. Customers should see that they are not charged "Demerara" prices for these sugars. The Commission are selling these sugars at £30 15s. per ton, whereas the price of average "Demerara," as laid down by the Commission, is £37 per ton. They are in no sense "Demerara" sugars as they are not made by the special "Demerara" process. It is, however, an interesting testimony to the superiority of cane sugars that these raw refining sugars can be consumed as such, whereas the corresponding beet product is unspeakably nasty and repellent. Further, the presence of this Cuban sugar on the breakfast table of the British consumer should bring home to him the fact of how dependent we are, although not of necessity, on foreign sources of supply in respect of sugar, and also that his being able to obtain these sugars at all is due to the preferential treatment accorded to Cuban sugar for the last 15 years in the United States Customs' Tariff; a treatment which our powers that have been and be pledged our present enemies not to accord to sugar from our own colonies in our own customs tariff.

The sugar ration to the troops has been reduced, to their great disgust, while the ½ lb. tin of generally indifferent jam, which is not liked, has been continued.

The London West Indian sugar figures from January 1st to March 25th are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Imports ...	5,584	9,377	6,141	6,740	4,338	Tons.
Deliveries ...	13,413	9,245	6,741	6,182	7,335	..
Stock (Mar. 25)	3,276	6,141	12,006	2,397	1,492	..

RUM. There is no quotable change to report in this market, either in regard to proof or Jamaica descriptions.

Buyers have held off until after the Budget announcement. No additional spirit duties have been imposed.

The stocks in London on March 25th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Jamaica ...	5,287	4,291	5,506	5,507	7,567	Pune.
Demerara ...	8,272	6,744	10,196	8,727	8,525	..
Total, all kinds ...	23,402	17,736	22,828	22,426	24,007	..

CACAO. The market, although quiet, is steady. At auction on the 26th ult., 7,026 bags were put up, of which a considerable quantity was sold. The Trinidad lot, 867 tons was bought in. The 3,660 bags Grenada were almost all sold at 77/- to 86/6, an advance of 1/- per cwt.; 20 bags of Demerara sold at 88/-; 252 bags St. Lucia were part sold at 75/- to 85/-. The small Jamaica and Dominica lots were bought in. The customs duty on cacao has been advanced from 13d. to 6d. per lb.

The stocks in London on March 25th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Trinidad ...	11,517	9,065	6,772	4,224	7,101	Bags
Grenada ...	12,374	5,608	8,939	6,009	15,856	..
Total, all kinds ...	96,605	53,385	90,924	79,086	123,030	..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that since their last report 200 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold, chiefly St. Vincent at 18d., with a few bales at 21d., and Montserrat and Antigua at 15d. to 16d. Prices are firm, but the demand for Sea Island yarn is limited as they go to supply luxuries.

The exports to Europe from the United States for the week ending 31st of March were—to France 37,000 bales, to Portugal 4,000 bales, and to the other European Continental countries 1,000 bales.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed is dearer with sales up to 9s. 6d. for good Dominica. Distilled has sold up to 9/- per lb. Lime Juice: No change or sales to report in raw or concentrated. Citrate of Lime is valued at £26 per ton.

SPICES. Ginger: Stocks in first hands are exhausted, and small sales of second hand parcels have been made at high prices. Jamaica may be quoted at 80/- to 100/-. At auction to-day the nutmegs offered were all defective, and sold readily, 100's/80's, 9d. to 1/-; 120's/100's, 8½d. to 9d.; 140's/120's, 8½d. to 9d. Mace is valued at: Good to fine, 2/- to 2/9; red to good, 1/8 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/5 to 1/7; broken, 11d. to 1/4.

ARROWROOT. Market quiet. A small sale has been reported at 2½d. Quotations nominally 2½d. to 4½d.

COFFEE. Prices are unchanged. Jamaica may be quoted at from 54/- to 120/- per cwt. The duty has been increased to 6d. per lb.

COPRA. The market is now steadier. The value of West Indian is from £36 10s. to £37 per ton.

HONEY. The market is firm and first arrivals are likely to do well. The approximate value to-day of Jamaica is from 40/- to 45/-.

RUBBER. Market very quiet and prices lower. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 3/4s; smoked sheet at 3/4s; Fine hard Para at 3/0s; soft at 2/30.

BALATA. Market very firm owing to scarcity of supplies. Business has been done in Venezuelan block at 2/7½ c.i.f., and in Panama block at 2/2½ c.i.f., and 2/3½ landed. West Indian sheet is very scarce. Nominal value 3/0s to 3/1½ landed.

PETROLEUM OIL is firm. American, 11d.; Water White, 1/.

WOODS. Fustic is quoted at £6 to £7; Jamaica Logwood, at £8 to £8 10s.; Honduras Cedar, 7½d. to 8½d. The value of Lignum Vitæ is £4 to £15.

TIMBER. British Guiana Greenheart is quoted at from £14 to £18 per load of 50 cubic feet.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss F. Robinson
Mr. D. C. Cameron	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. F. H. B. Shand
Mr. A. Campbell	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Clement Malone	Hon. H. B. Walcott
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. A. L. McColl	C.M.G.
Mr. John T. Greg	Commander W. H. Owen R.N.	
Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. A. E. Perkins	
Mr. P. L. Guppy		

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne" Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.
 Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmith Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
April 15	Leyland Line	Orubian	Liverpool	A.E.
.. 17	"Direct" Line	Crown of Granada	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N.
.. 17	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	D.
.. 21	Leyland Line	Norwegian	Liverpool	B.
.. 21	R.M.S.P.Co.	Quillota	London	A, E, D.
.. 29	Booker Line	Arakaka	Liverpool	B.
.. 29	Leyland Line	Nestorian	Liverpool	A, E.
May 1	Elders & Fyffes	Cavina	Bristol	D.
4	"Direct" Line	Serrana	London	{ A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N.

FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
April 21	Royal Dutch	A Steamer	Amsterdam	D.E.
May 5				

FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 5	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chignecto	Halifax, N.S.	{ A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N.
9		Chaudiere		

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Divi.	Latest Quotations.	Prices April 5
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
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	79
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	81
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	68 1/2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1932-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	78
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank	5 1/4
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	102
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	78
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	87 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	88 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	94 1/2
10 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	10 1/2
7 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97
	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	96 1/2
	Trinidad Colfields, Ltd. (11 shares)	4 1/2
	Trinidad Leaseholds (11)	10 3/4
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)	4 1/2
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	95-100
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	21 3/4
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref	2 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	5 1/2
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	9 1/2

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

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

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) March 23rd, "Weather dry"; (The Demerara Co., Ltd.) March 27th, "Weather very dry"; (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) March 29th, "Weather very dry." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended March 5th: PORT ANTONIO, 2/6th "Fine"; 7/8th "Rainy." KINGSTON, 2/8th "Fine."

THOUGH the recent prohibition order against the imports of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes is general, it is satisfactory to learn that licences are being freely given by the Board of Trade for the importation of such produce from the Colonies. This will be good news to lovers of Golofinas, Machados, and other makes of Jamaica cigars and cigarettes which are becoming deservedly popular in this country.

The special price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the educational authorities in the West Indies is 7/6 each (carriage paid in the United Kingdom 8/4; abroad, according to destination) for mounted and varnished copies on rollers; 5/- for each copy in sheet form, post free 5/7 inland, and 6/4 to British Possessions; and 8/6 per copy, or 8/9 post free, for each copy mounted and folded.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
	Jan. 1 to Feb. 10.		Jan. 1 to Mar. 4.	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
Sugar	15,537	9,501 Tons.	5,297	221 Tons.
Molasses	834,758	835,575 Pf. Gls.	109,274	122,726 Galls
Rum	277	104 Tons.		
Molascuit, &c.				
Cacao	3,303	13,438 lbs.	442,072	952,560 lbs.
Coffee		29,685	2,301,488	2,145,808
Coco-nuts	240,139	110,013 No.	3,607,890	5,081,730 No.
Oranges			1,035,800	711,600
Bananas			117,118	734,159 Stems
Colton			7,544	12,876 Cwts.
Pimento			4,161	798
Ginger			255	1,992 lbs.
Honey			9,450	6,164 Tons
Dyewoods				
Gold	2,583	8,344 Ozs.		
Diamonds				
Rice	3,605,911	3,302,638 lbs.		
Balata	87,113	184,791		
Rubber	525	230	Arrwrt. 543,061	368,839 lbs
Timber	17,017	19,293 cub. ft	Cacao 11,004	29,463
Lumber	76,592	4,550 ft	Cotton 47,004	25,030
Lime(citrate of)	1,500	413 lbs.	.. Seed	75,877

	Trinidad.		Barbados.	
	Jan. 1 to Mar. 5		Jan. 1 to Mar. 2.	
	1916	1915	1916	1915
Sugar	1,553	3,001 Tons.	4,684	2 Tons
Molasses	376	523 Puns.	9,860	352 Puns
Rum	1,179	474		
Coco-nuts	1,910,480	1,165,300 No.		
Asphalt	8,851	7,888 Tons.		
Manjak	114	53		
Bitters	4,348	2,567 Cases		
Coffee	480	8,600 lbs.		
Crude Petrol	2,935,752	53,540 Galls		
Cacao	16,386,200	17,599,000 lbs.	2,729,900	778,320 lbs
Colton				
Seed				
Copra	4,863	3,447 Bags.	11	19 BAGS.
Spice			274,240	280,280 lbs.
Kola			1,750	1,030

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The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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April 19th, 1916

WEST INDIAN FREIGHTS.

THE position with regard to freights has undergone no improvement since we last dealt with the subject. The tendency of rates is still upwards, and, with regard to the West Indian trade, it is announced that a revised tariff is to come into force on May 1st. This will, however, apply only to outward freights, and we understand that no further increase in the homeward freights is in contemplation at present. While shippers of the staples, sugar and cacao, are able to meet the present abnormal charges, thanks to the high prices which those commodities are realising, people interested in many other kinds of produce which have not shared in the rise in prices continue to complain bitterly, and not without reason. But this question of freights is not one concerning the West Indies alone. It is world-wide. We need hardly inform our readers that it has been brought about mainly by the British Government requisitioning so much tonnage, and by the German mercantile marine being confined to home and to neutral ports, and to a lesser extent by loss of ships through the activity of enemy submarines. From enquiries which we have made we are satisfied that the West Indies are no worse off than other parts of the world as regards this freight question, and, taking all the circumstances into consideration, it is clear that no amelioration can be expected to result from the passing of abstract resolutions and representations of that nature. We must be grateful for small mercies, and it is at least a matter for satisfaction that one or two cargo steamer lines, in spite of the admitted fact that they could get better freights if they were to divert their steamers to other channels—as one great shipping company has done—are still serving the West India trade. The fairest comparison between the freights charged in the

West India trade and those obtained generally is obtained by examining the results to the shipowner. Proceeding on these lines, we find that at the present time vessels can be readily placed on time charter at rates exceeding 45/- per month, which can be obtained for periods of one or two years without difficulty. The rate paid by the Admiralty for steamers of the type and size used in the West India trade is from 13/- to 14/- per month, and we have it on reliable authority that until recently the level of freights ruling out and home in the West India trade did not yield the shipowner as good a result as employment by the Admiralty. Moreover, although rates have in the last few months been increased, we understand that the nett result to the shipowner is still not much in excess of the rate paid by the Admiralty. With regard to the outward freight rates, it is pointed out that the reason why these are so high is because they constitute the sole earning of the ships, which have a much larger capacity than the outward cargo offering warrants, the latter rarely filling much more than a third of the available space. But even the present rates compare favourably with those prevailing on other routes. Thus, a steamer of, say, 6,000 tons could at present obtain from 80/- to 90/- a ton for coal for the Mediterranean, 45/- a ton to Las Palmas, 65/- to the River Plate, and as much as 40/- for short Channel voyages, such as to Rouen. No doubt MR. CYRIL GURNEY had this aspect of the case in view when he paid what seemed to us a well-deserved compliment to the Direct Line in his speech at the Annual General Meeting of the Colonial Bank, which is summarised elsewhere in the CIRCULAR.

The greatest sufferer among the West Indian islands from the world-wide shipping squeeze has been Jamaica. In the past, shippers connected with that colony have been catholic in their patronage of steamer lines, and this has perhaps contributed towards the colony being neglected in this time of stress. As we have already shown, the inconvenience caused by the lack of tonnage has been acute, and it is interesting to note that some local planters and business men have decided to start a steamship line of their own, with a capital of £10,000, to trade between ports in North America and the West Indies and South America. These gentlemen are to be congratulated on their enterprise in venturing to enter the shipping business at what we must all devoutly hope is the height of the boom, and we wish them every success. We cannot, however, help fearing that the capital will be too small; but at the outset it is only proposed to acquire a vessel of 1,000 tons, and great things have resulted before now from small beginnings. Again, it can hardly be contemplated that the new Company will not ask for as high rates as the normal conditions of supply and demand justify.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

WE do not share the pessimistic views which are being circulated in some quarters regarding the future of the Panama Canal, which has just been re-opened to navigation after being interrupted for seven months owing to landslides. The advocates of a sea-level waterway are freely stating that the lock canal is a failure, and are generally criticising the vast undertaking of the United States, which was, to a point, successfully carried through by the Isthmian Canal Commission, as a dismal failure. It is true that the interruption of communication which has resulted from the slides in the Culebra—or Gaillard, as it is now called after its chief engineer—Cut have been disconcerting; but it cannot be said that they were unlooked for. In the interesting lecture which he delivered under the auspices of the West India Committee on March 12th last year, that well-known geologist, DR. VAUGHAN CORNISH, who had only just returned from Colon, after making a close study of the Canal, recognized the possibility of further breaks after the Cucaracha slide had been cleared out of the way. Otherwise, he spoke in a decidedly hopeful vein, disposing of all possible adverse criticism by answering a series of twelve questions. Thus, he said, for example, that he was satisfied that the great Gatun dam was sufficiently watertight, and that there was no chance of its becoming a mud-lake. Again, he pointed out that far from there being any danger of a water supply being insufficient, the authorities were actually able to allow the Chagres River to run to waste. He found, he said, no sign of the rocks rotting from the action of the water, or of Gold Hill sliding into the Cut, and, while he found some evidence of the bottom of the Cut bulging up, he believed that this would be checked by reducing the slope of the sides, sluicing the valleys behind, and eventually planting the banks with vegetation. He dismissed the possibility of the Canal being wrecked by earthquakes, stating that he had examined the effects of the Jamaica earthquake of January 14th, 1907, on buildings in Kingston, and adding that "that shaking would, in my opinion, have had practically no effect on the Gatun dam, and would have only done minor injury to the locks." In conclusion, DR. CORNISH said: "All the probabilities are sufficiently good to justify practical men in making their arrangements on the reasonable supposition that the Panama Canal will be a successful and reliable waterway, that the land-slides will come to rest, and that it will not be wrecked by earthquakes. But as to making promises that it will not be interrupted after January next, that is a matter of speculation." It is satisfactory to learn from a letter dated early in April which we have before us that DR. CORNISH, whom we regard as a highly competent authority, adheres to the views which he expressed in 1914, and that the recent protracted interruption in the Canal has not caused him to alter them. It seems to us, as it does to DR. CORNISH, that the mistake was in the Isthmian Canal Commission having raised undue hopes by advertising the opening of the Canal before it was actually finished, in-

stead of waiting for a year of uninterrupted waterway before declaring their task completed. In an undertaking of such vast magnitude no one would have been surprised or disappointed if the work had taken longer than the minimum time specified as possible. It was the unfortunate indiscretion of the authorities in naming a date for completion when the data for precise calculation were wanting which has given a loophole to M. BUNAC-VARILLA and other doubting Thomases to gain a hearing.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee will be held, pursuant to the Royal Charter of Incorporation, at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m., on Thursday, May 4th.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 13th. The members also present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy-Chairman; Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.; Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A.; Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Aspinall, Secretaries reported the death of the following members—Hon. E. F. Dyett, Mr. E. C. H. Creswell, Mr. J. R. Greig, Mr. E. X. Leon, and Mr. C. A. Parrett.

The following were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
J. Forbes Marsden (Dominica)	J. Robert Morrison.
Ed. D. B. Dobridge (St. Kitts)	T. J. W. C. Davenport.
H. A. Neal (Trinidad)	E. J. Shelford.
Henry Dow (Trinidad)	J. W. Thurston.
John Eaden (Dominica)	R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G.
Hon. Edgar E. Meggs (St. Kitts)	G. R. Alston.
Jonathan H. Boyce (Barbados)	G. R. Alston.
B. C. Cooper (Jamaica)	W. M. Campbell.
	E. L. Marshall.
	G. R. Alston.
	A. D. C. Adanson.
	R. S. Deble.
	A. S. Bryden.
	R. Rutherford.
	W. Fawcett.
	W. M. Campbell.

[During the year to date 36 new members have been admitted to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	...	...	8	Barbados	...	...
Dominica	...	...	4	Grenada	...	...
Tobago	...	...	3	Jamaica	...	...
Antigua	...	...	2	New York	...	...
British Guiana	...	...	2	London	...	...
St. Kitts	...	...	2	Country	...	...

The Secretary reported that the Immigration Sub-Committee had met on March 15th, 21st, and 27th, and April 4th, but had not completed its labours in

view of the announcement made in the Indian Legislative Council on March 20th to the effect that the Indian Government had decided to terminate the indenture system.

The draft Annual Report and Accounts of the West India Committee having been approved, a resolution was passed authorising the affixing of the Seal of the West India Committee to the necessary document applying to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for an increase in the statutory percentage in the case of the sugar industry under Section 42 (1) of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. G. Moody Stuart, seconded by Hon. R. Warneford, and carried unanimously at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua for March 3rd, 1916, was read:—

Whereas the events of the present war have demonstrated the danger arising from the dependence of the United Kingdom on Germany and Austria for the bulk of sugar supplies in the past,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society considers it essential both for the sake of the Mother Country and also of the British Colonies in the tropics, that such a state of affairs should not be permitted ever again to supervene,

THAT as a means towards securing this end it is desirable that the Imperial Government should establish a tariff giving preferential treatment to sugar produced in the British Colonies,

THAT it is further desirable that a combined memorial from all the West Indian Colonies setting out these views should be presented to the Imperial Government,

AND THAT a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the West India Committee, who shall at the same time be assured of the cordial support of this Society in any steps which the West India Committee may think it expedient to take in this connection.

The Secretary was instructed to thank the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua for this important resolution, and to assure them that the representations put forward would receive attention.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Sir Everard in Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., for having presented to the West India Committee a Staff from British Guiana which formed one of the exhibits in the British Guiana-Venezuelan Boundary Arbitration.

An account and illustration of this Staff will be given in a future issue.

The Secretary reported that Captain Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., had kindly asked a Question in the House of Commons with regard to the position of Rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, and that Mr. McKenna had replied that he was proposing to deal with the matter in the General Finance Bill of the Session.* On this subject the Committee wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on February 16th:—

16th February, 1916.

Sir,
We have the honour to call your attention to the position of Rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, which provides for the compulsory warehousing of British and Foreign Spirits for a period of at least three years.

In view of the fact that the stocks of Rum are altogether inadequate to meet the consumption pending the expiration of the period of three years, a concession was made in the case of this spirit by Section C, Clause 2, which lays down that the restriction with regard to age

shall not apply for a period of one year after the commencement of the Act to imported Rum if it has been warehoused for over a period of at least nine months.

3. In the House of Commons on May 13th, your predecessor, Mr. Lloyd George, in reply to Mr. Kellaway, stated that, if at the end of a year it was found that stocks of Rum would not allow of full compliance with the Law, the matter would be further considered.

4. As the concession to Rum virtually expired on November 19th, it being impossible for Rum imported after that date to reach maturity within the meaning of the Act before May 19th, 1916, we venture to ask that it may be extended. It is clear that the present stocks will be insufficient to meet the requirements of the country if no Rum is to be cleared from bond under three years of age. Moreover, it is understood that a large proportion of the present stocks are already earmarked for H.M. Forces, whose requirements must necessarily expand very considerably in the immediate future in view of the increase of the Army.

5. It is hardly necessary for us to point out that the present uncertainty must cause a great deal of inconvenience to the British Rum-producing Colonies, involving as it does difficulty with regard to the marketing of their produce, and in the circumstances my Committee hope that an extension of the concession to Rum may be made at an early date.

We have the honour, etc.,

W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL, *Chairman*.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

The Right Hon. R. McKenna, M.P.,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
The Treasury, S.W.

IRRIGATION IN JAMAICA.

Progress of the Scheme for Vere.

In the case of Bret Harte's pioneer of Dow's Flat,

"It was water the darned cuss was diggin' for
When he struck gold."

But the planters of Vere, Jamaica, seek of design what came to that pioneer by accident. They also, by "diggin' for water," expect to strike gold—via sugar-cane.

Many vicissitudes have attended the efforts of that fertile but arid district to secure adequate protection by irrigation against the droughts which have so frequently deprived the planters of their crops. Over ten years ago a system of water-supply by gravitation from the Milk River was inaugurated at the cost of about £45,000, but the series of severe droughts which succeeded the great earthquake of 1907 were followed by a failure of the river which has only recently begun to flow once more.

Meanwhile, some of the planters, especially the Vere Estates Company, Ltd., expended large sums on pumping from wells, which, although partly successful, were not able to provide irrigation on a sufficiently extensive scale. Several years ago, Mr. Arthur W. Farquharson and the late Mr. C. E. de Mercado, Directors of that Company, realised the possibilities of utilising the water of a subterranean river, which in drought or flood, outflowed for a considerable distance, along the foot-hills about four miles from the estates, where it took the name of the Cock-pit River. They therefore purchased the property upon which this flow existed and bided their time.

Early in 1914, the assiduity of Mr. A. W. Farquharson resulted in the passage by the Jamaica Legislature of a Law authorising a Commission, of which he was appointed Chairman, to carry out a

* See under "At Westminster," page 151.

long-studied scheme for irrigation from this source. The use of the water was granted free, and the Government guaranteed (under certain conditions) the interest on an issue of £40,000 of debentures to defray the cost of the works.

The scheme entailed the damming of the river formed by the outcrop, diverting the flow for about a mile and a half in the direction of the various estates, and there erecting a pumping station for raising the water about 70 feet, whence it is to be conducted by concrete-lined canalisation following the contour of the foot-hills to the existing canals supplying the several plantations, a distance of about six miles. The initial programme provides for raising about 850,000 gallons per hour. After careful consideration by the commission, in conjunction with their resident and consulting engineers, of many descriptions of pumping plant, including the Humphrey Explosion Pump, and centrifugal pumps driven by gas or oil engines, the Commission decided upon the direct-acting reciprocating type working on the "Worthington" cycle.

The contract for this plant and for its erection was placed by Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd., with Messrs. James Simpson & Co., Ltd., of Newark-on-Trent. One of the illustrations which face this page shows this pumping engine as erected at the makers' works. It has been specially designed for the work, and is, in respect to steam consumption, considerably in advance of the best type of rotative engine, which fact, in view of the comparatively high cost of coal delivered on the site, coupled with the importance of perfect reliability under constant work, influenced the Commissioners in deciding upon this class of engine. The boilers are of the latest and most approved water-tube type manufactured by the Babcock & Wilcox Co., Ltd. The station is laid out for four boilers and three pumps. The present installation consists of one pump and two boilers, one of which alone is capable of steaming the engine, the other being a spare.

The outflow from the pump enters a rising-main of 52-in. dia. constructed in ferro-concrete. One of the illustrations facing this page shows the inlet to this main, and another an external view during construction, giving a good idea of the magnitude of the concrete pipe. The enterprise has not been devoid of engineering difficulties, foreseen and unforeseen, and considerable delay has been caused by one of those practical jokes of which nature seems so fond in this droughty district. Whilst excavating the foundation another underground stream was encountered, and it has cost many a week and thousands of pounds to dispose of this unwelcome water. The difficulty has at length been overcome; the canalisation is practically completed; the pumping engine is on the way to its destination, and it may be hoped that in the course of a short time the largest irrigation scheme, by pumping, in the West Indies will have become a successful *fait accompli*.

In anticipation of which happy event the CIRCULAR tenders to Mr. Farquharson and his colleagues the homage due to their energy, enterprise and persistence.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

From the recent speech of the German Chancellor it is evident that the enemy has no thoughts of peace except on his own terms. He is to retain Belgium, Poland, and the territory between the Baltic Sea and the Volhynia swamps, which are all to be "liberated." In other words, Germany has not yet been taught that she cannot impose her will on neighbouring nations. Therefore blood-letting must continue till she does, and, judging by the spirit of her soldiers before Verdun, the process is likely to be a lengthy one. Apparently she is willing to pay the price of her ambition, and the Allies are willing to pay the price of a peace which will confine her within her own frontiers by breaking her military machine. That is the position as it has been defined by the German Chancellor and Allied statesmen.

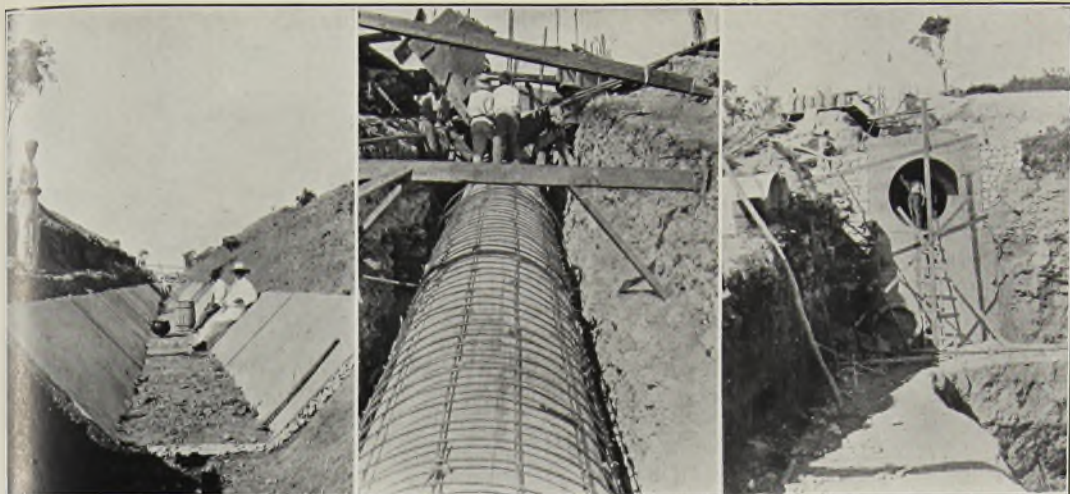
At the Economic Conference, which is to be held in Paris next month, this country will be represented by Mr. Hughes (the Australian Prime Minister), Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Runciman. The inclusion of Mr. Hughes, who has struck the imagination of our people by his strong lead in Allied and Imperial affairs, is a wise move of policy. For he has made a thorough study of the economic side of the War, which our more preoccupied Ministers have not been able to do. His advice at the Conference should, therefore, prove most valuable.

The British Front.

The struggle for the St. Eloi craters continues with varying fortune. At present the British hold three out of the five. In the course of the fighting last week the troops, it has been ascertained, inflicted serious losses on the enemy. Due north of Ypres three attacks in succession were delivered, the Germans gaining a footing in our trenches, from which they were quickly driven out again. Elsewhere on the front, artillery exchanges have been of great intensity around Souchez, Angres, Albert, and Loos.

Verdun.

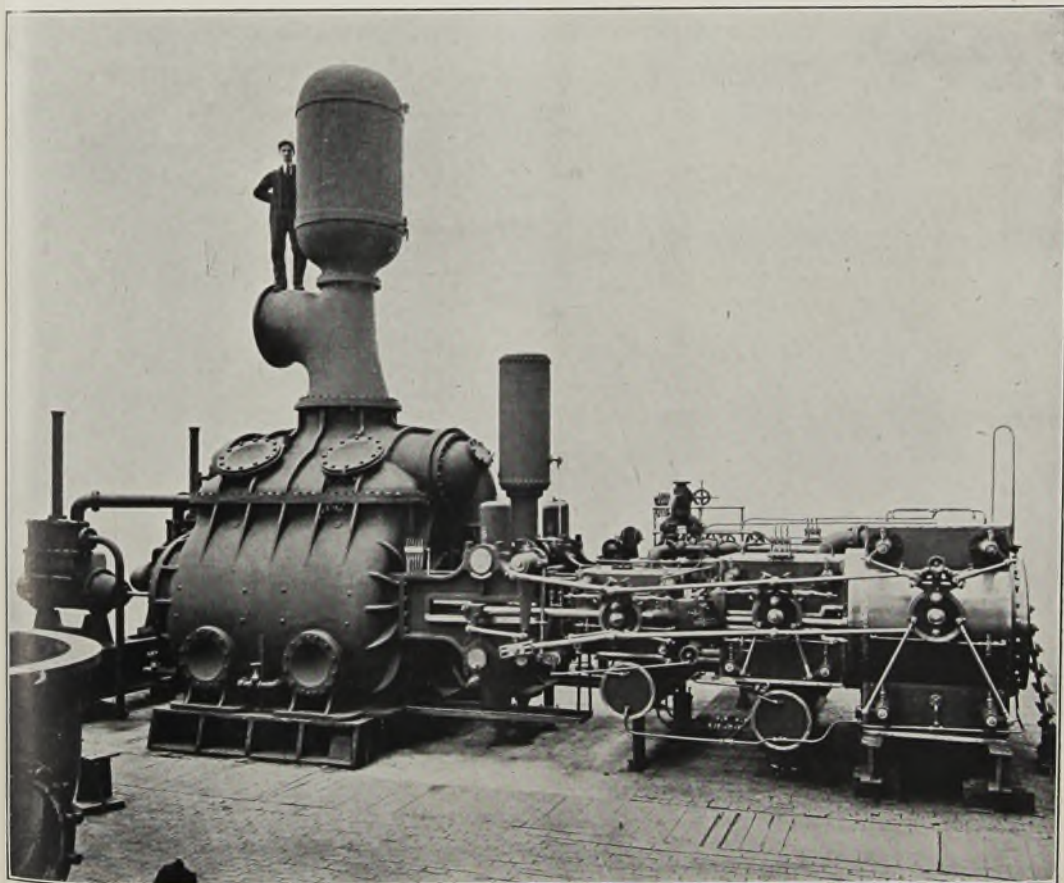
The struggle for this fortress continues, and the main defences are still intact after about nine weeks of intensive siege tactics, including a liberal use of tear shells and liquid fire. Baffled in their attempt to gain their end by a frontal attack, which could only succeed as a result of surprise, the enemy is trying an encircling movement. The element of surprise was present only in the first assault. When that failed, the fighting took on the familiar character of trench fighting, only on a vastly greater scale. Not that the enemy has given up hope of delivering a surprise attack. That is one of the reasons, no doubt, why the operations west of the Meuse have been undertaken, the idea being to keep the French busy there, when an opportunity may present itself for a swift transference of the German offensive to the other side of the river, and so profit by the effect of surprise. It should be remembered that, whereas on the eastern side of the Meuse the enemy is only about four miles from Verdun, on the western side the distance is eleven miles. Nor



A concreted canal cutting.

A 4' 6" concrete pipe for the rising main

Headwall of the rising main



A Westinghouse pumping engine.

THE VERE, JAMAICA, IRRIGATION SCHEME.

is the length of the road its chief difficulty. It is barred by formidable lines of defence. The operations of the flanking movement here, however, have been conducted with great skill and patience. For instance, the night attack by which the Germans gained possession of Malancourt Wood, together with their capture of Malancourt village and surprise attack on Avocourt Wood previously, rendered the Bethincourt salient untenable, and, after a splendid resistance, the French were able to retire without the enemy being aware of it until he found the position abandoned. Whether Hill 304 and Mort Homme will also be lost remains to be seen. Behind them is a further chain of heights barring the road to Verdun.

An Indecisive Battle.

The battle, or series of battles, round Verdun is still indecisive, and several theories are current with regard to it. The favourite is that General Petain is drawing the enemy from one position to another, so as to kill as many as possible in the process. But the whole history of the battle is against such a theory, particularly the heroic efforts of the French to get the Germans out of the Douaumont Fort, when at that point they had nearly succeeded in breaking through their line. Then there are the experts, who hold that Germany's attempt to take Verdun is a sign of desperation; and there are a few—a very few—people who think the present encircling movement will succeed unless the French are able to make a counter-stroke. One thing is certain—both sides are doing their utmost, the one to gain Verdun, the other to save it. All else is pure conjecture.

On the Russian Front.

As the floods have ceased to rise in the northern section of this front, military developments may soon be expected. The Germans are, indeed, attacking at various points, their object being, most likely, to recover the positions from which they were ousted by our Allies during the fortnight preceding the thaw, the Russians contenting themselves with holding on to ground already won. Opinion in Petrograd is inclined to over-rate this achievement, for, while the Germans may not be able to construct a new line of defence as strong as the old one, there may not be such losses in the floods and marshes as the Russians anticipate, for the enemy is still in possession of the Wilna-Dvinsk railway, which, since Wilna has been made an advanced base, endows him with mobility and other facilities for operations either against the line of the Dwina or against the Russians in the Lake district.

Again, it is supposed that when the ice melts, the Germans will utilise their navy in support of another attack on Riga. But before that materialises it is possible that certain preparations in the northern sector may have as their objective not Riga, but Reval.

In Eastern Asia Minor.

Russian reports in this region continue to be optimistic. It is, however, stated in Bucharest that some of the Trans-Caucasian forces have been withdrawn to the Bessarabian region. . . . The opera-

tions in Asia Minor are subsidiary, and must be treated as such. Therefore ambitious schemes of marching to Constantinople or Alexandria from the east are not likely to be entertained by the Russian General Staff, which is properly employing the bulk of Russia's vast military forces in Europe. Nevertheless, the process of rounding up the Turks in Armenia is successfully pursued along the shortest route to Dirabekir. The snows have not yet melted, and the natural obstacles in this mountainous country are very great.

In Mesopotamia.

The evil fortune which has dogged the steps of the Expeditionary Force since the capture of Nasiriyah and Kurnah, which were notable feats of amphibious warfare, is not yet at an end. For Sir Percy Lake reports further vicissitudes of weather—a hurricane, torrential rains, and floods. On April 5th, however, our troops, after sixteen miles of complicated sap work, in a brilliant charge attacked and successfully forced three lines of enemy defences, and, after a slight pause, two more defensive lines. Aerial reconnaissances showed that the enemy was bringing up strong reinforcements to the entrenchments at Falahizah and Sann-i-Vat. The intervening ground was destitute of cover, so it was decided to defer the attack till nightfall, and, despite a strong enemy counter-attack during the afternoon, the Falahizah position was carried. This success brings the relief force against the main Turkish defences at Es-Sinn, ten miles from Kut. They are formidable by nature, both flanks resting on impassable marshes, and the central fortification being an ancient river bed of the Tigris; but science has rendered them still more formidable.

An attack on the networks of this strong position was made at dawn on April 9th, but our troops failed to get through the enemy lines, the operation having been much hampered by the floods. It is feared that the British losses were heavy. The Turks put them at 3,000, but this has been denied by General Lake, who says that they are "much less." In the meantime our gallant men in Kut still hold out.

The War at Sea.

Germany continues to wage war on merchant shipping with a twofold object: (1) to stop supplies destined for this country, (2) to destroy as much tonnage as possible, so that her own proportion of the world's total will be as large as possible on the conclusion of peace. Since March 1st, 90 British, 11 Allied, and 30 neutrals have been sent to the bottom. This is a very serious matter, and there is no likelihood of an immediate solution. Last year it took the Navy five months to clear the seas of German submarines, when the percentage of our losses in merchantmen dropped to a small figure. But this year the enemy's submarines are more powerful, and it will, therefore, be more difficult to rid the seas of them. Moreover, half the ships which have recently been sunk were not torpedoed, but mined. As for the neutral powers who have suffered, their outraged honour seems to be satisfied with Note writing, though Spain, as might be ex-

pected from her past history, will ultimately require something more substantial for the sinking of the *Santanderino*. Should it not be forthcoming, it is possible that she will take action with regard to German ships in Spanish harbours, whose total tonnage amounts to about 600,000 tons.

In East Africa.

General Smuts' mounted forces have scored a notable success in the region west of Kilimanjaro by rounding up an enemy detachment in the mountain fastnesses, and pressing them so hard that they surrendered two days later. The result was that 17 German officers and 400 native troops were captured, besides machine guns and large quantities of ammunition. This success, after such a short resistance, is promising for the British advance on Arusha as showing a decline in the enemy's morale.

In the extreme south-east of the colony the Portuguese have re-occupied Kionga, a village on a bay of that name. It was arbitrarily taken by Germany in 1894, in time of peace, without even an apology or excuse. The place has no great value, but to Portugal it was associated with high national sentiments.

(To be continued.)

IMMIGRATION IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The Report of the Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana for the year 1914-15 is especially interesting in the light of the impending termination of the system of indentured labour from India. This system has worked with the greatest advantage both to employer and employed since its institution in 1845, and has been the means of contributing largely to the population and wealth of British Guiana and Trinidad, the two colonies chiefly concerned. On account of the impossibility of obtaining transport in the later part of the year, the steamers engaged having been requisitioned by the authorities for troop purposes, only 819 immigrants arrived in British Guiana during 1914-15, and it is interesting to note that only two deaths occurred on the voyage, and that those were of children. This loss was counterbalanced by three births, with the result that one more immigrant was landed than had been shipped. Of the 819 landed, 569 were men, 193 women, 31 boy children and 26 girls.

A feature in the year's immigration was the resumption of the introduction of immigrants from Madras, after an interval of many years, which was brought about by the representations of the proprietors regarding the superior character of this class of labour. The reports of the District Immigration Agents on these people were eminently satisfactory. The Madrassis proved themselves "harder workers than their fellow immigrants from other parts of India," and "these immigrants have given general satisfaction, both as regards their industry and general conduct."

Mr. Hampden-King gives an interesting account of the position of immigrants after the expiration of their term of indenture. Of 2,503 people intro-

duced from India five years ago, 181 have died, 14 have been repatriated, 42 remain under indenture. The remaining 2,266 have become free labourers, and, being at liberty to live where they please, "have found themselves homes, for the most part either on sugar or other estates, in the villages, or on their own plots of land in the country districts."

The average death-rate of the whole immigrant population during the year was only 2.1 per cent. It is a tribute to the special care which is taken of the indentured labourers that the death-rate among them was only 1.2 per cent., while that of the un-indentured was 1.9 per cent. The rate for children remains high, 2.9 per cent., but this is less than that for 1913-14, which was over 3.22 per cent.

As regards the attitude of the estates' authorities towards free East Indian immigrants, the report of the Surgeon-General attached to Mr. Hampden King's Report states that "there is a general desire on the part of the estates to afford the same prophylactic and sanitary advantages to the free immigrants as are secured by statute to the indentured population."

A valuable section of the report is that dealing with "Work and Wages." When Messrs. McNeill and Chimman Lal reported to the Indian Government as to the conditions of East Indians in the West Indies, they recommended that an account should be kept of the yearly earnings of the immigrants in relation to their cost of living, and although the report of the above gentlemen came too late for the method to be carried out in its entirety, Mr. Hampden King has done so as far as possible.

Thus, taking *Ph. Leonora*, the estate on which the highest average earnings per male were obtained, and taking the cost of living per day, including tobacco and clothing at 14 cents per adult, a generous estimate, and deducting the number of days in hospital, etc., in this case 10.3 days, the cost of living to the immigrant was \$49.66 for the year. The average amount earned in the 299.3 days at work was \$94.28, leaving a surplus on the year of \$44.62. In the case of a married couple, the surplus would work out at \$30.29. At *Ph. Lusignan* the surplus earnings of the males was \$15.34 per head, and the excess of cost of living of the female \$4.20, leaving a surplus at the end of the year of the couple of \$11.14. In this connection it may be mentioned that Messrs. McNeill and Chimman Lal estimated the cost of living at 11 cents per man and 9½ cents per woman, a much lower figure than that taken by Mr. Hampden King, which would make the year's profits much higher.

Inseparable from the subject of East Indian immigration is that of rice cultivation. This industry is entirely the outcome of the system, and now forms one of the important assets of the Colony. The area cultivated throughout the Colony in 1914 was 47,047 acres, as compared with 33,889 acres in 1913. After providing for the Colony's requirements, the exports were 16,268,922 lbs.

As regards savings, the East Indian can give a good account of himself. The property held by him in the towns and villages is valued at \$689,875, while the amount in the Savings Bank at the credit

of East Indian depositors on the 31st of March, 1915, was \$502,626. These sums are less than those for the preceding year, the decrease being due to the panic at the beginning of the war; the effect "of absurd rumours spread from time to time from mischievous and sinister motives." The remittances to India amounted to \$11,134 for the year.

One of the most striking features in favour of the indentured immigration system is the number of East Indians who prefer to remain on the estates to which they were indentured at the expiry of their term of indenture. These amount to 58,129, or 53 per cent. of the total unindentured population. This is strong evidence of the good relationship which exists between employer and employed on the sugar estates, and of the generally satisfactory conditions under which the labourer lives. These resident labourers possessed no less than 15,903 head of cattle, quite apart from the several thousand head owned by non-resident East Indians.

Jamaicans flock from Panama to Havana.

The Havana correspondent of the *Louisiana Planter*, under date March 18th, refers to what he describes as a somewhat new development in the line of immigration. "Practically every one of the steamers that comes to Havana from the Canal Zone is now bringing in a full-deck load of Jamaican negroes who have been at work on the Panama Canal, and all of them seem to find a ready employment on the plantations—generally in Oriente." It is deplorable to think that the sugar industry of Cuba should have superior attractions to these labourers to the British West Indies. This, however, would appear to be the inevitable result of the great development of the Cuban sugar production under the preferential treatment afforded to it under the Customs tariff of the United States.

CACAO IN DUTCH GUIANA.

(Continued from page 129 and concluded.)

Gathering the ripened fruit.

"When the trees begin to ripen their fruit they are visited every fortnight, that the pods which are ripe may be gathered and the tree trimmed a little. This is done by females and children. The women detach the fruit-pods with a knife or chopper mounted on a long stick, and the children collect and carry them to the storehouse, where the seeds, some 25 to 33 in each fruit, are extracted. The fruit-pods are of different forms and sizes—some, nine inches and more in length, are called cows' tongues; others, shorter and rounder, but on the whole larger, are called angolitas. These, the most common, are a reddish colour, dark or light. The first kind are considered the best, because the husk is thinner and the fruit contains more seeds. It is generally a light red, but sometimes white at first, and turns a palish yellow when ripe.

The drying and fermenting processes.

"When the seeds have been removed from the pod they are placed in a closed storehouse, in order

that the viscous pulp may be separated. In dry weather a single night will suffice for this, but in wet weather they may be left for two or three days without inconvenience. They are then dried in the open air, exposed to the sun in a courtyard or on drying frames, being turned about from time to time with a rake. Eight or ten hours of sun is generally sufficient; when this cannot be obtained the operation is repeated on the following day, and they are housed at noon when the sun is hottest. They are then left in the storehouse to steam or ferment for a day or two.

"If the cacao is the Trinidad variety it requires four days or more to ferment, when it assumes the odour, colour, and taste of Creole cocoa, otherwise it becomes violet-tinted, and acquires a sharp and bitter flavour. Some growers expose the seeds on large sheets to dry, so that they can be quickly and readily housed in case of rain. When properly treated and dried, the cacao assumes in the centre a blackish tint, or somewhat of a deep brick colour; its characteristic aroma is well developed; the taste is agreeable and unctuous; the interior of the seed assumes the colour of the Corinth raisin, and if it is opened with the nail, traces of the fat are seen.

The yield and life of a cacao tree.

"Between the appearance of the fruit and its ripening there is an interval of nine months. The average yield of a tree may be taken to be one pound of cacao, although some assume it to be one and a quarter pounds. In a rich, virgin, and favourable soil the tree will last 35 or 40 years; in poorer soil only 20 or 25."

Highly fermented beans bring best prices.

Many years ago, fine red cacao, that is, cacao having a very clear skin of reddish colour, fetched the highest price in the American market, and no attention was paid to the flavour of the kernel. The opinion of the buyers has since changed, and the samples that now bring the best prices are of lots that are all highly fermented. Red cacao is, however, still in favour, probably on account of the small percentage the manufacturer loses when the berry is clean. Trinidad manufacturers and consumers prefer the light brown kernel, irrespective of the colour of the skin. The quality of Trinidad cocoa maintains its reputation, and always commands good prices in the London and New York markets.

Venezuelan, or, as it is generally termed, Caracas cacao, has ever been considered the best of all that is produced upon the American soil.

The production of cacao has, however, greatly diminished in Venezuela, owing to the perpetual civil warfare prevailing, but its quality has materially deteriorated, owing to the introduction into the country of seed commonly called "Trinitario," from the island of Trinidad, which, although infinitely more prolific than the native seed, produces a bean somewhat bitter in taste, and very inferior as regards essential oil and richness of flavour, to that produced from the latter. The difference between the two can indeed be detected at once by the most casual observer, and the scale of prices at once confirms it.

Surinam ideal for cacao culture.

The cacao industry in Surinam, had it not been for the dreadful "Witch Broom" disease which attacked the trees about sixteen years ago, would have been flourishing to-day, and the colony would have ranked first among the great cocoa producing countries. The plantations are only now slowly recovering from the ravages of this dreadful disorder, and in the face of this misfortune—which lasted for over ten years—the estates have still managed to produce good results, although nothing near satisfactory.

The cacao production of Surinam for the three months ending March 31st, 1914, shows an increase of 313,350 kilogrammes* over the corresponding period of 1913. The statistics furnished by the Customs department are as follows:—

January to March, 1914, 428,344 kilogrammes.

January to March, 1913, 114,994 kilogrammes.

Surinam has the advantages for successfully growing cocoa; the soil is the best that can be found on this old planet. It is beyond the reach of destructive hurricanes; labour, such as it is, viz., indentured British India and Dutch coolies, who, while under indenture, work for 24 American cents per day and feed themselves. The colony offers fair opportunities for capital invested in the cacao line, and will make good, if only given the chance, to redeem her already blackened reputation in the outside world, caused through no fault of her own. Surinam has certainly been made the basis of unwholesome speculations, and many "wild cat" schemes have been "put up" abroad, which, fortunately, have been checked in good time.

In the almost total absence of statistical information, it is difficult to say what Surinam has produced from the time of the inception of the industry, but it may be safely said that had it not been for the disease referred to, the colony would now be one of the foremost cocoa-producing countries.

It is interesting to learn that the various departments of science and agriculture in Surinam and the West India Islands have given special attention to the study of the various diseases that attack cocoa trees, and especially the "Witch Broom," which has caused so much ruin and loss to the planters and capitalists in these parts of the world.

According to an eminent authority on cocoa planting, a flourishing plantation requires less outlay and trouble, and yields more profit, than any other tropical plant, yet its harvests, which do not yield anything for the first five or six years, are very uncertain, owing to the numerous insects which attack the plants. In short, cocoa plantations are only suited to large capitalists, or to very small cultivators who grow the trees in their own gardens or farms.

A ROYAL Proclamation was issued at the Hague on April 14th prohibiting the export of cacao beans and cacao products of every kind from Holland.

* One kilogramme equals about 2.2 pounds.

WEST AFRICAN CACAO.

Importations from the Cameroons.

In the old days, the unrestricted importation of produce from newly-conquered territories into the United Kingdom used to give rise to forcible protests from the West Indian planters and merchants, and the problems resulting from the game of "General Post," in which the islands in the Caribbean took part—constantly changing hands between France and England—were very complex.

The importations of cacao from the Cameroons since that erstwhile German Colony came under the Union Jack last year appear, fortunately, to have been the subject of no such heartburnings as the competition of British with French islands sugar caused in the eighteenth century.

Cacao from the Cameroons dribbled into Liverpool for the best part of a year unnoticed until a considerable shipment caught the eye of an alert Press man, who gave it publicity. It was stated in this connection that the Cameroons was the first colony in West Africa to produce cultivated cacao; but this is of course quite incorrect. Germany did not acquire the Cameroons till 1884, and five years before that year the cultivation of cacao had begun in the British colony of the Gold Coast.

The cacao industry of the Gold Coast was founded in 1879 by a native of Accra, who brought some cacao plants and pods from the Spanish African island, Fernando Po, made a small plantation, and four years later sold the cacao pods in the neighbouring villages. The first shipment of Gold Coast cacao, consisting of 80 lbs., was made in 1891 to the United Kingdom. From the first the Gold Coast Government gave practical encouragement to the development of the industry, and as early as 1894 the Curator of the first Botanical Station in the Colony was giving instruction to the native planters in the proper method of curing.

In 1905 the advice of the Imperial Institute with regard to the preparation and marketing of Gold Coast cacao was obtained, and the scientific knowledge thus brought to bear, combined with the strong interest of the Gold Coast Government in the industry, led immediately to an enormous and continuous increase in the cultivation and export which has had no parallel elsewhere. Last year indeed, as already stated in the CIRCULAR, the export of cacao from the Gold Coast reached a total value of £3,651,341, an increase in value of £1,457,502 over the figures for the previous year. The Gold Coast is now the most important cacao producing country in the world.

It is of interest to learn that the cacao from the Cameroons, of which about 1,000 tons have already been imported, shows, as a rule, good quality, although sometimes it bears a flavour which renders it somewhat unpopular. In appearance it is usually rather larger in the bean than finely fermented Accra cacao.

A fair quantity of cacao from the Cameroons has lately been offered in Liverpool and London, mainly on behalf of the Crown Agents, the prices realized being about the same as those ruling for Accra, or say 69/- to 74/- per cwt.

SUGAR FACTORY CONTROL IN MAURITIUS.**An Object Lesson for the West Indies.**

The figures of the Mutual Control of the Society of Chemists of Mauritius for the 1914 sugar crop of that island are now to hand, and are full of interest. The number of factories included in the control is 34, and the results of their working may, it is presumed, be fairly taken as representative of that of the island generally.

The quality of the canes ground was again excellent. The quantity of sugar present varied from 12.73 per cent. to 14.97 per cent., and the proportion of fibre in no case exceeded 12.99 per cent., and was in one instance as low as 10.50 per cent. As might be expected from canes of this description, the juice was good, the sugar in that of the first mill juice varying from 18.07 per cent. to 15.58 per cent. The purity of the diluted juice was 88.3 in the highest instance and 82.0 in the lowest. There is nothing in the report to show the number of rolls in the mill plants employed in the several factories, but on the whole the work in this department is good. Of the sugar present in the canes, as much as 93 per cent. was in three instances extracted in the juice from the sugar in the canes, and in ten instances the recovery in this respect was over 92 per cent. The lowest figure is 87.5 per cent. The quantity of imbibition water used varied from 24.2 per cent. to 9.6 per cent. on the weight of cane.

The class of sugar made in Mauritius is high, the best of the vesou, or first sugars, being of a grocery white. Considerable quantities of lime and sulphur are thus used in clarification. Of sulphur, the quantities varied between 1.22 lbs. per ton of canes ground to 0.58 lbs. The quantity of lime was, in the highest instance, 7.02 lbs., and in the lowest 2.46 lbs. per ton of canes. In 19 out of the 34 factories superphosphate was used in quantities varying from .0198 lb. per ton of canes to .726 lb. per ton of canes. "Blankit" was used in eleven instances, the lowest amount being .009 lb. per ton, and the highest .092 lb.

The extraction in the "Boiling House" is hardly on a par with the mill work. The quantity of merchantable sugar recovered of the sugar in the juice extracted by the mills only in two instances reached 90 per cent., and in five instances was below 86 per cent., the mean of the 34 factories being 87.5 per cent. With juice of the quality represented in the report, this is low.

The extra fuel consumption in many instances was on the high side, in one case reaching 5 cwt. per ton of sugar. In some instances, however, the bagasse had almost entirely proved sufficient for steam purposes.

The above is a summary of the valuable report of the Mauritius Chemical Control. While the figures given show good work, there is sufficient margin for more to be done to encourage the Mauritius planters to further efforts. It is a thousand pities that the West Indian planters do not send their manufacturing results and establish a mutual control system on the lines shown by Java and Mauritius planters.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Among the recent contributions received at 5, Trevor Square was a case of hospital dressings made and sent by the Working Guild at Hartley Wintney, through Lady Llewelyn. This useful gift has been sent to Egypt.

We regret to learn that Private H. E. Bryan (Jamaica), attached to the depot at Plymouth, has been accidentally drowned. A very gallant attempt was made to save his life by Private H. A. Patterson, also of Jamaica, who will probably be awarded the life-saving medal, and will thus be the first of the B.W.I.'s to be decorated.

We regret to have to record the deaths of the following men: the 1st (Service) Battalion—Private C. H. Jacobs (Jan. 31st); Private G. Ward (Feb. 2); Private A. Peters (Feb. 12th); and Private J. A. Moranda (Feb. 16th). (All were suffering from pneumonia). 3rd (Service) Battalion—Private Gilles (Feb. 5); Private A. R. Richards (March 13); Private L. S. Lynch (March 17); Pte. J. Ellis (March 18); Private A. F. Wright (March 16th); Private W. E. Johnson (March 13th); Private A. Wright (March 13th); Private G. L. Clarke (March 14th); Private J. C. Drummond (March 14th); Private James Broughton (March 6th); Private A. M. Gunter (March 11th); Private Dixon (March 12th); Private C. Parks (March 13th). All were suffering from pneumonia, except Privates A. F. Wright, G. L. Clarke and Dixon, who died of meningitis, and Private Gunter, who succumbed to paratyphoid.

A Correspondent writes from Egypt that the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment lie alongside of each other in a desert camp, while the 3rd is stationed about a mile or so away. The days are being filled in with training and sanitation. The days are becoming very hot, but the nights are quite cold. Several Generals have recently inspected the Regiment, and have expressed satisfaction at its appearance. The games given by the West Indian Contingent Committee have been greatly appreciated. The regiment went into khaki drill uniforms on April 1st, and sun helmets, which contribute greatly to the comfort of the men, are now being worn. On March 24th the Bishop of Jerusalem confirmed 55 men of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, while about 60 Roman Catholics were confirmed by the Papal Legate in Alexandria two days later. A number of officers and men have been to a school of instruction near Cairo, and another party will go there very shortly.

MR. FRANK H. JOHNSON writes from Soufrière, St. Lucia, under date February 28th:—

In your issue of January 27th I see a letter signed Herbert A. Dalton, referring to the suit brought against the Governing Body of Harrison College in 1910. On the face of it, does it seem as if the facts stated in that letter are correct?

Does anyone think that a jury, instructed by such an eminent Judge as is the Chief Justice of Barbados, would have passed a verdict that necessitated the Governing Body paying damages to the extent of £250 and costs for such trivial reasons as stated in the letter referred to?

The case is on record, and you are not, I am sure, "mistaken as to the facts." These are too well known to need further comment.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,689 13s. 3d., of which amount £979 5s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes.

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Major H. P. Previté	5	0	0
Miss M. A. Parkinson (earmarked for British Guiana men)	4	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kernahan	3	3	0
Treasury Staff, Barbados (5th donation)	1	1	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—			
J. L. Punnett, Esq.	10	0	
O. D. Brisbane, Esq.	1	0	
Per month—			
Kingstown Club	1	17	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
A. L. Gilzean, Esq.	2	0	
R. Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
Per quarter—			
H. M. Haywood, Esq.	4	0	
		5	3
			4
Correction—			
J. Darrell Wall, Esq.	1	1	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

Gifts for the Contingents.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W.:—

The Working Guild, Hartley Wintney, 9 bed-jackets, 6 prs. ward slippers, 1 case hospital dressings.

Mrs. E. C. Skinner, 3 prs. mittens, 2 helmets.

Harrow World War Working Party, 31 prs. socks, 16 shirts, 1 muffler, 1 nightgale, 1 pr. bed socks.

Lady Llewelyn, 16 prs. socks.

Mrs. Alleyne, 10 prs. socks, 6 handkerchiefs, 1 Cardigan jacket, 2 mufflers.

Mrs. Vere Oliver, 2 prs. socks, 3 prs. stockings, 3 suits pyjamas, 1 pr. drawers, 12 white handkerchiefs, 4 khaki handkerchiefs, 3 scarves, 2 jackets, 1 waistcoat, 1 dressing gown, 3 prs. flannel trousers, 2 undervests, 2 flannel shirts, 6 collars, 1 tie, 1 felt hat, 14 yds. flannel shirting, 6 hanks wool.

Per Miss Cowie: The Misses D. and H. Simmons, £1 7s. 4d., collected for comforts.

Lady Philipps' West Indian Working Party, 123 carbolic shirts, 3 prs. socks, 3 swabs.

The Eastern League Working Party, 22 flannel vests.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S TOUR.

Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt's tour through the West Indies will leave many pleasant memories with those who were fortunate enough to meet these distinguished visitors. In last issue some account was given of the ex-President's reception in Dominica. In Trinidad he was greeted with no less enthusiasm by all classes of the community. On March 11th he was entertained at a dinner by the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society, His Excellency the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, Acting Governor, presiding. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, President of the Chamber, in proposing the guests' health, referred to the action which the ex-President had taken in freeing Cuba from Spanish misrule, and to the remarkable development of the Cuban sugar industry since the introduction of American capital and industry, and the grant to it of preferential treatment.

Colonel Roosevelt, replying, gave an interesting resumé of the history of the Panama Canal negotiations. With reference to Colombia's attitude, he said that he made up his mind not to have conversations until after the thing was done. The conversations had gone on steadily for thirteen years, but the work of building the Canal had gone on too. Though there might be some little difficulty yet about putting the Canal in working order, it would be so in two or three years' time, when it would change and benefit the trade routes of the world. Touching on agricultural matters, he said he believed that the century now opening would see as tremendous an increase of prosperity in the tropical regions as was seen during the nineteenth century in the temperate regions. For example, in spite of conservation of the forests, it was impossible that in the north temperate regions there should not be a timber famine. It had begun already, and was bound to increase in severity. And in the tropics there existed what would, with care, be a literally inexhaustible supply of timber, which had only begun to be tapped; and it was curious to see how as yet people of some of the tropical lands themselves were ignorant of the amount of wealth at their doors. You could find in Virginia, in the United States, to this day a house built two centuries and a half ago with bricks which were brought in sailing vessels over from England. And in just the same way he had seen in tropical lands sailing vessels come down from the north laden with pitch-pine planks to build houses in the midst of forests of unparalleled richness. More than that, in the tropics the forest, when cleared for commercial purposes, renewed itself much more surely and much more speedily than in the north, and with proper care results could be secured as could not be got in the north. In a similar way, sugar, coffee, cocoa could be increased in value just as the sugar of Cuba was increased in value. If the growth was to take place rapidly, there must, however, be some outside power which would intelligently try to foster the development of the industries in the tropics. (Cheers.) In Cuba he took the view that, inasmuch as the United States exercised certain rights of veto in the island, they should cut about in two the duty on Cuban sugar coming into the

United States. In the early stages of tropical development there must be the supply of capital from outside. It could, of course, be done with most advantage if some such man as Cecil Rhodes were produced—a man who would combine the hard, practical sense of the successful financier with the vision of a statesman. (Cheers.) If they could get such a man along those coasts now, he would be at once scheming for a railroad from Georgetown, or from wherever it was, to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres that would tap the resources of the continent southward.

Colonel Roosevelt went on to say that in these days of development he believed that the West Indies, and particularly Trinidad, would play a great part. He had been immensely struck, not only by the beauty of the island, but also by its extraordinary fertility, and he was convinced that in the near future the capitalists of the temperate zones would realise the work that could be done, and for which their help was, not entirely, but almost indispensable. He wanted to see an enormous increase in the tourist traffic. (Cheers.) During the last month he had seen scenery, he had seen populations just as interesting and just as picturesque as anything to be seen on the north or the south side of the Mediterranean, and just as worth while visiting; and he trusted that great development of travel of the men from the lands where they did have heavy winters would be witnessed.

Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt spent six very full and pleasant days in British Guiana, residing for a week-end with their friend Professor Beebe at Kalacoon, Mazaruni River, where the Professor has established a scientific laboratory for natural history research work, in which the ex-President is deeply interested. Whilst in the neighbourhood they visited H.M. Penal Settlement and the Hills' Estates as the guests of Mr. G. B. Withers, where they inspected the very successful rubber and limes cultivation, and were much impressed with the extraordinary fertility of the soil.

On their return to town they were entertained at a reception at Government House, a dinner at the Georgetown Club, and a conversazione at the rooms of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, where an excellently phrased address was presented by the President of the Society, Mr. J. Cunningham. In reply, Colonel Roosevelt treated the company present to a characteristic address of an hour's duration, abounding in humorous references, optimistic eulogies of the colony's future, common-sense advice, and entertaining reminiscences and incidents in his own life, remarking, to the amusement of his audience, that he was "a man of peace, but always willing to fight for it (!)—believing that triumphant righteousness brought the only kind of peace acceptable to honourable men and women."

MR. NOEL B. LIVINGSTON has been elected a member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica. Having regard to the sympathetic interest which Mr. Livingston has always shown in the history and traditions of the West Indies, no better appointment could have been made.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Immature Spirits (Restrictions) Act.

In the House of Commons on April 10th, Captain Sir Owen Philipps asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he had received representations from the spirit trade and the West Indian planters and merchants as to the desirability of extending for a further period the concession to rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act; whether he had received from the Jamaica Government representations, accompanied by official expert advice, to the effect that the compulsory warehousing of rum was quite unnecessary from the health standpoint; and whether, having regard to the fact that the concession virtually expired as regards rum imported after 19th November last and the consequent uncertainty, he would redeem the promise of his predecessor, who on 18th May, 1915, replying to an hon. Member, stated that if at the end of a year it was found that the stock of rum would not allow of full compliance with the law, the matter would be further considered.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. McKenna), in reply, said: The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative. I am proposing to deal with this matter in the general Finance Bill of the Session.

[The purpose of the second Finance Bill, to be introduced in July, is to renew the taxes imposed last year for the period of one year.]

Enemy Tainted Swiss Chocolate?

On April 10th Mr. Butcher asked what would be the duty payable under the Budget proposals on Swiss chocolate made with German or Austrian sugar and imported into this country.

Mr. McKenna, in reply, said that the import duty payable on chocolate under the Budget proposals varied with the cacao and sugar content of the chocolate. There was no special rate applicable to Swiss chocolate made with German or Austrian sugar.

In further reply to Mr. Butcher, who asked whether he was aware that a large amount of this chocolate imported from Switzerland takes 25 per cent. of its value from enemy sugar, Mr. McKenna said that his information, at any rate at the present time, was that sugar which was imported into Switzerland came from France.

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:—

- Bowring, Lieut. William (of Barbados), Regimental Transport Officer, Army Service Corps.
- Clarke, Lieut. W. G. (of Gordon Town, Jamaica), Motor Transport, Army Service Corps.
- Entage, Signaller G. N. (of Barbados), 35th Battery Canadian Field Artillery.
- Hoad, Gunner W. E. (son of Mr. George Hoad, of Barbados), 35th Battery Canadian Field Artillery.
- Irving, 2nd Lieut. D. P. (third son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer, British Guiana), 3rd Batt. Royal Scots Fusiliers.
- Leech, Captain Ernest Bosdin, M.D. (son-in-law of the late Rev. H. Walder, of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Lewis, Lieut.-Colonel J. E. (son of the late Mr. J. Daly Lewis, of Mandeville, Jamaica). In command of Field Ambulances, Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Owen, Commander W. H., R.N.R. (Marine Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the West Indies), has returned to England, and has joined up for service with the Royal Navy.
- Whitney, 2nd Lieut. E. S. (son-in-law of the late Mr. Fred Church, Inspector of Police, Jamaica), 7th Batt. the Worcester Regiment.

Honours.

SECOND LIEUTENANT H. STANLEY REECE, of the 1st Gordon Highlanders, and of Codrington College, Barbados,

has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the attack on the German trenches on March 2nd.

Died of Wounds.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT H. STANLEY REECE, whose death from wounds was, we deeply regret to state, announced on April 10th, was a student at Codrington College at the outbreak of War. He came over to offer his services to the Country last year, and received a commission in the 1st Gordon Highlanders, with whom he was serving when he received his fatal wounds. He was only recently awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry as recorded above, and in Barbados, where he was a great favourite, the news of the premature end of his promising career will be received with very deep regret.

Alterations and Corrections.

Hinkson, 2nd Lieut. Ernest Kenrick D. (son of Mr. Ernest Hinkson, of Locust Hall, Barbados), 4th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry.

Yearwood, Second Lieut. W. A. (son of Mr. Gordon H. S. Yearwood and nephew of Mr. H. Graham Yearwood, M.C.P., of Barbados), has been transferred from the 11th (Reserve) Battalion Cheshire Regiment to the Machine Gun Corps.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

We have been requested by the Chairman of the West Indian Contingent Committee to publish the following:—

"The General Purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee wish to make it generally known that it is their object to do all in their power to provide for the well-being not only of all ranks in the British West Indies Regiment and the Bermuda Contingent, but also of all who have come over independently from the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras, and Bermuda to serve in the Navy and Army.

"In the circumstances they will be pleased to hear of or from any men connected with the British West Indies or Bermuda in His Majesty's Forces on active service, in hospital, on furlough, or prisoners of war who may be in need of assistance or advice.

"They will further be glad to receive from relatives and friends, and to register, the names and addresses of men connected with the above-mentioned colonies who are not in the West Indian Contingent, but are serving in the Navy or Army."

EVERARD IM THURN,
Chairman, West Indian
Contingent Committee.

F. M. HODGSON,
Deputy-Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Hon. Secretary.

The West India Committee Rooms,
April 18th, 1916.

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 ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MOVEMENT.

Commenting on the article which appeared in the CIRCULAR of March 23rd on the White Plague in the West Indies, and the lack of support given to the British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, a correspondent wrote that he had purposely abstained from supporting the Society in the belief that the Government and the Municipality of Georgetown had not been doing their proper share in combating the evil which the Society had been endeavouring to deal with unofficially. He further suggested that this was owing to the fact that the members of the Town Council were themselves directly interested in the tenement properties of the city in which the evil of overcrowding and want of ventilation existed. To what extent this is at present the case cannot easily be ascertained in England; but it is difficult to believe that such a state of affairs can exist. The owners of tenement properties in Georgetown are mostly Portuguese and East Indian, few of whom are, or ever have been, members of the Town Council. On behalf of the British Guiana Anti-Tuberculosis Society it is urged that their objects are largely educational, and that it aims at the teaching and guiding alike of the Government, the Municipalities, and the general public as to the best means to be taken for preventing the spread of tuberculosis amongst the several communities of towns, villages, plantations, and the country districts. As such, it is deserving of the support of all who are in a position to lend a helping hand; and that the Society has already effected a marked improvement in the direction aimed at, may be gathered from the annual reports issued, in which a very encouraging reduction in the death-rate from tuberculosis is noted as having taken place in recent years both in Georgetown and the country districts of the colony, as shown in the CIRCULAR of March 9th, 1915.

To the CIRCULAR of July 28th, 1914, Mr. Luke M. Hill, M.Inst.C.E., late Town Superintendent of Georgetown, contributed an article on "Housing in the West Indies," in which he described what steps had been taken, especially in British Guiana, towards better housing of the people generally. We are now further indebted to Mr. Hill for the following chronological list of the more prominent remedial measures of public health effected during the last fifty years:—

1864-67.—Building regulations for the burnt districts of Robbstown, and North and South Cumingsburg.

1878.—Passing of the Public Health Ordinance, on which are based most of the subsequent by-laws and regulations.

1883.—First general building regulations (not retrospective unfortunately) providing for space between adjacent buildings, height of floors, minimum floor area and cubical capacity of separate rooms, and prohibition of habitation of insanitary houses.

1884.—Drainage by-laws, dealing with the internal drainage of yards and premises.

1885.—Establishment of the British Guiana Building Society, of which the late Mr. George A. Forshaw, Mayor of Georgetown, and the late Town Superintendent, were amongst the earlier promoters, the main object of the society being, by encouraging thrift amongst its members, to assist the poorer people to acquire little cottage homes of their own, preferable in every respect to single room tenements in yard ranges, as regards health, morals and

family life. The Society has in this way proved to be an important factor towards general improvement in housing conditions.

1890.—Establishment of a building branch of the local S.P.C., and the erection of three blocks of model workmen's houses, through the efforts of the Viscountess Gormanston and Lady Chalmers.

1898.—Participation by Officers of the Town Council in the Food and Drugs Adulteration Ordinance, with special application to milk adulteration.

1901.—Milk control in Georgetown: regulation of cowpens, dairies and milk-selling.

1905.—Tenement by-laws, providing for the registration, occupation, ventilation and cleanliness of tenement rooms in yard ranges.

1906.—Mortality Commission appointed by the Governor Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G. Its comprehensive report governed much of the subsequent development of matters dealing with public health.

1907.—Establishment of the British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, mainly through the efforts of Sir Joseph E. Godfrey, the late Surgeon-General of British Guiana.

1907.—Issue of educational health cards, dealing with tuberculosis, feeding and management of infants, destruction of mosquitoes, etc.

1907.—Mosquito regulations and vat-screening by-laws.

1907-08.—Milk control extended to country districts supplying milk to Georgetown.

1909.—Visit of Sir Rubert Boyce; tending to the hurrying up of the various recommendations made by the Mortality Commission.

1910-11.—Creation of a separate Public Health Department for Georgetown, under the charge of a whole-time Medical Officer of Health.

1912.—Milk supply: extended and amended sets of by-laws passed.

1914.—Establishment of Baby Saving League, and employment of Lady Health Visitors through the efforts of Lady Egerton, wife of the Governor. The League has already proved effective in helping to reduce the excessive infantile mortality of the City of Georgetown and the Colony generally.

1914.—Special building regulations governing the erection of new buildings in the burnt district of Werk-en-Rust.

It is to be hoped that the publication of this list will convince readers that the authorities have not been supine in the matter of the public health of Georgetown, and that they will support by their subscriptions the British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis.

"C. DE THIERY" contributes to the April number of the *Windsor Magazine* a well-considered article on the Sugar Problem in the War, pointing out how the sugar of our present enemies, under the pernicious Continental Bounty System, gradually took possession of the sugar markets of the United Kingdom, and how dependent this country is upon foreign sugar generally. Great fault is found with the Brussels Convention, which placed our prospective enemies in a privileged position as regards our own Colonies, and the interesting fact is pointed out that the chief countries in arms against the Central Empires to-day were signatories to the Convention. After reviewing the capabilities of our Empire as regards sugar, the writer considers that preferential treatment of Colonial sugar will solve the question of the sugar supply of the United Kingdom.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE value of cover crops, that is to say, crops grown on cultivated land for the purpose of excluding wild vegetation, preventing surface washing, of shading and enriching the soil and of improving its mechanical condition, is well known. In a recent *Bulletin* of the Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station, Mr. Kinman, the horticulturist attached to that institution, gives some interesting information as to cover crops suitable for that island.

* * *

AMONG a large number of leguminous plants mentioned as suitable for this duty, Mr. Kinman especially mentions the cow pea and pigeon pea, the former valuable on account of its short growing season, and the latter for its perennial growth, with edible qualities in each instance; the jack bean, which thrives on all except very light lands; the Lyon, Mauritius and other velvet beans, which can be grown generally so long as care is taken to prevent injury by the rank growing vines. The wild annual legumes, which every country possesses, and which are specially resistant to climatic extremes are also extremely useful.

* * *

As regards the application of cover crops, Mr. Kinman considers that where long-season cover crops are to be grown, a deep well-prepared seed bed should be made, and as the development of the crop will not allow cultivation after the first week of its growth, it should be stirred just previous to sowing, so that the soil will not remain unworked longer than necessary. Where the land is free from grass and weeds the seeds may be broadcasted, but where these are plentiful row planting is preferable.

* * *

THE agricultural value of salts of manganese form a constant item in the researches of modern agricultural chemists. Recently M. D. Oлару has been experimenting on the effect of manganese sulphate on the nitrogen fixing bacteria from the root nodules of leguminous plants. When these were cultivated as a nutritive medium it was found that the maximum increase in nitrogen occurred when the manganese was present in the strength of one part per 200,000 of nutritive medium. M. Oлару considers that the use of manganese in agriculture may be beneficial from the point of view of the bacterial fixation of nitrogen.

* * *

MR. W. R. WHITE has recently conducted a series of experiments in connection with the effect of dynamiting soils. The results indicate that the useful application of dynamite as a soil improver is limited, its usefulness depending largely upon local conditions. Mr. White found no benefit from its use with either orchard or field crops. In opening up ditches, blasting rocks, and blowing up stumps, however, there can be no question as to its usefulness, and advantage may be derived from it in forming outlets for tile drains. As an insecticide Mr. White does not consider that it is of any use.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A GENERAL licence has been issued by the Board of Trade permitting the importation of the following among other specified woods:—Greenheart, lancewood, and lignum vitae.

MR. HENRY GRAHAM YEARWOOD, M.C.P., King's Solicitor for Barbados, was married on March 4th, at St. Michael's Cathedral, to Miss Clare Louise Packer, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Lewis Packer, of Ridgeway, and of Mrs. Packer, of Belleville, Barbados.

MAJOR SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, accompanied by Lady Chancellor, leaves London for Trinidad by way of New York on Saturday next. Sir Edward Merewether's departure for the Leeward Islands having been postponed, Mr. T. V. Best will continue to administer the Government of the colony for the present.

THE King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Mr. Sholto Rawlins Pemberton to be First Puisne Judge, and Mr. Sidney Orme Rowan-Hamilton, barrister-at-law, to be Second Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands. Mr. Rowan-Hamilton, who was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn on July 5th, 1915, will be a newcomer to the West Indies.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have received a cordial letter of thanks from Captain Tucker, the Officer Commanding the Bermuda Contingent attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment, now at the front, for the hamper of good things sent out to his men at Christmas. The Committee are in communication with several Bermuda "casualties" in hospital in this country.

WILL any kind reader of the CIRCULAR "adopt" a Jamaica prisoner in Germany? The man's name is Johannes Danielson, and his address is "Baracke No. 13, British Prisoner of War, Engländerlagen, Ruhleben, Germany." He is sadly in need of some of the comforts and good things which reach his fellow-prisoners. The man, being a civilian, does not come within the purview of the West Indian Contingent Committee.

MR. J. H. DARRELL WALL, formerly of the Leeward Islands, and now Auditor-General of Tonga, has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Nukualofa Branch of the Patriotic League for Britons Overseas. There is only a comparatively small number of "Britishers" in the Tonga Islands, but the League has been instrumental in raising funds for the despatch of volunteers for active service from this outlying part of the Empire.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee have been looking after the wants of the West Indians and Bermudians in English hospitals lately, and the Honorary Secretary will be glad to be informed of any cases of illness,

in order that arrangements may be made to have the men visited and supplied with comforts. Gifts of cigarettes, cakes, sweets, books, magazines, etc., which may be sent to individual cases as required, will be gratefully received at 5, Trevor Square.

COPIES of the pamphlet entitled "The British Sugar Industry," published by the West India Committee, and containing the Memorandum forwarded to Mr. Asquith on April 4th regarding the development of the production of sugar within the Empire, have been forwarded to each of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, whose support towards the desired end has been solicited. A copy of the pamphlet will be sent free of charge to any reader of the CIRCULAR on application to the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

SOME dissatisfaction has been expressed in British Guiana over the suspension or postponement of the proposed section of permanent sea defence work on the East Coast, recommended by the recent Sea Defence Commission, whose report was summarised in the CIRCULAR of March 9th, 1916, pending the arrival of the special expert appointed from the United States. This gentleman will probably be Mr. A. H. Case, son of the original inventor or adapter of the Case groynes so much used on the south and east coasts of England, who visited and reported on sea defence work in British Guiana some years ago.

CONSIDERABLE friction, too, has recently arisen between the Governor and the elective members of the Combined Court of British Guiana over the constitution of the Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Government steamer service as well as to the terms of reference made to the Committee. The unofficial members claim that neither is in accord with the resolution of the Combined Court on the subject, and they have accordingly lodged a protest against the Governor's action as being unconstitutional. According, however, to latest advices, the dispute is likely to be settled by a compromise.

The Governor of British Guiana has appointed a Committee, comprising the Hon. C. Clementi, C.M.G. (Government Secretary), Chairman; Mr. J. Hampden King (Immigration Agent-General), the Hon. A. P. Sherlock, and Messrs. F. C. S. Bascom, G. R. Garnett, and A. F. White, to consider and report to the Government:—

(a). As to the best means of increasing the introduction of immigrants, either free or indentured, and also the most equitable method of taxation to provide the funds necessary for immigration purposes;

(b). How the number of female immigrants—either introduced not indentured, or whose immigration is otherwise aided by the administration—can be made equal or nearly equal to the number of male immigrants and whether special aid from the Colonial revenue should not be afforded to attain this effect, and to secure the immigration of families.

(c). The means that should be adopted to enable immigrants to acquire land of their own on which they could settle (especially in localities where labour is required), and otherwise to induce immigrants to make the Colony their permanent home.

THE LONDON LETTER.

THE "Star and Garter" Red Cross sale has attracted all fashionable London to "Christie's," the famous sale-room in King Street, St. James's. Here fancy prices have been realised for all kinds of art treasures offered for sale in aid of the fund for the purchase and equipment of the old Star and Garter Hotel at Richmond as a home for disabled soldiers and sailors. It is now many years since that once noted hostelry fell on evil days. The motor car, which took pleasure seekers farther afield, killed it, and the building will now be put to a better use.

WE are getting on! Thanks, no doubt, to its Unionist leavening the Government has at last consented to recognise Empire Day. On that day for the first time since the death of the lamented Queen Victoria, the Union Jack will fly over all Government Offices. The excuse of Ministers for their constant refusal to sanction this hitherto has been that the celebration of Empire Day might prejudice the arrangements for the King's Birthday. But experience in the Colonies shows that this does not hold water, and we congratulate Lord Meath—the father of Empire Day—upon the very sensible decision now arrived at.

AFTER giving a direct refusal to entertain proposals for daylight-saving, the Government are, it is understood, re-considering the question. In Holland the principles advocated by the late Mr. Willett have already been adopted, and the clocks in the summer months are to be put back one hour. It is estimated that a saving of many million marks will be effected by economies in lighting alone, and that greater efficiency in the labour world may be expected. West Indians, who are accustomed to getting up at daybreak, are not unnaturally astonished at people at home starting work so many hours after sunrise as they do at present.

RESIDENTS in the Colonies will need to exercise some discrimination in deciding which of the several organisations formed to deal with "Trade after the War" they will support. An Anti-German League and an Anti-German Union have already been founded, and to avoid confusion, the latter, of which the Secretary is Sir George Makgill, a lustling Canadian Baronet, is henceforward to be called the British Empire Union. For the moment the Tariff Reform League appears to be keeping its powder dry, but more will no doubt be heard of it anon, and its policy of Imperial preference and the suppression of dumping should ensure for it liberal financial support from overseas.

It was only recently that reference was made in this column to Mr. Mayson M. Beeton's work in developing the forest resources of Newfoundland. At a meeting of the Colonial Section of the Royal Society of Arts on April 11th, when Sir Daniel Morris read a paper on the forest wealth of our oldest colony, Lord Northcliffe paid a fitting tribute to what magnificent work the late Honorary Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League had done. It was, he said, due to

Mr. Mayson Beeton and others, who were the real pioneers of the industry and development of wood-pulp manufacture in Newfoundland, that the newspapers with which he was associated were not entirely dependent for their supplies on neutral countries.

THE announcement of the engagement of Lord Hawke and Mrs. Cross, the widow of Mr. Arthur J. Grahame Cross, of 10, Belgrave Square, will have been received with great interest in the West Indies. It will be recalled that "Martin" Hawke, who, by the way, had been regarded as a confirmed bachelor, took out an English cricket team to those colonies in 1897, where there were two Richmonds in the field, Mr. Arthur Priestley's eleven also visiting the islands. The cries of "De Lard, de Lard, look at de Lard," which greeted him when on one occasion he went in to bat will no doubt be fresh in his Lordship's memory. Lord Hawke has continued to take a keen interest in West Indian cricket, and was instrumental in securing the invitation to the West Indian eleven which visited England in 1900, under the captaincy of "Auchie" Warner. It would be a graceful compliment if West Indian cricketers were to club together and provide the latest benedick with a wedding present.

MR. G. F. HUGGINS, who was mainly instrumental in organising and sending over the two Trinidad Merchants' Contingents for active service, and Major A. S. Bowen, who came over in command of the 1st Contingent, were entertained at luncheon at the West Indian Club on April 18th. Mr. Edward R. Davson presided, and there was a large and representative gathering. Replying to the toast to the guests, Major Bowen bore testimony to the good behaviour and fitness of the Merchants' Contingent on the voyage home, and said that he had received from the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Life Guards and other regiments to which the men had been allotted most gratifying reports regarding their conduct. He himself had joined the Royal Fusiliers, in which many of the Trinidad men were, and he was under orders for the Front. Mr. G. F. Huggins gave an interesting account of the formation of the Contingent, and paid high tribute to the loyalty and patriotism of the merchants who had contributed to the fund, and to the men who had volunteered their services. After the evidence of the loyalty of the Colonies in general, and the West Indies in particular, in connection with the War, he considered that in common justice Great Britain must abandon her Free Trade policy and give the Colonies preferential treatment, which they so richly deserved. Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, in proposing the health of the Chairman, mentioned that he had just returned from the West Indies, and that he had never seen the sugar crops look better. The company present included:—

Mr. C. L. Wingrove, Major R. B. Todd, Mr. J. W. Clarke, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. H. M. Graham, Mr. G. C. Johnston, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. C. Messum, Mr. J. P. H. Grant, Mr. John Moodie, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. Alexander Elder, Mr. G. J. Johnson, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Howard Smith, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. Peter Abel, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

In the matter of mail communication, the War has indeed put the clock back. A correspondent writes complaining that a letter recently took 46 days in transit from Demerara, and asking us to advocate the re-establishment of a mail service of fast sailing schooners. The suggestion is not so ridiculous as it may seem at the first blush. In the earliest days of sailing packets, the voyage from the Needles to Barbados was scheduled to take less than a month, and as often as not did so. Thus it is recorded that as far back as 1703 the *Bridgman* sloop, "one of Mr. Dummer's packet-boats," which left the Needles on October 22nd, reached Barbados on November 18th. No doubt one of the famous Speightstown schooners would cover the distance in even a shorter time.

ANTIGUA—Captain Dew's Engagement.

MR. A. P. COWLEY.—The question of another factory for Antigua is a burning one. Steps are being taken to organise a local Company to push the matter. Representations have gone forward for the consideration of the home Government, placing the history of Central Factories in a statement showing the success that has been attained and the need of keeping more of the profits in the island. We are asking for a Government guarantee of interest on capital to enable us to get money at a reasonable rate. Surely this is not too much to ask. We have the cones waiting; the best estates in the island are waiting to grow it, but capital is not forthcoming—that is, too much is asked for it.

The engagement is announced of Miss Hilda Ledcatt, daughter of Major Ledcatt, of Betty's Hope, and Captain J. T. Dew.

BARBADOS—Cane Reaping now General.

SIR FREDERICK CLARKE, K.C.M.G., MARCH.—I am glad to say that Dr. Phillips, our esteemed Parochial Medical Officer, who has been dangerously ill, is now much better. The distress and anxiety felt by us all showed how much he is beloved, not only by his patients, but by every man in the island.

Reaping is general, but as it is too early to expect the cones to be ripe, there is a great deal of unripe juice being worked up at a loss.

The weather is cool and showery. The young crop is regular and healthy-looking.

The Recruiting Committee held a meeting in Christ Church on Thursday, February 24th, which was a great success from the point of numbers present and the speeches made. There are now 150 recruits being drilled, and shortly there will be the whole number of our next draft—about 150—receiving instruction.

BRITISH GUIANA A Zoological Station.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, FEBRUARY 21ST.—Professor C. R. W. Beebe, with a staff of scientists from the United States, has arrived in the Colony with the object of establishing a Tropical Zoological Station for scientific observation and research.

The last high tides did considerable damage on the East Coast. After a week of dry weather with hot sunshine there was a very good fall of rain on February 19th, and light showers fell again yesterday.

Reference to Colonel Roosevelt's visit is made in another column.

JAMAICA—Merchants and the Freight Question.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during February was seasonable. The maximum temperature was 89.2 deg. F., the minimum 63.2 deg. F., and the mean 74.9 deg. F. The Legislative Council was summoned to meet on March 7th. The most important business which will come before the Council will concern financial matters, and the session will probably be devoted almost

entirely to the Estimates. Mr. F. R. Milholland, son of Mr. J. F. Milholland, the Crown Solicitor, has been selected as the Rhodes scholar from Jamaica for the current year. Mr. Milholland is at present on active service. The Hon. Dr. J. Geoghegan, of Turks Island, is visiting Jamaica with Mrs. Geoghegan.

The sixty-third half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Kingston Ice Making Co. was held on February 17th. A dividend of 1/9 per share of 17/6, and 2/- per share of 20/-, was declared, absorbing £2,985 1s. 6d. from the earnings, amounting to £3,513 5s. 1d. for the six months. At a meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society held on the 17th, the question of supplying mules from Jamaica for the army was discussed, and a letter from the War Office was read, intimating that the mules were too small for the purposes for which such animals are required in the present campaign.

Much concern is being caused in commercial circles over the increasing freight rates, and at a recent meeting of the members of the Merchants' Exchange, the question was discussed, and resolutions were passed asking the steamship companies trading here to reduce the present rates and to adhere to certain fixed rates of freight during the next six months. A second resolution asking the Governor to place the matter before the Imperial Government with the view of securing some relief by providing regular shipping at fixed times and rates to relieve the situation was also passed. The Royal Mail Company have announced that three ships will be provided in March to lift freight, and a fourth is scheduled to arrive during the middle of April.

Major Boose, the travelling representative of the Royal Colonial Institute, sailed for the South on the 7th.

The forty-seventh Synod of the Church of England was in session during the month, and His Grace the Archbishop was present. The Presbyterian and Wesleyan-Methodist Synods were also in session during the month, and routine business was transacted.

The receipts of the Government Railway for the month of January amounted to £12,159, as against £10,587 for the corresponding month last year. The increases were noted under logwood, sugar, rum, and general merchandise. There was a decrease in the haulage of bananas. For the ten months ended January, 1916, the receipts were £125,464, as against £156,741 for the corresponding period last year.

The Earl of Clonmel is visiting the island on furlough from the front. Mr. James Hutchinson, the President of the West India Electric Company, was also a visitor to the island from Montreal during the month.

A destructive fire at Montego Bay on the 27th caused a loss estimated at £6,000. A number of buildings were destroyed. Mr. William Wilson has purchased the carriage business of Mr. J. Sutton Brown, and the Mutual Motor and Carriage Co. is being floated to carry on the business. Capital, £10,000 in £10 shares. The Jamaica Telephone Co.'s new licence has now been issued. It covers a period of ten years from February 1st.

A Gazette Extraordinary announces that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intimated that arrangements have been made with the Government of Trinidad, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Co., whereby, in the event of the interruption of the cable between Trinidad and British Guiana, telegraphic messages of all descriptions will be forwarded without additional charge to the public.

The strength of the third War Contingent in camp here on February 29th exceeded 7,200 men. These will shortly be sent overseas. The Active War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	10,029	13	4
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	4,415	14	0
Jamaica Polish Jews' Fund	1,484	0	0
Jamaica Contingent New Testament Fund	40	1	10
Gleaner Wool Fund	13	19	10
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	2,681	3	1
Jamaica Belgian Orphan Fund	75	4	10
Jamaica Blue Cross Fund	8	1	0

The other funds remain unchanged.

TOBAGO—Cacao Trees Changing Leaf.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MARCH 9th.—In February the rainfall in the Windward District averaged about three inches,

and daily showers have fallen all this month. Everything is green almost as in the rainy season. The Leeward districts are not so fortunate as the dry season has set in as usual. This will facilitate sugar-making on the few producing estates, but as coco-nuts have largely taken the place of canes, the planters there would be glad of occasional showers to stimulate the young plants. Cacao trees are again "changing leaves" and the promising young fruit has mostly shrivelled up. Good pickings are expected in March and April, but the June crop will, as usual, prove a disappointed hope. Prices are favourable for both cacao and coco-nuts, last sales being at \$15.80 for cacao, and \$20 to \$30 for culls and selected coco-nuts, while copra fetched \$6.70 per 100, or almost double the average price. Provisions are scarce as usual at this season and the high price of imported foodstuff causes considerable complaint, especially flour and sugar—the latter at 7d. to 7½. per lb. in a sugar-producing country seems extraordinary. In this district the natives have almost abandoned growing canes for their own use, giving as their plea that their canes are always stolen! Tempted by the increase in price rubber growers are again tapping and this time only for scrap and in some cases to get rid of Castilloa trees on cacao fields, which are now considered a failure as shade trees, and in other ways detrimental to the cacao trees.

On 17th inst., the Tobago Planters' Association intend to return the visit of the Trinidad Agricultural Society, and twelve names are booked to sail by the *Barima* this day week. Interesting questions were asked in the Legislative Council about the "Three Chain" Act as the Public Works Department has been taking possession of private lands for road extensions without compensation. Proprietors feel aggrieved because land taxes have for some years past been at the same level as Trinidad, and this invoking an obsolete law, understood to apply to military purposes only, seems on the face of it unfair. On Monday last (6th inst.), a successful and enjoyable concert and dance was held at St. Paul's E.C. School in aid of the Red Cross funds, and about £10 was realised for this good object. Mrs. Thomas, Merchiston, was the promoter, and she was assisted with contributions in cash, cakes, etc., by neighbouring planters, while the natives did their share in the programme and as ticket buyers.

Mr. G. DAVID HATT, MARCH 10th.—It is a pleasure to note that at last the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce in plain, forcible language has drawn the attention of the authorities to the Syrian invasion. As far as this island is concerned the Syrian merchants and pedlars will soon outnumber the native population. They spend next to nothing, invest in nothing, but are all of them waxing rich and fat. Now that St. Kitts has shown the way in filling her medical service from the States—1,100 applicants for two vacancies—there is no reason why the 22,000 people in this island, widely scattered over long distances, should continue to be served by only two doctors. Could Mr. Rockefeller's attention be drawn to this lamentable state of affairs, perhaps he might be induced to give the medical aid we are so sadly in need of out of his own pocket, which would cause our Surgeon-General to jump for joy. Mr. and Mrs. Sworder sail to-day to do "their bit" for King and Country. The former is an enthusiastic orchid collector with knowledge of cacao and rubber cultivation, whilst the latter was the energetic collector and secretary of the local Red Cross Society. Welcome back Dr. Latour, owner of the "Golden Grove" and "Shirvan" valuable coco-nut estates in the Leeward district.

TRINIDAD—Colonel Roosevelt's Visit.

Mr. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 15th.—Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt have been received as they deserved with enthusiasm everywhere. Whilst the best discretion has been observed to refrain from even mentioning the world's conduct on our part, we have been gratified to find that the Ex-President has not thought it necessary to omit in a few stirring sentences to express the views regarding civilised and barbarian warfare with which his name is already so splendidly identified. He has visited all the important points of interest in the Colony, including the famous Guacharo Caves, at Oropouche, which were first explored by Mr. F. W. Ulrich, Entomologist of the Board of Agriculture, twenty years ago, but which few have

since been venturesome enough to enter. The Union Club entertained him to a dinner at which over 100 covers were laid, and on the following night he was the guest of the Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society at a Banquet at the Queen's Park Hotel, presided over by the Acting Governor, President of the Society. This was a brilliant and most successful function, and will also be noteworthy for the eloquent and interesting speech delivered by Colonel Roosevelt—a happy and humorous speech of much modern historical interest—which was punctuated throughout with the cheers and laughter of the large representative gathering.

He leaves this evening for New York, via Grenada, by the *SS. Matua* of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co., and will carry with him the best feeling and wishes of the whole Colony, especially of those who have been privileged to be associated more closely with him and Mrs. Roosevelt during their visit.

Other distinguished Americans arrived here yesterday in the *U.S.S. Tennessee* with the International High Commission on board, although the exact nature of the Commission is not disclosed. There are about sixteen in the party, the Chairman being the Hon. W. G. McAdoo, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury. A daughter of President Wilson was among those who lauded and called at Government House. The *Tennessee*, after taking in 1,500 tons of coal, will resume her voyage to Buenos Ayres to-night.

Owing to an unexpected interruption in communication with New York, we had something like a flour famine here for a short time. Prices touched \$12 a barrel, but thanks to heavy arrivals a drop to from \$7.50 to \$8 has now occurred.

The Carnival has come and gone again. It was not so extensive as in former years, but equally vulgar and offensive, and it is to be regretted that Colonel Roosevelt's visit should have synchronised with anything so discreditable to the island.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

Presiding, in the absence of Sir Max Aitken, M.P., at the 156th half-yearly General Meeting on April 5th, Mr. Cyril Gurney said that the total increase of assets and liabilities compared with the position a year ago, was £607,000. Specie was £62,000 less; cash at London Bankers and at call and at short notice was £13,000 more; English and Colonial Government and other Investments were £169,000 less; bills receivable were £671,000 more, bills discounted £212,000 more; and the amount due in the Colonies on current accounts was £29,000 less. Of the large increase in bills receivable, £517,000 was represented by Treasury Bills. The Bank had provided in one way and another no less a sum than £767,000 to His Majesty's Government for the purposes of the War. On the other side of the accounts, notes in circulation were £41,000 up; deposits at interest, current accounts, etc., £13,000 up, and bills payable and other liabilities £328,000 up; whereas the profit was £7,000 down. The reason was that there had been a loss made on investments sold in the course of the year. The expansion in the figures of the balance-sheet reflected the increased general prosperity of the West Indies. The West Indies, of course, in common with all other parts of the world, had suffered from the scarcity of shipping, and it was only just to say that the Colonies were very much indebted to Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., the Managers of the Direct Line, for the trouble and care they had taken to alleviate those difficulties as much as possible. The West Indian Colonies had taken their part, in common with all the other bigger Colonies of the Empire, in helping to meet the expenditure of the War. They subscribed out of their revenues a sum of £150,000. Large quantities of fruit had also been sent as a gift from Jamaica, Trinidad, and Dominica, and, through the good services of the West India Committee, who had performed a most useful function in this respect, had been distributed to hospitals and institutions where it was required. Dominica, a very small island, was the first British Colony to offer the Government an aeroplane. Their example was followed by British Guiana, Trinidad, Tobago, and Jamaica.

Seventeen members of the staff of the Bank were serving with the Colours. The West Indian Contingent would, with the drafts which were being provided, come to 10,000 men, the whole expense of which, and the whole of the expenses in connection with separation allowances, were being borne by the Colonies. (Hear, hear.) Speaking generally, he thought that shareholders would realise that the British West Indies, considering their resources, had done probably as much as any other part of the Empire in helping the Mother Country to meet the difficulties which faced it. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts having been seconded by Mr. C. A. Campbell, and adopted, Mr. Charles Frederick Wood, of the firm of Messrs. Fruhling & Goschen, was elected to the Board.

The Demerara Railway Co.

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st last show a gross revenue of £29,488 10s. 8d. (as compared with £28,191 7s. 3d. for the same period of 1914), and gross expenditure £24,802 4s. 9d. (£20,610 10s. 6d.), leaving £4,686 5s. 11d. (£7,581 10s. 10d.) less amount due to Government re Parika Extension £63 14s., and Debenture interest £1,400, leaving net revenue £3,222 11s. 11d. (£6,035 9s. 11d.). After adding the Government subsidy £6,250, the amount withdrawn for renewal fund £3,208 16s. 5d. (£1,073 13s. 1d.), and the amount carried forward from the preceding half-year £1,491 8s. 11d. (£1,682 12s. 11d.), there remains a balance of £14,172 17s. 3d. (£15,041 15s. 1d.). 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, £4,025; (b) dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. on Preferred Ordinary stock, £563; (c) appropriation to renewal fund, £3,000 (£3,000), leaving to carry forward £1,334 7s. 3d. (£1,293 5s. 1d.). The traffic during the six months under notice was as follows:—

The number of passengers carried was—

	1915.	1914.
Demerara Railway ...	192,779	178,256
Berbice Railway ...	31,956	27,133
West Coast Railway...	121,276	112,644
	346,011	318,033

The tonnage of goods was—

	1915.	1914.
Demerara Railway ...	36,381	34,102
Berbice Railway ...	5,886	5,959
West Coast Railway...	2,023	2,393
	44,290	42,514

The cost of the additional engine purchased to meet the increased traffic due to the extension of the West Coast Railway to Parika has been debited to capital. The Parika Construction Account remains the same as at the 30th June last, a final settlement not yet having been arrived at with the Government. The traffic receipts show an increase over the corresponding period of last year, but this satisfactory feature has been more than counterbalanced by the very large rise in the cost of all materials, and by the renewal of two locomotive boilers being included in the accounts. Owing to the interruptions in the mail services, the dates of arrival of remittances from the colony are now very uncertain, and a short delay in the issue of the proposed dividends may in consequence be found necessary. The Directors regret they are still unable to recommend the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary stock, but feel that under existing circumstances it would not be advisable to do so.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central 15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.
April 20th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. Consols are quoted at 57½. Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) stands at 87½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 96½.

SUGAR. The Cuban port receipts continue to be very large, at the rate of 600,000 tons per month. This, however, does not represent the actual output, as, on account of want of railway facilities, much sugar remains stored at the factories. Indeed, Messrs. Willett & Gray calculate that on the 30th of last month the total amount of made sugar on the island was not far short of 1,000,000 tons, as against 487,155 tons, the stocks recorded on the 25th of March last year. With this holding up of Cuban sugar, partly due to the want of internal transport, partly to difficulties in steamer freight, and partly to strong holdings by the planters, who are having the time of their lives, the United States refiners are having great difficulty in meeting the calls made upon them. Apart from the absence of the German and Austrian sugar available for export in pre-war days, amounting to something like 1,350,000 tons, the deficiency of the 1915-16 crops of Russia, France, Belgium and Italy as compared with 1913-14 crop, is 1,050,000 tons, and although there was a serious glut of sugar throughout the world in 1913-14, which led to large stocks being held in every country, the call upon the world's sugar is being more and more felt as the demand from Europe increases. The position is much aggravated by the congestion of sugar in Cuba, and, in the circumstances, the strong tone of the New York market is not surprising.

As regards the United Kingdom the Board of Trade returns for March show that the imports for the month were 180,852 tons, of which 37,204 tons were refined sugar from the United States, and 9,860 tons white crystals from Mauritius. The quantity of raw sugar imported was 113,709 tons, which included 31,350 tons from the Philippines, 75,578 tons from Cuba, 18,802 tons from Mauritius, and 12,111 tons from Peru, and 3,780 tons from the British West Indies.

For the year up to the 31st of March, 369,429 tons of sugar had been imported. Of this quantity 4,233 tons were refined sugar from Holland, 109,014 tons refined sugar from the United States, and 12,366 tons white crystals from Mauritius. The raw importations included 11,000 tons from the Philippines, 146,781 tons from Cuba, 21,229 tons from Peru, 55,533 tons from Mauritius, and 6,250 tons from the British West Indies.

The visible stocks in the United Kingdom on the 31st of March amounted to 110,850 tons, an increase of 32,650 tons on the 29th of February figures. The exports amounted to 242 tons, and the consumption for the month was thus 147,960 tons calculated on the sugar as imported. This shows no indication of a decrease in consumption. In this connection, with rising official stocks, it is difficult to see how the attitude of retailers to the public in refusing to sell sugar by itself is justified, and the action of the Royal Commission in threatening "drastic action" where purchasers are compelled to buy specific articles with sugar might well be extended. As regards sources of supply, it is interesting to note that the Commission has purchased 10,000 tons of granulated from the Canadian refiners.

The new scale of Customs sugar duties for the United Kingdom is as follows. Per cwt. :—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Above 98 deg.	14	0	Not exceeding 87 deg.	9	3.5
Not exceeding 98 deg.	12	6.5	" "	86	9 0.5
" "	97	12 9.5	" "	85	8 9.5
" "	96	12 2.4	" "	84	8 6.4
" "	95	11 10.4	" "	83	8 3.4
" "	94	11 6.4	" "	82	8 0.7
" "	93	11 2.4	" "	81	7 7.1
" "	92	10 10.3	" "	80	7 7.3
" "	91	10 6.3	" "	79	7 4.7
" "	90	10 2.3	" "	78	7 2
" "	89	9 10.2	" "	77	6 11.3
" "	88	9 6.9	" "	76	6 9

The Excise tax has been raised in proportion and now stands at 17/8 for over 96° sugars, the protection afforded to home grown beet sugar being thus the same as before.

The New York market is very strong for reasons given above. Cuban 96° duty paid sugars were quoted yesterday at \$6.02, with granulated at \$7.20.

The Democratic Members of the New York State have brought in an amendment to the Free Sugar Repeal Bill, with the view of sugar becoming free in May, 1920, and the Bill thus amended has been reported to the Senate Committee by the Senate. Free sugar was one of the principal planks on which Mr. Woodrow Wilson floated to the White House, and his party are evidently unwilling to face the complete abandonment of their cherished ideal.

In the figures showing the quantity of sugar delivered weekly by the Sugar Commission to the refiners, given in the last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, it will be noticed that for the last two weeks of December the refiners only received 11,201 and 8,816 tons respectively—about half the usual quantity. This shows how the Royal Commission's shipping arrangements had miscarried.

The amount of sugar from the British West Indies purchased by the Commission during 1915 was 15,224 tons.

In 1915, 81,532 tons of sugar were shipped from the Philippines to the United States, 26,693 tons to China, 31,017 tons to Hong Kong, 28,500 tons to Japan, and 19,928 tons to other countries.

The statistics of West Indian sugar from January 1st to April 8th are as under:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	6,972	10,094	8,193	9,160	6,479
Deliveries ...	15,001	10,450	7,583	6,809	8,026
Stock (Apr. 8)	3,076	5,653	13,208	4,210	2,942

RUM. The question of the extension of the concessions regarding the saleable age of rum came before the House of Commons on the 10th inst., when Captain Sir Owen Philipps enquired if Mr. McKenna would redeem the promise of his predecessor, Mr. Lloyd George in this respect. Mr. McKenna stated that he proposed to deal with the matter in the general Finance Bill of the Session.

There is no change to report in this market since our last, the pause in the demand continues as the present high prices are considered dangerous in view of possible amendments of the Immature Spirits Act.

The stocks in London on the 8th inst. were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	5,102	4,055	5,326	5,235	7,439
Demerara ...	9,393	7,310	10,744	8,739	6,586
Total, all kinds ...	24,774	18,127	23,010	22,017	23,936

CACAO. The additional duty on cacao has had little or no effect upon sales. At auction on the 11th there was a good demand, and the greater part of the 16,884 bags offered was sold. Prices, however, ruled easier, the reduction in Grenada being from 1/- to 2/- per cwt. Trinidad was neglected; out of the 2,154 bags of Trinidad offered, a small quantity, sea-damaged, sold at 80/- to 81/6. A considerable quantity of the Grenada put up was disposed of at 81/- to 85/-. 71 bags of St. Lucia, 16 bags Jamaica, and 6 bags St. Vincent were bought in.

At auction sales on the 18th, 12,638 bags were offered, of which 5,011 bags were sold. There was no demand for Trinidad, the 1,057 bags offered being practically all withdrawn. Out of the 1,389 bags Grenada offered, 1,213 bags were sold at an advance of 6d. to 1/- per cwt., realizing 78/- to 85/6; 13 bags St. Lucia were sold at 83/4, and 9 bags Jamaica at 76/6.

At sales at the corresponding period of last year Grenada fetched from 89/- to 96/6 per cwt.

The imports of cacao into the United Kingdom for March amounted to 33,068,422 lbs. Of this, 195,579 lbs. came from Ecuador, 1,895,179 lbs. from Brazil, 21,299,897 lbs. from British West Africa, 780,497 lbs. from Ceylon, 115,554 lbs. from the British West Indies, and 4,811,716 lbs. from other countries. The imports for the year up to 31st March were 86,434,047 lbs., of which 552,683 lbs. came from Ecuador, 2,418,681 lbs. from Brazil, 63,143,434 lbs. from British West Africa, 2,122,597 lbs. from Ceylon, 800,291 lbs. from the British West Indies, and 9,275,862 lbs. from other sources. The exports amounted to 3,806,950

lbs. for the month, and 14,023,347 lbs. for the year. Holland received for the year 5,034,784 lbs., Russia 753,842 lbs., the United States 3,619,439 lbs. The stocks were 71,300,000 lbs. as against 64,190,000 lbs. on the 29th February.

The stocks in London on the 8th inst. were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	13,096	7,407	6,570	5,486	7,278
Grenada ...	14,995	3,778	14,910	10,536	15,990
Total, all kinds	119,678	54,576	98,170	91,018	126,013

COTTON. The Board of Trade figures for March show that 278,254,100 lbs. of raw cotton were imported, making 699,912,700 lbs. for the three months of the year. The bulk of the foreign imports came from the United States, which sent 99,100,400 lbs. for the month, making 385,510,800 lbs. for the year. Egypt contributed 68,308,500 lbs. for the month and 184,489,000 lbs. for the year; the British West Indies 372,800 lbs. for the month and 499,600 lbs. for the year.

The exports for March amounted to 27,766,500 lbs., or 90,256,200 lbs. for the year, of which the United States received the major portion.

Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that, owing to larger arrivals, there has been a better business in West Indian Sea Island cotton since their last report. The sales amount to about 230 bales, and are comprised of Nevis 14d. to 16d., St. Kitts 16d. to 20d., St. Vincent 20d. to 23d., Jamaica 13d., and St. Lucia from 7d. to 12d.

909 bales of British West Indian cotton have been imported into the United Kingdom for the year up to the 13th April.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil—Handpressed, Sales at 9/6 (one fine parcel 10/-), but market quiet since. Distilled—Sales at 9/-, but demand slow. Lime Juice: No change or business to report, but more enquiry. Concentrated—No business reported. Citrate of Lime—Value, nominal, £26.

SPICES. Very little doing in Jamaica Ginger as importers have no stocks. Arrivals of new crop are now beginning, and a good market is looked for. Nutmegs—Unchanged at 9d. to 1/- for 100's/50's; 8½d. to 9d. for 120's/100's; and 8½d. to 9d. for 140's/120's. Mace—Unchanged. Good to fine, 2/- to 2/9; red to good, 1/8 to 1/11, blood red to medium red, 1/5 to 1/7; broken, 1d. to 1/4.

ARROWROOT. Practically nothing doing. Quotations unchanged.

COPRA. Market quiet and steady. The value of West Indian is £36 10s. per ton.

HONEY. Nothing offering on first hands yet. Last prices of Jamaica range from about 39/- to 42/6, but may go higher.

COCO-NUT OIL. Quiet. Ceylon spot, hhds. £61; pipes, £59. Cochin spot, £61.

RUBBER. Market dull and easier for all kinds. Fine plantation is quoted at 3/2; smoked sheet, 2/11; fine hard Para at 3/3, and soft at 2/10, nominal.

BALATA. The market is slightly easier from the best and there are sellers of Venezuela block at 2/7½ c.i.f., with probable buyers at 2/7 c.i.f. Panama block, sellers 2/2½ c.i.f. West Indian sheet 3/4, spot terms.

WOODS. Fustic, £6 to 7; Jamaica logwood, £8 to £8 10s.; Honduras cedar, 8d. to 1rd.; Mauritius ebony, £12 to £18; Lignum Vitæ, £4 to £15; Honduras mahogany, 7½d. to 10d.; Porto Rico satinwood, 9d. to 1/-.

TIMBER. British Guiana greenheart, £14 to £18 per load of 50 cubic feet.

PETROLEUM OIL. Market firm at previous rates. American, 11d.; Water White, 1/-.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. D. C. Cameron	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. F. B. B. Sland
Mr. A. Campbell	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. F. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Clement Maloune	Hon. H. B. Walcott
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. A. L. McColl	C.M.G.
Mr. John T. Great	Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.	
Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. A. E. Perkins	
Mr. P. L. Guppy		

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Rossignone," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.
 Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, II, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
April 21	K.M.S.P.Co.	Quilford	London	A. E. D.
29	Leyland Line	Nestorian	Liverpool	A. E.
May 1	Elders & Fyles	Cavina	Bristol	D.
4	"Direct" Line	Serrana	London	A. B. E. F. G.
4	Booker Line	Amakura	Liverpool	B.
13	Harrison Line	Matador	Liverpool	A. B. E. F. G.
15	Elders & Fyles	Camito	Bristol	K. L. M. N.
17	Leyland Line	Albanian	Liverpool	D.
17	"Direct" Line	Catulina		A. B. E. F. G. I.
27	Leyland Line	Asian	Liverpool	K. L. M. N. A.E.

FROM HOLLAND				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 5	Royal Dutch	A Steamer	Amsterdam	B.F.
19				

FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 19	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chandieres	Halifax, N.S.	
June 2		Caenac		

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Divi.	Latest Quotations.	PRICES April 17
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-44	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	94
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1933-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	82 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	68 1/2
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1922-44	79
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank	5 1/2 d
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	103
3 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	78
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	67
3 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 3 1/2 % Debentures	88 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	94 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Port. Preference	10
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	9 1/2
1	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	10 1/2
1	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	10 1/2
1	United Brn. of Trinidad "A" (15 - paid)	10 1/2
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	95-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ek. 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.	7 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	5 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	9 1/2

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

British Guiana.			Jamaica.		
Jan. 1 to Mar. 6.			Jan. 1 to Mar. 4.		
1916	1915		1916	1915	
Sugar	20,761	17,126 Tons.	5,297	221 Tons.	
Molasses					
Rum	1,394,631	1,168,354 Pf. Gls.	409,274	122,726 Galls.	
Molascut. &c.	518	252 Tons.			
Cacao	3,303	21,057 lbs.	442,074	652,560 lbs.	
Coffee	14,881	37,390 No.	2,301,488	2,145,808	
Coco-nuts	415,343	208,770 No.	3,607,890	5,081,730 No.	
Oranges			1,035,800	731,600	
Bananas			117,118	234,159 Stems.	
Cotton					
Pimento			7,541	12,876 Cwt.	
Ginger			4,161	798	
Honey			255	1,992 lbs.	
Dyewoods			9,450	6,164 Tons	
Gold	6,440	10,259 Ozs.			
Diamonds	1,760				
Rice	7,645,922	5,089,763 lbs.			
Balata					
Rubber	3,204	825	Arvert	543,061	388,839 lbs.
Timber	66,238	37,070 cub. ft.	Cacao	11,004	29,463
Lumber	117,220	6,502 ft.	Cotton	47,004	25,030
Lime (citrate of)	3,360	1,938 lbs.	Seed		75,877

Trinidad.			Barbados.		
Jan. 1 to Mar. 14.			Jan. 1 to Mar. 16.		
1916	1915		1916	1915	
Sugar	15,982	27,012 bags & lbs.	7,853	1,148 Tons.	
Molasses	1,129	Tcs. 460 Tons.	14,192	727 Pans.	
Rum	1,335	580			
Coco-nuts	1,910,480	1,165,300 No.			
Asphalt	8,851	7,888 Tons.			
Manjak	114	53			
Bitters	4,848	2,567 Cases			
Coffee	480	9,280 lbs.			
Crude Petrol					
Cacao	18,622,600	21,316,800 lbs.	886,090	2,403,025 lbs.	
Cotton					
Seed					
Copra	4,963	4,852 Bags.			191,128 lbs.
Spice					
Kola					

Grenada.		
Jan. 1 to Jan. 31.		
1916	1915	

SINCE the recent warning to consumers regarding the curtailment of supplies, which caused quite a flurry, many grocers are declining to sell sugar unless the purchaser buys other goods as well. The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, on being appealed to by outraged housekeepers, have laid it down that there is no objection to this, but that grocers who insist upon the sugar buyer taking some specific commodity, such as tea or coffee, as well, will be suitably dealt with. Apropos of sugar, it is refreshing to notice the extent to which "Demerara" and muscovado sugars are regaining favour. One comes across them everywhere—in the stores, shops, clubs, and private houses, and they are even finding their way into the servants' hall. Care must be taken after the War to provide against these pure and nutritious sugars again losing their well-deserved popularity.

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May 3rd, 1916

SUGAR-CANE FARMING.

WE draw the special attention of our readers to MR. CARLEE'S article on Cane Farming in connection with the Waterloo Estate in Trinidad, contributed to the "Proceedings of the Agricultural Society" of Trinidad, and reproduced elsewhere in these columns. So far as the British West Indies are concerned, Trinidad has been the home of farmers' canes ever since the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK introduced the system in 1870, when the central factory principle of sugar manufacture was put into operation by the then Colonial Company in the shape of the celebrated Usine St. Madeleine. With many vicissitudes, the system has stood the test of time, and last year, out of the 751,323 tons of canes dealt with by the factories, no less than 325,071 tons were supplied by farmers. Successful though the industry has been, many objections have been rightly raised in connection with it. The principal of these are, firstly, that the canes both as regards quantity and quality are not so good as the canes grown on the estates; and, secondly, that the labour of the individual farmer could be applied with better results in connection with the high cultivation of the estates than when it is devoted to growing canes on his own account. MR. CARLEE quotes figures which, he claims, show that for the six years prior to the inception of the Waterloo scheme the cane farmer only grew 12.7 tons of canes on the average, and he arrives at the conclusion that only 6½ tons of canes are obtained per acre by the cane farmer as compared with the 20 or 25 tons of the estates cultivation. The absence of acreage figures in connection with the farming industry makes it difficult to arrive at accurate figures in this respect, but ocular evidence is quite sufficient to demonstrate the poor return and poor

quality of cane grown by the average farmer in Trinidad. That this is so is quite understandable. The farmer has to support himself during the period of growth of the canes. He has to grow provisions, to find work elsewhere to provide ways and means to support life during this period, which prevents him devoting the proper amount of time to his own canes, and probably also gets him into debt with the local shopkeeper. He cannot afford manures, and often has to cart his canes long distances to the estates scales when they have arrived at maturity. Further, he has not the incentive to exertion such as is supplied by MR. CARLEE'S scheme for the improvement of his general circumstances and surroundings. It seems to us that this scheme is in every way admirable. The land assigned to the farmers is in blocks, thus doing away with the trouble arising from isolated and scattered cultivation. As soon as the canes find evidence of a fair existence, money is advanced by the estate on them. Mules are provided on the hire system, together with the materials for houses, and in addition the farmer receives every advice and assistance in other subjects from the staff of the estate. The canes well cultivated are naturally of more value to the factory than those supplied by the unaided efforts of the farmer, while the maximum result in work is obtained from the individual. For further details of MR. CARLEE'S interesting venture, and of the success already obtained and further promised, we refer our readers to the article itself. In the past, anything that tends to place cane farming on a firm basis has been recognised as being for the good not only of the sugar estates, but of the colony of production generally. But now, when there is every hope of the British Sugar Industry coming into its own, when the vision of an All-British Sugar Supply for the United Kingdom, and, indeed, for the British Empire, is approaching nearer to actuality, the value of such a work as that of MR. CARLEE becomes specially great. The West Indies requires all the labour that it can attract and retain, and if a system such as MR. CARLEE has initiated at Waterloo could be inaugurated in connection with other sugar-making centres in the British West Indies where land is available for the purpose, we should not hear of able-bodied West Indian labourers, set free from the Panama Canal work, going to Cuba in preference to their own countries.

GREAT BRITAIN AND HER SUGAR SUPPLY.

A RECENT issue of the *Economist* openly advocates the dumping of foreign raw material, the outcome of bounties and cartels, on the markets of Great Britain, and gives sugar as an example. "Those bounties," says our contemporary, "subsidised English manufactures, such as Fry's chocolate, Cadbury's cocoa, Huntley and

Palmer's biscuits, etc., to the tune of eight millions annually. The effect was that we undersold all Continental jam-makers, chocolate-makers, preserved fruit-makers, biscuit-makers, etc., and these English industries had a practical monopoly of the world market." The statement given above as to the sugar-using trades having been subsidised to the extent of eight millions annually by the bounty and cartel system of Germany and Austria is grossly inaccurate. Allowing £4 per ton as the amount of the artificial cheapening of the sugar, and 450,000 tons per annum as the extent of the sugar used by the confectioners, jam and preserve-makers, and mineral water manufacturers, £1,800,000 would be the extent of the benefit which these trades apparently derived from the system. There is, however, no occasion to discuss the question of the ethics of dumping. Facts are stubborn things, and the solid fact is that our dependence upon foreign sugar, a dependence induced by the bounties and cartels of Germany and Austria, and by the past obstinate determination of Great Britain as represented by her Government *not* to allow the development of a colonial sugar industry, in the supposed interest of the sugar-using trades, has been the cause of those trades now paying a high price for their sugar. It is difficult to understand how it can be to the advantage of any trade to be dependent upon a foreign country for its supply of raw material at a price below its natural value. No system of bounties or cartels can go on for ever in any country, and the last state of any receiver of under-cost goods is bound to be worse than the first.

In strong contrast to the utterings of the *Economist* stand out the virile address of MR. HUGHES, the Australian Premier, at the Conference at Glasgow on April 28th. He did not deny that a good case could be made out for Free Trade, just as a good case could be made out for Internationalism if all the nations of the earth adopted it. But, he went on to say, the policy under which we had lived for fifty years was useless in the face of present circumstances. Industry required to be organised so as to control the source of supply of raw material, to assure a regular supply, to know the capacity of the market for its output, and to be able to make arrangements regarding the prices both of the raw and manufactured material, so that both capital and labour would have a fair return. Subsequently, addressing a meeting of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, Mr. HUGHES, referring to the sugar question, said that the British nation should buy its sugar from the Empire, and that arrangements should be made and guarantees offered for the sugar being produced, and that we should take it at a fixed price.

There is no doubt that, were it possible for the scheme put forward by MR. HUGHES to be put into operation, a full supply of sugar for the United Kingdom would ultimately be forthcoming from British possessions. It is also equally certain that adequate preferential treatment in the Customs tariff of the United Kingdom would have a similar effect. No matter by which of the two roads the end were arrived at, the result would be security and sufficiency of supply, a matter of the highest

moment for the sugar-using trades as well as for the private consumer.

During the year to date 36 new members have been admitted to the West India Committee residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	5	Barbados	1
Dominica	4	Grenada	1
Tobago	3	Jamaica	1
Antigua	2	New York	1
British Guiana	2	London	1
St. Kitts	2	Country	3

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.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

"Insurrection" in Ireland.

Because they have been allowed by authority to do as they please, the Sinn Feiners have acted as the dupes of German agents and created serious disturbances in Dublin, occupying every position of importance and looting shops. It was a sorry business, repudiated by the Nationalist Party and by Irishmen of all shades of opinion everywhere. Germany, which has failed to stir up rebellion in India, Egypt, South Africa, Tunis, and Algiers, has ludicrously failed in Ireland, where the authorities promptly got the situation well in hand. The Germans will be as disgusted to hear that the Nationalist Volunteers acted with the soldiers from the Curragh as they were to hear that the Boers were one with the British in South Africa. The ever-watchful Navy prevented a German auxiliary, under the guise of a neutral merchant ship, in conjunction with a submarine, from landing arms at Tralee. The German auxiliary sank, and among the prisoners made was that vainglorious and futile person Roger Casement, who landed from the submarine. The insurrection has gone out like a damp squib.

The Western Front.

Shropshire troops have won back the ground lost to the Germans last week in Ypres-Langemarck road. But there is relative inactivity on this front, although raids on enemy trenches have been successfully carried out, and artillery exchanges are constant. There has also been much mining activity east of Vermelles and around the Hohenzollern redoubt, but no important ground has changed

hands in consequence. It is reported that the Germans are massing behind the British lines. The French north-west of Berry-au-bac have taken a small wood and 72 unwounded prisoners.

The Defence of Verdun.

The enemy persists in his attempts to force the defences of Verdun, though there are longer intervals between each attack. The latest effort was made on April 17th at Douaumont, the preliminary artillery bombardment continuing for six days. The infantry assault was made by 40,000 men, but they were repelled everywhere except at a salient where the French first line trenches were entered. But a counter-attack drove the enemy out again. Elsewhere, notably in the Woivre, there have been some heavy artillery duels, and an attempt at an offensive near St. Dié, which ended in nothing. The French, on their part, have inaugurated a series of attacks, which, north of the Bois des Caurettes has resulted in gains and the capture of 354 prisoners. Some progress has also been made west of Douaumont, near the Bois d'Haudreumont.

Russian Troops in France.

A Russian force has landed in Marseilles. This much the world is told, but not the port of embarkation, though a glance at the map is sufficient to identify that. The event is, perhaps, the most striking evidence of sea-power since the War began. We in our sheltered insularity realise but imperfectly that France has held a line hundreds of miles long for a year and nine months. But it will be remembered when the peace terms come to be arranged, and so will Russia's timely aid.

The Capture of Trebizond.

This ancient port was taken by the Russians in a series of brilliant feats of arms, for it is situated in the midst of a series of mountains rising up to a height of 11,000 feet above the sea-level. Its defences were modern, and a railway had been built connecting it with Akchakala, twelve miles distant along the coast. Moreover, the Turks brought up to and in its defence several divisions which were released from Gallipoli, and on the river Kara Dere, about sixteen miles east of the town, concentrated between 60,000 and 70,000 men. But nothing availed to stay the advance of the Russians, who drove the enemy from one strongly fortified position after another in defiance of every obstacle, natural and scientific. Their success will have an important effect upon the future of the whole campaign in Asia, since through it stores can be delivered to the Russian troops in Armenia in two days, as against a month's transit by way of Tiflis. The Russian Navy will, too, be able to operate all along the coast up to Constantinople.

"Scraps" in Egypt.

The Turks are active in the desert east of the Canal, but they have had two nasty set-backs. On Easter Sunday they attacked one of our small posts at Ducidar, about fourteen miles from El

Kantara. But it was so gallantly held by a detachment of Royal Scots that they were driven off, leaving 70 dead and 25 prisoners, besides many rifles and much ammunition. In their retreat they were harassed by a regiment of Australian Light Horse and by aeroplanes, which inflicted heavy losses on them. The same day Katia was attacked at one point by a picked force of Turkish infantry, together with 1,000 Germans. The body of Worcester Yeomanry holding the position made a determined stand, but, finding themselves outnumbered and their horses killed by shell fire, they were obliged to retire, though not in time to co-operate with the other mounted troops falling back from Katia, so that a number were captured. On the following day aeroplanes completely destroyed the Turkish camp near Katia, the enemy suffering severe casualties from the bombs dropped and from machine-gun fire.

A Gallant Defence.

The plucky if vain attempt to send a ship with food and munitions to the sorely-pressed garrison, reduced to 10,000 men, of whom 6,000 were Indians, at Kut was a sign that they were nearly at the end of their resources. It has maintained for 143 days the best traditions of the British Army, and by holding a Turkish Army has rendered inestimable services to the Russians in their victorious Armenian campaign. Its surrender, though regrettable, is of minor military importance, and will have no effect on the War, as the Turks will still be tied to the Tigris by General Lake.

In Mesopotamia.

One wonders if the death of Marshal von der Goltz will make a difference to the Turks, who are making such a stubborn stand on the Tigris. He belonged to an old and better school than the Hindenburgs and Bernhards, and was a soldier of whom any country might be proud. Though little is definitely known of his activities since the War began, it is certain that he has been a guiding influence in Mesopotamia. The British relief force, owing to the floods, has been compelled to withdraw a distance varying from 500 to 800 yards. This is regrettable, for it seemed that by the steady advance on the right bank the Turkish position in the advanced trenches would be turned. The enemy's great attack three weeks ago was made in massed formation, 10,000 troops participating. They appear to have been mistaken as to the position of General Kearey's troops, which they thought were cut off by the floods, and therefore unable to take part in the defence. The result was that many of them were themselves cut off, and their losses in killed alone amounted to 3,000, half that number having been counted in front of the lines of one of our brigades. Progress on the left bank, too, has been temporarily arrested by the failure of an attack on the Sanna-i-Yat position on April 23rd. But though our men behaved with great gallantry, they could not make sufficient headway across the flooded and boggy ground under heavy machine-gun fire.

The Russians reached Kermaushah some time

ago. The town is an important caravan centre on the road between Teheran and Baghdad, and is about 120 miles from Kut. Beyond the Lauriston Hills there is a regular track by which a good rider could reach Kut from Kermanshah in six days, so there should be developments in this sector soon.

Raids by Sea and Land.

The enemy has renewed his attacks on the East Coast. On April 25th the German battle cruiser squadron, accompanied by light cruisers and destroyers appeared off Lowestoft, which it proceeded to bombard. The local naval forces engaged it, and, after about twenty minutes, it started back for home, pursued by our light cruisers and destroyers. The material damage to the town was slight, and though several of our ships were hit, none was sunk. Four persons on shore were killed. The object of the raid is believed to have been spectacular. The world had to be reminded that the German Fleet exists, and can manœuvre in the North Sea. Its appearance was evidently timed to coincide with the outbreak of trouble in Ireland.

On Easter Monday a squadron of five Zeppelins dropped over 100 bombs, mostly in country districts, but, as usual, the damage was disproportionate. There was only one casualty, one horse killed, the destruction of a haystack, and much broken glass. On the following night the estuary of the Thames was visited, and passengers homeward bound through Essex had some exciting experiences. The activity of the anti-aircraft guns, however, forced the raiders to fly high, and eventually to return whence they came. Not a single casualty was recorded. On the Kent coast the anti-aircraft guns were equally successful in beating off a seaplane, which, after dodging the shells for a while, flew northwards. On April 25th the British submarine E22 was sunk in the North Sea, and of the crew only two were saved. Considering the constant activity of our submarines, and the dangers to which they are liable, our total losses in these ships are relatively small.

Loss of a Battleship.

The British Navy mourns the loss of 124 comrades who went down in H.M.S. *Russell*, which was struck by a mine in the Mediterranean. She belonged to the class named after famous naval captains, and was built in 1901. The *Russell* inclusive, we have lost nine battleships during the present War, though the German Fleet has never engaged them, and they were held to be useless by the politicians up to 1914.

A German submarine has been sunk off the East Coast and one officer and 17 men taken prisoners.

In East Africa.

Major-General Vanderventer continues his victorious advance, occupying post after post, at each of which small garrisons are captured or driven off with losses. By taking Koanda Irangi, after inflicting a considerable number of casualties on the Ger-

man forces, which retired in the direction of the Central railway, the British are within 100 miles of Kilimatinde, the central position of the colony, and midway between Dar-es-Salaam, on the coast, and Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika. Future operations may be somewhat hampered by the rainy season, which has already begun, but, fortunately, excellent progress has been made with the railway linking up the Uganda Railway in British East Africa with the Moshi-Tanga Railway in German East Africa.

(To be continued.)

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

The following article, by Mr. J. J. A. Carlee, of Trinidad, on the system recently instituted by him in connection with the cane farming industry attached to the Waterloo Estate in that island is taken from the "Proceedings of the Agricultural Society" of Trinidad.

It is often said that the prosperity of the cane farmers depends on the price they receive for their canes. In reality their prosperity depends on the total profits they make on their crop, which is not only dependent on the price paid for the canes, but on the production per acre and the cost of production, the rent per acre, the carting distance, and the cost of living. If we compare the case of two farmers who each work a piece of land, and of which one secures, say, fifteen shillings per ton of cane, but has to cart his canes over several miles of badly kept roads, and secures only ten tons of cane per acre because of his not receiving advances in time, so that his cultivation has to be neglected while he has to earn a living outside of his contract, with the case of a farmer who is efficiently assisted in his cultivation and grows twenty-five tons of cane per acre, while a delivery scale is placed at convenient carting distance from his land, it is clear that if the latter farmer only receives ten shillings per ton, he is yet really better off than the other man.

The object of the cane farmer is to secure large profits on his crop. The object of the estate is to work for a low cost of cane. The object of management consists in securing the maximum prosperity for the estate, coupled with the maximum prosperity of the farmer. This truth is so self-evident that it should be unnecessary to state it. And yet the majority of people believe that the fundamental interests of the estates and of the farmers are necessarily antagonistic.

The system of cane farming inaugurated in 1914 on the Waterloo Estates is based on the principle that the farmers' prosperity as well as the estates' interests are best promoted by enabling each individual to turn out the largest possible production per unit of area. The way followed on most plantations in handing lands to farmers consists in allotting such parts of the property as have been previously abandoned. We have as much as fifteen hundred acres of old cane lands, but they lie scattered throughout the cultivated fields, and by allotting them wholesale we would always face difficul-



A MEETING IN BRUNSWICK SQUARE.



A TYPICAL CROWD IN PORT OF SPAIN.

RECRUITING SCENES IN TRINIDAD.

fies in boundaries, common roads and common drains. Theft, incendiarism, trespassing, straying of animals would frequently occur, whereas the formation of villages is impossible. From the data collected by our able Secretary in his annual compilation of cane farmers' returns, we see that during the six years previous to 1914 the following productions were obtained:—

In 1913	11,554	farmers produced	136,724	tons of canes
.. 1912	13,025	"	151,694	"
.. 1911	13,012	"	165,720	"
.. 1910	12,263	"	176,447	"
.. 1909	11,493	"	154,663	"
.. 1908	11,541	"	139,422	"
Over 6 yrs.	72,798	"	924,670	"

From this it follows that the average farmer only grew 12.7 tons of cane. If he works two acres of land, we arrive at the conclusion that the average production is less than 6½ tons of cane per acre. It is no wonder, then, that the farmer complains that cane growing really does not pay him.

We placed our cane farming industry in the hands of a capable planter who could effectively direct the efforts of the people, and who could help them to grow paying productions. A demonstration farm of one acre was established in the midst of our farmers' lands. What we preached to the people we carried out ourselves. On many of the farmers' lands the cultivation has been so thorough that there is no difference between the stand and production of their canes and ours. Again, a totally different practice was followed in advancing the people as compared with the system in use on most estates. Under the orthodox way the farmer applies for an advance as soon as he has "some cane to show." It often happens that the farmer has to wait so long for money that he either has to earn something outside of his contract or has to borrow food supplies from the local shopkeeper. In the first case he neglects his cultivation, and in the second case he runs in debt, and has later on to pay heavy interest on the credit that has been extended to him. These conditions are detrimental to the farmer, as they prevent him from working his land in comfort. We let the farmer himself determine when he needs money to extend his cultivation, to continue it or improve it, and advances and loans are given right through the year, so long as he has at least twice the value of cane or work performed on his land as the total amount of advances he has received previously and applies for. It is one of the duties of the cane farmers' superintendent to safeguard the estates' interest in this respect, as injudicious advancing is more harmful than the extending of no help at all. I may here state that during last year nearly \$45,000 was advanced, and after the reaping only some \$7,000 was carried over to this crop, and this amount was almost entirely owing for animals and houses, to which I will refer below. The large blocks of land assigned to the people were mostly in highwoods, although several hundred acres in grass land were also taken up. The highwood lands were cut up in fields of about twenty acres each, and the traces were cut and cleared by the estate, and they were round-ridged by dirt taken from the traces' drains. The farmers

felled the trees and cleared the lands themselves, but the estates supply free plants and cart them to the fields. There is no interest charged on advances.

Creoles and East Indians were given the same facilities, and it was noted that during the first few months the creoles were well ahead of the East Indians in the work of felling and clearing. In fact, the majority of East Indians hired creoles for this labour. But when the cultivation of the cane started and careful weeding had to be done, the East Indians showed themselves more determined and patient workers, and with some notable exceptions they have kept ahead.

Once the canes were growing, farmers were allowed to either take a house or apply for a mule, cart, and harness. Houses are paid for over three years, and the estate charges interest on the lumber bought and on the accounts standing over from one year to the next. Mules are paid for at the rate of two-thirds for the first year and one-third the second year. Until the payments are completed in full the farmer is the renter of the house and the hirer of the mule, the closing payment only making him the owner.

By this scheme the estates have a solid improvement to show, as an enormous village has been built on the estates' lands, which, of course, increases the value of these properties considerably. To further encourage estates' settlers, a premium of \$10 is paid to the parents of each new-born child in the new village, a measure which is very popular with the people. Prizes are paid for the best kept garden and house. It is intended to open a savings bank in the village.

The increasing prosperity of the district can hardly be pictured in words. People who lived from hand to mouth now have their own little house, flowers, fresh vegetables, better clothes and food, and big ratoon crops to look forward to. There is activity everywhere. During last crop more than \$100,000 was paid for farmers' canes; during this crop we expect to pay \$150,000, and the estimate for next year stands at between 80,000 and 100,000 tons of farmers' canes, valued at a minimum of between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Besides these payments the factory employs now twice as many people as before, and many of our farmers have their families to reap the crop while they work in the factory.

Cane farming is, of course, not a single panacea for all troubles between farmers and estates, between labour and capital. No system of management, no single expedient within the control of any man can insure continuous prosperity to all of the people all the time. Prosperity depends on factors often beyond the control of an estate, and some people may for certain reasons not benefit under any system employed for their welfare and the success of the estate. It is the writers' opinion that there does not exist in this colony a better opening for the peasantry than cane farming.

But the farmer must understand that here as well as elsewhere he will not find his Utopia unless he applies himself diligently to his task, unless he is determined to assist the natural fertility of our soils and the salubrity of our climate with his own labour.

FROGHOPPERS IN TRINIDAD.

In his Report on the progress of the frog hopper control work carried on during 1914-15, Mr. P. L. Guppy, the entomologist to the Trinidad Board of Agriculture, states that in five years (1908-1912) losses due to frog hopper were estimated at £283,065, or about £56,000 each year when the price of sugar was £13 per ton. Now that the price has risen, this loss would represent about £120,000 per annum. He also quotes Dr. Gough as mentioning in 1910 that the losses on one estate with 150 acres blighted, taking the value of sugar at £12 a ton, were equal to £1,800. To-day this would represent a loss of over £3,000. In 1912 the pest affected over 8,000 acres of the 42,000 acres in sugar cultivation.

Mr. Guppy also states that, although some damage may result from the frog hopper attacks this season, in most cases the canes affected will recover. On the whole, the yield of the canes should be better, taken all round, than last crop, when, owing to the late wet season, the quality of the juice was unusually poor. The growth of the canes this year has been good, in many cases exceptionally so, as the rains commenced early, so that there is the prospect of starting crop early in January, and so avoid the evils of late reaping.

The frog hopper, he goes on to say, shows no signs of abating as a pest, and there is every likelihood of its becoming worse, so that strenuous efforts will have to be made to carry out all the control measures advised. Without the Syrphid and the green muscardine (the frog hopper's foe) he estimates the total loss would have been at least one-third of the whole cane crop this year. Damage often takes place quite early in the year, before the Syrphid has become numerous. This is sometimes due to an accumulation of aestivating eggs from previous years, but also to late reaping. In fact, in such cases the canes are attacked before they have had a chance to grow strong.

Mr. Charles H. Hewett and Mr. E. Hyslop Bell have been appointed joint managers of the Colonial Bank.

The *Lyonian*, the organ of the Lower School at Harrow, has the following definitions and propositions in the current issue:—

A subaltern is one who has position but no magnitude.

A Turkish communiqué lies equally on any point.

An obtuse officer is one more stupid than a superior officer, but less so than two Staff officers.

A trench is that which has length, breadth, and stickiness.

Two officers in mufti from Brixton and Mayfair respectively cannot be in the same circle, and if they meet will cut one another.

A soldier equal to a Tommy is equal to anything.

An observer and a pilot who are in the same line meet in the same plane.

An "old dug-out" is often a plain figure with a Sam Browne belt round its circumference.

If things are double the price of the same thing obtainable elsewhere, it is a War Office contract.

COFFEE GROWING AND PREPARATION.

In our last two issues an interesting article on the cultivation of cacao and the preparation of the bean was reproduced from the "Tea and Coffee Trade Journal." A similar article on coffee is now given, taken from the same journal.

The Coffee tree first flowers, as a rule, when three years old, but the crop is then small. In Brazil the crop produced in the fourth year is about sufficient to cover the cost of collection; it increases in the fifth year, and a full crop is produced in the sixth year. The yield then increases annually, reaching its maximum between the fourteenth and eighteenth years, but then gradually diminishes until the end of its life, which, on the average, extends to forty years. In Uganda the first, or "maiden" crop, is gathered in two and a half years from the time of sowing, the first full crop being obtained when the plants are three years old.

The fruits take about seven months to come to maturity, but since the flowers open at different times, the fruits are not all ready to pick at any one period. The time when they are ready for picking depends to a large extent on the climate. In the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, the harvesting commences early in May and usually extends to September. In Uganda there are two main crops, the larger commencing to ripen in September and the other in March, but picking is in progress during every month from February to November. In Java three crops are gathered annually, the most important being the second, which begins to ripen at the commencement of the rains. In India the fruits ripen from October to January.

Methods of Gathering the Crops.

The method of gathering the crop depends in large measure on the climate. In dry countries, such as Arabia, the fruits are allowed to ripen completely so that they fall to the ground naturally, or by slightly shaking the branches. In moister climates they are frequently pulled off the tree and placed straight away into baskets or sacks. In the latter case it is important that only fully ripe fruits be gathered, the others being left for a later picking. Two methods are used in Brazil. The ordinary method is to allow the fruits to fall to the ground after the latter has been cleared of weeds, leaves, twigs, etc.; the berries are then separated from small stones and earth by sifting. In the second method, a cloth is spread beneath the tree to catch the fruits, which are thus kept clean. At one time the latter method was only employed on rough ground from which it was difficult to gather the fruits, but the introduction of the wet method of preparing the coffee necessitated its use elsewhere, since a clean product is essential in this process.

Factors on which the Yield depends.

The amount of coffee produced by a tree depends on its age, on the kind of coffee, on climatic conditions, on the fertility of the soil, and on other factors, so that the yield not only varies in different countries, but from year to year on the

same estate. In Ceylon a yield of 1 lb. of cleaned, saleable coffee per tree was regarded as a high average. On the other hand, an average of 5 lbs. of marketable coffee per tree was obtained during a period of eleven years on an estate in Sao Paulo, the maximum during this period being 8½ lbs., and the minimum a little over 2 lbs. per tree. The number of trees in full bearing on which this estimate was based varied from 180,000 at the beginning to 380,000 at the close of the period. Brown and Hunter ("Planting in Uganda," London, 1913) give the average yield of marketable coffee in Uganda as 2 lbs. per tree (based on the yield of nearly 27,000 trees).

Methods of preparation.

Two methods are employed in converting coffee fruits or "cherries" into saleable coffee, viz.: (1) the dry method, and (2) the wet method. The former is the more primitive, and is still practised to a certain extent in some countries, but the second method is preferable, and should be employed if possible.

The Dry Method.

This method has the advantage of being serviceable when cherries in different stages of ripeness have to be handled at the same time, owing to the crop ripening irregularly, and labour being scarce or dear, so that successive gatherings are impracticable, or to the lack of a good supply of water. Its success, however, is dependent on the continuance of fine weather over a fairly considerable period.

The gathered cherries are spread in a thin layer on open drying-grounds or Barbecues. These should, if possible, be made of brick or cement, although clay will serve. The cherries are turned over, made into heaps, and spread out again, to ensure even exposure to the sun. After the first two or three days, when the coffee is beginning to dry, it should be placed under cover at night if dews are prevalent and exposed again on the drying-floor the next day. It is also necessary to protect the coffee from rain. If only small quantities are being dried, the cherries may be exposed on small wooden trays which can be easily handled and carried bodily under cover when necessary. When the cherries become quite dry, which even under good conditions usually takes about three weeks, they may be stored.

The next stage is to remove the dried husks from the cherries. This may be done by threshing with a flail or by pounding in a large mortar, the particles of shells and dust being removed by winnowing. The threshing or pounding, however, usually leads to the breaking of a considerable proportion of the beans, and it is preferable to use a hulling machine, which can be obtained of a size requiring either hand or mechanical power.

The Wet Method.

This is the more modern method of preparation, and is the one practised on all up-to-date plantations. It requires a fairly considerable amount of equipment in the form of buildings and machinery, and care must be taken in selecting

the site for the factory. Much water is required, and the factory must therefore be situated where there is an ample and constant supply. It is an advantage if the buildings can be erected at the foot of a slope, as it is then possible to so arrange the required machinery on different floors that the fresh cherries can enter at the top of the building and pass downwards through the various stages of preparation with a minimum amount of handling. As far as possible throughout the preparation mechanical appliances should be used in order to economise the expense of labour.

To obtain the best results by the wet process the berries should be quite ripe, and should be dealt with the same day as picked. The cherries, as they are brought in from the plantation, are placed in tanks of water, built of concrete and of a size proportionate to the quantity of fruit brought in daily. The ripe cherries sink, and are drawn off through a pipe in the base, but on a small scale the water may be emptied out and the sunken cherries removed.

Pulping by Machinery.

The next stage is the removal of the pulp which surrounds the beans. This is effected by special pulping machines. On a large scale the cherries are delivered directly from the tanks in a stream of water to the hopper of the pulper. The latter may be obtained in various sizes, from small hand machines to the large power-driven ones used on the large estates. Those in common use are of two types, the cylinder machine and the disc machine. In the former case the disintegrating apparatus usually consists of an iron cylinder covered with punched copper like a large nutmeg grater, which rotates close to a pulping bar or beats. The cherries are fed by a stream of water into the hopper, which is usually fitted with a device for removing stones, and then pass through the pulping mechanism, the pulp and the beans being delivered separately. As a general rule some imperfectly pulped or unpulped cherries pass over with the beans, and these can be separated by a rotary screen or oscillating sieve, the unpulped material being repulped. Double machines are in use in which the unpulped cherries delivered from one cylinder are automatically separated from the beans and carried to the hopper of a second cylinder, which is specially adjusted to pulp them. Some machines are fitted with a crushing apparatus, which partially pulps the cherries before the latter pass through the pulping cylinders. Great care is necessary to see that the machine is properly adjusted, and the maker's instructions on this point should be carefully carried out. If this is not done the cherries will be imperfectly pulped, or the beans may be damaged.

The disc pulpers, which are said to require less water than the cylinder machines, possess one or more vertical discs covered with copper bearing solid projections. The discs rotate against adjustable pulping bars with steel faces, the beans and pulp being delivered separately, as in the case of the cylinder machines.

The pulped cherries, after leaving the machine, are always mixed with a certain amount of pulp,

and to remove this they are sometimes passed on from the pulper to a receptacle containing water, in which they are stirred about with poles, paddles, a revolving wheel, or other suitable device; or they may be placed in a tank with a small amount of water so that they can be trampled upon by bare-footed men. More water is then added, the mass is stirred up, and the light pulp got rid of by withdrawing the water from above. The beans, still enclosed in the parchment, remain at the bottom of the vat, and are left comparatively free from pulp when the water is removed. If it is found that the amount of pulp present with the beans on leaving the pulper is small, this washing may be dispensed with.

Removing Saccharine by Fermentation.

The parchment in any case, however, is still very slimy owing to portions of the pulp, etc., remaining adherent to it. This material is removed by fermenting the coffee, for which process the beans are piled up in a heap under cover, or more usually placed in special receptacles. The fermentation may be carried out in the washing tank after removal of the water. When fermentation is complete, the parchment coverings no longer feel slippery, but are slightly rough. The exact time taken for this process may vary from one to three days, and a handful of beans should be taken out occasionally in order to ascertain when the fermentation is completed. If fermented too long the quality of the coffee will be affected.

The beans are then washed again, the parchment being now left clean. The washing may be carried out in the manner already described, or in one of the special mechanical washing machines now on the market.

The Drying Processes.

The washed parchment coffee is next spread out in a thin layer (3 to 4 inches deep) on a smooth drying-ground of cement or brick, and raked over several times daily at first to ensure uniform drying, or it may be placed in trays made of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch woven wire, which are supported on a framework 3 or 4 feet high. After the first day or two the coffee should be protected from night dews and rain. If the weather cannot be depended on during the drying period, artificial drying must be resorted to, for which purpose several good machines are available, while good results have been obtained in some countries by utilising fire-heated tobacco-curing barns. A good method is to partially dry the coffee in the sun and finish in a machine.

The actual duration of the drying period varies. For sun-drying about ten full days' sunshine is necessary, but some kinds of hot-air driers will completely dry the coffee in twenty-four hours. It is essential that the coffee should be completely dried, as, if shipped in a moist condition, it develops a musty smell, which is difficult to get rid of. When thoroughly dry, the parchment can be crumbled to dust by the fingers, and the bean is hard and cannot be dented by the finger-nail or teeth.

The Parchment-Removing Operation.

The next process is to remove the parchment. This operation may be carried out on the estate, at the port of shipment, or in the country to which the coffee is exported.

To effect the removal of the parchment, the dry coffee is fed into a machine known as a "peeler and polisher," fitted with a screw or cone rotating inside a cylinder. The parchment as well as the silver skin surrounding the bean is broken up by this means, and at the same time the beans are polished. The broken husk and dust are removed by means of a sieve and by winnowing, or by means of an exhaust fan attached to the machine.

Grading the Beans into Sizes.

Grading follows next—i.e., the sorting of the beans into various sizes. This can be done in a simple manner by sieves with meshes of appropriate dimensions, or by special sizing machines. There are several forms of the latter, and as a rule at least three are necessary in order to separate the beans uniformly into the usual large, small, and peaberry grades.

The question as to whether the planter cleans and grades his coffee or exports it in the parchment is one which he must decide for himself on the conditions obtaining locally.

Comparative figures relating to sun-dried and artificially-dried coffee show that artificial drying results in less shrinkage of the bean than sun drying, and consequently a very large increase in the higher grades. Before the graded coffee is put on the market it is usually hand-picked, in order to remove discoloured and faulty beans. On a large scale the beans are delivered on to a travelling band, the defective beans being picked out by the operator, the good coffee being delivered into a bag.

The coffee is shipped in bags, double bags being used in some cases, and each consignment should be sent off as soon as it is ready, as the coffee deteriorates in appearance, and consequently realises lower prices if stored for some time.

THE reason why the coco-nut has three eyes is given by Mr. Luther Burbank, the famous horticulturist, in the *North American*. Coco-nuts, he says, generally grow at the edge of the sea or rivers. The nuts are surrounded with a thick husk with a waterproof covering, so that when they drop into the water they will float. In floating, the three eyes are always on top. From one of the eyes there comes a shoot which develops broad leaves like sails. The wind catches the sails and wafts the coco-nut on a journey sometimes many miles long. As it sails, the other two eyes develop roots, which at first grow among the fibres of the woody husk. In good season the coco-nut is swept on another shore, perhaps on another island. The roots embed themselves in the soft earth, the sail becomes the trunk, and a coco-nut palm is growing where none grew before.

COTTON CONFERENCE AT ST. KITTS.

A West Indian Cotton Meeting was held in St. Kitts from March 13th to 18th, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, of the agricultural officers and certain of the leading planters interested in cotton production in the different islands. The agenda included the various aspects of cotton production, statements of the position of the industry in the different islands, the pests and diseases of cotton, cultivation and manuring, the commerce of cotton and the utilisation of by-products.

The following officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture were present: Hon. Dr. Francis Watts (Commissioner), Mr. H. A. Ballou, M.Sc. (Entomologist), Mr. W. Nowell (D.I.C. Micologist), and Mr. W. R. Dunlop (Scientific Assistant).

The delegates from the various islands were as follows:—

St. Vincent.—S. C. Harland, B.Sc. (Assistant Superintendent).

Montserrat.—W. Robson (Agricultural Superintendent), K. P. Penchoen, and S. W. Howes.

Antigua.—Dr. H. A. Tempny (Superintendent of Agriculture for Leeward Islands), T. Jackson (Agricultural Superintendent), Hon. R. L. Warneford, Capt. J. Dew, and J. Sutherland.

Nevis.—W. I. Howell (Agricultural Instructor), Hon. J. Spencer Hollings, J. O. Maloney, and J. Sampson.

St. Kitts.—F. R. Shepherd (Agricultural Superintendent), A. O. Thurston, A. M. Reid, George Slack, J. R. Yearwood, and H. Waterland (Chemical Assistant).

Anguilla.—Carter Rey.

The delegates arrived on March 12th, and on the following day the Conference was opened at Old Government House, when His Honour the Administrator welcomed the visiting delegates, and Dr. Watts delivered an opening address.

Meetings were held each day from Monday to Friday, 17th, papers being read on different subjects, and free discussions taking place on methods of seed selection and seed supply, and there is every reason to expect that much good will result from this in the near future. The question of the commerce of cotton also engaged much attention, and it is hoped that the result will be to improve materially the relations between the cotton growers and the Fine Spinners, the buyers.

The social side of the Conference, an important adjunct to meetings of this description, was also a great success, the Entertainment Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial Society having made arrangements for excursions into the country, including visits to the sugar factory, the cotton gin-ery at Spooner's, and Brimstone Hill. On Wednesday the delegates were entertained at lunch by Mr. George Yearwood, manager of Brighton Estate, and on the Monday afternoon a reception was held by His Honour the Administrator. The Musical and Dramatic Society and the Lawn Tennis Club also had receptions, and on Friday evening

the visiting delegates entertained the local delegates and some others at dinner at Old Government House.

The meeting closed on Friday afternoon, March 17th, the delegates returning to their various islands on Sunday, the 19th.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

An important Conference of Commercial Trade Unions and Agricultural Organisations took place at Glasgow on April 28th, which was addressed by Mr. Hughes, the Premier of Australia. Mr. Hughes, in the course of his address, said that he did not deny that a good case could be made out for Free Trade, just as a good case could be made out for Internationalism if all the nations of the earth adopted it. We had to look at the world we lived in, and with the complex and marvellously interdependent structure of modern commerce and industry. The policy under which we had lived for the last fifty years was useless. After the War there would be a tremendous demand for certain forms of wealth in making good the destruction and loss caused by the War. Who was to produce that wealth—we or some other nation? We would have to produce wealth not only at the rate we produced it before the War, but if we were to live and pay our way and have some chance in the world's markets we would have to produce it much faster than we ever did before. Nations could not stand still; they had either to advance or go back. They required to organise industry so as to control the source of supply of raw material, to assure a regular supply, to know the capacity of the market for its output, to secure the market for the disposal of that output, and be able to make arrangements regarding the price both of labour and of the manufactured article, so that both capital and labour would have a fair return.

On the subject of the organisation of industry in Australia, Mr. Hughes said that in the sugar industry the Government had guaranteed prices for the next three years to the grower, the sugar miller, the refiner, and the consumer. They were giving to the sugar grower of Queensland more than he ever got before for sugar, and they were selling sugar to-day at 3½d. per lb., the same as was sold here for 5½d. per lb. They in Australia had now wiped out these German agencies; they had purged every company of German shareholders, whether he was a born German or naturalised. (Cheers.) There was only one way to deal with such a situation—doing it with such thoroughness that the Germans would avoid this country as though it were the very plague. They had robbed no German—his shares had been sold at the market price—but why give enterprise and labour in order to heap up profits for the Germans to utilise after this War? Let them have their pound of flesh and in God's name be gone.

"Let us," Mr. Hughes concluded, "straightway declare our intention to adopt a national policy for Britain; let us by example and counsel agree upon a common policy with our Allies; let our blockade of German trade be such that nothing shall get in

or out, then we shall present a spectacle that shall shake the German Empire to its centre, and will surely do much not only to bring this dreadful War to an end, but to establish as on a rock the true welfare of the Empire and its Allies, and to bring a lasting peace to the civilised world."

Subsequent to the Conference, a luncheon was given to the delegates attending the Conference by the British Empire Producers' Association, over which the Lord Provost presided. Sir Edward Rosling, Chairman of the Association, explained its object, and dealt principally with the sugar question. Mr. Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, briefly spoke, and counselled them to go in for more hard solid thinking.

Mr. Hughes, in proposing the health of the Lord Provost, warmly commended the work of the Association. What was wanted now, he said, was action, and more action. Referring to the sugar question, he said they ought to make an immediate beginning by saying the nation would buy its sugar from the Empire, and arrangements should be made and guarantees offered for that sugar being produced, and we should take it at a fixed price. The Conference held that day would make such an arrangement not only practicable, but certain. When that was done they would have driven a wedge into the very heart of the citadel of the Do-Nothing policy under which they lived to-day, and would strike terror into those interested in the beetroot sugar industry of Germany and Austria.

"HISTORIC JAMAICA."

The *Western Morning News* of March 31st contained the following review of "Historic Jamaica," by Mr. Frank Cundall, which was published by the West India Committee on behalf of the Institute of Jamaica in December.

"A monument of painstaking research, this volume of upwards of 400 pages, with a full and reliable index, does the highest possible credit to the editor, the secretary and librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, and the institute itself is worthy of all praise for its format, and its embellishment, with upwards of fifty reproductions of photographs, engravings, and dainty pen-and-ink drawings by Mrs. Lionel Lee. When a Royal Commission was appointed to report on the historical monuments in England, wise men in the West Indies came to the patriotic conclusion that there was also need for the preservation of their historic sites and buildings. Jamaica was very fortunate in having so enthusiastic an antiquary as Mr. Cundall to do what was necessary for it; and at the request of the Governor (Sir Sidney Oliver), and with the consent of the governors of the Institute of Jamaica, he prepared a list, parish by parish, of the historic sites, buildings, and monuments, stating in each case the nature of its interest and the name of the owner. And he did much more. He wrote a series of articles concerning them, giving a great deal of topographical and biographical information. The result is this book, which is quite a model of its kind both in inception and execution. While, of course, its chief interest is Jamaican, there is no county in Great Britain and Ireland that will not find references to some of its worthies. For instance, two of Jamaica's Governors were Cornishmen, both Trelawny's, Edward, 1738-52, and Sir William, 1767-72. Edward Trelawny's Governorship was marked by his quarrel with Sir Chaloner Ogle, an echo of that jealousy of Wentworth and Vernon, which was a factor in the deplorable failure at Carthagen. Trelawny town, in the island, was

named after Sir William, and when he died the Assembly spent no less than a thousand guineas on his funeral. Sir William was the means of making a still greater man known to the island—Dr. Wolcott ('Peter Pindar'), best known for his satires on King George III. and the Royal Academy. He accompanied the Governor as his physician, and on finding that medical prospects in Jamaica were not promising, he voyaged home, was ordained a priest, and, returning, became rector of Vere, in the island. A story of his ready wit is still remembered. At a dinner party, given by Pusey Manning, of Vere, the host introduced the rector to a stranger by saying, 'This is Dr. Wolcott, the unworthy incumbent of this parish.' 'And this, sir,' retorted Wolcott, 'is Pusey Manning, Esq., the scabbiest sheep in my flock.' 'Peter Pindar' wrote a good deal of his poetry in the West Indies. Perhaps nothing is more evident in this book than the pride it feels in its close connection with the mother country and its association with some of her empire-builders. The West India Committee has conferred yet another favour on the island by the publication of a volume so entertaining and informative."

Copies of "Historic Jamaica" can be obtained from all booksellers, or from the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 5/- each or 5/5 post free in the United Kingdom, 5/8 abroad.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The following figures, showing the value of the trade between the British West Indies and Canada for the seven months ending October, 1913-14-15 respectively are taken from the Report of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada:—

IMPORTS INTO CANADA FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

	1913		1914		1915	
	Dutiable \$	Free \$	Dutiable \$	Free \$	Dutiable \$	Free \$
Arrowroot	—	—	1,232	—	2,449	—
Coconuts	11,366	57,610	2,324	43,953	16,528	29,916
Cacao	—	78,594	—	125,891	12,845	185,957
Coffee	—	27,438	592	64,799	23,410	—
Bananas	—	5,456	—	452	—	—
Honey	14,182	—	544	—	6,885	—
Spices	18,401	—	12,517	—	9,760	—
Rum	9,571	—	7,529	—	6,538	—
Sugar, a b'ove No. 16 DS	3,160	—	52,706	—	42,196	—
Sugar, not above No 16 DS	1,938,520	—	3,799,992	—	3,187,468	—
Molasses	1,402,061	—	1,215,890	—	754,804	—

EXPORTS FROM CANADA TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

	1913	1914	1915
	\$	\$	\$
Oats...	—	132,391	—
Peas, Split	—	5,100	—
Peas, whole	—	3,790	—
Bran	—	9,063	—
Wheat flour	1,049,153	1,418,312	1,032,224
Drugs, dyes, chemicals, etc.	94,703	3,627	13,934
Codfish	503,641	61,753	374,310
Herrings, pickled	11,423	16,443	—
.. smoked	15,956	5,844	2,666
Mackerel, pickled	27,229	27,746	32,430
Hay	3,682	11,583	2,043
Butter	18,945	20,774	13,393
Soap	5,980	9,948	7,794
Potatoes	17,923	8,952	15,464
Shingles	19,887	22,828	7,938

OBITUARY.

MR. JOSEPH WEEDON PREVITE.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Joseph Weedon Previte, which took place at his residence, Oak Lodge, Pond Road, Blackheath, on April 29th.

Mr. Previte, who was senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Previte & Co., West India Merchants, was prominently connected with the West Indies for over half a century. So far back as 1864 his firm, then Messrs. Previte & Greig, became interested in the export of asphalt from the Pitch Lake in Trinidad. In that year his partner, the late H. A. Greig, visited Trinidad and with the late Hon. T. A. Finlayson, who had acquired the assets of the Trinidad Petroleum Company, which had sought to distil petroleum from the pitch, made the first shipment of asphalt for industrial purposes. The attention of Mr. Barber, an American who had been developing the asphalt paving business in the United States, was soon attracted to the advantages of Trinidad asphalt, and the American paving companies became large consumers of the product. In conjunction with these concerns, Mr. Previte was instrumental in developing the asphalt industry which by royalties has contributed largely to the revenues of Trinidad. Until his last illness Mr. Previte continued to take an active part in the business of his firm, who are consignees of the Lake Asphalt for the United Kingdom and Europe. Mr. Previte's interests were not, however confined to Trinidad alone. He always had the welfare of the British West Indies generally very much at heart, and no appeal to him for assistance in times of stress or disaster was made in vain. He was a member of Lloyd's and one of the oldest members of the West India Committee. He contracted influenza and bronchitis about ten days ago, and though his vitality was remarkable, having regard to his great age, he gradually became exhausted and never rallied. Mr. Previte's wife died on December 11th last, but he leaves four sons, three of whom are serving in the Army, and a daughter, besides many friends, to mourn his loss.

MR. R. ALLMAN HARDTMAN.

We much regret to have to record the death of Mr. R. Allman Hardtman, which occurred at Stapleton Estate, St. Kitts, on March 24th.

Since last September, Mr. R. Allman Hardtman had struggled manfully against severe illness, but the strain entailed in the winding-up of the Farrar Estate, of which he was Receiver, combined with his other duties, proved too much for him. His loss to the community is a very heavy one, and his place will be hard to fill. Mr. Hardtman from early youth had followed planting as a career. He was grounded in a stern school, by his uncle, the late Mr. F. H. Hardtman-Berkeley, whose methods he adopted and followed closely all through his life. For over twenty years Mr. Hardtman represented the interests of Colonel the Hon. R. S. Cotton, and he earned and held the entire confidence of the proprietors whose estates he managed. Mr. Hardtman was a member of the Executive Council besides filling other numerous positions of trust. With his death, for the first time in close on 250 years, the old Huguenot name of Hardtman ceases to play a prominent part in the island history. It is interesting to note that Mr. Hardtman's direct ancestor, Captain Peter Hardtman, commanded Governor Codrington's sloop of war, the *Barbuda*, in 1695, coming into fierce conflict on more than one occasion with the enemy of the day.

Peter Hardtman's cabin table and telescope were in Mr. R. Allman Hardtman's possession at the time of his death. Mr. Hardtman leaves a widow and several children, with whom much sympathy will be felt in their irreparable loss.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

THE Statistical Committee of the Rubber Growers' Association have issued figures and statements showing the relation of rubber crops to rainfall in 1913 and 1914 on a number of representative estates in Ceylon and Malaya, seventeen to twenty million pounds being dealt with in connection with Malaya, and from five to seven millions in the case of Ceylon.

A PRIMARY feature in these returns is that the crop variations in 1913 and 1914 are small in both countries. But the period of lowest rainfall had a much greater influence on the crop of rubber in Ceylon than in Malaya, the question of the reduction of rubber tappings in the winter season, the dry season, in Ceylon having to be taken into account in this connection.

As regards the individual countries, the heaviest yielding month in Ceylon produced more than four times the quantity of rubber cropped in the poorest month, and the crop of the Ceylon estates during the first six months of 1914 was only 36.26 per cent. of the total for the year. In Malaya the difference between the tappings of the highest and lowest reading months was less pronounced, and at the same time the yield for the first six months of 1914 in Malaya was 45.49 per cent. of the total crop.

IN connection with rubber, Mr. F. G. Spring, in the *Federated Malay States Bulletin*, gives the results of some manure experiments. Quicklime was used in every case, being distributed throughout the trees and allowed to slake. The manures used were sulphate of potash, double superphosphate, guano, bone meal, and sulphate of ammonia. The manured trees showed greater growth than the unmanured, but conclusive results cannot be obtained until the fifth year, when the trees will be tapped.

THE Mysore *Agricultural Calendar* for 1916 describes a serious pest which has appeared in the rice fields of that State in recent years. The leaves of the attacked paddy show white patches here and there, and their tips turn completely white. The trouble is caused by a caterpillar, which cuts off the leaf and uses it as a casing for its body. The caterpillar is about three-quarters of an inch long when fully grown, and is light green in colour, with an orange head. Delicate white hair-like tubes proceed from it, which float on water, and thus enable the caterpillar to breathe when immersed in that medium.

DIRECTLY the caterpillar is disturbed on the leaf it drops into the water below, the breathing filaments mentioned above enabling it to continue its life there. It is this habit which enables an easy method to be employed for its destruction. A little kerosene oil is spread in a thin layer on the water, and the caterpillar is made to drop into the water. The kerosene soaks into the breathing filaments, and the animal dies of suffocation. The moths are small, having white wings crossed with yellow bands.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

The 3rd Battalion has been awarded the prize for the cleanliness of its lines.

Colonel Faunce, having relinquished the command of the 2nd Battalion, has returned to London from Egypt.

All ranks are to be served out with "shorts"—a garment familiarised by Boy Scouts—for their greater comfort during the hot season in Egypt.

On April 11th the 1st and 2nd Battalions, which had already earned the encomium of Lieut.-General Alham, were inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Archibald Murray.

The death of the Chaplain, Rev. P. Egan, from dysentery on April 6th cast quite a gloom over the camps. His loss will be deeply felt by all ranks, for he took great interest in the men.

The men's favourite pastime is cricket, and the West Indian Contingent Committee (15, Seething Lane, E.C.) will be grateful for gifts of old cricket bats and paraphernalia generally for despatch to Egypt. When the last mail left Alexandria, a proposal to hold inter-Battalion sports was giving rise to friendly rivalry between the several Battalions.

The regiment, which still lies in the desert beyond Alexandria, has experienced its first dust-storm. For some little time it was pitch dark—darker than during a real London "pea soup" fog. Then the sun began to fight its way through the dense sand, causing a weird orange light. The storm is said to have been a record, even for Egypt.

The following deaths have to be recorded—2nd Battalion: Privates C. V. Baker (March 12th), O. Silvera (February 23rd), — Bent (March 20th), and J. Wilson (April 2nd). All these men, who have laid down their lives for their country, came from Jamaica. 3rd Battalion: Privates U. Samuels (March 25th), J. A. Mack (March 26th), W. Goffe (March 29th), E. Gillespie (April 6th), and H. Black (April 11th).

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

The following is published for general information:—

"The General Purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee wish to make it generally known that it is their object to do all in their power to provide for the well-being not only of all ranks in the British West Indies Regiment and the Bermuda Contingent, but also of all who have come over independently from the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras, and Bermuda to serve in the Navy or Army.

"In the circumstances they will be pleased to hear of or from any men connected with British West Indies or Bermuda in His Majesty's Forces on active service, in hospital, on furlough, or prisoners of war who may be in need of assistance or advice.

"They will further be glad to receive from relatives and friends, and to register, the names and addresses of men connected with the above-mentioned colonies who are not in the West Indian Contingent, but are serving in the Navy and Army."

EVERARD IM THURN,
Chairman.

F. M. HODGSON,
Deputy-Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Hon. Secretary.

West Indian Contingent Committee.

The West India Committee Rooms,
April 18th, 1916.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,723 13s. 3d., of which amount £1,006 5s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Thomas Osment, Esq. (2nd donation) ...	7	0	0
Miss K. E. Arthur (earmarked for Barbados men) ...	27	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

MORE BARBADOS RECRUITS.

Second Citizens' Contingent.

A second Barbados Citizens' Contingent for active service reached London in the R.M.S. *Barina*—the small coastal steamer which usually plies between Trinidad and Tobago—on April 28th, after a voyage lasting eighteen days. The men, who were twelve in number, were sent over at the expense of a Committee comprising Mr. Dudley G. Leacock, Rev. Dr. H. A. Dalton, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. R. G. Cave, Mr. E. A. Hinckson, Mr. Harold Wright, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. A. J. Maseall, Rev. Fred Ellis, and Mr. J. E. Mayers. Their names are:—

Clement C. Bynoe,	John A. Nurse,
C. A. Wood,	W. W. Williams,
Geoffrey W. Skeete,	B. P. Thomas,
A. L. Browne,	F. Evelyn Reid,
R. H. Johnson,	A. F. Watson, and
Harold C. Phillips,	Coleridge Foster.

On the voyage the men, who are now being looked after by the West India Committee pending enlistment, took regular watches on the bridge, but were not, fortunately, rewarded with a sight of the periscope of an enemy submarine.

A FURTHER list of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Empire in the Navy and Army will be published in next CIRCULAR.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MISS M. A. BRATT, late of Demerara, is doing Red Cross work as a member of the Almeric Paget Massage Corps.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Malcolm, son of Mr. J. B. Laing, of the Royal Bank of Canada, and Marjory Bourke, elder daughter of Dr. F. A. and Mrs. Neale, of Demerara.

MUCH sympathy will be felt with Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, Postmaster of Jamaica, on the loss of his son Evan, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who has been missing since April 25th, and is believed to have been killed.

THE enormous increase in the profits of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from £91,446 to £803,313 will not tend to reconcile the British West Indies to the action of the Company in having deserted them in their hour of need.

THE Worshipful Master and Officers of the Marble Craft Lodge No. 3522 are desirous of inviting a few brethren from the West Indies, particularly any who have been on active service, to meet other Colonial Freemasons at the next meeting of the Lodge in London on Empire Day, May 24th. They will be obliged if any who are in London will communicate with the Secretary of the West India Committee.

A DISEASE which has caused great mortality among bees has been prevalent recently in the United Kingdom, and from its "country of origin" is called the Isle of Wight disease. Up to recently it has resisted all attempts at treatment, but now a bee fancier at Tiverton claims to have cured his sick bees successfully by a diet of cane sugar syrup dashed with a suspicion of formaldehyde. Here again is another evidence of the hygienic value of cane sugar.

THE Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Conjoint Committee appeal for gifts of cigarettes, cakes, sweets, magazines, musical instruments, etc., from the generously disposed in this country for distribution among men from the British West Indies who are serving in the Navy and Army. From the West Indies, cash to purchase such gifts is most acceptable. Such gifts will be gratefully acknowledged by Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

KIND nature and the insurance brokers will replace the cacao, sugar, and rum lost in the *Salybia* recently, but nothing can ever make good the loss of the late Mr. N. Darnell Davis' books and manuscripts, which were also in that ill-fated vessel when she foundered. They represented years of patient literary effort, and formed a valuable and, indeed, unique collection of historical data bequeathed to the Royal Colonial Institute. Much of

the late Mr. E. T. Racker's family plate also went down with the vessel.

MINCING LANE is the poorer through the death of Mr. W. H. Emery, manager of the rum department of Messrs. E. D. & F. Man, which took place at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on May 2nd, after a serious operation. What Mr. Emery did not know about rum was not worth knowing, and he was generally admitted to be one of the greatest experts on the subject. He was always ready to give advice and information regarding the many complex problems arising in connection with the rum trade, and by his death West Indians have lost a good friend.

OF the fruits produced in Porto Rico for shipment to the United States, pineapples are by far the most important. Then come grapefruit and oranges, the latter varying considerably in volume of shipment from year to year, according to the market offered, though the production available is always very large. Lemons and limes are also shipped to a limited extent, and bananas are grown in abundance, though none are exported. According to *Dun's Review*, the 1915 shipments of fruit were:—Pineapples, 552,024 crates; pineapples (canned), 31,934 boxes; grapefruit, 276,550 boxes; oranges, 200,268 boxes.

REFERENCE has already been made in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to the reconstruction of the Cantley beet sugar venture in Norfolk. The new company has been registered under the title of the English Beet Sugar Corporation, Ltd. The capital is fixed at £140,000 in £1 shares, 40,000 of which are 6 per cent. cumulative preference, and the object is to adopt an agreement with the Anglo-Netherland Corporation, Ltd., which controlled Cantley, and Marx & Company's Bank in Holland. The Directors are Herman W. Sillem, Dashwood House, New Broad Street, E.C.; Johannes P. van Rossum, Princenhage, Holland; David F. Reuelin, Messrs. Marx & Co.'s Bank, Rotterdam; and Leopold Kronacher, Broad Oak, Chislehurst, Kent; and the constitution of the Board hardly suggests that there is much of British about the concern.

WITH reference to the "Nature Note" which appeared in the CIRCULAR recently on the subject of the use of dynamite as a soil improver, we are advised by Nobel's Explosives Company, Ltd., that, while the results obtained by Mr. W. R. White may be all right so far as they go, they fear that possible users of explosives for sub-soiling may be misled into the belief that dynamite cannot be used successfully for this purpose. Messrs. Nobel have had a very wide experience of this class of work, and can cite instances where dynamite has been used most successfully. For instance, in Renmark, South Australia, a fruit-growing district, high explosives have been used with singular success. Messrs. Nobel express the hope, therefore, that those interested will give the system a fair trial under their own working conditions, as they are sure that under favourable conditions Mr. White's experience will not prove to be general.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Big Steamer Wrecked at Barbuda.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, MARCH 24th.—I regret to report another wreck in Barbuda, an American steamer of 15,000 tons, the *Marconi*, from New York to Monte Video. The news reached here via St. Thomas. The boat got in touch with that island by wireless, and then cable sent on here. Otherwise we should not have known for some days. The weather has been very bad, terrific N.W. winds blowing. I question whether a small Barbuda boat could have got across. Every drogher from St. John's was requisitioned, but many did not get over. Great anxiety was caused as to the whereabouts of the foremost sailing launch the *Christabel*, which took over Mr. W. Thomson, harbour-master, and others, and was not heard of for some little time. They were found at the other end of Barbuda none the worse for their trip. It is very fortunate no lives have been lost. Again I write calling attention to the need of some warning to mariners approaching the island. It is scandalous that this danger should be allowed without any lighthouse to show the danger. I understand the land lies so low that it is impossible to see the danger in time and there is a long approach over bars of sand, so in bad weather a vessel is "interned" before the crew or anyone knows anything about it.

Weather conditions are favourable to crop operations; first sales of molasses have been made at 24s.—25s. is now offered. Great difficulty is being experienced in getting away our produce—no tonnage. The Canadian steamers filling up at the larger islands with crystal sugar, and not wanting muscovado, they are glad to be able to do without it. This is a very serious matter to the muscovado sugar maker. If he cannot market his produce in good time he is faced with a loss both by deterioration and drainage. Surely the smaller islands are entitled to some consideration. We are not unreasonable, and expect some trouble, but we don't expect to be told no sugar can go by such and such a steamer. The boat due here on the 26th will take away a small tonnage, about two-thirds of what we want; the following boat will take 40 tons, 500 would be ready. I understand that for the whole of April (after the 9th) we cannot make a shipment. This means very serious monetary loss to us. Crystal sugar will keep, that is, for some time longer than muscovado. Surely arrangements could be made so that the loss should not fall altogether on the poor muscovado grower and the aristocratic crystal manufacturers secure all the advantages.

APRIL 7th.—Your letter of March 6th and No. 238 to hand. Weather conditions are favourable for crop operations. A very severe shock of earthquake was felt on the 5th inst. Under the auspices of the Agricultural and Commercial Society and Imperial Department of Agriculture a very successful maize show was held on the 30th March. It was opened by His Excellency, and prizes were distributed by him during the afternoon. A very instructive address was given by Dr. Tempany regarding maize and its products. The success of the show was due largely to the work of Dr. Tempany and Mr. Jackson.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society held an "At Home" on the same afternoon, when upwards of 200 guests were entertained, altogether it was a very enjoyable day.

The exhibits were judged by Messrs. Hon. R. Warnford, A. P. Cowley, and Jackson, Dr. Tempany, referee. The exhibits of food products, or rather collection of dishes illustrating methods of serving corn and corn-meal as food were distinctly good. These were judged by Mrs. Forrest, Mrs. Spooner, and Miss Johnston. The Champion ear of the Show was won by Pares and Cochrane's estate. The same estate also carried off the 1st prize. Special mention must be made of an exhibit by Mr. R. Goodwin, of North Sound Estate, of a new food-stuff for stock—viz., a mixture of corn cob finely ground and molasses, fairly dry—a new form of molasses. Mr. Goodwin was advised to patent the mixture.

Our guests were entertained by a committee of ladies—viz., Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin, Mrs. Tempany, and Mrs. Warnford. These ladies were joined by the lady judges and right well they did their work. They are all members

of the Society. The whole Show was a fitting commemoration of the Society's twenty-five years of existence.

I am glad to report the floating of the steamer *Marconi* at Barbuda.

BRITISH GUIANA—Departure of Major Boose, C.M.G.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MARCH 21st.—We had some good showers during the past week, very welcome, but still not enough for the cultivation.

There was a meeting of the Association yesterday at which Mr. R. M. Parker, who arrived the same day, was present.

In connection with the Immigration Committee [reference to the appointment of this was made in last CIRCULAR] the Government have asked the Association to inform them as to the readiness of planters to increase unindentured labour on the Estates, and what facilities would be given to such people. The Association is obtaining the views of the different managers on the subject.

Major J. R. Boosé, C.M.G., travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute was entertained at a luncheon given by Mr. Nunan on the 11th instant. He left on the 17th instant.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 15th instant the President, Mr. John Cunningham, gave his inaugural address on the subject of "The Society and the Colony's Future." Mr. Case arrived by the SS. *Parina* yesterday from New York in connection with the sea defences of the Colony.

JAMAICA—Colony's Financial Arrangements.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Dr. Goughgan, Government Medical Officer of Turks Island, left for that dependency on the 8th, after spending a month's leave here.

The West India Electric Company's financial statement for the year ended December 31st shows total receipts at \$274,317, a decrease of \$14,607 compared with the previous year.

A limited liability company is being formed here under the name of the Jamaica SS. Company, starting with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. The local incorporators are Messrs. Thos. Kemp, Baggett Gray, A. H. Rowley, Wm. Wilson and J. R. Dyer. It is stated that the well-known shipping firm of W. R. Grace and Company, of New York, are interested in the venture.

The annual session of the Legislative Council was opened on the 7th, and adjourned *sine die* on the 30th.

The main purpose of the session was financial, to arrange for the winding-up of the public budget of the financial year from April 1st, 1915, to March 31st, 1916, and to arrange for public revenue and expenditure during the financial year from April 1st, 1916, to March 31st, 1917. The measures dealt with were chiefly financial. The other had some bearing on the war.

The Governor in his speech pointed out that there would be a deficit from 1915-1916 amounting to £61,923, and for 1916-1917 an estimated deficit of £115,562, or a total of £177,485 to be provided for. The deficits were due largely to the war conditions, hurricanes and floods. The policy of overdrafts at the Bank adopted to carry the Colony through until February had only involved an overdraft of £14,267, the interest on which was covered by interest balances. The alternatives for the future were extra taxation or a short loan; but he considered that extra taxation was the soundest measure for expenditure such as had to be met.

The extra taxation proposed was an export tax, an increase of new land tax, a customs surtax, the abolishing of import free list, the raising of license and stamp duty, estate duties and postal rates, a portion of these increases (£58,900) being permanent to meet the Colony's obligations regarding the Contingents, the pledge being £60,000 yearly, for 40 years.

A number of changes were made in the original programme for obtaining more revenue, as it passed through the Council, while, on the other hand, the Estimates for expenditure remained much as introduced. Proposed export taxes on bananas of 1/8 per hundred stems and 6d. per cwt. on coffee were struck out by a majority vote of the elected members and with other modifications in the programme submitted by the Government the following schedule was finally agreed:—

	s.	d.
Cacao, on every 112 lbs.	1	0
Coco-nuts, on every 1,000 nuts	2	0
Hides, dry, per hundred lbs.	4	0
Hides, green, per hundred lbs.	2	0
Logwood, on every ton of 20 cwt.	10	0
Rum, on every puncheon of 100 gals.	7	6
Sugar, on every ton of 20 cwt.	7	6

And, after these rates, for any greater or less quantity :
 Logwood extract, liquid or solid, per ton of solid extracts contained therein £10 0 0

A proposed surtax of 10 per cent. on the present customs duties was struck out and except for a few changes in the free list, certain articles being transferred to the dutiable schedule, the import duties remain unaltered. The total estimated revenue to be derived from the additional taxes is £182,350, compared with a corrected estimated deficit of £177,250. A war tax of threepence has been instituted on telegrams throughout Jamaica from the first of April and an additional tax of one halfpenny is imposed on letters and post cards from the same date.

The third Jamaica Contingent, in command of Major G. V. Hart, sailed overseas early in the month.

The receipts of the Government Railway for the month of February amounted to £12,265, as compared with £10,634 for the corresponding month last year.

The active War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica War Contingent Fund	10,032	13	10
Jamaica Aeroplane Fund	4,433	14	0
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	3,483	19	8
Jamaica Polish Jews Fund	1,617	5	6
Jamaica Contingent New Testament Fund	44	13	10
Jamaica Contingent Comforts Fund	208	19	5 1/2
Jamaica Belgian Orphans Fund	76	4	10
Jamaica Suffering Belgians in Belgium Fund	32	6	0
Jamaica Victoria League Russian Prisoners Fund	11	10	0

His Excellency the Governor has remitted a further amount of £1,000 to the Red Cross Society in London, making £3,000 already sent from the island, and a balance of £483 19s. 8d. is now in hand.

The weather during the month was seasonable. The maximum temperature was 88.7 F.; the minimum 65.4 F.; and the mean 76.3 F. The rainfall was about half the average, being 0.79 inch for the month. The maximum velocity of the wind was 30 miles an hour on the 2nd.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, MARCH 31st.—Our Legislature will have completed their Session to-day. The most important Bill passed by the Session has been the Tariff Bill—but there has been considerable dissatisfaction on the question of the Logwood industry being made to carry nearly every penny that was needed by the island—and whilst all classes are ready to do their share, it seems to have been an error of judgment on the part of the elected members to have so penalised one industry.

An export duty of 10/- a ton has been put on Logwood, whilst an export duty of 7/6 per puncheon has been put on rum. Three tons of logwood will be about the value of one puncheon of rum, therefore the logwood industry will pay 30/- as against 7/6 paid by the producers of rum, but in times of this kind, whilst finance on this method appears crude—yet everyone sinks their individual grievance. The great danger ahead is, that whenever logwood soars up to such high prices, it has always given the aniline dyes a chance of coming in—so that a heavy export tax of this kind offers a premium to aniline.

The Yorkshire Dweaver Co. came out here to get 7,000 tons of wood for England, and an embargo was immediately placed on logwood, until this 7,000 tons had been offered.

The dealers in logwood came together, and sold this 7,000 tons to us to lift the embargo. Only 1,000 tons have been delivered, therefore the question to-day is, either the buyers or the sellers will have to contribute to the Government 10/- a ton on 6,000 tons—in which both parties acted really on the *bona fides* of the Government.

The Governor stated this position very clearly to the elected members, but they were averse to any special clause, or any special exemption in regard to this deal.

We are very much interested in the move by the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the production of sugar. A short time ago, we were asked in this island what quantity of land would be available for Central Factories, and you will remember the reply, which was in effect that we had not sufficient lands, but it could be got in Cuba. These opinions were given by the Collector-General and by the Director of Agriculture, and nothing for a long time has been so misleading.

In this section to-day, one sugar estate without any effort whatever, is buying over 100 tons of canes *per week*, grown only by small settlers, and in our parish alone, we could put up three Central Factories and keep them fully supplied with canes.

There has been nothing doing in bananas, and we would have felt this very bitterly had not the boom in logwood come and saved the situation, so that it would be a blessing if Central Factories could be started, and our people made to forget bananas.

We are suffering terribly from the want of tonnage, and one might almost say every day freights increase. Our coco-nuts were 22c. per 100 lbs. to New York—to-day we are paying 30c. per 100 lbs.—and freight on logwood is £10 per ton.

ST. VINCENT—Deficit in Revenue.

MR. W. N. SANDS, MARCH 22nd.—The opening Session of 1916 of the Legislative Council was held on the 21st inst. The Administrator in his address to the Council said that during the past year our industries had suffered; our trade diminished, and a falling revenue had closed for the time being those avenues of progress which could only be opened by the expenditure of public funds. These he stated were serious disadvantages, but the advantage of living in peace and security in this time of stress and strife far outweighed them.

In regard to the efforts that had been made by St. Vincent to take its proper place in the fighting ranks, he mentioned that 130 of our best manhood was already at the front, in one part of the world or another, and before long the number would be nearer 200. The response to the call to arms had been instant and unhesitating, and he was proud of the manner in which our men had done their duty.

He considered that the general situation of the Colony, taking into account the abnormal condition prevailing since the outbreak of war, gave no real ground for pessimistic outlook into the future. Economically speaking, we stand or fall by arrowroot and cotton. Arrowroot was hampered with but few difficulties agriculturally or commercially, and although large stocks remained unsold in London, there was good prospect of their being disposed of. The salient features of the cotton industry had been the marked shrinkage in the area under cultivation and the small yield per acre—78 lbs. The poor results of last season had been largely due to climatic influences and the cotton stainer.

There had been a steady increase in the export of vegetable produce and live-stock, and the trade was capable of still further extension. A comparatively new industry of great potential value was the cultivation of the coco-nut. Already over 1,000 acres had been planted and the area would probably reach 2,000 acres in the near future.

Turning to the financial condition of the Colony, he mentioned that the estimated expenditure for the past year would exceed the revenue by £1,623, mainly due to an expenditure of £1,000, in connection with the Contingent for Active Service. The expenditure for the year 1916-17 was placed at £35,726, and revenue at £30,624, so that at March 31st, 1917, the estimated deficit would be £5,102, or a total deficit for the two years of £6,725. Rigid economy of expenditure had been, and would still be, necessary, but it would nevertheless be essential to meet part of this deficit by extra taxation, and part, to the extent of £2,000, by means of a loan.

Without transgressing the principle of economy and with due regard to the maintenance of efficiency, the Administrator described certain proposed charges which would have beneficial results; among these was the provision of a daily passenger and freight service by motor launch on the Leeward Coast. This service would be in operation by October next.

We have been able to get off quite a lot of arrowroot

and cotton lately by the cargo boats of the Direct Line and the situation has been eased somewhat.

The Agricultural Co-operative Societies are forging ahead, and we now have twelve, with a total membership of about 400, in active operation. Those that have been running a year or more have paid up their loans promptly, and are increasing their membership. The weather was still showery and quite unseasonable. There has been no dry season so far.

ST. KITTS—Seedling Canes give big returns

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, MARCH 27th.—We are experiencing excellent weather for reaping; and steady progress is being made with the crops. The Central Factory is doing very good work, and there are no complaints as to cane supply. Makers of muscovado sugar are at a considerable disadvantage, the local market being overstocked, and difficulty is being experienced in obtaining freight room with the Canadian Service. The canes are turning out very well all round, and one hears of some fine returns—5 acres of plant canes cut at College Estate, Mr. F. B. Perkins, gave a return of 50 tons per acre. On the cane experimental plot at Buckley's Estate, Cane 254 gave a return equal to 69 tons per acre; Drop gave 50 tons per acre; D216, 64 tons; and July seedling 58 tons per acre. The entire plot of 18 varieties averaging 50 tons per acre.

I regret to have to report the death of Mr. R. A. Hardiman, Manager and Attorney of Stapleton's Estate, on the 24th inst., after a long and trying illness. Mr. Hardiman was a leading member of our community, a successful planter, member of the Legislative Council, and a prominent member of our Agricultural and Commercial Society—a type of man whose place is hard to fill in these days, and whose loss we regret.

TOBAGO—Large Cacao Crop not expected.

MR. ROBERT REID, MARCH 23rd.—Since last mail the weather has been cool and pleasant with occasional showers, which is more like our usual Tobago weather than that experienced in the previous three years. The cacao crop has been coming in steadily, if not abundantly, and most estates expect that the crop will continue right on to June. The trees are flowering again, but it will need exceptional weather for these to blossom into fruit. There has been continuous change of leaves for months past and that puts the veto on large crops. Although coco-nuts command good prices, planters prefer to make copra which saves complaints from "rejects" in Trinidad. The high freights must surely curtail export of coco-nuts and they certainly prejudice local prices for cacao, which are on the whole below the parity of values abroad. This we are told is due to lack of freight room, and the numerous losses from mines and submarines will not improve matters. Rubber tappings continue, and planters hope that good prices await their moderate shipments. From Little Tobago it is reported that Sir W. Ingram's Birds of Paradise have at last got their plumage, and are the admiration of all who have been privileged to see them. A second motor car is now touring our roads, and dread is now giving way to praise of these handy vehicles. My estate (21 miles from Scarborough) is at present the limit of traffic, but road improvements will doubtless extend the use of this marvellous vehicle. The Planters' Association have returned from their Trinidad visit, and from what I can hear all parties were pleased not only with their cordial reception, but also with the sights and cultivation of our big sister island. The early withdrawal of our coastal steamer is universally regretted and will cause considerable loss as well as inconvenience.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, APRIL 6th.—The weather for the past month was satisfactory in every way, cool nights and long sunny days with 1.35 inches of rainfall recorded at the Botanic Station as against 0.13 inches for the corresponding period last year, 1.24 inches for 1914 and 0.93 inches for 1913. Cacao and tobacco crops are drawing to a close, whilst coco-nuts, copra, vegetables, and sugar, like "Johnny Walker," are still going strong. The cultivation of the sugar-cane is receiving especial attention. Our coastal steamer, *Barima*, is withdrawn for Imperial use, and her sister boat, *Belize*, is performing the dual service around Trinidad and Tobago, on as efficient an itinerary as the circumstances permit. Although no fault

can be found with existing "war" arrangements, yet were it possible to allow the Canadian steamers to include Scarborough as a link in the chain until such time as the *Barima* is returned to us, much good will result. These steamers en route to and from Demerara pass within easy distance of us, and the connection above suggested will simply be "history repeating itself." About a dozen of the principal planters accepted the invitation of the Board of Agriculture to pay a return visit to Trinidad, and were shown around many of the principal agricultural hives of industry, official and unofficial. Mr. William Gordon-Gordon, with his planting attorney, Mr. J. J. McLeod (both Scots), visited his plantations here in the latter part of last month, and on the return voyage to Port of Spain, the genial merchant-banker was as happy as a schoolboy on holiday, at sight of the green appearance of the north coast of Trinidad, especially pretty Grande Riviere. Many of Mr. Gordon-Gordon's flourishing cacao estates are established along this range, cultivated since 1883 by Tobago labourers, of whom Mr. Gordon cannot speak too highly. It is of importance to record the interest the three banks in Trinidad now take in Tobago, Mr. Creighton, of the Royal Bank of Canada, is no stranger to the island, its present prosperity and future possibilities, and it is a real pleasure to be able to add kindly Mr. Messervy's name (Colonial Bank) to the list of our well-wishers. Mr. James Miller, merchant, visited us last week on business bent, but meantime rejuvenated amidst the health-giving atmosphere of King's Bay. The Hon. Denys Slyne, Receiver-General, with his family, are at Government House, Mount William, for a fortnight's sojourn. Professors Hubert L. Clarke and T. Mortensen, Dr. Alfred C. Mayer and Mr. John Mills, engineer, have been sent out here by an American Institution to study the life history of jelly fishes and star fishes that abound on the many reefs in the Leeward district. Warmest congratulations are showered on our indefatigable Dr. Blanc on his second son's success in winning one of the Colony's scholarships; so soon as the necessary official permission is obtained the lad will at once sail to do his "bit" for his King and Empire before proceeding to the University. The doctor's eldest son, who went to England "on his own," is now an officer in a British regiment. Tobago—to my knowledge—was not invited as oforetime to participate in the Agricultural Exhibition held at Port of Spain last month, the omission can however be partially rectified by a grant to us of £100 from the Society's funds for the purpose of holding one of our own, when "all Trinidad" will be cordially invited to send exhibits and attend.

TRINIDAD—The Ankylostomiasis Commission.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 29th. The Annual Exhibition of the Agricultural Society, held in co-operation with the Board of Agriculture, the Chamber of Commerce, the Horticultural Society, etc., took place successfully on the 17th, 18th, and 19th instants, when, if the number of exhibits was not so numerous as on some previous occasions, the quality of the articles shown has never been surpassed in the colony. This was particularly noticeable in vegetables and fruits, a most gratifying sign, and in poultry, in which section some beautiful birds were shown. A party from the Tobago Planters' Association were over on a return visit to the Board of Agriculture, and were also welcome visitors at the Show. Included in the programme for their entertainment was a day at the Usine St. Madeleine, another at River Estate, and a morning at the Government Farm and Experiment Station. A dinner in their honour at the Queen's Park Hotel was given on the night preceding their departure, after what it is hoped they found to be a good time.

The news of the loss of the *Solybia*, the first boat to fall a victim to the Germans with valuable cargo from here, brings the war nearer home. The local agencies of the London underwriters are hit for a considerable sum. It is good to hear there was no loss of life.

The news of the decision in India with regard to the discontinuing of Indian immigration was not altogether unexpected, but it is none the less very serious. Of course there are still some people who ought to know better but won't, who glibly assert that cane farming will supply all the cane that the factories need, ignoring the obvious fact that every working cane farmer is one less

labourer for the estate, and so many more for every man he employs as his farm develops. Just as Indian immigration saved the sugar industry so far as the British West Indies are concerned, so can it alone insure its future existence.

The Ankylostomiasis Commission continues its useful work. People hardly realize how much invaluable work is being done—so quietly is it performed. The Director, Dr. E. R. Washburn, in his report for January, mentions that the staff has been greatly augmented by the arrival of Doctors C. A. Bailey and G. C. Payne, who will spend several months here. As showing the prevalence of the disease in some of the country districts the report for January states that four new districts had been added with a population of 1,106. Of this number 1,038, or 93.85 per cent. have already been examined, and 911, or 87.68 per cent. were found to have hookworm disease.

MARCH 31st.—A special general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday morning when Major Boose, travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, delivered an address on the aims and objects of that Institution. The speaker was heartily greeted, and was listened to with interest and attention. The result will doubtless be a considerable acquisition of members to the Institute.

APRIL 11th.—The Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., have done splendid work since they started operations. Having fully proved their oilfield supply they have connected it by a pipe-line 25 miles long with a shipping place acquired by the Company at Point-a-Pierre, where there is a depth of water at low springs of 27 feet one mile from the shore. At this distance a loading jetty has been built and connected with the shore by an eight inch pipe-line. Two large tanks, each of a capacity of nine thousand tons, have already been erected at a considerable elevation so that ships can be loaded and bunkered by gravitation at the rate of several hundred tons per hour. The whole place which was a wilderness a few months ago has been transformed into a model settlement, with perfect roads, workshops, offices, and residences for management and staff, and a large refinery will shortly be added. The loading or bunkering problem has therefore been successfully overcome, as was fully proved the other day when the first steamer to take oil there—the *Purus* of the Lloyd Brasileiro Line—bunkered with about 250 tons at the jetty. My firm being the agent of this line of steamers, I had the privilege of being present at the invitation of Mr. Fuller, the able Attorney of the Leaseholds Company, and there was also with us, as was fit, Mr. Randolph Rust, the pioneer of the oil industry, and whose first oil territory has been acquired by the people interested in the Leaseholds. The steamer was deeply laden with 85,000 bags of coffee and other cargo, but had no difficulty in coming alongside, when hose was attached and oil delivered in a manner indicative of the knowledge of their business which has distinguished the staff of the Company from the day they landed here. Unless I am strangely mistaken there is a very bright and prosperous career before the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., from which the Colony will derive no small share of benefit.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of March were as follow:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,250,971
British North America	36,452
Other British Possessions	10,780
France	2,173,489
Italy	252,000
United States America	2,440,070
Total for March	6,163,762
Shipped previously	13,898,802
Total from 1st January to same date, 1915	20,062,564
" " 1914	24,324,943
" " 1913	29,743,676
" " 1912	20,018,604
" " 1911	24,419,396
" " 1910	17,364,848
" " 1909	21,370,585
" " 1908	21,472,378
" " 1907	19,969,706

TURKS ISLAND.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, FEBRUARY.—The weather during the month has been cool, with frequent rain squalls confined to certain areas. The maximum temperature was 83° F. and the minimum 63.2° F. The total rainfall as registered by the United States Weather Bureau was 1.82 inches, of which .50 of an inch was registered on the 12th inst. On thirteen days during the month rain has been registered, and on five days a trace was recorded. Taking the month on the whole, it has been pleasant, despite the rain squalls, which one is pleased to see as rain is badly needed, many tanks being low and some practically empty. Owing to the absence of rain the guinea corn crop is poor. A great quantity of it is troubled with smut, and many of the blades have had to be cut before the corn showed, owing to the drought.

Business during the month has been exceptionally quiet throughout the Dependency, the salt industry being at a standstill. In a letter received from Mr. C. H. Durham, who controls practically the whole of the salt industry at East Harbour, he states: "Lots of salt on hand here, but the dealers in the United States plead the exorbitant freight rates as prohibitory." He has shipped a little over 70,000 bushels this year, while no one else has shipped any at all.

News is just to hand that the schooner *Davenport* has been chartered to load salt at East Harbour for Philadelphia at the rate of 28 cents per bushel freight. Several small Nova Scotia schooners which have taken freight to the Windward are expected shortly to load salt, but owing to the absence of salt at Grand Turk, all have to be sent over to East Harbour.

Sisal is still being extracted at Grand Turk and a start has been made at Jacksonville, East Caicos, owing to the price advancing in New York it is expected all possible will be shipped at an early date.

Consignments of canned lobster and conch shells have been shipped to the United States during the month, and further consignments are at Grand Turk awaiting shipment. The Caicos Development Company report that the area of sponge they have under cultivation is progressing favourably, and that they are still engaged in putting down more.

The telephone system is working well and giving every satisfaction. It is likely to be extended during the course of a few weeks. No trouble has been experienced during the month.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

A Piece of 18th Century Embroidery.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
 Sir,—With reference to the reproduction of a piece of 18th century embroidery in the CIRCULAR for January 27th, I write to point out that, in the inscription, "in the Province of Spring, Villa Rio Nova, St. Mary's" is apparently a mistake for "on the property of Spring Valley, Rio Novo, St. Mary's." The property is bordered by the Rio Nuevo, on the banks of which Doyley defeated the Spanish invaders as narrated in the CIRCULAR for November 19th, 1912. I have ascertained that there are now, however, on the property, no tombstones bearing the names of either Smith or Mills.

Yours faithfully,
 FRANK CUNDALL,
 Secretary.

The Institute of Jamaica.
 24th March, 1916.

THE *Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence* says that in Queensland the prickly pear is a troublesome weed, of which the destruction is welcomed. Its ash is rich in potash, and it is suggested that this plant may form a useful source of potash, half a ton of 80 per cent. carbonate of potash being obtained from an acre of plants. A 10,000 acre block is now being worked on these lines.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Report for the year ending 31st December, 1915, states that notwithstanding the shortage of tonnage and numerous obstacles in the way of despatching steamers, the Company maintained a regular service of Mail and Passenger Steamers to and from Brazil and the River Plate. The export trade to these countries continued on a diminished scale, but since the beginning of the present year an increase in the volume of the outward cargo has become apparent, indicating an improvement in the business situation in both countries.

The passenger and cargo service between Halifax, N.S., and St. John, N.B., and the British West Indies, performed under contract with the Government of the Dominion of Canada, has been conducted without interruption, providing facilities of which both passengers and shippers of cargo have availed themselves to an increased extent. The advantage arising to Canadian and West Indian trade from the maintenance of a regular freight and passenger service during a prolonged period of war testifies to the foresight of the Dominion Government in establishing this service.

The exclusion of the Company's West Indian Transatlantic Mail steamers from the contract port of Southampton, combined with other causes, necessitated during the war the gradual curtailment of the West Indian Mail Service, and since the close of the year the Transatlantic and Intercolonial Services have had to be suspended, the vessels now being devoted mainly to Government employment in connection with the war.

Trade between the United Kingdom and the West Indies and Central America has suffered owing to the war and to the temporary closing of the Panama Canal. The Directors, however, look forward to the resumption of the Company's operations in these directions when the obstacles arising from the war are removed; as well as to an extension of their sphere when the Panama Canal becomes permanently available as a highway to the Pacific.

The Company's shipbuilding programme has been interrupted owing to the resources of the shipbuilding yards of the country being reserved for national requirements. It is hoped, however, that the time is approaching when facilities will become available for the much-needed replacement of mercantile tonnage.

The Directors record with pride the conspicuous courage and loyalty with which their Commanders, Navigating and Engineering Officers and Sea Staff generally have performed their duties during a period of exceptional danger.

Since the last General Meeting of the proprietors there have been added to the Roll of Honour the names of forty-four employes of the Company who have fallen in the service of their Country in various spheres of the war.

As announced by the Secretary of the Admiralty, the *Alcantara* whilst serving as one of His Majesty's Armed Merchant Cruisers, fought an engagement in the North Sea on the 29th February last with the German raider *Greif*. After putting the enemy vessel out of action so that she shortly afterwards went to the bottom, the *Alcantara* herself sank, and the Company have to deplore the loss of many valuable lives gallantly given for the Country's cause. The cargo steamer *Caroni* was sunk by a submarine, after a plucky attempt to escape, fortunately without loss of life.

Many more members both of the Sea and Shore Staffs of the Company have joined the Forces of the Crown. From the London Offices alone 175 men are now serving, being 88 per cent. of those eligible.

The Profit and Loss Account shows that the profit for the year amounted to £803,312 15s. 4d., and after making provision for depreciation, and replacing the amount withdrawn from the Reserve Fund last year to meet War losses, the Court recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the Preference Stock, and a dividend of 4 per cent., less income tax, on the Ordinary Stock, making 6 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of £46,719 to be carried forward.

The Directors who retire in rotation are Mr. Arthur Neville Lubbock and Mr. Alfred Strover Williams.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.

May 3rd, 1916.

BANK RATE stands at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 87½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 95. Consols are quoted at 57.

SUGAR. The Cuban crop progresses rapidly. In some districts the returns are short of estimate, owing to the drought, but in others full returns, in some cases exceeding the estimate, are being obtained. Guama has lowered his 3,180,000 estimate to 2,980,000 tons, and it looks very much as if the crop will not exceed 3,000,000 tons. The number of factories working has declined from 185 to 164; but too much importance should not be attached to this, as the closed down factories are merely small affairs which have made especial progress with the crop. The deliveries have sunk considerably, last week's being only 130,105 as against a maximum of 150,670 tons. The total amount of deliveries up to the 1st inst. has been 2,388,408 tons as against 1,791,012 tons at the same period last year, but it is extremely probable that at the factories another 500,000 tons are stored which were non-existent last year. The Cuban proprietors are holding strongly. With heavy credit balances at their bankers, and a statistical sugar position in itself favourable to high prices, the time is ideal for holding sugar, and no doubt this is being done to the full extent of the storage capacity of the island, estimated by Willett and Gray at 1,500,000 tons. As a sequence to the many forces acting in the same direction, the price of sugar in New York has gone up considerably during the fortnight. At the date of last Summary, duty paid Cubans were fetching \$6.14, with granulated at \$7.20, and values increased rapidly, being \$6.49 and \$7.40 respectively on the 26th ult. Yesterday, however, the price of duty paid Cubans fell to \$6.39. It must not be forgotten that the season for large sugar consumption is approaching, when extensive calls will be made upon the sugar supplies in connection with fruit consumption both domestic and in the jam and preserving trades.

The Senate of the United States has accepted the Repeal of the Free Sugar Bill in its amended form. In this the advent of free sugar into the United States is postponed until the 1st of May, 1920. Much may happen before then, and when the United States is fairly embarked in military and naval development, every cent that can be raised in the form of revenue will be wanted.

The Algemeine Sucker Maaschappij, which controlled four large raw beet sugar factories in Holland, of which the Cantley factory in Norfolk was practically part and parcel, is in liquidation. A company has been registered to take over the latter concern on an independent basis. It is reported that the Norfolk farmers are unable to plant their beet fields from want of seed, hitherto obtained from Holland. Good accounts are to hand as to the coming Java crop, which is expected to yield 1,450,000 tons. The canes are reported to have entirely recovered from their unsatisfactory start.

Nothing but good is reported of the canes in the British West Indies, and bumper crops are being reaped.

The Russian correspondent of the *Australian Sugar Journal* refers to the probable establishment of a large beet sugar industry in Manchuria and the surrounding provinces as the result of the want of Russian sugar. This is one of the interesting results of the war, the distribution of sugar production throughout the world instead of its localisation in a few specific countries. China which imports about 400,000 tons annually is also taking steps to produce more sugar, and it looks very much as if India was at last on the upgrade in this connection. The report of the Indian Director of Statistics recently published, gives the total present area under cane as 2,375,000 acres as compared with 2,311,000 acres last year. The total yield is estimated at 2,636,000 tons as compared with 2,462,000 tons for 1914-15. The import of sugar into India for the eleven months ending February 2nd was 477,735 tons, as against 402,674 tons for the same period of the previous year. This is still a long way below India's pre-war import of 800,000 tons in 1914.

For the first three months of the present year, the value of the exports of British made confectionery, including jams and preserved fruits, was £290,188 as against £300,860 in 1914. This is an increase of £81,267 on the corresponding 1915 exports, which were valued at £209,921, and the figures show no sign of reduced consumption by the sugar-using trades. It will be interesting to see how far the Sugar Commission will consider the claims of the sugar-using trades as against those of the private consumer. In this connection it is of value to note that the entire export trade in British made confectionery, jams and preserves only amounts to about £1,200,000 per annum, of which only a portion represents shipments to the Continental countries included in the Brussels Convention. It was to protect this from hypothetical reprisals that the British Government pledged itself not to take steps to secure a Colonial supply of sugar for the United Kingdom. The bond value of this country's sugar supply is not far short of £50,000,000 per annum, and of which 80 per cent. is coming from foreign sources.

For the year 1914-15 no less than 36,500 tons of sugar were imported into Canada from Fiji under the British preferential tariff.

The import duty on sugar in India has been raised from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. ad valorem. As there is no excise duty on sugar in India this increase is in the direction of a protective tariff sufficient to afford a substantial aid to the development of the sugar industry of that country.

Messrs. Edward Grey & Co., and Messrs. Bushby, Son & Beazley, have been appointed the Liverpool Brokers' Committee by the Sugar Commission, for the purpose of grading West Indian grocery sugars.

The present values of sugar in the home markets are Tate's No. 1 cubes, 47/1½; Lyle's No. 1 granulated, 42/1½; American granulated, 41/7½; Mauritius crystals, 39/10½ to 40/1½; and American cubes 44/1½.

Up to the time of writing, no increase has been made by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in the price of sugar in the United Kingdom, but if the present world's value continues, a rise in price will be inevitable. After all, even if prices go considerably higher than the present, sugar will still be a cheap and valuable article of food.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Great Britain has purchased 450,000 tons of the coming Java crop, at prices varying from 10/- to 19/6 for white crystals, and 17/- to 17/6 for raws. The first of this sugar will be available early in July. A £10 freight from Java is spoken of.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to April 22nd are as under:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	8,910	12,194	12,135	10,212	8,839
Deliveries ...	16,298	11,855	8,599	7,995	9,201
Stock (Apr. 22)	3,717	6,348	16,136	4,156	4,127

RUM. The market remains quiet and nominally steady, but buyers are generally holding off on account of uncertainty on what is to happen in connection with the age question. The announcement as to whether the further promised concession as regards rum will be granted in this respect is not to be made until the General Finance Bill comes before the House. This may not be until July, and in the meantime the rum producers are being seriously prejudiced by the delay.

The stocks in London on April 22nd were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	4,719	3,814	5,765	5,184	7,287
Dominica ...	10,684	8,221	10,663	8,437	8,216
Total, all kinds ...	27,041	18,532	23,526	21,473	23,191

The Rum trade has suffered a severe loss though the death of Mr. W. H. Emery, the courteous and well-informed manager of the rum department of Messrs. E. D. & F. Man, of Mincing Lane.

The question of the compulsory dilution of spirits in

munition areas is engaging attention, and the Central Control Board received a deputation regarding it on May Day. It seems to have been overlooked by the authorities that if the strength of spirits is reduced compulsorily the consumer will probably take twice as much to satisfy him. While importers will not be materially affected the position will be a serious one for the owners of proprietary brands who will need one quality for munitions areas and another for uncontrolled areas.

CACAO. Owing to the Easter Holidays little business was done during the fortnight. Auction sales were, however resumed yesterday, when 14,452 bags were offered. This included 738 bags of Trinidad, 177 bags Grenada, 1 bag Jamaica, and 2 bags St. Lucia. The market was quiet but steady. There was no demand for Trinidad, which was bought in. Of the small quantity of Grenada offered, only a few bags sold, at 79/- . The bulk of the cacao offered was bought in.

The stocks in London on April 22nd were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	15,911	7,492	7,734	6,747	7,906
Grenada ...	16,952	8,026	16,892	9,649	13,616
Total, all kinds	138,172	56,944	101,311	90,679	121,811

COTTON. The imports of West Indian cotton for the year to the 28th of April was 907 bales.

COPRA. The market is declining with scarcely any demand, while shippers are pressing sales. The value of West Indian is £34 10s. to £35.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil—Handpressed is very quiet, with nominal value 9/6 per lb. Distilled is also quiet with value unchanged (6/- per lb.) and no business to report. Lime Juice: More enquiries in raw, but sales unimportant, as yet no quotable exchange in values. There is no business to report in Concentrated. Citrate of Lime may be quoted at the nominal value of £26.

COCO-NUT OIL. The market is very quiet. Sellers are asking 58/6 for Ceylon and 59/6 for Cochin, c.i.f. London.

ARROWROOT. Only a retail business has been done, and the quotations are nominal at 2½d. to 4½d.

HONEY. The market for Jamaica is very firm; being bare of supplies. On last sales values 40/- to 45/- may be quoted for good dark liquid to pale set or liquid.

SPICES. Jamaica ginger steady. Small business (second hand lots) done at 90/- to 95/- per cwt. for small to medium. Pimento is lower, recent amounts being heavy. Spot is quoted at 3½d. The value of Nutmegs has increased; 100's/80's are worth 1/- to 1/2; 120's/100's, 10d. to 1/-; 140's/120's, 9d. to 10d. Mace has slightly improved. Good to fine may be quoted at 2/- to 2/3; red to good, 1/9 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/6 to 1/8; broken, 7d. to 1/5.

RUBBER. There has been a decline in value of all kinds. Fine plantation is quoted at 3/0½, with smoked sheet at 2/11½. Fine hard Para is worth 2/10½; soft, 2/8½.

BALATA. The market is easier with little doing. Venezuela block has sellers at 2/6½ c.i.f., and Panama block 2/2 c.i.f. Forward positions done in West Indian sheet 3/2 landed.

PETROLEUM OIL. The market is firm. American is quoted at 11d., with Water White 1/-.

WOODS. No change in values. Fustic, £6 to £7; Jamaica logwood, £8 to £8 10s.; Honduras cedar, 8d. to 11d.; Mauritius ebony, £12 to £18; Lignum Vitæ, £4 to £15; Honduras mahogany, 7½d. to 10d.; Porto Rico satinwood, 9d. to 2/-.

TIMBER. British Guiana greenheart, £14 to £18 per load of 50 cubic feet.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell
 Mr. D. C. Cameron
 Mr. A. Campbell
 Mr. J. W. Cathcart
 Mr. R. P. Gibbs
 Mr. John T. Greg
 Mr. Wm. Glegg
 Mr. P. L. Guppy
 Mrs. E. Haynes
 Mr. A. H. Kirby
 Hon. A. Don. Lockhart
 Mr. Clement Malone
 Mr. A. L. McColl
 Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.
 Mr. A. E. Perkins
 Miss E. Robinson
 Mr. F. B. B. Shand
 Mr. R. B. Short
 Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.
 Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossinoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne Southampton.
 Mr. H. D. Stoddart, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 13	Harrison Line	Director	Liverpool	A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, D.
.. 15	Elders & Fyffes	Camilla	Bristol	D.
.. 17	Leyland Line	Albatross	Liverpool	D.
.. 17	"Direct" Line	Catalina	London	A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, D.
.. 17	"Direct" Line	Cross of Granada	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, D.
.. 27	Leyland Line	Asian	Liverpool	A, E.
.. 29	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	D.

FROM HOLLAND				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 15	Royal Dutch	Stella	Amsterdam	B, E.
June 2	..	A Steamer	..	..

FROM CANADA				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
June 2	R.M.S. P. Co.	Caracquet	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, D.
.. 16	..	Chaleur	..	..

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices May 2
3 1/2 %	Anguilla ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	86 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1925	80
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	79
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	81 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	69 1/2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	74
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank	5 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	10 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	7 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	8 1/2
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	9 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	9 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	10/-
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	97 1/2
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	9 6
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (11 shares)	5
—	Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.	10 3
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15 - paid)	10
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	95-100
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	22
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	7 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	5 1/2
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	9 1/2

RECRUITING for the British West Indies Regiment proceeds with enthusiasm in Trinidad, as may be gathered from the illustrations facing page 164 in the present CIRCULAR. In the uppermost, Colonel Swain is shown addressing a large meeting in Brunswick Square, Port of Spain, with Captain Randolph Rust, seated, by his side. Below is a part of the crowd on the south side of the platform. The men in light-coloured uniforms in the foreground are Trinidad Artillerymen. Brunswick Square is an open space near the centre of the business part of Port of Spain, which was laid out by Governor Sir Ralph Woodford (d. 1828) at his own expense. It is historically interesting as being the site of the old Place des Ames—a Place of the Souls, which was so called through having been the scene of a fight between two tribes of Indians.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

British Guiana.		Jamaica.	
Jan. 1 to Apr. 10, 1916		Jan. 1 to Apr. 10, 1915	
Sugar	20,761 Tons.	17,125 Tons.	9,693
Molasses	6,491	10,260 galls.	2,368 Tons
Rum	1,394,631	1,168,354 Pf. Gls.	109,274
Molascuit, &c.	518	252 Tons.	122,726 Galls.
Cacao	3,303	21,032 lbs.	687,472
Coffee	14,881	37,310	3,015,600
Coco-nuts	445,843	208,770 No.	3,159,566
Oranges	..	..	6,672,340
Bananas	..	..	7,687,170 No.
Plantain	..	..	1,302,000
Pimento	..	..	930,930
Ginger	..	..	1,316,950 Stears.
Honey	..	..	5,575
Dye-woods	..	..	5,031 lbs.
Gold	6,440	10,259 Ozs.	934,032
Diamonds	1,360	..	190,716
Rice	2,645,922	5,089,763 lbs.	7,955
Balata	..	..	4,617 galls.
Rubber	3,204	835	16,775
Timber	66,258	37,070 cub. ft.	6,811 Tons.
Lumber	112,220	6,902 ft.	..
Lime (citrate of)	3,100	1,958 lbs.	..

Trinidad.		Barbados.	
Jan. 1 to Apr. 11, 1916		Jan. 1 to Mar. 16, 1915	
Sugar	121,674	95,150 bgs & lbs	7,838
Molasses	1,501 Tons.	244 Puns.	1,148 Tons.
Rum	1,614	962	14,193
Coco-nuts	24,695,400	26,919,400 No.	727 Puns.
Asphalt	17,014	14,088 Tons.	..
Maniak	114	78	..
Bitters	9,865	4,601 Cases.	..
Coffee	480	9,920 lbs.	..
Crude Petrol	7,532,777	82,990 galls.	..
Cacao	24,695,400	26,919,400 lbs.	..
Cotton	..	..	..
.. Seed	..	..	..
Capra	8,637	7,332 Bags.	..
Spice
Kola

Grenada.	
Oct. 1 to Apr. 2, 1916	
Cacao	9,256,360
Cotton	8,352,900 lbs.

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May 17th, 1916.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

IN the present issue we give the full text of the Viceroy's speech delivered in the Indian Legislative Council on March 20th on the HON. PANDIT MALAVIYA'S motion for the abolition of indentured labour. It will be generally agreed that LORD HARDINGE'S remarks were far more moderate in tone and more sympathetic to the colonies which have been receiving East Indian immigrants than the cabled summaries led one to suppose them to be. His Excellency based his reasons for anticipating the resolution, as he had done by writing to the India Office, on the feeling against the indenture system, which, he stated, had been intensified year by year in India, adding later that no one who knew anything of Indian sentiment could remain ignorant of the deep and genuine disgust to which the continuance of the system which educated Indians looked upon "as a badge of helotry" had given rise. With regard to the future, His Excellency, as already recorded, pointed out that the "existing system of recruiting must be maintained until new conditions . . . have been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned," and that the principle of abolition having been accepted, India could afford to accept the inevitable delay in carrying it out in "a reasonable and generous spirit, recognising that the change should be effected with due regard to existing interests, especially to those important industries in the Colonies which have been built up on Indian labour, and on which the prosperity of some of the Colonies largely depends." It is now generally understood that the Indian Government are willing to sanction the continuance of the present immigration arrangements for a maximum period of five years. It would

not, however, be wise to count too much on this period of grace. It is clear that, with the prospect of new and improved conditions of service before them, it is likely to become increasingly difficult to recruit labourers on the present basis. This makes it more important than ever that no time should be lost in evolving a scheme of free immigration either on the Kanganani system (under which the head man of a village takes his relations and adherents to the colony of their choice), or if the West Indies are found to be too far for its successful consummation, some similar plan. We learn from the Viceroy's speech that Fiji has already taken time by the forelock and has established an "Indian Settlement Trust" to acquire and administer lands for Indian time-expired labourers, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Australia, the chief employer of labour in the island, having guaranteed the advance of the necessary sums for financing the undertaking up to £100,000. The grant of land to immigrants in lieu of the right to a return passage to India was for a time the settled policy of British Guiana, and no doubt the development of a land settlement system in connection with immigration will be capable of arrangement. With the Indian Government, the India Office, and, we hope we may add, native opinion, sympathetic, everything points to the desirability of the West Indies concentrating their efforts on securing free immigration from India in the first instance to meet the necessities of the case. If those efforts were to fail it would be time enough to discuss other forms of immigration, which would then be absolutely necessary if such a colony as British Guiana were to be saved from stagnation. The problems to be solved are: Who is to introduce the labourers, who is to care for them on arrival, how they are to be allotted, how they are to be kept on the estate to which they are allotted for a reasonable period, and how employers are to be prevented from "poaching" their neighbour's labourers. We understand that India will very properly insist on a continuance of Government supervision—and, incidentally, we hope that she will also insist upon the heads of the immigration department being able to speak in the vernacular—and we believe that she will not be adverse to short contracts for labour provided that penal provisions are entirely absent from the Ordinances regulating the system. But for the discussion of these and cognate matters ample opportunity will be afforded. Meanwhile we are glad to learn that it is proposed to hold during the summer a Conference in the West Indies, comprising representatives of the local Governments concerned, and of the planting communities to consider the new situation, and to decide upon their future policy in regard to immigration from India. Incidentally this Conference will endeavour to secure uniformity in the conditions of recruitment and the terms offered, and the report and recommen-

dations of this Conference will subsequently be laid before an Interdepartmental Committee, which will meet in the autumn, and we have every reason to hope that some settlement satisfactory to all parties may be arrived at. Indeed, we would go so far as to assert that, after all, the ultimate termination of the indenture system may prove a blessing in disguise if it puts a stop to the constant criticism and carping to which that form of immigration gave rise, and if it, as we hope it may do in the long run, facilitates the introduction of colonists from the East into the British West Indies, which can offer them so many attractions.

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

FOLLOWING a successful meeting in Glasgow, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR, a newly-formed body entitled the "British Producers' Organisation" has been holding a Conference of sugar producers and others interested in the British sugar industry, in London. This Conference was inaugurated at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, by MR. W. M. HUGHES, the orator Priene Minister of Australia, whose speech is reported elsewhere in the present issue. MR. HUGHES' speeches have had a magnetic effect upon English audiences, who are not averse to an occasional "dressing down," and it was a happy thought of the promoters of the Organisation to secure so forceful a speaker to launch their movement on what we hope may prove to be a useful and successful career. Though the policy outlined by MR. HUGHES that a minimum price should be guaranteed for British sugar in these markets may not find general acceptance among consumers, whose support should be enlisted in any attempt to secure the development of the British sugar industry, it is certain that Australia's Prime Minister, by his brilliant speech, gave publicity to the opening of the Conference which few other speakers could have secured. He exposed the aggressive German and pro-German trading methods unmercifully and figuratively tore to shreds the abominable draft "f.o.b. Hamburg" contract for the sale of German sugar to English consumers, the hawking of which round Mincing Lane was exposed recently in these columns. It appearing that the objects of the sugar section of the new Organisation which are now being settled are likely to be identical with those of the proposed British Sugar League, the need for the formation of that body will be obviated. To all intent and purpose the sugar section of the British Producers' Organisation will be the British Sugar League, while it is hoped that other sections may ultimately be formed to secure preferential treatment in the tariff for other British products. The Conference to which we have referred has been attended by producers from Queensland, Mauritius, India, and representatives of the English beet industry, while the interests of the West Indies have been watched in these preliminary stages by the members of the Sugar Preference Subcommittee of the West India Committee, who should shortly be in a position to invite the support—financial and otherwise—to the new movement which has been started with such éclat, thanks to the ability of its organiser, CAPTAIN CREED.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, at 3 p.m. on May 4th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present included: Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy Chairman, Mr. G. R. Alston, Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., Director of Public Works of Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. Harold Carey, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. H. Dix (Messrs. E. D. & F. Man), Mr. J. J. Eastick, Mr. C. Stephen Ewen, Mr. C. H. Barr Fryer, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. C. Lyon Hall, Mr. G. F. Huggins, Col. Sir J. Roper Parkington, Mr. D. Mackintosh, Mr. Howard Marsh, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C., Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. C. White, Mr. Harold White, representatives of Messrs. Jonas Brown & Son and Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Mr. Middleton Campbell, moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts, said that the membership on December 31st was 1543, and that 120 new members had been elected during the year as compared with 81 in the preceding year. With regard to membership it was quality rather than quantity that they should aim. The accounts were on the whole satisfactory, the surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £3,073 17s. 8d. The Committee had lost four members who had died gallantly fighting for their Country, namely, Major G. F. Molineux-Montgomerie, Captain A. F. Anderson, Lieutenant Gordon Davson, and Second-Lieutenant T. W. Rutherford, and they had also to deplore the death of two of their Hon. Correspondents, Mr. E. A. Agar and the Hon. Alan Dredge, besides 28 other members. They had also lost since the close of the year Mr. J. W. Previtte, the father of a well-known member of the Executive, who had been prominently identified with the asphalt industry of Trinidad.

Mr. Campbell went on to say that throughout the year the proceedings of the Committee had been recorded in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and he congratulated those concerned with the production of that publication, which had been conducted under great difficulties owing to the increased cost of materials and labour trouble, resulting from the war. The action taken by the Committee with regard to the West Indian Contingent had been recorded in the CIRCULAR and Annual Report, and he was glad to learn that the British West Indies, three regiments of which were now training in Egypt, were showing great promise. The Committee had placed their Rooms and Staff at the disposal of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which was doing good work. He proposed to move a resolution later with regard to trade after the war, which had been the subject of representations to the Prime Minister. The question of mail communication had given much trouble. Certain negotiations had been entered into in this

connection, but the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had withdrawn altogether, as they were legally entitled to do under their contract, and the only alternative was to send mails by such opportunities as arose.

A serious question ahead of the West Indies was that of Immigration, the Indian Government having decided to terminate the indenture system. In the circumstances it would be necessary to devise some new scheme for getting labour for British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, the Colonies chiefly affected.

Mr. Campbell concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the resolution, having been seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, was carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Rippon having seconded the resolution, Mr. Archibald G. Bell said that he wanted to make a suggestion with reference to the Executive of the West India Committee. He believed that he was correct in saying that there was no one on it who could be said to be an expert on the oil industry. The oil industry was going to be one of great magnitude. The life of our industry, to say nothing of the carrying on of the present War, was entirely dependent on our having regular supplies of mineral oils. If they were not forthcoming we could not fight this awful war for another month. The Chairman had mentioned that they were going to deal with trade after the War, but he felt that the protection of the oil industry was a matter of the utmost importance, though he confessed that he was not hopeful that it would be taken up as thoroughly as it should be until the War was over. This matter of developing the oil resources of the Empire was one with which the Government should deal at once. The Committee would be of immense benefit in helping to bring this matter forward; he, therefore, suggested to the Executive itself that they should co-opt a member interested in the oil industry to their body.

Mr. Campbell reminded Mr. Bell that Major Previté, who was closely interested in oil, was already a member of the Executive, and suggested that Mr. Bell might suggest the name of another gentleman connected with the industry for election.

The motion having been put to the meeting and carried, Mr. Rutherford moved the following resolution:—

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.

He said that the policy enunciated was no new one. It was one which the Committee had advocated for years. Soon after the outbreak of the War they felt that they should take steps to see what prospect there was of obtaining sugar supplies in British Colonies, and communicated with the Governments of various sugar-producing parts of the Empire with the view of obtaining particulars as to the quantities of sugar which they could yield under a system of preference. The replies received, which were published in a pamphlet, justified the Committee in appointing a Sub-Committee to enquire as to what was the best course to take to obtain a preference for British-produced sugar, including the home-grown beetroot in this country. They were satisfied that, with a preference, enough sugar could be produced under the British Flag for the requirements of the United Kingdom. The home beetroot industry already enjoyed a preference of 2/4 a cwt., and the present seemed to be an opportune moment for advocating a similar preference for British produced sugar. This was not a matter which concerned the West Indies alone, but many other parts of the British Empire. He had the opportunity quite recently of talking to the Secretaries of the Queensland Sugar Association and the President of the Natal Sugar Association, and both told him that they were taking an active interest in the question especially because they felt that the Germans had had too much of their own way.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. G. Moody Stuart said that it would be necessary to press for countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar as well as a preference. The Chairman pointed out that this had not been lost sight of. Mr. J. J. Eastick then said that he came intending to move a modified resolution, but in view of the distinguished gentlemen present, who perhaps knew far more on the subject than he did, he would only suggest a modification in the wording of the resolution now before the meeting. They had not, he felt, sufficiently recognised the importance of Joe Chamberlain's remark about "Thinking Imperially." In this country it was very difficult to secure a change in the sugar legislation. He would suggest the substitution of the word "Empire" for "Mother Country" in the preamble. We wanted to unite the whole of the Empire in this question. The pamphlet that had been published was most interesting, but it was resolutions such as that that were published in the papers, and it was the public not the Government that we wanted to educate. The public could force the Government. We had to educate the public. He would also like to see beet-sugar growing and manufacture and also sugar-refining recognised in the resolution and also labour questions.

The resolution having been amended by the substitution of "Empire" for "Mother Country," was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Campbell then moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. Correspondents which was carried unani-

mously and the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Chairman moved by Mr. A. G. Bell.

The Executive Committee.

Mr. R. Rutherford presided at the monthly meeting of Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 11th. The other members present were: Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and the Secretary.

Before proceeding to the business of the meeting Mr. Rutherford moved the following resolutions which were carried unanimously:—

RESOLVED: That this Committee desires to place on record its admiration of the gallant conduct of its esteemed Secretary, Algernon Edward Aspinall, in plunging into the River Thames, fully dressed, at the imminent risk of his life, on the 22nd April, 1916, in an attempt to rescue a drowning man, whom he brought to land.

That the Resolution be suitably illuminated, and that a copy be given to Mr. Aspinall, and that another copy be hanging in the West India Committee Rooms.

The minutes of the preceding meeting having been read the Committee proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year in accordance with Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation. Mr. Rutherford said that Mr. Campbell had expressed his intention of resigning, but the Committee expressed their unanimous desire that he would continue to act as Chairman. On the motion of Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mr. Shephard, Mr. Rutherford was re-elected Deputy-Chairman, and on the motion of Mr. Davson, seconded by Mr. de Pass, Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Gurney were re-elected Hon. Treasurers.

The following were then admitted to Membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. P. C. Pierre (British Guiana)	{ Mr. H. Thompson King. Mr. M. A. French.
Major Charles M. Ogilvie (Jamaica)	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. W. Pawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. Frederick J. Scheult (Trinidad)	{ Hon. R. S. A. Warner, K.C. Sir George Townsend Fenwick, K.C.B.
Mr. D. S. Peterkin (Grenada)	{ Mr. J. H. Burgess. Mr. A. W. Duncan.
Mr. Arthur H. Dascot (Trinidad)	{ Mr. W. P. O. Paul, J.P. Mr. G. David Hatt.

Correspondence on the subject of East Indian Immigration was laid on the table, and it was announced that it was proposed to hold an Inter-colonial Conference on the subject in the West Indies in the summer, and that an interdepartmental Committee would sit in the Autumn to consider the whole question.

The Sugar Preference Sub-Committee reported that they had had several meetings, and that, it appearing that a British Empire Producers' Organisation was being formed with objects which were likely to be similar to those of the proposed British Sugar League, the need for the formation of the suggested League would be obviated. The British

Empire Producers' Organisation was holding a Conference of sugar producers from various parts of the Empire which was being attended by the members of the Sugar Preference Sub-Committee of the West India Committee. The action of the Sugar Preference Sub-Committee was approved, and they were given full powers to nominate representatives to serve on the Council of the British Empire Producers' Organisation when duly constituted.

INDENTURED IMMIGRATION

Lord Hardinge's Speech in the Council.

Having now received a full report of the debate in the Indian Legislative Council on the Hon. Pandit Malaviya's motion for the abolition of Indian Indentured Labour on April 1st, we are able to publish a verbatim report of the Viceroy's speech.

Lord Hardinge said: "We have listened with interest to the speech of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya which has been given with great clearness and moderation, and I rise at this early stage in the debate in order that Council may know at once that Government propose to accept this Resolution. I and my Government have, in fact, already taken the first steps towards the abolition of the system of Indian indentured labour which the Resolution recommends. In the autumn of last year, the Government of India addressed the Secretary of State reviewing the whole position in the light of the information contained in Messrs. McNeill and Chimmamanlal's report, and especially bringing to his notice the feeling against the system which has intensified year by year in this country. We informed him that, in our opinion, the moment had come to urge His Majesty's Government to assent to the total abolition of the system in the four British Colonies where it still prevails, and in Surinam. We added that we could well understand that His Majesty's Government, with their heavy pre-occupations during the course of the war, might prefer to postpone the final settlement of the question till after the conclusion of peace; but that we felt that this was no reason why we should not place our views before them on the main issue of the continuance of the system, together with some preliminary suggestions for the solution of the problem of what the future condition should be under which recruitment and emigration should be permitted. The Secretary of State has informed us, in reply, that he is entirely prepared to accept the policy of eventual abolition advocated by us, and we have his full authority to accept this Resolution. On behalf of His Majesty's Government he has asked us, however, to make it clear that the existing system of recruiting must be maintained until new conditions, under which labour should be permitted to proceed to the Colonies, should have been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned, until proper safeguards in the Colonies should have been provided; and until they should have had reasonable time to adjust themselves to the change."



KING GEORGE III.



QUEEN CHARLOTTE.

TWO PORTRAITS BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS IN JAMAICA.

a period which must necessarily depend on circumstances and on conditions imperfectly known at present. I am confident that everyone will agree that, as the policy of the abolition of this system has now been definitely accepted and will be carried out, India can afford to accept this delay in a reasonable and generous spirit, recognising that the change should be effected with due regard to existing interests, especially to those important industries in the Colonies which have been built up on Indian labour, and on which the prosperity of some of the Colonies largely depends. There is another reason why this measure of delay need not cause anxiety. Marked improvements have already been made in the treatment of indentured labourers, and others are now in process of realisation. The Government of Fiji passed in 1912 legislation substituting fines for imprisonment in the case of all ordinary offences against the labour law, and has now passed an Ordinance completely eliminating imprisonment for purely labour offences. An Indian Settlement Trust is being established in the same Colony to acquire and administer lands for Indian time-expired labourers, and the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the principal concern which employs labour in the island, has guaranteed the advance of the necessary sums for financing this undertaking up to £100,000. Similarly, the Government of Trinidad has submitted to the Colonial Office and obtained approval of a draft Ordinance abolishing all imprisonment for labour offences.

Imprisonment for Labour Offences.

The Government of India also learn that the Secretary of State for the Colonies proposes to inform Jamaica and British Guiana, and also, in order to avoid all possibility of misconception, Fiji and Trinidad, that the power of imprisonment for labour offences must be completely eliminated from their respective Labour Ordinances before the end of the present year. There is therefore the less degree of urgency so far as the immediate interests of the coolies are concerned, and having the pledge of the British Government for the abolition of the indentured system, India can freely accept the condition that due time should be allowed for other arrangements to be made before the present system disappears for ever. For that matter the delay is also necessary in Indian interests. Some of the worst evils associated with indentured labour, for instance, the morally undesirable features of coolie life in the Colonies cannot be attributed wholly or even mainly to the Indenture, and may be found in much the same degree under a system of free emigration, merely to abolish indentured emigration, a course which implies the refusal to allow any emigrant to leave the country under a contract, would only bring another set of evils in its train. It would mean that recruiters would induce coolies to go without any agreement, but by the grant of advances, or by fraud, while the Government of India would have greatly weakened their power of interference. Consequently an alternative plan for controlling the conditions of recruitment and emigration has to be worked out, and this must of necessity take some little time; but this need in no way de-

tract from the sense of gladness with which Indians of all classes will learn that the indentured system is now doomed.

"It is a source of great satisfaction to me that I am able to make this announcement in Council to-day. I have always felt an irreconcilable prejudice against the system of indentured emigration from India to British Colonies, and as Council is aware, one of the earliest acts of my administration, and one which gave me profound pleasure, was the prohibition of such emigration to Natal. This narrowed the field of the problem, since the exclusion of Natal left indentured emigration open only to a small number of British Crown Colonies and to Surinam. In 1910, emigration to Mauritius was also prohibited; and though the Government of India have subsequently been approached with a view to its resumption, we declined to consider the proposal. In this way considerable progress was made towards the abolition of the system, which was thus left in force only in respect of emigration to the four British Colonies of Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana and Fiji, and to the Dutch Colony of Surinam. My Government then passed the whole question under review in connection with the report of a Committee appointed by the then Secretary of State for the Colonies to consider the general question of emigration from India to the Crown Colonies, including the question of the general advantages to be reaped by India herself and by the particular Colonies concerned. The Committee was presided over by a distinguished ex-member of the Home Civil Service, and contained two gentlemen who had served in India and one member now in the Indian Civil Service, who had had special experience of the recruiting districts of the United Provinces. There was no reason to suppose that the Committee did not conduct their inquiry with due care and impartiality. The whole trend of their report was to show that the system afforded so much economic and material benefit to the coolies that it ought to be maintained in their interest.

Mr. Gokhale's Motion.

"When that late distinguished member of our body, Mr. Gokhale, raised the question four years ago, it was on these grounds, based on the data supplied by the Committee's report that my Government were unable to accept his motion that steps should immediately be taken for the total abolition of the system. But though we did not accept his motion, I was greatly impressed, as no one could fail to have been, by the intensity of the feeling against indentured emigration which the debate revealed in this country. Shortly afterwards, also, facts came to my notice which caused me to think that the examination of the question by the Colonial Emigration Committee had not been sufficiently thorough, and I decided to send a special deputation to examine the question anew on the spot in each of the Colonies concerned and in Surinam. I selected for this mission a member of the Indian Civil Service and an Indian gentleman chosen from the United Provinces, the province from which so many emigrants are drawn; and, I confess, I hoped that their investigations would prove the deathblow of the system. In one sense, as I shall shortly ex-

plain, it has done so, but not in the immediate and decisive manner which I had hoped and expected. It must be admitted that the first impression produced on reading Mr. McNeill and Mr. Chinnamal's report is that the evils of the system are not so serious as has sometimes been alleged; and, in fact, the authors of the report have recorded their opinion that the advantages of the system as a whole outweigh its disadvantages, though they by no means ignore certain undesirable features which they wish to see removed. But in spite of their failure to condemn the system root and branch, a detailed examination of their report has furnished material which forms an overwhelmingly strong indictment against the further continuance of indentured labour. It has brought to our notice damning facts, which so far as I am aware had not been elicited by any previous enquiry, and which I am sure have impressed His Majesty's Government as they have impressed us, with the necessity of the system being brought to an end. I will tell Council briefly what these are.

"From the purely material point of view, the Government of India, like many other people, had in years gone by looked upon emigration to the Colonies as affording, if only to a limited extent, a means of relief for the congestion and poverty that unhappily prevail in the districts whence the supplies of emigrating labour are mostly drawn. A good deal of detail was given in the report regarding the earning capacity of coolies in the different Colonies. The opportunity was taken, when examining these figures, of comparing the wages which a coolie could earn in the different Colonies, with the wages which were being offered to the same class of men in the numerous parts of India, where there was a good demand for labour, of comparing not only the wages, but the purchasing power of those wages. The elaborate details given in the report brought out in a very striking fashion the effect of the high prices which prevailed in most of the labour Colonies on the value of the cash earnings of the labourer and his family. Not to weary Council with a mass of details, I may state that in the four British Colonies, of which I have been speaking, the average adult labourer, provided that he spends little or nothing except on food and clothes, can save from under 1s. to about 3s. a week. I need hardly explain that, as a matter of fact, he never saves anything like as much as this, but that is after all a matter of human nature.

Wages and Savings.

"Now I do not wish it to be understood that I am in any way accusing the Colonial employers of paying unreasonably low wages; nor do I wish to minimise the advantages of the prospects that lie before the coolie who has worked through his term of indenture. The labourer who works hard and lives thriftily and keeps himself out of trouble among surroundings which, as I shall explain presently, are morally very undesirable, is usually in a very few years after the period of what we may call his 'economic probation,' able to find for himself a home and a piece of land, or employment in one of the towns from which he can soon gain a

very comfortable competence. This I am ready to admit, but why should the labourer have to journey thousands of miles over the 'black water' to settle in a strange country and to place himself for a long period under conditions often of an undesirable, and in some cases of a revolting, nature, in order to achieve the desired end, when he can obtain in India the choice of either better-paid labour, as, for instance, in the big jute areas of Eastern Bengal; or almost equally well-paid labour with the prospects of obtaining in a very few years a home and a piece of land on the Assam tea gardens? It seems rather absurd to find a man going to Fiji for a wage of 26s. a month with rice at 2½ seers to the rupee when he can readily earn 6s. or 7s. a week during the jute season in Eastern Bengal with rice selling at a third of the price prevailing in Fiji, with the additional advantage that he can, if he likes, with far greater ease, take his family with him to add to his earnings than in the case of distant Colonies. It is clear, then, that the coolie himself does not stand to gain very much by emigration. From the point of view of India as a whole, it can hardly be seriously argued that indentured emigration to the Colonies is an important safety-valve for congested districts in India, seeing that the total emigration on indenture to the four tropical Colonies during the year 1913, amounted only to a little over 7,700 persons, whereas in the same year, Madras alone sent 117,000 coolies to the Straits Settlements and 190,000 to Ceylon.

The Suicide Rate.

"I now turn to a more important and far more unpleasant aspect of the case. It has very long been known and regretted that the sex proportion of the emigrants was unsatisfactory. This of course is not a matter which arises out of the question of indenture. What we are, however, concerned with is the effect which this sex ratio has on the conditions under which the indentured coolie has to perforce to live during the period of his indenture. Here the Government of India for the first time received full information of certain details which showed that there must be something very wrong indeed with the conditions under which these men were living. The death-rate among indentured coolies has been decidedly high in some Colonies, but the Government of India had never before been able fully to examine details regarding the share in this death-rate attributable to suicides. The figures were truly startling. The average rate of suicides per million of all ages is 45 in Madras and 63 in the United Provinces. Suicides are especially frequent among persons of the usual age of the indentured labourers, *i.e.*, between the ages of 20 and 30, and we may make a liberal allowance in this respect. But in the Colonies we find the following figures for suicides per million. British Guiana, free population 52, indentured 100; Trinidad, free population 134, indentured 400; Fiji, free population 147, indentured 926. I do not think we have to seek very far for the cause of the state of things which these figures reveal. In a Parliamentary Report for March, 1914, the sex proportion among the average Indian population of the various Colo-

nics showed that in Trinidad and Tobago, there were nearly twice as many males as females; in British Guiana, there were about 26 per cent. more, while in Fiji, there were nearly 2½ times as many males as females. As might be expected from these figures, there is strong unofficial evidence to show that the sexual immorality prevailing among the coolies is appalling, and that domestic relations are largely in abeyance. Such sordid and miserable conditions may well predispose an unhappy man to suicide.

"Again, a necessary result of all systems of indentured labour is the enforcement in the Courts of law of breaches of its conditions. I gladly admit that prosecutions have, largely in response to our repeated and earnest representations, shown a considerable diminution; but, even so, the average percentage of prosecutions to indentured population during recent years has been—

In Trinidad	...	...	23 per cent.
In British Guiana	...	...	19 "
In Jamaica	...	...	12 "
In Fiji	...	...	13 "

"The same individual is no doubt often prosecuted more than once, and we must make due allowance for this fact. But it is surely an inevitable deduction from the facts and figures I have just been placing before you that the ultimate force which drives to his death a cooly depressed by home sickness, jealousy, domestic unhappiness or any other cause, is the feeling of being bound to serve for a fixed period and amidst surroundings which it is out of his power to change. We may fully admit that the undesirable sex proportion may have more to do with this even than the system of indenture itself. This is a matter which in any case will have to be put right. But, at any rate, we are at last in a position to free ourselves from the responsibility of compelling the cooly to remain under these conditions without the power of being able to select the place in which, and the master for whom, he will work. I do not wish it to be thought that I am taking a prejudiced view of the action of the Colonies; in matters that concern the physical well-being of the coolies, they have done their utmost. I have already told you of the action taken by the Colonial Government in Fiji to abolish the system of imprisonment for labour offences, how this action has been approved by His Majesty's Government, and its extension to other Colonies insisted on. I mentioned also the Fiji scheme for the settlement of Indian labourers on the land. I am not in a position to say that the action taken in Fiji was directly due to the proposals made by Messrs. McNeill and Chinmnanlal, but it is no doubt true that the recent policy of the Colonial Government has been largely in keeping with their recommendations.

Indian Sentiment.

"I feel that we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Secretary of State for India and to His Majesty's Government for their prompt and sympathetic response to the representations which I and my Government placed before them, and it is fitting for me to take this opportunity of publicly

acknowledging their action. Their attitude in the matter fills me with assurance that, what has been promised, will be performed to the letter, and that the end of the system, which has been productive of so much unhappiness and wickedness and has been, relatively speaking, of so small advantage to this country, is now in sight. No one, who knows anything of Indian sentiment, can remain ignorant of the deep and genuine disgust to which the continuance of the indentured system has given rise. Educated Indians look on it, they tell us, as a badge of helotry. This is soon to be removed for ever; and it is a source of deep personal satisfaction to myself that one of the last official acts that I shall perform in this country is to tell you that I have been able to do something to ensure that Indians, who desire to work as labourers in the tropical Colonies may do so under happier conditions; and to obtain from His Majesty's Government the promise of the abolition in due course of a system which educated opinion in India has for long regarded as intolerable and as a stigma upon their race."

In moving his resolution, Pandit Malaviya reviewed the history of Indian emigration since the abolition of slavery. The report of Messrs. McNeill and Chinmnanlal had, he said, been received by the public with great dissatisfaction as it unmistakably showed a tendency to underrate the evils of the indenture system and even to apologise for it. He complained of the evils of recruiting, the hardships which confronted the coolies in the Colonies, the high suicide rate in Fiji, and the percentage of prosecutions for labour offences.

After the resolution had been accepted the Hon. Mr. Dadabhoy, the Hon. Khan Bahadur, M. M. Shafi, the Hon. Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar expressed their gratitude to His Excellency.

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

A Notable Address by Mr. W. M. Hughes.

The newly-formed British Empire Producers' Organisation, which arranged the very successful meeting at Glasgow referred to in last CIRCULAR, has been holding an important Conference in London on sugar production within the Empire during the past ten days. This Conference has been attended by sugar producers from, or connected with, India, Australia, the British West Indies, Natal and Mauritius, and it is hoped that when a policy has been clearly defined and the constitution is complete, the new Organisation, the establishment of which should obviate the need for the formation of the proposed British Sugar League, will receive the cordial support—financial and otherwise—of every sugar growing part of the Empire.

The inaugural meeting was addressed by Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, who, in an impressive speech said that the object of the Organisation was, he understood, to make Great Britain in particular, and the Empire generally, independent of foreign producers, and especially enemy producers, as far as sugar was concerned. In calling together a conference of representatives

from all parts of the Empire they were proceeding on the right lines. It was a sound and business-like way of attacking this problem to start by blazing the trail along which the Empire might have to go. We were confronted by a problem which made an appeal to our common primary instinct of self-preservation—our commercial and industrial self-preservation. There was no half-way house in this business at all; we must go forward or fall backward. In this movement he heard the sound of the first peal of the tocsin that was to summon British industry to its defence, and in particular he desired to express his appreciation of the efforts of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, to whom was due the holding of the Glasgow Conference recently, at which so many diverse interests were brought together, and which marked a movement of historic importance. In dealing with sugar production they were really not concerned with one industry alone, but with many. Intertwined about sugar production and sugar consumption were a dozen other industries, which in their turn were directly or indirectly concerned with others, so that, like ripples in a pool, they spread outward until they were enveloped in the great ocean of British industry. For some time past he had been the greatest sugar monopolist in Australia, having bought up, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, all the sugar output of Australia, and having then gone out into the highways and byways to supplement their home sources of supply. In that operation he had the conviction forced upon him that there was absolutely no reason why the Empire should not supply the whole of its own requirements in sugar.

It was not necessary for him to dwell upon the history of the sugar industry in this country. It was sufficient for him to state two facts which were matters of history, and concerning which there was no room for dispute. The first fact was that the industry grew up under the stimulating influence of a policy which was radically different from that which was now in existence. It was a policy under which the development in its early stages was encouraged by the far-sighted rulers of Great Britain. He was not going to waste their time or his own by even paddling in the academic sea of theoretical controversy, much less plunging into it. He thought we ought, in a crisis like this, to put aside all those childish diversions, because this policy had no more relation in essentials to what was called Free Trade or Protection than the great principle of life and growth had to the dry-as-dust theories of the antiquary or archæologist. What we had now to consider was what kind of policy was necessary now to conserve the industrial and commercial welfare of the nation and the happiness and well-being of the people concerned. We should forget academic dissertations about Free Trade or Protection and treat the problems facing us as business men with a straightforward business purpose. The second fact he wished to emphasise was that under the latter-day policy of this country the sugar industry had steadily decayed. We had the shell, but what had become of the kernel? If the shell had any tenant at all it was one that could only be described

in a guttural accent. It was a policy which had not only destroyed the sugar industry, but if persisted in would destroy us. Sugar was second only to bread in its importance to the civilised world. It was one of the staple articles of food of the people of these islands, and yet the industry upon which we depended for its production had been permitted to decay, as the whole agricultural industry had been permitted to decay. As a nation, our policy had become largely industrial and our people in these islands had been compelled to depend in an increasing degree for their food supplies upon the overseas sources of supply. Nothing more need be said in condemnation of the existing policy than that while it sought to meet the industrial situation it made no provision whatever for the production of food for the people in these islands or to encourage its production in other parts of the Empire. On the contrary, we entered into arrangements with other nations which conflicted with a policy of self-dependence in the production of our own food supplies, and what was more to the purpose at this moment, we entered avidly into arrangements affecting the control of the food supply of our people with a nation whose objective for the past forty years had been the destruction not only of our commercial greatness, but of our national existence. That nation had pursued that policy with such determination that at the outbreak of this war we found the whole fabric of the industry of the British Empire resting upon a basis which was mainly alien and largely hostile. It was a policy which was responsible for the discouragement of a powerful Navy by that nation by every means at its disposal. That was the indictment which he had to bring against the past policy of *laissez faire*, and he had couched it in the mildest terms at his command. They might put it in stronger terms if they liked; they might say that everything that could destroy our self-dependence on our own food production had been done and everything that could avert that catastrophe had been left undone. If we were living to-day as free men, if we were the masters of our destiny to-day, it was not due to this policy, but to Providence and to those few resolute men who, in spite of the tidal forces sweeping in one direction, had followed the beacon star of Empire and safety.

Coming to the sugar industry, it was essential that we should first of all satisfy ourselves that the resources of the Empire were sufficient for the needs of the Empire, and, secondly, that those resources were capable of being developed in a rational and business-like way. It was unfortunately only too true that when this war broke out, the sugar-producing lands of the Empire, having been partly driven out of cultivation, the industry, as far as this country was concerned, was largely under the domination of Germany and Austria. Not only were we largely dependent on German and Austrian beet sugar, but the trade in this country was dominated by the agents of Germany and Austria. In 1913 Great Britain imported sugar to the value of nearly £12,000,000.* That was one of the results of the

* This figure is too low. Our imports of sugar in 1911 were valued at £23,000,000.—ED.

policy which had driven British lands out of sugar production and encouraged those who had been our prospective enemies, and were now our actual enemies, to produce the sugar required for British consumption. There was no doubt that even now, in time of war, Germany and Austria were preparing diligently for the day when peace was declared to dump their accumulated stocks of beet sugar upon this market and the markets of other British countries. It did not lie in our mouths to blame them. It would give them an opportunity of lightening some of the burden of debt which this war had imposed upon them. And not only were the sugar producers and manufacturers active in Germany, but their agents in this country were as active as ever. They were assiduously preparing for that day when they could by unloading these stocks upon us demoralise our markets and prices. If they were allowed to succeed in that plan of campaign then goodbye to our prospects of ever creating a self-contained Empire as far as sugar was concerned. The only way to avert that danger was to prepare to meet it now. Now was the hour. It was no good waiting until the war was over to begin to safeguard our sugar supplies. The industry was a matter of growth. Even if we could make arrangements to establish the industry to-day it would be a matter of eighteen months or two years before it would be on a sure footing. And in the meantime we were face to face with the activities of men in our midst, some of whom called themselves British, some of whom were actually British, and some of whom hid their origin under names all too familiar to us. But whoever and whatever they were, they were the men who stood for powerful interests and would not be driven from their vantage ground unless we met and defeated them with all the energy at our disposal. Unless we deleted the word "impossible" from our dictionary, unless we put an end to the intolerable domination of the Schmidts and their kind, we should fall not only in this industry, but in others.

Our enemies manifested their activities in the most unexpected places. Some of them posed as humanitarians, as the mouthpieces of that Brotherhood of Man which embraced our dear German friends. Others indulged in hypocritical cant about the duty we owed to our neighbour, and some even hoped for the renewal of profitable relations between us and Germany. In short, these people told us that humanity dictated that after this war we should resume business relations in which our national self-dependence was being slowly and surely undermined by Germany. As an illustration of the preparation which was being made to secure the maintenance of German ascendancy in the sugar trade he had been placed in possession of a printed form of contract which he believed was presented to one of the authorities interested in this matter, but which, owing to some unexpected alertness on the part of that authority, was not accepted. The schedule of that form set out with startling frankness some indication of the future that awaited us in this trade. It was proposed that after the war it should be at the seller's option to deliver sugar in craft or in warehouse in the free port of Hamburg

or in bonded warehouse at London or Liverpool or Antwerp or Bremen or Ghent or Danzig or Stettin. That was the frontal attack which was proposed to be made on our position while our brotherhood friends were attacking on the flank.

The sugar production and supply was, after all, a question that must be settled on a business basis by business men. He was of opinion that duties alone would not avail to safeguard this industry in its early stages. Assuming that the war lasted another eighteen months or two years, even if we laid the foundations of the industry right away we would only be just ready to supply ourselves. But Germany would be ready at that time to pour her stocks of sugar into this market at such a rate and at such prices, in order to realise for cash and to secure the control of the market, that even if we had duties of 10 or 15 or even 20 per cent. they would be of no avail. Our sugar industry would be crushed in its infancy. The only way he could see to safeguard that infant industry during that critical time was for the British Government to enter into a series of agreements with the sugar producers and manufacturers of this country and the Dominion under which they would be guaranteed by the Imperial Government a minimum price for a minimum quantity, so that no matter how much sugar Germany might dump here, or how cheaply she might be willing to sacrifice it, our producers and manufacturers would be safeguarded and the industry itself saved from extinction. Unless some such guarantee was assured to the producers and manufacturers there were men in this country and they were not all Germans; some of them spoke English—who would smother the life out of this infant industry while it was still in its swaddling clothes. In the last few days there had been men shot for offences against the nation. He did not wish to make any comment on that fact, but he did wish to say this—there were men in this country calling themselves British, there were men in this country calling themselves naturalised Germans, who had a better right to stand against the wall to-day. He wanted to say but one word more. In founding this sugar industry they must take into consideration the labour question as well as the producers' and manufacturers' interests, because if the industry was to be sound it must rest upon a solid national basis. They must found the industry on a basis that would be consistent with the lot of a free man in a free country. Let them make their watchword "Victory" and go straight ahead.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on April 11th, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. W. P. B. Shephard for the gift of the original "Opinion" prepared by him and Professor Sheldon Amos, July 22nd, 1870, on the interpretation of the most favoured nation article in relation to the imposition of countervailing duties on Bounty-fed sugar, which resulted in a considerable modification in the views of the Foreign Office on the subject, and to Mr. A. G. V. Perkins for the gift of the Second Vol. "Andrews' Illustrations of the West Indies."

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.

Mr. Gerald Case, the engineering expert recently engaged by the Government of British Guiana to advise on the pressing problem of sea defences in that Colony, has been busy for some weeks past in the inspection of the coastline and existing sea-defences on the east and west coasts.

This gentleman has been long associated with erosion and sea-defence works on the southern and eastern coasts of England.

Up to the date of our last advices from Demerara, Mr. Case had not yet submitted his report to the Government; but he had given certain indications of the line of action he is prepared to recommend, which will probably incur a much smaller initial expenditure than was anticipated. He entirely condemns the erection of vertical defence works of either stone, concrete or timber, but advocates instead the construction of stepped-back or sloping sea walls in conjunction with long low-lying and adjustable groynes, thereby utilising the constructive forces of the sea and the littoral currents, in building up by accretion a natural protecting foreshore of mud, sand or shell, up which the waves will harmlessly roll and gradually expend their energies before reaching the protective sea dam at the back, at or near the margin of high water.

These recommendations, it may be remarked, are very much on the lines suggested in our article on "Sea Defences" in the CIRCULAR of 27th January last, in which we referred to these groynes as "persuaders aiming at the encouragement of deposits, in front of the dams, of banks of drift-mud, sand and shell, transported by littoral current along the shores"; and again, reference was made to "an easy sea-slope being the best 'line of least resistance' to adopt."

SUGAR IN JAMAICA.

A proposed new Central Factory.

Proposals are on foot for the establishment of a Central Sugar Factory in St. Catherine, Jamaica. The scheme has been initiated on behalf of Mr. P. M. Bleakie, an American, who is legally represented by Messrs. Cargill, Cargill and Dunn, and Messrs. Milholland, Ashenheim and Stone. The local planters are taking the matter up with enthusiasm, and contracts for the supply of cane are being signed.

Meanwhile it is interesting to learn that Mr. Cecil Lindo, a Jamaican, who is reported to have made a fortune in Costa Rica, has purchased the estate of the late Colonel the Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., including the famous Moneymusk Estate, for £200,000. In 1914 this estate had 1,078 acres under cane cultivation, and 6,581 in grass, woodland, and ruin, while the crop was 1,369½ hogsheads of sugar, and 502 puncheons of rum.

Mr. Lindo, who comes of an old Jamaica family, is a nephew of Mr. Abraham Lindo, of Trelawny, and Mr. David Lindo, a well-known chemist.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Dublin Revolt.

The more one hears about the insurrection in Ireland, the more one realizes what a merciful escape this country has had from disaster. For had the German ship landed her guns and the rebels succeeded in Dublin the whole country, except Ulster, would have been on fire. Even now the situation is serious, the Sinn Féin movement being stronger than the weightiest judges of Irish affairs imagined. Fourteen of the ringleaders have been shot, 79 imprisoned, and 1,706 deported. The usual bleat for clemency is emitted by people, who seem to think nothing of the heavy casualties suffered by battalions of soldiers, who enlisted to serve against the Germans. In the meantime the country is under martial law, which is a great relief to the orderly sections of the community.

The Compulsory Service Bill is being pushed rapidly through the House of Commons, Ireland being excluded from the scope of its operation. This is a pity, since those who have advised the Prime Minister on this point have been entirely wrong with regard to the Sinn Féin danger. If only British statesmen would trust to their own good instincts, and treat the Irish as men, and not as wilful children, perhaps the policy might prove as successful as the present one has proved a failure.

On the Western Front.

On the anniversary of the Battle of Steenstraet last year, there was much artillery activity, especially around Steenstraet, the Franco-Belgian guns wrecking several lengths of enemy trenches. There has, also, been much artillery practice and mining in the Argonne, near Carency and St. Eloi. Around Ypres and Albert on May 2nd the Germans attempted to advance against the British positions, but were repulsed before the attack properly developed.

The Australasians, who have had some hard training in trench fighting on the banks of the Suez Canal, have arrived in France, and taken over a portion of the front.

Speculation is active on future developments in the West. One school maintains that it is impossible to take the offensive, another holds that it can, given the element of surprise, and that it must be done to achieve ultimate victory. Trench warfare has been imposed upon us by the Germans. We must not take their lead indefinitely, but force them to take ours. The reason why their lines have not yet been broken is because no attack has been made of sufficient scope and density, with a large army held immediately in reserve. It is said by competent military authorities that had either side been able to put fresh divisions at critical moments in the Battle of Ypres it would have been decisive. The Germans since the winter of 1914-15 have attempted only one great offensive at a time. It is believed that they are about to begin one on the Western Front, probably at the junction of the British and French Armies.

The Battle of Verdun.

Though the Crown Prince has been superseded the course of operations at Verdun remains unchanged. On the left bank the violence of the fighting shows no abatement in the struggle to gain Hill 304 in order to outflank the French on Dead Man Hill. On the right bank ground is lost and retaken without cessation. But looking at the operations as a whole they have decreased in weight and development as well as in frequency. The French on the other hand, are carrying out small counter-offensives, whenever a favourable opportunity offers itself. Nearly all of them have been successful, particularly north of Dead Man Hill, by which a position was recaptured which had taken the enemy two months to gain, and about Douaumont and Vaux. It would, however, be a mistake to argue that the Germans have abandoned the task they set themselves. A new Battle of Verdun may begin any day. As a matter of fact the latest reports from this sector suggest that it is by no means so unlikely as French opinion seems to think.

On the Russian Front.

Though at many points the German attempts at inaugurating an advance have failed, Marshal Hindenburg has, in the Lake Narotch region, recaptured some of the positions recently taken by the Russians. He has about six divisions under his command, but, the line as a whole, is held with only one man to each yard of front. As for a reserve there is none of any consequence in the East.

In Asia Minor.

The Russians, having defeated the enemy at Karina, the highest point on the road from Kermanshah to Baghdad, have resumed their advance. They stormed positions at Sermal Kirind, and drove the Turks out with the bayonet, leaving behind them much war material. The next point captured was Kasr-i-Shirin. It is a point 1,700 feet above the sea level, and 15 miles from the Turco-Persian frontier, where it is crossed by the main road to Khanikin. There the Russians found munition reserves, telegraph material, and a food convoy, together with three guns. At Khanikin, the last fortified position on the road to Baghdad, the Turks are preparing to make a stubborn stand, but the speed and ardour of the Russian advance are seemingly irresistible. Between Khanikin and Baghdad the road is open, but no effort is being spared to strengthen Baghdad itself.

Equally successful is the march of the Russians to the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates from the north. In the centre the Turks, finding that their attacks were repulsed, made a series of attacks on the Russian left with the idea that it was weak. They soon found their mistake with the result that they have lost some strategic positions in the mountains south of Mush, and their right, instead of scoring a success, has to fall back on its reserves at Karpuz. Diarbekr, on the west, is as much in danger as Khanikin on the west.

The Turks, who have all along shown a considerably higher spirit of humanity than the Germans,

have agreed with the British to an exchange of prisoners, and allowed General Townshend to keep his sword.

The Italian Front.

This terrain is the most difficult of the European theatres of the war, and the losses have been in proportion. The devotion of the Italian troops is ably seconded by the ability and zeal of Italian engineers. One of their recent feats was to blow off the nose of the Col di Lana, and with it a strategic position of great value to the Austrians. Roads have been made where there never was even a track before, and, in the Carso, hills have been occupied absolutely bare of cover. Naturally the advance is slow. Nevertheless, during the past two months the Italians have captured an area of some 400 square miles, a tract greater than that lost by the French during the same period on the Verdun positions. But, whereas the French have been able to regain some of the ground thus conceded, the Austrians have regained none.

In the Balkans.

Except for a series of air raids on the enemy camps at Strumnitza not much in the way of military activity has been shown in this region. But the Allied forces have made good progress in their task of preparation for the expected advance. The Serbian Army has now been refitted and re-equipped, and, no doubt, will, ere long, take part in operations which will have as one of their objectives the re-occupation of Serbia. Apparently the scruples of the Greek Government against the use of Greek railways for the conveyance of Serbian troops have been overcome.

Germany and the United States.

The German reply to the last American Note practically declines to give up submarine warfare unless the United States relieves Germany of the British Navy's grip on her throat. She does, however, promise that no merchant ship will be sunk unless it attacks the submarine or attempts to escape. She has made declarations to the same effect before, and that this one is as elusive as the others the destruction of the *Cymric* bears witness. President Wilson, while taking for granted that Germany was sincere, refused to act as her cat-paw in an attempt to rob the Allies of the advantages of their superior sea-power.

The War in the Air.

The comparative immunity of Zeppelins appears to be at an end, L20, which took part in the raid on the North-East Coast of England and the South-East Coast of Scotland on May 2nd, reached Norway in such a badly-damaged condition that she came down near Stavanger a total wreck. One of the crew gave as the cause that she was hit several times by shells from British guns when she was operating over the Border.

The Royal Navy has since destroyed two other Zeppelins. One was L7, which was brought down off the coast of Schleswig. She was severely damaged by the cruisers *Galatea* and *Phaeton*, her destruction having been completed by a shot from a submarine, which rescued seven of her crew.

The following night an airship raided Salonika. She was, however, picked up by searchlights, and subjected to fire from British ships for half-an-hour, which struck her in vital parts. She came down in the marshes near the mouth of the Vardar River, the French capturing twelve of her crew, who tried to escape. The loss is a blow to German prestige in the Balkans, as her fleet of Zeppelins was regarded in this theatre of the war as one of the signs of Germany's military superiority. In all, the enemy has lost six of these craft since February 3rd, and what is more important to him, he has also lost the crews, no survivors having been able to return to the Fatherland. On our side we are inspired with hope for the future, not only by recent naval achievements, but by signs that our anti-aircraft guns are gaining effectiveness with experience.

The Position at Sea.

As it was last year, so it is this, the Navy is gradually getting control of the situation with the rounding up of enemy submarines. The number of merchant vessels reported as sunk is lessening. The greatest outrage during the past fortnight was the destruction of the *Cymric*, a White Star Liner, and therefore American owned. She carried a general cargo, but no passengers, and was torpedoed without warning. All but five of the crew were saved by a Dutch steamer, and landed at Bantry. The outrage is the usual German comment on an American Note.

In East Africa.

The Germans, retiring on the central railway, were reinforced, and advanced on Kondoa Irangi, but were repulsed with heavy losses. They see the possible effect of General Vanderventer's advance, which may force them into a position in which they will be compelled to divide their forces if they are to avoid envelopment. These tactics were made familiar to us by the Boers in the South African War, and are a slight variation of the battle formation of the Zulus—an extended line with the centre slightly behind the two wings.

(To be continued.)

THE IMMATURE SPIRITS ACT.

The representations of the West India Committee and the Wine and Spirits Trade Association have resulted in the inclusion of the following clause in the Finance (No. 2) Bill:

11.—(1) His Majesty may by Order in Council substitute for the period of one year specified in paragraph (c) of sub-section (1) of section one of the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, 1915, as the period for which the restriction imposed by that section is not to apply to certain imported rum delivered for home consumption, and for the period of at least nine months specified in the said paragraph, such longer periods respectively as His Majesty thinks fit:

(2) Any Order in Council made under this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament forthwith, and if an address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent twenty-one days on which that House has sat next after the Order has been laid before it praying that the Order may be an-

nulled, His Majesty may annul the Order, and it shall thenceforth be void, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder.

(3) Any Order in Council made under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Order in Council made in a like manner.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS AND JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

Until two years ago visitors to King's House, Jamaica, noticed in the dining-room two portraits of George III. and Queen Charlotte in a very bad state of preservation—a state in which they had been for a quarter of a century at least.

It appears somewhat strange that, even when hurricane, tropical heat and damp are taken into account, these two pictures, left in the care of successive representatives of the Crown, should have become so dilapidated, especially when one considers that Pine's portrait of Rodney, now in the Institute of Jamaica, which is of about the same period, is in comparison in good order. In addition to Reynolds's well-known use of fugitive pigments the fact that these portraits formed one of a series of thirteen pairs of replicas, and the same care was not exercised in their production as in the case of the original portraits, might be considered a contributory cause, if other pairs were not now in good condition. Luckily, however, the heads in both cases have been the best preserved.

In 1914, Sir William Manning decided to have these portraits restored, and they were accordingly sent to London for that purpose; and when one thinks of their former state the result is certainly satisfactory.

In the process of restoration two letters were found between the canvas and the stretcher of one of the paintings. One is a letter from the Duke of Montrose to Sir Alexander Swettenham, stating that Mr. Melville Foster, then Private Secretary to Sir Alexander, had noticed at Buchanan Castle, portraits of George III. and Queen Charlotte like those at King's House, and stated that it would be interesting to know their history. The other letter is from Mr. Algernon Graves, dated September 15th, 1906, to the Duke, which runs as follows:—

"Your Grace,

"I have now returned home, and my Reynolds-book makes everything clear as regards the Jamaica pictures of George 3rd and Queen Charlotte. In 1790 the Earl of Effingham was Governor of Jamaica—up to 1894, and in Reynolds' list of pictures sent to Governors and Ambassadors up to November 28, 1789, he gives six pairs, and at the end as though added afterwards he puts —2 Duke of Dorset, Lord Effingham and Lord Salisbury. As 1790 comes so soon after 1789 it tallies with the date Lord Effingham was made Governor. So you may take it for granted that they were sent out to him after 1790 by order of the King, especially as the present Earl of Effingham has not got a pair.

"I remain,

"Your Grace's Obedient Servant,
"(Sgd.) ALGERNON GRAVES."

Owing possibly to chagrin at having been passed over when Allan Ramsay was appointed Court painter, Reynolds made it a condition of his acceptance of the presidentship of the Royal Academy that he should be allowed to paint portraits of the King and Queen. He had previously painted the King when Prince of Wales. The portraits, for which he received £420, were presented to the Royal Academy by the King. Thirteen pairs of copies were painted. Examples are at the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, at Heron Court, at Hatfield House, at Cobham Hall, at Knole, and in the Senior United Service Club and the Cutlers' Company, London, in addition to the two pairs mentioned above at Jamaica and Buchanan Castle. The King is seated in his robes with the sceptre in his right hand; and in the background are a canopy and the aisles of Westminster Abbey. The Queen is seated on a throne with a sceptre on a cushion in front. She is clad in a gold-embroidered dress, with lace sleeves and ermine train and robe.

The Earl of Effingham was Governor of Jamaica from his arrival in March, 1790, till November 10th, 1791, when he died in Jamaica and was buried in the Parish Church of St. Catherine (the present Cathedral) with the Countess who had died in the previous month. It is possible that Effingham brought the portraits with him, and that as both he and his wife died here the portraits were left in the Colony. So far as is known there is no pair of these portraits in any British Embassy or Colonial Governor's residence, for which they were evidently intended, beyond those in the Viceregal Lodge, Dublin, and King's House, Jamaica.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT

The Inspecting Medical Officer recently visited Wilmore Camp, and was agreeably surprised to find it so clean and well kept. He reported that it was one of the cleanest camps which he had visited, a fact which redounds to the credit of the men of the British West Indies Regiment stationed there.

Sir Eyraud im Thurn presided at a meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee in the Library of the Colonial Office, on Friday, May 5th. Those also present were: Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.V.O., K.C.B., Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Mr. J. F. N. Green, Chief Clerk of the West Indian Department at the Colonial Office; Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary. The General Purposes Committee presented an interim report regarding the work done, and the expenditure involved was approved.

The Ladies' Committee reported that they were successfully getting into touch with men connected with the West Indies who had joined English regiments, and submitted several appreciative letters received from men at the front and in hospital thanking them for gifts of comforts. Arrangements had been made to visit men in various hospitals in

this country, and the Committee were in touch with several West Indian prisoners of war. They further reported that Lady Davson had been appointed Chairman of the Working Committee in succession to Lady Philipps, and that Lady Hodgson had been appointed Deputy Chairman. Mention was also made of the assistance received from Lady Hayes Sadler's Easter League.

A discussion took place regarding the health of the British West Indies Regiment, and reference was made to the unfortunate episode of the ———, which had been sent from Jamaica with a local Contingent to Halifax on her way to England, with the result that many cases of sickness had arisen through the intense cold. The Secretary reported that he had interviewed Colonel Paunce on his return from Egypt and that the Colonel had pointed out that games in camp formed practically the sole amusement of the men, and the General Purposes Committee were authorised to purchase additional games. Thirty-six cricket bats, 48 cricket balls, 36 footballs, besides stumps, leg-guards, etc., and batting gloves were subsequently purchased and despatched to the Officer Commanding the British West Indies Regiment.

As an indication of the general work which the West Indian Contingent Committee is doing it may be mentioned that they have recently defrayed the cost of the return passage of three men of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent who were rejected as medically unfit and also paid for their board and lodging pending the departure of their steamers. Another case dealt with has been that of a man who came over and enlisted and was found to be suffering from malaria and ankylostomiasis. He was examined by Dr. Daniels and sent to hospital for ten days. The Committee also continue to keep a watchful eye on the men of the Bermuda Contingent and have recently rendered assistance to one who was stranded in London, and have enabled several to enjoy their furlough after discharge from hospital.

The Contingent Fund.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,843 11s. 7d. of which amount £1,000 5s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
The Marionville Plantation, Ltd.	104	3	4
His Excellency the Hon. Edward J. Cameron, C.M.G., and Mrs. Cameron...	10	0	0
David Baird, Esq.	2	0	0
T. W. Birchall Pile, Esq.	2	0	0
Barbados Treasury Staff (6th donation) ...	1	1	0
W. C. Winston, Esq.	5	0	0
Dr. B. B. Garrard	5	0	0
C. S. Alleyne, Esq.	2	0	0
	£119	18	4

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

Gifts for the Contingents.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W. :—

Mrs. Cunningham Craig : 6 scarves, 4 prs. mittens, 1 pr. gloves.

Mrs. Giuseppe : 3 scarves, 3 prs. mittens.

Lady Evelyn : 12 prs. socks.

Lady Phillips' Working Party : 16 carbolised shirts, 1 pr. pyjamas, 5 prs. socks, 1 scarf, 2 swabs.

The Eastern League Working Party : 25 flannel vests, 30 pyjama suits.

Dundee Women's War Relief Fund Committee : 100 prs. socks.

For the moment the most acceptable "comforts" are soft socks (large size) for the men suffer very much from their feet. The Ladies' Committee also appeal for gifts of cigarettes, cakes, sweets, magazines, musical instruments, etc., from the generously disposed in this country for distribution among men from the British West Indies who are serving in the Navy and Army. From the West Indies, cash to purchase such gifts will be gratefully acknowledged by Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

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 as a pamphlet, complete, by calling attention to any corrections and additions which may be made. Some further names are given below :—

- Carre-Smith, Major M. (late West India Regiment), East Surrey Regiment.
 Chill, Captain W. (Temporary Major, late West India Regiment), Assistant Commandant, Prisoners of War Camp.
 Clarke, E. V. (Solicitor, late of Manchester, Jamaica), Nigerian local forces.
 Darrell, Rifleman A. J., 2nd King's Royal Rifles, recently left for France.
 De Freitas, S. M. (of British Guiana), The Royal Flying Corps.
 Farquharson, Lieut. C. H. (late D.M.O., Black River, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Fawcett, and Lieut. Robert Beresford (son of Mr. William Fawcett, B.Sc., late Director of Public Gardens and Plantations in Jamaica), has passed out of Sandhurst, and has been gazetted to the Royal Scots Fusiliers.
 Hart, Cadet F. S. (son of Rev. Canon Hart, of Jamaica), Artists' Rifles O.T.C.
 Holme, 2nd Lieut. H. R. (son of the late Right Rev. H. R. Holme, Bishop of British Honduras), King's Royal Rifles.
 Hill, Reginald R. (son of Mr. James Hill, of Georgetown, Demerara), Inns of Court O.T.C.
 Ireland, Captain H. R. H. (late West India Regiment), Leinster Regiment.
 Johnston, Lieut. H. G. (son of the Rev. Dr. James Johnston, Browns Town, Jamaica, and D.M.O., Adelphi, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

- Joslen, Lieut. H. (D.M.O., Annotto Bay, Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Johnson-Hicks, 2nd Lieut. R. C. (A.D.C. to His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor of Jamaica), "The Queen's" (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
 Laursen, Colonel (late of the West India Regiment), 18th Batt. Highland Light Infantry.
 Letters, Captain R. (late West India Regiment), Canadian Highlanders.
 Loveband, Lieut.-Colonel F. R. (late West India Regiment), West Yorkshire Regiment.
 Miller, Captain G. G. B. (late West India Regiment), East Surrey Regiment.
 Morgan, Major C. B., D.S.O., (late West India Regiment), 9th Batt. North Staffordshire Regiment.
 Peacocke, Captain G. (late West India Regiment), Lancashire Fusiliers.
 Plissonneau, Robert George (son of the late Mr. Joseph Plissonneau, of Martinique, and of Mrs. Plissonneau, of Castries, St. Lucia, and grandson of the late Mr. R. G. McHugh, of St. Lucia), has entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, as a cadet in the Royal Field Artillery.
 Roe, Air Mechanic C. H. (son of Mr. C. H. Roe, of Port Maria, Jamaica), Royal Naval Air Service.
 Ryde, Major F. E. (late West India Regiment), 11th Batt. Worcester Regiment.
 Stansfeld, Major W. R. (late West India Regiment), 14th Battalion Gloucester Regiment.
 Smith, F. W. L. (son of Mr. W. E. Smith, late General Manager of the Trinidad Government Railways), Northumberland Hussars. *At the Front since October, 1914.*
 Smith, A. W. G. (son of Mr. W. E. Smith, late General Manager of the Trinidad Government Railways), 25th County of London Regiment (The Artists' Rifles).
 Smith, R. J. (son of Mr. W. E. Smith, late General Manager of the Trinidad Government Railways), King Edward's Horse. *At the Front since April, 1915.*
 Thompson, Captain H. J. (late West India Regiment), 6th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.
 Weber, 2nd Lieut. H. P. (of Demerara, British Guiana), 3rd King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

Wounded.

- Dodds, Private John (son of the late Mr. Robert Dodds, Engineer, and Overseer on Pln. Anna Regina, British Guiana), Coldstream Guards, was wounded at Loos in September, and, having been invalided out of the Service, will shortly return to Demerara.
 Ozzard, 2nd Lieut. Raymond (son of Dr. Ozzard of Demerara), 14th Batt. Durham Light Infantry. Slightly wounded accidentally in France.
 Messervy, Lieut. Roney F. (grandson of the late Mr. G. A. Forshaw, Solicitor, of Woodbine, Georgetown, Demerara), 11th Batt. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was severely wounded in three places in Gallipoli. After being six months in hospital he is about to rejoin his regiment.
 Stone, 2nd Lieut. Stanley (son of Mr. Herbert Stone), 2nd Batt. West Yorkshire Regiment.

Killed in Action.

LIEUT. EVAN LUCIE-SMITH was the younger son of the late Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, Postmaster for Jamaica, and was reported missing, but is now believed to have been killed on the night of April 25th, 1915. He was educated at Berkhamstead School and Eastbourne College. For six years Lieut. Lucie-Smith served in the Jamaica Artillery Militia, and on the outbreak of War was transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with which unit he met his death.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN SMALL, of the Black Watch, who, we regret to learn, was killed on April 29th, the only son of the late John Small, of Wentworth, St. Mary, Jamaica, and Broughty Ferry, Forfarshire, Scotland, who was the first man to cultivate coconuts in Jamaica in 1853. He was educated at Dundee High School, and took his M.A. degree at St. Andrews when he was eighteen, and his LL.B., with honours, in Edinburgh when he was twenty-one. He was an advocate in practice, and

joined the Royal Scots on the outbreak of the War. Shortly afterwards he got a commission in the Black Watch. He had been at the Front since September, 1915.

SECOND LIEUTENANT WALTER WILLIAMSON PARK, of the 1st Batt. The Herefordshire Regiment, who, we regret to state, was killed in action on April 2nd, was the elder son of the Hon. James H. W. Park, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Director of Public Works of Jamaica. Mr. Park was only nineteen years of age at the time of his death.

Died on Active Service.

SECOND LIEUTENANT G. PYKE, who joined the 3rd Service Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment soon after its formation, died, as we regret to learn, in Egypt on April 17th. This young officer had done excellent work on the Gallipoli Peninsula against the Turks, in recognition of which he was specially recommended for a commission. By his death the 3rd Batt. British West Indies Regiment has lost a most promising and capable young officer.

Prisoner of War.

The statement in the CIRCULAR of July 13th, 1915, that Lieut. Frederick Arthur Kemble had been killed in action on May 25th is, we are glad to learn, incorrect, and we understand that he is a prisoner of war at Ingolstadt, Bavaria.

Alterations and Corrections.

Geddes, and Lieut. E. J. (of British Guiana), has been transferred from King Edward's Horse to 13th Batt. The Welsh Regiment.
Shepherd, Lieut. Arthur (son of Dean Shepherd, of Antigua), Royal Flying Corps.
Shepherd, 2nd Lieut. Malcolm (youngest son of the Dean of Antigua), Royal Flying Corps.

OBITUARY.

MR. JAMES ROWLAND WILLIAMS.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Rowland Williams, which occurred in Jamaica in April.

Mr. Williams was Director of Education and Inspector of Industrial Schools in Jamaica. Born in 1860, he was educated at Somersetshire College, Bath, and Trinity College, Oxford, where he distinguished himself, obtaining a 1st Class in Classical Moderations and a 2nd Class in the Finals. He took his B.A. degree in 1883, and an M.A. five years later. He was appointed Inspector of Schools in Jamaica in 1884, and filled that position with ability until he became Director of Education in 1909. Gifted with a charm of manner, he enjoyed great popularity. From November, 1906, to February, 1907, he acted as Assistant Colonial Secretary, and in 1908 he represented his Government at the Canadian Reciprocity Conference held at Barbados.

COLONEL GEORGE CASTRIOT DE RINZY.

We regret to announce that Colonel George Castriot de Rinzy died at Georgetown, Demerara, on May 9th.

Colonel de Rinzy, who was only fifty years of age at the time of his death, was Inspector-General of Police and Officer Commanding the local forces in British Guiana. Educated at St. Columbus College, County Dublin, he was gazetted to the 3rd Batt. East Yorkshire Regiment in 1885, and was transferred to the Donegal Artillery two years later. After obtaining his captaincy he went out to British Guiana in 1891 as District Inspector of Police. In 1895 he was sent on special service to Uruan, on the Venezuelan boundary, and in the following year he became a County Inspector. After holding the acting ap-

pointment on various occasions, he was made Inspector-General of Police in 1908. He was recently offered promotion to Trinidad and Tobago, but ill-health and an affection of the eyes prevented him from taking up the appointment.

MR. ASTON W. GARDNER.

We much regret to state that Mr. Aston W. Gardner died at his residence, Tanglely, in Kingston, Jamaica, on Thursday, April 20th.

Mr. Gardner, who appeared to be in his usual health on Wednesday, April 19th, on which afternoon he attended a Board Meeting of the Victoria Mutual Building Society, was taken ill early on the following morning, and died at 3 a.m. The son of the late Rev. William Gardner, of the North Street Congregational Church, whose "History of Jamaica from its Discovery by Columbus to the Present Time," published originally in 1873, is a standard work on the island, Mr. Gardner inherited his father's love of the island which he made his home. Born sixty-two years ago, he entered the publishing business at an early age, and soon built up a stationery and general business of importance. Undismayed by the earthquake of 1907, he rebuilt his premises in Water Lane, which he called "The Oleanders," and they soon became a favourite resort for tourists, besides local residents. Mr. Gardner, accompanied by his wife, visited England nearly every year, and a few years ago extended his travels to the East, and to this, no doubt, can be attributed the broad-minded views which he held regarding public affairs. Some years ago he was enterprising enough to establish in London the Jamaica Agency, which has served a good purpose in popularising Jamaica produce. He was a great believer in the fruit industry, and the writer has seen a mango tree at Tanglely which yielded £80 in a single season, thanks to the care with which its fruit was packed and shipped for the rich man's table. Mr. Gardner is survived by a widow and a son, with whom much sympathy will be felt in their bereavement.

MR. WALTER GEORGE PURDIE.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Walter George Purdie, of Thames Ditton, Dominica, which took place in Trinidad on May 7th.

Mr. Purdie, who was only 46 years of age, succumbed to heart-failure after an illness of several months' duration. He was a member of the West Indian community by adoption, having resigned a position with the Agric Bank to take up the post of Inspector of Branches of the Colonial Bank in succession to the late Mr. L. H. Miller in 1900. He succeeded the late Mr. Vivian Hosking as Branch Superintendent, with headquarters in Trinidad, twelve years later. A few years ago he cemented his connection with the West Indies by purchasing the lime estate known as Thames Ditton in Dominica. The best of good fellows, Walter Purdie will be much missed in the West Indies.

SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, late Governor of British Guiana, is sitting on the Appeal Tribunal for the County of London under the Military Service Act.

MR. F. EVANS, who will be remembered as the coadjutor of the late Mr. J. H. Hart in Trinidad, is acting as Director of Plantations in the Cameroons, and as such is in charge of all enemy-owned estates. The cacao plantations are of immense size, and Mr. Evans hopes to garner 50,000 bags of cacao in a full year besides much kola, fruit, coffee and palm oil. The plantations are very "up-to-date," and are well-equipped with railways and curing and drying machinery, besides electric, ice, and soda-water plants.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. EVELYN PARKER, of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinné & Co., is patriotically doing "half-time" work in the contraband department of the Foreign Office.

SIR HUGO MEYNELL FITZHERBERT, of Tissington Hall, Ashborne, has joined the Board of the Trinidad Produce Company, in succession to the late Sir Nathaniel Nathan.

MAJOR SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, the new Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, whose departure was delayed, left for Trinidad on May 3rd. The Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., Director of Public Works for the same Colony, returns to Port of Spain on the termination of his duty leave on May 24th.

In a cricket match at Kennington Oval between the 2nd Artists Rifles and the Public Schools on April 29th, Cadet Maingot, of Trinidad, greatly distinguished himself, taking 8 wickets for 50 runs in the first innings and 9 for 59 in the second. As a cricketer more will no doubt be heard of Maingot if he survives this terrible war, as we hope he may.

MR. RONEY F. MESSERVY, who, as recorded elsewhere, was severely wounded in Gallipoli, won a gold medal for his "Morgan Runabout" car in the Midland Easter reliability trials, which were held over a 146-mile course from Selly Oak to Birmingham. Mr. Messervy, who is a grandson of the late Mr. G. A. Forshaw, of Demerara, is a Lieutenant in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

MR. FREDERICK CHARLES PREVITE, youngest son of the late Mr. J. W. Previte, was married on May 10th at St. Margaret's Church, Lee, to Helen Rhoda, elder daughter of Mr. E. W. Farnall, C.B., an Assistant Secretary to the Post Office. Owing to the recent death of the bridegroom's father, the wedding was a quiet one, only near relatives being present. Mr. Previte was attended by his brother, Major H. F. Previte, as best man.

MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, V.D., Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, has returned bronzed and in the best of health from his West Indian tour. Wherever he went he was cordially received and entertained in the characteristic West Indian manner. His visit has already resulted in the addition of many residents in the West Indies to the membership of the Institute, and a further crop of new candidates will no doubt be reaped as an aftermath.

With two exceptions—Geoffrey Skeete and R. H. Johnson—the men of the 2nd Barbados Citizens' Contingent have all been enlisted. Their names and the regiments which they have joined are given below:—

Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles—Clement C. Jynoe, C. A. Wood, A. L. Browne, John A. Nurse, and W. W. Williams.

3/4th London, Royal Field Artillery.—Harold C. Phillips, B. P. Thomas, and A. F. Watson.
London Rifle Brigade.—Coleridge Foster.
King's Royal Rifles.—P. Evelyn Reid.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will take place early in June between Mr. Norman Rodger and Irene, youngest daughter of the late Mr. William Fawcus, of Dunstan Steads, Northumberland, and of Singapore. Mr. Rodger has been Editor of the *International Sugar Journal* since 1901, and has a wide knowledge of sugar matters. In his valued journal he has always shown a strong sympathy with the British West Indies, and readers there as well as at home will join with us in extending to him hearty congratulations.

REFERENCE has already been made in these columns to a sale in Jamaica of locally painted china for a charitable object. We are now glad to learn that Mrs. J. C. Hagen, wife of the local Superintendent of the Direct West India Cable Company, has been awarded a silver medal by the Institute of Jamaica for her work in this connection. It seems that Mrs. Hagen introduced the work in Jamaica, and has taught it to twenty-five young ladies so that it may be carried on.

MISS VIOLET MOUNCEY, who was married on April 20th, at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, to Flight Lieutenant Benjamin Travers, Royal Naval Air Service, elder son of Mr. W. F. Travers, of Mole Cottage, West Humble, Dorking, is doubly connected with the West Indies. The only child of Captain D. B. W. Mouncey, of the Leicestershire Regiment, and 38, Elm Park Gardens, she is the grand-daughter of the late Sir J. R. Longden, G.C.M.G., who will be remembered as Governor of Trinidad and British Guiana, and great-grand-daughter of the late Hon. J. S. Berridge, for many years a permanent resident of St. Kitts, where he died.

AMONG recent marriages of West Indian interest has been that of Miss Elizabeth Louise Fleming, daughter of the late Mr. J. N. Fleming, and of Mrs. Fleming, of North Park, Cambeltown, Argyll, to Major Francis E. de Carteret Chevallier, R.A., which was solemnised at Wimbledon on April 20th. The bride is well-known in British Guiana, having gone out to Demerara as a hospital nurse in 1911. She returned from Georgetown in 1911 and was sent off almost immediately to Duala, where she met her future husband, who took part in the successful operations in the Cameroons. The bridegroom is the fourth son of the late Rev. C. H. Chevallier, M.A., and of Mrs. Chevallier, of Aspell Rectory, Suffolk.

MISS LEILA CAMERON, daughter of Mr. Edward J. Cameron, Governor of the Gambia, and late Administrator of St. Lucia, has been in Malta since January, attached to the Voluntary Aid Detachment, at St. Andrew's Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron's son, Guy, of the Cameron Highlanders, whose remarkable escape from death in the battle

round Hill 70, when he lay in the open wounded for two days, was recorded in the CIRCULAR, is gradually recovering from his wounds in Scotland. His younger brother, Francis, is now machine gun officer in the 7th Camerons in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. It will be recalled that Mr. and Mrs. Cameron's eldest son, Euan, who, like his brother, was born in Grand Turk, was killed in action at St. Julien in April, 1915.

* * *

GRRENADA'S contribution towards Lord Lansdowne's "Our Day" fund for the British Red Cross Society was made partly in cash and partly in produce. The latter, comprising 61 bags of cacao and three barrels of spices, was consigned to the West India Committee. The "Direct" Line kindly carried the produce free of charge, and Messrs. Jonas Browne & Sons, Messrs. Paines & Reid, and Messrs. Weber, Smith & Hoare consented to forego their fees. On April 11th a cheque for £427 14s. 6d. was sent to Lord Lansdowne, and Sir Robert Hudson, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society, acknowledging the gift, wrote to the Secretary:—

Dear Sir,

I am directed by Lord Lansdowne to thank you for your letter of the 11th and to ask you to express to the Grenada Red Cross Fund Committee our grateful thanks for the splendid help which the Colony has given to us in our work for the sick and wounded. I enclose herewith, as requested, our official receipt in duplicate.

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, would it be possible for you also to help us by communicating our thanks, as well as Lord Lansdowne's thanks, to the firms who have so materially assisted by carrying the cacao free of freight, arranging the sale and otherwise by free services causing the value of the gifts to reach us without deduction?

We are more than grateful to all who have given us this most valuable help.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ROBERT A. HUDSON,
Chairman of Finance Committee.

Grenada's total contribution amounted in round figures to £1,200.

* * *

Two matters of legal interest in connection with the West Indies have to be recorded; namely the introduction of a Bill to abolish Roman-Dutch Law into the Combined Court of British Guiana, and the holding of an Intercolonial Conference in Trinidad to consider the question of the establishment of a West Indian Court of Appeal. In both Mr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., Attorney-General of British Guiana, has been the moving spirit. While Roman-Dutch Law is admirable in its way, it has been so overlaid with judge-made law that it is considered nowadays an anachronism, and the change has also been prompted in the interests of uniformity. The recommendations of the Court of Appeal Conference which met from January 26th to February 3rd, have now been published. The Conference recommended the passing of an Imperial Act to establish the proposed West Indian Court of Appeal, and that Acts or Ordinances should also be passed by the legislatures of the Colonies interested. It was agreed that the members of the Court should be the Chief Justices of Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward

Islands and Trinidad, and the senior Chief Justice of the Windward Islands. A proposal that a Barrister-Judge from one or another of the Bars of the United Kingdom should also be appointed, was the subject of considerable differences of opinion. The delegates estimated that a cost of the proposed Court should not exceed £1,500. We welcome this important step in the direction of uniformity.

"THE BIRDS OF BRITISH GUIANA."

As a memorial of the late Mr. Frederick Vavasour McConnell, who died on January 26th, 1914, a volume entitled "The Birds of British Guiana" will shortly be published. It will be issued in two volumes Royal 8vo. Mr. McConnell, who had made several expeditions into the interior of British Guiana, secured specimens of many rare and beautiful birds, which formed the nucleus of a unique collection at his residence, Camfield Place, which until within a short time of his death he was actively engaged in cataloguing. The publication of this work has been rendered possible through the assistance of Mr. Charles Chubb, of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, who has for many years made a special study of South American ornithology. The first volume, which is now in the press, describes no fewer than 349 species of birds, and will contain ten coloured plates, 95 figures in the text, and a map of British Guiana showing the routes followed on the two occasions on which Mr. McConnell visited Mount Roraima, on the boundaries of Guiana, Venezuela, and Brazil.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

The table of exports of West Indian produce, being under revision, is held over. In an early issue statistics under this heading will be published in a simplified form, and on a uniform basis, if, as is confidently hoped for, the assistance of the local Governments concerned can be secured.

An important item in connection with paddy drying appliances is that the paddy treated should be of uniform humidity. Vittorio Maraghiui has recently been experimenting with the object of determining how far the humidity of the green paddy varies in different parts of a rice field, and has come to the conclusion that the humidity is less in the case of ears collected from the centre of the field than for those collected near the irrigation inlet. Also that the humidity of grains at the top of the ear is less than that of those at the base. The maximum differences in humidity were 47.7 per cent. for the field difference, and 20.3 per cent. for the field difference.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

TRONSON, as the result of experiment, considers that the humification of vegetable products is effected, not only by purely chemical means, such as oxidation and action of alkalies, but also biologically by bacteria and fungi. The humification of lignin is effected by oxidation and the action of alkali and fungi. Protein substances are humified under the action of bacteria, while tannins and chlorophyll are humified by oxidation and alkalies.

ACCORDING to the account of Tronson's experiments published in the *Monthly Bulletin*, the conditions favourable to humification are good aeration and a suitable temperature. The latter exerts considerable influence: the decomposition of proteins and starch at a relatively low temperature does not result in the formation of humus, whilst at a high temperature humus is readily formed. Further, the quantity of lignin transformed into humus is greater at high temperatures than at low ones. The rapidity of humification of the various constituents of plants varies. Lignin, tannins, and chlorophyll humify rapidly, whilst proteins humify slowly and starch still more slowly.

IMMEDIATELY after the vegetable matter reaches the soil, humification begins before the decomposition sets in, with the constituents washed out by the rain by the soil. The soluble matter of the decomposed woody fibre, removed by the rain, takes a very active part in the formation of humus. These soluble humus substances are formed by the decomposition of proteids (not proteins), tannins and chlorophyll, while humic substances are only formed from lignin by decomposition in the presence of albumen.

THE "Witchbroom" cacao disease of Surinam which was first reported in 1895, has been well studied by scientists, and is due to a parasite belonging to the genus *Marasmius*. Stabel, who has been working on this important subject, now suggests that the formation of indurated pods on cacao trees is also due to the same cause. The reasons he gives for this supposition are that indurated pods and "brooms" are only found in Surinam and the adjacent parts of British Guiana, that indurated pods and "brooms" are always found together, that the fungus both on the indurated pods and brooms spreads and ramifies in the intercellular spaces, and that the mycelium isolated from the indurated pods shows all the characteristics of *Marasmius*.

THE great trouble with kapok, the cotton of the silk cotton tree, was, up to recently, that it could not be converted into fibre for spinning, the fine fibres being reduced to dust in the early stages of carding. Lately, however, a carding machine has been introduced which arranges the fibres parallel to each other without breaking them, and then heats the sheet of wadding that is formed, causing the fibres in it to curl and interweave. In spinning, a liquid is used which causes the fibre to agglutinate without losing any of its properties, a yarn being formed which can be woven.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA—A Presentation to Dr. Ozzard.

An interesting ceremony took place recently at Belvoirwating, British Guiana, when Dr. Ozzard, the Government Medical Officer of the Plaisance District, was presented with a gold cross by the vestry of the Anglican Church as a recognition of his services to the people of the village in his medical capacity, and to the Church as a constant worshipper and supporter. Dr. Ozzard has left for the New Amsterdam Town District.

BARBADOS—Excellent Prospects.

The *Barbados Advocate* of April 20th reports splendid showers, which, while adding to the cost of fuel, have benefited the island. Sugar is fetching from \$4.35 to \$4.50 per 100 lbs. for crystals, and \$4.05 to \$4.30 for centrifugals, whilst syrups are fetching 24 cents per gallon. Owing to the favourable sugar prices, many planters are making sugar instead of syrup. The canes are showing an excellent yield. After a lapse of ten years, sugar is again being shipped to Canada in sailing vessels, owing to the shortage of tonnage. It is stated that arrangements have been made for the purchase by the Four-square Syndicate of Lower Grey's plantation, Christ Church, for the sum of £14,000. This adds 239 acres to the existing 1,057 acres of the Syndicate. It is also stated that Mr. Frank Hutson, who purchased Bruce Vale plantation, in the parish of St. Andrew, last month for £8,700, has sold the sugar works and eight acres of the land to the Hon. Richard Haynes for £3,190. The total area of the plantation was 225 acres. The 217 acres left will now be joined to Haggatts plantation, where there is a factory. Major J. K. Boose, V.D., Travelling Commissioner of the Royal Colonial Institute, was entertained at a complimentary dinner at the Bridgetown Club on April 5th, Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G., presiding.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The R.M.S.P. Co., and Jamaica Freights.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Referring to the observation contained in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of 20th April in regard to the lack of freight facilities from the island of Jamaica, it may be of interest to state that this Company, our friends Messrs. Scrutton, and Messrs. Prentice, Service & Henderson, who conduct with us the West Indian Joint Cargo Service, have provided during the first five months of this year, including vessels loaded and allocated to load this month, sufficient tonnage to lift nearly three times the quantity of cargo from the Island of Jamaica to the United Kingdom which was shipped by our Lines during the whole of the year 1914; in other words, we have provided not less, but considerably increased freight room, thereby doing something to make good the shortage of facilities from other quarters.

Yours faithfully,
THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY,
A. W. BENNETT,
Secretary.

Recruiting in Jamaica.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 23rd March last you publish a statement as from Mr. J. H. Phillips, of Montserrat Bay, Jamaica, under date February 21st, in which he says: "Recruiting is almost uppermost in the minds of all people, and His Excellency the Governor, in addition to the many calls, has had to be touring the island on these matters." This statement is distinctly inaccurate and misleading. The words, "has had to be touring the island," are likely to give the impression that the leading citizens of this country are inactive or unconcerned with regard to recruiting, and that, consequently, the burden has been thrown on His Excellency. I absolutely deny that His Excellency "has had to be touring the island on these matters."

The position is that our Governor, with his self-sacrificing industry on behalf of the Empire and the island, notwithstanding the many calls on his time and the serious problems of Administration, has always been willing to assist in the work of recruiting, and has attended a considerable number of meetings, rendering services for which he is entitled to the greatest praise. It is not my intention in the least to minimise the value of these services so willingly rendered by His Excellency, but to make it clear that it is not correct to say that His Excellency "has had" to do this.

Yours truly,
H. A. LASELVE SIMPSON, M.L.C., J.P.,
Mayor of Kingston.

[We are quite satisfied that our valued correspondent did not intend to suggest that there was any difficulty about recruiting in Jamaica.—ED.]

A West Indian Technical Institute.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—The daily Press teems with after-war suggestions, resolutions, and movements, and your valuable and interesting paper has very properly been bringing many of those suggestions to bear upon the West Indies.

It seems to me that an opportune moment presents itself to draw the attention of those interested in the West Indian Colonies to the urgent necessity for the establishment of some institution devoted to the study of modern scientific agriculture and commerce.

As early as 1870 Mr. (afterwards Sir) Patrick Keenan, of the Irish Department of Education, suggested the establishment of a Central University for the West Indies, and Sir Arthur Gordon was so well pleased with the idea that he firmly expressed the hope that it would soon be accomplished. Sir Harry H. Johnston, too, has spoken in a similar strain, and has seriously pointed out that unless some such step is taken, the Afro-Americans will far surpass their West Indian cousins. Lastly, but not least of all, Sir Norman Lamont has voiced the opinions of those quoted above in language no less strong.

Such an institution is urgently needed. Their agricultural and commercial interests demand it, their social and economic requirements call for it, their political union would be very greatly enhanced by it. A school on the plan of Hampton College in Virginia, U.S.A., where intelligent young men could obtain a good English education and at the same time get efficient training in the manual arts, steam and electrical engineering, agriculture and commerce, would answer the present needs. It would dignify labour among the lower and middle classes; it would create healthy public opinion and stimulate the rising ambitions of the people.

The expense need not be very great, and ought preferably to be borne by private enterprise. I feel sure that many wealthy persons in England and the West Indies would gladly lend their hand to it, and help may also be obtained from Canada and the United States.

Trusting that you will give this due prominence in the CIRCULAR, for it is a project dear to my heart,

I remain,
Very truly yours,
GEO. S. BEST.

WANTS.

Lady wishes to send West Indian servant back to Trinidad, and would like to find someone requiring lady's maid during the voyage who would pay part passage in return for services rendered.—Apply J. J., c/o The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Sugar Estates Manager.—Practical Planter, with twenty years' experience of sugar planting and manufacture under most modern conditions, seeks appointment as sugar estates' manager in any British Colony. Excellent references.—Apply T., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A REGRETTABLE error crept into the note regarding the late Lieut. Euan Lucie-Smith in last issue. It should have been mentioned that that gallant young officer's father, Mr. J. B. Lucie-Smith, died last year.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the proprietors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was held on May 10th at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, under the presidency of SIR OWEN PHILLIPS, K.C.M.G., M.P., the Chairman of the Company.

The SECRETARY (Mr. A. H. Bennett) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen,—In rising to propose the approval and adoption of the 77th annual report and accounts, I am pleased to be able to state that the set-back this old company met with in 1914, as a result of the war and of the financial depression in the great South American Republics, has now been made good. (Hear, hear.)

We are to-day able to present to you a satisfactory report, as—after replacing the £200,000 which we had to withdraw from the reserve last year to meet war losses—we recommend the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary stock, for the half-year ended December 31st last, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, which—with the interim dividend previously paid—makes the total dividend 6 per cent. for the year. Before arriving at this result, the usual depreciation has been written off the value of the fleet, which, I may mention, now stands in the books at cost price, less 5 per cent. per annum depreciation. The Company's steamers, at the present time, are of course worth very considerably more in the open market than the figure at which they stand in the books. The experience of over three-quarters of a century has shown us, however, that the method we have adopted of arriving at the figure at which our steamers stand in the books is a sound one, resulting in the valuation of the fleet which is neither too high nor too low, but is fair and reasonable.

The insurance fund now amounts to £408,365, having been increased during the year by the premiums charged in the voyage accounts, against which there were few marine claims. This fund is still small for a shipping company of this magnitude, but we hope that before long it will be made large enough to justify us in again taking the whole of the marine risks on our fleet. Our investments in allied steamship companies stand in our books at £467,000, which is practically the same figure as last year, and the income received from them was almost exactly six per cent. on their book value.

Many smaller shipping companies owning tramp steamers have recently been paying very large dividends, as a result of the high rates of freight obtainable in the open market, but the steamship companies with which we are allied carry on regular ocean services at relatively low rates of freight compared with tramps. They are all well-managed concerns, with their steamers properly written down in their books, and I believe that when times of stress again arrive for the shipping trade, as they are certain to do, these allied companies will be found in such a sound financial position as will enable them to continue paying steady dividends through times of depression.

For some time prior to the war, Brazil and Argentina had been passing through a period of severe financial strain, owing, among other causes, to bad harvests, and this was at first much intensified by the effects of the great European War. Both these countries, however, possess vast natural resources, and therefore have large powers of recuperation, and I am pleased to say that already there are indications that the economies effected by their respective Governments and peoples, together with the satisfactory prices realised for their produce, are fast restoring them to a condition of prosperity, although the Argentine railways will probably be handicapped for some time to come on account of the abnormally high price for coal. With this return to prosperity there will doubtless be a renewal of emigration from Spain and Portugal to South America, upon which traffic, as you know, this Company relies in normal times for an appreciable portion of its revenue.

Throughout the war, we have maintained a regular mail and passenger service to and from Brazil and Argentina. Although we receive no subsidy for this service, the passenger and cargo earnings of the mail steamers sufficed to enable it to be maintained. Owing to the financial conditions in South America to which I have alluded, the war, and the natural disinclination of people to cross the seas nowadays unless they are obliged to do so, our saloon passenger traffic is still of very restricted dimensions compared with normal times, and the same applies in even greater degree to our tourist traffic. As stated in the report, outward cargo to Brazil and the River Plate is increasing in volume, which is a hopeful indication of returning prosperity in those countries.

Our homeward cargo trade from South America consists very largely in the carrying of chilled meat. As you are aware, a substantial proportion of the proprietors' capital has been applied to the construction of refrigerated steamers for the conveyance of chilled meat from Argentina. These refrigerated vessels are very costly to build and to run, and it has involved both enterprise and large capital expenditure to provide the fine fleet of meat-carrying steamers now owned by the Royal Mail and its allied companies. It is not too much to say that the provision of these ships has proved of incalculable national service during this war. It may help you to realise what this service means when I say that since the commencement of the war—that is, from August 4th, 1914, until to-day, May 10th, 1916, we and our allied companies have carried to England and the Continent no less than 1,500,000 head of cattle and 1,750,000 sheep and lambs, in the form of chilled or frozen meat, besides other produce. These enormous quantities of meat carried by our steamers have been largely used to feed the British Armies at home and abroad, as well as those of France and Italy.

Much uninformed criticism has been levelled against British shipowners in the Press of this country and abroad on account of the rates of freight which have resulted from the shortage in the world's tonnage owing to the war, but it may interest you to know that the vast quantities of meat carried by the Royal Mail and its allied companies have been conveyed at an average rate of less than 1d. per lb. over pre-war rates, notwithstanding the expensive character of the specially insulated steamers and the ever-increasing cost of running these vessels. This increase in the rate of freight is very small compared with the rates of freight secured in the open market by tramp steamers for general cargo, and is a mere fraction of the rise which has taken place in the price of meat to the consumer. On the outbreak of hostilities it was found that the sources of supply of Argentine meat were largely dominated by neutral capital, and had the tonnage for its conveyance to this country been likewise under neutral control, there would have been nothing to prevent an immense increase in the cost of the supplies of meat we required. The fact, however, that the means of ocean transport were exclusively British enabled the British Government to requisition all the refrigerated space available, and having thus monopolised the transit facilities, they were in a favourable position to negotiate terms with the meat exporters. (Hear, hear.)

Under these circumstances, it might have been anticipated that the British owners of refrigerated steamers—the existence of which had proved so advantageous to the country—would be treated, not only with scrupulous fairness, but also with due consideration for the great service they had rendered to the nation. (Hear, hear.) As a matter of fact, however, the uninsulated vessels, bringing grain from Argentina, obtain the benefit of the rates ruling in the open market, while we have been restricted to a rate which provides a revenue many times less, in proportion to the capital employed, and the enormous cost of running these high-class meat vessels. I have been unable to discover any principle on which such discrimination is based. It is hard to understand the policy of placing at a disadvantage shipowners who have rendered a special service to the State. It is evident that if some shipowners are placed under Government restrictions which do not apply to other shipowners, the former must be handicapped in maintaining their position in the trade, now and in the future. (Hear, hear.)

THE WEST INDIA MAIL AND INTER-COLONIAL SERVICES.

In the case of the West India Trans-Atlantic Mail Service, which has been carried on by this Company for over three-quarters of a century, as soon as war broke out the number of passengers travelling fell to a negligible quantity, and the total revenue obtainable from passenger and cargo earnings and the subsidy did not nearly suffice to cover the expense of maintaining this service. The Government had, for national reasons, prohibited our using the contract port of Southampton, where our workshops, etc., are situated, but, notwithstanding all these disabilities, we carried on the service, in the interests of the West Indian Colonies, for fifteen months of the war, at a loss of over £150,000. We then approached the British Government to ascertain whether they considered the service of sufficient Imperial importance to justify them in bearing a portion of the loss, or, alternatively, if they would agree to our substituting a monthly for a fortnightly service—conducted by steamers somewhat below the contract speed—at one-half the subsidy. The Government did not see their way to fall in with either of these suggestions, and a number of our passenger steamers having been requisitioned, we had no other course open to us, in the interests of our proprietors, but to terminate the West India Trans-Atlantic and Inter-Colonial Mail contracts, which, I need hardly say, we did with very great reluctance. Since the termination of the contract service, we have been able to run an occasional passenger steamer to the West Indies to meet the Colonies' most pressing requirements; and throughout the war we have maintained our regular West Indian cargo service.

THE CANADA-WEST INDIES SERVICE.

The fortnightly passenger and cargo service which was started two years ago between Canada and the British West Indies, under a contract with the Dominion Government of Canada, has, I am pleased to say, been conducted without interruption throughout the war. Since the termination of the mail services between the United Kingdom and the West Indies and between the West Indian Islands, this Canada-West Indies service has not only served as an inter-Colonial link between the islands, through arrangements with the Canadian Government for additional calls, but has also provided a regular connection between Great Britain and the West Indian Colonies, via Canada. This service has done much to develop commerce between Canada and the British West Indies, and has secured a considerable volume of West Indian trade for Canada which would otherwise have been secured by the United States.

If I may be allowed to do so, I would like to remark here that the success which has followed the establishment of this service had more than justified the most sanguine expectations of the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Hon. Sir George Foster, to whom its initiation was largely due, and who has always taken a great personal interest in the development of trade relations between the great Dominion and the British West Indies, by which he has rendered Imperial service of no small importance. (Hear, hear.)

THE PANAMA CANAL.

The Panama Canal was closed for a long period during the year under review, which affected this Company and its allied companies somewhat seriously, as when it was closed for traffic we had several loaded steamers on the Pacific side which were compelled to return to England via Cape Horn. Whilst it is probable that for some years to come the Canal will be liable to occurrences of this nature, I hope that in future—in view of this severe year—ing—the American Government will arrange to retain all their big dredgers on the spot, so as to enable the Canal to be cleared more expeditiously in the event of serious landslides again blocking the waterway. The Panama Canal will probably be an important factor in the future trend and development of the world's ocean commerce, and the court of directors are fully alive to the necessity of safeguarding your interests in this connection, and in placing the Company in a position to secure its legitimate share of expansion in that sphere.

It is now nine years since we acquired the old-established "Shire" Line, trading from London to the Far East, which is now being run in conjunction with the Glen Line. This joint service has been slowly but steadily developed, and shortly prior to the war we had built several large cargo steamers for our Far Eastern service, so as to meet the requirements of the trade. One of these vessels, the *Cornwallshire*, brought home no less than 16,500 tons measurement of cargo. I need hardly say that these fine steamers are of material assistance to this country and its Allies at a time when there is such a scarcity of mercantile tonnage. (Hear, hear.)

THE COST OF RUNNING STEAMERS.

The cost of running steamers—namely, the price of coal, stores, provisions, labour, etc.—continues to advance, and we still have to pay heavy premiums for war insurance. We have, however, cut down expenses wherever possible, and I am pleased to say we have been able to effect a considerable saving in various directions.

Our steamers are still precluded from making use of our principal home port of Southampton, which enhances the difficulties of administration, besides causing extra expense. We lodged a very modest claim with the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission in respect of the losses we incurred in this connection during the first five months of the war, but the matter is still under adjudication.

Owing to the censorship it may not be possible till after this war is over for the people of this country to fully realise all they owe to the officers and men of the Royal Navy, but I desire to express, on behalf of the Royal Mail and its allied steamship companies, our deep debt of gratitude to the British Navy and its gallant *personnel* for all they have already done, and are still doing daily, to keep the seven seas open to British Mercantile steamers. (Loud cheers.)

Two of our mail steamers, His Majesty's armed merchant cruisers, the *Alcantara*, assisted later by the *Andes*, both of which were flying the White Ensign, had an engagement in the North Sea on February 29th with the German raider *Greif*. This engagement has been briefly described in an official statement issued by the Admiralty, but if the full account is ever published I believe the details will show that this little fight, where the British naval officer and crew fought their ship for over an hour whilst it was slowly sinking beneath them, and put the heavily-armed enemy vessel out of action before their own ship sank, will be one of the many heroic incidents of this war which will be remembered in years to come by the British people with admiration and pride. (Cheers.) You will notice in the list of our fleet the name *St. Margaret of Scotland*. This vessel was formerly known as our steamship *Balantia*, and is now acting as a naval hospital ship, having been fitted out at the expense of the Scottish Red Cross Society, at whose request she was renamed the *St. Margaret of Scotland*. She is doing excellent work as an auxiliary to the Grand Fleet.

The subject of our mercantile marine has been brought more prominently before the British public as a result of the war than in the past, and its importance to the national existence has been realised as never before. Our dependence upon overseas supplies for the necessities of life has brought home to our people the fact that the mercantile marine of this country is second only in importance to our naval and military forces. (Hear, hear.) Apart from its direct service to the State through the use of our merchant steamers by the Government as armed merchant cruisers, troop ships, hospital ships, hospital carriers, etc. (and if I were at liberty to tell you all that the Royal Mail (and its allied companies) has done and is doing in this respect you would feel very proud of the part it has played, and is still playing, in these critical times), the merchant ships are also doing great service in the conveyance of foodstuffs and other necessities to our shores and those of our Allies.

THE COMPANY'S STAFFS AND THE WAR.

A large number of the members of our shore and sea staffs have joined His Majesty's Forces, and from our

London office, where we had a very large proportion of men of military age, not less than 88 per cent. of those eligible, both single and married men, are now serving. (Cheers.) Our roll of honour contains the names of no less than 49 employees of the Company who have made the supreme sacrifice, having fallen in the service of their King and country in various spheres of the war. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our deep sympathy with their relatives, which will, I know, be shared by all the proprietors. (Hear, hear.) The superannuation fund was started about five years ago, and in order to show the Company's appreciation of the work of the staff the directors have now transferred a sum of £25,000 to the superannuation fund. Their action in this matter will, I feel certain, receive the warm approval of the proprietors, and this grant will help to place the fund on a sound foundation. (Hear, hear.) Notwithstanding the activity of enemy submarines and commerce raiders, the Company's steamers have sailed as usual, and the court of directors have recorded in the report their feeling of pride at the conspicuous courage shown by their captains, officers, and sea staff in the performance of their duties during a period of exceptional danger. (Cheers.)

Some time after our last meeting, Mr. Forbes, one of the general managers, had, I regret to say, a serious breakdown in health, which necessitated his absence for eight months, but you will be glad to know that he is now able to resume his duties, and we are all very pleased to welcome him here to-day. (Cheers.) This has naturally thrown an additional burden upon his colleagues, and I wish to express my appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Clark and Mr. Nash, and the officials and staff generally. (Hear, hear.) Owing to their depleted ranks, the duties of the office staff have naturally been more arduous and involved increased responsibility.

It is still somewhat early to discuss shipping prospects after the war, but the loss of British vessels owing to the action of enemy cruisers and submarines, although it figures largely in the Press, is not as serious as is sometimes supposed. The value of the British vessels lost from these causes from August, 1914, to the end of April, 1916, namely, 21 months, has been less than 1 per cent., which is less than 5 per cent. per annum. What is much more important, in my opinion, is the practical cessation for so long a period of nearly all mercantile shipbuilding, for, although there are a large number of mercantile steamers building, they are, as a matter of fact, making very slow progress.

It is recognised on all hands that the position in regard to our depleted mercantile tonnage calls for urgent remedy. The assistance rendered to our Allies in the carriage of necessities and the large requirements of the British Government for our own needs have led to a very serious restriction of tonnage available for our own commercial requirements, and this shortage has been further accentuated by the depredations of enemy submarines. The sequel is a lack of ships to carry our necessary commerce, and this has bred a scarcity of supplies in this country, with an inevitable advance in prices, which seriously menaces our activities in prosecuting the war.

"MORE AND MORE SHIPS" NEEDED.

The remedy for this condition of things is ships, and more and more ships, earmarked for our commercial needs. While we recognise that the first call on all the available material and skilled labour of the country must be for munitions and the naval and military requirements of ourselves and our Allies, the building of commercial tonnage must be considered as only secondary in vital importance to these needs. The Government will, no doubt, use every effort to speed up facilities for the building of commercial ships in this country consistently with our more pressing needs. At the same time, every encouragement should be given to capital to acquire foreign tonnage, wherever possible, to add to the British registry, and to get ships for commercial use constructed in foreign yards, during this time of abnormal stress. This could not be done without immense capital outlay, owing to the present very high price of tonnage; hence capital would need such special facilities or encouragement from the Government in the shape of modified taxation, or otherwise, as would encourage it to embark upon expensive

remedies of this nature for the amelioration of the national position. I hope, now that we are beginning to organise our national resources more fully and completely, steps will soon be taken to expedite the completion of tonnage building, and that arrangements will be made to repair the wastage of war. This matter is pressing, and ought to be dealt with immediately.

THE COMPANY'S PROSPECTS.

As regards the outlook for the Royal Mail, I think we may look forward to the future with confidence, and believe that we are in a favourable position, especially looking to the gradual revival of financial prosperity in South America to which I have alluded, to take advantage of developments after the war, and to hold our own against foreign competition. (Cheers.) I now beg to move:—"That the report of the directors and the accounts and balance-sheet submitted to this meeting be and the same are hereby received and adopted, and that a dividend of 2½ per cent., less income-tax (making with the interim dividend 5 per cent. for the year), be and the same is hereby declared on the Preference stock, and that a dividend of 4 per cent., less income-tax (making with the interim dividend 6 per cent. for the year), be and the same is hereby declared on the Ordinary stock."

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. Alfred S. Williams) seconded the motion.

A brief discussion followed, to which the CHAIRMAN replied, and the resolution was then carried unanimously.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by SIR JOSEPH SAVORY, Bt., Mr. Arthur Neville Lubbock was re-elected a director of the Company, as was also Mr. Alfred Strover Williams, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. JAMES CAMERON-HEAD.

The auditors, Sir Richard Pennefather, C.B., and Mr. Charles Lee Nichols, F.C.A., were afterwards re-appointed.

Mr. MEVILLE then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the managers of the Company, and to the staff both ashore and afloat.

Mr. A. B. SMELL seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, assured the proprietors that the vote of thanks which had been so unanimously accorded would be a great encouragement to the directors and the staff, the approbation of their services by the proprietors was most gratifying.

The proceedings then terminated.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The Directors, in their report for the half-year ended December 31st last, announce with deep regret the death of Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, who had been a director for nearly nineteen years, and Chairman since 1902. They elected Sir T. A. Coghlan, K.B., F.S.O., to a seat at the Board in his place. The amount to credit of revenue is £33,553 5s. 2d., as compared with £19,935 2s. 1d. in the corresponding half-year of 1914, and the expenses £22,987 1s., against £31,251 15s. 6d. The result is, therefore, a balance of £10,566 4s. 2d., to which is added £1,845 15s. 2d. interest on investments, and £2,237 15s. 1d. brought forward from last account, making a total available of £14,649 18s. 5d. The Directors propose dividends of 6½ per share on the First Preference Shares (£10,368 18s.), and a similar payment on the Second Preference Shares (£1,400 14s.), leaving a balance of £2,880 6s. 5d. to be carried forward. The traffic receipts for the half-year show a falling-off of £16,529 as compared with those of the corresponding period of 1914, when an abnormal volume of traffic was carried. Beyond the reduced traffic the Company also suffered from the hurricane which visited the West Indies in August, extending from Cuba and Jamaica to Guadeloupe, to which disturbance the simultaneous interruption of the two main cables between Porto Rico and Jamaica is attributable. This interruption lasted for twelve days, and necessitated the use, at considerable cost, of alternative connecting lines for carrying our traffic during the emergency. Consequent upon, and as a direct result of, War conditions, the working expenses, although on the whole less than those for the corresponding period, are above the average of the previous few years, and no immediate reduction

can be hoped for. The value of cable used in repairs and renewals was particularly heavy during the half-year, and, in the opinion of the Board, the amount properly chargeable on this account against reserve for depreciation is £5,431 4s. 5d. A valuation of the Company's investments made under the conditions now prevailing can hardly be considered as a reliable standard of their real value, but at present Stock Exchange quotations the amount of depreciation is about £22,600.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SRETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.

May 17th, 1916

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 30th of August, 1914. The Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 97½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 95. Canada stands at 47.

SUGAR. The Cuban crop is progressing rapidly to its close, the number of factories working last week being only 89 out of the 186 which constitute the milling capacity of the island. This is due to the rapid rate at which the campaign has been conducted, owing to the very favourable crop weather which has obtained for the greater part of the season. It is now becoming a problem as to whether the crop will reach 3,000,000 tons, much less the 3,185,000 tons originally estimated by Mr. Himeley. Under date April 22nd the latter authority gives a list of the factories which had then closed down, and which, on the whole, show a considerable shortage on the estimate—amounting to an average of 16 per cent. As these, however, are small affairs, their results cannot be taken as an absolute indication of the crop results generally. But it looks very much as if 3,000,000 tons may not be reached. The total deliveries at the Cuban ports amounted on the 15th to 2,568,143 tons, as against 1,979,100 tons to the corresponding date last year; and the visible stocks to 917,000 tons, as against 733,000 tons. The former is a phenomenal figure, and should help to counteract the effect of the rapid closing of the crop, especially as the invisible stocks held in the island are said to be comparatively large. Indeed, the excess of the visible stocks in Cuba is sufficient to make up the deficiencies in the stocks of the United States and of the United Kingdom.

The weather has been extremely favourable for next crop's canes, and this cause, coupled with the longer time available for growth, due to the short period of crop-should mean a good return from this description of canes. Young canes of other descriptions will also benefit, while the facilities given by the weather for ploughing and preparing lands for later planting must have an important bearing on future yields.

The Board of Trade returns for the United Kingdom for April show that the imports of sugar for the month amounted to 120,573 tons. This quantity included 39,437 tons from the United States, 14,393 tons from Mauritius, 61,271 tons from Cuba, 5,230 tons from the Philippines, and 8,962 tons from the British West Indies. For the four months of the year the imports were 487,431 tons, to which the United States contributed 139,402 tons, the Philippines 16,230 tons, and the British West Indies 15,477 tons.

The visible stocks in the United Kingdom have slightly diminished, standing on the 30th of April at 109,050 tons, as against 110,850 tons on the 30th of March. This is, of course, a very low figure—not much more than three weeks' consumption at the present rate. The invisible stocks are also reduced to vanishing point, and it is not surprising that the growers feel diffident as to parties with the sugar they have. The consumption, based on imports, after making allowance for the 42 tons of exports, was 122,331 tons for the month. The consumption for the four months has been 514,141 tons, as against 664,194 tons for the corresponding months of last year. There is thus evidence of a decided reduction in consumption. Apart from the difficulty of the general public obtaining supplies, the sugar-using trades are put on a

reduced allowance. The sugar used in brewing for the three months ending March 31st was 19,750 tons—considerably less than the 27,000 tons which were used last year for this purpose. As regards the future, there should be no difficulty in maintaining an adequate supply of sugar for the consumption of this country at its present rate, provided the sugar can be brought here.

The New York market has been firm during the fortnight, and prices have slightly advanced, 66¢ duty-paid and landed Cubans standing yesterday at \$6.52, with granulated at \$7.55. The Cuban planters still have the whip-hand of the situation.

In the last Summary it was mentioned that the Free Sugar Repeal Bill had been accepted by the United States Senate as amended, with the present tariff extended to May, 1916. Recent advices show that the Bill was passed in its amended form, the period of sugar entering the United States free from Customs' duty being postponed indefinitely.

The question of the Continental beet sowings is exciting considerable attention. As far as can be gathered, the facts as to the enemy countries, Germany and Austria, are that the German increase is 10 per cent., while that of Austria is 5 per cent. The area under beets for the 1916-17 crop will therefore be, for Germany 1,100,000 acres, as against 1,000,000 acres in 1915-16 and 1,370,000 acres in 1914-15; and for Austria 790,000 acres, as against 750,000 acres in 1915-16 and 1,100,000 acres in 1913-14. The output capacity of these countries will therefore be for next crop 24 per cent. less than the pre-war years, which gave a good yield. Holland is reported to have increased her reduced sowings by 8 per cent.

There is a threatened sugar famine in France, several refineries having had to shut down due to the non-arrival of expected shipments of sugar.

An organisation having for its object the securing of an all-British supply of sugar for the Empire is taking definite shape. On the 8th inst. Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier, addressed a meeting of those interested in the subject, and a conference is being held of representatives of the various Colonies, India, and the sugar interests of the United Kingdom.

The prices of sugar in the home markets remain unchanged.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to May 6th are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	11,610	12,985	14,014	15,523	11,466 Tons.
Deliveries ...	17,467	13,768	9,715	9,191	10,566 ..
Stock (May 6)	5,248	5,229	16,904	8,171	5,379 ..

RUM. The question of the extension of the privilege granted to rum in connection with the Immature Spirits Act of being admitted below legal age is being satisfactorily dealt with in the Finance Bill. Extension of the one-year period will be made by an Order-in-Council, which will also define the warehouse age at which the rum may be released from bond. Pending the Order-in-Council, instructions have been given to the Customs authorities to continue the privilege of liberating the rum after nine months' warehousing.

No business is reported either in proof or Jamaica since last Summary, as the trade has been disinclined to make further commitments pending the definite pronouncement on the subject of the Immature Spirits Act referred to above.

The stocks in London on May 6th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ..	4,392	3,664	6,621	5,438	7,412 Puns.
Demerara ..	11,366	8,571	10,772	8,062	7,548 ..
Total, all kinds	27,806	18,833	24,465	21,037	22,389 ..

CACAO. The Board of Trade returns for April show that 1,381,139 lbs. of cacao were imported into the United Kingdom for the month. Of this, 13,948,860 lbs. came from British West Africa, 1,132,814 lbs. from the British West Indies, 10,141,578 lbs. from Ceylon, 615,727 lbs. from Brazil, and 102,030 lbs. from Ecuador. The total imports for the four months of the present year amounted to 105,000,000 lbs., as against 62,357,003 lbs. for the corre-

sponding months of 1915. British West Africa was far ahead of other countries with 74,853,394 lbs., the British West India Islands coming next with 9,847,104 lbs., Ceylon following with 3,097,395 lbs., while Brazil furnished 3,043,808 lbs.

The exports were 3,375,553 lbs. for the month, of which 2,11,382 lbs. went to the United States and 768,325 lbs. to Holland. The exports for the four months amounted to 17,398,900 lbs., of which 4,350,821 lbs. went to the United States and 5,800,109 lbs. to Holland.

At auction on the 16th, 16,670 bags were offered, but the demand was low. Some Trinidad sold at 89/- to 91/-, with Grenada at 80/6 to 82/-, Jamaica sold at 84/6 to 85/-.

The stocks in London on May 6th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	15,266	5,872	8,448	7,828	7,935 Bags
Grenada ...	14,124	5,214	14,939	8,128	7,396 ..
Total, all kinds	149,169	56,250	103,985	87,262	116,019 ..

COFFEE. The imports of coffee for April amounted to 224,911 cwt., Brazil being the biggest contributor with 155,990 cwt. British India furnished 11,575 cwt., and the British West Indies 3,145 cwt. The total quantity landed for the four months was 760,799 cwt., as against 532,785 cwt. for January-April last year, 489,147 cwt. of which came from Brazil, 153,397 cwt. from Central America, 32,195 cwt. from British India, and 4,401 cwt. from the British West India Islands. The exports for the month were 38,582 cwt., Russia and the Netherlands taking 5,112 cwt. and 7,757 cwt. respectively. France was a buyer to the extent of 4,805 cwt.; Sweden purchased 1,978 cwt. For the four months, 232,223 cwt. were exported, as against 274,291 cwt. for the corresponding four months of last year.

COTTON. The total imports of cotton into the United Kingdom during the month of April amounted to 142,089,700 lbs. Of this, 42,579,200 lbs. came from British possessions, including 26,392,200 lbs. from Egypt, 14,378,300 lbs. from the British East Indies, and 50,400 lbs. from the British West Indies. The total imports for the four months of the present year were 842,002,400 lbs., of which 244,759,900 lbs. came from British possessions. The West Indies had contributed 500,000 lbs. up to the 30th of April, as against 618,700 lbs. last year. There has been a big falling-off in the imports from the United States, which stand at 582,267,200 lbs. for the four months of 1916, as against 1,037,893,000 lbs. for the corresponding months of 1915.

The exports were 37,124,200 lbs. for April, making 121,380,400 lbs. for the four months of the present year. The United States received the greater part of this—22,940,200 lbs. for April, and 85,025,200 lbs. for the year. The amount supplied to Holland for the four months was 8,856,800 lbs., as against 21,855,000 lbs. for the corresponding months of last year, a striking exemplification of the value of declaring cotton contraband, as the figures leave very little doubt as to the ultimate destination of a large quantity of last year's cotton.

Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that about 150 bales of West Indian Sea Island cotton have been sold since the date of their last report at steady prices. The sales comprise Montserrat 163d. to 18d. and a few bales of Nevis at 153d. to 16d. The amount of British West Indian imported for the year up to the 11th of May was 154 bales.

COPRA. The market has been extremely depressed, and prices have declined £5 to £6 from the highest point. The tone is now steadier, with a reaction of £1 per ton. Sun-dried West Indian may be quoted at £34 to £34 10s. per ton.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil—No business passing, and quotations are nominal. Handpressed may be quoted at 9/6 per lb., and distilled at 9/-. Lime Juice.—The enquiry reported in our last has not been maintained. Values remain unchanged. There is nothing to report in concentrated. Citrate of Lime is quoted at £26 nominal.

COCO-NUT OIL. Little demand, with buyers shy. Ceylon may be quoted at 54/6 c.i.f. sellers' price; Cochiti, 37/6 c.i.f.

ARROWROOT. The market continues very quiet, with prices unchanged. The sale of 200 barrels is reported at 2½d. to 4½d.

HONEY. The market is firm, and high prices would be paid for Jamaica. The next auction sales will take place on the 1st of June.

SPICES. **Ginger**—Samples of recent arrivals are not yet ready for the market, and in the absence of business prices are unchanged at 90/- to 95/- for small to medium. Market is firm. **Pimento**—No change. Fair to good may be quoted at 3½d. to 3½d., ordinary to middling 3½d. to 3½d. **Nutmegs** are unchanged. 100/80's are quoted at 1/- to 1/2; 100/120's, 10d. to 1/-; 140/120's, 9d. to 11d. **Mace**—Unchanged; good to fair, 2/- to 3/-; red to good, 1/9 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/6 to 1/8; broken, 9d. to 1/5.

RUBBER. The market is very quiet, and there has been a decline in price in plantation kinds since last Summary. Fine plantation is now quoted at 2/7½, smoked sheet at 2/8½. Fine hard Para remains at 2/10½, and soft at 2/9.

The imports of raw rubber for the month amounted to 17,026,000 lbs., making for the four months of the year 58,379,600 lbs. Of the latter amount, the Straits Settlements sent in 20,792,100 lbs., as against 28,640,500 lbs. for the same period of last year; the Federated Malay States 9,450,300 lbs., as against 9,777,100 lbs.; Ceylon 7,988,700 lbs., as against 14,816,600 lbs.; and Brazil 10,174,000 lbs., as against 10,638,500 lbs. The exports for the month were 8,710,000 lbs., making 36,693,100 lbs. for the four months. Of the latter quantity, 19,047,000 lbs. went to America, as against 32,900,400 lbs. last year.

BALATA. West Indian may be quoted at 3/1.

PETROLEUM OIL. Firm with higher prices. American 1½; water white 1/1. Consumers continue to hope that greater activity may be shown in developing the oil fields of the Empire, and notably Trinidad, where the Petroleum industry is being kept back through lack of tank steamers.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Hon. A. G. Bell	Mr. John T. Greig	Commander W. H. Owen R.N.
Mr. A. C. Broughton, A.M.C.E.	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. A. E. Perkins
(ill) end of July.	Mr. P. L. Guppy	Mrs. E. Robinson
Mr. Claude Connell	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. F. B. Shand
Mr. A. Campbell	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Clement Malone	Hon. H. B. Walcott.
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. A. L. McColl	C.M.G.

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.
 Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
 Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, II, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

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 Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
May 19	"Direct" Line	Catalina	London	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.
.. 27	Leyland Line	Oranian	Liverpool	A. E.
.. 29	Ehlers & Byfles	Coronado	Bristol	D.
.. 31	"Direct" Line	Savan	London	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.
June 7	"Booker" Line	Imataka	Liverpool	B.
.. 10	Leyland Line	Asian	Liverpool	A. E.
.. 13	"Direct" Line	Crown of Galicia	Glasgow	A. B. E. F. G. I. K. L. M. N.

FROM HOLLAND				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
June 2	Royal Dutch	A Steamer	Amsterdam	B. E.
.. 16	..	..	..	..

FROM CANADA				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
June 16	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chaleur	Halifax	E.
.. 30	..	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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices May 16
4%	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
3½%	Barbados	3½% Redeemable 1925-42	86½
4%	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1935	80
4%	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1923-45	74½
4%	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	79
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1933	82½
3½%	Jamaica	3½% Redeemable 1919-49	69½
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1921-44	75
4%	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
4%	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	80
3%	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1912-44	81
0%	The Colonial Bank		53
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		101½d
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		76½d
4½%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures		86½
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures		90
4½%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures		94½
6%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference		106
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures		97½
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		116
4%	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		4.9
4%	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		12.6
4%	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)		13
7%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27.30
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Pref. Pref.		95.100
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		11
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.		11
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd		11
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures		11

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.

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.,
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

May 31st, 1916.

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS.

WE referred recently in the CIRCULAR to the ravages which that fell disease consumption is causing in the British West Indies, and to the excellent work which is being done in British Guiana and Trinidad by the Societies for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. We feel very strongly that, apart from motives of humanity, economic reasons should prompt proprietors to afford the fullest possible support to these Societies, in view of the effect which the disease has on the labour supply. Equally deserving of support are the Baby-Saving Leagues, for the West Indian baby of to-day should, if properly treated, become the labourer of, say, fifteen years hence, and the paterfamilias of some years later. We have no hesitation in saying that the present infantile death-rate in the British West Indies is a positive scandal. A good deal has been said and written lately about the rate of infantile mortality in this country, which has come into prominence in consequence of the wastage of adult life resulting from the War. The actual figure, which is 110 per 1,000, is considered much too high, but it seems almost trivial compared with that shown by the West Indies. Let us give as an example the case of Barbados. In that island in 1912—a year of distress owing to the drought—the number of burials of children under one year of age reached 416 per 1,000 births. It is true that this figure compares with 263 and 268 for those of the two preceding years, but it indicates the extent to which this massacre of the innocents through neglect and privation can go. In the same year the infantile death-rate in British Guiana was 190 per 1,000

births. High though this figure is, it compares favourably with 229 per 1,000 in 1911, and 235 per 1,000 in 1910. Later figures show improvement, for in 1913 we find that the rate was still further reduced to 179 per 1,000, whilst Barbados showed 213 infantile deaths per 1,000. In British Guiana the great improvement shown is without a doubt due to the work of the Baby-Saving League, in the formation and maintenance of which LADY EGERTON, the wife of the Governor, has taken such an active part. This admirable organisation aims at educating the mothers, who are too prone to put their newly-born infants on a diet of bananas and salt fish as the line of least resistance, to careful nursing and the provision of a good milk supply. Recently a similar League was established by SIR HESKETH BELL, and we hope that the time may come when there is not a colony in the West Indies which does not regard the saving of infant life as a matter of national importance, and make provision accordingly. The climate of the West Indies is ideal for educating the mothers, and nutrition, and we are afraid we must add the reduction of the illegitimacy rate, which is terribly high. In too many cases infants, when scarcely weaned, are left to fend for themselves, with the inevitable result. When the effect of excessive infantile mortality upon the population of a colony like British Guiana—a population already insufficient for labour needs—is considered, the question is in every sense one of vital concern. If the lives of only half of the 1,885 infants who died in that colony in 1913 had been saved, and a similar number in every succeeding year, there would be a direct yearly increase in the population of nearly 1,000 souls, with a geometric further increase in future years, beginning when the "1913 class" reached the man's estate. The suppression of infantile mortality, like that of the prevention of tuberculosis, should from this point of view appeal to the employer of labour as a business proposition, and we trust that our appeal for increased support for the Baby-Saving Leagues will not be made in vain.

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

FROM a cablegram from BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MANNING, Governor of Jamaica, published in another column, it will be noted that the planters of that island consider that their Director of Agriculture and Collector of Customs greatly underestimated the capabilities of Jamaica in their replies to the West India Committee's letter of enquiry on the subject, which are published in the pamphlet, "The British Sugar Industry." The Committee thought so, too, and it was for that reason that they sent a second letter

to the Government of Jamaica asking whether the possible grant of a preference in the Customs tariff of the United Kingdom would lead Mr. COUSINS and Mr. MILES, the officials referred to, to modify their views. MR. COUSINS, however, adhered to his estimate of 20,000 tons as Jamaica's possible annual output of sugar (an increase of 5,000 tons only over the present yield), whilst Mr. MILES placed it at 35,000 tons only. Against this, a Committee of the Agricultural Society estimates the possible production of Jamaica at 100,000 tons per annum. From a local point of view, this discrepancy is of paramount importance, having regard to the effect which the ultra-conservative official estimate might have on capitalists. Inasmuch, however, as the object of the West India Committee was to show that more than enough sugar could be produced within the British Empire than would be required to meet the needs of the Mother Country, the question of the possible output of Jamaica is immaterial from the Imperial standpoint, for the official figures show potential sugar crops of 4,541,000 tons, or—even if the figure for British Guiana, which in some quarters is considered too high, is radically reduced—considerably more sugar than the United Kingdom could consume.

The cablegram above referred to was followed by a Press message announcing the inception of a movement in Jamaica for securing preferential treatment in the United Kingdom. Whilst we welcome this announcement, we hope that it will be recognised that Jamaica by herself—or even the West Indies by themselves—will be able to effect little. The quantity of sugar which they produce, or which they could produce (leaving for a moment British Guiana's 2,500,000 tons out of consideration) is altogether too negligible as compared with the requirements of the Mother Country to justify the West Indies standing alone in this matter. It was this aspect of the case that prompted the West India Committee to extend its enquiries to all corners of the Empire, and to enlist the support of the Chambers of Commerce in every part of the King's Dominions, which they have been doing successfully, as we hope the forthcoming meetings of the Imperial Council of Commerce that open on June 6th, may show. On that occasion Mr. DAVSON will, on behalf of and at the request of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, move a resolution urging the grant of a preference in the Customs tariff in the United Kingdom, which will, we hope, meet with general acceptance. But resolutions are of little value unless they are followed up, and we are pleased to learn that the sugar section of the British Empire Producers' Association, to whose formation reference was made in last CIRCULAR, is preparing an active campaign having for its object the education of the public on this all-important question and the stimulation of the Government to take action on the lines already indicated, in order that the Empire may be rendered self-supporting as regards its sugar supply, and may shake off for good and all its slavish dependence on Germany and Austria and other foreign countries, to which it paid a sugar bill of £12,000,000 a year before the War. On this sugar

section will be representatives of India, Queensland, Natal, Mauritius, the sugar refiners, and, it is to be hoped, the sugar consumers, besides the British West Indies; and it is much to be desired that the last-named colonies will unselfishly sink to some extent their individuality and support this Imperial movement rather than endeavour to inaugurate separate campaigns, which might weaken rather than add strength to the cause which we all have very much at heart.

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, Scething 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.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Proposals for Free Labour in Fiji.

Though, as already stated in the CIRCULAR, the tour of Mr. Andrews and Mr. Pearson in Fiji did not influence the Indian Government in their decision to abolish the indenture system, the views of these gentlemen on the immigration question are deserving of attention, reflecting, as they do, a large body of native opinion.

On the occasion of their visit they were invited by the Acting-Governor and the Planters' Association to suggest some alternative scheme of immigration, and their tentative proposals have now been embodied in a report which has been published in India. At the outset they make it clear that their suggestions bear no official imprimatur, and are subject to reconsideration, and they then urge the cessation of recruiting in its present form (this was before the Viceroy's recent speech), and that in any future immigration the equal proportion of the sexes must be the main consideration for some years to come. No more prostitutes should, on any account, be recruited, and no more single adult men should be recruited for agricultural work until the sex ratio were set right, and families alone should be allowed to enter the colony.

They further urged that Indian labour must be free, and that there must be no penal clauses, no compulsory labour, and no "invidious state regulations." They held, however, that this should not prevent agreements being entered into in return for the outward passage, free civil contracts for labour being sanctioned, the remedy for the breach of which would only be an action for damages in a civil court of law.

"If the employer should object that the Indian labourer would have no property, from which damages might be

recovered, the answer would be that the employer might have the labour on the terms of a free will contract, or not at all. The coolie took a very great risk in coming out to a foreign country for labour; the employer must be prepared to take a risk also. The employer's guarantee was the Indian labourer's well-known industrious habits, and his readiness to work under a good employer who was prepared to treat him kindly."

With regard to the length of the agreement, which might be entered into by the Indian labourer, in return for the payment of a passage for himself, his wife and family, Mr Andrews and Mr. Pearson urged that in no case should the term of service be longer than two years. They saw the advantage, both to the employer and to the labourer, if the free labour contract provided for the Government undertaking the whole liability; if the labourer did not fulfil his engagement, the employer's monetary risk would be thus minimised. The Indian labourer, on his part, would be free to change his employer whenever he wished, and thus his risk of being obliged to serve under a bad employer would be minimised. Under such a system, the good employers would have abundant offers of service, while the employers who treated their labour badly would have none.

They felt that the return passage to India, which they regarded as pauperising, might, in the case of a country like Fiji, be omitted altogether. Finally, according to the *Indian Immigrant*, they summarised their tentative proposals as follows:—

- 1.—Immigrants to come from India in future by families, rather than as individuals. Prostitute immigrants to be excluded.
- 2.—A regular Steamer Service to run between Suva and Calcutta, bringing immigrants in smaller numbers, and at more frequent intervals.
- 3.—Only the passage from India to be paid in future. Free return passage no longer needed in the case of Fiji. The Fiji authorities to deal liberally with any hard cases.
- 4.—Only a free civil contract to be allowed. No penal clauses, no fines, no compulsory labour. Any civil contract entered into for a longer period than two years to be made illegal.
- 5.—Married women not to be called upon for field work except of their own accord. An allowance to be made to the husband, where the wife, for family reasons, is unable to work.
- 6.—Separate dwellings, combined with a small piece of ground, to be given to each family.
- 7.—As far as may be, only married overseers and married sardars to be employed on plantations.
- 8.—The full civil sanction to be given to Hindu and Mohammedan religious marriages throughout the colony. Leave to be granted for religious rites on the estates especially in connection with marriage. More religious holidays to be allowed.
- 9.—Education and medical aid to be provided for all Indians in the islands, with help from India in the matter of teachers and doctors, and possibly a grant-in-aid.

The "Indian Colonial Society."

At the inaugural meeting of a local committee of the Indian Colonial Society of Madras, which was held in April, at Colombo, on the occasion of a visit paid by Mr. Swaminathan, the founder and organising secretary, that gentleman delivered an address on "Indian Emigration and the Need for Organisation." Sir Ponnambalam Arunacha-

lam, who presided, said that emigration and colonisation had been a feature of Indian life from early times, as the architectural remains in Java and Cambodia showed. Streams of Indian colonists went forth to spread Indian culture and civilisation among rude nations, and left their impress for centuries on the political and religious life of those countries, their languages and literatures.

In modern times emigration was the result rather of poverty and hunger in India which drove hundreds and thousands across the seas. Ceylon, being the nearest to India, naturally attracts the bulk of the emigration, but the stream flows into remoter regions, flows into the Atlantic and the Pacific, no less than the Indian Ocean. The Malay States, Fiji in the Pacific beyond Australia, Mauritius near Madagascar, Natal and other parts of South and East Africa, Jamaica and other West Indian Islands off North America, British Guiana in South America, all owe their prosperity to the poor Indian cooly.

There are probably close on two million Indians beyond the seas. The majority of these are Tamils. He complained of the indifference and lack of sympathy on the part of the local Governments towards immigrants and the large powerful interest of the capitalist employers. Mr. Swaminathan said that the object of the society would be to protect the interests of the illiterate labouring classes. He was strongly of opinion that the emigration of educated men and skilled labourers would bring better status to India and gain for her equal rights of British citizenship. He also spoke on the question of the admission of Indians to the self-governing Colonies of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and said that it was not a political or a racial problem, but purely an economic question. Indians would be freely allowed if only they did not lower the standard of wages in those Colonies. There are, at present, thousands of Indians in Canada and Australia, and if Indians at home had only opened up communications with them and not left them as outcasts, the situation would have been entirely different.

SINCE the restriction on the importation of sugar was imposed several co-operative trading societies have adopted a system of supply cards in order to ensure a fair division of existing stocks among their customers. On these the amount of sugar supplied to the purchaser is recorded and in many cases this is limited to 1 lb. or 2 lb. per head weekly.

COMMENTING on the recent negotiations with regard to the sale of West India crystallised sugar the "Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago" for March states: "The efforts of the West India Committee in this connection will be much appreciated. In the circumstances it will be conceded gratefully that they have made the best bargain possible for the West Indies, especially when it is borne in mind that at one time there was a danger of licenses for this class of sugar being suspended altogether." An acknowledgment of this nature is distinctly encouraging.

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The pamphlet entitled "The British Sugar Industry—A memorandum regarding the possibilities of its Development," recently published by the West India Committee, has been very favourably received by the Press. The memorandum sent by the West India Committee to the Prime Minister, which it contains, has been widely quoted, and the figures of the present and potential sugar crops which accompany it have formed the basis of many reasoned articles in the daily papers. It was satisfactory to find it published *in extenso* in a leading organ of the confectionery trade, whose members needed convincing that the British Empire could be made self-supporting as regards its sugar supplies. Copies have been sent to the Chambers of Commerce throughout the Empire, whose acknowledgments it is hoped to publish in due course.

The *International Sugar Journal* deals editorially with the pamphlet in the following commendatory terms:—

"A valuable memorandum has recently been prepared and forwarded to the Prime Minister by the West India Committee, which, after giving details of the developments of the British sugar industry, and the influence exerted on it first by the bounties and then by the Brussels Sugar Convention, goes on to point out the weak spot in the latter, the inability of the Mother Country, England, to give any preference to her colonies even within the limits of the Surtax. The West India Committee believe, and their belief is shared by eminent jurists, that the war has absolutely annulled the Convention, and therefore the United Kingdom has recovered full liberty to take action as she sees fit. The Committee therefore urge upon the Government the desirability of taking early steps towards the establishment of a differential Customs tariff in favour of our Colonies; even if the Government still feel bound to the Convention, they have only to give notice of the termination of that pledge to be free to give the desired assistance.

"At the same time evidence is submitted to show the possibilities for sugar production within the British Empire, evidence based mainly on the reports from the Governors of the various colonies stating what scope exists for inauguration or expansion of the sugar industry in the areas under their jurisdiction. A table . . . shows that whereas the present sugar crops on the three years' average amount to some 880,000 tons of sugar, the highest expectations from these cited colonies suggest a total of over 4½ million tons.

"This is a tremendous increase; but when we come to examine the figures we find that British Guiana accounts for 2,340,000 tons of it, British Nigeria for 650,000 tons, and Queensland for 250,000 tons. As regards British Guiana, so much depends on the labour supply and the ability to open up new areas for cultivation that we fear it will be advisable to write off a considerable amount of this expansion, at all events for a long time to come. The decision of the Indian Government to abolish indentured labour will not make it easier for British Guiana to find the necessary cheap workers. British Nigeria is quite a new proposition, as so far she has not contributed anything to the world's supply of sugar, but considering the success of sugar production in the Portuguese colonies of Africa, we are far from suggesting that 650,000 tons of sugar is ultimately beyond her capabilities. Queensland stands on a different plane, as, being under the protection of the Australian tariff, her sugar expansion is not affected by any steps the Home Government may take in the matter, and there would be difficulties under her present system in competing successfully in outside markets, unless she dumped her surplus at a figure much below her home prices. Moreover, she has not yet succeeded in sup-

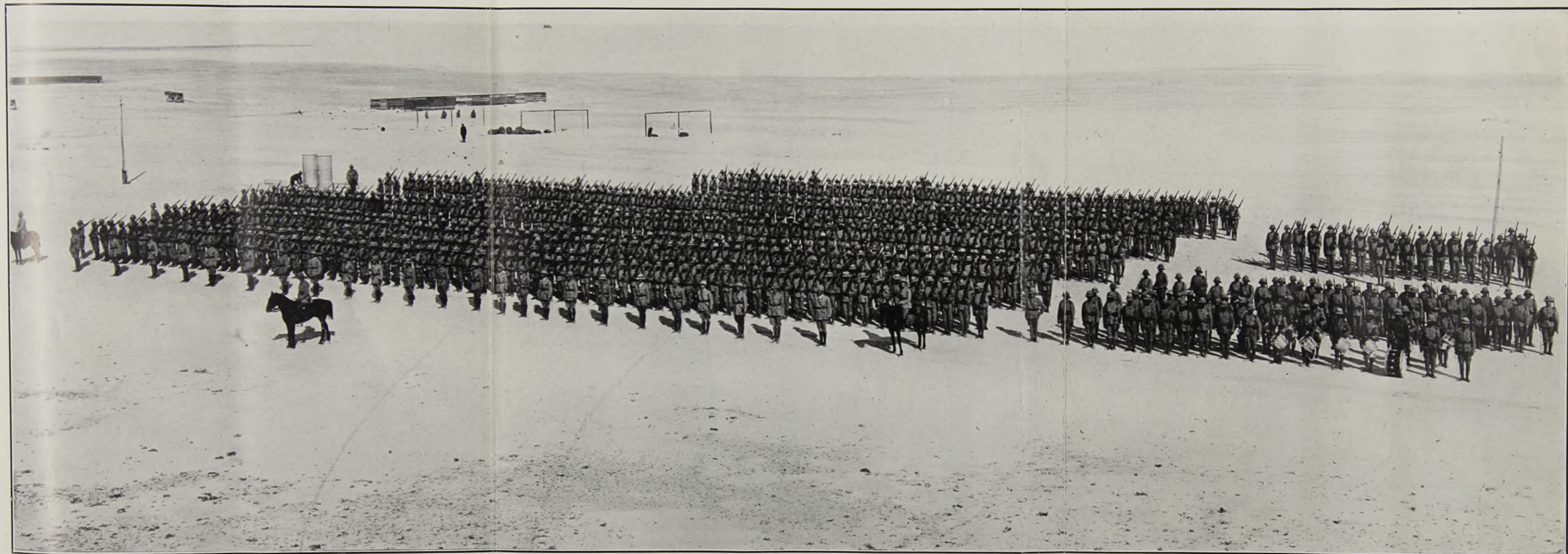
plying the maximum wants of the Commonwealth in this commodity.

"Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geerligs, the well-known sugar expert, writes somewhat sceptically of these figures. 'British Guiana,' he says, 'has been making 100,000 tons of sugar per annum for scores of years, and has not increased her output notwithstanding the many efforts made the last fifteen years.' Even if there be land enough, he thinks other circumstances prevent any big extension of the production. And his doubts about the other areas are of a similar nature. Undoubtedly he can suggest a number of more or less weighty reasons, in the light of the past, why the future should not be so favourable as the West India Committee table suggests; but we think he overlooks the most important reason of all why failure to expand has been persistent in the past but need not be so in the future if the Government do their duty to these colonies. This is the fact that hitherto our sugar colonies have had to exist as best they could under that type of trade erroneously labelled 'free,' and so have been perpetually at a disadvantage in the markets of the world as against more favoured producers. Dr. Geerligs is admittedly a Free Trader, and he is entitled to claim all the credit he likes for the fact that Java has built up a successful sugar industry without any protection. But it must be equally admitted that Java has been favoured by exceptional circumstances, such as abundant and cheap labour, which even now are tending to get less favourable, and Java lies near a vast Eastern population which has always been ready to take over her surplus sugar. Hence the fact of Java being successful under Free Trade is not necessarily an argument why our British colonies situated on the Atlantic should be equally prosperous under the same auspices.

"To what extent British sugar production will expand in the near future and justify the optimistic figures of the West India Committee depends mainly on whether the British Government will sufficiently realise the changed conditions brought about by the war, and, conscious of the noble share the colonies have had in helping the Mother Country, will henceforth treat them in a really Imperial spirit, and give them a reasonable preference for their products in the home markets over those of enemy and foreign origin. Once this obligation is realised and is acted on, it will be for these colonies like the turning over of a new leaf. Capital will be much more willing to embark on new ventures in the sugar industry, and given the acreage for canes, there is no reason why a considerable increase in sowings in the Crown colonies should not take place, even if the total ultimately falls a good bit short of the figures submitted by the West India Committee. Write off as much as 50 per cent. if you like, and still you have a quantity of over 2,000,000 tons, which would nearly, if not quite, supply the requirements of the United Kingdom. So even if the Committee have made out too favourable a case, they have done well to draw attention to possibilities, and it rests with the Government to see how far these become realities. If the Government, on the contrary, should decide to do nothing, and leave the colonies as they were, then critics like Dr. Geerligs may well be sceptical as to success coming now when it has failed to materialise after years of certain effort. But the trump card of the West India Committee's case is the incidence of a differential Customs tariff, and everything turns on this. It would be an absolutely new factor, and for that reason no argument from past failures holds good unless the new condition is fully allowed for.

"We only hope the Prime Minister will give this memorial adequate consideration, but it must be admitted that the present moment is hardly one when he will have the leisure to go fully into the problem; and we must assume that the authors will, as opportunities offer, follow it up with other reminders. In no other way can a Government be forced to devote the proper consideration to a subject than by the pressure of public opinion. Fortunately the British public are fast developing new ideas about Imperial responsibilities, and we look confidently to them to apply the needed impetus when the right moment comes."

It will be recalled the official replies to the enquiry made by the West India Committee showed that while the present sugar crop of the Empire was only 880,000 tons it could, under favourable



THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

conditions, that is to say if an adequate preference under the Customs Tariff were given to British produced sugar, be increased to 4,541,000.

While in some quarters it has been argued that the estimate of the possible production of British Guiana is exaggerated, it has, on the other hand, been felt all along that the official reports with regard to Jamaica, furnished by Mr. H. H. Cousins, the Director of Agriculture, and Mr. A. H. Miles, the Collector-General of Customs, greatly underestimated the possibilities of that island as a sugar-producing country, and this finds confirmation in the following telegram received by the West India Committee from His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica, on May 18th:

"Reports sent to Committee as to possibility sugar extension did not include large areas available land. Board Management Agricultural Society of opinion, under favourable conditions, sugar export would approximate 100,000 tons, and it is desired that publicity should be given to this statement equal to that given to former statement. Committee appointed to investigate and report in detail, findings of which will be communicated to you in due course."

In accordance with His Excellency's request, a *précis* of his message was sent to the Press, and this has since been published in many newspapers throughout the Kingdom.

British Empire Produce Organisation.

Sir George Makgill, Bart., has been appointed Secretary of the newly-formed British Empire Produce Organisation, whose sugar conference has been continued during the fortnight. The 11th Baronet, he succeeded his father in 1906. He has spent many years in New Zealand, and his activities since the outbreak of war in the direction of freeing us from our dependence on Germany for so many commodities have been much in evidence. The sugar section of the organisation is organising a public meeting in London for an early date, and the Right Hon. W. M. Hughes will be the chief speaker at it. Meanwhile the constitution and rules of the British Empire Produce Organisation are being drawn up.

The Imperial Council of Commerce.

The question of the future of the British Sugar Industry is to receive the attention of the British Imperial Council of Commerce at their Conference which opens on June 6th next. At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad (Incorporated) held on May 4th, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That a Resolution, as set out below, of the West India Committee, Incorporated, intended to be submitted at the Imperial Council of Commerce in June, meets with the unanimous approval and support of this Chamber, with the exception of words 'for a period of not less than ten years,' and that His Excellency the Governor be so informed for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION:—

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

BE IT RESOLVED,
That it is desirable that British-produced sugar should

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

Mr. Edward R. Davson was requested by the Chamber to move this resolution on its behalf.

ERI SILK PRODUCTION.

In a communiqué sent to the Press on May 20th, the Imperial Institute claims the credit for suggesting silk as a possible new industry for Trinidad. If such an industry could be established—and we hope that it may prove possible—it would not much matter who was responsible for its inception. Still, in justice to Mr. Maxwell Lefroy, it is only fair to state that it was that distinguished entomologist who, at a meeting at the West India Committee Rooms on January 17th, 1912, strongly advocated the rearing of the Eri silkworm in the British West Indies. His lecture was subsequently published by the West India Committee and circulated in the West Indies, copies being sent to the various Agricultural Departments, which were requested to give silk production a trial.

The entomologist to the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago has now furnished the Editor of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute with some interesting particulars regarding the attempts that have been made from time to time to produce silk in Trinidad. According to him, the first authentic record of the introduction of silkworms into Trinidad dates back to 1868, when the Eri silkworm (*Attacus ricini*) was imported and successfully reared by Mr. C. Glandon, but no attempt appears to have been made to establish a silkworm-rearing industry at that time. In 1893 cocoons of the Chinese oak silkworm (*Antheraea pernyi*), the Ailanthus silkworm (*Attacus cyathia*), the North American silkworm (*Telea polyphemus*), and of *Callosamia promethea* were imported. The caterpillars of the first-named were successfully reared on *Terminalia Catappa*, and the cocoons produced were favourably reported on. The Ailanthus silkworms were fed on the castor-oil plant and *Terminalia*, but the resulting cocoons were smaller than the imported ones. No results were obtained from the other two silkworms mentioned. In 1894 specimens of the cocoons of the Ailanthus silkworm (*Attacus cyathia*) were received by the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and although this experiment was not successful in establishing the silkworm, it was again proved that it can be reared in Trinidad.

In 1907 mulberry seeds were imported by Mr. Glandon and planted at St. Joseph. When the plants were established, eggs of *Bombyx mori* were obtained, and since then this silkworm has done well on a small scale at this place, and so far has not suffered from any disease. Two strains are reared, one producing yellow silk and another white, whilst a cross between the two has been obtained. In 1912 eggs of the Eri silkworm were again imported by Mr. Glandon, who has successfully reared the worms up to the present time, and

so far has not had any of them attacked by disease. He is now in a position to supply eggs to other persons in the island.

A wild silkworm, *Attacus hesperus*, occurs in Trinidad. In the wild state, the caterpillars, which possess irritating bristles, occur only once a year, from June to September. They are said to spin cocoons after thirty days, and the moths emerge at intervals varying from forty to sixty days, but sometimes do not emerge for two years. This silkworm can be reared in a similar manner to the Eri silkworm, but the moths have to be caged for mating and ovipositing. The food-plant of the caterpillar is a species of *Casearia*, which is common in most parts of the island.

In July, 1915, specimens of the white and yellow varieties of mulberry silk, of Eri silk, and of Trinidad wild silk were received at the Imperial Institute for examination, and the results are given in the following pages.

No. 1. "Mulberry silk (white variety)."—This sample consisted of cocoons of dark cream colour externally, having the usual appearance of mulberry silk cocoons (*Bombyx mori*), and measuring on the average about 1.3 in. in length and 0.7 in. in diameter. The average weight was 0.39 gram. The cocoons were not pierced, and contained dead chrysalides.

The silk appeared to be of normal strength and character. The diameter of the double fibre, or "bave," measured up to approximately 0.0009 in., and that of the single fibres was mostly about 0.0004 in.

These cocoons appeared to be of good quality. Silk cocoons of a good grade fetch in normal times about 4s. per lb. in Marseilles, and cocoons resembling those of the present sample should sell in quantity at rather lower prices, probably at 3/- to 3/6 per lb.

No. 2. "Mulberry silk (yellow variety)."—This sample consisted of yellow cocoons, having the usual appearance of mulberry silk, and averaging about 1.2 in. in length and 0.7 in. in diameter. The average weight was about 0.26 gram.

The silk appeared to be of normal strength and character. The approximate diameter of the double fibre, or "bave," measured up to 0.0010 in., and that of the single fibres from 0.0004 to 0.0005 in.

These cocoons had been pierced by the moths. Pierced cocoons can only be used for the manufacture of "spun" silk yarns, by "cording" the silk, as it is impossible to unwind such cocoons. They sell in normal times at about 1s. 3d. per lb. in the United Kingdom. The piercing of cocoons should be prevented by killing the chrysalides, either by careful heating in an oven or by immersion in boiling water.

No. 3. "Eri silk."—This sample consisted of white cocoons with bluntly pointed ends, having the usual appearance of Eri silk cocoons, and measuring about 1.7 in. in length and 0.7 in. in diameter. The average weight was about 0.33 gram.

The silk was of good colour and strength. The approximate diameter of the double fibre, or "bave," measured up to 0.0015 in., and that of the single fibre from 0.0005 to 0.0007 in.

Owing to the structure of Eri silk cocoons the silk cannot be reeled, but must be carded. The silk is easily degummed by boiling with soap solution. The uniform white colour of the present sample would be advantageous, as Eri silk often contains reddish-brown cocoons which are objectionable. A previous sample of Eri silk examined at the Imperial Institute in 1907, which was inferior to the present material, was valued at about 1s. per lb.

No. 4. "Native silkworm (*Attacus hesperus*)."—This sample consisted of three cocoons measuring from 2.1 to 2.5 in. in length and 0.9 to 1.2 in. in diameter, and varying in colour from dark cream to dull pale greyish-brown. The average weight was 0.8 gram. The cocoons were bluntly pointed, and bore a long, ribbon-like attachment at one end. The texture was papery and very tough.

The silk could not be reeled, and it possessed the further disadvantage of being difficult to degum, as boiling with soap solution, which is the usual treatment for *Bombyx* silk and is sufficient also for Eri silk, proved insufficient in the present case. Sodium carbonate solution was also ineffective, and it was necessary to use dilute caustic soda.

The quantity of silk available was too small to allow of further experiments in degumming, etc., but the material did not appear to be of a promising character and would only realise a low price, probably lower even than that of Eri silk, which it resembles in microscopic appearance. The approximate diameter of the double fibre, or "bave," measured up to 0.002 in., and that of the single fibres from 0.0006 to 0.0008 in.

REMARKS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF SERICULTURE IN TRINIDAD.

In view of the results of the various experiments which have been carried out in Trinidad, there seems no doubt that silkworms can be reared successfully in the island. It might be possible, therefore, to establish silk-culture as a village industry which could be carried on chiefly by the women and children. Such an industry would increase the resources of the colony without withdrawing labour from other occupations.

It has been mentioned already that no less than seven different kinds of silkworms have been considered as possible silk producers in Trinidad, viz. (1) the mulberry silkworm (*Bombyx mori*); (2) the Eri worm (*Attacus ricini*); (3) the Trinidad silkworm (*Attacus hesperus*); (4) *Attacus cyathia*, the Ailanthus silk moth of Northern China and Japan; (5) *Antheraea pernyi*, the Mongolian oak-feeding silkworm; (6) *Telea polyphemus*; and (7) *Callosamia promethea*.

In considering which of these silkworms is best adapted for culture in Trinidad, *Telea polyphemus* and *Callosamia promethea* may at once be ruled out, as they are very little known commercially, and the experiments with them in 1893 failed to give any results. With regard to *Attacus cyathia* and *Antheraea pernyi*, the preliminary experiments afford evidence that these insects can be reared in Trinidad, but much more work would be required before it was proved that they could be cultivated successfully on an industrial scale.

With reference to the indigenous silkworm, *Attacus hesperus*, it might perhaps be worth while to ascertain whether this species could be domesticated on a large scale; but in any case it seems probable that it would not yield better results than the Eri worm, and the silk of the latter has the advantage of being well known in the European and American markets. Moreover, *Attacus hesperus* may perhaps be objectionable on account of the irritating hairs borne by the worms, which might cause troublesome skin affections to the workers. It might be worth while, however, to adopt the suggestion of the Government Entomologist that caterpillars of the moth should be collected and reared at St. Clair, and that a supply of the food-plant *Casearia* sp. be planted, with the object of testing the possibilities of this insect, of which so little is at present known.

It thus seems advisable that attention should at first be directed in Trinidad particularly to the mulberry silkworm and the Eri silkworm. These varieties have the advantage that their respective

food-plants grow well in the island, and could readily be planted in any desired quantity.

It is not unlikely that the Frie silkworm will eventually be found more suitable for the purposes of a local industry in Trinidad than the mulberry worm, since (1) it can withstand a higher temperature than the mulberry worm and would probably be more easily acclimatised in the colony, and (2) the Frie silk is more easily handled, as it is not necessary to kill the chrysalis, and the cocoons, after the moths have emerged, only require to be turned inside out and cleaned (an operation which can be readily accomplished either by hand or by comparatively inexpensive machinery), and can then be packed closely in bales for export.

THE MANSONIA MOSQUITO.

Its Breeding Places Discovered.

The breeding-place of a type of mosquito with peculiar habits and life history has recently been found on the Panama Canal Zone by Mr. L. H. Dunn, of the United States Board of Health Laboratory. This species of Mosquito known as *Mansonia titillans* differs from other mosquitoes by passing its entire larval and pupal stage beneath the surface of the water attached to the water lettuce (*Pistia*), which is so abundant along the banks of the Chagres River and in the Canal near Gamboa, and in Gatun Lake.

Ordinarily, states our informant, the *Canal Record*, mosquito larvæ live free in the water and secure their air supply at the surface of the water, but *Mansonia titillans* has breathing tubes in both the larval and pupal forms so modified as to enable it to pierce the rootlets of the *Pistia* and obtain its supply of oxygen directly from the plants, at some distance from the surface of the water. Their manner of living during the immature stages has been known for some time, and it has also been known for several years that the adult mosquitoes of this species were abundant in the Canal Zone, but the larval and pupal forms had never been found.

While they are found attached to the roots of the water lettuce and other water plants, thousands of these plants may be examined without revealing any larvæ, as certain other conditions are also necessary for a favourable breeding-place, such as shade, shallow stagnant water, and protection from winds and currents. They have also been found attached to nine other varieties of water plants and grasses.

OBITUARY.

MR. G. O. GYLICH.

We regret to state that Mr. G. O. Gyllich died at Copenhagen on April 28th.

Mr. G. O. Gyllich, who was for thirty years in the service of the Colonial Bank, was well known in the West Indies. He entered the St. Thomas branch of the Bank in 1868, and, rising from the position of clerk to that of manager, he remained there for twenty-two years, his other managements being Panama, St. Kitts, and Martinique. He also filled the post of Inspector of the

branches, visiting in this capacity most of the West India Islands and British Guiana. Owing to his knowledge of Spanish, he was selected by the Colonial Bank to visit, in their interest, the interior of Colombia, St. Domingo, Porto Rico, and Honduras. He was a son of Major Gyllich, of St. Croix, Danish West Indies, and brother-in-law of the late Mr. M. R. O'Maley. He married Miss Marstrand, of St. Thomas, who, with one son and four daughters, survives him. Mr. Gyllich received the Danish Order of Dannebrog in recognition of his services during the riots in St. Croix in the year 1878.

THE "GRAVEYARD WATCH."

The following descriptive account of night work of British West Indian labourers on the Gaillard, or Culebra Cut, on the Panama Canal, is extracted from the *Canal Record*:

The "Graveyard Watch," as the men of the dredging fleet call it, begins at midnight and ends at 8 o'clock in the morning.

Shortly before midnight the watch boat *Chame* leaves the landing at Paraiso, with sleepy men lying about the decks, and makes for the Cut at Culebra, where the dredges are digging away the slides. It is very dark, although the stars are bright with dry-season brilliancy; and it is so chilly that one questions the 72 degrees Fahrenheit shown by the thermometer. The men crowd around the funnel or crouch behind the cabin house to hide from the draught. As the ship makes the turn between Paraiso and Culebra, the thousand lights of the dredging fleet come into sight, brilliant in the shadows of the enclosing hills, giving the appearance of a city street when electric signs are lighted. No time is lost in changing the watch. The *Chame* steams down to the dumping ground in Gatun Lake, relieves a tug crew wherever it finds a tug, and delivers its cargo of tired men at Paraiso about two o'clock in the morning.

The break in continuity of work is scarcely perceptible. Hardly has the watch boat cast off before the new crew on the dipper dredge has begun to lift great dipperfuls of rock and earth from the bottom of the channel 40 feet below the surface. On the ladder dredges, the groaning of the buckets crunching over the tumbler shaft does not stop at all while the new crew steps into the places of the old. So on all the vessels—the suction dredge operator speaks a few words to the man he relieves, and all his crew falls into place while the old crew scrambles over the remainings of the watch boat; the drill barge ceases hammering for a minute only; and the tow-boat masters leap from the watch boat to the tugs, and apparently automatically begin where the other captains left off.

Eighty-four vessels are engaged in the dredging work—2 ladder dredges, 3 dipper dredges, 2 pipeline suction dredges, 1 sea-going suction dredge, 13 tugs, 2 clapnets, 2 steam launches, 10 gasoline launches, 5 oil barges, 30 dump scows, 1 coal hoist, 4 coal barges, 1 drill barge, 3 graders, 1 self-propelling crane boat, 2 large crane boats, 1 wrecking barge, and 1 drill barge.

Most of these are working along the west bank in a space about 2,000 feet long, for this is the part of the slide on which action has been centred for the present. Mud, soft rock, and hard rock are dug according as the dredges work on the surface, or lower down. Up against the bank all classes of digging are encountered.

The *Cascadas* brought up one dipper of clay, another of mixed clay and rock, and a third—on the third it staggered. The engineer dropped the dipper again and brought the stick up several feet almost vertically; then the craneman forced the dipper forward; the whole vessel shook, the engines ran slow; the spuds gave from the vertical, but the stick rose steadily on its track. When the dipper emerged from the water it held in its teeth a rock that would have blocked a highway; the boom swung it

around above the barge, and the engineer and crane-man, working together, tilted it off. The supervisor said:

"Probably weighs 25 tons, and they brought it up from 40 feet below the surface."

The veteran of the fleet, an old French ladder dredge that began service thirty years ago is working on the east side of Cucuracha. The sea-going suction dredge *Culebra* is picking up spoil dumped into the channel when all efforts were bent on making a small enough break in the slide to allow passage of the tugs and scows. This material is dumped at a point below Paraiso, where a suction dredge picks it up and forces it inland to make some fills for sanitary purposes.

The big ladder dredge *Corozal* is working on the east bank opposite *Culebra*, eating away at the slide. Of less capacity than the large dipper dredges, not able to handle large rock, it is, nevertheless, the most relentless type of digging machine in the Cut. Its endless chain of 14-yard buckets travels over the immense tumblers hour after hour, scraping the bottom of the canal, forced into the earth and rock by the weight of the vessel. From the bridge fifty feet above the water the master watches the buckets as they come up loaded with whatever the bottom yields, and thus judges the placing of the dredge that it may work to best advantage.

In and out amongst these diggers, all night long, goes the supervisor, directing the work. At Paraiso the Resident Engineer and the Superintendent of Dredging are asleep with a telephone beside their beds. At field offices on the bank at either end of the slide section a log is kept of the work. When anything demanding their presence occurs, the chiefs at Paraiso are called, and in a few minutes a launch delivers them alongside.

From the bridge of the *Corozal* could be seen an 1,800-ton barge loaded to the coamings with rock and earth, moving silently away from one of the dipper dredges without apparent cause for motion. It swung slowly into the stream and pointed lakewards. As it passed the *Corozal*, the tug became visible—the *De Lesseps*, a boat only 70 feet long and 15 feet wide, one-third the length and width of the barge; yet it handled this load of about 4,000 tons as easily as the dipper dredges pick up a 20-ton rock. At the barge station the little tugs drop their tows, and, picking up empty barges, push them up to the dredges. Two small tugs handle the fleet of thirty barges in the dredging area.

After a strenuous night's work the watch boat leaves the Cut:

A smell of codfish from the galley was followed by the aroma of coffee. The captain and the engineer met in the cabin, and there sat down to as good a meal of soup, fish, steak, chops, potatoes, peas, tinned peaches, cake, and coffee as hard-working men could ask for on a chilly night in the middle of Gatun Lake. Aft, the crew also was at its supper.

Shortly after this the lights marking the dumps at Darien were picked up. Presently the calling of orders from the bridge was resumed, the men leaped upon the barges, and the rattle of chains followed, as the doors were unlatched and the load of earth and rock was allowed to drop through the bottom to the bed of the lake.

Four hours after the *Tavernilla* left with her tow, she was back again at the barge station, leaving the empty barges and picking up two loaded ones.

Twenty-four hours a day this routine continues; seven days in the week, only stopping for Christmas and July 4th; from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, from 4 until midnight, and from midnight until 8 a.m. This last trick of duty is not liked by the men; therefore they call it the "Graveyard Watch."

ACCORDING to the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, one-fourth of all the cocoa produced in the world finds its way to the United States. Imports show that the approximate per capita consumption in this country is 1 lb. The Dominican Republic leads all countries as a seller of cocoa to the United States.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Colonel Wilson, Major Ogilvie, and the non-commissioned officers and men at the depot at Plymouth have subscribed for and purchased a watch for presentation to Private H. A. Patterson, of Jamaica, in recognition of his recent gallant attempt to save Private H. E. Bryan from drowning.

Easter was devoted to athletic sports at Mex. Each Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment held its own sports just before Easter, and on Easter Monday inter-battalion sports were held on the running-track which was laid out by the men. The entries were numerous, and the events were well contested in the presence of a large gathering of spectators, the 1st Battalion proving the victors, winning eight events out of ten. The results were as follows:—

- 100 Yards.—1, Lce.-Cpl. Jordan, 1st Batt. (10 4/5 secs.); 2, Pte. Frost, 2nd Batt.; 3, Pte. Dockeray, 2nd Batt.
- 220 Yards.—1, Pte. Blenman, 1st Batt. (26 1/5 secs.); 2, Pte. Frost, 2nd Batt.; 3, Pte. Dockeray, 2nd Batt.
- 440 Yards.—1, Pte. Blenman, 1st Batt. (58 1/5 secs.); 2, Pte. Jordan, 1st Batt.; 3, Pte. Mapp, 1st Batt.
- Half-mile.—1, Sgt. Woods, 1st Batt. (2 min. 26 2/5 secs.); 2, Lce.-Cpl. Barrett, 2nd Batt.; 3, Pte. St. Louis, 1st Batt.
- One Mile.—1, Pte. Brown, 1st Batt. (5 min. 15 4/5 secs.); 2, Pte. Walker, 1st Batt.; 3, Pte. St. Louis, 1st Batt.
- High Jump.—1, Sgt. Doakes, 1st Batt. (5 ft. 11 ins.); 2, Pte. Trotman, 1st Batt.
- Broad Jump.—1, Pte. Frost, 2nd Batt. (16 ft. 10 ins.); 2, Sgt. Russell, 2nd Batt.
- Tug-of-War.—D Company's team, 2nd Batt.
- Relay Race.—B Company's team, 1st Batt. (4 min. 18 secs.)
- Three-Legged Race.—Sgt. Sutton and Cpl. Shurland, 1st Batt.

At the close of the meeting the prizes offered by the Camp Commandant were presented to the successful competitors by Colonel A. E. Barchard, the Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion.

On May 4th, military sports, open to competitors from all units of the Command, were held at the Alexandria Sporting Club. Special efforts were made by the three Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment to secure adequate representation, and all ranks are naturally proud of the fact that in its first effort of the kind the Regiment showed that it was a force to be reckoned with on the running-track. The entries were numerous, including men from infantry, cavalry, artillery, R.A.M.C. of the British Army, and Australian forces, to say nothing of the West Indians.

The Committee, which was representative of all the camps in the neighbourhood, was convened by General R. C. Boyle, G.O.C., Alexandria, and was fortunate to procure such an excellent place to hold the sports, the running-track being especially good.

It is a matter for congratulation that, though there were a number of well-known Army runners, yet in the first three flat races the British West

Indies Regiment took first place. The times of the races are alone sufficient to show the high standard of the running. The 100 yards was won by Lee.-Cpl. Jordan, of the 1st Battalion, after a very close finish, in the excellent time of 16 1/5 secs. In the 220 yards Jordan again qualified for the final, and won rather easily, the time being 23 3/5 secs. The quarter-mile was won by Pte. Mapp, also of the 1st Battalion, and the Regiment also got second place, Sgt. Woods, of the 1st Battalion, finishing close behind Pte. Mapp. Time, 56 secs.

The 2nd Battalion's tug-of-war team won the contest out of the nineteen teams entered, the pull in the semi-final against a team of gunners being especially deserving of merit. The 3rd Battalion's team reached the semi-final stage, but was knocked out by an R.A.M.C. team.

Lieut. Robertson secured third place in the individual horse jumping for officers out of 56 entries, most of whom were, of course, from cavalry and yeomanry regiments. The success of the British West Indies Regiment was rather a surprise to outsiders.

At Mex Camp on Sunday, April 30th, the 1st Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment scored an easy victory at cricket over an Australian team composed of Headquarter Units. The game was watched by a large and enthusiastic crowd. The scores were as follows:—

FIRST BATTALION BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

2nd Lieut. G. Challenor, c and b Sgt. Maddock	52
Sgt. F. Abraham, c Sgt. Maddock, b Cpl. Kindell	5
Sgt. R. Hughes, b Cpl. Craig	24
2nd Lieut. R. Johnstone, b Cpl. Craig	4
Capt. A. E. Harrigan (Capt.), c Sgt. Harry, b Sgt. Maddock	29
Pte. Wilkinson, not out	13
Sgt. J. Small, c Cpl. Kindell, b Sgt. Maddock	24
Sgt. Taylor, not out	5
Extras	21
Total for 6 wickets	177

Innings declared closed. 2nd Lieut. E. K. Weatherhead, Sgt. E. Woods, and Sgt. Mitchell did not bat.

Bowling Analysis.

	R.	W.	O.	M.
Cpl. R. Craig	44	2	13	1
Sgt. J. Maddock	39	3	11	1
Cpl. Kindell	34	1	6	1
W. O. Baillie	38	—	8	—

AUSTRALIAN TEAM.

W. O. Baillie, b Sgt. Mitchell	0
Sgt. Child, c 2nd Lieut. G. Challenor, b Sgt. Small	4
Sgt. Harry, c Sgt. Small, b Sgt. Mitchell	8
Cpl. Craig, b Pte. Wilkinson	16
Sgt. M. Miles, b Sgt. J. Small	1
Cpl. Kindell, b Sgt. Mitchell	6
Sgt. Maddock, c and b Sgt. Mitchell	7
Sgt. Goldring, b Sgt. Mitchell	0
Cpl. Shepherd, b Pte. Wilkinson	1
Sgt. McKereham, b Pte. Wilkinson	0
Cpl. White, not out	7
Extras	17
Total	67

Bowling Analysis.

	R.	W.	O.	M.
2nd Lieut. R. Johnstone	1	—	4	3
Sgt. Mitchell	31	5	12	4
Sgt. J. Small	11	2	6	1
Pte. Wilkinson	7	3	34	1

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £4,883 rs. 1d., of which amount £1,014 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

Proceeds of an entertainment held on St. George's Day, Anguilla, per W. E. Burton, Esq.	10	11	2
Proceeds of an entertainment given by the children of St. Kitts, May 1st, per His Honour Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G. (earmarked for St. Kitts men)	8	10	0
Hon. G. Aubrey Goodman	5	5	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent— Kingstown Cathedral (collected) 5 0 0 Per month— Kingstown Club 1 12 0 H. P. Hazell, Esq. 10 0 F. W. Reeves, Esq. 10 0 Hon. C. E. F. Richards 10 0 Vincent Hadley, Esq. 8 4 J. E. Blackman, Esq. 5 0 J. H. Hazell, Esq. 3 0 A. L. Gillezan, Esq. 2 0 E. Hopley, Esq. 2 0 J. A. Davy, Esq. 1 0			
A. E. F. Carpenter, Esq.	9	3	4
C. W. Doorly, Esq. (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Miss A. L. Burt	1	0	0
"Y. B."	5	0	0
Collected in "Swear Box" at Beeston, Notts, per "West Indian"	3	0	0
Total	£39	9	6

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

SPEAKING at York on May 27th, Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, said:—

"We must look after our own interests, not provide a market for German goods. We must do something to develop the tremendous resources of the Empire. Germany sent twenty million pounds' worth of sugar to this country in 1913; it controlled the whole of the fifteen million pounds' worth of the base metals of Australia. These are but two instances of the tremendous power that she exercised over our commercial and industrial interests and of the extent to which Germany depends for its prosperity and its very existence upon this Empire being an open market. Let us close this door—(cheers)—let us produce that twenty million pounds' worth of sugar here or in the Empire, at any rate, do not let us buy it from Germany. Cannot you see what effect the mere notification of our intention, followed by some outward and visible signs of our earnestness in the matter will have upon those men who live by producing that sugar, and upon those financiers whose millions are bound up in the sugar industry, and upon those great leviathans of finance whose business interest has depended upon their control of the metal industry?"

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Military Service Bill enforcing compulsion on all available men from the age of 18 to 41 years has passed into law. The War Office and Imperial Staff will, in the near future, thus be able to maintain a steady stream of drafts to the Front. In the offensives at Neuve Chapelle and Loos, had we at the critical moment been able to throw a large body of fresh troops into the place of those exhausted in the attack, success might have crowned our efforts. Germany will be defeated not by starvation—she cannot be starved—or by financial stringency, but by superior numbers. It is on reserves of men that the victory of the Allies ultimately depends. Hence the significance of compulsion in this country.

The German Chancellor is again complaining that "the Allies will not see that they are beaten, though every war map shows it." He will learn in time, no doubt, that nations are not beaten on maps, but in their souls.

Verdun.

To the many reasons why Germany chose Verdun as the scene of her first great offensive in the West for a year, another has been added. According to this one, she aimed hers to foil a French offensive on Metz, which is the key to the Briey basin, from which she draws 80 per cent. of her steel supplies. But had French pressure in the Vosges and valleys of the Fecht and Lauch become so severe as that? One takes leave to doubt it.

Though it is now three months since the first great assault on Verdun, the enemy fights as determinedly as ever, and so intense and frequent are the artillery exchanges in the sector that the most hardened optimist cannot delude himself that Germany is getting short of the materials essential for the manufacture of projectiles. The regions of Hill 304 and of Mort Homme continue to be the scenes of the principal fighting, and one attack made in the early morning of May 19th was supported by one of the largest forces which have been brought into action recently—the greater part of two divisions. The enemy's objective was to extend his lines on Hill 304 by an advance on Hill 287, which would have rendered the French positions on Hill 304 untenable. All they did was to get a footing on the desired position. On Sunday last the fighting shifted a little further west, in the section between Hill 304 and the Meuse, resulting in the capture of Cumieres by the enemy. On the right bank of the river the French launched an important offensive east and west of Douaumont Fort on a front of about two kilometres, which culminated in a murderous struggle in whose course the greater part of the ruined fort was captured by our Allies and retaken by the enemy, who brought up large forces to the counter attack. Douaumont is the key of Verdun, but it is a key which the enemy can never hold long enough to consolidate his position. As for Mort Homme he can never do more than gain a footing on this or that terrace. The summit which he covets is continually swept by French artillery fire.

The Vimy Success.

The Lancshires, whose record in the war is so proud, have another success to their credit. They have captured positions on the Vimy ridge for which the French fought so very gallantly last year. After the explosion of five mines the near lips of the craters were occupied and linked up during a night of fierce fighting with bombs, and a new British line established close enough to the crest of the ridge as to destroy the dominance of the enemy at this point. But, as at Verdun, so at Vimy the difficulty is to consolidate a vital position once it is captured. The Germans, in a counter attack a week later, regained some of the trenches they had lost. But enough ground remains in the hands of the Lancashire regiments to give them an advantage in a future effort. Once Vimy is in the hands of the Allies, the country lies open to Lens and Lille.

The Italian Front.

The enemy inaugurated in the Trentino, which juts into the Italian frontier like an Austrian bastion, a vigorous offensive, which had in it that desirable element from the military point of view—surprise. He concentrated whole divisions of his best troops from the eastern frontier in the southern region of the province at a point where our Ally has been prevented from forcing the frontier on account of the formidable fortress of Luserna, the heavy guns of which dominate the Italian village of Asiago. Here the terrain is mountainous and sparsely settled, so that the Austrian advance in conditions so favourable is not calculated to daunt the Italians, particularly as it is the first set-back that they have received in the war. Exposed to a galling cross-fire and the risk of encirclement owing to the contour of the frontier, retreat was the only thing to do, but so primitive are the communications the Austrian advance cannot be continued except at great cost. Already it has been arrested, and a stand made by the Italians. To complete their envelopment an advance of 50 miles would be necessary in a mountainous country, which renders the transport of artillery extremely difficult, the deployment of large forces of troops arduous, and the certainty of losses so heavy as to appal any commander.

At the same time an attempt was made to carry out an offensive in the Lower Isonzo region of the Carso. But it broke down almost at its inception in front of Monte San Michele. Monfalcone, though terrible damage has been done to it, is still in the possession of the Italians despite the many efforts of the Austrians to recapture it. After a year of war the enemy has managed to capture a few square miles of our Ally's territory. She, on the other hand, has gained much of his which once was hers, and made it the battle front.

In Armenia.

It is believed that the enemy, alarmed at the Russian successes in the Caucasus, are preparing an offensive in the Erzingan region like the one which served them so well at Dunajetz last year. It will, however, be on a smaller scale. General von Mackensen is to command, and he will have a force of 200,000 Turks, together with 50,000

German and Austrian troops. But the terrain is difficult and communication primitive, neither of which conditions are easily overcome by German generals. In the meantime the Turks in the Baidar region, whose flanks and rear have been so secure, are faced not only by the Russian main army but threatened by a new force operating from Trebizond, which is clearing the mountain ranges hitherto so strongly fortified and held.

The march on Mosul is, too, being carried on in considerable strength from Lake Urmia, in Persia. Methodical progress is made on a wide front so as to sweep up the bands of irregulars and raiders before a general advance is begun. Serdesht, just within the Persian frontier, has, however, been occupied. It is 125 miles due east of Mosul, and about 47 miles south-west of the nearest point on Lake Urmia. The town is connected by road with Mosul. Evidently the Russians, who have also occupied Ban, are moving on Sulimania, to the east of Kerkook, which is on the main road between Mosul and Baghdad.

In Mesopotamia.

As Russian Cossacks from Kermanshah have arrived at the British headquarters it is a sign that the investment of Baghdad is appreciably nearer. Then the Turks, having vacated their advanced position at Beit-Aiessa, fearing an out-flanking move, General Gorringe followed them up, attacking and carrying the Dujailah Redoubt in the centre of the formidable Es Sinn line. Except for small rear-guards covering the bridge over the Hai, the right bank of the Tigris is clear of the enemy to within 500 yards of the junction of the two rivers. On the left bank the enemy are still holding the Suma-i-Yat position, although our artillery is maintaining an effective fire on his communications. Apparently he is desirous of avoiding an actual encounter with the British forces in case he in his turn is besieged at Kut. His idea seems to be to fall back on Baghdad, which, however, is menaced from the north and east as well as from the south. Should it be rendered untenable there is nothing for him but to fall back on the desert to the west and the Euphrates. General Lake reports that the temperature is 100 degrees in the shade.

Affairs in Egypt.

A force of Australians and New Zealanders attacked the Turkish positions at Bayoud and Mageibra, when the enemy immediately fled, abandoning the camp at Bayoud, together with 36 camels and some ammunition. This affair was followed up by a combined sea and air attack upon the Turks at El Arish, on the lines of communication from Syria to Egypt. British warships bombarded a fort to the south-west of the town, utterly destroying it. Simultaneously sea-planes opened an aerial bombardment, followed by an aeroplane attack, in the course of which bombs were dropped in the midst of a German column 1,000 strong. All the machines and ships returned safely. The enemy retaliated by dropping bombs on civilians in Port Said. Next day our Flying Corps not only did serious damage at El Hamma, but destroyed the

water tanks at Rodh Salem, 60 miles east of the Canal. This will upset the whole plan of the enemy who, since the destruction of the drilling plant at Jiff Jaffa by one of our patrols, has set great store on the water-works at Rodh Salem.

The War at Sea.

British and Russian submarines are active in the Baltic, in consequence of which some of the Hamburg under-writers are declining to insure German vessels except at exorbitant rates. As the Scandinavian countries are the only neutrals with which the enemy can trade by sea with any sort of freedom, and they supply him with foodstuffs and raw materials, Allied naval activity in the Baltic is always a source of anxiety to him. On May 17th three of his ships were sunk south-west of the Aland Islands. Most of the crews were saved and taken to Stockholm. On the same day two other ships were sunk to the south of Helsingfors, one of them by a British submarine.

Air Attacks.

The past week has been a period of considerable aerial activity, some sixty aerial fights having taken place in the course of which six enemy machines were brought down. Moreover, a series of air raids were carried out on Metz Station and on enemy cantonments, depots, and hangars at various places.

On May 16th there was a moonlight air raid on the coast of Kent, causing a few casualties and a little damage. One of the enemy seaplanes on its return journey was brought down by a naval patrol off the Belgian coast.

(To be continued.)

Socks, soap, books, magazines, cigarettes, tobacco, and sweets are the immediate requirements of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the West Indian troops. Gifts of these from residents in this country will be gratefully acknowledged if sent to Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W. From residents abroad, money for the purchase of gifts, which should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the West Indian Contingent Fund, 15, Scething Lane, E.C., will be most acceptable.

We regret to learn by Direct Cable that the Archbishop of the West Indies, Dr. Enos Nuttall, who has been seriously ill for some time, died at Kingston, Jamaica, on May 31st.

The development of the Indian Sugar industry is urged by *Tropical Life*. Our contemporary points out that if the Indian Empire produced the 800,000 tons of white sugar that she at present imports, plus another 500,000 tons to send to us, she would be £26,000,000 a year richer at £20 a ton, and half as much again if calculated on a basis of £30 a ton, and to do this she has only to produce two tons of white sugar per acre as compared with over four tons per acre, the average return in Java.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

A Luncheon to Lord Hawke.

The members of the West Indian Club paid Lord Hawke, the eminent Yorkshire cricketer, a well-deserved compliment in inviting him to luncheon and presenting him with a gift in anticipation of his marriage, which was solemnised on June 1st. As was stated by Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, who presided at the luncheon, which was held at the club rooms in Whitehall Court, on May 30th, Lord Hawke has for many years taken a keen and active interest in West Indian cricket, and it was fitting that he should be entertained by the club which took so prominent a part in organising the visits of the West Indian Cricket XI. to this country in 1900 and 1906.

The gathering of members and their friends, though small, was representative, Mr. Lubbock being supported by the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Sir Home Gordon, Bart.; Hon. Sir Peter McBride, Agent-General for Victoria; Mr. A. Shirley Benn, M.P.; Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. J. Geddes, Mr. J. F. Grant, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. J. F. Messum, Mr. R. Hamilton Edwards, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Mr. P. Somerville, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. G. Hudson Lyall, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. Swan, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club.

Mr. Lubbock, proposing the toast of the guest, read a letter from Dr. G. B. Mason, the founder of the Club, expressing his regret at his inability to be present. He proceeded to say that one of the first objects of the club was the promotion of sports in connection with the West Indies and it would be recalled that they organised the visit of the first West Indian Cricket XI. to this country under the captaincy of Mr. "Auchie" Warner, in 1900. On that occasion Lord Hawke, who had taken a cricket team to the West Indies in 1897, had rendered the greatest assistance to the committee. The venture of the club was considered rather a bold one, and he doubted if it would have been successful had not Lord Hawke secured the sympathy and support of the committee. Lord Hawke was gifted with a marvellous power of captaincy, the value of which in the cricket field it would be difficult to over-estimate. As an example of this he recalled how the West Indian team collapsed after Warner got sunstroke, a complaint which, by the way, he had curiously never suffered from in the sunny West Indies. In conclusion Mr. Lubbock proposed the health of Lord Hawke, and offered for his acceptance a silver salver inscribed:

"Presented to Lord Hawke by the West Indian Club and Cricketers throughout the West Indies as a slight token of their good wishes and grateful thanks for many services rendered to West Indian Cricket, June 1st, 1916."

Lord Hawke, rising to reply, thanked the club for the gift and for the kind manner in which they had received the toast of his health. He said that what he had done for West Indian cricket had been a labour of love, and paid a generous tribute to the hospitality which was extended by the West Indies to visiting cricket teams. He

supposed that he might be called a pioneer of cricket in the world, and he believed that the visit of cricket elevens to the West Indies and America had done much to cement friendships, and had led to an improvement in the game in those countries. Becoming reminiscent he recalled what pleasure it had given him to play against men with bare feet, and how one black man had offered to bowl his Lordship for a duck for a £5 note—and had immediately done it. (Laughter.) On the occasion of his first visit to the West Indies there were two opposition teams there, his own and Priestley's, and the first thing he heard on arriving at one island was a small boy shouting through the porthole, "Stoddart got a duck." (Laughter.) He recalled how on another occasion, at Antigua, he had been unaware that the butler at Government House was a member of the home team, and how he had had a very bad evening in consequence of that official having been prematurely bowled. On another occasion he went in and got a duck, which gave rise to shouts of "Give de Lard another duck." Referring to the question of captaincy he said that a captain should be "hail, fellow, well met" with all his men, and should never be too proud to accept advice from them. In conclusion, he said that he believed that the whole Empire was united in "playing the game," and that when the war was over the same friendly contests, with the same excellent results, would be renewed between the various parts of His Majesty's Dominions.

Sir Peter McBride, Agent-General for Victoria, expressed on behalf of Australia appreciation of Lord Hawke's services, both to cricket and to the more intimate relationship with the mother country. He extended to the West Indies a cordial invitation to send a cricket team through the Panama Canal to Australia after the war was ended.

Mr. R. Rutherford, Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, proposed the health of the chairman, and Mr. Lubbock, having responded, an enjoyable entertainment was brought to a close.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The Sugar Commission.

On May 29th, Mr. McKenna, replying to Mr. R. McNeill, said that since the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply was constituted in September, 1914, Lord Lucas and Sir George Barnes had ceased to be members of the Commission, and Mr. H. Pountain, of the Board of Trade, had replaced Sir George Barnes. The members of the Commission were not, and had not at any time, been remunerated either by commission or otherwise.

Shipping Freight Charges.

Replying to Colonel Norton-Griffiths, M.P., on May 25th, Mr. Pretyman said: "I am aware of the high profits made by many shipping companies. If the regulation of the freights of British ships would solve the tonnage difficulty, which is world-wide, it would have been adopted long ago. Any regulation of freights to have an effective influence on prices must extend to neutral ships, which is impracticable without endangering the supply of neutral tonnage to bring necessities to this country, and thus producing a shortage which would increase prices instead of diminishing them. We are doing our utmost to alleviate the tonnage situation by securing economy in the use of the ships we have and by bringing more ships into service, and in this we have had a fair measure of success though much still remains to be done."

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:—

- Barrett, Gunner J. (son of the late Mr. J. F. Barrett and Mrs. D. A. Nanton, of the Miranda Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad), Royal Field Artillery.
- Cass, Lieut. Dr. W. Marley (of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Deut. Gunner G. J. (Clerk to the West India Committee), Royal Garrison Artillery.
- Duncombe, Gunner A. K. (of Jamaica), Royal Horse Artillery.
- Glegg, Lieut. George (son of the late Mr. Robert Glegg, of Nevis, and of Mrs. Dobridge, of St. Kitts, and grandson of the late Mr. Justice Wattle, Chief Justice of Tobago), The King's Own Scottish Borderers. *In France.*
- Grey, Dr. Rushie, M.R.C.V.S. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Army Veterinary Corps.
- Henzell, Trooper Leonard (son of Mr. L. I. Henzell, manager of Gunthorpe's Factory, Antigua), King Edward's Horse.
- Holmes a Court, Lieut. William Alexander Russell (son of the late Hon. Arthur Wyndham Holmes a Court, of Antigua, and grandson of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), joined Princess Patricia's Light Infantry at the outbreak of war. Dangerously wounded and discharged as unfit for further service December, 1914. Was gazetted to the Army Service Corps early in 1916. *In France.*
- Kerr Jarrett, Lieut. F. M. (of Catherine Hall, Jamaica), The Army Service Corps.
- Peat, Lieut. Harold (of Jamaica), 1st Canadian Contingent.
- Sewell, Lieut.-Col. Horace Somerville, D.S.O. (youngest son of the late Hon. Henry Sewell, of "Arcadia," Trellawney, Jamaica, and Steephill Castle, Isle of Wight), 4th Dragoon Guards.
- Waterman, Private R. O. (son of Mr. Arnold A. Waterman, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 17th Service Batt. The Highland Light Infantry.

Wounded.

- Bush, 2nd Lieut. G. Gervase (son of the Hon. R. G. Bush, and nephew of Mr. Gordon Gordon, of Trinidad), of the Cheshire Regiment, has, we regret to state, been severely wounded in France.
- Cass, Lieut. Dr. W. Marley (of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps, was wounded in France and also in Gallipoli.
- Thomas, Leslie (son of Mr. Thomas, of McGregor Street, Port of Spain), Machine Gunner, East Lancashire Regiment, has been wounded in France.

Alterations and Corrections.

- Berkeley, Captain Rupert Edric Gifford Hardiman (2nd son of the 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), for some time Adjutant 11th Batt. Durham Light Infantry, has been appointed a Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at the Headquarters in France.
- Swain, Corporal Oswald Bertram (second son of the late Mr. A. C. Swain, of the British Guiana Civil Service, 170th Scottish Rifles), has been promoted and made Acting Instructor at the Imperial School of Instruction, Egypt.
- Swain, 2nd Lieut. Gerald Arthur (eldest son of the late Mr. A. C. Swain, of the British Guiana Civil Service), has received his commission in the 7th Batt. Royal Fusiliers.

The Roll of Honour.

- COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR ERIC LAURENCE, of the King's Royal Rifles, who, we regret to state, has been killed in

action in France, was the son of the Hon. Dr. S. M. Laurence, unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Born in Trinidad, he was educated at Queen's Royal College. He left the island three years ago to read for the Bar. Shortly after the outbreak of war he enlisted as a private in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, in which regiment he was rapidly promoted until he became Sergeant-Major at the early age of 21 years. On Easter Day a service was held at the Hanover Wesleyan Church in Port of Spain, at which the Rev. S. M. Hawthorn delivered a touching address in memory of this gallant young officer.

TRINIDAD OIL SHIPMENTS.

The shipping returns of Trinidad and Tobago have naturally been affected by the absence of the usual tourist season and the withdrawal of the contract mail service. The Government having decided to revert to the calendar year in keeping its accounts, the latest figures are for nine months only. Captain J. B. Saunders, the local Harbour Master, records, however, in his annual report that slightly over 14 million gallons of petroleum of various descriptions were shipped during the nine months, being a large increase on the quantity exported during the same period of the previous year. The number of vessels which took oil fuel was 16, thanks principally to the blocking of the Panama Canal, which caused several American oil-burners to visit Trinidad for supplies. During the whole of the year 1914-15, only four vessels called for oil fuel. 60,159 tons of coal were taken in for bunker purposes by 257 ships.

The receipts of the Government-owned "Gulf" steamers amounted to £1,564 13s. 4½d., and the working expenses, after deducting the value of stores remaining in stock on 31st December, were £2,004 0s. 11d. The steamers therefore lost during the nine months under report £439 7s. 6½d. It must be observed, however, that £440 was paid on account of the general overhaul of the SS. *Paria*, which is being carried out at present, so that she may shortly be able to take up the service, when the *tere* will probably be laid up as unserviceable. But for this payment, the steamers would have shown a small profit on their working. Captain Saunders adds: "I have always contended that one steamer in good condition, in spite of the increasing competition by launches, etc., could pay its way on the Islands Route." The steamer was hired for excursions on two occasions only.

THE New Zealand Shipping Company have announced that their Royal Mail steamers leaving this country on June 22nd will proceed to Wellington through the Panama Canal. Hitherto their vessels have reached New Zealand by way of Tenerife and the Cape, and a saving of 2,380 miles will be effected by their taking the Panama route. Meanwhile, further slides have occurred in the Gaillard Cut, which may necessitate a temporary alteration of plans.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE Court of Directors of the Colonial Bank have decided to close their branch at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies.

MR. E. J. LONGARD has been appointed President of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company, Ltd., of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

BANANAS fetch such a good price in the Hawaiian Islands that efforts to manufacture banana flour there have been abandoned.

MISS C. PORTER, daughter of the Hon. W. Henry Porter, I.S.O., Treasurer of Dominica, is one of the latest recruits for war work. She has taken up the duties of Still Room Orderly at Queen Mary's Auxiliary Convalescent Hospital at Southampton.

WE learn from Messrs. Arbuthnot, Latham and Company that a cyclone passed Mauritius on the night of May 26th in a south-easterly direction. No damage was done to shipping or buildings, but it is not yet ascertained whether any harm was done to the sugar canes.

THE enterprising Mr. Silly, of Grand Turk—whom he lies his name—has made a new departure at his lobster canning factory. By means of a gelatinous preparation of sea moss he has a delicious concoction called by him "lobster en aspic," which it is said to resemble closely in taste.

LADY HADDON SMITH, wife of the Governor of the Windward Islands, has arrived in London. Her second son, Major H. B. Haddon Smith, of the Army Service Corps, has been invalided home from Salonika, and has undergone a slight operation, but is making excellent progress towards recovery.

THE "entente cordiale" is nowhere stronger than in the West Indies, and it is not surprising to learn that the Governor of Martinique, who visited Castries, St. Lucia, on Easter Monday, and attended a Red Cross Fete organised by Mrs. Gabriel Laffitte and Miss McHugh, was accorded a most enthusiastic welcome.

BRITISH subjects in Porto Rico are not unnaturally surprised and indignant at several British insurance companies retaining German firms as their representatives in the island. These German firms are active agents for the "Fatherland," for which they cannot be blamed, but it does seem most reprehensible that British insurance companies should have enemies as their agents in neutral countries.

SIR FREDERIC M. MAXWELL, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, has arrived in England on four months leave of absence. Sir Frederic's two sons are in the Army, the elder being in the City of London Yeomanry in Egypt, where we regret to

learn he has been suffering from acute rheumatism, while the elder is in the Royal Field Artillery in France.

ANOTHER link in the chain of evidence as to the intrinsic superiority of cane sugar over beet is given in the fact that Rhenish wine makers used, before the war, in the manufacture of their wines, cane sugar from an English refinery instead of their own refined beet product. These sugars are declared by eminent chemists (?) to be identical in their character. Why then the above?

EMULATING the generosity of Christopher Codrington, who bequeathed his two sugar estates, Cossett's and Codrington's (now "College" and "Society") to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, "for the maintenance of a convenient number of professors and scholars," and thus founded Codrington, Mr. Joseph Forte, whose death occurred recently, has bequeathed his estate, Bennet's Plantation, in St. Thomas, to the trustees of the College, with powers to sell or lease it as they may think fit for the benefit of that institution. Bennet's is a "steam" estate, and has an area of 279 acres.

THE last homeward steamer brought a further contribution of £300 towards the British Red Cross Society's Motor Ambulance fund. This brings the total collected in the island by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore to no less than £2,650. This sum would have provided a fleet of six ambulances, but in view of the need of money for the upkeep of the cars already provided only two cars were presented, the balance of the sum subscribed being devoted to their maintenance. On behalf of Mr. Collymore the West India Committee forwarded a cheque for £300 to the British Red Cross Society, and they have forwarded to Barbados a letter of acknowledgment and thanks in the following terms.—

May 25th, 1916.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, No. 913, enclosing a cheque for £300, the same being the result of a further collection made by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore for the upkeep of motor ambulances. I have pleasure in enclosing herewith official receipt in duplicate, as requested.

Will you please convey to Mr. Collymore our grateful thanks for his continued kind help, which I note now reaches the sum of £2,250, in addition to the provision of one Motor Ambulance. This is really a magnificent effort, and reflects the greatest credit on Mr. Collymore. We are always so very grateful for help towards the maintenance of our now very large ambulance fleet. Mr. Collymore will be interested to know that we have now more than 1,400 motor ambulances at work, and in addition a large number of other kinds of motor vehicles, making a total of over 1,933. You can readily understand the enormous cost to these Societies of the upkeep of such a large fleet, and we are therefore always very grateful for any assistance in meeting this heavy charge.

I have recently returned from a tour of inspection of all the Motor Ambulance Couvoys in France and Belgium, and I am glad to say I found everything most satisfactory. All the doctors I met told me how much the ambulances have done, and are doing, in the saving of life and limb.

With again very many thanks,

Yours faithfully,

E. M. CLARKE.

Director, Motor Ambulance Department.
Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.,
Secretary, The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE LONDON LETTER.

The long-talked of "summer-time" became an established fact on Sunday morning, May 21st. At 2 a.m. on that day—or in many cases over-night—clocks and watches were advanced one hour, and they will remain ahead of Greenwich time until September 30th, when they will be put back again. "St. Willett's day," as it should be called, after the founder of the daylight saving movement, was a fine one, and the unusual freshness of the morning must have struck even early risers on getting up at their habitual hour. The long light evenings which we are now enjoying are particularly delightful, and confer an inestimable boon on the jaded and weary workers whose business avocations keep them employed until a late hour in the afternoon. It is now, of course, daylight until 10.30 p.m., and on fine evenings the parks and open spaces are crowded with pleasure-seekers until that hour.

On the whole the clocks gave little trouble on "the day." Big Ben behaved quite well, and as its striking has been out of action for a long time there was no trouble on that score. St. Paul's clock, however, was contentious and persisted in sounding twelve when the disc showed one o'clock, a truly striking instance of conscientious objection to the compulsory dealing with time. We have every reason to be grateful to the late Mr. Willett, and it is much to be regretted that he did not live to see the adoption of his scheme.

The usual Whitsuntide holidays have been postponed to August. Easter resulted in a lamentable decrease in the output of munitions and guns, and Mr. Lloyd George has made a forcible appeal to the workers not to allow holidays to interfere with the supply of material for our armies in the field and our ships in the North Sea.

The scarcity of sugar is still felt, and that commodity, instead of being given away, as it very often was, with a pound of tea, can now only be obtained when the purchaser buys other goods also. Owing to the shortage of refined, raw sugars are very much in evidence, and it is quite common to see sugar of this class usurping the place of white sugar on the tea-table.

The Derby "groups" being still open, it is probable that most of the men of military age who would otherwise become conscripts under the new Compulsion Act will attest and be volunteers instead of pressed men. Now that the married men are being called up, the recruiting centres are again presenting a busy scene, the soldiers-in-the-making being accompanied by their sisters and their cousins and their aunts. All are as cheerful as can be, and reply with an emphatic negative to the now time-honoured query, "Are we downhearted?" The nation is truly showing a splendid spirit, which augurs well for the future.

Artists must live, and to this no doubt must be attributed the fact that the Academy duly opened in May. Among the pictures of the year is an admirable portrait of Lord Harewood, Barbados estates proprietor, and the respected President of the West India Committee, by Mr. William Llewelyn, A.R.A. Also of West Indian interest is a charming painting by Herbert Draper of that exquisite child dancer "Little June," a niece of Mr. Edgar Tripp, the Honorary Correspondent of the West India Committee in Trinidad. Burlington House seems as crowded as ever, but many of the visitors this year are wounded soldiers, who, very properly, are given the *entree* to the Royal Academy.

Those shady oases, the London squares and gardens, have also been thrown open for the use of our wounded heroes, who appear greatly to appreciate the privilege of using them. In convenient positions near the railway stations, rest huts have been erected by the Y.M.C.A.—which is doing really magnificent work—and other philanthropic institutions, while near Victoria a regular "mess" has been provided for officers. After all, the Old Country is not so backward in the matter of organisation as some of our friends overseas generally believed it to be.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The British Sugar Movement.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Referring to the concluding sentence in the paragraph under the heading of the British Sugar Industry in your CIRCULAR of the 15th inst., may I point out that the movement to bring under one organisation all the sugar-producing parts of the British Empire is due in a great measure to the indefatigable services of a much travelled and well-known member of the West India Committee. In order to bring this movement before Mr. Hughes, this gentleman received a cable from Australia, asking him to meet Mr. Hughes and lay the whole scheme before him. This was done within one week of Mr. Hughes' arrival, and it is almost needless to add, in view of what has taken place since March, that Mr. Hughes gave his heartiest approval to the whole movement.

Consequently your remarks in the last sentence of your letter would lead to serious misconception, more especially in the outlying Dominions.

Yours, etc.,

CONSTANT READER.

London, 29th May, 1916.

A new disease which appeared last year in the beet fields of France has been dealt with by Em. Miegé in *La Vie Agricole et Rurale*. The leaves show a system of orange spots, which start from the edge and spread over the whole surface, being followed by other disease in the infected parts. They also show irregular swellings, which give the leaves a blistered appearance. No trace has been found of a parasite in connection with the disease, and the conclusion arrived at is that the trouble is caused by defective nutrition.

SOME NATURE NOTES.

IN the last number of the "Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society," Dr. Voelcker gives an account of the result of the experiments with humogen, Professor Bottomley's bacterised peat, at the Woburn Experiment Station. Although, compared with applications of nitrate of soda equal in amount as regards nitrogen to the humogen, no increase of grain was found in grain crops, there was a big increase in the amount of straw where humogen had been applied. Similarly with green crops there was a marked increase in stalk of leaf.

ACCORDING to the "Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society," galls have been noticed growing on the branches of cacao trees in the St. Ann district of that island. It was much feared that the Witchbroom disease of Surinam had arrived, but when specimens were sent to the Government Microbiologist he did not consider that the symptoms agreed in any way with those of that disease. The gall was soft brown and yielded cultures of *Lasiidiplodia* alone.

IN the same periodical attention is called by Mr. E. A. Gunter to the practice of hanging weights on the primary branches of young cacao trees. It is claimed that the effect of this is to cause the trees to spread, rather than to grow tall. It is pointed out, however, that the weights invariably cause the branches to crack, thus allowing water to enter the tree. Another objection to the practice is that by it the branches are so far removed from each other that the shade which they should afford the centre of the tree is removed, allowing the sun to come in, which burns the bark of the main branches so much that before long the bark becomes dry, and may become diseased.

* * *

THE *Tropical Agriculturist* states that a new oil nut has been discovered by accident in Manila. On analysis it was found to contain 45 per cent. of a dark fatty, non-drying oil that makes a very good soap. The nut has a variety of names in the different provinces, and it appears that its uses for oil-bearing were known to the natives many years before the introduction of petroleum. Two shipments have been made, and the use of the oil in making soap is pronounced to be satisfactory.

* * *

FIG coffee and barley coffee, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, have been placed on the market by a coffee and pea-nut roasting establishment in Santiago de Chile. In a letter published in the *Boletín de la Sociedad de Fomento Fabril*, it is said that the wholesome qualities of these substitutes and their low price have made them very popular in Santiago and the Provinces. While coffee is quoted at 23 to 46 cents per lb., coffee of toasted figs or matted barley may be obtained for 7 cents per lb.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Favourable Weather.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, APRIL 14th.—Weather conditions are favourable for sugar crop operations, and canes are turning out fairly well. Sales of molasses have been made at 27 cts. per gallon.

BARBADOS—The Advantage of Large Factories.

SIR FREDERICK J. CLARKE, K.C.M.G., APRIL 16th.—Reaping is being pushed on as rapidly as possible. The weather has been showery and cloudy and calm, and only the large factories have been able to make good progress. The ordinary steam plant is kept back for want of dry fuel, and the wind-mill is almost at a standstill. The return is on the whole good, and prices are extremely good. It is seldom that there is the combination of a good crop and good prices. Our new Colonial Secretary, Mr. T. E. Pell, has arrived and assumed the duties of his office.

The mail edition of the *Barbados Advocate* of May 5th says: "The recent showers have done much good for those districts in which both the old and the young crops needed moisture. The young crop is said by planters to be most promising. The banks of the majority of the fields are covered, and the planters are thereby saved the trouble and expense of removing the weeds. Reaping operations are being pushed forward, and the factory system is proving a boon to the country by the increase in the yield which it enables planters to obtain from their canes, and the rapidity by which canes can be converted into sugar."

BRITISH GUIANA—Roraima revisited.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, APRIL 5th.—The weather has been too dry, and rain is wanted everywhere. On March 29th, Mr. Cecil Clementi gave an interesting lecture on his recent visit to Roraima.

April 15th.—Mr. R. M. Parker left for New York in the *SS. Guiana* on April 9th. The local Red Cross Fund has now reached \$21,800. Rains are still wanted throughout the colony.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Another Terrible Murder.

MR. G. E. GRUBHAM, MAY 5th.—There has been little of interest to write to you of late. Last week another terrible tragedy was enacted. Dr. J. H. Harrison, the Principal Medical Officer of the colony, was stabbed to death by a lunatic. His death will be most keenly felt, and is a great loss to the colony, which he has served for nearly thirty years, and had the respect and affection of all classes.

Business is fairly active, and there is no lack of employment; in fact, many more labourers are required than are available. The great want is shipping facilities, but we have to face the fact that others' needs are more urgent.

A good deal of rain has fallen lately, which will delay trucking operations, but as long as we get a dry spell before the wet season sets in, it is not likely to affect supplies to any great extent.

The Contingent still awaits the arrival of the long delayed transport. The men are very keen on getting off, but they are receiving good training, which will be to their advantage when they get to their final destination.

BAHAMAS—The Third Bahamas Contingent.

The *Nassau Guardian* of May 6th gives statistics regarding the recent tourist season; 2,020 passengers were brought to Nassau by the Ward Line, and 507 by the *Miami* from Florida—a total of 2,527, a figure only once exceeded. The season was one of the best yet experienced from the financial point of view. For a considerable period in February and March the Colonial and Royal Victoria Hotels could not accommodate all the visitors who wanted to patronise them. There are indications that the season is lengthening, 200 passengers having arrived in November and December, while 375 remained as late as April.

The 3rd Bahamas contingent—89 strong—left Nassau for Jamaica in two schooners on May 10th. This con-

pletes the promised unit of 200 men, together with part of the required reinforcements for the first three months of the year; thirty others volunteered, but did not pass the medical examination. They are a physically fine lot of men, and the greatest credit is due to Mr. R. H. C. Crawford, the Commandant of Police and Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, for his unceasing energy and power of organisation.

The Governor and Lady Allardyce, who have all along encouraged and aided the recruiting movement by every means in their power, entertained the men at a garden party in the beautiful grounds of Government House. Each man was asked to bring two friends, and presumably did not limit himself to that number, as there were over 500 coloured ladies and gentlemen present. The Bishop also gave them a garden party. The flag, which is a silk one, specially obtained from England, was consecrated by the Reverend Audley Browne, Rector of St. Agnes.

Before departing the contingent was addressed by Sir William Allardyce in stirring terms. His Excellency concluded his remarks by quoting the story of the French peasant woman who, on seeing her husband off to the front at the beginning of the war, remarked to the assembled friends, "After all, I am only his wife. France is his mother," and he expressed the trust that to the women of Bahamas this moral needed no pointing.

MONTSERRAT—Bags for Men in the Trenches.

May 25th.—We have had a prolonged spell of drought, which has retarded cotton planting. Last night, however, there was a break, one to two inches of rain falling fairly generally. We are finding it difficult to ship our produce, but realise the state of affairs, and believe that the shipping companies are doing their best. Small shipments of sugar are being made to Canada every week, but the space available is not adequate. About 50 bales of cotton from last crop still await shipment.

A Men's War Fund has been started by His Honour Mr. Leslie Jarvis, our Acting Commissioner, while Mrs. Jarvis has organised a Women's War Fund, with the help of a Committee of Ladies, with Mrs. F. H. Watkins as Secretary, and Mrs. King Penchoen as Hon. Treasurer. In connection with the latter, a Fête was held on Easter Monday, which realised £41. The Men's Fund now stands at £80, and the Women's at £70. All will be sent to the British Red Cross Society, with the exception of £10, which is earmarked for the Montserrat men in the "B.W.I.s." The women of the island are also sending to Lady Smith-Dorrien 172 bags for our men in the trenches.

St. KITTS—Successful Fuel Economies.

Mr. E. J. SHELFORD, MAY 25th.—Both Factory and Muscovado Estates are making steady progress, reaping the crops which, roughly speaking, are now about half way. At the central factory they are doing excellent work, and have made, to the 6th instant, about 6,700 tons crystals in three months, an amount exceeding last year's total crop. Crop estimated at not less than 11,000 tons. The factory is now running on its own fuel supply and putting up a large reserve of megass, which is the result of furnace alterations carried out by Mr. Rudder, which were adopted last year. With a continuance of the present steady cane supply the crop should be through by the middle of July. There have been some record weights of cane per acre this season on several estates, but the general average runs about 25 to 29 tons per acre on the valley estates and about 20 tons per acre on the Windward estates.

Planters on Muscovado estates are working under difficulties, they know prices are good, but they cannot convert their sugar into cash owing to the lack of freight facilities. There is over 1,000 tons of sugar lying in store houses and curing houses now awaiting shipment—to date the Canadian service has only relieved us of close on 100 tons. In the meanwhile, with the canes ripe, there is nothing to be done but to go on making sugar, with the hope that in their own good time the company will relieve the congestion. The weather had been getting dry, but on Saturday night we had a lovely island rain, averaging from 3 to 3½ inches.

TOBAGO—A 21-Mile Ride on a Racehorse.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, APRIL 20th.—Showery weather still continues, and vegetation is more green in this "dry season" than for years past. The rains are not heavy enough to hinder sugar reaping, and will undoubtedly benefit all other cultivation. Cacao is coming in steadily, and light pickings will probably continue till June.

The chief social event of the fortnight is the wedding of Mr. Rees Harries, manager of Roxburgh Estate, on the 19th inst., to Miss Hutcheon, a Scotch lady, who braved the perils from submarines to accomplish what it is hoped will be the happiest event of her life. We are all looking forward to the arrival of our new Governor, and trust he will take as kindly an interest in Tobago as did his predecessor, Sir George C. Hunte.

April 25th.—The coastal steamer service is still the general subject of complaint. It is "like the wind, and cometh and goeth as it listeth," and no one can count on the day or hour of its arrival. The general impression is being confirmed that one steamer cannot possibly work the service. The loss of time, of produce (provisions), and of market are serious, especially to the peasant proprietors, and the Government ought to know how little it takes to cause them to drift back into the old-time policy of growing and eating only.

Since my last letter (April 20th) there has been rather a dry spell, and the sun's heat has been very trying. A welcome shower is now falling. There is less burning of bushland this year than usual. In this district the natives have the greatest difficulty in getting fire licences. The Ward Officer is acting for the whole island, and can hardly be got hold of to issue application forms. There have been quite good pickings of cacao of late, and this is expected to continue during May; but the June crop will most likely vanish—as usual! Prices are still good for both cacao and copra, the latter at \$6.95 being very attractive. During the Easter holidays, favoured by dry weather, schools and others held picnics and sports and races on the beach, while at Scarborough the usual Easter Races were held, and said to be enjoyable and successful. One of my workers rode his horse to Scarborough (21 miles) the night before the race, and expected to win after that long ride—but didn't, and he is quite crest-fallen over it. One of the events at a local picnic might interest folks at home. Girls raced with a pint bottle of water on their heads, and it was marvellous to see three of them reach the "tape" with the bottles still balanced safely on their heads.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, MAY 3rd.—The weather in April was favourable for reaping, but the cacao crop is not entirely over. The Archbishop and Bishop arrived at Easter and held confirmations. On Easter Monday the annual pony races were held at Petit Trou. Mr. James Newton Macdougall, one of our oldest sugar planters, died on April 6th.

An open-air Fête in aid of the Red Cross Fund is to be held on the 10th, and Mrs. Sworder has received a letter of grateful thanks from the British Red Cross Society for comforts sent from the island.

A distillery is being erected at Mr. W. Gordon-Gordon's, Mount Irvine, to deal with materials from the neighbouring estates.

TRINIDAD—Anti-German Demonstrations.

According to a letter from Mr. Edgar Tripp, dated May 6th, received as we were going to press, considerable indignation prevails in Trinidad at the laxity shown in dealing with alien enemies, who were recently accorded the right to appeal in respect of the liquidation of their properties. The partner of one of the largest alien firms in the island was always regarded as a German, and never claimed any other nationality, while his son-in-law was admittedly German. On the day on which War was declared, the senior partner's representative submitted his naturalisation papers as an American citizen, while the son-in-law was interned, the properties of the Company being taken over for the purpose of liquidation. Recently the local authorities permitted the partner to return, accompanied by an American lawyer, to press his claims in the Courts. *The Mirror* started the violent agitation against his being permitted to remain in the island, and this met with almost unanimous approval, and the Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution ex-

pressing their grave concern at his being allowed to return to the island, and urging that he should be requested to leave immediately. The town was placarded with posters of protest. The Government warned the Editor of *The Mirror* that his articles were likely to lead to public disorder, and that unless they ceased, the Government would be compelled to enforce the law, while the Colonial Secretary stated that the offending alien was in Trinidad with the approval of the Imperial Government.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council on May 5th, Sir Norman Lamont protested vigorously but ineffectively against the reduction of the naturalisation fee from £10 to £5 to bring it into line with the English Act.

Owing to the increase of freight rates announced to take effect as from 1st of May, by no less than 50/- per ton, and the consequent desire to ship before that date, cacao prices remained firm, and a good demand prevailed throughout April. The market has since been decidedly weaker, and it would not be a matter for surprise if a further fall were to occur during May. Listates and ordinary at date are quoted at \$15.50 and \$15.25 respectively. Ideal weather for cacao, and indeed for all classes of cultivation, continues, and according to reliable reports, a quantity of cacao beyond the average is likely to be marketed during the next few months. Receipts of "Venezuelan" have decreased, but an improvement is looked for shortly now that the locust invasion which did such serious injury to crops has disappeared or greatly lessened on the opposite coast. In consequence of the scarcity of this quality, prices have been firm at \$15.00 to \$16.25.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	3,558,184
B.N. America	141,400
Other British Possessions	14,955
France	2,200,954
United States America	1,953,244
Total for April	7,897,537
Shipped previously	20,002,504
Total from 1st January	27,960,101

To same date,	Weight in lbs.
1915	30,704,080
1914	41,344,691
1913	27,501,212
1912	30,700,105
1911	23,699,791
1910	25,498,049
1909	25,101,356
1908	23,558,790

TURKS ISLANDS—Salt Raking Commences.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during March was dry, and, owing to sudden variations of temperature, somewhat trying. The maximum temperature for the month was 84 deg. and the minimum 62 deg. Fahr. The total precipitation as registered by the United States Weather Bureau was only 0.18 inch. Owing to the dry spell, Grand Turk has a parched appearance, and vegetation is out of the question. Many tanks are empty, and from a general point of view rain is badly needed, although the pond proprietors speak otherwise. Raking of salt for this season has commenced, and quite a quantity has already been beached. There has been very little doing in the way of shipping. One cargo has been shipped by steamer from East Harbour, and several small cargoes of fishery salt from various shipping places in the Dependency. Several vessels are expected to take fishery salt. The outlook from one point looks favourable for a good season, but the high freight rates, it is feared, will prevent a ready sale.

On the 8th, the Commissioner and Miss Whitfield Smith sailed for East Harbour on the SS. *Thelma*, returning on the 10th in the same steamer. The *Thelma* is taking a cargo for Philadelphia. Large consignments of conch shells are still being shipped to the United States, as also are canned lobsters.

The Commissioner has somewhat over 200 lbs. of cotton of exceptionally fine quality which has been grown in the Dependency, ginned, and is awaiting a favourable opportunity to ship to England. With our present steamship communication this is somewhat of a hard problem. It is quite probable that a large acreage will be planted out in cotton in various parts of the Dependency in the near future. With shipping facilities available, from figures I have seen it should prove a very remunerative undertaking. Sisal is still being extracted at Grand Turk and Jacksonville, East Caicos. The telephone system is working well and giving every satisfaction.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SELWING LANE, LONDON, E.C.
June 1st, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 8th of August, 1914. New War Loan is quoted at 91½, Old War Loan at 88½. Consols stand at 57½.

SUGAR. The position of the world's sugar supplies is at the moment one of special interest. The War is nearing the end of the second year. In addition to the 1,500,000 tons which supplied the export of the enemy countries, and the 200,000 tons of Belgian sugar, the crop of France has diminished by 600,000 tons, of Russia by 300,000 tons, and of Italy by 150,000 tons, making in all 2,750,000 tons. As against this there has been an increase in Cuban sugar of at the most 500,000 tons, and with sundry increases elsewhere it may be taken that 2,000,000 tons represents the decrease in production outside the enemy countries. This was about the deficiency caused by the outbreak of the War, and the world has got on with this amount, plus the large stocks which then obtained, and which have been used up. But, on account of the reduction in the stocks, the condition has become more and more acute. It is not surprising, therefore, with an early Cuban crop, probably below estimate, although Willett and Gray speak of a 3,000,000 ton crop, with constant demands in the United States from Europe, that the time which must elapse before the Java crop, and later the American beet, becomes available, must be viewed by buyers with a certain amount of apprehension. Up to the 31st of August it would appear that the quantity of sugar, including all available from Cuba, will be something in the neighbourhood of 1,900,000 tons to supply the outside wants of the United States, Europe and the East, including China and the Mediterranean. It is not extraordinary, therefore, that the world's price of sugar should be what it is.

There has been a considerable scarcity of sugar in France owing to the late arrival of the colonial sugars, and in Germany and Austria resort has had to be made to sugar cards.

The Cuban crop will soon be completed, and only 42 factories are now working. The amount of sugar made to the end of last week was 2,688,193 tons, as against 2,248,600 tons for the corresponding period of last year. It is calculated that the damage done to the spring canes by the drought directly, and indirectly by their being compelled in many cases to be left over, is responsible for not less than 200,000 tons of the estimated crop of the island.

There has been a considerable outcry on the part of fruit growers in the United Kingdom on account of the proposed limitation of sugar for jam purposes, but the Sugar Commission has decided to make an exception in this instance, and to supply all the sugar necessary for the purpose.

Willett and Gray give the particulars of the new German law regarding the sugar consumption of Germany. The Department formed takes entire control of the sugar in the country, and regulates its distribution. All holders of sugar, with the exception of sugar factories and individuals holding less than 22 lbs. of sugar, have to report their holdings to the Commission.

Messrs. Czarnikow Rionda, of New York, under date May 16th, state that they had had cable advices from the Sugar Commission to the effect that no Java sugar of the 1917

crop had been bought by England, whereas, as stated in the CIRCULAR, 400,000 tons were currently supposed to have been thus purchased.

The Report of the American Beet Sugar Company for 1915-16 has been issued. The capital of this Company is \$20,000,000, and the earnings amounted to \$3,174,830. The average cost of the sugar sold was \$3.95, and the net earnings \$1.55. The cost of the beets was 62.86 of the cost of the sugar. The production was 1,732,682 bags.

The shipments of Cuban sugar to the United Kingdom up to the 1st of May are given by Mr. Himely as being 266,629 tons, as against 145,326 tons at the same date last year. France was furnished with 54,148 tons, as against 5,895 tons last year.

In connection with the possible productive capacity in sugar of the British Empire, the Government of Jamaica now states that the capacity of that island in this respect is 100,000 tons, and not 35,000 tons, as stated in the official report on the subject to the West India Committee.

The increase in the protective duty on Sugar in India to 10 per cent. ad valorem is likely to have an important effect on sugar cultivation in that country, and it is expected that the manufacture of jaggery is likely to be attended to rather than that of centrifugal sugar, as the former is used to a very large extent in the manufacture of sweets and by the general population. There has been a severe hurricane in Mauritius and the canes are reported to be severely damaged, according to one account, to the extent of 30 per cent.

In Regina, Canada, the retail price of sugar is \$1.92 per 20 lbs., or nearly 10d. per lb.

The New York market has been steady. Yesterday 66° Cuban duty paid were quoted at \$6.40 and granulated at \$7.65.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to May 20th are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	16,585	15,828	15,601	17,516	14,859 Tons.
Deliveries	19,382	14,888	11,251	10,691	11,908 ..
Stock (May 20)	8,308	6,949	16,955	8,664	7,440 ..

RUM. The market remains quiet pending definite settlement of the Immature Spirit Act question, but some business has been done in Jamaica, both on spot and to arrive, at full rates. Business also in Demerara kinds at steady rates.

Stocks in London on May 20th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	4,371	4,474	7,148	5,565	7,546 Puns.
Demerara	11,831	8,292	10,789	7,869	7,155 ..
Total, all kinds	28,460	19,407	24,944	20,983	22,027 ..

It is generally believed that the period of compulsory warehousing for rum will be extended from 9 months to 12 months by Order in Council under the provisions of the Finance Bill quoted in last Circular. Of this period three months will be credited for the voyage, etc., as heretofore. In view of the increased stocks of rum this is considered quite reasonable by the trade. Rum will be in a much better position than whisky and brandy for which the full period of three years warehousing, under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act has now come into force.

CACAO. There was a fair demand for West Indian kinds at auction sales on the 23rd, and prices were steady. Altogether 9,402 bags were offered, of which 5,219 were West Indian. Some of 953 bags of Trinidad sold at 90/-, a good part of 3,765 bags Grenada sold at 76/6 to 85/6. A considerable proportion of 484 bags St. Lucia sold at 78/- to 85/6. A small lot of 13 bags Dominica sold at 80/-, while 4 bags of Jamaica were bought in.

Further sales took place on the 30th, when 11,914 bags were offered. Trinidad sold fairly well, 87/- to 89/-; Grenada part sold at 79/- to 84/6; Jamaica fetched 81/- to 84/-. The St. Lucia and Dominica lots were bought in.

Stocks in London on May 20th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	22,222	5,225	8,898	7,491	7,997 Bags
Grenada	13,112	5,147	14,542	7,499	6,120 ..
Total, all kinds	181,145	59,973	101,683	84,068	116,023 ..

COFFEE. At auction sales last week there was less demand, but prices were unchanged. 133 bags of Demerara Liberian sold at 75/- to 76/-. Out of 61 bags of Jamaica put up for sale, 50 sold, ordinary to good 54/6 to 58/6, bold common brownish 64/6, fair greenish and color 73/6.

COTTON. The market for American has shown some irregularity, with tendency in the direction of weakness, a slight recovery occurring towards the close. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report a fair business as having been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since their last report, and that prices are steady. The sales include Montserrat 17d. to 17½d., St. Kitts at 19d., Anguilla 15d. to 18d., and also about 30 bales stains at 11d. to 13d.

COPRA. The market continues very dull, with little business passing. Fine West Indian may be quoted at £34 c.i.f. terms, usual conditions.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Nominal. Hand-pressed may be quoted at 9/6, and distilled at 8/6 to 9/-. Lime Juice: There has been a good enquiry for raw, but no sales. There is no change in concentrated. Citrate of Lime is quoted at £26 nominal.

COCO-NUT OIL. Little or nothing doing. Ceylon is quoted at 54/6 c.i.f., Cochin 57/6 c.i.f.

SPICES. Nutmegs and Mace quiet and unchanged. Mace, good to fine, 2/- to 3/-; red to good, 1/9 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/6 to 1/8; broken 7d. to 1/5. Nutmegs, 100/80's, 1/- to 1/2; 120/100's, 10d. to 1/1; 140/120's, 9d. to 10d. Ginger: Supplies, being moderate, are very firmly held. A small business done at 115/- for middling and rather small.

ARROWROOT. Business reported quite retail. No change in quotations.

HONEY. Next auctions 1st June. Nominal values 45/- to 55/- for dark to fine pink.

RUBBER. Market flat, with lower values. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2/7½, smoked sheet at 2/6½, fine hard Para 2/8½, soft Para 2/8.

BALATA. Venezuela block quoted 2/6½ c.i.f. and value. Panama block quoted 2/3 landed. West Indian sheet quoted 3/2 and 3/4 landed, according to position. Market steady, with small business passing.

WOODS. Fustic 6 to 7. Jamaica Logwood 48 to 48 10s. Honduras Cedar 10d. to 11d. per foot. Mauritius Ebony 4/12 to 4/18. Cuban Mahogany 6½d. to 8½d. San Domingo Satinwood 9d. to 1/6.

TIMBER. Greenheart. British Guiana, load of 50 cubic feet, £14 to £18.

PETROLEUM OIL. Unchanged. American 1/-; water white 1/1.

WANT.

Wanted — Copies of CIRCULAR dated March 9th. Sixpence per copy given.—Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West India Committee's coloured wall-map of the West Indies (size 3ft. 6in. 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 Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net; and "The Cane Sugar Factory," 1s. (post free 1s. 2d.), may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Hon. A. G. Bell | Mr. Wm. Greig | Commander W. H. Owen, R.N. |
| Mr. A. C. Broughton, A.M.I.C.E. | Mr. P. L. Guppy | Mr. A. E. Perkins |
| (till end of July). | Mrs. E. Haynes | Mr. G. W. Penrice. |
| Mr. Claude Connell | Mr. E. C. Jackman. | Miss E. Robinson |
| Mr. A. Campbell | Mr. A. H. Kirby | Mr. F. B. B. Shand |
| Mr. J. W. Cathcart | Hon. A. Don. Lockhart | Mr. R. B. Short |
| Mr. C. Flanigan | Mr. Clement Malone | Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G. |
| Mr. R. P. Gibbs | Mr. A. L. McColl | |
| Mr. John T. Gray | Sir Frederick Maxwell | |

- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., "Rossmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton.
 Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts
 Mr. H. D. Sondmore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmith Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 31, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

Presiding at the 78th Ordinary General Meeting on May 17th, Sir Alexander Freeman King referred in sympathetic terms to the death of Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, whom he described as a good business man and a dear friend. Sir Timothy Augustine Coghlan, who had been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board, had been a member of the Legislature of New South Wales, and had held a number of important positions in connection with the Government there. After coming to England, Sir Timothy had been until recently the Agent-General of New South Wales, and was now the representative of the Commonwealth of Australia on the Pacific Cable Board. His knowledge of affairs and long business experience should prove him a valuable member of the Board. In their report for the half-year to June 30, 1915, the Directors foreshadowed that the second half-year would probably show a great falling-off in traffic receipts, concurrently with increased expenses due, to a large extent, to the hurricane which visited the West Indies in August, and their prognostications proved correct. Several circumstances combined to militate against a more satisfactory record, but, apart from this, the Company could not at the very best of times hope to emulate the prosperity of the larger telegraph companies, owing mainly to the narrow field of operations. The population of the whole of the British West Indies was only about 2,000,000—less than one-third of the population of London. Further, the productive area of those colonies was very limited, and as there was little sympathy of trade between the several islands, it followed traffic receipts must be comparatively small. The loss from the reduction of rates in October, 1914, was estimated at £26,000 a year, but, as a set-off, the Imperial and the Canadian Governments granted subsidies amounting to £16,000 a year for ten years—leaving £10,000 a year to be made up by the increased traffic which they were told would result from the stimulation the lower rates would induce. The volume of words had certainly increased, but some part of this was due to circumstances not connected with the question of rates, as, for example, war conditions, the difficulty and uncertainty of steamer communications, and the favourable crops and the higher prices obtained for them.

Owing to the Government's requirements that the Company's offices should at times be kept open day and night, the working costs had been higher than in previous years, and they had formulated a claim for a modest proportion of the extra cost entailed, which was under consideration.

The damage done by the hurricane in August was enormous, Jamaica suffering most severely. The deficit in the Jamaica Budget for last financial year was £62,000, and the estimated deficit for the current financial year was no less than £115,000—both largely due to the hurricane and to war conditions. They were, however, not without some hope for the future. Canadian friends seemed to feel there was something better in store for the West Indian Colonies. A Canadian bank had opened branches in the West Indies, and the Dominion was apparently alive to the fact that, given transport facilities, it could offer a

market for all the sugar those colonies could produce. Reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies ought, in the natural order of things, to bring about better results for the Company. Traffic receipts to the end of March showed an appreciable increase over the corresponding period for 1915, but expenses were not likely to decrease, owing to the cost of labour and the cost of materials having increased considerably.

[It is to be regretted that Sir A. Freeman King should have belittled the West Indies in his speech. Though the population of those colonies is only 2,000,000, their productivity is not so limited as Sir Alexander suggests. It has been officially estimated that those colonies could, under favourable conditions, produce 2,750,000 tons of sugar annually. Canada could certainly not absorb so large a quantity, for many years her present consumption being about 2,500,000 tons per annum.—Ed.]

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination.
June 9	"Booker" Line	Imataka	Liverpool	B.
" 10	Lesland Line	Asian	Liverpool	A.E.
" 11	Elders & Fyffes	Carina	Bristol	D.
" 13	"Direct" Line	Crown of Galicia	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G.
" 14	Direct Line	Crown of Navarre	London	A, B, E, F, G.
" 24	"Harrison" Line	Musician	Liverpool	A, B, E, F, G.
" 27	Elders & Fyffes	Cumito	Bristol	K, L, M, N, D.
FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination.
June 30	R M.S.P.Co.	Chignecto	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, I.
July 14		Chaudiere	"	K, L, M, N.
FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
June 16	Royal Dutch	A Steamer	Amsterdam	B.E.
" 30				

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.		Prices
			May 31
4 1/2 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	27
4 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1923-42	86 1/2
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	80
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 1/2 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	78 1/2
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	83 1/2
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	69 1/2
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80 1/2
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1924-44	72 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank		5 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		109 1/2
7 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		114 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		84 1/2
4 1/2 %	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		10 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		105
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		116
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (1 1/2 shares)		—
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (1/2)		12 1/2
—	United Erit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)		—
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.		95-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		70-75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		72-75
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		19-
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		—
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "		—
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		9 1/2

The . . . West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E.C.4.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

June 14th, 1916.

THE HINTERLAND OF GUIANA.

THE names of MR. CECIL CLEMENTI, the Government Secretary of British Guiana, and of his wife, must be added to the list of those of the comparatively few people who have ascended Roraima, the great table mountain on the boundaries of that colony and Brazil. Discovered by Sir Robert Schomburgk in 1838, Roraima defied all attempts to conquer it until 1884, when MR. (now SIR EVERARD) IM THURN, accompanied by MR. H. I. PERKINS, reached its summit by way of a ledge which still forms the only known means of ascent. SIR EVERARD IM THURN contributed a fascinating account of his first ascent of Roraima to *Timehri*, the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana, of which he was editor, in 1885, and MR. QUELCH and DR. CRAMPTON have also published in the same magazine particulars of expeditions to the great plateau which crowns the summit. Some account of a visit to the great mountain is also given from the pen of the late MR. F. V. MCCONNELL in a book entitled "The Birds of British Guiana," which has just been dedicated to his memory, and is reviewed elsewhere in the present issue. A paper, too, "The Flora of the Mountain," was given to the Linnean Society by SIR EVERARD IM THURN, and another at a later date based on MR. MCCONNELL'S botanical collection. Already the literature on Roraima is, having regard to the few times the mountain has been visited, not inconsiderable, and we hope that MR. CLEMENTI may shortly give to a wider public a detailed account of his experiences during his recent expedition, which has already formed the subject of a lecture

of fascinating interest, delivered to the members of the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana. MR. CLEMENTI was already well known to be a believer in the development of the hinterland of British Guiana, and it is made clear by his remarks that he has come back from his tour of the interior of the colony more firmly convinced than ever of the desirability of opening up the country. *En route* to Roraima he visited Kaieteur (which he tells us is more correctly called Kaietuk), and we very warmly support his suggestion that the colony might well spend a little money on making its glorious scenery readily accessible. If the railway to the interior were built along the line suggested in 1913 it would be possible to reach the mouth of the Potaro River in a few hours, and he believes that it would be quite practicable to construct a motor road from the junction of the Potaro and Essequibo rivers to the head of the Kaieteur gorge. Meanwhile he advocates the construction of a bridge track as a "modest instalment of hinterland development." But the hinterland railway could not be expected to pay from tourist traffic alone, and it is with interest that we learn that MR. CLEMENTI shares our view that many parts of the interior are essentially a white man's country with great possibilities of cattle raising on the lines successfully followed by MR. JOHN C. MENZIES, who holds a concession from the local government. MR. CLEMENTI served a long apprenticeship in the civil service in the East, where no British community is contented unless it has its hill station as a city of refuge when the tropical heat of the plains becomes unendurable, and it was in order to find a site for such a spot that he determined to make his expedition. He soon found what he was seeking in the Barramaku Savannah, which he reached about fourteen days after his departure, and we may be pardoned for quoting his description of it in the hope that it may help to strengthen the feeling in favour of the hinterland railway scheme. "The sensation of emerging into the Barramaku Savannah, as we did on the 3rd January, was one of keen enjoyment. Here on a small scale was the very hill station in search of which we had come! Its area is probably between three and four square miles. It looks like a little piece of England: smiling slopes of grass with here and there a clump of bracken or a cluster of trees, undulating knolls and dells and a delicious little brook at its far end. . . . We basked in the sunshine, lying in the lush grass with no *bête rouge* to annoy us, and fanned by cool breezes. The air had a delicious mountain nip in it and the thermometer at 5 p.m. was only 60 deg. F. The night was quite cold and I was glad of three blankets. Here we slept without mosquito-nets untroubled by any insects. No one at present inhabits this savannah."

A few days later the expedition reached MR.

MENZIES' cattle ranch, where he saw abundant land suitable for cattle and sheep farming, and with possibilities of tea cultivation. "These attractive and spacious highlands deserve to be developed and would support a considerable population. They would, as it is, make an admirable hill station. The scenery is beautiful. The climate at the season of our visit was delightful. The locality could be made easily and cheaply accessible from town, and would I venture to think prove much superior as a health resort to the West India Islands." Exigencies of space prevent us from doing full justice to MR. CLEMENTI'S fascinating account of Roraima, and it must suffice to say that the journey there and back occupied forty-six days—which alone would put it beyond the pale of the average traveller—whilst the cost, to which the same remark applies, was 967.66 dollars, or at the rate of £4 7s. 7½d. per diem. We must certainly compliment MR. and MRS. CLEMENTI on spending their holiday in the country of their adoption, and express the hope that when this terrible war is over the hinterland development projects will once more be energetically taken up.

CANE FARMING IN BRITISH GUIANA.

AT a recent conference of the British Guiana Farmers' Association the question of cane farming was raised. It was stated that at Wakenaam, Triumph, Beterverwagting, Buxton, and Friendship especially, the farmers were showing an awakening interest in agricultural matters, and that a better understanding between the Government, the sugar planters and the farmers of the villages of the Colony was manifesting itself. It is hardly necessary to point out that cane farming presents greater difficulties in British Guiana than it has done in Trinidad, St. Kitts, and Antigua, where it is practised so successfully, owing to the manner in which the estates are situated and laid out in the first-named Colony. Farming, as they do, parallels bounded by canals, the only areas suitable for cane farming are on the estate lands or on the back lands of the intervening villages which would need to be suitably drained for successful agricultural operations. Moreover, there are difficulties of transport to be considered, the only means of conveying canes to the factory being the trenches, which render the delivery of the small quantity of canes which each farmer could supply a difficult matter if his canes were to be earmarked until they were weighed on reaching the factory, an arrangement which could only be obviated by their being purchased on the spot. This makes the system of cane farming in British Guiana very different from that prevailing in the islands where the farmer can own his own lands and deliver his canes in his own cart to the factory where the canes are weighed. It is hoped, however, that the meeting above referred to, over which MR. H. E. MURRAY, a planter of wide experience, presided, some system may be evolved which will lead to a great development of cane farming. In the course of his remarks he said that the kind of farmer needed was the one who worked and cultivated the land himself, and not the man who employed others and had to pay high wages to get

his crops reaped. Rice could not be grown by the estates under six or seven shillings per bag, but could be cultivated by the people at four shillings per bag when they grew it themselves. He went on to say that some farmers had pointed out that the price being paid for canes did not pay them. It did not pay the individual man because each one of them paid for cultivating his canes, but it paid the man who cultivated for himself. If the question was carefully taken up he thought they would find that individual families could, by working systematically, grow as large an area as 10 acres, putting in two and a half acres at a time. In the course of an interesting speech MR. BRASSINGTON expressed pleasure at the renewed confidence in the planters which the farmers were showing, and said that he felt certain that in so far as the estates on the coast were concerned the planters would do anything they could to foster cane growing by small proprietors. The abolition of indentured immigration greatly emphasises the importance of this question, and it is improbable that the hopes of PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON as to the future sugar production of the Colony will be realised without the adoption of some system of cane farming on a large scale.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on Thursday, June 15th, the following were admitted to membership:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
H. H. and S. Budgett and Co., Ltd.	(Major H. F. Previté. Mr. R. Rutherford.)
Mr. William Martineau.	(Mr. Coventry Woodhouse. Mr. Charles Hales.)
Sub-Lieut. Ernest A. Lister, R.N.R.	(Mr. F. C. Skinner. Com. W. H. Owen, R.N.R.)
Mr. George P. Buckley.	(Mr. F. Evans. Major H. F. Previté.)
Miss Ada L. B. Shepherd.	(Mrs. Burdon. Mr. R. Rutherford.)
Mr. H. C. Barton.	(Mr. C. Lyon Hall. Mr. J. C. Coote.)
Mr. H. Israel Jeffers (Trinidad).	(Hon. G. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Edgar Tripp.)
Mrs. F. V. McConnell.	(Mr. C. Guy A. Wyatt. Mr. R. Rutherford.)
Mr. R. E. Calder (Montreal).	(Mr. Robert Anderson. Mr. J. Brookfield.)
Mr. Arthur L. Bennett (Montreal).	(Mr. Robert Anderson. Mr. J. Brookfield.)
Mr. Gilbert W. Fox.	(Mr. W. H. Alty. Mr. A. McConnell.)
Mr. Edward G. A. Saunders (Natal)	(Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. C. Sandbach Parker.)
Capt. Nathaniel Forte.	(Mr. R. Rutherford. Sir William Trollope, Bt.)
Mr. W. L. Wildy	(Mr. Frederic Scrutton. and Lt. Hugh F. Wildy.)
Mr. F. A. Webb	(Mr. Frederic Scrutton. and Lt. Hugh F. Wildy.)

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Glorious 31st.

"The Day" has come, and the Day has gone. But the enemy's Grand Fleet is not riding up and down the North Sea, as Van Tromp once rode up and down the Channel, but, after suffering severe losses, has returned to its own waters to avert a worse fate. Through the unfortunate phrasing of the first Admiralty *communiqué*, it was generally assumed that, if not defeated, the British Fleet had not a success to show for its losses, whereas it won the greatest battle fought in European waters since Trafalgar. Moreover, what before the war the enemy said he would do he has tried to bring off and failed. He was to find a British naval force at a disadvantage and sink several ships without losing any himself, so as to narrow the margin of our superiority at sea in his favour. But he never seems to have supposed that we on our side should be doing anything. He knows differently now, whatever he may say. His whole fleet, as has been admitted in the Reichstag, was out, but for two hours at least his ships, as compared with ours, were as three to one. They were, too, in the vicinity of one of their own mine fields, which restricted the area of our operations, close to the shore and to their bases; they had the light in their favour; and as, in the mist, our ships came upon them at closer range than was desirable, they could use their secondary armament, of which our big ships have none, as they are designed to fight at long range. Here, then, was the very opportunity for which the enemy says he has been praying. But he made so little of it that reinforcements came to the help of the Admiral Beatty's squadron, when, though it had given a good account of itself, it was sore pressed. Even then the advantage lay with the Germans. It was not till a battleship squadron appeared that conditions assumed something like equality. But then the Germans fled in disorder for home, and, owing to the weather, could not be pursued by the main British Fleet, though they were followed by the flotilla of destroyers all night, which, in the circumstances, must have done great damage. It is too soon to see the battle in full perspective, but enough is known to be certain that Germany cannot now attempt an invasion of England, and has not raised the blockade, while the British Navy commands the sea in a more real sense than at any time since the war began. Our losses were heavy. Not only have 5,000 gallant seamen, including Admiral Hood, gone to their long home, 3 of our battle cruisers, 3 light cruisers, and 4 destroyers being sunk.

The truth about the German losses is coming out by instalments. At first the sinking of the battleship *Pommern* and the cruisers *Elbing*, *Frauenlob* and *Wiesbaden*, besides nine destroyers was admitted. A week later the destruction of the *Lützow*, one of the enemy's finest battle-cruisers, and the light cruiser, *Rostock*, was admitted, the news having been held back for "military reasons." How many more German losses are concealed for military reasons?

The Passing of Kitchener.

When the news came that Lord Kitchener had been drowned in the cruiser *Hampshire*, now said to have been mined off the Orkneys, there was general stupefaction, for it should be remembered that he was chosen to fill the post, to which he lent such distinction, by the nation, and that its trust in him has never wavered, as it plainly showed when he was attacked by a discontented rump, who hated him as only small men can hate a big one. He was the embodiment of the national determination to win the war, and, as such, was regarded by our Allies, as well as by the enemy, who at once admired and feared him. Though the best part of his career was passed on the Oriental fringe of the Empire, he estimated the military situation in 1914 better than any of the officers of the Expeditionary Force, and, though he was a soldier, realised the economic strength of Germany better than any other member of the Government. Think what our position would be had he not, to consummate ability as an organiser, added the power to see the war as the tremendous conception it was and is. To his vision we owe it that the edifice of our military preparations has been built up from the foundations on a three years' basis, and so his work will endure. Another man may fill his post, but no other can take his place, for we have none possessed of so many commanding qualities as a soldier, statesman and diplomatist.

All Kitchener's staff went down with him, and there were only twelve survivors of the *Hampshire*. They were on their way to Russia.

On the British Front.

It is a compliment to the British that the Germans always maintain a substantial reserve opposite our lines, and had the battle of Verdun gone in their favour they would probably have launched a great offensive in Flanders. As it is they have merely proved for the second time the splendid quality of the Canadians in a strong attack in the Ypres-Hooge region, when they succeeded in penetrating our trenches to a depth of 700 yards, capturing two Canadian generals, who were inspecting the front line trenches at the time. The losses were heavy, as three mines in the vicinity of our lines were fired just as the Germans arrived. In a vigorous counter-attack the Canadians recovered some of the lost ground, but most of it was found to be untenable. The bombardment had flattened the front trenches out, and choked them with dead, killed by the gallant Canadians who are still fighting hard.

Verdun.

Here the enemy has at last won Fort Vaux, which, with the ruins of Fort Douaumont (also his), is the key to Verdun; but as the French say, the key is too far from the lock to be of much use in turning it, because beyond Fort Vaux are other and stronger positions before Verdun can be reached. Our Ally is in no wise discouraged, though for nearly four months she has borne the tremendous strain of the fighting in this sector. Unlike Ypres, which was a soldier's battle, the dominant factor at Verdun is artillery, and so crushing is its effect that

it can blot out a trench as it did to the south of the Bois des Caurettes. But that the losses in men are in proportion may be doubted. That they are heavy is obvious, but the calculations to which both sides are prone may be largely discounted. As for the attacks and counter-attacks which are "repulsed," half the time they are merely tentative efforts to test the effect of the bombardments on the wire entanglements. When these are thoroughly broken an advance is made, if not it is not attempted.

A Russian Success.

On a front as long as that in the West from Nancy to the sea, the Russians appear to have begun operations which in some respects resemble their offensive in 1914, which contributed to the victory on the Marne. From the Pripet to the Roumanian frontier, the weakest part of the enemy's front, inasmuch as Austria is less able to repel an onslaught than Germany, an intense bombardment was the preliminary to Russian successes in Volhynia and on the Galician frontier. Not only have prisoners, equal in numbers to a whole army corps, as well as many guns been captured by our Ally, but she has occupied Lutsk, west of the Kovel-Rovno railway. A great battle, according to accounts from Vienna, is developing between the Pruth and the Styr, and at one point the Russians have crossed the Austro-Hungarian frontier. It is well known that the eastern front has been thinly held by the enemy, who evidently has not calculated on Russia's wonderful recovery from her reverses last year. Should the recent thrust be followed up the effect must be felt, not only in Verdun, but in the Trentino, where Austria dreams of a march on Venice, and in Macedonia, all three offensives having been undertaken simultaneously, and under the same single direction.

The Italian Theatre.

Fighting in the Trentino continues to be severe, especially in the centre. Not only have the Italians abandoned Asiago, but Arsiero, which is only three miles from Venetia. But, with a change of command, the situation has improved. Moreover, are the Austrians in sufficient force to be able to cross the ridge of the plateau, which commands the plain? For here there is a transversal ridge where the Italians may make a successful stand. If not, an army could threaten the southern flank of the invading Austrian columns, while the reserves from the Isonzo could assail their northern flank.

In Asia.

The advance of the Russians either in the valley of the Tigris or in the Erzincan region is not likely to be as rapid as it was in eastern Armenia. For in both nature herself has created formidable fortresses in the mountains, which bisect the terrain in all directions. Moreover, the communications are primitive, and the temperature is high, which retards the operations on both sides. In Armenia the Turks have brought up strong reinforcements, and, in consequence, have been able to take the offensive, which resulted in the recapture of Mamakhatun, which was occupied by the Russians a few weeks

ago, and constituted a salient. The most stubborn fighting is, however, along the Trebizond-Erzzeroum highway on the section which the Turks still hold between Baiburt and Ashkala as the key to the military situation in this sector. On the Mosul line the Turks have been driven back from Rewanduz upon a second prepared line of defences. The Russians are continuing to break and smash banditti and Kurdish irregulars as they advance.

In the Balkans.

The Bulgarians, who entered Greek territory over a fortnight ago and occupied strategical positions with the consent of the King of Greece, have, apparently, designs on Kavalla, the port in the Aegean, which they covet. General Sarraïl, who must have anticipated this move when he destroyed the tunnel of the Vienna-Constantinople railway at Demir Hissar, has declared martial law at Salonika and the zone occupied by the Allies generally. Ships of war are also patrolling Greece, in consequence of which the price of necessities is rising rapidly. It is just as well that the King and his German advisers should get a reminder that the Allies command the seas, and that their power can be applied effectively at any moment.

Progress in East Africa.

The last remaining German colony is menaced on all sides. On the north-east the force operating under General Smuts has occupied the station of Same, on the Usambara Railway, and around Le Sara the enemy has been compelled to retreat in a southerly direction, while the British are advancing upon a strongly entrenched position on the Pangini River, which itself runs parallel with the railway to the sea. In the north-west the Belgians, who have occupied Kigali and Nyanza and are approaching the town of Usumura, on Lake Tanganyika, are near the railway which connects it with Lake Victoria Nyanza. In the west Rhodesian forces have crossed the frontier. One has captured Namema, out of which the German garrison broke with heavy loss, another is pursuing the retreating enemy towards Iringa.

(To be continued.)

MR. G. E. BODRIN, the Government Economic Biologist of British Guiana, deserves the thanks of the community for calling attention to the danger to health caused by the prevalence of the house fly and for recommending measures for the prevention of that pest. In a memorandum supplied to the Director of Science and Agriculture and published in the local Official Gazette of May 6th, he complains that in British Guiana and especially Georgetown the house fly by no means receives that attention to which it is fully entitled and adds that this is possibly because its capabilities as a distributor of a number of fatal diseases are not thoroughly appreciated. Strict laws exist regarding the breeding of the mosquito, while the house fly is allowed to breed and by its filthy habits disseminate diseases among all classes of the community.



SOME OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

THE GERMAN CARTEL SYSTEM.

Our Enemy's Trading Methods.

IN discussions on the sugar question, and, indeed, regarding trade after the war, the term "cartel" or "kartel" frequently crops up, and as its significance appears to be so little appreciated by the public generally it may be of interest to publish a report on the subject recently presented to the Department of Commerce of the United States by Mr. Archibald J. Wolfe, their Commercial Agent.

This authority states that, according to a German definition, a cartel is a union of independent producers or consumers of products for manufacturing purposes having for its aim the limitation of free competition for the purpose of obtaining better profits. In other words, independent producers may combine voluntarily to limit their competition in reaching the consumer; and, again, consumers may combine to place their purchases upon a more profitable basis. Generally, however, cartels are organisations of producers. For the present it may suffice to refer to them as industrial combinations to control output and prices.

In the industrial system of Germany there are many conventions, agreements, and syndicates to control output and fix prices. These organisations, varying in name and character, honeycomb the entire industrial fabric and are constantly changing as to membership, scope, and aims.

The cartel has the character of an association, all members of which are independent producers who retain their commercial independence, but who limit their freedom of action for the specific purpose for which the cartel has been organised. The component parts of the cartel are not dissolved in it, as are the companies combined in a trust.

The aim of the cartel being to assure the profits of the producers, it is reasonable to assume that it expects to exert a certain influence upon the market. It is frequently denied, even by the most successful of these combinations, that they have monopolistic tendencies, but as will be seen in the course of an analysis of these combinations the effect is frequently that of a monopoly.

Not all industries offer the same favourable basis for the formation of cartels. These combinations are numerous and strong in the so-called "heavy industries," particularly if the entire output of raw or semi-manufactured products is in the hands of a limited number of producers and restricted to a certain territory. On the other hand, they are less aggressive and less successful among manufacturers of minor finished articles whose factories are scattered over a wide area.

Among the products particularly favoured by cartels are those which are produced in large quantities and which are uniform in composition and permanent in character, hence not subject to excessive fluctuations in either output or demand. Such products permit the drawing up of a comprehensive price list and the proper control of members of the combination in adhering to such a list.

The character of the trade to which the goods are sold is likewise an important factor. It is diffi-

cult to maintain a successful cartel if customers buy on a small scale and are widely scattered. On the other hand, if the customers are large enterprises, solvent and limited in number, the cartel is likely to be more successful and, in fact, frequently comes to a complete understanding as to prices and sales conditions with the entire circle of customers. Thus, along with cartels of producers of certain products, there are found in Germany cartels of large consumers which work hand in hand with the producers' organisations.

German cartels make use of all forms of association permitted under German law. They may be stock companies, limited liability companies, ordinary associations, or may not even have the form of an association and represent merely a contractual relationship between several producers. The most favoured form of organisation is the limited liability company; in fact, most syndicates, or selling departments of cartels, are so organised, because this form requires only a nominal capital and a simple board of management, and is not compelled to publish a balance sheet, which, naturally, is an element of great value to the operations of a cartel.

The limited liability company is also a convenient form because the selling department so organised can act as an entirely independent organisation.

German laws permit cartels to make agreements to settle their difficulties by a board of arbitration, whose rulings are final. In many other countries such agreements excluding the ordinary jurisdiction of official courts are not permitted.

Among cartels several stages, or forms, may be considered. The simplest form is one organised for the definition of terms of sale. These cartels, known in German usage as "Konditionen kartells," have to do only with the regulation of terms of payment, terms of sale, and samples. Such cartels have been organised in industries in which a lack of uniform terms has proved an evil and a source of loss, particularly in industries in which the distributors have overshadowed the actual producers. Similar cartels are found in the silk trade, among manufacturers of umbrella materials, among yarn spinners, and in various branches of the cloth-weaving industry.

Agreements to Control Prices.

These combinations to control terms to customers are the most elementary form of cartels, and lead directly to the next higher form, the so-called price cartel, which is an agreement to control prices, based on the adoption by the contracting parties of a uniform price list. It is natural that price cartels include in their activities the control of sales terms, which is the sole object of the simpler combinations. Price cartels may undertake either the adoption of a uniform price list or the distribution of the output. The latter is effected by the assignment to individuals either of a certain territory or a certain class of customers, or of the production of a specified class of products. The cartel can also undertake to limit the output by determining the maximum production to which each member is entitled. Finally, the price cartel may solve the problem by an equalisation of profits; this is effected on the basis of the average production of each member for

a number of years, which average is guaranteed to the member by the cartel. In this case members exceeding the average assigned to them are compelled to refund a certain percentage of their extra earnings to the other members.

The final stage in the formation of cartels is the so-called syndicate, or sales cartel. Under all forms of cartels the members thereof remain independent selling organisations, the cartel merely exercising control over the observance of the agreement by each member. In the syndicate form the sale of the products of all members is carried on by a special selling department, which is generally organised as a limited liability company, and the members have independent management only of their factories and mines—that is, of the manufacturing or producing process. The selling department, or company, is frequently also the purchasing office for supplies required by the members of the syndicate.

The Cartel System Generally in Vogue.

So far as the distribution of cartels among the various German industries is concerned, agreements and conventions of this character are most numerous among producers of brick, iron, chemicals, cement, lime, etc.; the most important are found in the mining and in the chemical industries. In proportion to their importance, the textile, the leather, and the provision trades have the smallest number. There are 19 coal and 62 iron cartels. As these industries are in the hands of a few large producers, it may be said that they are highly organised in cartel form. The textile and allied trades have only 31 cartel organisations, a very small number in proportion to the numerous manufacturing enterprises in these trades. The textile trade, which is decentralised and includes many enterprises of minor importance, is incapable of maintaining an effective cartel organisation.

Most of the cartels now in existence were either organised in the eighties or have developed from syndicates dating from that period. The iron and mining industries, which experienced a boom period in those years, have formed many cartels, chief among which are the Rhenish Westphalian Coal Syndicate and the Stahlwerksverband, the latter organised in 1904. In later years cartels have sprung up among textile manufacturers, in the paper and lumber industry, and in many others. Manufacturers of hardware and machinery formed cartels in order to obtain better prices and thus counterbalance the increased cost of production due to higher prices of raw products. In the metal industries, the Zinc Convention, the Brass Syndicate, and the Copper Tubing Cartel came into existence. Among the mining syndicates the famous Potash Syndicate, organised in 1888, may be mentioned, particularly for the reason that the Prussian State, as a producer, is a component part of this syndicate. The chemical trades have evolved a number of important cartels, aided by patent monopolies and the concentration of production in very large manufacturing enterprises. The soda syndicate, the bromine convention, the fertiliser cartels, and the explosive syndicates may be mentioned among these.

Sugar and Alcohol Cartels.

Among agricultural cartels the most important are in the sugar and alcohol industries. These cartels are in close touch with the purchasing and selling associations of German agricultural organisations. The formation of cartels by manufacturing industries led also to attempts on the part of commercial interests to form syndicates in self-defence. Thus there are syndicates among wholesalers and retailers in the textile and allied trades. The retailers' syndicates are associated in a federation, with headquarters in Hamburg.

Altogether there are now in Germany nearly 600 cartels, several of which are international in character, as, for instance, the European Bottle Syndicate, which was founded in 1907 to acquire the Owen patents for the manufacture of bottles, to prevent competition, and to maintain firm prices, in order to meet the very high cost of manufacturing processes and royalties. International combinations are also found among steamship companies and in the iron and steel industry. The export premium policy of many cartels is sure to lead to further international agreements in such industries as lend themselves to this division of territory.

With regard to the general aims and policies of cartels, it may be said that they include certain distinct functions:—

2. The regulation of production by limiting same, by the lessening of the supply, by standardising, by a distribution of the production among the component enterprises in accordance with their individual capacity and location, or finally by shutting down, permanently or temporarily, either entire factories or individual machines.
3. The regulation of distribution by either limiting or eliminating middlemen, by making agreements with other syndicates, and by the furtherance of export trade through export premiums or rebates.

Only the most advanced cartels exercise all these functions, or even most of them. Most cartels are content with agreements relating to the maintenance of firm prices.

Not many cartels have introduced purchasing departments, for cartel members hesitate to give up the independent purchase of materials used in manufacture, which is an important factor in the calculation of individual costs.

Sales agreements between syndicates have in recent years increased in number and in favour among cartels; they are generally based on a contract either not to sell to outsiders or to sell to them at a higher rate than to members of the cartel, and, *vice versa*, on a contract not to purchase anything from non-organised producers. The distribution of territory among members of a cartel is generally effected when the goods are of uniform composition, when the purchaser is not interested in the origin of his goods, and when the freight expense is an important item. In the iron, stone, and brick trades such a distribution of territory is common and is generally effected by establishing central sales offices for various territories. Of course many cartels cannot undertake a distribution of territory among their members because of the strong opposition that would be encountered from consumers.

(To be continued.)

THE EMPIRE'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

The Causes of our Present "Famine."

The War has brought home to us the realisation of many faults in our industrial economics, and one which by no means occupies an inferior position is that of Great Britain having allowed herself to be almost completely dependent upon foreign countries for her sugar supply. It is a notable fact that, in 1913, in spite of the high sugar producing powers of the Empire, out of 1,969,259 tons of sugar which were imported into this country, only 72,134 came from British possessions. In other words, we were dependent upon foreign sugars for over 96 per cent. of our sugar supplies. Further, out of the 1,877,225 tons of foreign sugar imported no less than 1,604,578 tons, or 81 per cent., came from the Continent, out of which, 1,296,400 tons, or 66 per cent., were from Germany and Austria.

The geographical position of the United Kingdom, the Free Trade principles of its Government, and the great consuming capacity of its population renders it peculiarly fitted as a dumping ground for Continental sugar. There has been no preferential treatment accorded to our Colonial sugar and until the last six months, no legalized protection for home grown sugar. What has been aptly called the fetish of Free Trade, the cry for so-called cheap sugar, has resulted not in cheap but in dear sugars. The solid fact which the present war has brought out is that had Great Britain not sacrificed her Imperial interests on the altar of this false god, sugar at the present moment would have risen but slightly above the normal in price, while the £30,000,000 which last year went into the hands of foreigners for sugar would have remained within the Empire.

Germany Captures the Sugar Trade.

The absorption of our sugar trade by Germany and Austria commenced in 1861, when sugar began to be imported from the Hanseatic towns. It was however, some years after this, that the bounty system, which so greatly developed the Continental sugar industries, came into force. Bounties were not given in the first instance, but arose from the manner in which the Excise duties on sugar were assessed, and from the high surtax on imported sugars. The excise duty was not directly paid on the amount of sugar made. In Germany, for instance, the quantity of roots worked up was the main factor in calculation, in Austria the number and size of the "diffusors," vessels in which the sugar was extracted from the beetroots. As the industry grew and its methods improved, the quantity of sugar obtained from the roots or diffuser loads became greater, while the excise remained stationary. This lessened the amount paid for excise duty per ton of sugar, but as the amount of the drawback on exportation was still calculated on the above bases, exported sugars received much more as drawback than the amount of the excise paid.

In 1891, the matter was crystallised in Germany by a specific premium on exported sugars, fixed at 12/6 per ton for raw and £1 per ton for refined.

This was subsequently raised to £1 5s. and £1 15s. 5d. per ton, respectively.

This bounty in itself formed a strong inducement for manufacture for export both in Germany and Austria, the latter of which had already adopted a similar system, but the operation of the surtax afforded another and more powerful agent in this direction. The total home consumption of Germany and Austria was already large, although the individual consumption was small, and the more sugar the factories turned out, the less the cost of production. By the operation of trusts or cartels, rendered possible by the high surtax on imported sugar, the manufacturers were able to keep up the internal price of sugar, and at the same time by large exports, aided by the direct bounties, to lower their cost of production. In this way the complete control of the markets of the countries into which the surplus sugar was dumped was obtained, the manufacturers being able to put their sugars on the market at prices much below that corresponding to a natural cost of production. Indeed, it was the avowed purpose of the German Sugar Trusts to destroy all British sugar industries by dumping sugars under cost price into this country. As an illustration of how this was possible it may be mentioned that the amount of the direct and indirect or cartel bounties in Germany and Austria in 1901, were for refined sugar £5 17s. 3d. per ton in Germany, and £6 17s. 5d. per ton in Austria, and for raw £5 per ton for Germany, and £4 19s. 2d. per ton for Austria. As raw sugar was only costing the manufacturers about £8 per ton, it can be understood what a tremendous factor in the results of competition were afforded by the bounties.

The Abolition of Bounties.

For many years, in fact from 1878, the rapid growth of the Continental sugar industry under the bounty system had been a source of solicitation to British sugar growers and refiners. Not only were they being ousted from the home market, but the price of the world's sugar was being affected seriously by the high artificial production of Germany and Austria. Various half-hearted attempts were made by Great Britain at the instance of the British sugar producers and refiners to put a stop to the Continental bounty system by Conferences of the European Powers. These, however, up to 1902, were abortive, owing to the unwillingness of Great Britain to take definite steps as regards penalizing bounty-fed sugars.

In 1901, the situation became acute. In that year the price of 88° beet f.o.b. Hamburg, the index of European prices, fell to £7 5s. per ton, quite £1 5s. below the cost of production. The British sugar exporting Colonies, which had endured the unfair competition for many years, were now on the verge of ruin, and, as the result of further urgent representations, Great Britain again summoned a Conference of the European sugar-producing Powers, which met at Brussels in December of that year, with the object of reopening the question of the abolition of bounties by mutual agreement. At the outset, the proceedings of the Conference did not promise a more satis-

factory result than the previous Conference, the other powers evidently thinking that, as at previous Conferences, Great Britain would be content with representation, and not go to the extent of action.

The Brussels Convention.

In this they were mistaken, for Great Britain declared, and with this declaration the name of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is inseparably coupled, that, if bounties were not abolished, the importation of bounty-fed sugar into Great Britain would be prohibited. This at once changed the aspect of affairs, and in March, 1902, a Convention was signed, and subsequently ratified, by which it was agreed that direct bounties should be abolished and the surtax on imported sugar reduced to a maximum figure of £2 10s. per ton for refined, and £2 5s. 2d. per ton for raw sugar. All the principal European Powers, with the exception of Russia, who declined to give up or modify her highly protective system, and whose sugar was consequently either prohibited entrance to, or countervailed in, the markets of the Convention Powers, were parties to the Convention, which came into operation on the 1st September, 1902. *Great Britain, at the mere suggestion of Holland, who had an eye to the interests of Java, also gave a gratuitous guarantee not to give preferential treatment in her customs tariff to sugar from British Colonies.*

The Convention was for a period of five years. At the expiration of this period, it was renewed for another five years, Russia coming into the Convention on the understanding that, while she retain her present system, she would not export westward more than 200,000 tons of sugar per annum. At the end of this second period, however, Great Britain withdrew from the Convention, which was renewed for five years more. This action was mainly due to the pressure brought upon the Government by the sugar using trades, which decreed the prohibition of bounty-fed, and, therefore, artificially cheapened, sugar, on the ground that the British consumer suffered in pocket from the prohibition. In the interests of the same industry, which, it may be remarked, only represents 25 per cent. of the sugar consumption of this country, Great Britain pledged herself to adhere to the principles of the Convention and *not to give a preference to Colonial sugars.* The mess of pottage received in return for this sacrifice of birthright was the pledge of the remaining Convention Powers not to penalize the confectionery and allied exports of Great Britain in their customs tariffs, the door to Colonial industries being thus closed for the sake of the exporting interests of the home sugar using trades.

The Brussels Convention did one thing. It stopped the rot in the exporting sugar industries of the British Colonies, but it gave them no opportunity for expansion. It still left the Continental sugar industry, and so far as this country is concerned, Germany and Austria are mainly meant by this, the sugar industry of France having been so prejudicially affected by the Brussels Convention as to have to import sugar for her requirements, with a protection duty which enabled them to

place sugar with special advantage to the producers in the United Kingdom. The result was that, although other sugars have not been wholly driven out, 65 per cent. of our sugar supplies continued to be derived from our present enemies. A further result was, that no expansion took place in our refineries, which at the present moment do not turn out more than half of our requirements in the refined article.

It is unnecessary to dilate on the position of this country as regards sugar when the war broke out, due to the sudden stoppage of two-thirds of its sugar supply which came from the enemy countries. A Royal Commission had to be appointed to provide a supply, to purchase sugar all over the world to make up the deficiency. This sugar, naturally, had to be paid for at a high rate.

It cannot be imagined that this country will be again allowed to drift into a repetition of this state of things. The only safeguard is an all-British supply. The question, therefore, which has to be considered, is, How can such a supply be obtained? There are two sources from which British sugar can be obtained. These are:—

1. From sugar beet cultivation in the United Kingdom, and
2. From the extension and development of the Imperial cane sugar industry.

The question of the cultivation of beets for sugar production is by no means a new one in this country. In 1831 a company was formed for the purpose of growing and manufacturing beet sugar at Ulting in Essex. A small plant was erected on Continental lines, but the scheme did not prove a success, apparently, for want of capital. In 1872 a venture was started on a large scale at Buscot, in Oxfordshire, 1,600 acres being put into sugar beets for the purpose of making alcohol, which also failed from a cause or causes now unknown. In 1870 a factory was erected at Lavenham, in Suffolk, for the working up of sugar beets, purchased from farmers, into syrup, the syrup being converted into sugar at a London refinery, but after nine years' working, this also came to grief.

Of recent years the subject has been much before English agriculturists, and field experiments in the direction of cultivation of sugar beets have been carefully and extensively carried out for quite twenty years. The result of these experiments has certainly demonstrated one fact, and that is, that, as a general rule, a return per acre of beets quite as rich in sugar as those grown on the Continent can be obtained.

The subject crystallized in 1911, when the Cantley factory in Norfolk was erected by a joint English and Dutch concern, styling itself the Anglo-Netherland Corporation, and owning also sugar works in Holland. The factory, built to turn out 7,000 to 8,000 tons of sugar, has been in operation four years, and in spite of the fiscal and other protection given it by the British Government, it was, prior to the war, in anything but a flourishing state. Last year it turned out between two and three thousand tons of sugar, and a reconstruction scheme is now in progress.

In connection with the Cantley scheme, it would appear that the cost of erection of the factory was much under-estimated, that errors in construction

had to be remedied. Then the supply of beets, also, has never been sufficient to work the plant up to its full capacity, an essential factor in economy of production. But the whole question centres round the price the factory can afford to pay the farmers for the roots, and it certainly seems as if the £1 per ton, peace price, paid on the Continent for roots of average sweetness does not induce the English farmer to take up the cultivation of sugar beets.

In February of last year, the Board of Agriculture published a report from Mr. C. S. Orwin, of the Oxford Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics, and Mr. J. C. Orr, of the results of the beet growing of the Norfolk and Suffolk farmers in connection with the Cantley factory. With roots paid for at the rate of 25/- per ton delivered at the railway, the Norfolk farmers appear to have netted on the average £2 6s. 1d. per acre, and the Suffolk farmers to have lost £3 15s. per acre, the latter loss being attributed to the weather which was unsuitable for the Suffolk soil. In June a further report from these gentlemen was published dealing with the aspects of sugar beet grown in the West of England. The report treats of the counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. In the first three of these counties, the reporters did not see any chance of a sugar industry being established. This was not because suitable beets with a suitable yield could not be grown, but because economic considerations did not warrant their cultivation in preference to the existing crops. In Cornwall, however, where the economic conditions are quite different, Mr. Orwin and Mr. Orr considered that the beet sugar industry was one for which that county was admirably fitted.

The United Kingdom beet sugar industry has now received legalized protection to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. per ton. If there is anything in it, it should now go ahead, as, although no definite period has been assigned for the protection, a high rate of import duty is insured for many years.

(To be continued.)

THE CHICLE INDUSTRY.

How Chewing Gum is made.

It is not generally known that it is a British Colony that supplies a great part of the raw material used in the manufacture of chewing gum. That Colony is British Honduras, whilst the material in question is Chicle (pronounced Chickly) the gum of the Sapodilla (*achras zapota*), a tree well known throughout the West Indies, but one which is only exploited commercially—as far as the British Empire is concerned—is our Colony on the mainland of Central America. In the hope of interesting other West Indian Colonies in this product some particulars regarding the industry, given recently in *Dun's Review*, may be quoted.

Chewing gum, says our contemporary, is a peculiarly American product. Many years ago it was made from paraffin or the gums of native trees, such as the spruce. Chicle, a gum obtained by tapping the sapodilla or *Sapota achras*, a handsome

hardwood tree growing in British Honduras and several States of Mexico and Guatemala, later became the basis. Chicle now furnishes by far the greatest proportion of the raw material for manufactured chewing gum. In 1913 about 8,000,000 pounds of chicle were imported into the United States for this purpose.

Most of the chewing gum manufactured in the United States is consumed locally. Up to a few years ago it was as difficult to purchase chewing gum, even in any of the great cities abroad, as it was to find an American soda fountain. In the United States chewing gum is sold everywhere. It can be bought by the penny wafer, by the five-cent package, or by the box in drug stores, grocery and cigar stores. In railway stations on the steam lines and on the urban systems of transportation one need not go far without finding an automatic vending machine which for a penny furnishes a piece of chewing gum or a small rectangle of chocolate. Along the streets of many American cities similar machines stand at the entrances of many of the stores. In the street cars, in the newspapers, on the bill boards, by means of electric signs, and in every other possible way, chewing gum is advertised ingeniously and alluringly. Its use is advocated as an aid to digestion. It is said to sweeten the breath and the temper. In fact, for such a simple thing, remarkable virtues are claimed for it. It is one of the most widely advertised articles in America. Yet every American does not chew gum. Judging by appearances, those who do not are still in the majority. But the consumption of chewing gum is increasing steadily.

Only within the last few years has a serious and sustained effort been made to popularise American chewing gum abroad. It has achieved a certain vogue in London, for instance. This has been accomplished by the use of the same methods that have popularised it in America—lavish advertising. American chewing gum, after all, is many-flavoured, pleasant to the taste and harmless. Its use is frequently characterised as a habit. Its most habitual consumers, however, are those engaged in some occupation that requires concentrated attention for the time being. Baseball players, cricketers, athletes in general, stenographers and typists, telegraph operators, writers, etc., are among the principal users of chewing gum.

While chewing gum, as such, does not figure in the lists of American exports, its use in other parts of the world is increasing steadily. It is now put up with such care that the wafers, wrapped in waxed papers and sealed in airtight packages, will retain their flavour and withstand any sort of climatic hardship indefinitely. Once American chewing gum is introduced into a new market abroad, it has been found that the demand grows and a permanent trade is established.

A great deal of care, skill and ingenuity are employed in the manufacture of chewing gum in America. Each of the large concerns that specialise in this product has its own methods and processes of manufacture, some of which constitute valuable trade secrets. The business of manufacturing chewing gum in America is divided among relatively few concerns, but these are establishments of

considerable capital and have extensive factories. As a rule they have their established agents in the regions of Mexico and Central America from which their supplies of chicle are drawn. These agents act as buyers and shippers.

The hardwood trees from which the chicle gum is obtained are excellent timber, but so heavy that they will not float in water. Therefore, they are not exported as lumber, and their sole usefulness commercially is to supply the basis for chewing gum. The methods of extracting the gum from the living tree are much the same as those pursued in the rubber industry. An incision is made around the trunk in such a way that the sap flows into the lower notch where a cup is placed to catch it. In Mexico this work is done by *chicleros*, as they are known locally. Considerable experience and skill is required to so tap a tree as to secure the maximum flow of sap without killing it.

In Mexico the principal region in which the sapodilla trees are found is in the tropic forests of the State of Vera Cruz. The industry there is controlled almost entirely by Huasteca Indians, who sell the chicle in the markets of Tuxpam and Tampico. From two to four trees are generally found in an area of one acre of average virgin forest in the Tuxpam district. In certain sections of the Mexican States of Campeche and Yucatan the average is much higher. The trees should be from 12 to 15 years old before being tapped for the first time, and even then, unless great care is exercised by the tapper, they will be irreparably injured. It is said that the Indians, who use a machete, kill about 25 per cent. of the trees they tap. The trees average from one to two pounds of commercial chicle at each tapping, and the sap can be drawn only once a year or they die. The best time for tapping is in the winter, or dry season. In Mexico the *chicleros* receive the equivalent of about 25 cents gold a day for their labour.

The sap coagulates into a gum. This is shaped into big dark coloured cakes weighing from 50 to 100 pounds each, and in this form it is shipped to the United States. On their arrival at the factory these cakes are chopped into smaller pieces and are put into grinding machines, where the raw material is reduced to a powder. This powder is then cleaned of all foreign matter and of any impurities that it may contain. After going through several other processes, this powder is put into a mixer, where it is combined with the materials necessary to give the chewing gum the required flavour, proper consistency, etc. Through still other machines it passes, and later emerges in the form of thick sheets. These are rolled into the proper thinness and are cut into uniform size. Still other machines reduce these sheets into thick rectangles about the size of a postage stamp for the automatic vending machines—or into long, thin wafers that, wrapped individually in waxed paper, are finally placed five in a package and are boxed by the hundred.

Throughout these processes there is constant inspection. The machinery that is used has been specially invented for the purpose. Wrapping and boxing and counting are done by marvellous automatic devices that work with great speed and re-

quire but little supervision. Finally, the finished product, ready for the market, in its attractively labelled pasteboard cartons, is put in packing cases and shipped away.

SUGAR IN JAMAICA.

Another Central Factory Scheme.

Reference was made in the CIRCULAR of May 18th (No. 460, page 190) to the proposals on foot for erecting a Central Sugar Factory near Spanish Town, in St. Catherine's, Jamaica. We now learn that a movement is also on foot for establishing a factory in the parish of St. Thomas. The planters there are willing to guarantee the delivery of sugarcane from 10,000 acres of land if a suitable factory is erected, and it is hoped to interest British capitalists in the matter. Our valued correspondent Mr. J. H. Philipps writes that the acreage would be made up as follows:—

No. 1. Western Section of St. Thomas	2,000 acres.
No. 2. Eastern " " "	5,000 "
No. 3. Central " " "	3,000 "
Total	10,000 "

The average rainfall in these sections in the last four years has been as under:—

		1911	1912	1913	1914	Total.
No. 1. Easington	..	42	60	42	22	107 ins.
No. 2. Bath	..	105	108	110	72	160 "
No. 3. Morant Bay	..	49	54	54	35	155 "

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Land Settlement Scheme in Fiji.

Some further particulars are available regarding the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's offer to advance from time to time sums up to £100,000 in the aggregate to provide for settling East Indians on the land in Fiji. The Company have consented to hold that sum at the disposal of a land settlement trust up to December 31st, 1920, when the question of further extending the period can be discussed. The total is to be refunded within twenty-five years from that date, interest being paid annually on December 31st.

A majority of the members of the Committee which will form the Trust will be officials of the Fiji Government. With regard to the operations of the Trust, which will be established by an Act of the local Legislature, it is hoped to purchase land in fairly large blocks, and that by this means Indian immigrants' difficulties in the acquisition of land will be done away with. The object will be to establish large colonies of Indians under proper control, and to avoid the very bad system of allowing Indians to pick out the eyes of the land all over the colony, thus preventing other *bona-fide* settlers.

The Trust will proceed to business as soon as possible. There are, at present, under indenture in Fiji 16,000 Indians. It is felt that these and the immigrants already in the colony will find great difficulties in the way of obtaining land, and that the sooner effect is given to the scheme the better it will be for the colony.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

The Allies' Trade Conference.

Mr. W. M. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, and Sir George Foster, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, have accompanied Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Crewe (who has taken the place of Mr. Runciman) to Paris to attend the Allies' Trade Conference. As Mr. Bonar Law knows the sugar question from A to Z, and as Mr. Hughes has made it one of the chief planks in his platform since his arrival in Europe, while Sir George Foster has more than a passing acquaintance with it, there is good reason to hope that reference may be made to the pledge given by the British Government in 1912 not to give a preference to the Colonies, which should go by the board together with the Brussels Convention.

The Imperial Council of Commerce Meets.

The business conference of representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire was opened on June 6th at the Skinners' Hall, London. Although no special invitation was issued to the Chambers overseas—it being anticipated that only representatives in this country would be able to attend—many delegates from the Dominions and Colonies were present, and the meeting was in every way representative.

Various memoranda on trade questions were submitted, including the following by Mr. Edward Davson:—

The British West Indies, as this Conference is doubtless aware, consists of a group of islands extending from the Bahamas in the North to Trinidad in the South, and with these are usually associated, both politically and commercially, British Guiana on the North-east coast of South America and British Honduras on the East coast of Central America. Most of them are Crown Colonies, and it will therefore be realised that their government and policy are to a more or less degree controlled by the Colonial Office, and that they consequently cannot bring the same influence to bear in shaping their destiny as can the self-governing Dominions, which are represented here to-day. Nevertheless I feel that they will get a sympathetic hearing in placing their views before this Conference.

The West Indian Colonies produce various commodities according to the suitability of their soil, hence it is not always possible to find a unanimity of interest among them, and it is almost impossible to combine the various commercial statistics of each of them into an accurate and compendious whole. This matter of statistics is further complicated by the fact that the latest available for all of these Colonies are those for the year 1913, and this was the year during which the Reciprocity Agreement between the Dominion of Canada and the West Indies, except Jamaica and the Bahamas, came into force. Unfortunately, too, figures for the first full year of reciprocity are not yet available, which is regrettable, as I think that the results so far attained by the agreement would afford to the Conference a striking example of the benefits which may accrue to both sides under such a fiscal arrangement. I shall, therefore, with your leave, avoid figures except to say that the total trade of the West Indies and British Guiana in 1913 was roughly £23,000,000, which was almost equally divided between imports and exports, and of which about half was done with the British Empire, a quarter with the United States, and a quarter with other foreign countries. I have already indicated that trade tendencies—apart from the war—are diverting imports and exports from the United States to Canada, but the case of Jamaica presents a difficulty in this connection. Jamaica is as anxious as any part of the Empire to have

closer Imperial trade relations, but over half of her exports—chiefly bananas—go to the United States, and although she has recently shown that she is intensely British and can make heavy sacrifices for the Empire, yet she must be forgiven for realising the value to her of this American trade, and for desiring not to prejudice relations which are largely due to her geographical position, which have assisted so much towards her development, and for which she probably could not find a substitute elsewhere.

The chief export of the West Indies is sugar with its by-products rum and molasses, amounting to over 2½ millions sterling. Then comes cacao, and other products, such as coffee, coco-nuts, and pimento, while there is also the nascent industry of mineral oil, which is of very great importance to Trinidad. I shall therefore briefly refer to these three subjects. As I have said, Preferential duties now enable the West Indies to send the greater part of their sugar to Canada. Nevertheless they feel that the issue at stake over sugar is one of the first importance. They have, on the one hand—and especially British Guiana—much land still available for growing sugar; they know, too, that with other parts of our Empire there is sufficient land lying ready to produce all the sugar required by the Mother Country. Yet, on the other hand, they know that in the year before the war England bought 95 per cent. of its sugar from foreign countries, it bought 65 per cent. from Germany and Austria, and, in doing so, it paid to these two countries £15,000,000, it kept over half a million acres of their land in cultivation, and it gave employment to over a quarter of a million of their men. Now, why should this be? You are doubtless aware how by a system of State Bounties and Cartels Germany gradually undermined the sugar production of the world until there was a probability of her establishing a monopoly of this commodity, and you also doubtless know how Mr. Chamberlain, in 1902, brought about the Brussels Convention, which put an end to a great extent to this unfair form of trading. Nevertheless, the position so obtained by Germany could not be easily shaken, and, as a result, the embarking of the large amount of capital necessary for the combined agricultural and manufacturing business of sugar production in the tropical colonies was felt to be too hazardous an enterprise when exposed to this formidable competition. The West Indies now ask, in common with Queensland, Natal, Egypt, Nigeria, Mauritius, Fiji, India, and the beet-growing industry of this country, that this should be altered, that the millions till now paid to Germany should be paid to our Colonies, and that the Empire should supply what the Empire can consume. And they demand this even of those disciples of cheapness who ask no questions as to the source of supply or the reasons underlying it so long as food is cheap. For in 1904, and again in 1911, when there was a drought in Germany and the diminished sugar crop led to very high prices, and now again, when our suppliers have become our enemies, we have paid many millions more for our sugar than we would do over the average of years, if, under a system of preferential duties, we should draw our supplies from all quarters of the Empire.

Let me now touch on cacao and these other products to which I have referred. Owing to the difficulty of tracing the ultimate destination, it is not easy to supply figures as to the different countries to which these are shipped, but it is a fact that a large quantity of cacao and pimento has gone in the past to Germany, not only for internal consumption, but as the entrepôt for distribution through Europe, and especially to Russia. Now, the West Indies have no desire to trade again with Germany, but they feel that it will be beyond their power simply to refuse to trade, and so allow other producers to usurp these markets until they are eventually faced with the need of abandoning to this extent the production of these commodities. The solution would seem rather to lie in the need either to make London the entrepôt, or to open up direct trading with these allied and neutral countries which have so far been content to buy through the agency of Germany. This is beyond the powers of the West Indies, but well within the powers of the British Government—especially if a Ministry of Commerce be formed—which by encouraging increased steamship and banking facilities—for one must not forget what an important part both German banks and steamship lines have played in this development—and by improving its Consular service and commercial in-

telligence, may bring the West Indies into more direct touch with the existing and potential markets in Europe. So may the considerable reduction of trading with Germany mean an increase rather than a diminution of output by our being able to reach these markets other than through the gates of Hamburg.

I now turn to the subject of oil, the very importance of which precludes one from dealing fully with it at the present time. Sufficient to say that it is one of the first necessities of modern war, and that, should the oil fields of Galicia and Roumania cease to be available for our enemies, the results for us may be more important than those of any blockade of food supplies. I do not propose to discuss our present sources of oil supply, but I think I may say this, that it is regrettable that more use cannot at present be made of the not inconsiderable production of Trinidad, a production which could be doubled under favourable conditions. There are other West Indian Colonies—and indeed this applies to many parts of the Empire—which give promise of possessing oil resources, and one may hope that, if in the future Government investment in the oil industry is thought necessary, it may be made in the oil fields of the Empire rather than in those of foreign countries, as has been done in the past. In this connection the need of a permanent supply of adequate Government-controlled tonnage is great, as it must be evident that the ordinary tonnage available for the transport of other commodities is not suitable for the transport of oil. I would go further and urge that after the war the Government should appoint a Geological Commission to make investigation as to the possibilities of oil production throughout the Empire, and that it should then encourage the systematic development of a product which yearly becomes more and more necessary for our existence as a Great Power.

Let me then briefly sum up the views of the West Indies. Since the date of the Canadian Reciprocity Agreement, in 1913, these Colonies, except, up to the present, Jamaica and the Bahamas, as I have said, have given a preference to British imports, and they have been glad to do so as they have realised how much they owe to the Mother Country. Nevertheless, they feel that the time has now come when they should receive, in return, preferential treatment and protection against the competition of bounties and dumping. They hope also that the Home Government will show such interest in commerce as to assist them in establishing direct relations with the markets, both actual and potential, of allied and neutral nations, and they hope, too, that the Government will realise the supreme importance of maintaining the control and developing the resources of mineral oil, of which a dependence on foreign sources of supply may mean eventual disaster. It may be said that these views of the West Indies are based solely upon self-interest, but such a charge is an unfair one. If they become more prosperous, the prosperity will belong to the Empire. But whether they become prosperous or no—and sometimes in the past prosperity has been very far away from them—as the oldest group of Colonies of the Empire they wish to feel that in supplying it with their products, they are taking their part in building up its future strength; they believe that such a supply will in the end prove an economy, and they know that, unlike the foreign products on which England has been so largely dependent in the past, it will be available both in time of peace and war.

At one o'clock the delegates adjourned to the Cannon Street Hotel, where they were entertained at luncheon by Lord Desborough, Mr. Stanley Machin, and Sir Algernon Frith. It had been hoped that Mr. Asquith would be present, but he was prevented from attending owing to the tragic death of Lord Kitchener and his staff, the news of which was communicated to the gathering by Lord Desborough, who was in the chair.

To revert to the business meetings, Mr. Davson submitted a resolution on the sugar question, of which the text was given in last issue; but it was decided to deal only with the matter of Imperial preference as a whole, and the following

composite resolution was adopted with three dissentients:—

That this Conference endorses the Resolution passed at the special meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom on February 29th, March 1st, 1916, and urges in accordance therewith that an arrangement should be made at the earliest possible moment to provide for (a) preferential reciprocal trading relations between all parts of the Empire, (b) reciprocal trading relations between the British Empire and the Allied Countries, (c) the favourable treatment of neutral countries, and (d) restricting by tariffs and otherwise trading relations with all enemy countries so as to render dumping or return to pre-war conditions impossible. That copies of this Resolution be communicated to all the Governments of the Empire.

The British Empire Producers.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation is getting into its stride. On June 9th, with the British Empire Union it entertained Sir George Foster and the Canadian Trade Commissioners at a luncheon at which admirable speeches on the sugar question were made by Mr. G. H. Pritchard, of Queensland, and Mr. E. G. A. Saunders. For June 21st the Organisation is arranging a meeting at the Mansion House, at which Mr. Hughes will speak on Trade after the War.

THE BIRDS OF BRITISH GUIANA.*

As foreshadowed in a recent CIRCULAR, "The Birds of British Guiana" has been published as a memorial to the late Mr. Frederick Vavasour McConnell, who died on January 26th, 1914. But for his modest nature and retiring disposition, Mr. McConnell would have been hailed during his lifetime as an explorer of note; but he hated publicity, and where many men less deserving of fame stood in the limelight, he characteristically preferred to remain in the background, content with the boyish enjoyment he derived from his travels and from his unique museum of birds which he collected on his wanderings in the hinterland of Guiana. He made two long excursions into the interior of the colony, visiting on both occasions the mysterious Roraima, that large table-mountain on the borders of British Guiana and Brazil, which had baffled all explorers from the time of its discovery by Sir Robert Schomburgk in 1838 until 1884, when Mr. (now Sir Everard) im Thurn (by an unfortunate proof-reader's oversight the name is given in several places in the book as "Southern") and Mr. Perkins found a practicable path by which they reached its summit. For some time Mr. McConnell had, with the help of Mr. Charles Chubb, been preparing a catalogue of his birds, which was nearly completed when death cut short his work. It then occurred to his widow to ask Mr. Chubb to describe all the known birds of British Guiana, based chiefly on the collection. Such is

* The Birds of British Guiana, based on the collection of Frederick Vavasour McConnell, Camfield Place, Herts. By Charles Chubb, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Zoological Department, British Museum. With a Preface by Mrs. F. V. McConnell. Vol. I. London: Bernard Quaritch. 104 ins. by 6½ ins., pp. 528 + liv.

the origin of the present work, the first volume of which extends to 528 pages, besides 54 devoted to preliminary matter. The catalogue of birds, which is beautifully illustrated with many wood-cuts and coloured plates, is naturally technical in character. The plumage and habits of each bird is described in detail, with particulars as to its breeding season, nests, eggs, range in British Guiana and its extralimital range, the classification followed being that used by Brabourne and Chubb in their "List of Birds of South America." To others than ornithologists, the chief interest of the book will lie in the brief account given by the late Mr. McConnell himself, which reveals the man as he was known to his intimate friends. Early in 1894 the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana decided to send an expedition into the savanna regions in order to obtain information on the life and habits of the Indians and the general appearance of the country in which they live, and also of exploring Roraima. The expedition was arranged by Mr. Quelch, who invited Mr. McConnell to accompany him. Mr. A. Lennox, Mr. C. Lloyd, with two taxidermists and a black cook, completed the party, which left Georgetown on July 7th, 1894. The all too brief narrative of their adventures given by Mr. McConnell whets the appetite and makes one regret that the author did not live to publish a fuller account of his travels and experiences. *En route* the expedition visited Kaicteur, and were, as every visitor is, impressed by the "real magnificence . . . of the huge body of dark brown water 350 feet in width, turning amber-colour and then white as it rolls over a precipice with a sheer drop of 741 feet."

Looking down from an overhanging rock one can see the water broken into spray before it reaches the bottom, which is hidden by a mist, and appearing where the sunlight touches like a shower of diamonds glistening with every colour of the rainbow; raising the eyes and looking beyond the fall the level plateau reaches for miles, and one can see the mountains which bound it rising in the blue distance.

Mr. McConnell gives the legend of the fall in these words:—

There lived an old Indian who for years had been a nuisance and a trial to his friends, but in spite of his great age he showed no signs of approaching death; they therefore decided to bring his affairs to a climax by floating him over the fall in a corial. After undergoing this penalty the old man was never heard of again, but his corial and the package containing his worldly possessions can still be seen in the form of rocks in the basin below. The name Kaicteur, which means "old man fall," was given after this.

The habits and customs of the Macuis and other tribes of Indians were closely studied. The simplicity of these folk is shown by their charms and superstitions.

A superstition or custom worthy of mention is that of lacerating their bodies or otherwise causing pain to bring luck in hunting or fishing: six or eight cuts down the thigh and calf of the leg, deep enough to leave a scar for life, are supposed to bring luck in fishing. While on our return journey one woman used to fish with a continual lack of success; this was ascribed to want of luck rather than to the flooded state of the river, and Simon, the old man of the party, was called upon to cut her in the manner described. Similar cuts on the arms and chest bring luck in shooting game birds.

Another charm, the Nose Benz, is made from the Aetapalm fibre, plaited to a fine point at one end and loose

at the other, the whole being about two feet in length and as thick as a lead pencil. This is passed up the nose into the back of the throat and pulled rapidly through the mouth. We saw one man perform this operation apparently without pain, and he was amused at our expressing surprise. Different substances rubbed on this benz bring luck in hunting different game—for instance, a small ground-nut is the charm of a deer and a leaf, not unlike a small caladium, for tapir.

Here is an amusing note regarding the church-going propensities of the Indians:—

There is a strange religious mania—or, rather, a mania for going to church—all over this part of the savanna, but any kind of performance given in the church satisfies the people. About ten days after our arrival, an Arcuna named Bagot, who had lived at Bartica for some time and could speak English well, appeared on the scene and proceeded to hold service; he would ring a bell and assemble the people several times a day, and repeat the alphabet over and over again, perhaps twenty times, nearly everyone would be there, the old chief especially being a regular attendant, taking with him a prayer-book which he could not read, and Bagot, who did not know one letter from another, would turn over the pages, pretending to show him the part of the service then being performed. The game was a paying one, for when he left he took a goodly number of hammocks and lived free in the chief's house during his stay.

Kamaiwawong, a little village between Kuke-naam and Roraima, which Mr. Cecil Clementi found quite deserted on his recent visit, was reached on November 3rd, and the explorers were received by the chief and his brother, the former wearing an old frock coat, which they conclude might have been given to his father by Schomburgk when he visited Roraima in 1838. Early next morning they were looking up at the mountain, which rose straight in front of them to a height of 5,000 feet above the plain.

This great table-mountain is rectangular, the north-west and south-east sides being about nine miles, and the south-west about six miles in length. No one has yet visited the north-east side. On the three other sides the cliffs are perpendicular, but on the south-west side a large mass of cliff evidently slipped years ago, and while still retaining its vertical position, formed a ledge diagonally across the face, by means of which, with a little difficulty, one can reach the top of Roraima.

Schomburgk, Barrington Brown, McTurk, Boddam-Whetham, Whiteley and Seyell all saw this ledge, but it was left to im Thurn and Perkins to demonstrate that it was the key to the mountain. It was by this ledge that Mr. McConnell and his friends gained the summit.

Entering the bush at the head of the slope for the first time, I was quite taken aback at the appearance of the vegetation. Masses of creepers and lianas twisted and tangled together in such a way that it was almost impossible to see more than ten or twelve feet in any direction, rocks, roots, and creepers mixed under foot in a surprising manner; occasionally we could hear the roar of a torrent under us but out of sight. It was difficult to say where the ground actually was, we were certainly not walking on it, neither could we see it; we were standing at one time on rocks, at others on fallen tree trunks, creepers, or bush-ropes, between which the spaces were filled with decaying vegetable mould and moss, every now and then a branch or root would break, and some one of the party would be seen with only half of his body above ground, while his legs were dangling somewhere below out of sight. The stuffy dampness was almost overpowering, especially as the climbing was very severe; every branch and tree seemed covered with moss, lungwort, or lichen, saturated with moisture, which to us in

our heated condition seemed icy cold; our clothes were wet through with the dripping of this moisture in less than five minutes. After about a couple of hours of climbing, sometimes over large rocks, or perhaps under them, up slippery tree-trunks, and over or through tangled creepers, using our arms almost as much as our legs, we reached the camp which the men had prepared the day before; some long poles propped against a straight face of rock and covered with palm-leaves made a very good shelter, but not in any way comfortable, the floor being as uneven and unpleasant as the path.

We can picture the excitement and enthusiasm of the travellers on reaching the summit. But here unfortunately Mr. McConnell's narrative comes to an abrupt termination, and if we might make a suggestion it would be that Mr. Quelch might be asked to provide for the second volume of this noteworthy work some account of the impressions formed by the travellers of the huge plateau on the summit of Roraima.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

At the request of the Officer Commanding, the West Indian Contingent Committee presented several thousand cigarettes for the men of a draft of the B.W.I.'s on embarkation.

We regret to state that Private J. F. Eversley, son of the Provost Marshal of San Fernando and a Member of the 2nd Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, died at Brompton Hospital on June 1st. As his discharge on medical grounds was imminent there was some doubt as to whether he would receive a military funeral. The West Indian Contingent Committee accordingly communicated with the Officer Commanding, who very courteously sent a firing party from Salisbury, which was appropriately placed under the command of a Trinidadian, Lieutenant Dow.

A further Contingent for the British West Indies Regiment has now arrived in England, under the command of Major John G. V. Hart. The officers include Lieut. and Adjutant A. J. Gamblon, Lieut. A. T. Allan and 2nd Lieuts. G. H. Dawson, A. E. Whitting-Baker, E. W. Nicholls, O. D. Harris, J. M. Musson, A. C. Grant, A. C. Hodman, J. A. E. R. Daley, T. E. Adam, A. A. Davis, L. B. Young, R. P. Gallway, L. M. Horne, T. D. Keiffer, A. A. Dunlop, A. E. Thompson, J. L. Lord and W. M. Beresford. The Medical Officer in charge is Captain F. H. Cooke.

Thirty-six men, invalided from the British West Indies Regiment, are at the Tooting Military Hospital, where they have been receiving the attention of the West Indian Contingent Committee. They have been visited by the Secretary and Miss Moseley, who found them happy and as cheerful as their various ailments would permit, and supplied them with fruit, cigarettes and writing materials. Among the men are Reginald Stanford, of Trinidad, the crack runner of the West Indies. It is an interesting coincidence that the O.C. of the hospital should be Major Macdowell, C.M.G., who will be remembered in Dominica where he spent some years in the Medical Service.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has received the following letter from Mr. William Wilson, Chairman of the Jamaica War Contingent Committee:—

Wilson Building,
83, King Street,
Kingston, Jamaica.

Dear Sir,
On behalf of the Jamaica War Contingent Committee, who raised the first unit of men from this Colony for the War, and whose doing so led to the formation of the British West Indies Regiment now in Egypt, I have much pleasure in forwarding a Bill of Exchange for £435 16s. 7d., being half of the surplus of the funds collected by the Committee from the public of Jamaica for raising the Contingent; the other half being devoted to local trust for the dependents of men who may be killed or injured and such like purposes.

This sum of £435 16s. 7d., is a contribution to the West Indian Contingent Fund established by your Committee, and the desire is that it be applied in accordance with a resolution of our Committee appearing in the enclosed extract from Minutes, that is to say: "The application of the money is not to be limited to men from Jamaica only, but may be extended to all the men of the British West Indies Regiment, from whatever part of the Empire they may come, and whilst in England or in Egypt or elsewhere on foreign service."

The members of the Jamaica War Contingent Committee are:—

His Excellency (the Governor) Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Brigadier-General L. S. Blackden, G.O.C.
William Wilson, Esq., J.P. (Chairman).
Hon. Sidney Couper, Lieut. L. E. Otley, S.O.L.F.
W. Baggett Gray, Esq. John Barclay, Esq.
Michael De Cordova, Esq. John Tapley, Esq.
Wishing the efforts of your Committee in the interests of the men of the new regiment increasing success.
I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WILSON, Chairman.
The Jamaica War Contingent Committee

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,334 9s. 4d., of which amount £1,014 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

Jamaica War Contingent Committee, per	£	s.	d.
William Wilson, Esq. (Chairman) ...	435	16	7
Proceeds of Patriotic Ball at Porto Velho, State of Amazonas, per Simon Cornwall, Esq. ...	15	6	8
"H." ...	5	0	
	£451	8	3

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

MR. GEORGE KILMINSTER, who has been for four years manager of *The Mirror* of Trinidad, received a hearty "send off" from the staff of that paper and numerous friends on leaving the island recently for England to enlist in His Majesty's forces. He was entertained at a concert and presented with an Address signed by Mr. R. Mole, Editor; Mr. C. A. Petioni, Chief Reporter; and Mr. Clarence F. Evans and Jos. P. Guerra, Foremen, and the wherewithal for the purchase of a souvenir of the occasion.

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—

Barker, Major W. A. (late Staff Officer to the Windward Islands), 8th South Staffordshire Regiment.
 Bertram, Lieut. Rolf (son of Hon. Louis J. Bertram, C.M.G., Auditor-General of Jamaica), 8th Canadian Regiment, is, we regret to state, lying seriously ill at Boulogne.
 Groves, Gunner Charles W. (second son of Mr. John Groves, of Mulgrave, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica), 30th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery.
 Levy, Rifleman Vincent C. (brother of Mr. K. C. Levy, of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica), 10th Batt. King's Royal Rifles. *In France.*
 Sanderson, Robert W. (son of Mr. W. Sanderson, of Reform, Trinidad), served with the 1st Rhodesia Regiment in German South-West Africa and later with the British South Africa Police Service Column.
 Sanderson, Arthur (younger son of Mr. W. Sanderson, of Reform, Trinidad), 8th Middlesex Regiment.
 Skeete, Geoffrey W. (of the 2nd Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Mechanical Transport, Army Service Corps.
 Waterman, Private R. O. (son of Mr. Arnold A. Waterman of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 17th Service Battalion Highland Light Infantry. *In France.*

Killed in Action.

COMMANDER ROBERT HARMAN LLEWELYN, only surviving son of Sir Robert and Lady Llewelyn, lost his life in H.M.S. *Queen Mary* during the Battle of Jutland. Commander Llewelyn, who spent some of his boyhood's years—1886 to 1890—in Tobago, St. Vincent and St. Lucia whilst his father was Administrator of those islands, passed first on the list into the *Britannia* in January, 1899, and passed out as midshipman in May, 1900, gaining the 1st Admiralty Prizes for seamanship and study subjects. He served in H.M.S. *Ramillies*, flagship of Lord Charles Beresford in the Mediterranean in 1903 and in the Flagship *Ariadne* and H.M.S. *Royal Arthur* in the two following years. He obtained "five ones" and special promotion marks in the examinations for Lieutenant, to which rank he was promoted in January, 1904. At this period he played football for the services on many occasions. He specialised in gunnery and obtained certificates for the higher course and also the Egerton prize in 1907 for the best examination in practical gunnery for the year. In 1911 he served in H.M.S. *Hindustan*, and in the following year in H.M.S. *St. Vincent* as Gunnery Lieutenant, and in 1913 he was selected for the course at the War Staff College, from which he was appointed Gunnery Lieutenant in H.M.S. *Queen Mary*, gaining his promotion to the rank of Commander on January 1st, 1916. In Commander Llewelyn the Navy has lost a specially brilliant young officer.

FLEET-SURGEON F. F. LOBB, who lost his life in H.M.S. *Queen Mary* during the Battle of Jutland, was a son of Commander F. J. Lobb, R.N., Inspector of Lighthouses under the Imperial Lighthouse Service in the Bahamas. He was in H.M.S. *Thrush* during the Delagoa Bay blockade, and landed at Morel's Bay and Lambert's Bay, receiving the South African medal. He served in the Gambia River expedition of 1901, when he organised a base hospital. Later in the year he took part in the Aro River Expedition, during which he was 14 days in boats on the Lower Niger, for which he received the African Medal and the Aro clasp. He was also decorated with the medal of the French Marine for services in connection with the wreck of the *Barque Felix Faure*, and he received the thanks of the Colonial Office for a report on Pitcairn Island which he visited in 1908-9.

GRANT WELLESLEY S. TAYLOR, of the Royal Montreal Infantry of Canada, who has been killed in action, came from Trinidad. For some time he was an overseer on an estate at Carra, and subsequently settled in Canada.

Died of Wounds.

LIEUTENANT REGINALD R. G. PECK, of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), who has succumbed to serious wounds

sustained in Mesopotamia, was a nephew of Mr. John B. Stephens, of Stephens, Ltd., Port of Spain, Trinidad. One of his brother officers in a letter to his father wrote: "I am sure nobody ever wants to meet a better soldier than Reggie, or a more excellent comrade. Whatever he did, he did well. I am not going to intrude upon your grief by writing a long letter, but I hope you all realise that you have my deep sympathy. I thought more of Reggie than you can ever imagine."

Died of Sickness.

PRIVATE J. F. EVERSLEY, of the Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regiment, died of sickness at the Brompton Hospital on June 1st. The son of Mr. T. F. Eversley, Deputy Marshal of San Fernando, Trinidad, he came over with the second Trinidad Merchants' Contingent to fight for his King and Country. He was laid to rest with full military honours at Kensal Green Cemetery on June 6th.

Honours.

LIEUT. CLARENCE ESDEUT LYON HALL (son of Mr. C. Lyon Hall, of Haiti and Jamaica), South Wales Borderers, has been awarded the Military Cross.

MAJOR W. A. BARKER (late Staff Officer of the Windward Islands), 8th South Staffordshire Regiment, has been awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry and devotion to duty. When organising a counter attack he was wounded in four places by a bomb, but continued to command his battalion throughout the three following days until it was relieved.

Alterations and Corrections.

Reid, Private F. Evelyn (of the 2nd Barbados Citizens' Contingent) has been transferred from the K.R.R. to the Gordon Highlanders.

Kerr-Jarrett, Lieut. F. M. (Proprietor of Catherine Hall Estate, Jamaica), Canteen Inspector, attached to the Quarter Master General Services.

OBITUARY.

MR. GEORGE CARRINGTON.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. George Carrington, which took place, after a brief illness, at a nursing home on June 6th.

Mr. George Carrington was for many years a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, at the monthly meetings of which he was very regular in his attendance. Born in Barbados, he was educated at Eton, where he was at Mr. E. C. Austen Leigh's House, and at Trinity College, Cambridge. After taking his B.A. degree in 1879, he studied theoretical and practical agriculture at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, believing that a knowledge of that subject would assist him in the management of his family estates in this country and in Barbados. In this he was eminently successful, gaining the diploma of the College and subsequently the scholarship of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and a first-class certificate. He was also awarded the diploma and Fellowship of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland. Besides agriculture he studied chemistry with the same objects as those which prompted him to take up agriculture, and he became a Fellow of the Chemical Society. The practical experience which he gained of both subjects was brought to bear upon his Barbados property with the result that his estates, Carrington's and Chapel, in St. Philip's, and Woodbourne and Valley Hill, in Christ Church, which were eventually amalgamated for the purpose of sugar manufacture, were accounted among the very best in the island. As a Member of the Executive Committees of the Anti-Bounty League and the West India Committee, Mr. Carrington took an active and prominent part in the campaign against the foreign sugar bounties which was brought to a successful conclusion in 1902, and, indeed, practically opened the ball with a paper on "Our West Indian Colonies" which he read at the Royal Colonial Institute on March 8th, 1898. Mr.

Carrington was a J.P. for Bucks, in which county his family estate, Missenden Abbey, was situated. He was Chairman of the Mid-Buckinghamshire Unionist Association, and since the outbreak of war had been identified with many charitable works for the care of the sick and wounded, while it was only recently that he took part in the presentation of four ambulance motor launches to the British Red Cross Society for use on the Tigris. Mr. Carrington's death will cause widespread regret.

THE MOST REV. ENOS NUTTALL, D.D.

As announced in last CIRCULAR, the Most Rev. Enos Nuttall, D.D., Primate of the West Indies and Bishop of Jamaica, died at Kingston, Jamaica, on May 31st.

The gap left in the community of Jamaica by the death of Dr. Nuttall will be hard to fill, for the deceased Primate was the friend and counsellor of rich and poor and planter and peasant. Gifted with business ability and agricultural knowledge which would have made his fortune if his career had been shaped in other channels, he was ever ready to give advice on temporal as well as spiritual matters. Born in 1842, at Giggleswick, in Yorkshire, he was the son of a farmer. On completing his education he entered the Wesleyan ministry after he had already made a name for himself as a preacher. In the course of a few years he was sent by the Weslevans to Jamaica, where he at once became a popular preacher. Differences, however, arose, and in 1866 he severed with the Methodists and was ordained deacon and priest of the Church of England by Bishop Courtenay, receiving at the same time the appointment as Island Curate of St. George's, which he held until 1880, remaining nominally incumbent until his death in order to keep the endowment alive. After the disestablishment and disendowment of the Jamaica Church he came to England and aroused so much sympathy that he was able to start an endowment fund on a sound footing. In July, 1880, the local Synod met in the school-room of St. George's and elected him Bishop in succession to Bishop Tozer, who held the Episcopate for a brief time after Bishop Courtenay. In 1888, owing to the growth of his own work, Dr. Nuttall procured the appointment of an Assistant-Bishop, and Dr. Doet served him in this capacity till a breakdown in health caused his resignation in 1904. In 1893 Dr. Nuttall succeeded Bishop Austin, of Guiana, as Primate of the West Indies, and in 1897 the Lambeth Conference conferred on him the title of Archbishop.

At the time of the earthquake of 1907 Dr. Nuttall was understood to be on the point of retiring, but he appreciated that much work remained to be done, and for months he filled the position of Chairman of the General Relief Committee. With Mr. Farquharson he visited England with the object of soliciting the financial assistance of the Imperial Parliament, and, though the vote of a substantial grant and loan had already been agreed upon, he succeeded in securing the sympathy and support of all in this country to an extent that few others could have done.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Liverpool Sugar and Produce Clearing House on May 29th, Mr. H. Tilman, chairman, referred to the famous—or, rather, infamous—f.o.b. Hamburg, etc., contract which was recently hawked round the London "Lane." Attempts had, he said, been made on the part of certain London houses to put forward a form of contract for use after the War, but when privately circulated in Liverpool it was unanimously turned down as one that could not be countenanced, at any rate by the Liverpool market. He, however, looked to a time when business in sugar would necessitate a speculative contract, and that they would have a form of contract that would meet not only the needs of the market, but also their patriotic interests. Bravo, Liverpool!

SOME NATURE NOTES.

D. OLAM has recently been carrying out studies suggested by the reports of Bertrand and Javellier regarding the favourable influence of manganese on the lower forms of plant life. Adding small but increasing proportions of manganese sulphate to nutritive media containing the nodule bacteria of legumes, he noticed an increasing fixation of nitrogen, rising to an apparent maximum in each series.

T. ARND has been experimenting on the subject of the injurious action of heavy applications of lime on upland soils, with special reference to the effect of adding lime in different quantities on the forms of available nitrogen present. He concludes as the result of his experiments that with increased liming of upland moor soils nitrate reduction increases, accompanied by nitrogen losses and the transformation of nitrate nitrogen into insoluble forms.

CITRUS-GROWING in the Philippines, says the *Philippine Agricultural Review*, has suffered a serious set-back by the appearance of a disease known as bark-rot, which became particularly severe after the eruption of the Taal volcano in January, 1911. The fact which distinguishes this disease from germinosis is that, while young trees and seedlings are susceptible to germinosis, and are frequently attacked, even in the nursery, young trees are immune from it. The disease makes its presence known by the oozing out of sap from the bark, which softens and forms a putrid sac.

PROPER ploughing and cultivation, varying in depth each year, and the planting of leguminous cover crops during the rainy season are apparently essential in the prevention and cure of bark-rot. The corn crop should be cut and left as a mulch during the dry season. The treatment of the tree itself is a matter of secondary importance. The diseased spots should be carefully and deeply cut out with a sharp knife. The wound should then be alone painted with some protective material, such as white lead paint. Some writers recommend a mixture of wax, resin, and oil.

A BODY called humus silicate has recently been the subject of experiment by E. Haselipp. This body is a specially prepared fertiliser, consisting of moor soil treated with caustic potash or soda and alkaline silicates. It was found that additions of humus silicate slightly increased the yield of barley on sand soil, and of buckwheat on loam soil, and increased the silica content in the straw of barley from sand soil. The humus silicate had no effect on beans on sandy loam soil, and only a slightly favourable effect on wheat. Additions of humus silicate to wheat increased the nitrogen content of both grain and straw, but had no effect on oats. It is concluded that humus preparations are effective as fertilisers only to the extent that they contain plant food, and that the humus content is of no special value.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ON behalf of Mrs. Delamere, the West India Committee have forwarded to "Our Dumb Friends League" £12 10s., being part proceeds of an entertainment given recently by an Amateur Dramatic Company in Bridgetown, Barbados, in aid of the War Funds.

THE R.M.S. *Quillota* is scheduled to make another trip to the West Indies, leaving Tillybury on the afternoon of Sunday, July 2nd. The ports of call and fares will be as follows:—St. Michaels, £10; Barbados and Trinidad, £25; Jamaica, £27 10s.; and Colon, £30.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Liquidators in Trinidad, the Hon. Denis Slyne, chairman, referred to the death of Mr. W. G. Purdie, one of his colleagues and Superintendent of the Colonial Bank. A resolution of appreciation of Mr. Purdie's valuable services to the Board, and sympathy with his mother and the Court of Directors of the Colonial Bank was passed unanimously.

IMMEDIATELY after the publication of the news of the Sinn Féin rising in Ireland the Irishmen of Trinidad sent the following cablegram to Mr. John Redmond, as leader of the Nationalist Party in the House of Commons:—
"Trinidad Irish deplore rising. Increased confidence in your leadership."

Irishmen in Demerara sent a similar message.

A RECENT paragraph in the CIRCULAR might have led readers to suppose that Mr. L. H. Miller had joined the majority. We are glad to be able to state that this is not the case, and that this gentleman, who resigned the position of Inspector of Branches of the Colonial Bank in 1900 to take up a position in Mexico, has recently returned to this country, and is now engaged in the Country Inspection Department of the Union of London and Smith's Bank, Ltd.

THE Free Sugar Repeal Bill (No. 11,471) of the United States, which, as already stated, became law on April 27th last, is very brief. It merely repeals paragraphs 177 and 178 of the Tariff Act of October 3rd, 1913, which provided *inter alia* that on and after the 1st day of May, 1916, sugars, tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice, melada, concentrated molada, concrete and concentrated molasses, molasses, sugar drainings, and sugar sweepings, besides maple sugar and syrup, glucose and sugar canes, should be admitted free of duty.

MISS THYRA B. ALLEYNE, daughter of the late Mr. Forster M. Alleyne, of Porters, Barbados, and Mrs. Alleyne, of 21, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park has been appointed Principal of College Hall, London (University of London). Miss Alleyne, who is a graduate of Durham, having taken her degree of Bachelor of Letters in 1899 with distinction in English, French and German and her degree of Master of Letters in 1912. Since

1910 she has been Warden of Langdale Hall in Manchester, which is connected with Manchester University.

THE Cuban planters enjoy an immense pull over their neighbours to the South by reason of the facility with which new machinery can be placed on their estates. Now that the steam ferry is in working order between Key West, in Florida, and Havana, sugar machinery can be delivered at the factory site in the trucks in which it leaves the manufacturers. The trucks are transferred to the ferry steamer at Key West and on to the Cuban railway system at Havana, break of bulk, with the possibility of essential parts being left behind or short shipped, and work delayed, being thus completely obviated.

At a special meeting of the House and Social Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute on May 3rd, Major James R. Boose, the Travelling Commissioner, gave an interesting and instructive account of his recent tour through the West Indies. Sir Harry P. Wilson, Secretary of the Institute, presided, and in the discussion which followed, Messrs. F. C. Jackman (Honorary Corresponding Secretary, Barbados), Joseph Rippon (of the Direct West India Cable Company), J. Camichael Smith, J. Saxon Mills, D. Hope Johnston, and A. Montefiore took part. Major Boose spoke with enthusiasm of the hospitality which had been extended to him, and said that as a result of his tour 350 new members had been elected to the Institute.

AN old Demerara friend writes to us as follows:

Apropos of the recent complimentary luncheon given by the West Indian Club to Lord Hawke on the occasion of his marriage, I recall an amusing sketch which appeared in the *Demerara Argosy* on the occasion of the visit of his cricket team in 1897.

Two small boys were playing an improvised game of cricket, with the usual old battered kerosine oil tin as wicket. They unfortunately broke a flower-pot belonging to a black lady residing in the yard close to the "pitch," who soon appeared on the scene very irate, when the following explanation was offered by one of the boys: "No, ma'am; not *me*, ma'am! We was playing match, Gubnah Binning and Lawd 'Awk; and was Lawd 'Awk bruk de flower-pot; look he dey, ma'am!" Pointing same time to a shirt-tail boy in the distance, shouldering a palm-stump bat and running like the devil!

THE British West Indies did not figure prominently in the Birthday Honours List which was published on June 3rd, though they received reflected glory through the Knighthood of the Order of St. Michael and St. George conferred on Mr. Edward Cameron, now Governor of the Gambia, and formerly Commissioner of Turks Islands and Administrator of St. Vincent and St. Lucia. Another honour of West Indian interest is the Knighthood conferred upon the Chief Justice of West Australia, Mr. Robert Furse McMillan, whose grandmother owned and resided on Perseverance Estate, Grenada, while his father was educated at Codrington College, Barbados, for the Church, though he afterwards changed his views and became a barrister-at-law, and practised at the Parliamentary Bar.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA—More Inroads by the Sea.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MAY 1st.—I regret to state that Mr. John Brummell, Stipendiary Magistrate, died, in his 65th year, on April 23rd. He was the Colony's oldest practising barrister, having been in the legal profession for forty years. He was born at Pt. New Ground, Essequibo, in September, 1851, and was son of a former Sheriff of Georgetown.

On April 26th Mr. Joseph Samuel Roy, son of Mr. J. T. Roy, General Manager of the Demerara Railway Company, was married to Miss Aileen Rosabel Goring, youngest daughter of Mr. G. A. H. Goring, Secretary of Sproston's, Ltd., at St. George's Cathedral.

On April 17th, Mr. Justice Berkeley and Mr. Justice Hill reversed the decision of the Chief Justice in the matter of the sale of the Demerara Turf Club's property at Belair. Mr. Robson, our Attorney General, and his wife left on a visit to Kaieteur on April 10th.

The Government have fixed the prices of sugar for local consumption at:—

Yellow Sugar	5.30 per 100 lbs.
Dark Sugar	4.60
Yellow Molasses Sugar	4.00
Dark Molasses Sugar	3.70

There were further breaches by the sea at last Spring tides at Triumph and Mahaica, E.C. An inaugural Conference of the British Guiana Farmers' Association was held on April 25th. The Ganges arrived on the 10th ult. with 454 immigrants.

MAY 15th.—Some nice rains fell on the 4th and 11th instants, some four to five inches being recorded in Demerara on the former date. On the 11th instant the East Coast Estates appear to have had only an inch.

The working arrangement between the Government and Messrs. Sprostons has been completed, and on 1st June the former take over the Essequibo, Bartica and Cayuni Services, whilst Messrs. Sprostons will carry on the Demerara River, New Amsterdam and Berbice River Services. The Agreement is published on page 6 of the Mail Edition. A Special Session of the Combined Court was held on the 3rd instant. The Court of Policy met on the 10th instant.

Colonel G. C. Dorinzy, Inspector-General of Police, died on the morning of the 9th instant, and was buried the same afternoon at the Lodge with full military honours.

JAMAICA—A Proposed Factory for St. Thomas.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during April was seasonable. The maximum temperature being 90.3° F., the minimum 65.4° F., and the mean 78.2° F. The rainfall was 2.99 inches, or about three times the average. The logwood boom continues, with local prices rising. A number of sailing vessels have been dispatched to American ports, whilst others are loading, and heavy shipments by steamers are pending. With reference to the proposed establishment of a Central Sugar Factory near Spanish Town, in St. Catherine's, a preliminary agreement between prominent planters in the parish and Mr. Robert M. Bleakie, a member of a firm of New York capitalists, has been signed. Three thousand acres of cane will be planted. Steps are also on foot to induce capital to erect a Central Factory in St. Thomas.

Mr. J. H. Phillips, of the firm of Messrs. Hope & Company, has the matter in hand, and a committee has been formed to further the movement. It is stated that 10,000 acres are available for cane-planting in that parish. The business interests of the late Colonel Ward have changed hands, the trustees having disposed of the estate to the Lindo Brothers for £200,000. Mr. Cecil Lindo is the head of the firm, which have extensive interests in Costa Rica. The business will be conducted on the same lines as heretofore, with Mr. E. Haughton-Sanguinetti in charge. The new firm will trade under the name of "J. Wray & Nephew" as usual. The Hotel Titchfield at Port Antonio was closed for the season on the 18th.

Mr. W. M. Cowper has been elected President and Mr. J. C. Ford, Vice-President, of the Jamaica Institute. The Musgrave Silver Medal for 1915-1916 has been awarded by the Board of Governors of the Jamaica Institute to Mrs. J. C. Hagen in connection with Ceramics. Besides those of Mr. J. R. Williams and Mr. Aston W. Gardner, the

deaths of Dr. George Henderson, Chairman of the Kingston General Commissioners, and Mr. Horatio Corinaldi have to be recorded.

A sharp earth shock was felt at Turks Island on the 23rd at 11.40 p.m. No damage was reported.

The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s	d.
Jamaica aeroplane fund	4,453	11	0
Jamaica Red Cross fund	3,543	3	7
Jamaica Polish Jews fund	1,046	4	3
Jamaica New Testament fund	49	9	4
Jamaica Soldiers' Comforts fund	209	0	6
Jamaica Belgian Orphans fund	76	15	1
Jamaica Victoria League Russian Prisoners fund	45	2	0
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers fund	271	15	9
Jamaica Blue Cross fund	25	0	5
Jamaica Teachers' Red Cross Nurses fund	31	2	9
Jamaica Purple Cross fund	7	11	0
Jamaica "Rosebud" Contingent Cigarette fund	2	19	0

The other funds remain unchanged. Nearly four hundred men are now in camp and active recruiting is to be reopened in May for the fourth battalion which will proceed overseas later on.

ST. LUCIA—The Entente Cordiale.

By personal invitation of the Hon. Gideon Murray, Administrator of St. Lucia, His Excellency the Governor of Martinique and Madame Guy, accompanied by a large suite, paid a visit to St. Lucia on the 24th April. The party lunched at Government House, and during the afternoon visited a Fête in the Botanical Gardens in aid of La Croix Rouge de France, which was opened by His Excellency. Speeches were made by the Governor and the Administrator, and much enthusiasm was evinced by the people of St. Lucia. The substantial sum of £485 was raised at the Fête and by subscriptions and forwarded to the British Ambassador in Paris for the relief of the French wounded.

The Town Board of Castries presented an address of welcome to the Governor of Martinique, who replied in a brilliant French speech, tending to cement still further the good feeling the French and British Colonies of the West Indies.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.
June 15th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. from 8th August, 1914. Old War Loan (3½) stands at 90½. New War Loan (4½) at 96½. Consols 61½.

SUGAR. It is interesting at the present time to note how far the cane crops of the world compare with the beet crops. In 1913-14 the output of cane sugar throughout the world amounted, according to Willett and Gray, to 9,894,226 tons and the beet crops to 8,844,318 tons; in 1915-16 the cane crops are 10,533,639 tons and the beet crops 5,986,394 tons. As regards the cane crops there has been no particular increase in those of the United States, Louisiana, in fact, was 149,000 tons short of its 1913-14 output, but this was due to bad seasons rather than reduction of crop area. The production of Texas actually diminished from 7,000 to 1,000 tons. Porto Rico increased its crop from 325,000 tons to 378,000 tons, whilst Hawaii's crop fell from 550,000 to 545,000 tons. Taking the West Indies as a whole, Cuba, the principal contributor, stands with an increase of over 400,000 tons to its credit. As regards the British West Indies, there has been no particular change. Trinidad has slightly increased its exports from 47,200 tons to 55,000 tons. The exports of Jamaica are stationary, while there is a slight increase of 6,000 tons to the shipment of sugar from the other British West Indies, the figures being 30,000 as against 24,000 tons in 1913-14. The French West India Islands practically returned the same amount in 1915-16 as in 1913-14, the shipment being 78,650 tons in 1913-14 as against an estimate of 80,000 tons in 1915-16.

The Danish West Indies have materially increased their crop. In 1913-14 these islands contributed 5,800 tons, in 1915-16 the estimate for them is 11,000 tons.

Domingo comes next with 195,778 tons for 1913-14 as against an estimate of 120,000 tons for 1915-16. On the other hand, the crop of Mexico has fallen from 130,000 tons to 75,000 tons, while the other American ports contribute less than 700,000 tons, as against 769,709 tons in 1913-14. This lessened amount is due to the diminished crop in the Argentine which is only given as 155,000 tons in 1915-16 as against 280,319 tons in 1913-14, and 330,000 tons in 1914-15. Peru contributes 200,000 tons, and Brazil 194,000 tons.

Turning to the East, British India is the largest producer by far, with a crop in the neighbourhood of 2,634,000 tons. The Java crop is given by Willett and Gray as 1,264,000 tons, but it is generally conceded that the figure will be nearer 1,400,000 tons. This is against 1,345,000 tons in 1913-14. Formosa and Japan continue to develop their sugar industry, the 1915-16 output being 375,000 tons as against 204,000 tons in 1913-14. Of this the Philippine crop is 300,000 tons as against 225,000 tons in 1913-14, and 330,000 tons in 1914-15. Peru contributes 200,000 tons and Brazil 194,000 tons.

The 1915-16 crop of Australia has only been 150,000 tons as against 255,000 tons in 1913-14. Fiji has not extended its output, which was 100,000 tons in 1913-14 as against 99,000 tons in 1916-7. As regards other crops, that of Egypt has been materially extended since 1913-14, when it was 69,308 tons, the current crop being estimated at 110,000 tons. Mauritius sugar remains fairly constant. The recent crop reached 215,528 tons, as against 249,800 tons in 1913-14, the difference being merely a question of crops. Reunion exported 40,000 tons this year, practically the same as the 1913-14 exports. Natal crop for 1915-16 was 100,000 tons, an advance on the 85,714 crop of 1913-14. The Mozambique figures also, show an increment, being 50,000 tons, as compared with the 34,000 tons crop of 1913-14.

It is thus seen, as regards cane sugar, that the increment in the two years of 1,300,000 tons in the cane crop has been due to the increase of production in Cuba and British India.

Coming to the question of beet there was a diminution from 8,179,013 tons to 5,190,357 tons in the European beet crops, due of course to the war. In the United States the beet crops have increased from 655,298 tons to 779,756 tons, and the Canadian beet from 10,007 tons to 16,261 tons in the period.

The quantity of sugar imported into the United Kingdom for the month of May was 162,534 tons, of which 36,315 tons came from the United States in the form of refined sugar, and 67,503 from Cuba. Mauritius supplied 11,095 tons, and the British West Indies, including British Guiana and British Honduras, 7,844 tons. For the year to the 31st of May the total imports were 649,916 tons, of which 305,811 came from Cuba, 175,617 tons from the United States, 68,434 tons from British India, and 23,043 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana.

The stock in hand in the United Kingdom on the 31st of May was 124,250 tons, and the consumption, based on imports, 147,334. No doubt this high consumption is in connection with the jam and preserve season of the year, the Government making especial provision for this industry.

The Cuban production, up to last week was 2,743,411 tons, and the number of factories working 25, as against 2,743,411 at the same time last year.

There has been some variation in the New York market, which, at the date of last CIRCULAR, stood at 30.52 for Cuban 960 landed, with granulated at \$7.55. Yesterday's figures were \$6.39 for 960 and \$7.55 for granulated.

West Indian Sugar statistics up to June 3rd were as follows—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	18,771	17,462	18,478	22,705	15,510
Stock (June 3)	22,417	16,955	12,346	12,087	12,617
Stock (June 3)	7,459	7,416	18,737	12,457	7,428

RUM. The market is unchanged and still unsettled. Both Jamaica and Demerara sorts, however, remain steady.

The negotiations between the Central Control Board

(Liquor Traffic) and the Wine and Spirit Associations, have resulted, as regards the sale of spirits in areas defined by the Defence of the Realm Regulations, in regulations being decided upon whereby no spirit shall be sold under 25° under proof, while all spirits may be diluted to 50 under proof. The first of these conditions does not apply to spirits bottled before the 6th of June, 1916.

The stocks in London on June 3rd were as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	4,565	4,422	7,285	5,855	7,434
Demerara	12,365	7,972	10,818	7,750	7,096
Total, all kinds	29,500	19,653	25,100	21,133	21,863

CACAO. The imports of cacao into the United Kingdom for May amounted to 22,183,922 lbs. The individual imports for the months were: from Ecuador 2,100,289 lbs.; from Brazil 2,522,688 lbs.; from British West Africa 9,471,138 lbs.; from Ceylon 944,968 lbs.; and from the British West India Islands 4,332,531 lbs. For the year the imports were 123,729,508 lbs.

The exports amounted to 5,600,931 lbs. for the month, making 22,999,831 lbs. for the year.

At auction sale on the 30th May bidding was very slow, 12,288 bags were put up for auction, of which 1,997 bags were sold. Trinidad fetched 87/- to 89/-, Grenada 82/- to 85/-; Dominica and St. Lucia cacao were not sold. Jamaica fetched 77/- to 84/-. No auctions were held on the 13th.

The stocks in London on June 3rd were as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	25,435	9,791	8,889	8,325	7,852
Grenada	16,749	3,251	11,191	7,734	5,851
Total, all kinds	196,467	69,698	93,329	81,939	114,122

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that a good business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since the last report and that over 400 bales have been sold at prices varying chiefly between 17d. and 20d. The sales were principally confined to Montserrat, St. Kitts, Barbados and Nevis cottons.

COPRA. The market has been flat and easier since the last Summary. Fine West Indian is quoted at £32 c.i.f. Ternau.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, lower, with firm sales at 9/- per lb. Distilled easier, sellers at 8/9 and possibly 8/6, but no buyers. Lime Juice. Raw. Sales of Dominica fair at 2/10d, and Grenada 3/- to 3/1d. Concentrated. No change. Citrate of Lime. Sales at £27.

SPICES. Nutmegs unchanged, 100's/80's, 1/- to 1/2; 120's/100's, 10d. to 1/-; 140's/120's 9d. to 10d. No change in Mace. Good to fine is quoted 2/- to 3/-; red to good 1/9 to 1/11; blood red to medium red 1/6 to 1/8; broken 7d. to 1/5. Ginger. A small business done at from 105/- to 115/- for dull to good middling Jamaica, the market being firm.

ARROWROOT. The market continues quiet and prices unchanged. About 400 barrels have been sold at 24d. to 3d.

HONEY. Firmer. At the auctions on the 1st inst. 200 packages Jamaica sold at 45/6 for fermented; 47/6 to 55/- for dark to amber liquid, 60/- to 63/- for choice white.

RUBBER. Market steady and easier. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2/7, with smoked sheet at 2/6 1/2. The value of fine hard Para is 2/9, and of soft 2/6 1/2.

BALATA. Shipments of block have been smaller during the past month, hence the firmer tone. Venezuelan block steady. Sellers 2/6 1/2 c.i.f., buyers 2/6 1/2 c.i.f. Panama block dull, Sellers 2/2 c.i.f., buyers 2/1 1/2 c.i.f. West Indian sheet unchanged—3/2 to 3/4 according to position of shipment.

PETROLEUM OIL. American, 1/-; Water White, 1/2.

OUR LIBRARY.

Copies of all books noticed under the heading "Our Library" are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Christopher Monck, Duke of Albemarle. By Estelle Frances Ward. With illustrations. London: John Murray. 32iu. x 8½ in.; pp. 385 + 10.

We are not quite certain that Christopher Monck, whose career was overshadowed by that of his distinguished father, General George Monck, who put Charles II. on the throne, deserved the very complete biography furnished by the author of this book. His chief claim to recognition in the West Indies lies in the fact that he presided over the destinies of Jamaica in 1687 and 1688. But Mr. Frank Cudall, in "Historic Jamaica," describes him as a "very unwise Governor," which is not surprising when one learns that His Grace committed such unprincipled acts as dissolving the House of Assembly suddenly because one of its members, John Towers, to wit, dared in a debate to repeat the old adage, "salus populi suprema lex," when protesting against the speaker's refusal to grant him permission to attend a race-meeting, and furthermore had him taken into custody and fined £600! A few disconnected words written on a piece of old parchment, forming part of a dispatch case, once the property of Colonel Joseph Ward, of General Washington's staff, first introduced the Duke of Albemarle to the author's notice. This fragment proved to be a part of a royal warrant granted to Albemarle and his five associates, to "Gentlemen Adventurers," giving them permission for the use of two ships with which to search for a lost Spanish Galleon in the West Indies. Miss Ward scented romance and readers of her chapter on the "Treasure Ship" will agree that she found it and has made the most of it. The Monck family had for long held interests in the West Indies, and as early as 1683 the Duke, learning from Captain William Phips of a Spanish Galleon, freighted with gold and silver for the King of Spain, which had been wrecked off Hispaniola (Haiti), saw in those colonies a means of relieving his financial difficulties which had befallen him through reckless living. A vessel was fitted out. The galleon was found and much treasure was salvaged, with the result that each of the Adventurers who only invested one hundred pounds apiece in the enterprise made from eight to ten thousand pounds. Medals were struck to celebrate their success and the Duke, in the hope of, no doubt, increasing his newly-won fortune, evinced great eagerness to proceed to Jamaica, of which island he was appointed Governor. In the following chapter we are told how, accompanied by Sir Hans Sloane—whose famous collection afterwards formed the nucleus of the British Museum—he set sail from Portsmouth in the *Assistance*, which carried, *inter alia*, 20 tons (tuns?) of beer and 300 bags of bread. And here we must leave his Grace, for it would be unfair to the author to summarise her interesting story, which is so brightly written that it can be perused without the reader experiencing that feeling of weariness so often invoked by biographies.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Mr. A. C. Broughton,
A.M.I.C.E.
(till end of July). | Mr. P. L. Guppy
Mrs. E. Haynes
Mr. E. C. Jackman | Mr. A. E. Perkins
Mr. G. W. Pentice.
Miss E. Robinson |
| Mr. G. G. Browne
Mr. G. S. Browne
Mr. A. Campbell
Mr. J. W. Calbear
Mr. C. Flanagan
Mr. R. P. Gibbs
Mr. John T. Grex
Mr. Win. Greig | Mr. A. H. Kirby
Hon. A. Dou. Lockhart
Mr. Clement Malone
Mr. A. Marsden
Mr. A. I. McColl
Sir Frederic Maxwell
Commander W. H.
Owen, R.N.R. | Mr. E. G. A. Saunders
Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. M. J. Tsaoul
Hon. H. B. Walcott,
C.M.G. |
| Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate. | | |
| Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., "Roasmoyne," Chessel Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton. | | |
| Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts. | | |
| Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex. | | |
| The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sulton Court Road, Chiswick, W. | | |
| Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh. | | |

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination
June 24	"Harrison" Line	<i>Mexican</i>	Liverpool	A, B, S, F, G, I, R, L, M, N
.. 26	Elders & Fyfes	<i>Camito</i>	Bristol	D
.. 29	"Booker" Line	<i>Arakaha</i>	Liverpool	D
July 2	R.M.S.P. Co.	<i>Quiblot</i>	London	A, E, U.
.. 8	"Leyland" Line	<i>Oribian</i>	Liverpool	A, F
.. 10	Elders & Fyfes	<i>Coronado</i>	Bristol	D
.. 12	"Leyland" Line	<i>Antillian</i>	Liverpool	D

FROM CANADA				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination
July 14	R.M.S.P. Co.	<i>Chaudiere</i>	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, I, R, L, M, N
.. 28	"	<i>Caraque</i>	"	"

FROM HOLLAND				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination
July 7	Royal Dutch	<i>Nichorie</i>	Amsterdam	B, E.

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices June 15
4%	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
4%	Barbados	3½% Redeemable 1925-42	66½
3%	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1935	80
4%	British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-45	74½
4%	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	78½
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1934	86
4%	Jamaica	3½% Redeemable 1919-49	67½
3½%	Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1922-44	72½
3%	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	78½
4%	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	80½
4%	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1932-44	62½
6%	The Colonial Bank	"	100
6%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	"	116
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	"	80½
4½%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures	"	87½
3%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	"	90
4½%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures	"	94½
6%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	"	106½
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	"	101
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref	"	116
7%	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	"	4-
7%	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	"	12½
7%	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	"	"
7%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	"	27-10
4%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.	"	65-100
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% 1st Pref.	"	70-75
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	"	72-75
1½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	"	19-9
6½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	"	7½
6½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd	"	52½
6½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	"	9½

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 15s. 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.

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SEETHING LANE,
6642 CENTRAL LONDON, E.C.,
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

June 28th, 1916.

THE ALLIES' CONFERENCE AND THE WEST INDIES.

FOR the full text of the recommendations of the Economic Conference of the Allies, which was held in Paris on June 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th, we must refer our readers to the daily Press of June 21st. The decisions arrived at, covering as they do the policy which should be adopted by the Allies during the continuance of the War, and the periods of reconstruction and peace, after the present titanic struggle, are far-reaching in their significance and purpose. The first series of recommendations, which are, as indicated above, divided into three groups, should result in a more vigorous prosecution of the War, providing as it does for co-ordination in the laws and regulations for trading with the enemy, for an absolute embargo as to importation of goods from enemy countries, and for stringent measures for the restriction of enemy supplies, or, in other words, a further stiffening of the blockade. The proposals relating to the periods of reconstruction and peace go further than most politicians would have believed to be possible. Briefly, during the transitional period immediately after the War, Enemy Powers are to be denied for a definite period "most-favoured-nation" treatment, arrangements are to be made for the conservation for and interchange between the Allied countries of their natural resources, and, best of all, protective measures are to be taken against dumping, a system of which the British West Indies have had a particularly cruel experience. Incidentally it will be noted in this connection that the signatory powers of this important document affirm that "the War has put an end

to all the treaties of commerce between the Allies and the Enemy Powers." The significance of this, as viewed from a West Indian standpoint, will not be lost on our readers. It confirms the statement made by the West India Committee to the Prime Minister, in their Memorandum of March 4th last, that the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, the Additional Act and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations, and Agreements have been absolutely annulled by the War, and with them that most unfortunate pledge of the British Government not to give a preference in the Customs Tariff to sugar produced within the British Empire on importation into the United Kingdom. The road is thus clear for the development of the British Sugar industry on the lines suggested by the West India Committee. Coming now to the recommendations for the post-war period, and to the "permanent measures of mutual assistance and collaboration among the Allies," these include the adoption of steps to render the Allies independent of the enemy countries "in so far as regards the raw materials and manufactured articles essential to the normal development of their economic activities." With this object in view, the Allies may have recourse to subsidies, Customs duties, or prohibition, or a combination of these methods. Though we are second to none in the desire to crush German aggression, we ourselves are inclined to favour swingeing duties on goods from the countries with which we are now at war rather than total exclusion, for we believe that a tariff would be more lasting than prohibition, which would leave a greater loophole open for protests from consumers—and we base our view on the outcry which, in 1911, followed the prohibition of the importation of bounty-fed sugar. Meanwhile, that very vigorous young body, the British Empire Producers' Organisation, is applying remarkable driving force to the movement for securing the establishment of preferential trade within the Empire, and we must congratulate them on their enterprise in having again induced Mr. W. M. HUGHES to address a meeting on the subject. The meeting to which we refer was held at the Mansion House most opportunely on June 21st, shortly after the return of the delegates from Paris, and was attended by many men of mark in the City and political life. We regret that the exigencies of space prevent our doing justice to the speeches of Mr. HUGHES or of our old friend SIR GEORGE FOSTER, who also gave a telling address, but the extracts which we publish will no doubt whet the appetites of our readers and prompt them to turn to the newspapers of June 22nd, which contain a fuller report. Mr. HUGHES was emphatic as to the imperative necessity of preventing Germany from dumping her goods into Britain after the War, and upon the need of taking prompt action to carry

out the recommendations of the Paris Conference, and we trust that his notable oration will not have fallen on deaf ears. "There is," he said, "much to be done, and very little time in which to do it." He added that nothing but immediate, united, resolute and systematic effort would suffice. Our mottoes should, he added, be "Action, Action, Always Action," and "National Welfare and National Safety"—two telling war-cries. We much regret that MR. W. M. HUGHES has been forced to draw his visit to England to a close, for there is no speaker in recent years who has impressed the proletariat so much, and we must be grateful that he should have espoused a cause in which the British West Indies are so deeply interested. On June 21st, he introduced a deputation of members of the British Empire Producers' Organisation to MR. BONAR LAW and MR. HARCOURT, and he has closely identified himself with that body. One has only to note the space devoted to the utterances of the great Australian statesman to gauge the importance which is attached to them. We trust that the spirit which he has imbued into us will be maintained.

MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, C.M.G., V.D.

THE Royal Colonial Institute is particularly fortunate in having so energetic a Travelling Commissioner as MAJOR J. R. BOOSE, C.M.G., who recently returned from a successful tour of the West Indies. Visiting in succession Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, and the Windward and Leeward Islands, and returning by way of Bermuda and New York, he travelled on this expedition alone over 14,500 miles. By name MAJOR BOOSE was already well known in the West Indies, many of whose residents are conversant with the splendid work he has done in building up the Library of the Institute from a few hundred to over 100,000 volumes, which include as fine a collection of West Indian works as is to be found outside the British Museum. They are also aware of the increased activity of the Institute which synchronised with his appointment to be Secretary of that body in 1910. In the circumstances it is not surprising to learn that, in spite of the counter-attraction—if one can call it that—of the War, MAJOR BOOSE was received with enthusiasm wherever he went, and that as the outcome of the patriotic meetings which he addressed, he netted over four hundred new members for the Royal Colonial Institute. Moreover, as a result of his visit the Institute has in other ways become more firmly established in the islands and British Guiana. Whilst formerly it only had corresponding secretaries in the larger islands, it is now represented generally throughout the Caribbean Archipelago as well as in British Guiana, where an influential branch has been formed. Branches are also in course of formation in Jamaica and Trinidad. The objects of the Institute are too familiar to need reiteration in these columns, and we are glad to learn that they are receiving a fuller measure of support from the West Indies. Such organisations deserve the encouragement of those for whose benefit they are working. The Fellows from the self-

governing Dominions must from the nature of things outnumber those from the lesser of His Majesty's possessions in the list of members of the Institution in Northumberland Avenue; but few would deny that the residents in the colonies not possessing responsible government have much to learn from those in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and *vice-versa*; and for all the Royal Colonial Institute forms an ideal meeting ground. We have noted with pleasure that in the speeches which he delivered, MAJOR BOOSE referred in complimentary terms to the work of the West India Committee. This prompts us to express a hope that an increased measure of support may be afforded to this body also, in view especially of the active campaign which it is conducting in conjunction with kindred organisations in connection with trade after the War, and in providing for the well-being of men from overseas who have come over to serve their King and Empire. To revert to MAJOR BOOSE, we gather from a personal interview that this genial traveller was deeply impressed with the charms of the West Indian climate and scenery, and we may be certain that the West Indies will now have in him a very efficient and convinced missionary to extol the many amenities and advantages which they offer to capitalists, settlers, and tourists.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on June 8th, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

"That the Committee desire to record their deep regret at the death of Mr. George Carrington, for many years a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and that the Secretary be instructed to convey to the relatives the expression of their sincere sympathy."

On the motion of Mr. R. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. Alexander Duckham was elected a member of the Executive. It will be recalled that at the Annual General Meeting, Mr. A. G. Bell suggested the desirability of appointing to the Executive a member possessing intimate knowledge of the conditions of the oil industry of Trinidad, and the election of Mr. Duckham is the outcome.

Mr. Duckham, who is Chairman of the firm of Alex. Duckham & Co., has been connected with the Trinidad oil industry since its inception on a commercial basis. He visited the oil-bearing areas in the island some years ago, and, being much struck with their possibilities, he determined to devote time and money to their exploitation. At present he is giving his services to the country as Director of Small Arms Ammunition in the Ministry of Munitions.

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. Com-

respondents, 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. (\$50.00). 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.

THE ALLIES' CONFERENCE.

The recommendations of the Economic Conference of the Allies held in Paris on June 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th were issued by the Board of Trade on June 20th, and appear in the daily Press of the following day. They are divided into three groups, and are summarised by the *Times* as follows:—

WAR PERIOD.

Co-ordination of the laws and regulations in the Allied countries prohibiting trading with the enemy.
Absolute embargo on importation of goods originating in or coming from enemy countries.
Sequestration or control of businesses owned or operated by enemy subjects.
Stringent measures for restriction of enemy supplies.

RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD.

Devising of joint means to secure to countries suffering from acts of destruction, unjust requisition, etc., the restoration of their raw materials, industrial and agricultural plant, stock, and mercantile fleet, or to assist them to re-equip themselves in these respects.
Denial to the Enemy Powers, for a period to be fixed by agreement, of "most-favoured-nation" treatment.
Conservation for, and interchange between, the Allied countries of their natural resources.
Protective measures against enemy "dumping" and for preventing enemy subjects in Allied countries from engaging in industries which concern national defence or economic independence.

PEACE PERIOD.

Measures to be taken:

To render the Allied countries independent of enemy countries in raw materials and manufactured articles essential to the normal development of their economic activities.
To facilitate and improve the interchange of their products.
To assimilate the laws governing patents, indications of origin, and trade marks, and for the adoption of an identical procedure in regard to patents, trade marks, and literary and artistic copyright which have come into existence in enemy countries during the war.

At a farewell dinner given to Mr. W. M. Hughes by Australians in London on June 23rd, Mr. Bonar Law disclosed the fact that Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, had himself drafted the resolution which had been carried by the Conference recommending that when peace came there should be an interval during which enemy goods would be excluded to enable the people of this country to decide on their future fiscal policy.

Mr. Hughes on the Recommendations.

Mr. Hughes and Sir George Foster were the principal speakers at a public meeting at the Mansion House arranged by the British Empire Producers' Organisation on June 21. The Lord Mayor presided, and among those present were:—
Lord Halsbury, Lord Islington, Lord Desborough, Lord

Grey, Lord Avebury, Lord Brassey, Lord Rotherham, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Faringdon, Lord Devonport, Lord Channing, Sir George Perley (High Commissioner for Canada), Mr. Andrew Fisher (High Commissioner for Australia), the Hon. T. J. Ryan (Premier of Queensland), Sir Edward Gouling, M.P., Sir Joseph Lawrence, Sir K. Anderson, Sir Howard Frank, Sir A. Lawley, Sir T. Mackenzie (New Zealand), Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., Sir P. McBride (Victoria), Sir J. McCall (Tasmania), Colonel Sir J. R. Parkinson, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker (Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Association), Mr. R. Rutherford (Deputy Chairman of the West India Committee), Mr. Edward R. Dawson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. William Martineau, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham (Mr. Neville Chamberlain), and representatives of industry from all parts of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Hughes said that it was well that the people should recognise the peril which they had almost miraculously escaped. For there were still people in Britain to-day who for one reason or another stood more or less openly for a reversion after the War to things as they were before the War. What they really meant when they said that it would be suicidal for England not to allow Germany to dump her goods into Britain after the War was that it would affect their pockets. It was true there were people in Britain who would suffer very materially from the change from an economic system which ignored the welfare as well as the safety of the nation to one which regarded these things as the foundations upon which it must rest. Many of these men during the War were caretakers of Germany's interests in Britain. They were integral parts of the great German organisation. Naturally the German economic domination of the world would have been impossible had her organisation not included many of the influential citizens of the country upon whose vitals she was feeding, who acted, though in many cases they did not perhaps realise the fact, as the instruments, the tools of Germany. These persons, who were as much part of the warp and woof of the great German organisation as those who lived in Germany itself, in many cases found opportunities for great profit. They viewed with the utmost apprehension the suggestion that Britain should organise her industries and thus slam the door upon their hopes. Of course, they were very careful to cloak their real motives under a cloud of high-sounding words.

Continuing, Mr. Hughes said that there was much to be done and very little time in which to do it. Nothing but immediate, united, resolute and systematic effort would suffice, and we should bend our every effort to give effect to the resolutions of the Paris Conference without delay. He believed that through them we could strike a blow right at the heart of Germany, and that, rightly used, they were a great charter guaranteeing us and the Allied nations, and indeed the civilised world, economic independence. And that was what we desired, what we were entitled to, and what we were determined to get. It would be intolerable if, after we had sacrificed millions of lives and thousands of millions of treasure in order to prevent Germany from imposing her political will upon us, we should slip back into her economic maw. As we were citizens of a great Empire, we ought not, in the great work that was before us, to forget to do all things pos-

sible to strengthen the economic ties that bind the various parts of the Empire together. For in unity lay our strength. The raw materials in which our Empire abounds should be developed and made available for all our needs. He hoped that the Government would agree to support the proposal of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which provided for growing within the Empire the sugar consumed therein. It provided for the exclusion of German beet sugar, favourable treatment for our Allies, and preference for goods produced within the Empire. It was a project at once Imperial in scope and practicable. Our motto should be "Action, Action, and Always Action."

THE BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation have unanimously adopted the following recommendations with regard to sugar:—

- 1.—That Empire Sugar be granted preferential treatment to the extent of 50 per cent. on any Tariff that may be in force; such preference at no time to be less than one halfpenny per pound for Sugar exceeding 98 degrees polarisation, graduated according to the existing British Tariff.
- 2.—That Sugar of their own production exported to the United Kingdom by Allied Countries may by negotiation be granted a concession not exceeding 12½ per cent. of the General Tariff in force.
- 3.—That Sugar of their own production exported to the United Kingdom by Neutral Countries shall pay not less than the General Tariff rate, but that Neutral Countries—
 - (i.) Declining to enter into favourable reciprocal arrangements with the Empire, or
 - (ii.) Giving more favourable treatment to other countries, shall in addition be subjected to a Surtax.
- 4.—That the import of Sugar, directly or indirectly, from Enemy Countries be totally prohibited for a period of five years after the War, and that thereafter it shall pay the General Tariff in force plus 50 per cent. Surtax; such Surtax at no time to be less than one halfpenny per pound for Sugar exceeding 98 degrees polarisation graduated according to the existing British Tariff.
- 5.—That the exporting country shall in every case furnish approved certificates of origin.
- 6.—That a dumping clause on the lines of the Canadian Tariff be instituted.
- 7.—That if at any time His Majesty's Government be satisfied that the export of Sugar to this country is being assisted by means of Bounties, Kartels, Rebates of Freight, or any other artificial means whatsoever, immediate steps shall be taken to counteract such assistance before applying the Tariff.
- 8.—That all products the composition of which includes Sugar shall be subject to the same scale of Duties based upon the Sugar contents.
- 9.—That the difference between Excise on Home-grown Beet and the Duty on Empire-grown Sugar shall be £2 6s. 8d. per ton basis 98 degrees until the crop of Home-grown Beet reaches 50,000 tons of Sugar per annum, thereafter the advantage to cease.
- 10.—That the British Government be asked to adopt above recommendations forthwith, and to make Agreements with the Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies to secure preferential treatment of Empire Sugar on the foregoing lines for a term of ten years certain or such longer period as may be agreed upon.

The Organisation point out that, assuming the requirements of Great Britain to be about 2,000,000 tons of sugar per annum, they base their calcula-

tions as to the probable sources of supply in the near future as follows:—

Empire-grown Sugar	400,000 tons.
Allies' and Neutrals' Sugar	1,600,000 tons.
	2,000,000 tons.

They hold that the ultimate ability of the Empire to produce its own requirements cannot be questioned. The replies to recent enquiries addressed to the British Overseas Dominions and Possessions have revealed abundant possibilities which, given the security of market offered by the proposals submitted, will in time supply the whole demands of the Empire, and will make it self-supporting.*

To the resolutions on the sugar question adopted by public bodies in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Antigua, and published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, may now be added the following, which has been carried unanimously by the Council of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, and forwarded to the West India Committee:—

BE IT RESOLVED,

"That in the opinion of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce it is desirable, from an Imperial standpoint, that as far as practicable British-grown sugar should be used throughout the Empire, and with this object in view they respectfully urge on His Majesty's Government the desirability of accorded preferential treatment to all sugars grown in any part of His Majesty's Dominions, and suggest that His Majesty's Government endeavour to secure similar legislation among the self-governing Colonies and India.

THE BEQUEST TO "CODRINGTON."

Some further particulars are now to hand regarding the bequest made to Codrington College by Mr. Joseph Forte, who died at "Bennetts," Barbados, in April last at the age of 69. Mr. Forte left his Plantation, "Bennetts," and all his personal estate in Barbados to five trustees to be held in trust for the benefit of the college, and to be designated "The Joe Forte Codrington Trust." The trustees are the Bishop of Barbados, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Rector of St. John's Parish, and the two Members of the House of Assembly for the parish of St. Thomas. The late Mr. Forte descended from a family who settled in Barbados after the Restoration. He was educated at Clifton College, and after a few years' sojourn in Australia, settled in the island, when he bought the family Estate, "Bennetts," in St. Thomas Parish, in which he took a prominent part in parochial affairs. Mr. Forte was the youngest son of the late Mr. Nathaniel Forte, of Clifton, Bristol, who at one time had been a member of the Council in Barbados, and the grandson of the late Hon. Nathaniel Weekes Forte, formerly speaker of the House of Assembly, who had gained notoriety in his youth by killing in a duel, fought in 1791 at Barbados, Lieutenant Cages, of the 49th Regiment, one of the most accomplished duellists of the day. In that affair Mr. Gabriel Weekes, a cousin of Mr. Forte, acted as second.

* The replies referred to are embodied in "The British Sugar Industry," published by the West India Committee, from whom copies may be obtained free on application.—Ed.



"PROFESSOR" PILE, GUIANA'S ALLIGATOR EXPERT. (See page 254.)



SOME MEN OF THE TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENTS.

THE GERMAN CARTEL SYSTEM.

(Continued from page 230 and concluded.)

How Competition is Crushed.

Many syndicates maintain funds to oppose competing concerns which will not enter the cartel and whose competition may be a source of danger. Apart from this, German cartels have two methods to attain the same purpose, one being a price-cutting war and the other the boycott. The first weapon, though freely used, is not favoured, as it is a source of danger. Independent consumers know that such price reductions are temporary and are made merely to crush an independent enterprise, and that prices will return to the old level or be further increased after the reductions have served their purpose.

The boycott in one form or another has been freely used by German syndicates. In 1907 the Association of Silk Fabric Manufacturers of Germany circularised the customers of its members, warning them that each customer buying goods from German manufacturers who were not members of the association, either directly or indirectly, would be charged a surtax of 10 per cent. on all purchases from association members. Such a proceeding is not offending against German laws. It led, however, to the formation of a syndicate of purchasers of silk fabrics to cope with the tactics of the producers' syndicate.

With regard to the effect of the cartel system upon the various industries, the defenders thereof mention the following beneficial features: The members of cartels obtain better or at least more stable profits on their productions; a great saving in the maintenance of sales organisations is effected, competition is regulated, supplies of raw materials are obtained at a better rate, the shares of stock companies connected with cartels are quoted higher on the stock exchange.

The evil effects of the cartel system are found in the diminution of independence on the part of enterprises combined in a cartel, monopolistic tendencies, and the unstable nature of the cartels, which are generally formed for a short period, with the constant danger of failure to renew the contract. Customers find themselves to be the ultimate bearers of the burdens created by the increase of prices due to the policy of the cartels; exporters and manufacturers of finished products, particularly in the hardware and textile trades, are greatly handicapped in their competition in the world's markets by the initial burden of the cost of raw products imposed upon them by the well-organised syndicates of coal, steel, iron, and yarn producers, particularly as the syndicates themselves dispose of their goods in foreign markets at lower rates than charged the home consumer. The syndicates insist on long-term contracts for the supply of raw material, and even in case of a crisis customers are forced to live up to their contracts. Such conflicts between cartels and their customers occurred in 1907 and 1908.

While a majority of the cartels, particularly the weaker ones, do not undertake to influence foreign business, the stronger ones maintain a firm export policy. They make a practice of exporting at lower

prices than are charged home customers, finding foreign markets an excellent outlet for excess production, particularly when the home market is poor. These cheaper exports generally include raw products and semi-manufactured goods and only a small proportion of finished articles.

The cartels in the mining and iron industries have been forced to assist their customers who have combined for self-defence in consumers' cartels, by granting rebates on exports of goods manufactured from raw products and semi-manufactured products furnished them by the producers' cartels. Manufacturers who are not organised in consumers' cartels obtain no such assistance. Cartels have laid their hand upon practically the entire natural wealth of the German Empire, and manufacturers dependent upon the cartels for materials often must be content with shipments in such quantities and qualities and at such prices as the cartels may dictate.

The very nature of many manufacturing enterprises, scattered as they are throughout Germany and conflicting in interests, makes it impossible for most of them to protect themselves by forming counter syndicates. When this has been done, however, the cartels have been forced to meet the demands of these organised manufacturers. Numerous cartels, among them the Coal Syndicate and Stahlwerksverband, maintain special departments for auditing export rebates.

The Effect of Cartels on Commerce.

With regard to the effect of cartels upon commerce, it may be said that their tendency is to eliminate middlemen and agents and to replace them by the cartels' own sales departments. The Stahlwerksverband, for instance, entirely eliminated jobbing in certain steel products, and established practically a monopoly for itself. The jobbers naturally seek to protect themselves, and in many industries, among others the textile trades, have formed cartels of their own.

In addition to cartels there have sprung up in recent years combinations of manufacturers more nearly approaching the American idea of a trust. These combinations are referred to as "communities of interests," and are found particularly in the chemical industry, and in the manufacture of colours and paints. In 1904 a community of interests was formed by the Höchst Farbwerke and Leopold Casella, on the one hand, and Fr. Beyer & Co., Badische Anilinfabriken und Aktiengesellschaft für Anilinfabrikation, on the other hand. These enterprises maintain their independence in every respect, but they have effected an arrangement for a division of profits in proportion to their capital. They have purchased some enterprises in common, as, for instance, an important coal mine, and have combined with a Norwegian and a French corporation for common utilization of the Norwegian water power for manufacturing calcium nitrate by utilizing atmospheric nitrogen. In connection with the British law on the working of patents, they founded an English factory for the common account of the combined enterprises.

Another combination of this character is found in the German electrical industry. The great electrical companies, Aktiengesellschaft Siemens-Halske, Ber-

lin, and Schuckert & Co., Nuremberg, on the one hand, and the Union Elektrizitätsgesellschaft and Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft, on the other hand, combined in two groups which were composed of independent enterprises, but which, with a third group formed in 1905, dominate the entire electrical industry of Germany. These three groups combined to agree on uniform prices when bidding for the supply of current, and in 1909 established two banks for their financial operations.

German Export Bounties.

Brief reference may be made to the policy of various syndicates with regard to export bounties. Particularly in the iron industry certain conditions force the production of an oversupply of basic products, for which foreign markets must be sought.

The Coal Syndicate allows 1.50 marks (\$0.357) per metric ton upon fuel purchased from the syndicate and proved to have been used for the production of iron goods actually exported. The bounty came into operation on Oct. 1, 1913. The Pig Iron Syndicate grants a bounty on pig iron purchased from it and used to manufacture articles for export. This bounty, together with the Coal Syndicate's bounty, amounts to 4.50 marks (\$1.07) per metric ton.

The Stahlwerksverband allows a bounty of 15 marks (\$3.57) per ton on half-finished products exported. The purchase price of half-finished materials to be used in the manufacture of articles for export is reduced by a further 5 marks (\$1.19) per metric ton.

The Rolled Wire Syndicate has increased its export bounties, and these now amount to 11.50 marks (\$2.74) per metric ton of raw material used in the case of iron ware and of wire goods made from rolled wire, and to 16.50 marks (\$3.93) for material used for wire tacks. The purchase price of raw material is also reduced 5 marks (\$1.19) per metric ton.

A special central bureau is maintained in Düsseldorf for the payment of these bounties, which is known as the Abrechnungsstelle für Ausfuhrvergütung.

The export bounties of German syndicates and cartels may be divided into passive and active, the first being known as "vergütung" and the latter as "premiums." The vergütung, or reimbursement, is exemplified by the policy of the Rhenish Westphalian Syndicate when it granted a price reduction to rolling mills on pig iron to be worked into export goods; an example of the export premium is the cash payment of 1.50 marks per ton to members of the Rhenish Westphalian Coal Syndicate who furnish coal to foreign countries at a lower price than prevailing at home.

Among the industries assisted by export premiums, one may distinguish in Germany two classes: The liquor-distilling industry, to which the State grants a refund of the internal-revenue tax on spirits exported, and syndicated industries, which reimburse their members for loss sustained in effecting sales abroad at lower prices than obtainable at home.

Other syndicates that may be mentioned in this connection are the Paint Syndicate, consisting of

three combines, remarkable for the very high dividends paid on their high capitalisation.

The Potash Syndicate controls the mining and selling of potash salts, and is regulated by an imperial law fixing maximum prices for domestic sales, and providing that prices for foreign countries f.o.b. mine shall not be lower than for inland sales. Each mine is assigned a certain production, and a tax payable to the Imperial Government is imposed on the overproduction. From time to time the percentage of participation is revised.

Combines are also found among producers of soda, incandescent mantles, accumulators, aluminium, zinc, glue, rubber goods, jute, linoleum, news paper, bottles, plate glass, electric glassware, dynamite, etc. All of these combines are virtual monopolies.

THE EMPIRE'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

(Continued from page 233 and concluded.)

The extension of our existing Colonial sugar industries, coupled with the development of new Colonial sources of supply, appears to be a business-like and feasible way of providing an all-British sugar supply. At the present moment, the British possessions growing sugar are India, Mauritius, British Guiana, Fiji, the British West Indies, Queensland and Natal.

The output of India is large, something in the neighbourhood of 2,500,000 tons. The product of this country is of no direct account so far as a supply of sugar for the mother country is concerned, seeing that in normal times it imports 700,000 to 800,000 tons annually to supply the deficiencies of its own production. Mauritius exports about 250,000 tons, a considerable proportion of which goes naturally to India. British Guiana's average output is 100,000 tons, some of which comes to the United Kingdom in the form of "Demerara" crystals, the major portion going to Canada, where it receives preferential tariff treatment. Fiji makes another 100,000 tons, the bulk of which is earmarked for Australia and South Africa. The British West Indies represent 100,000 tons, some of which comes to this country as yellow sugars, while the balance goes to Canada. Queensland makes about 250,000 tons, all consumed in Australia, and Natal 90,000 tons, consumed in South Africa.

The chief sugar wants of the Empire—where the question of Colonial sugar is considered, the subject must be considered imperially—are:—

Great Britain & Ireland	2,000,000 tons.
Canada	300,000 "
India	3,000,000 "
Australia & New Zealand	300,000 "
South Africa	150,000 "
	<hr/>
	5,750,000 tons.

At the present moment there is produced in the Empire in average years 3,150,000 tons to meet a consumption of nearly 6,000,000 tons. How can this balance be made up, and provision made for future increase in consumption?

During last year, the West India Committee obtained from the authorities of the principal tropical Colonies, both those now producing sugar and those not, official statements as to the possibilities of the respective Colonies in regard to sugar-making, provided the tariff of the United Kingdom was so arranged as to give British sugar adequate preference treatment. The replies were of great interest, and show the following possibilities:—

British Guiana	...	...	2,500,000	tons.
British West Indies	...	...	240,000	" *
Mauritius	...	...	300,000	"
Queensland	...	...	500,000	"
Natal	...	...	338,000	"
Fiji	...	...	164,000	"
British East Africa	...	...	500,000	"
Nigeria and Uganda	--great possibilities.			

India was not communicated with, but seeing that the present industry is mainly conducted on the "ryot" scale, with the primitive processes of the middle ages, and that population and suitable soil and climatic conditions exist to a large extent, it is not too much to put down the Indian possibilities at 3,000,000 tons. This should be possible of attainment by improved processes only on the present acreage.

Allowing, therefore, that India can satisfy herself as regards her sugar wants, the figures given above show that 4,547,000 tons could be supplied to provide the wants of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, without taking into account the potentialities of Nigeria and Uganda.

Australia and South Africa look after themselves in the way of protecting their sugar industries. Under the high protective tariff of Australia, the Queensland cane industry is steadily growing, while endeavours are being made to start a beet industry in Victoria. With good crops the Australian sugar industry is nearly equal to the consumption, and the possible output represents a considerable surplus for export, probably 200,000 tons. The South African production is still short of requirements, but quite 200,000 tons would be available for export in the event of the Natal industry being fully developed.

The Canadian beet sugar industry has made till lately slow progress during the many years of its existence, and at present the output is only 17,000 tons. Canada has, therefore, to depend almost entirely upon outside sources for her sugar supplies, and soon saw the advantage of securing a supply of sugar, thus providing a favourable market for British West Indian sugars.

There remains, therefore, for the present wants of Canada and the United Kingdom, amounting to 2,300,000 tons with an increase in normal times of about 46,000 tons per annum, a possibility of supply of 4,090,000 tons from British sources, 2,740,000 tons from British Guiana and the British West Indies, 400,000 tons from Australia and South Africa, 500,000 tons from British East Africa, 300,000 tons from Mauritius, and 150,000

Jamaica has since raised its estimate to 100,000 tons per annum, which would bring this total to 340,000.

tons from Fiji, besides large quantities from Nigeria and Uganda.

How can these potential sources of supply be converted into practical propositions?

As regards the home beet industry, the Government have done what is needful in giving protection to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. per ton. It is possible that some sugar may be derived from this source, but it is certainly to the tropical British Colonies, the natural home of the sugar cane, that the people of this country should look for the bulk of their sugar.

This British Colonial supply could be obtained by suitable preferential treatment of the Colonial sugar in the customs tariff of the United Kingdom.

The recommendations of the Allies' Economic Conference have made it clear that all treaties of commerce between the Allies and the Enemy Powers have been put an end to by the War. Great Britain is thus freed from her pledge given in connection with the Brussels Convention—which has now gone by the board—not to give a preference to the Colonies, and the road is clear for the encouragement of sugar production within the Empire on the lines advocated by the West India Committee.

Surely the benefit to the general consumers of this country of a dependable British supply, the advantages to our engineers, merchants, and steamship owners, which would accrue from the establishment of a Colonial industry would be generally welcomed. And if the Empire bonds are to be securely tied commercially after the War, as they have been by the spirit of Imperial patriotism during the War, surely the preferential treatment of Colonial sugar in the customs tariff of the United Kingdom is a natural outcome of the lessons of the past.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN INDIA.

Mr. Wynne Sayer, Assistant to the Agricultural Adviser to the Indian Government, calls attention in a recent issue of the *Agricultural Journal for India* to the steady increase in the importation of cheap white sugar, which he regards as matter for grave consideration.

India is the largest producer of sugar (crude, cane sugar, mostly in the form of *gur*) in the world. The annual production in round numbers amounts to 3,000,000 tons, cane sugar and *gur* about 2,600,000 tons, palm sugar close on 500,000 tons. But the annual consumption is over 3,750,000 tons, which leaves a deficit of over 750,000 tons, which is met by importation of white sugar from Java and other sugar-producing countries, of which over 800,000 tons were imported in 1913-14.

While it is true that some part of these imported foreign sugars is utilised for mixing with *gur* to give it the appearance of country-made sugar so as to command the higher price which some people are willing to pay, and the sweetmeat makers take an increasing quantity of white sugar as the pure white colour suits their trade, yet there is no doubt that in consequence of the changes in taste resulting from the educational and economic development of

India an increasing amount of refined sugar is being consumed in this country.

But while the market for refined sugar is expanding yearly, this by no means indicates that the demand for unrefined sugar or *gur* is decreasing. The general rise in wages and the increased value of agricultural produce have enabled a large number of cultivators and the labouring population to increase their demand for this commodity, and as things stand at present it looks as though the demand from this quarter will steadily increase. At any rate, as this form of raw sugar is both nourishing and cheap, and enters into many Indian food preparations, it is safe to assume that for some considerable time to come the market for good *gur* will remain steady.

It is sometimes asked: Can India, besides satisfying her demand for raw sugar, produce the 800,000 tons of white sugar imported from abroad? The official forecast of the current year's area sown with cane is about 2,500,000 acres, so that if India is to be made self-supporting, the cultivation of this crop would have to be enlarged by about 25 per cent. on the existing cultivation, or manufacturing yields should be increased so as to produce the required quantity of both raw and white sugar. It will at once strike anyone who has studied the conditions under which sugar-cane is grown and jaggery manufactured in India that the margin for improvement is so enormous that it is not necessary to take the land from other food crops to increase the total outturn.

India's Wasteful Methods.

In India, with its 2,500,000 acres under cane, there is room for both *gur* and sugar. But the losses in extraction and manufacture should be brought down to a minimum. To give an instance of the waste taking place at present, it is calculated that the amount of sugar burnt in the megass as fuel and the loss of sugar from direct heating over the fire is nearly equal to India's imports. This is one of the consequences of the cultivator assuming the *role* of a manufacturer, which, it may safely be said, he has not taken up as a matter of choice or from natural aptitude. If the maximum quantity of white sugar is to be obtained, factories run on up-to-date methods should be multiplied in tracts where cane cultivation is concentrated. These factories should put up powerful machinery for crushing cane, so as to obtain the largest possible extraction, and evaporation should take place *in vacuo*, and not in open pans.

It will thus be seen that while in all other sugar-producing countries attention is concentrated on the realisation of the greatest amount of sucrose (white crystallisable sugar), in India two sorts of products are manufactured—viz., pure refined sugar and jaggery or *gur*, which latter is a mixture of crystallisable and uncrystallisable sugar. The *gur*, which is most prized for consumption generally, has a light colour and good flavour. But it does not necessarily have a high standard of sucrose. There is a great variation in prices of jaggery throughout India, which is to some extent due to differences in quality and appearance, and also to local tastes and prejudices.

It may be noted that a good quality *gur* manufactured for direct eating is not quite suitable for refining. The good quality *gur*, as mentioned above, does not necessarily have a high sucrose content, which is the *sine qua non* in the *gur* intended for refining. Further, in order to produce light-coloured *gur* suitable for eating, it is necessary that lime should be very sparingly used, while for the *gur* which is ultimately to be refined larger quantities of lime are required to produce a stable chemical composition. Juice of good colour and a moderate coefficient of purity is the best for good eating *gur*, whereas it should be of high purity for the manufacture of jaggery for refining. Soft and well crystallised *gur* is well suited for refining. Extremely hard and burnt *gur* never goes through the refining process at all. While the production of sugar direct from the cane is to be encouraged, as it is more expensive, first to make jaggery and then to refine it, than it is to extract sugar direct from the juice, still it may not be out of place to mention that as jaggery can be refined with the loss of about 25 per cent. raw material in the process, and as the crushing season lasts for about four months only, and some factories use jaggery for the remaining part of the year to keep them going, any large increase in the manufacture of *gur*, coupled with a fall in its price, will enable the refineries to work at a profit, and so increase India's production of sugar.

The Refining Industry Limited.

At present the refining industry is limited, as the losses incurred in the refining of raw sugar are serious. Firstly, the quality of the raw sugar usually offered by cultivators for sale is so poor that it yields a low percentage of sugar when refined. Secondly, if the refinery is to be kept working throughout the year, the raw material has to be stored with the resulting deterioration, so that it not infrequently happens that when refining, nearly 50 per cent. comes out as molasses. This leaves very little margin of profit unless money is made out of molasses. It is said that in Java a large quantity of the molasses is allowed to run to waste, but the methods adopted in a country so favourably situated for sugar production cannot be recommended for use in one where a profit must be made out of everything if the industry is to get a firm hold. If the inverted sugar is utilised in the manufacture of spirits or denatured alcohol for industrial purposes, or if molasses is mixed with the meal from the oil-seeds and crushed and compressed into cakes or cakettes, it will materially assist in the expansion of the industry in India.

The increasing imports of foreign sugar have threatened with extinction that part of the indigenous sugar industry which makes white sugar from *rab*, an industry of some importance in the United Provinces.

The average monthly consumption of sugar in France during the year ended March 31st last was 54,072 tons, as compared with 59,213 tons before the War.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

The Intercolonial Conference on Immigration foreshadowed in these columns has now met in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The delegates are the Hon. St. John Branch, K.C., Attorney-General, and the Hon. P. C. Cork, representing Jamaica; Hon. J. Hampden King and Mr. H. R. Murray, British Guiana; and Major Hon. H. A. de Bois-siere, Protector of Immigrants, and Hon. W. G. Kay, Trinidad. The Hon. A. P. Sherlock and Mr. J. M. Fleming, of the British Guiana Planters' Association, have also arrived in the island to attend the Conference in an advisory capacity, but without the power of voting.

The West India Committee, after canvassing the proprietors resident in this country, have sent a cable message summarising their views on the immigration question to the delegates, and it is hoped that the suggestions made will assist the Conference to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a system of free immigration for India into the British West Indies. Later in the year the recommendations of the Intercolonial Conference will be considered by an Interdepartmental Committee, which will sit at the Colonial Office.

Free Immigration into Malaya.

Reference is made in the annual report of the Planters' Association of Malaya for 1915 to the labour conditions in the Malay States. It appears that the importation of labour from Southern India continues to be controlled by the Indian Immigration Committee under Rules and Regulations which have now for some considerable time remained unaltered.

The Committee was created in 1907 with the primary object of encouraging and promoting a free flow of Indian labour to the Peninsula. It was given statutory powers to levy an assessment on all employers of South Indian labour, and the money so raised forms a fund which is administered by the Government with the Committee's advice, the Government defraying the cost of administering the Department both in this country and in India.

One of the aims of the Committee was to encourage all employers in Malaya to individual effort in recruiting in India, thereby eliminating the unsatisfactory practice of "Local Recruiting," by which a section of employers were placed in a position to compete successfully for the services of labourers introduced into the country by other employers at considerable expense. To encourage and develop this latter form of recruiting, a payment known as a "recruiting allowance" is made from the Fund to employers for each labourer recruited in India and brought over to this country. The amount of assessment levied and recruiting allowances paid, vary with the position of the Fund, the rates in 1915 having been:—

Assessment \$1 per quarter calculated on 78 days' work.
Recruiting allowance, \$5 per head.

Other payments made from the Fund include:—
Train fares of immigrants from villages in India to depots at Negapatam or Madras.

Feeding at depots while awaiting embarkation.

Passages from India to port of disembarkation.

Quarantine expenses at the port of disembarkation.

Transport from port of disembarkation to Estate.

It will thus be seen that the cost to the employer in importing labour is theoretically only the commission paid to the Kangany or recruiter in India. If therefore the commission is low enough, the cost will not exceed the recruiting allowance made. The assessment rate of \$4 for 312 days' work is equivalent to 1.28 cents per working day, which would appear to be a very small price to pay for the maintenance of the system. The volume of immigration from India, which was checked in 1914, increased appreciably during 1915, and that it has not again reached normal dimensions is largely due to a dearth of steamers. The following are the figures supplied by the Labour Authorities, of arrivals and departures of Indian Immigrants for the past ten years:—

Years:—	Arrivals.	Departures.	Net Gains.
1906	52,041	21,879	30,162
1907	62,274	30,522	31,752
1908	54,522	30,420	24,102
1909	49,817	31,374	18,443
1910	83,723	39,080	44,643
1911	108,471	48,303	60,168
1912	106,928	63,585	43,343
1913	118,583	70,090	48,493
1914	51,217	63,073	-11,856 loss
1915	75,323	50,320	25,003

The conditions under which Indian labourers are employed in Malaya have greatly improved in recent years. Housing accommodation and sanitary arrangements have been bettered and the average health of immigrants would compare favourably with that of towns in England. The only remaining blot is the drink problem, and the Association has been pressing throughout the year for more effective measures.

Wages earned average from 30 to 40 cents per diem, and allow of good living and a fair margin for savings, which, at the high exchange value of the dollar, can be profitably remitted to India. The amount remitted to India during the year by money order was as follows:—

From Federated Malay States	Rs. 3,531,793
From Straits Settlements	Rs. 2,654,130

The fact remains, that there is not yet sufficient labour in the Peninsula and until there is, it is obvious that complaints will continue as to unfair competition for what labour there is locally available. Such has in fact been the case and the Association throughout the year has had to deal with the question of Absconding, Crimping and cognate matters. The attitude of the Government has not been one of ready sympathy and it is perhaps significant to note a recent speech of the Viceroy of India, in which he announced that on the representation of his Government, two Colonies, Fiji and Trinidad, had already agreed to repeal all punitive legislation in regard to labour offences, other than fines.

The following figures obtained from the Labour Department show the Indian populations on Estates in the Federated Malay States and Colony as at 31st December, 1915:—

Straits Settlements.		F.M.S.	
Penang	240	Perak	50,008
Province Wellesley	9,277	Selangor	63,778
Dindings	1,575	Negeri Sembilan	10,073
Malacca	7,869	Pahang	1,583
Singapore	928		
	19,829		126,347

The number of Indian labourers employed on Estates in the Federated Malay States is thus estimated at 126,347 as compared with 120,000 a year ago. With the development of the rubber industry it is being found that fewer labourers are required per acre than was at one time anticipated, but for some years to come any falling off in requirements in this respect will probably be counterbalanced by the substitution of Indian for Chinese labour in districts which have not yet been developed sufficiently long to have become suitable for the employment of the former.

Chinese are still largely employed on Estates in Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Johore and parts of Perak and Selangor. A dearth of this class of labour caused by the repatriation of some 12,000 in 1914/15 and the stoppage of immigration from China led to smart increase in the rate of wages. Unrestricted immigration was resumed in July, 1915, though only after many representations to the Government had been made by the Association to that effect. That the position is now less acute, than at one time it threatened, can be seen from the subjoined table, which gives the estimate estate population of Chinese in the Federated Malay States for the last three years:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.
Perak	3,236	4,085	4,809
Selangor	8,478	5,441	6,110
Negri Sembilan	12,186	12,829	15,075
Pahang	1,181	1,645	1,452
Total F.M.S.	25,081	34,000	27,446

"PROFESSOR" PILE.

Guiana's Alligator Expert.

By G. E. BODKIN, F.E.S., F.Z.S.

A well-known figure about Georgetown, British Guiana, is "Professor" Pile, the famous hunter of alligators and camoodies. Born in the Colony, but of Barbadian descent, forty-five years of age, and standing well over six feet, Pile has devoted the last twenty years of his life to catching and preserving the skins of these reptiles for sale.

The largest alligator which he has ever caught measured exactly 8½ feet, while the largest water camoodie measured 34 feet in length. (This measurement probably refers to the skin after preservation, as it is possible to stretch them considerably during this operation.)

Pile is a real student of nature and can supply information regarding the most obscure incidents in the lives of the animals which he catches. Nature study of any kind is extremely rare among the natives of British Guiana, and Pile tells an interesting narrative of how he first took up this work through the vivid impression left by a dream.

His apparatus consists of a long series of slender, limber, wooden poles securely lashed together. At the end of this is affixed a running noose of fine but strong cord. A capacious basket slung over

his shoulder for the reception of his catches completes the outfit. He may often be seen in the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, moving quietly about the numerous trenches and lakes all the time making the curious "call" of the alligators which is best described as a kind of "sucking grunt"; it is an entirely characteristic noise.

A slight disturbance among the aquatic weeds on the surface indicates that an alligator has responded. Very cautiously and carefully the running noose is introduced over the head of the reptile, and as soon as this is accomplished the long pole is given a powerful upward jerk which tightens the noose, and the unfortunate animal is dragged from the water and placed in the basket.

In the handling of these creatures Pile is quite fearless and, of course, extremely skilful. He does a big trade in the selling of stuffed specimens, and his productions are extremely life-like and do him great credit. Examples of his handiwork are to be seen in almost every home in the colony, and many other parts of the globe.

During the alligator egg-laying season Pile collects innumerable eggs which he hatches, eventually stuffing and selling the baby alligators. The illustrations show him carefully introducing the running noose over the head of an alligator (which cannot be seen in the plate), and, with the aid of his hand, producing the curious alligator "call."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The dramatic advance of the Russians has sent a wave of unreasoning optimism through the British Press. The statisticians have again proved that Germany is falling back on men and boys, as they have done at intervals since August, 1914, and the most moderate of the prophets predicts that the war is at its turning-point. The trouble is that in this country, which, unlike France and Russia, is not disciplined by invasion, such optimism tends to a slackening of effort. What the public do not fully realise is that the conditions of warfare in the West are imposed upon us by Germany, and that it is not enough to parry blows, we must be in a position to return. In short, we must wrest the initiative from the enemy, and it will take all our united strength. For when he is no longer able to fight for dominion he will fight for existence, and will, probably, fight for that with desperation. France is doing all she can, and a little more, Russia has as much as she can do in the Eastern and Asiatic fronts.

The Russian Front.

The Russian drive in Volhynia, Galicia, and the Bukovina is continuing, though necessarily at a slower rate. The Austrian losses in prisoners alone amount to nearly 175,000 men, or something like five army corps, and the booty, big guns excepted, is in proportion. Evidently the enemy has been completely taken by surprise, having been under

the impression that Russia was knocked out by her defeats last year. With infinite pains and patience he fortified and strengthened his line solely for defensive purposes until he should be ready to launch another offensive after the victory he had promised himself in the West. But Russia has upset his calculations for the second time since 1914, and not only broken through his front at Lutsk, when, if anywhere, he had expected attack in the Bukovina, and swept forward at one point fifty miles, carrying his elaborate defences with ease. The result is that now there are two great bulges in the Austrian line, one north of Tarnopol, as far as Czartorysk, and west as far as the upper reaches of the Zlota-Lipa; the other south of Tarnopol, and including Czerowitz, the capital of the Bukovina, which has thus changed hands five times in the War. As at Tarnopol the Russians remain on the defensive, the Austrian forces are divided into two.

Apparently the Russian strategy is devised on the same lines which proved so successful in 1914. They are moving on Lemberg from the north and south-east, but the Germans are fighting stubbornly to prevent them from getting possession of an important step on the road—the railway junction at Kovel; and in the north Hindenburg is endeavouring to effect a distraction by violently bombarding General Kuropatkin's positions, but with little success. In the south the retreat of the Austrians continues, for the Russians have already crossed the Sereth, but it is expected that resistance will be desperate on the new defensive positions at the foot of the Carpathians and east of Lemberg.

Russia's Curtain Fire.

This is familiar on the Western front, and has been intense all through the battle—or battles—of Verdun. But apparently Russia has gone one better than the Teuton, and there is grim irony in the fact that Austria should be the first to suffer, for it was her invention in heavy ordnance which rendered the invasion of Belgium comparatively easy. Not only has our Ally a new shell and explosive, but, having an amplitude of guns, she has followed the tactics adopted on the Dunajetz, but upon an enormously extended front. So successful has she been that the enemy has been cut off from his communications, and thus deprived of any opportunity of retreat or securing reinforcements. This in the main accounts for the large captures of prisoners, the Germans who tried to support the Austrians sharing their fate. Apparently the number of killed and wounded has been relatively small, or some mention would have been made of such casualties. That few big guns were taken by the Russians may have been due to the inability of the Austrians to bring up their heavy artillery in time, or to their mobility as conferred on them by motor traction. Another interesting feature of the Russian advance was their frequent use of cavalry.

The Offensive against Verdun.

After a lull longer than usual, the enemy resumed his attacks, with undiminished violence, on Mort Homme, which is on the right bank of the Meuse, and on Mort Homme, which is on the left bank;

but his success is unappreciable. The French, not content with repelling the German attacks, launched one of their own upon the enemy trenches on Mort Homme, and captured half a mile of line, which they were forced to evacuate a short time since, and to hold it against counter-attacks. But as yet there is no sign that the enemy has any intention of abandoning the offensive, which has proved so costly to him in this sector. Perhaps he dare not, and in any case the peril in the East is not so imminent to Germany as it is to her Ally, for between her and invasion stands conquered Poland as a buffer. So far there has been no weakening of the enemy's forces by the despatch of troops to Galicia and the Bukovina. Moreover, it is reported that the Germans are preparing to launch more violent attacks against Verdun than ever.

On the British Front.

The Ypres salient is one of the enemy's favourite points of attack. That it has not been abandoned is proof of Sir Douglas Haig's belief in our ability to hold the line. Another proof is the fact that the name is part of Field-Marshal Lord French's title. The Canadians are helping to maintain the glorious British traditions of the place, for they have brilliantly retaken all the Zillebeke positions which they lost a few weeks ago. They are showing the greatest gallantry in holding on, despite terrific bombardments by the German artillery. All along the British front there is ceaseless activity, a handsome tribute to which has recently been paid by the French Military Bureau.

The Italian Front.

If the German front is all one, so is the Allied front. Hence the advance of the Russians is being felt in the Trentino, where the Italians have been having an anxious time. For at one point the enemy was only five miles from the plain of Lombardy. The invading wave reached its turning-point on the transverse ridge which runs south of the Posina. How near it was to success may be gathered from the fact that in the valley of the Astico the Austrians had gained possession of the Cengio height and the valley of Cavaglia, through which they were marching on Cagallo, which stands on the left bank of the Astico, and is only two miles from Golfrano, where the Astico valley opens into the plain of Thiene. The latest news reports a vigorous offensive by General Cadorna, whose troops are driving the Austrians from most of this territory back to their original line.

The Allies and Greece.

The Greek Government has given over to the Bulgarians more forts on the frontier, while the Allies have occupied an island opposite Kavalla. The naval pressure continues, in consequence of which another Cabinet has fallen, and the Allies have sent a Note to Greece demanding an effective demobilisation of her army, dissolution of the Chamber, fresh elections, and the removal of certain officials. But why was not this coercion of Greece undertaken months ago?

At Sea.

On June 13th the Germans were convoying fourteen merchantmen with an escort consisting of one auxiliary cruiser, the *Hermann*, and a flotilla of torpedo boats and armed trawlers. As it was not of sufficient strength to defend the convoy against destroyer attack, the enemy expected none, or he had no light cruisers or destroyers available to guard against it, owing to the losses he suffered in the great battle off Jutland on May 31st. The Russian flotilla made a night attack, sank the *Hermann* and two torpedo boats, besides several vessels of the convoy.

H.M. torpedo-boat destroyer *Eden* has been sunk in the Channel as the result of a collision. Of the crew thirty-one were saved.

In East Africa

The converging movements in this theatre, in spite of the dense bush and want of water, are steadily advancing. Handeni, the waggon bridge over the Pangani river, the bridge-head of the light railway running to the south-west of Mombasa, on the Moshi-Fanga railway; Alt Langenburg, at the head of Lake Nyasa; and an island off the port of Nyanza, on Lake Victoria, from whose extremity the Belgian line extends to the extremity of Tanganyika, have all been occupied. The Germans, who are putting up a good fight, aided by the enormous area of the colony, fever, heat, pests, and the nature of the country, are retreating on the central railway.

Aerial Raid in Egypt.

A most successful raid has been carried out by British aviators on the Turkish aerodrome at El Arish, to the east of the Suez Canal. Of the ten hangars, two were destroyed and four were hit many times. An enemy plane, about to fly, was also destroyed. Our losses were three machines, the pilots of which were rescued in exciting circumstances, which proved their skill and resource.

The French have carried out a great air raid, bombs having been dropped on Treves, Karlsruhe, and Mulheim.

(To be continued.)

AT WESTMINSTER.

Americans as "British" Vice-Consuls.

On June 1st Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Vice-Consul at San Juan, Porto Rico, was a British subject; whether all of the Vice-Consuls in the island were British subjects; and whether he had been informed by them that several British insurance companies were represented in Porto Rico by German firms?

Mr. Chamberlain: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Three of the Vice-Consuls in Cuba are British subjects; the other three are American citizens. There is no record of any German firm acting as agent for a British insurance company. I shall be obliged if my hon. Friend will furnish me with any information which he may possess on the subject.

[According to our information five British insurance companies are represented by essentially German firms in Porto Rico. Of these insurance companies two are Canadian. A German firm also represents a British firm of thread manufacturers in the island. In 1915 the "British" Vice-Consul in Porto Rico was a neutral foreigner who went on leave towards the end of that year.—Ed.]

Our Dependence on Foreigners for Sugar.

In the discussion in Committee of the House of Commons on June 21st on the Clause in the Finance Bill increasing the customs duty on sugar, Mr. Lough moved its rejection, and said that the change meant an increase of 1d. to the tax on sugar, which would realise £7,000,000 a year and make the tax on our third most important articles of consumption £21,000,000. He had no confidence whatever in the Sugar Commission who, he said, did not know what profit was being made over their sales of sugar. He claimed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was mainly responsible for the dearth of sugar. Captain S. Arnold supported Mr. Lough's protest.

Mr. McKenna, replying, said that at that moment the wholesale price of sugar in bond in this country was lower than the wholesale price of sugar in America also in bond. It appeared to be overlooked by his right hon. and hon. Friends that before the War our main source of supply of sugar was beet sugar obtained from enemy countries. We were, in fact, exclusively supplied with German and Austrian sugar, and the price which they had given us as the pre-war price of sugar represented the price of German and Austrian beet sugar. The withdrawal of German and Austrian beet sugar from the world's market had greatly restricted the supply of sugar for the general consumption of the world outside Germany and Austria. We had to remember that those two countries were almost the biggest exporters of sugar in the world. He said "almost," because more sugar was obtained from Cuba than refined sugar from Germany and Austria. The outbreak of War withdrew at once from the world's supply of sugar an enormous source in the German and Austrian output. The effect was immediately a rise in the price of sugar. What his right hon. and hon. Friends overlooked was this great fact, that to-day it was no longer German and Austrian beet which governed the price of sugar for consumption in this country. At that moment it was the price of Cuban sugar which governed the price of sugar in the American markets. Cuban sugar was now the great source of supply during these months of the year, and it was the price of Cuban sugar which governed the price of American refined sugar in the American market. When his hon. and right hon. Friends complained of the price of sugar in this country, they must remember that we did not produce sugar, either in our own country or in any of our Colonies, in any appreciable degree. We had to depend on foreign supplies.

The price of sugar was entirely outside the control of the Sugar Commission, and depended entirely upon Java and Cuba. We could not continue selling sugar, wholesale in bond cheaper than it was sold in America as we were doing at present. So far from anticipating a drop in price he anticipated that there would have to be a rise.

He denied that the masses were being hurt by the sugar duty. In spite of the enormous increase of price consumption had not been greatly reduced.

[Mr. McKenna's admission forms the strongest possible indictment of the attitude of the pre-war Government of which he was a member towards sugar. In spite of repeated warnings as to the danger of our dependence on foreign countries, and notably Germany and Austria, for our sugar supply, and of our gross neglect of the Colonial sugar industry, nothing whatever was done to remedy the position.—Ed.]

THE group of men of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent facing page 248 was taken shortly before the departure of several of them for France. The names from left to right are:—Top row, standing: J. Kernahan, Frank Rooks, Eric Duruty, Robert E. Quesnel, and L. Porteous. Second row, seated: John R. Rochford, Horace Rapsey, Maurice de Verteuil, A. Hamel-Smith, and Laurie Trestrail. Bottom row, seated, Robert A. Wade, P. S. Maingot, Sergeant P. Lange, Arthur Potter, and Louis Prada.

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

Beresford, Lieut. E. P. (of Ramble, Hanover, Jamaica), North Irish Horse.
 Calder, Gunner Clarence A. (nephew of Mr. Charles M. Calder, of Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica). The Honourable Artillery Company.
 Cook, Cecil Haddon (son of Mr. W. H. Cook, Superintendent of the Orphan Asylum, British Guiana), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
 Farrar, P. W. (son of the Rt. Rev. Walter Farrar, late Bishop of Honduras), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
 Kilminster, George (for four years manager of *The Mirror* of Trinidad), Royal Garrison Artillery.
 Martin, George W. (Clerk of the West Indian Club), Army Service Corps.
 Mendes, Private Hugh M. (of Trinidad), Royal Army Medical Corps.
 Millholland, Private A. W. (son of Mr. J. F. Millholland, Crown Solicitor of Jamaica), 28th County of London Regiment. The Artists Rifles.
 Waterman, Private R. O. (son of Mr. Arnold Waterman, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), 17th Batt. Highland Light Infantry.
 Watts, John Weldon (second son of Dr. the Hon. Francis Watts, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies), Royal Marine Submarine Miners.

Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT J. H. BROWNE, of the 9th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who was killed in action in Mesopotamia in March, was a son of a former proprietor of Belair Estate in St. Vincent. "Jack" Browne, as he was called locally, was a great favourite in the island and in Trinidad, where he was employed before the War broke out.

SERGEANT WELLESLEY S. TAYLOR, of the Royal Montreal Infantry of Canada, who has been killed in action, was one of the first Trinidadians in Canada to join the colours after the outbreak of war. He was formerly an overseer on an estate at Caura, in Trinidad, and a popular member of the Home Cricket Club.

Died of Wounds.

SECOND LIEUTENANT G. GERVASE BUSHE, of the Cheshire Regiment, we regret to state succumbed on June 4th to the wounds which he received in France at the end of May. He was the son of the Hon. R. Gervase Bushe, C.M.G., Auditor-General of Trinidad and Tobago, and a nephew of Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, of Port of Spain. Colonel Aspinall, D.S.O., the Officer Commanding the battalion in which Mr. Bushe was serving, writes that the entire regiment feels the greatest regret at the death of this gallant young officer. He was much loved by all ranks, especially in "B," his own Company. Some few days before his death, when a rumour was circulated that he had died, the men were anxious that a service to his memory should at once be held in the field.

A further list of subscriptions to the West Indian Contingent Fund will be published in next issue.

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts, which they have received at 5, Trevor Square, S.W.:

Miss Phillips: 12 prs. socks for Jamaica Contingent.
 Mrs. Doveton: 2 cardigans, 1 trench cooker.
 Hartley Wintney Working Guild: 12 small pillows.
 Miss Estridge: games and cigarettes.
 Miss Trevor Smith: 4 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Vere Oliver: 7 prs. flannel trousers, 4 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens, 8 pkgs. tobacco, 9 pkts. cigarettes, books and magazines.
 Mrs. Alleyne: 1 parcel of books.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: magazines.
 The Working Guild, Lauriston, Hartley Wintney: 30 carbolic slirts, 10 prs. carbolic pants, 50 flat bandages, 5 large bandages, 90 roller bandages, 40 round swabs, 10 abdominal bandages.

The Ladies' Committee are further greatly indebted to the Eastern League, of which Lady Hayes Sadler is President, and the Oriental Circle of the Lyceum Club for their very kind assistance in connection with the working parties and making of garments for the men abroad.

Gifts of socks (large size), which are much needed at the moment for men who have come over and enlisted independently, and of games, puzzles, and musical instruments for invalids in hospital, will be welcomed by the West Indian Contingent Committee. Such gifts should be sent carriage paid to the Hon. Secretary, 5, Trevor Square, S.W., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

WESTWARD HO! IN THE DAYS OF DRAKE.

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

The following article is taken from the Darnell Davis manuscripts at the Royal Colonial Institute, and is now published for the first time.

"The West Indies is the station for honour," said Nelson to Admiral Digby, in 1782.

In 1805, when the combined fleets of France and Spain, under Villeneuve and Gravina, disappeared from European waters, to try to carry out a deeply-laid scheme of Napoleon against Great Britain, Nelson said: "England cannot be wounded in a more tender part than the West Indies. There I go." It is, in fact, to the Navy mainly, as the means of sea power, that Britain owes her possessions in the West Indian Islands, and in Guiana, on the North-Eastern Coast of South America. By sea power were most of these Colonies acquired, and by sea power have all of them been held, after severe struggles with Spain, and afterwards with France.

After establishing themselves on the noble island of Hayti, which they named Hispaniola,* but which came to be better known as San Domingo, the Spaniards took possession, one by one, of the islands of Cuba, Porto Rico, and Jamaica. They then went to the mainland, where, in 1521, Cortez conquered Mexico, in Central America, and, in 1533, Pizarro

* Hispaniola is now divided between the coloured Republic of San Domingo and the black Republic of Hayti. Spanish is spoken in the former, and French in the latter.

conquered Peru, in South America; as is described in the glowing pages of Prescott, the American historian. Later on, Chili; the country of the La Plata (now included in Argentina), Venezuela, Guatemala, and other territories were added to the Crown of Spain.*

By right of discovery, the Spaniards claimed that all of America belonged to their Crown, excepting only such parts as went to Portugal. This exclusive property in the New World was not, however, admitted by the Kings of France and England. Henry VII. commissioned John Cabot, a Venetian navigator, and his sons, of whom Sebastian became famous, to prosecute discoveries in the New World, and to set up the King's standard in any territory there not possessed by any Christian prince. The immediate result of that expedition was the discovery of Newfoundland. The subsequent establishment there of the fisheries was the outcome of an attempt, in 1536, by Robert Thorne, a merchant of Bristol, in his search for a passage to India by the North-West, when he touched at Newfoundland. These fisheries came to be a great nursery for English seamen, and especially for Devonshire men. For many years however, they were shared by other European nations, and especially by the French. The King of France—Francis the First—said he would like "to see the clause in Adam's will which entitled his brothers of Castile and Portugal to divide the New World between them"; and he sent forth Verrazano, a Florentine navigator, to discover territories for the Crown of France. Some years later, followed Jacques Cartier, a French mariner; and, years afterward, Samuel Champlain, the pioneer in colonizing North America for France, and the founder of Quebec, in 1609. The outcome of their explorations was the possession by France of Canada, or New France.

Wealth flowed from the New World into Spain, and provided means for the predominant military power that Charles V. and Philip II. wielded in Europe. Gold and silver came in such quantities as to depreciate the value of money to an extent not known before or since.† The fame of the riches of America excited the cupidity and stimulated the enterprise of Englishmen, and especially of the men of Devonshire. One of these latter, Captain John Hawkins, was the pioneer of the Elizabethan adventurers to the West Indies, whose exploits fill so

many pages in the collections of *Voyages* made by Hakluyt and Purchas.

Hawkins had made several voyages to the Canary Islands, which were known to the ancients as the *Fortunate Isles*. There he learned that "negroes were very good merchandise in Hispaniola, and that store of negroes might easily be had upon the Coast of Guinea." Having resolved to "make trial thereof," he was joined in the venture by several Londoners, who found the money needed. Three vessels: the *Salomon* (120 tons), the *Swallow* (100), and the *Jonas* (40), were fitted out for the expedition. It sailed, under the command of Hawkins, in October, 1562, and returned to England in September, 1563. Three hundred black men were procured on the Coast of Guinea, "partly by the sword, and partly by other means." At three ports in Hispaniola the blacks were exchanged for "such quantity of merchandise that he did not only lade his owne 3 shippes with hides, ginger, sugars, and some quantity of pearles, but he freighted also 2 other hulkes with hides, and other like commodities, which he sent into Spain." In 1565 and 1568 Hawkins carried more Africans, as slaves, to the West Indies. He founded the English slave trade with West Africa: a traffic that brought untold wealth to England, but to the Africans themselves unspeakable misery.* It was the cause of ever-recurring wars among the natives, with the object of making prisoners to supply the slave traders, who

"Cut off that Charter they from Nature drew,
And made them slaves to men they never knew."

Among the master-mariners who accompanied Hawkins on his voyage to Africa and the West Indies, in 1567-68, was his kinsman, Captain Francis Drake, who commanded the *Judith*. Drake, then 23 or 24 years of age, had been bred to the sea from his boyhood, serving his apprenticeship under a stern master, and "was thereby fitted to suffer the fatigues and labours of the sea." As early as 1565-66 he had engaged with Captain Lovel and others in a voyage to the West Indies, when he "received much wrong from the Spaniards at Rio de la Hacha." In 1568, with Hawkins at St. John d'Ulloa, in the Bay of Mexico, Drake fared still worse at the hands of the Spaniards, losing all his goods and several of his kinsmen and friends, himself hardly escaping with his life; notwithstanding that Hawkins had leave from the King of Spain to trade in all parts of the West Indies.†

(To be continued.)

*When Milton shows the New World to the Archangel Michael, he says:—

"In spirit perhaps he also saw
Rich Mexico, the seat of Montezume,
And Cusco in Peru, the richer seat
Of Atabalipa, and yet unspoil'd
Guiana, whose great city Geryon's sons
Call El Dorado."

Paradise Lost.

The Spanish possessions in America were governed as follows:—By Viceroy: New Spain (Mexico); New Granada (Colombia); Peru (Peru and Bolivia); and La Plata (Argentina). By Captains-General: Yucatan; New Andalusia (Venezuela); Chili; Guatemala (Guatemala); Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Veragua; and Cuba.

† £20,000,000 a year flowed into Cadiz from the New World.

In the first month following the reopening of the Panama Canal—that is, from April 15th to May 14th—122 vessels availed themselves of the waterway.

* The west coast of Africa came within the sphere of the Portuguese by the Papal Bull of division, and the Portuguese carried slaves to Hispaniola soon after the discovery.

† In order to realize the extent of the outrage committed by the Spaniards on this occasion, it should be borne in mind that the Spanish Plate Fleet had been in the power of Hawkins, but he had not taken out of it "one ounce of silver, but kept his faith and promise in all places."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE production of beet sugar in Canada has risen from 9,522 tons in 1911 to 17,641 tons last year.

Mrs. B. S. DAVIS, wife of the Hon. B. S. Davis, of Lamberts, St. Kitts, Miss Davis, and Mr. H. Waterland were recent passengers by the R.M.S.P. *Chaleur* to St. John, N.B., en route for England.

Mr. C. LAGEMANN, having decided to retire, has resigned his position as a Director of C. Czarnikow, Ltd. Mr. Th. Westrik having retired last September, the Board now consists of Messrs. J. C. Ganzoni, R. W. Sharples, Frank H. Townend, C. Fred Worters, and Hugh McLean.

THE prosperity of the sugar industry is reflected by the dividends being paid by companies in neutral countries, which, being subject to no extra taxation, are reaping the full benefit of the rise in prices. According to Messrs. Willet and Gray, the South Porto Rico Sugar Company has just declared an extra cash dividend of 20 per cent. and a stock dividend of 18 per cent. on the common stock, in addition to the usual quarterly dividends of 5 per cent.

A WEST INDIAN prisoner of war, who received the attention of the West Indian Contingent Committee whilst he was in Germany, has been transferred to Switzerland. He writes from Chateau d'Oex: "A heartier welcome or more hospitality could not have been given us in England (or Canada) than that given us by the Swiss authorities and people. I naturally take this opportunity of again thanking you for the grub parcels you so kindly sent me. Of course here such would be an insult and not a necessity."

AMONG recent marriages of West Indian interest has been that of Miss Leila Bushe, eldest daughter of Mr. R. J. Scott Bushe, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, to Jocelyn Maynard Payne, second son of the late Mr. J. F. Lavington Payne, of Grenada, which was solemnised at the Church of St. Columba, Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on June 1st by the Rev. J. A. Osborne. The bride is well known in Georgetown, British Guiana, and Grenada; the bridegroom holds a position with the Royal Trust Company, Montreal.

MR. GEO. J. KILMINSTER, manager of the *Mirror* of Trinidad, who, as stated in last CIRCULAR, came over recently to join the Colours, has also joined the army of Benedicts. On June 24th he was married at Holy Trinity Church, Leyton, to Gladys Maud, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. J. Heard, of Leyton, Essex. The honeymoon was a brief one, for on June 28th Mr. Kilminster took up his duties with the Royal Garrison Artillery, in which he had meanwhile enlisted. We congratulate our patriotic friend on this double event.

We have been asked by a member of the family of the late Archbishop of the West Indies (Dr. E. Nuttall) to make the following additions to and modifications of the obituary notice which appeared in our issue of June 15th. The Archbishop's father was Mr. James Nuttall, who owned several farms and other property in Yorkshire. Dr. E. Nuttall, in his earlier years, worked in conjunction with the Wesleys; but he never entered their ministry. As soon as he was old enough to be ordained he sought Holy Orders in the Church of England. It is not denied that "differences arose" between him and the Wesleys, but it was because of deep and mature convictions on fundamental matters that he desired to be ordained in the Church of England. There appears to be no evidence whatever that the Archbishop had any intention of resigning in 1907.

MR. J. C. UMNEY has recently been investigating the question of the loss of citral on keeping in lemon-grass oil. Mr. E. J. Parry has previously shown that this loss occurs to a notable extent in West Indian lemon-grass oil, and has drawn attention to the same fact in regard to Cochin oil. Mr. Umney gives the following interesting and important details for samples of Bourbon and Cochin oils, published in the *Oil and Colour Trades Journal* :—

BOURBON LEMON GRASS OIL.

	Tin opened July, 1913.	Same tin, April, 1915.	Tin opened April, 1916
Sp. Gr	0.889	0.895	0.892
Citral	78 p.c.	60 p.c.	68 p.c.

The oils were insoluble in 90 per cent. alcohol.

COCHIN LEMON-GRASS OIL.

	Tin opened Oct. 1912.	Tin opened April, 1913.	Tin April, 1916.	Tin April, 1916.
Sp. Gr.	0.898	0.899	0.925	0.923
Citral	78 p.c.	74 p.c.	64 p.c.	60 p.c.

It would be interesting to know to what cause the increase in the specific gravity of the Cochin oil is due.

NEXT in importance to rubber, the export commodities of the Cameroons are cacao, palm kernels, and palm oil. Cacao-growing is, says the *British Trade Journal*, making rapid strides. The plantations are under European management, and situated on the slopes of the mountains, the total area in 1913 being about 26,000 acres, and the number of trees between six and seven millions. The natives also took up cacao-growing, and cacao was found to thrive on their small farms along the river banks. The climate is particularly well suited for this product, the conditions being similar to those of San Thome. Evidently the Germans were looking more and more to Cameroon for their supplies of cacao for the manufacture of chocolate and confectionery, and were taking steps to make this colony, which covers an area larger than Germany, Denmark, Holland and Belgium combined, a source of supply for all tropical products and fruits, experiments being made in the cultivation of ginger, pepper, cloves, vanilla, bananas, etc. That it was valued is shown by the large amount of capital invested, the improvements introduced, the railways and roads constructed, and the shipping facilities which the German steamship lines supplied.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—Favourable Weather for the Crops.

The *Advocate* of May 31 reported that the weather continued favourable for agriculturists. Bright sunshine alternated with occasional and welcome showers. The only cause for complaint was the insufficiency of labour, which the planters needed to put their land in corn and potatoes to meet the local demand for the next six months.

The House of Assembly has had under consideration and has disagreed with a memorandum from the Governor recommending the purchase and retention in the island of sufficient sugar for local needs until next crop season.

Mr. Arthur Coney, a well-known cattle dealer and butcher, died on May 25th. A tablet to the memory of Mr. Charles Wilkinson Springer, M.A., late Assistant Master of Combermere School, has been erected in the chancel of St. Ambrose. Mr. W. Abbot has returned to the island.

JAMAICA—The Funeral of the Archbishop.

A meeting was held at Gayle on May 24th to discuss the question of the erection of a central sugar factory for the Bagnold district of St. Mary. It was agreed that there were over 2,000 acres of land available in the neighbourhood for cane cultivation, and a Committee was appointed to invite capitalists to consider the scheme.

The death of the Archbishop of the West Indies has caused widespread regret and the funeral, which took place at Half Way Tree on June 1st, was attended by representatives of every class of the community. Upwards of 7,000 witnessed the lying-in-state at St. George's, and His Excellency the Governor and the Members of the Legislature attended the funeral service in the Parish Church. Throughout the island the death of the popular Primate is regarded as an irreparable loss.

News has reached the island of the death of Mr. Robert C. Guy, in Glasgow, on May 22nd. The son of a Glasgow merchant, he went out to Jamaica in the 'eighties as a Minister of the Scotch Church, but subsequently became editor of the *Jamaica Post*. In 1868 he founded the *Daily Telegraph*, and in 1907 he started the *Guardian*, which was amalgamated with the first-named paper, but the venture did not fulfil the promise expected of it, and Mr. Guy became Editor of *The Observer*, a position which he filled with ability until 1914. Mr. Guy was regarded as a man of sterling value.

TRINIDAD—Sir John Chancellor's Arrival.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MAY 30th.—An unusually late drought in certain districts set in this May, Port of Spain and neighbourhood being especially sufferers. In some other parts of the island rain has been normal for the month, but in others hardly a drop has fallen, and everything became parched and brown. Within the past few days serious fires have broken out on the hills and on sugar estates, doing much damage, especially to farmers' canes not yet reaped. The Savannah was so dry that some of the horses entered for the first day of the Midsummer Races were withdrawn, the track being too risky to race on. I am glad, however, at the moment of writing to record a steady downpour, which seems fairly universal, and looks like the long-delayed commencement of the wet season. It has come just in time. Of course, the prolonged dry weather has facilitated taking off the large sugar crops, which are now for the most part harvested, though a good deal remains in certain districts. The St. Madeleine Estate Co. has already ground about 18,000 tons, and expects to make another 4,000 tons or so.

JUNE 7th.—Sir John Chancellor received an exceptionally enthusiastic reception on his arrival on June 1st. Thousands crowded the Wharf and Queen's Jetty, at which were the leading officials and unofficers, heads of departments, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, and some of the Consuls, headed by the popular M. Paul Serre, Vice-Consul of France. The unofficers and members of several public bodies, including the East Indian National Congress and Association, were presented to His Excellency. Sir John Chancellor replied to all in a modest but effective speech, which made a most favourable im-

pression. The principal point dealt with was Indian Immigration, with the details and future possibilities of which, on a different basis to the present, he showed thorough acquaintance and expressed views which were appreciated by all interested in this most important subject. But the portion of His Excellency's speech which elicited the heartiest applause was the statement that when he saw the King on the occasion of his appointment as Governor he was surprised at His Majesty's knowledge of all that is going on here. His Majesty spoke at great length of his visits to Trinidad and referred to the exceedingly happy times he had had there, and showed the greatest interest in the Colony. In dismissing Sir John after the interview he charged him with a special message to the people of Trinidad—to tell them how warm his affection was for their island and the inhabitants of it, and how constantly solicitous he was of their interests and welfare. There was also in the speech a happy reference to our oilfields, regarding which His Majesty had said the industry was not merely a Trinidad question, but that the Colony in this case was the trustee of what are the most important Imperial interests, oil fuel for the Navy. Under this head, Sir John added that we should be glad to hear at first hand how interested the Admiralty was in the oilfields, and how determined they were that they should be advanced. His Excellency concluded with the gratifying news that Lady Chancellor would join him here with their children in November.

The supply of cacao continues to be good and equally satisfactory returns are looked for in June. Quotations for Ordinary and Estates are \$14.00 and \$14.25 respectively. Venezuelan arrivals increased considerably, resulting in easier prices. These may now be quoted \$14.75 to \$15.00 as in quality. The latest report from Guayaquil shows clearances to continue far below last year's.

Shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of May were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,799,800
British North America	69,382
Italy	72,800
France	1,346,472
United States America	1,783,100
Total for May	5,071,650
Shipped Previously	27,906,301
Total from 1st January	32,977,751
To same date, 1915	34,924,114
" " 1914	49,768,480
" " 1913	33,535,159
" " 1912	33,106,344
" " 1911	29,885,529
" " 1910	32,507,935
" " 1909	29,618,547
" " 1908	26,642,995

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Guiana Gold Company, Ltd.

The Directors in their report for the year ended March 31st last state that after providing for depreciation and debiting all current expenditure and repairs to revenue, there remains a profit available for dividend of £6,089 25s., which the directors recommend shall be dealt with by payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum for the year, which will absorb £5,000 and leave £1,089 25s. to be carried forward. There has been a recovery for the year of 8,573 ounces of fine gold, as compared with 8,342 in the previous year. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining and shipping material for replacements the overhaul and repair of dredgers has been retarded. Freight insurance and other charges have increased. On the other hand the working expenses of the dredgers show a reduction. Sales of gold realised £32,992 17s. 2d., and trading, etc., £1,087 5s. 1d., while management and dredger-running, upkeep, advance work and prospecting absorbed £22,849 15s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Condition of Jamaica.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I am sending by this mail two papers to show you, one, *The Presbyterian* for this month, and the other, *The Sentinel*, week ending 13th, a weekly journal recently started at Kingstou. Both are interesting, and contain matter of some importance and notice. In the former you will observe, under the caption the "Open Sore" of Jamaica, with reference to the social evil in connection with "Disease," the words "We are ashamed at the condition of affairs in our island. Every right-minded person is." Now, this is a fact! The recent recruiting agencies in Jamaica have brought to light genital diseases of the worst type existing in our midst, and sapping the very vitals of "our coming race." You may well ask, "How long has this state of things been going on?" and "How has no remedy been found and applied?" The answer comes without a thought—neglect of duty. The "Mete, mene, tekel upharsin," as applicable to local representative institutions stand clearly silhouetted in the mist. They have been "weighed in the balance and found wanting." Powerful laws have been passed with regulations for the guidance of Parochial and Health Boards, but alas! the prefix "Honourable" is not an "honourable" one, hence "nothing for nothing," and disease is the outcome. It is sad in the extreme! Yet here we are rasting about for a remedy, yet that remedy is within our grasp and there is no energy to reach and carry it out. If a change were effected in our parochial constitution, and three paid officials—a commissioner, a secretary, and an engineer—were selected by the people for each parish (not omitting the doctor) would it not ensure responsibility of some kind, instead of the present non-responsibility and neglect? It must be so! Would not the same move with reference to our legislative institution be equally better? Say three paid officials—one for each county—selected by the people to ensure responsibility, along with the Governor, to carry on the Government in an effective manner. At present there is plenty of talk, and no responsibility. In fact, opposition to progress seems to be the game with self at the bottom. *The Sentinel*, as you will see, speaks of "Jamaica's Perilous Condition," with reference to the land and labour question in connection with the peasantry—the backbone of the island and their welfare. Our Crown Lands are for sale and the peasant is unable to buy them from want of means, consequently they are leaving the island in shoals to work in the cane fields of Cuba and other places. Whilst it is the intention of the Indian Government to stop emigration of labourers to Jamaica. There is something wrong somewhere! Whilst the world war is indirectly affecting the island in every way, surely there should be an interval and a certain amount of unity in our attention to agriculture, if nothing else. But this has to be encouraged, and if our capitalists won't do it, it devolves on our Government to keep our labourers, or rim must be the result. How is this to be done? Allet the Crown Lands on the triennial system, free of charge, in the interest of the island, for the establishment of staple and catch crops, and convey them to the agriculturists at peppercorn prices at the end of that period for their future holding; and establish also a "Farm" in each county, *inter alia*, chiefly for the occupation of discharged prisoners, who cannot obtain labour owing to their misfortune, and so reclaim them from dishonest pursuits and make them better citizens to their country. Competition with the planter and farmer has been the drawback in this case, but surely if they will not employ these discharged prisoners some one must do so, and that must be the Government, or praedial and nocturnal larceny will never be checked. On the other hand, whilst the Government employ a lot of road labour, other than prisoners, all cannot be employed in this way, hence Government Farms are necessary by way of prevention as well as cure. Not is sad to relate, but our "cautious capitalists" have made up their minds to run no risks, and whatever succeeds has the "foreign element" at the back of it. But to return—our free and elective institutions are no good, as they handicap a Government, whereas if a few well-paid chosen men were elected by the people the

franchise being a sensible one, from a responsible point of view—our legislative and parochial duties would be properly looked after, and disease and insanitation stamped out whilst the land and labour question would have that consideration which it merits for the future upkeep of the Colony and the progress and contentment of its people.

L. A. RATTIGAN.

"Devonia," St. Ann's, Moneague, P.O.
18th May, 1916.

A West Indian's "Swear Box."

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—I enclose Postal Order for 3/7, proceeds of "Swear Box," as a contribution to the West Indian Contingent Fund.

So much bad language was being used here a couple of months ago, owing chiefly to the beastly weather, that we felt compelled to start a "Swear Box." The results at first were gratifying—or alarming, according to the way you looked at it—and were handed to the local Red Cross fund. It was decided that the next contribution should be sent to the W.I. Fund, as we are all West Indians. Unfortunately (?) the weather has been much better lately, and so this contribution is small.

Yours truly,

WEST INDIAN.

Beeston, Notts.

May 25th, 1916.

[This contribution has been forwarded to the proper quarter. Not knowing the scale of charges, it is impossible to estimate how many swear words it represents. Though we should like to see a substantial addition made to the Contingent Fund, we must, in the interests of the morals of our Indian friends, hope that the weather at Beeston will continue "set-fair."—ED.]

British Firms for British Trade.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir, If our memory serves us correctly, W. S. Gilbert, in his inimitable "Bab Ballads," portrays in humorous verse the troubles of a "discontented sugar broker." If our memory does not furthermore play us false, the discontentment in the mind of this sugar broker arose by virtue of his proneness to fatness, and his inability to shake off this superfluous *avordupois*. Happy days those for sugar brokers. There seems little likelihood, however, of the present-day Canadian genius of that ilk suffering from any plethora of either body or purse. And the reason we hear our readers ask? The reason, my friends, may, in all probability, be found in the following lines.

We are, we fancy, correct in stating that possibly three-quarters of the business in West Indian produce to Canada, particularly in sugar, is conducted and carried through by brokerage houses utterly extraneous to those of the Empire, New York houses, in particular, capturing the bulk of this business. This somewhat ridiculous state of affairs happens to exist, too, in face of the fact that the sellers, on the one hand, are intensely British and patriotic, and the buyers, on the other, perhaps, not less so. A curiously anomalous state of affairs. In days of stress like these, when the deep biting necessity of conserving all monies within the confines of the Empire is, and should be, so patently obvious to all, it hardly seems possible that such a *modus operandi* between two component parts of the Empire should obtain. But it unfortunately does. How can it be remedied? The remedy plainly lies with the sellers, on one hand, and with the buyers, on the other. Let the former, we advance, realise that in days such as these it should be reckoned particularly undesirable—hardly a playing of the great Imperial game—to entrust the selling of the produce of either country to houses whose places of business lie under a foreign flag, and particularly so when as equally reliable, and as equally profitable—perhaps more so—media of sale can be found under the shadow of the Union Jack. Let the latter, too, we respectfully suggest, of both countries, realise that the seeking of their needs in the shape of supplies through foreign houses or agents deprives a

not wholly undeserving body of men of the means of contributing, as largely as they would wish to, towards "ways and means" of conquering the common foe—"the Hun at the Gate." Let them, therefore, we respectfully advance, place their orders through home people. Let them make it known that henceforward business conducted through houses within the Empire shall have an undoubted preference. If this be done—and it would be "well 'twere done quickly," channels of trade would flow in more Imperial and more rightful channels, and a possible feeling of resentment removed from the breasts of some of those concerned.

These be trifling matters, perhaps, in days of such moment as we now are passing through, but, nevertheless, are not without their own peculiar bearing upon the larger game we are now all directly or indirectly engaged upon.

Canada.

IMPERIALIST.

Venezuela's 30 per cent. Surtax.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—I read with deep interest your report of the discussion in London on Venezuela's embargo on goods entering from Trinidad. The question is an important one, and there is little wonder that Trinidad merchants should show themselves to be so deeply concerned.

The question concerns more than Trinidad, however; it concerns the Empire, and especially Great Britain, and no less Canada as well. With our shipping lines concentrated on Trinidad, the removal of the embargo would lead to a vast increase in our trade with, at least, the eastern portions, and in fact the whole of Venezuela; and it certainly seems to me, therefore, that the Governments of these two other countries should get together with Trinidad and insist upon this hindering and vastly unfair device being removed.

At a time like the present, when the whole Empire is united against Germany, and I trust against her commercially as well, such action is both essential and timely. That the embargo was devised by Germany as a blow against British trade to the advancement of her own—as the delegation pointed out—admits of no doubt. Its institution coincides with the increased German activity in the Maricaoibo district. Trade concentrated there, German intrigue and trade activity could work its sweet will independent of Britain at all times.

To-day Venezuela has a President credited with a higher degree of enlightenment than usually falls to the statesmen of that country, and the situation properly pointed out, therefore, the removal of the device should not be difficult. Germany in her designs has considered Venezuela as little as she has other countries. Depriving her of the cheap borne goods that could be carried to almost every part of the country up the Orinoco, forcing them over routes geographically most difficult, is scarcely an act of charity on Germany's part, unless it be German charity. Put in that way, and with a little pressure diplomatically administered, Britain and Canada together could with little difficulty counteract Germany's designs in this direction.

Venezuela's embargo against Trinidad has been likened on occasions to what is known as the "Canadian Port Clause." Why, it is difficult to see. The two are utterly different. Our port clause was designed to prevent goods reaching us through other countries to the detriment of our own ports, and more especially to the detriment of our Maritime Province and St. Lawrence ports. Leaving aside the impossibility of comparing the mighty St. Lawrence with the shallow Orinoco, whilst Canada's port clause was designed to help and develop Canada, the Venezuela embargo does neither of these things for goods over impossible routes, and of course so far from building up the Orinoco ports, it kills them by endeavouring to drive trade to the other side of the country. There is all the difference also between contiguous and non-contiguous territory to be remembered in the two cases. And what similarity there might even be supposed to be is destroyed by the fact that Canada has never yet enforced her port clause. Only in some two or three instances—coco-nuts for one—are higher duties charged on goods coming to us through the States than on those reaching us direct. However, it will be seen that there

is a vast difference even between what may be termed the Canadian theory and Venezuela's practice—which attempts to force trade along unnatural and largely insuperable channels.

Trinidad has often been likened to Hong Kong. It is my good fortune to have lived in Hong Kong, and likewise to know something of that interior part of China which Hong Kong feeds. Solely by reason of her trans-shipment trade, Hong-Kong is one of the richest of our colonies, and in point of size, the very wealthiest of them all. Were China to attempt to place an embargo on goods reaching her from that island, one has no difficulty in imagining what the Imperial authorities would have to say. Are not the two instances sufficiently identical, and the wealth of our little Asiatic possession with its but 31 square miles area, sufficient of an inducement, to merit like watchfulness and care in regard to Trinidad's natural trans-shipment advantages also? In Canada, at all events, we believe that the welfare of Hong Kong is not one bit more important to the Empire than is the welfare of Trinidad.

It is being said that we of the Empire have found our feet in this War. I have a very profound belief that the British Empire is about to prove itself the greatest power in a military sense that the world has ever seen. But are we to be satisfied with only military changes, or are we to reap to the full in future our commercial opportunities, and not once more be, when the War is over, the butt of every foreign tariff joker and political intriguer? A change in all directions is needed, as much in a commercial sense as a military one. The West Indies provide a hushel of examples of past fiscal fallacies and the folly of the policy of *laissez-faire*. Happily, signs are not wanting that a change is impending. It is said that sugar is to be helped, and when the British West India sugar industry is to be assisted, you can tell things are not as they were. Cocoa may expect consideration; likewise, I very sincerely hope, the limes, bananas, and other fruit of this garden of the Empire. With all these signs that the West Indies are at last coming into their own, is it not time to insist upon Trinidad being given a square deal with Venezuela also?

In these days, when the War has shown us the strength of our great foreign rivals, and the purposes to which that strength can be put, the Empire needs to take full opportunity of every natural and other advantage it possesses. And this we shall not be doing while Venezuela's embargo against Trinidad is allowed to remain.

I may add that Mr. Geddes Grant ventilated well this question of Venezuela's embargo against Trinidad in Canada some three or four years ago, with splendid results.

Yours, etc.

BLAYWN P. MOUSIE.

53, St. Mark, West End,
Montreal.

May, 1916.

MARRIAGE.

Broughton—Allwright.—On June 17th, at St. Paul's, Upper Norwood, by the Rev. S. M. Warner and the Rev. A. W. W. Boman, Arthur C. Broughton, A.M.I. Mech.E., of Cane Grove, Demerara, to Kathleen Dorothy, only daughter of the late Frederick William Allwright, M.D., and of Mrs. Allwright, of 12, Anerley Park, Anerley, S.E.

WANTS.

Superintendent Engineer.—38, married, wishes to take up an appointment anywhere abroad. Qualifications—Constructional, Boilers, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Tea and Rubber Machinery, Aerial Tramways, Wire Shoots, General Engineering, Repairs, Office Correspondence. Enjoyed excellent health in East sixteen years. Services available at once.—Apply J. M. W., c/o The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Wanted—Copies of CIRCULARS dated March 9th and May 4th. Sixpence per copy given.—Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone : 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams : "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.
June 28th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent, as from the 8th of August, 1914. New war loan (4½) is quoted at 96½. Old Loan (3½) 89½. Consols, 60½.

SUGAR. The recommendations of the Allies' Economic Conference and the highly successful meeting at the Mansion House on June 21st, when Mr. W. M. Hughes the Australian Premier, delivered an address on the subject of Imperial trade after the war, should bring us a stage nearer preferential treatment of British sugar and the release of this country from dependence on foreign countries for its sugar supply. The meeting was initiated by the Empire Producers' Organisation, and sugar formed the prominent feature in Mr. Hughes' address. The programme as regards the protective treatment of sugar was fully dealt with.

The Cuban crop reached 2,799,251 tons on the 23rd, with 17 Centrals still working as against 20 at the same time last year. It is, therefore, still an open question whether the 3,000,000 tons will be realised. The weather is excellent for next crop, and as there is a considerable area of canes which had to be left over on account of the drought until next crop, which otherwise would not have appeared in it, the crop of 1917 should be an exceptionally large one, apart from all question of increased areas in cane from the planting of new lands. Mr. McKenna in his speech in the House on the Finance Bill said that the wholesale price in bond of sugar in America was more than in this country, due to the Commission having bought large quantities when the price was lower, and also indicated that a rise in price was probable in the near future. This has been anticipated for some time.

Prices in the New York market have fluctuated during the fortnight, the value of 96° Cubans having risen to \$6.40 duty paid, from \$6.27 on the 24th inst.

West Indian Sugar statistics up to June 17th were as follows :—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	21,323	19,957	21,670	26,370	15,610 Tons.
Deliveries ...	25,073	17,426	13,674	13,393	13,767 ..
Stock (June 17)	7,355	8,504	20,600	14,816	6,331 ..

RUM. The market has become extremely quiet and buyers are holding off. On the other hand, there has been no pressure to sell. Small transactions only are reported in Jamaica, and proof kinds, at unchanged rates.

The Finance Bill, which, as already stated, authorises the extension of the concession to rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act on a modified basis by Order in Council has reached the committee stage, and the clause regarding rum has been approved. It is generally understood that the period of compulsory warehousing will be extended by Order in Council to twelve months. Pending the issuance of the Order, rum is being released for sale, after nine months' warehousing. The general opinion of the trade is that the stocks of rum will prove sufficient for compliance with the modified regulation. If, however, they should not be so, a further Order in Council will, no doubt, be issued to adjust matters equitably. Meanwhile it may be noted that in the case of whisky and brandy the full three years period of compulsory bonding is in force.

The stocks in London on June 17th were as follows :—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	4,840	4,125	7,637	6,146	7,924 Puns.
Demerara ...	13,619	7,248	10,950	7,842	7,052 ..
Total, all kinds ...	31,431	19,183	25,972	21,551	22,312 ..

CACAO. On June 21st an amendment to the Finance Bill was moved by Mr. McKenna, and agreed to, reducing the tax on cacao from 6d. to 4d., the figure previously moved by resolution, to add as from that date with a view of making the incidence of the taxes on cacao and tea as beverage identical. The manufacturers who have paid duty at the higher rates are indignant as not receiving notice of the change.

Auction sales were renewed on the 20th, when 10,360 bags were offered, comprising 6,286 bags colonial and 4,074 bags foreign. The 1,193 bags Trinidad were practically all bought in. Out of 45 bags Dominica 42 sold, good quality fetching 81/-. The Grenada, Jamaica and St. Lucia cacao were bought in. At sales on the 27th a considerable drop in prices was experienced. No Trinidad was sold, the nominal top price of which may be taken as 88/-. There was a slow demand for Grenada at 82/- for fine quality. St. Lucia and St. Vincent were bought in.

The stocks in London on June 17th were as follows :—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	24,774	11,306	9,761	9,076	7,625 Bags
Grenada ...	14,836	2,736	13,068	7,636	5,502 ..
Total, all kinds	191,399	74,101	99,136	80,774	110,604 ..

COTTON. A fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since last Summary, most of the sales having been delivered on forward contract. About 200 bales have been sold, chiefly Antigua at 13d. to 16½d.; Virgin Islands, 15½d.; St. Eustatius, 13d. to 16½d.; together with a few superior St. Kitts at 20d. Prices generally are firm.

COPRA. Market steady and quiet, fine West India quoted £31 10s.

COCO-NUT OIL. No business doing in either Cochin or Ceylon. Cochiu is quoted at 52/- c.i.f. London, with Ceylon at 50/-.

ARROWROOT. About 200 barrels reported sold at 3d. Market very quiet and quotations unchanged.

SPICES. Nutmegs unchanged; prices 100's/80's, 1/- to 1/2; 120's/100's, 10d. to 1/-; 140's/120's, 9d. to 10d. **MAPE.** No change; good to fine, 2/- to 3/-; red to good, 1/9 to 1/11; blood red to medium red, 1/6 to 1/8; broken 7d. to 1/5. **Ginger.** The market has been quieter with only a small business passing in Jamaica sorts. Common to small dull, 95/- to 100/-; middling dull to fairly bright, 105/- to 120/-.

RUBBER. Market is dull, with lower values owing to the difficulty in obtaining licenses for export to America which is diverting the business from London to the East whence direct shipments are being made to the United States. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2/4½; smoked sheet at 2/4, fine hard Para, 2/7½; soft Para, 2/5.

BALATA. The market generally keeps firm for Venezuela block owing to arrivals being rather smaller than usual. Sellers now ask 2/7 c.i.f. for near positions and 2/6½ for distant shipment. Panama block is also firmer; sellers 2/2 c.i.f.; West Indian sheet steady, spot sales made at 2/5.

LOGWOOD. A Gazette Extraordinary was published in Jamaica on June 2 again proclaiming the prohibition of exports of logwood, logwood chips, logwood extract, haematin crystals and other logwood preparations to all destinations. It is understood the object of this renewed prohibition, which is not due to the action of the Imperial Government, is imposed with the object of checking speculation and attempts to corner logwood, and it is assumed that licenses to export will be granted to firms and individuals which have handled logwood in the past. It will be recalled that the exports of logwood from the Island to British Honduras were prohibited at the end of November, 1915, and that the embargo was removed as far as exports to British Possessions and French and Italian ports were concerned in the following January.

Jamaica logwood is quoted at from £8 to £8 10s.

HONEY. Nothing has been done since last Summary. The next auctions are advertised for the 29th.

WOODS. Fustic, £6 to £7; Cedar, Honduras, 9d. to 1/6; Mauritius Ebony, £12 to £18; Honduras Mahogany, 8½d. to 11d. Porto Rico Satinwood 9d. to 2/-.

TIMBER. British Guiana greenheart £12 to £18 per load of 50 cubic feet.

PETROLEUM OIL. Firm. American, 1/-; Water White, 1/1.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. A. C. Broughton, A.M.I.C.E. (till end of July).	Mrs. E. Haynes Mr. E. C. Jackson Hon. A. H. Kirby Hon. A. Don, Lockhart Mr. Clement Malone Mr. A. Marsden Mr. A. L. McGill Sir Frederic Maxwell Commander W. H. Owen, R.N.R. Mr. A. E. Perkins	Mr. G. W. Pentice. Miss E. Robinson Mr. E. G. A. Saunders Mr. C. W. Scott Mr. F. B. B. Shand Mr. R. E. Short Mr. M. J. Taurel and Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G.
---	--	---

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmith Road, Brighton, Sussex.
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.
Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
July 2	R.M.S.P. Co.	Quillota	London	A, E, D
.. 4	"Direct" Line	Arakaha	Glasgow	K, L, M, N
.. 7	"Spheroid	Coronado	Bristol	A, H, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
.. 8	Elders & Fyfes	Orubias	Liverpool	A, E
.. 12	Leyland Line	Antillian	Bristol	D
.. 21	Elders & Fyfes	Covina	Bristol	D
.. 22	Leyland Line	Sylvanian	Liverpool	A, E
.. 24	"Direct" Line	Crown of Granada	Glasgow	A, H, E, F, G, K, L, M, N

FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
July 28	R.M.S.P. Co.	Caracquet	Halifax, N.S.	K, L, M, N

FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
July 7	Royal Dutch	Nickerie	Amsterdam	B, E
Aug. 4	"Prins Der Nederlanden			

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.

GIFTS of fresh fruit are urgently needed for distribution among the hospitals receiving sick and wounded soldiers and sailors in this country and France. We have before us a letter from the Assistant Director of Stores of the British Red Cross Society in France, in which he says:—

When making rounds of the Casualty Clearing Stations and Field Ambulances almost the first question I am asked is if we can let them have a regular supply of fruit. Although the sick and wounded are magnificently looked after and fed the Army naturally cannot do much in the way of green vegetables, and the Medical Authorities to a certain extent look to us to make this deficiency good by sending them fruit. I feel somewhat diffident in mentioning quantities which we could use as they would be very big, so I will leave this to the benevolence of the West India Committee.

From this it will be appreciated that the fruit sent over by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, and the Dominica planters has been a perfect godsend, and that further consignments are eagerly awaited. Experience has shown that shipments should not be made by individuals, but only through recognised bodies such as those mentioned above. From Dominica we learn with satisfaction that the appropriation for the Permanent Exhibition Committee for the year is to be devoted to the despatch of limes to the West India Committee for our wounded soldiers.

LADY PHILIPPS is organising and will preside over a West Indian Stall at the Patriotic Sale to be held at Covent Garden Theatre on July 3rd, 4th, and 5th in connection with the Women's Tribute to the wounded sailors and soldiers of the Empire. All kinds of good things from the West will be offered, and Lady Philipps has left no stone unturned to make the stall a success. The sale commences at 3 o'clock each afternoon, and the admission on the first day is 5/-, and on subsequent days 2/6.

MR. J. F. MILHOLLAND, Crown Solicitor of Jamaica, is in England on leave of absence, and hopes to remain in this country for several months. His two sons are in the Army, the elder, F. R., being a Second Lieutenant in the 7th Yorkshire Regiment, whilst the younger, A. W. M., is a Private in the Artists' Rifles.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices June 28
4 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
4 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	83
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	86 1/2
3 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	78 1/2
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	86 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	72 1/2
4 %	Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
4 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1915-44	81 1/2
4 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81 1/2
3 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	61 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank		6 1/2
1 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		117
1 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		83
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		92
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		94 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		10 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		105
6 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		116 1/2
6 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		4 1/2
6 %	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		12 1/2
6 %	United Bnt. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)		12 1/2
6 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27-30
6 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.		95-100
6 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		70-75
6 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		72-75
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		20-3
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		7 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd ..		5 1/2
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		9 1/2

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 IS. 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.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

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LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams :
CARIB, LONDON.

July 12th, 1916.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Owing no doubt to the dislocation of the mail service the list of subscriptions owing to the West India Committee for the current year is heavier than usual. In view, however, of the very exceptional conditions arising out of the war, the CIRCULAR has, as a matter of courtesy, been sent to members in arrears, though it should have been discontinued many weeks ago. The Hon. Treasurers hope that those members who have not yet paid their dues will respond by forwarding a remittance by first available opportunity.

NEUTRALS' SUGAR PROFITS.

REFERENCE was made in last issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to the bumper distribution made by the South Porto Rico Sugar Company, which has declared an extra cash dividend of 20 per cent. for last year besides a scrip dividend of 18 per cent., and quarterly dividends of 5 per cent. This is not an isolated instance of the prosperity enjoyed by American sugar-producing companies, which has recently been enhanced by the high prices engendered by the war. All the sugar concerns in Porto Rico, which, before the war, were viewed with apprehension the prospect—since averted—of the removal of the protection which they enjoyed in the United States market, are doing extremely well. In Hawaii, thanks to the high yields due to the natural advantages of soil and climate, the results are even more striking, sugar companies in that American possession paying dividends which would make the mouths of shareholders

in English companies, subject to the Excess Profits tax, positively waver. To give a few instances, the Hawaiian Agricultural Society, which in 1915 took off a crop of 18,038 tons and made 4.82 tons of sugar per acre, paid 30 per cent. on a capital of \$2,000,000 and carried forward \$133,839. A similar distribution was made on a capital of \$1,500,000 by the Onomea Sugar Company, which harvested 21,320 tons of cane and realised no fewer than 5.65 tons of sugar per acre. But this record was easily eclipsed by the Pepeekeo Sugar Company, which paid 36 per cent. on its capital of \$750,000, and carried forward \$208,846, after reaping 11,948 tons of cane from an acreage of 1,976 acres, and producing 6.05 tons of sugar per acre. We could give many similar instances of Hawaiian prosperity, but the above will perhaps be sufficient to indicate the substantial profits that are being made in those islands. But large profits due to war prices of sugar are not confined to Hawaii and Porto Rico. They are also being enjoyed by sugar-producing companies in Cuba, Java, and elsewhere, and we can see that after the war British companies which have their headquarters in the United Kingdom and are consequently liable to Excess Profits duty will be face to face with a new and acute form of competition. They will have to compete with foreign concerns which will have been in a position to devote their profits to the purchase of new machinery and extensions which they themselves have been unable to do, having been compelled to contribute the greater part of their increased earnings to the war chest. This fact alone should entitle the British producers to consideration when the question of the Excess Profits duty is again considered. It should also induce the authorities to deal generously with applications for licenses to ship new mills and machinery. Finally, it makes it more obvious than ever that it will be hopeless to look for the development of the British sugar industry by the attraction to it of English capital unless a substantial preference in the Customs tariff is granted to it, with promise of continuance for a number of years.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

THE Imperial Institute, which has now passed under the control of the Colonial Office, has just issued an interesting, if rather belated, report, which is now before us. As a centre for scientific enquiry and research for His Majesty's possessions, the Institute fills an important position in Colonial economy. It possesses a fully equipped Scientific and Technical Research Department for the chemical and commercial valuation of all classes of natural products, as well as a Technical Information Bureau, which not only answers enquiries relative to new sources of supply of raw material,

means of utilising new products from the various parts of the Empire, and new and little-known processes and machinery for industrial purposes, but also to methods of cultivating economic plants and preparing their products for the market. This Bureau has also devoted special attention to questions arising out of difficulties caused by the War in connection with industrial matters. As most of our readers know, the Institute has valuable exhibition galleries for the collection and display of economic products. The report under notice, which is compiled by the Director, PROFESSOR WYNDHAM R. DUNSTAN, deals with the work carried on by the Institute during 1914, and forms a record of what has been done for thirty-two British colonies or possessions, representing practically every part of the British Empire. Private work has also been conducted for manufacturers and others in this country. As an illustration of the extent of the operations of the department, it may be stated that the number of reports actually completed by the Scientific and Technical Research Department was no fewer than 400, while 103 investigations were in progress at the end of the year. As might be expected, the outbreak of the War caused many enquiries as to the disposal of substances which had hitherto gone for the purposes of manufacture to enemy countries, such as palm kernels, copra, ground nuts, wattle-bark, etc., and the possibilities afforded to manufacturers for these commodities were well ventilated by special circulars, apart from private advice. Another series of enquiries, the outcome of the War, was for sources of supply of raw and partially manufactured articles hitherto derived from Germany and Austria, and, although in one particular—that of the supply of potash salts to glass manufacturers—the problem had perforce to remain unsolved, in most cases the enquirers were put in touch with existing or potential sources of supply. The work of the department which concerns the bulk of our readers is that done for the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. This includes reports on rubber from Dominica and British Guiana, minerals from Grenada, water from the Bahamas, essential oils from Montserrat, and fruits and nuts from Dominica, Antigua, and British Honduras. The Exhibition Courts at the Imperial Institute were also remodelled and the exhibits improved during the year. Arrangements for the reorganisation of the Jamaica Court were also made in consultation with MR FRANK CUNDALL, as authorised by the Jamaica Government, while the Trinidad, Barbados, Windward Islands, and St. Lucia exhibits were materially improved. In this connection a loan collection of the Leeward Islands produce was prepared for exhibition at the Tropical Products Exhibition in 1914, which, it will be remembered, attracted universal attention. The British Honduras Court was being remodelled, and the exhibits at the British Guiana Court improved by the addition of specimens of timbers, rubber, rice, sugar, rum, cacao, coffee, and oils. By no means the least valuable feature of the work of the Institute is the publication of reports and the results of research work. These include during the year a report on the mineral survey of Ceylon and Southern Nigeria,

and reports on oil-seeds, oils, fats, and waxes, while valuable papers by members of the staff of the Institute were also given to the world in a printed form. The above will convey but a brief idea of the valuable work being done by the Imperial Institute. It may safely be said that at no period in the history of the country has the need for technical advice and research as to raw products and their manufacture been so intense, and the value of the Institute thus becomes of correspondingly greater importance. The position of the Institute has been much improved by its having become part and parcel of the Colonial Office, whereby work in connection with the Colonies has been much facilitated. But with the new British Empire which will be one of the outcomes of the War—an Empire of Industry as well as of sentiment—the part which the Imperial Institute will play must necessarily be of still greater importance than it is at present, and we feel confident that its organisation will rise to the great occasion.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

East Indian Immigration.

The following letter was sent by the West India Committee to their Hon. Correspondents in British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad on June 27th:—

Dear Sir,

I beg to confirm the following cablegram which I sent to you on the 19th June:—

Inform Immigration Conference delegates this Committee favours free Indian immigration under Government control. Government to make financial arrangements increasing recruiting women and families. Short labour contracts, say two years. Bonuses on completion. Reasonable commutation rights, no imprisonment, encouragement, facilities land settlement, regular steamship communication India—West Indies. Above system should run experimentally concurrently with existing.

2. We dispatched this message believing that it might assist the delegates in their deliberations if they were made acquainted with the views of the West India Committee regarding this the important question before them.

3. The cablegram is, I think, self-explanatory; but in any case, as the Conference will have met and dispersed before this letter can reach you, no good purpose will be served by my now dealing with it at any length.

4. I may, however, mention that the views expressed by my Committee are based on the replies received to a circular letter of enquiry addressed to the principal estates proprietors concerned, resident in this country, on a careful investigation which they have made of the whole subject, and on informal interviews with representatives of various Government departments interested.

5. We understand that the recommendations of the Intercolonial Conference are to be considered by an Interdepartmental Committee in the autumn.

and as the West India Committee are to be afforded an opportunity of laying their views on the subject before the Government, I shall, in the meantime, be obliged if you will kindly keep us informed as to developments in your colony.

I have the honour, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Mr. Alexander Duckham, who, as stated in last issue, has been elected a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, first became interested in Trinidad oil in 1905. The result of a visit paid to the island by Mr. Beeby Thompson at his instance, was the formation of the Trinidad Petroleum Company, and subsequently the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., from the Board of which Mr. Duckham retired in consequence of a disagreement over the management and policy of the concern. Mr. Duckham became Chairman of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., the Cruse Syndicate, Ltd., the Oil Concessions of Trinidad, Ltd., and the Ortoire Syndicate, Ltd., having rights over some 10,000 acres in Trinidad.

Before embarking on a business career he studied chemistry under Sir William Ramsay at London University, and was Exhibitor and Senior Gold Medalist of his year. Since May, 1915, he has devoted his entire time as a volunteer to the Ministry of Munitions. For some six months he was in the Labour Department as Chairman of the Committee of Advisors and later as Chief Adjudicator. In December last he was appointed a Director and transferred to Armament Buildings.

In an interview which he granted recently to a representative of the CIRCULAR, Mr. Duckham said that he always had great confidence in Trinidad as an oilfield, and that this confidence had been justified by experience.

With regard to the future, he said that he felt very strongly that the Government should foster the production of oil within the Empire, and that it should draw its supplies from what was strategically its most valuable source of petroleum. The war had demonstrated how absolutely dependent Great Britain was on the United States of America for her oil supply.

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 £ 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.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5s. net, may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Jutland Battle.

The despatch of Admiral Jellicoe, as was anticipated, proves that the victory of May 31st was even more decisive than was apparent from the later Admiralty announcements. It just failed of being absolutely conclusive because, owing to the mist, a part of the enemy fleet was able to creep away. The impression given by German accounts to neutral countries that Admiral Beatty was too rash, and that our battleships did not get up in time, is shown to be as wide of the mark as the German claim to victory. From first to last the battle on our side was carried out on a strategical plan, with consummate skill and seamanship, incomparable ability, and a spirit and devotion worthy of the highest traditions of the Navy. In hanging on against heavy odds, and the masterly manoeuvre by which he crossed the enemy's head as the British Main Fleet was sighted, Admiral Beatty has definitely won for himself a place amongst great naval captains. The victory has transformed the provisional command of the sea which we exercised into an absolute command thereof, because the German High Sea Fleet cannot now dispute it. The following is a table of losses, none being included that is doubtful:—

	Battle-ships	Battle Cruisers	Light Cruisers	Tor. strayers	Sub. mines	Tonnage.
British ...	0	5*	0	8	0	112,350
German ...	4	2	5	9	1	158,520

* Including 3 Armoured Cruisers

The Battle of the Somme.

That part of the line recently taken over by the British from the French has been the scene of the most vigorous offensive in the West since our Ally's thrust in the Champagne last year. But the new one is more hopeful. Not only did our preliminary bombardment prove that we are well supplied with munitions and big guns, and that we can use them effectively, but that we can advance in force and maintain our position. Moreover, the Allies have realised that the battle front is all one, and, by means of the stand made at Verdun, are able to synchronise their attacks on the enemy in the Bukovina, the Trentino, and France. Then so general was the hurricane of shells along 120 miles of front, extending from Ypres to Champagne, that the Germans could not be certain where they should meet the expected thrust. When it was made in the Somme and Ancre valleys, they were, therefore, surprised, a situation of which both the French and British took full advantage. The Allies captured the first line enemy trenches, together with many villages, 15,000 prisoners, and much material, and have not only been able to retain all the positions they occupied, but to extend their gains.

The best progress has been made in the direction of Peronne, an important railway junction, the French moving on it from the west and south-west, and the British from the north-west. General Foch has, indeed, pushed so far beyond Curin that he is within two miles of the great railwayline that passes through the town, and has also occupied the second position of the Germans south of the Somme on a

front of nearly seven miles. The British have cleared the enemy from La Boisselle, which they took in the fighting early in the week, besides maintaining their ground against heavy attacks at Thiepval, and successfully carrying out raids at other parts of the line. They are meeting with stubborn resistance, which has been reinforced. One of the most trying obstacles to rapid advance consists of machine guns, in the use of which the Germans are adepts. They are cleverly concealed in dug-outs behind or under other dug-outs, and when our men rush past them in the ardour of pursuit, they are brought out and into play, with the result that we suffer heavy losses from their deadly fire. But our soldiers are learning caution, and, before passing on, search enemy trenches more carefully than they did. In addition to their wiliness and dexterity, the men who work German machine guns die at their posts. They never surrender.

A Promising Situation.

The almost persistent defensive we have been obliged to maintain since the German retreat from the Marne is developing into a "methodical push." But though the situation promises well, the process of breaking down the enemy's resistance is likely to be long and tedious. Meanwhile the men who are fighting with such valour must be supplied with all they require, particularly shells. The nation owes it alike to the living and the heroic dead that there shall be no slackening in the augmentation of the productive power behind the Army, still less in the practical spirit to win the War. The offensive so auspiciously launched must be pushed incessantly if the enemy is not to be allowed to refresh and reorganise their harried and depleted forces.

The Siege of Verdun.

The fifth month of the attack on this fortress is now well entered, and there is no appreciable slackening in German effort, while the spirit and endurance of the French continues unabated. The enemy has gained ground at enormous cost, but the rest of the way to Verdun is more difficult than that he has traversed, and serious distractions increase on every front. If he supposed that he would hold enough of the Allies' effectives here to prevent successful attacks on his front, he was mistaken. As the French continue to counter-attack immediately he desists from his assaults, he is compelled again and again to return to the huge task of reducing the position, and in the meanwhile is unable to detach any troops to hold up threatened attacks in other sectors.

For the fifth time Thiaumont is in the hands of the Germans.

In the East.

"The plan matured by the Councils of the Coalition," said General Joffre in a recent order issued to the heroic soldiers of Verdun, "is now in the full course of execution," and in the East as vigorously as it is in the West. From the Baltic to the Carpathians the Russians are attacking practically along their whole front. So strong is their pressure that it has drawn eight German divisions from

France and the Archduke's reserves in the Trentino. While their onslaughts in other sectors are causing serious anxiety to the German General Staff, they have begun a new offensive north of the Baranowitschi railway, one of the enemy's most vital communications, strongly withstood by the troops of Prince Leopold of Bavaria. In the Lutsik region, General Linsengen has been able to hold up the Russian advance towards Kovel, though he has not been able to drive back the forward move of General Brussiloff's right in Volhynia.

The Russian Success in Galicia.

The most interesting news is, however, the rout of the enemy on the right bank of the Dniester, where General Letchitsky has cut the railway line which connects Hungary with Galicia. With his communications thus imperilled, Botlmer has been compelled to fall back, thereby extending the salient around Tarnopol, necessary if the enemy's left is to rest on the Pinsk marshes, but daily growing more awkward. What will happen now that the old lines of railway have been cut is not difficult to foresee, for the new permanent way, constructed after the battle of Dunajetz, was based on the idea that the Austro-German defences would be strong enough to keep the Russians on the defensive.

The next phase of the struggle on this front will be another fight for the passes—not the Dukla and Lipka Passes, but the Bosno and Jablonica Passes, further south. Through this latter is the shortest route to the Hungarian Plain end of the railway, which has just been cut south-east of Kolomea. That it will be defended desperately, both with men and heavy artillery, there is little doubt.

The Italian Front.

The Austrian offensive in the Trentino has come to an abrupt end, and more than half the area they occupied in the Brenta region has been recovered. In Vienna the withdrawal is admitted, but it is described by that hardly-used and deceptive word "strategic." The truth is, the Italian campaign was popular only with the Tyrolese, to whom the trade between Germany and the valley of the Po is most profitable. But they were not of themselves numerous enough to hold the Trentino when the Eastern front was pierced by the Russians, and the Hungarians and Slavonic forces of the Dual Monarchy had to be hurried to Galicia. Hence the exit of the Austrians from the Trentino.

Fresh Trouble for Turkey.

The Arabs of the Yemen, who periodically revolt as a protest against their misgovernment by Turkey, are, under the Shereef of Mecca, on the war-path again. The Shereef has seized Jeddah and other towns in South-West Arabia, and has invested Medina. The revolt is most inopportune for the Junta which now rules Turkey.

The Declaration of London.

Owing, it is believed, to pressure from the French Government, the Declaration of London has been abandoned. That it bore no relation to actualities is



SOME MEN OF THE BARBADOS CITIZENS' CONTINGENTS.



A "KINETO" VIEW IN BOG WALK, JAMAICA.

clear from the number of Orders-in-Council by which its illegal existence was marked, each one modifying it in some particular until the only Power which knew where it was on sea was Germany. It is to be hoped that with the instrument out of the way which fettered the British Navy to the advantage of the enemy, the Government will now proceed to declare a proper blockade, and dissolve that extraordinary body, the War Trade Committee of the Board of Trade, which releases ships sent into port by the Navy before they have been taken into the Prize Court. That it is not likely Germany can be actually starved may be true enough, but with a strict blockade she can be brought near enough to it to alter the temper of her people, and she can be deprived of many essentials for carrying on the War effectively.

(To be continued.)

THE JAMAICA SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Government Central Factories Advocated.

It was stated in the CIRCULAR of June 1st that the West India Committee had received a cablegram from the Governor of Jamaica to the effect that the Board of the Jamaica Agricultural Society were of opinion that under favourable conditions the exports of sugar from the island would approximate 100,000 tons per annum. The report of a Committee of the Society which investigated the matter is now before us. It is signed by Mr. P. C. Cork, Chairman, Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., Mr. S. S. Stedman, Mr. Colin Liddell, Mr. David Henderson, Mr. J. A. Guiterrez, Mr. Percy Lindo, and Mr. A. W. Farquharson. They point out that there were in 1914-15, 31,727 acres under cane cultivation in Jamaica, and that the exports of sugar from the island have fallen from over 150,000 hogsheads in 1805 to 15,400 tons. Of the land not now cultivated in permanent plots or ruinate, 84,200 acres may be considered suitable for and capable of immediate development, 33,500 acres being less suitable on account of deficiency of rainfall, distance from railway and shipping port and other disadvantages.

After dealing with the considerations which make the extension of sugar cultivation desirable, the Committee arrive at the conclusion, based on the attitude of the British Government towards sugar in the past, which has effectively frightened off English capitalists, that if anything considerable is to be done by private enterprise, it will be accomplished by American capitalists who already control the banana and coco-nut industries.

In the circumstances the Committee recommend pressing on the Government the advisability of controlling the industry by erecting Government factories, debentures being issued for the purpose, and arranging with cane farmers (large and small) to sell canes to the factories on a 43 or 5 per cent. basis, plus 75 per cent. of the net profits, after paying the working expenses, interest on capital invested, 2 per cent. sinking fund, and 5 per cent. for depreciation, the remaining 25 per cent. of the profits accruing to General Revenue. (On a sale of canes on a 5 per cent. basis, the planter would receive 12/- per ton when the price of sugar is £12 per ton.)

That such a scheme would pay with a £2 10s. preference, as suggested by the West India Committee, seems, they state, assured in view of the experiences of the Antigua factory, where, without preference, after manufacturing 50,474 tons of sugar and having paid £19,673 in

interest and £41,000 in redemption of debentures and as a sinking or reserve fund, £34,113 was added by way of half profits to the prices paid for canes, and a like amount paid over to the shareholders of the factory. The average price of sugar for the ten years during which the factory operated was £10 16s. 3d. per ton.

No area was included which was considered to be insufficiently extensive to warrant the erection of a factory to produce a minimum of about 3,000 tons, except in two or three cases where factories already exist with opportunities for extension.

Given efficient cultivation, equipment, and management, the Committee estimate that the output of sugar might exceed the present production by from 150,000 to 200,000 tons, and most probably the higher figure, no account having been taken of the canes which might be supplied by small settlers, who now grow 32 per cent. of those under cultivation.

The Committee proceed to discuss Mr. Hughes' proposal that the British Government should guarantee to purchase a certain quantity of sugar at a fixed price for a period of years from British Colonies, and state that if some arrangement of the kind were made, the impetus thus given to the production of sugar in British Colonies would be such that in a comparatively short time the Empire would be self-supporting in the important staple of sugar.

They add that, so far as Jamaica is concerned, it is highly probable that after two or three central factories have been erected by the Government, confidence will be firmly established, and there would be no difficulty in securing the necessary capital for the development of the industry.

Dealing with the question of labour, the Committee point out that it cannot be doubted that in Jamaica there is a good deal of useful labour available, which cannot, however, be secured continuously because the native labourer will not enter into any contract which binds him for any definite time. Owing to the ease with which small freeholds can be acquired, or lands rented at a reasonable rate, the peasantry are to a large extent independent of estate labour, and consequently will only work for others when it suits them to do so. Their own grounds often call for attention at the same time as it is most wanted on estates, and labour therefore cannot be obtained by planters when it is most needed for the cultivation and reaping of their crops. Why, the Committee ask, should the labouring population work for others continuously when they can, by three or four days' work in the week, or by cultivating their grounds, or by both, secure all their simple requirements?

Under existing conditions immigration is, they state, a vital necessity if enterprises of any magnitude are to succeed, and they ask if it is possible to devise a substitute for indentured immigration, which is now doomed, that, being free from the objections urged in India against the existing system, would encourage the importation of Indian labour, and would at the same time offer opportunities to the local labouring population beyond those which they at present enjoy. In this connection they express the opinion that it would be an unquestionable advantage to the owners, to the island, and to the Empire, if a scheme were established under which portions of lands from which very little profit is at present derived owing to lack of labour and capital were appropriated for the use of labourers, who would become cane farmers, selling their products to a central factory. The owner of the property would receive rent for the use of these lands, which might either be a fixed sum or on a sliding scale dependent on sales to the factory, or possibly arrangements might be made in some cases for the acquisition of the freehold by the labourers. An essential condition would be that all settlers on such lands should be under obligation to work on the remaining lands of the same property for at least three days in each week at the ordinary current wages.

In conclusion, the Committee confidently believe that if factories were established on the suggested profit-sharing system, and arrangements were made for cane farming on some such lines as above indicated, very little difficulty would be experienced as regards labour, as emigration would be checked, and much labour now going to waste would be attracted to cane farming, and this would by degrees have the effect of enabling the colony to reduce and eventually altogether dispense with

imported labour. The scheme would also provide means for settling returned soldiers and emigrants as cane farmers.

This important report was considered at a meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society on June 15th, when an interesting discussion took place. The Governor assumed that five conditions would be necessary to make the scheme practicable, namely a preference in the United Kingdom, the establishment of Government factories, the prevention of dumping, a guarantee by Great Britain and Canada to purchase 200,000 tons of the colony's crop at a settled figure, and the settlement of cane farmers on the land. He expressed himself as strongly opposed to the grant of Government aid to the erection of factories.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Professor Harrison's Annual Report.

Professor J. B. Harrison, who shares with Mr. J. R. Bovell the honour of being the "Father of the Seedling," gives a detailed account of his experiments with sugar canes in the Report of the Department of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana for 1914-15.

In this he mentions that much attention has been devoted during recent years to raising new varieties directly from the Bourbon cane and from its earlier seedlings. As a rule seedling canes derived from the Bourbon possess greater vegetative vigour than does the parent cane, which results in the production of many varieties characterised during the earlier years of growth by well-marked development of the canes as regards size. The tendency is for varieties derived from the Bourbon to be relatively low in saccharose yielding juice having a low quotient of purity and a high one of non-sugars. Few only of the Bourbon derivatives are characterised by a high or even medium sugar-content. Of the 356 varieties examined 10 only yielded juice which as expressed by a laboratory mill contained over 1.8 lb. of sucrose per gallon, whilst two only contained more than 1.0 lb. During later years of growth the canes produced are smaller in size but of higher and more satisfactory sugar-content.

The returns submitted by sugar-estates in the colony show that in 1914 more than four-fifths of the total area under sugar-cane was planted in varieties other than Bourbon. Of the area cultivated in these varieties 85 per cent. was under canes raised from seed in this colony, while about 14 per cent. was occupied by varieties imported from Barbados. On many plantations the Bourbon is planted principally on the best lands, the other lands being cultivated in seedling varieties—a practice which has much to recommend it. Of the principal varieties cultivated in the 1914 crop eight yielded higher results than the Bourbon did. The best of these varieties were D 625, Diamond 185, D 118, D 419, D 145, B 208, and 147.

The Rice Industry's Phenomenal Growth.

The return of the area under rice cultivation in the colony received from the District Commissioners was 47,037 acres, an increase of 17,454 acres over that of the preceding year; but as two crops were reaped in the year in certain districts the actual area of rice reaped was 53,661 acres. In 1868 the area returned by cultivators as being under rice was about 6,000 acres, and the increase in the crop of rice between 1869 and 1915 represents about 32,000 tons of cleaned rice per annum, having a probable value of \$2,000,000. Considering that the industry is pursued mainly by small farmers, its rapidity of development has been phenomenal. This has been mainly due to the East Indian settlers, but the black people of the colony are also entering with some enthusiasm into the industry. The variety of rice cultivated generally in the colony is the Demerara Creole, a long-grained variety which has probably arisen locally by unconscious selection.

The yield of padi obtained per acre in 1914 was 19.7 bags of 140 lbs. each to the bag, equivalent to 24.6 cwt. per acre, the total yield being 1,060,202 bags.

Coco-nut Cultivation.

Professor Harrison reports satisfactory progress with the coco-nut industry. The coco-nut palms growing in the colony are scattered, being owned chiefly by small growers; but there are a few fair-sized coco-nut estates and the large proprietors are paying increasing attention to the cultivation of the palm. On one estate, where coco-nut planting is being carried out on a large scale, upwards of 50,000 trees have been planted, while another property possesses 20,000 trees. The acreage in the colony under cultivation in coco-nuts in 1914-1915 was 15,894, an increase of 1,717 acres over that of the previous year. The gradual extension of the industry is shown in the following table:—

Year.	No. of Acres Planted.	Year.	No. of Acres Planted.
1904-05	5,140	1910-11	9,761
1905-06	6,560	1911-12	12,236
1906-07	6,701	1912-13	13,698
1907-08	6,828	1913-14	14,177
1908-09	8,315	1914-15	15,894
1909-10	9,466		

A very large proportion of the coco-nut cultivation is still young and has not yet come into bearing. The exports of coco-nuts is small in comparison with acreage under cultivation for the above reason and also because the major portion of the nuts is utilised in the colony in the manufacture of coco-nut oil and cattle food. There is a large consumption of coco-nut oil, especially among the East Indian section of the community, and the locally prepared product has gradually replaced imported coco-nut oil. The export of coco-nuts during 1914-15 was 1,800,000 as against 872,000 in the previous year. The following table shows the average annual exports for quinquennial periods since 1892:

Periods.	Average Annual Reports.—Nuts.	Periods.	Average Annual Reports.—Nuts.
1892-96	80,374	1902-06	187,315
1897-01	21,892	1907-11	526,901
		1912-14 (3 years only)	1,427,644

A small quantity of copra was made in the colony during the year, the export being 1,690 cwts.

With regard to rubber there are now 4,962 acres cultivated in the Para variety (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) in this product in the colony, an increase of 743 acres over the previous year. By far the greater proportion of the trees have not yet reached maturity; it is anticipated, however, that tapping operations will be commenced on a fairly extensive scale in 1916.

Cacao Cultivation.

Cacao continues to receive the attention of the Department, and it is noted that there was an increase of 453 acres in the area under cacao (2,316 acres). In some parts of the colony cacao-planting is an industry of some promise, but it requires for its successful installation more capital than small farmers usually possess. Some of the cacao estates are of fair age, but there are also considerable areas under young trees which have not yet come into bearing. The annual export of cacao was 577 cwt. The experiments at Onderneeming were continued during the year, the object being to ascertain the residual effects, if any, of the manures applied during the years 1910, 1911 and 1912.

The results in terms of lbs. of cured cacao per acre during the two years of non-application of manure—the residual results from the former applications—have been as follows:—

No manure	1095 ± 35
Heavy mulching	1338 ± 63
Sulphate of ammonia	1078 ± 52
Superphosphate and sulphate of potash	1452 ± 117
Sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate	1169 ± 78
Sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of potash	1154 ± 105
Sulphate of ammonia, superphosphate	
Sulphate of potash	1294 ± 108

Allowing due weight to the probable errors of the trials the results indicate that only the heavy mulching treatment and the application of superphosphate of lime and sulphate of potash have exerted beneficial residual effects over both the years.

Experiments very clearly indicated that the soil contains a supply of available nitrogen sufficient for the requirements of cacao under the climatic and meteorological conditions existent at Onderneeming, that the proportions of readily available phosphates and potash present are not equal to the requirements of the cacao, that of these it is probably the phosphates which are deficient but to enable phosphatic applications to exert their effects some addition of readily available potash is requisite. Applications of lime to the land have not exerted any beneficial action on the producing powers of the cacao trees. The objection to the use of heavy mulchings is the cost. Up to the present the value of the additional yield of cacao has not sufficed to cover the cost of the mulching to which it has been due; trials in future will be made to combine the increases due to manurings of superphosphate and sulphate of potash with those produced by heavy mulching.

The Removal of Shade from Cacao.

Between November, 1900, and May, 1902, the majority of the shade-trees on the cacao fields

were removed. On an area of about two acres of the southern cacao field the shade-trees were not cut out. At the same time the methods of cultivation were changed and instead of the haphazard want of system that was in force prior to the cacao fields coming under the control of the Agricultural Department the fields have since been carefully cultivated, the trees pruned, and a persistent lookout kept for pests of various sorts. Under these conditions the returns have greatly increased. The yields steadily increased from a mean annual yield of 1,064 lbs. during the five years prior to the thinning of the cacao trees and during the past six years have been at the following rates:—

	Curr. of Cacao, lbs.
1909	4,774
1910	5,882
1911	4,979
1912	4,451
1913	4,945
1914	4,548
Mean	4,878

The mean annual increase of 3,800 lbs. of cured cacao has been due to the three factors of lessening the shade, adequate tillage and care of the cacao trees, and improved drainage.

THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

The British Guiana branch of the Royal Colonial Institute established as the outcome of Major Boose's recent visit to the Colony has started on what promises to be a career of great activity. At the inaugural meeting on May 24th, a number of resolutions were passed pledging support to the mother country in the prosecution of the war, supporting the Council of the Institute and calling attention to the following as subjects which should be considered by the Board of Trade in connection with their trade enquiry.

(a) The desirability of the appointment of a Commission or a Committee on the requirements and resources of the tropical Colonies of the Empire.

(b) The necessity for preferential trade within the Empire, with special reference as regards the very large undeveloped resources of British Guiana.—to the subsidiary questions of—

1. The introduction of a greatly increased supply of agricultural labour from tropical sources.

2. The improvement and acceleration of means of overseas transport for the products of the colony.

3. The attraction of capital for the improvement of existing equipment for manufacture on a sound basis of security.

4. The readjustment of tariffs where they operate to the restriction of the development of the colony and the expansion of its industries.

(c) The continuation under every encouragement of the colonisation of British Guiana, preferably from India, under conditions mutually acceptable to the colony and to the Government and people of India.

(d) The recognition of the colony as an Imperial asset, and assistance in the development of its coasts, forests, and savannahs, by rail or otherwise, to a degree commensurate with the colony's available means, and based on scientific investigation of its resources.

A dinner to which about one hundred members sat down was held the same evening at the Park Hotel, Georgetown. Sir Charles Cox, K.C.M.G.,

took the chair, and His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., was present by the invitation of the Branch, and accepted the offer of the Presidency. The toast of the Royal Colonial Institute was proposed by the Chairman, and replied to by the Hon. Secretary (Dr. Nunan), who was the recipient of many congratulations upon the assistance which he had given in forming the branch.

RUBBER IN BRITISH GUIANA.

During his visit to British Guiana, Colonel and Mrs. Roosevelt paid a visit to "The Hills," the headquarters of the Bartica property, on which rubber is being cultivated, thanks to American enterprise. The ex-President was much impressed with the development of the estate, which is demonstrating that *Hevea* rubber can be cultivated as successfully in British Guiana—which is near its native home—as it is in Malaya, a country of its adoption.

In a letter to the Editor of the *India Rubber World*, Mr. George B. Withers has given the following account of recent tapping operations. He writes:—

"As you know, I bought some glass cups for tapping purposes last December, and expected them here just after I returned in January, and I waited and waited, but they did not come, so I started to tap 312 trees, as that was all the cups I had, and for ten weeks I have been tapping that number. We have had the usual dry weather, but they have been running well all the time. Then, as I heard last week of somebody who had some of the latest earthenware cups for sale, I bought 1,000, which arrived here two days ago, and by the very same boat that brought these up to me, I had a letter from town saying the glass cups had arrived there at last; however, they will all come in handy soon.

"The results of the tapping, as far as I have been able to weigh so far, are as follows:—Each fourteen days' product is kept separately and weighed as soon as dry, and as the weather has been very dry, we have now got weighed up the first four fortnights.

"The following is the result from 312 five-year-old trees:—

	Biscuits.		Scrap, etc.		Total.		Wet Rain	
	Lbs.	Ozs.	Lbs.	Ozs.	Lbs.	Ozs.	Days	Ins.
First 14 days	16	10	8	15	24	25	8	2
Second 14 days	35	5	18	9	53	14	15	2
Third 14 days	34	8	11	13	45	21	9	2
Fourth 14 days	28	14	11	15	39	29	10	2
	112	37	28	42	140	74	32	8

"At the above rate this would give an average of 3 lbs. 4 oz. 4 drs. per tree for the year, which we certainly ought to improve on considerably, and the above tapping in the first fortnight includes all the very first cuts, from which, as you know, much is not given in the way of latex. Also this tapping has been done during the very worst time of the year that we have in regard to rainfall, so that I hope and expect that we shall average for the year a good deal more than the above would average, and this for five-year-old trees, I think you will agree, is very good indeed."

MAJOR OGILVIE, of the British West Indies Regiment, and of Kingston, Jamaica, is to be congratulated upon the birth of a son and heir, which occurred in London on May 7th. We are glad to learn that Mrs. Ogilvie, who is a sister of Mrs. Arthur Vickers, of Westmoreland, Jamaica, is now quite restored to health.

FISH POISONING.

A Notable Official Report.

Cases of fish poisoning in the West Indies have been the subject of correspondence between the Governors of Jamaica and the Leeward Islands and the Colonial Office, and at the request of Mr. Bouar Law, the Natural History Department of the British Museum has furnished a report on the subject.

This report, the text of which is given below, has been prepared by Mr. C. Tate Regan. It will be noted that he discredits the suggestion that the poisonous quality of the fish is sometimes due to the locality in which it has been feeding, or to its feeding on poisonous food. He thinks it may sometimes be the result of the fish being attacked by an infectious disease, while in other cases the cause may be the rapid decomposition of the flesh which takes place in certain families of fishes. In other instances again, a poisonous secretion may perhaps be found at certain seasons connected with the reproductive organs.

In transmitting the report Mr. C. N. Fagan, Assistant Secretary of the Museum, states that a special investigation would appear to be desirable, bearing on the determination of the species of fishes which are normally or occasionally poisonous on the recognition of edible species which may be mistaken for species whose consumption is attended with danger, and specially on the nature of the poisonous condition and the causes which call it into existence. The Trustees support this view, and suggest that such an enquiry might be started when circumstances permit, in which event the Museum would be prepared to assist in the Zoological portion of the investigation.

Report on Poisonous Fishes.

Mr. Regan's report is as follows:—

The fishes mentioned as poisonous in the reports of the medical officers are the following:—Barracuda, Cavally, Jack, Yellow-billed Sprat (*Clupea thrissa*), Goat-fish, Grouper, *Petrodon*, *Diadon*, *Scarus*.

Below I take them in this order and make some remarks as to what is known as to their poisonous nature. I follow this with some general remarks and with some recommendations.

"*Barracuda*" or "*Barracoota*" is a generic term for fishes of the genus *Sphyraena*, of which there are three species in the West Indian waters. The largest of these species (*Sphyraena barracuda* or *Picuda*) is a valuable food-fish, but it has long been known that individual specimens may be poisonous, causing severe illness and even death. There is evidently something more in this than poisonous poisoning due to eating fish that is not fresh, and the probability is that the poisonous quality of the flesh is not directly caused by the barracuda feeding in certain places or on smaller poisonous fish.

It seems more likely that *Barracuda* are poisonous when suffering from an infectious disease. Plee has stated that when *Barracuda* are poisonous this can be recognised in a thin white fluid running out of the flesh when it is cut, whilst Poey says that poisonous *Barracuda* have the teeth blackish at the roots.

However, no real investigation of the matter on scientific lines has been made, and it is quite likely that were such investigation made, the cause might prove to be quite different from what has been supposed.

"*Cavally*" or "*Callava*" or "*Caballa*." These names are applied to *Scombromus caballa*, a large fish of the Mackerel family (*Scombridae*) rather similar in appearance to

the Barracuda, and like it a valuable food fish. The flesh of fishes of this family decomposes very rapidly in the tropics and cases of poisoning by this species are probably due to this cause.

These names are also generic terms for fishes of the genus *Caranx*, belonging to the Horse-mackerel family (Carangidae). There are a number of species in the West Indies; several are good food fishes, but some may be seriously poisonous at times. The flesh of these fishes decomposes rapidly and it seems probable that this is the only reason why some species may be poisonous. But in other species there is evidently something more and it seems likely that at the approach of and during the breeding season the genital glands may form a poisonous secretion.

"Jack" *Caranx plumieri*. From Schonburgk's "History of Barbados" Hughes reports that the Jacks (*Caranx plumieri*) are in some seasons of the year, especially when caught in Christ Church parish or thereabouts, very poisonous, and that at such times there were in their gills two small red lumps. When they are suspected of being poisonous an experiment is tried upon a duck, by giving her one of them to swallow, and if at that season it is poisonous the duck dies in about two hours.

"Yellow-Billed Sprat." This is the *Clupea thrissa* of some authors (*Opisthonema oglinum* of modern writers) an important food-fish of the Herring family (Clupeidae); it is said to be extremely poisonous when taken in certain localities; it is likely that these will prove to be localities to which these fishes resort when breeding.

"Coat-Fish" is a generic term for fishes of the Red Mullet family (Mullidae); I cannot find any reference to these fishes as poisonous.

"Grouper" is a generic term for fishes of the genus *Epinephelus* of the Sea-perch family (Serranidae). The species are numerous and valued as food; some are reputed to be poisonous at certain seasons, probably during the breeding season. *E. catus*, *E. tigris* and *E. venenosus* are suspected West Indian species.

Many species of Parrot-Wrasses (Scaridae) and many Plectognaths, especially Globe-fishes (*Tetrodon*) and Porcupine fishes (*Diodon*) are known to be poisonous, their flesh containing a poisonous secretion.

These fishes, of course, are not used as food.

General Remarks.

Poisonous fishes are found chiefly in tropical seas. Those that are normally poisonous are generally well-known to be so and are not used as food, but there is a tendency to regard as poisonous others that resemble them in coloration, food, or habits, and to refrain from eating many brightly coloured or reef dwelling species that may be quite wholesome.

Those that are sometimes poisonous may be so owing to the decomposition of the flesh; this would apply to all fishes, but especially to species whose flesh decomposes very rapidly, such as most Scombridae and Carangidae.

Some species may be poisonous at certain seasons; this is generally the breeding season, when the genital glands may form a poisonous secretion.

Some species may be poisonous when suffering from certain diseases.

In all probability these are the most important classes of poisonous fishes; locality and nature of food are probably not directly responsible for the poisonous character of the flesh.

Recommendations.

It is a simple matter to deal with fishes that are well known to be normally poisonous; they cannot have any sale, but their sale could be prohibited. It would be useful, however, to find out whether some species have not had a reputation merely on account of their resemblance to poisonous kinds, and to draw up a list giving the distinctive characters of edible and poisonous species that might be mistaken for each other. This would entail the making and preservation of a collection for comparison and reference and experimental and analytical work would also be necessary.

For species that are sometimes edible and sometimes poisonous the problem is more difficult. Here again it is of the first importance that the investigator shall know what species he is dealing with and that he should be able to distinguish between related forms that may be

very similar in appearance but may differ greatly in their food value, poisonous character, habits, season for breeding, etc.

The making and preservation of a collection, and the proper determination of the species is thus one of the first steps to be taken; the habits, food, time and place of breeding, etc., of each species should be investigated so that their relation, if any, to the poisonous character of the fish may be established.

Should collections be made the naming of the specimens could of course be done in the Natural History Museum.

Pending the completion of such investigations, should they be undertaken, one can only recommend inspection of the fish offered for sale and that fishes belonging to any species suspected of being poisonous at times.

- (1) should be fresh.
- (2) should be eviscerated, i.e., gut, roe, etc., thoroughly removed as soon as possible after capture; this may prevent poisonous secretions of the genital gland, liver, etc., affecting the flesh.
- (3) should be especially suspected if they are in full roe, or in any way abnormal in coloration or condition; i.e., if there are any indications that the fish is diseased or is near the time of breeding.

WESTWARD HO! IN THE DAYS OF DRAKE.

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

(Continued from page 258 and concluded.)

The following article is taken from the Darnell Davis manuscripts at the Royal Colonial Institute, and is now published for the first time.

Unable to obtain redress for his wrongs from the Spanish Government, even after Queen Elizabeth had written to the King of Spain in his behalf, Drake vowed that the Spaniards should pay him with interest. To right himself, he resolved to resort to

"The good old rule, the simple plan,
That they may take who have the power,
And they may keep who can."

Believing that "less than thorough will not do," he served for some time in one of Queen Elizabeth's ships. Then, he made two voyages to America, one in 1570, and the other in 1571, "to gain intelligence" of persons and places he "aimed at." It was on the 24th of May, 1572, that Drake sailed out of Plymouth Sound, himself in the *Pasha* of 70 tons, and his brother, John Drake, in the *Swan* of 25 tons. There were 73 men and boys, all told, in the two vessels, which were well provided with victuals for a year and "with all other ammunition and provision for men of war." There were also "three handsome pinnaces taken asunder, and stowed aboard to be set together on occasion." Such was the feeble force with which the lion-hearted Drake set forth to smite the great Spanish Power, overshadowing the Old World as well as the New World.

The plunder secured on this buccaneering voyage was very great, and must have made good all Drake's losses over and over again; while much damage was done to Spanish towns and Spanish ships in America by this expedition of two small vessels flying the St. George's Cross. It was on Sunday, the 9th of August, 1573, that Drake sailed into Plymouth, on his return from his gainful voyage. His arrival was "at sermon time."

The news "being speedily carried into the Church, so much surprized the people with desire and joy to see him, that few or none remained with the Preacher, all running out to observe the Blessing of God upon the dangerous Labours and Endeavours of Captain Francis Drake." By Englishmen Drake was esteemed as a patriot; by the Spaniards he was abhorred as a pirate. Had he been captured, Drake would surely have been summarily dealt with, as was his companion-in-arms, John Oxenham, 1575, who, when caught by the Spaniards, was executed, as were the master of his vessel, the pilot, and the crew, except five boys.

When Drake was on his expedition to the West Indies, his ambition had been fired with a project, in the subsequent carrying out of which he achieved the circumnavigation of the world. In February, 1573, he was ashore on the Main, at the Isthmus of Panama, on the look-out for a rich convoy of gold, silver, and precious stones which had to go from the city of Panama to the town of Nombre de Dios, for shipment to Spain. On the 17th of February, he had been brought by native Indians to the top of a very high hill, "which lay East and West like a ridge between the two seas." From the top of a high tree, at about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, on a fine day, Drake "taking a full view of that sea of which he had heard such golden reports, he besought God to give him life and leave once to sail an English Ship in those Seas."* The wealth acquired by Drake, on his recent voyage, would have enabled him sooner to carry out his resolution to fly the flag of St. George in the South Sea; but "being partly prevented by secret envy at home, and partly by applying himself to the Public Service of his Prince and Country in Ireland, under the Earl of Essex, and elsewhere," it was not until the 15th of November, 1577, that his ships sailed out of Plymouth Sound. This squadron, which was to beard the power of Spain the world over, consisted of

- The *Pelican* (flagship) of 100 tons.
- „ *Elizabeth* of 80 tons.
- „ *Marygold* of 80 tons.
- „ *Swan* of 50 tons.
- and *Christopher* of 15 tons.

All well found. The sailors numbered 164 able men. Drake also carried with him "several Musicians for delight, and rich Furniture of Silver for his Table and Cookroom, with allsorts of curious Workmanship for Ornament, and to raise Admiration of the Civility and Magnificence of his Native Country in other Nations where he came." Of Drake's exploits during this famous voyage, details will be found in many books. After coasting along the Eastern portion of South America, he passed through the Straits of Magellan, and sailed along

* A somewhat similar episode in the career of the Spanish Conqueror of Mexico is commemorated in Kirke White's often quoted lines:—

"Then felt I like some watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims into his ken;
Or like stout Cortez, when with eagle eyes
He stared at the Pacific—and all his men
Looked at each other with a wild surmise—
Silent upon a peak in Darien."

the Eastern shores of America, as far as California. Then, thinking it better not to return by the way that he had come, he sailed for the Moluccas, and then by way of the Cape of Good Hope, came back to England, anchoring at Plymouth on the 16th September, 1580, "one of the first who put a Sea-Girdle, as it were, about the World."* During his voyage Drake had plundered the Spanish settlements extensively, and the wealth he brought home stimulated the desire of young Englishmen for voyages of adventure in the New World. On the other hand, the Spanish Ambassador denounced Drake as a pirate, and demanded satisfaction for his depredations upon the Spanish settlements. For a time Queen Elizabeth hesitated as to how she should treat her great sailor. In the end she decided to regard him as his fellow-countrymen did, as a hero, and to receive him in person, *maigre* the King of Spain. Drake's ship, which had sailed from Plymouth as the *Pelican*, had returned as the *Golden Hind*, a name given her in honour of the Queen's favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton, whose crest was a golden hind.† The *Golden Hind* was brought up to Deptford, and, in the spring of 1581, Drake had the honour of entertaining the Queen on board his ship, when Good Queen Bess conferred the honour of knighthood upon him. The *Golden Hind*, by the Queen's command, was laid up at Deptford, to be kept as a lasting memorial of Drake's famous voyage. In the seventeenth century, the good ship was broken up, and from some of her planks a chair was made, which was presented to the Bodleian Library at Oxford,‡ where it continues to this day. In his

* Putting "a girdle round the world" has been a favourite quotation since the vogue of submarine cables. It is worth observation that the expression is not confined to Shakespeare's "Mid-summer Night's Dream," published in 1600. As pointed out by Whitehead in his "Life of Sir Walter Raleigh," published in 1854, Chapman, the translator of Homer, used the same symbol in his tragedy of "Bussy d'Ambois," published in 1607. The whole passage, a pretty piece of imagery, seems *apropos* to Drake's return from his circumnavigation of the world in 1580:—

"And as great seamen, using all their wealth
And skills in Neptune's deep, invisible paths,
In tall ships richly built, and ribb'd with brass,
To put a girdle round about the world,
When they have done it, coming near their haven,
Are loth to give a warning-piece, and call
A poor staid fisherman, that never pass'd
His country's sight, to waft and guide them in:
So when we wander furthest through the waves
Of glassy glory, and the gulfs of State,
Topp'd with all titles, spreading all our reaches,
As if each private arm would sphere the earths,
We must to Virtue for her guide resort,
Or we shall shipwreck in our safest port."

† Sir Christopher Hatton was the "grave Lord Keeper" to whom the poet Gray alludes in his well-known lines—

"His bushy beard and shoe strings by teen,
His high-crowned hat and satin doublet,
Mowed the stout heart of England's Queen,
Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it."

‡ The Bodleian Library owes something to the Elizabethan naval heroes. When returning from the expedition to Cadiz in 1596, the Fleet plundered Faro, taking away the library of Bishop Osorio, which was the foundation of the library of Sir Thomas Bodley. During Sir Walter Raleigh's imprisonment in the Tower, in James's reign, that patron of learning, poor as he then was, subscribed £50 towards the Bodleian Library.

lines on this chair, the poet Cowley says:—

"Drake and his ship could not have wished from Fate
A more blest station, or more blest estate:
For (so!) a seat of endless rest is given
To her in Oxford, and to him in Heaven."

In retaliation for the ravages wrought by Drake, some hundreds of Spanish soldiers were landed in Ireland, in 1580, to assist Desmond in his struggle with the English. Those of them who were not slain sword-in-hand, were slaughtered by the English at Smerwick, in Kerry, in the following year, only the officers being spared. In 1580, also, Philip II. seized the Kingdom of Portugal and all its possessions, thus adding greatly to the power of the Spanish monarchy. While Drake and his comrades harried the Spaniards in the New World, there were other Englishmen, Devonshire men also, who designed to found an English settlement in that part of North America embraced in the then far-reaching name of Florida. To Sir Walter Raleigh and his half-brother, Sir Humphery Gilbert, chiefly belongs the honour of being the originators of English colonization in America. In 1584, Philip Amidas and Arthur Barlow, two captains in Raleigh's service, arrived in the West Indies on their way to explore Florida, where they discovered the country which was given the name of Virginia. In 1585, Raleigh's cousin, Sir Richard Grenville, in the *Tiger* of 140 tons, with six other vessels in company, arrived in the West Indies, on his way to Virginia, with a number of colonists under Master Ralph Lane. The practice of sailing for Virginia by way of the West Indies continued for several years, and even after Bartholomew Gosnold discovered the direct course.

King Philip of Spain, having determined upon the conquest of England, in 1584 caused an embargo to be laid upon all English ships and goods then in Spanish ports. As an act of reprisal, Queen Elizabeth commissioned Sir Francis Drake to make war upon the Spanish settlements in the West Indies.

At the end of December, 1585, Drake was once more scouring the Caribbean Sea, where he remained until May, 1586. On this occasion the Admiral commanded a fleet of 25 vessels, with 2,300 men. He had Martin Probbisher as Vice-Admiral, and Francis Kuelles as Rear-Admiral. That fine seaman, Thomas Fenner, was captain of the flagship *Elizabeth Bonadventure*. Christopher Carliel, Walsingham's son-in-law, was Lieutenant-General.

Having done much damage to the Spaniards at San Domingo and Cartagena, the fleet sailed for Virginia, where, at their own request, Drake took on board Lane and his fellow-colonists, and carried them back to England, arriving at Plymouth on the 28th of July. Of the plunder gained by the expedition, we are told: "The purchase of this voyage was valued at three score thousand pounds, whereof those who went the Voyage were to have 20,000, amounting to about six pounds to the meanest man, and the other 40 was paid the Adventurers." Allowing for the value of money being five times as great then as in our time, the result was profitable. About 210 great guns were captured, of which 200 were brass. Some of these

must have done service against the *Invincible Armada* two years later.

In 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh's second lot of colonists for Virginia, under John White, called at some of the West Indian islands on their way. These were the ill-fated settlers whose subsequent disappearance remains unsolved. In the same year Sir George Carey sent out three ships to the West Indies, but they only secured a prize worth £2,000.

THE WORLD'S OIL PRODUCTION.

According to statistics collated by the National City Bank of New York, the United States produced 66.3 per cent. of the world's output of crude petroleum in 1915, as compared with 64 per cent. in 1910; 43 per cent. in 1900; 60 per cent. in 1890; and 88 per cent. in 1880.

The world's production of petroleum in 1915 is stated to be 440,000,000 barrels (of 42 gallons* each), as compared with 328,000,000 in 1910; 149,000,000 barrels in 1900; 77,000,000 barrels in 1890; 30,000,000 barrels in 1880; 6,000,000 barrels in 1870; and about 500,000 barrels in 1860. Of this world's production, that of the United States in 1915 was 292,000,000 barrels, as compared with 210,000,000 barrels in 1910; 64,000,000 barrels in 1900; 46,000,000 barrels in 1890; 26,000,000 barrels in 1880; 5,000,000 barrels in 1870; and 500,000 barrels in 1860, when the United States produced practically all the petroleum output of the world.

The total production of petroleum in the United States in 1915 was larger than in any earlier year, exceeding that of 1914 by 20,000,000 barrels. The world's production in 1915 was also larger than in any earlier year, exceeding that of 1914 by 39,000,000 barrels. The United States has been the world's largest producer of petroleum continuously since the development of petroleum production, except in the period 1898-1901, in which period Russian production slightly exceeded that of the United States. In 1914 the output of the United States was nearly four times as much as that of Russia, her chief competitor.

The United States, despite the fact of being by far the world's largest producer of petroleum, has in recent years imported a considerable quantity of crude petroleum, imports in 1914 amounting to about 18,000,000 barrels, and, in the fiscal year which ends on 30th June, 1916, the amount of crude petroleum imported will probably attain the figure of about 20,000,000 barrels. A very large proportion of this comes from Mexico and is sent to the United States because of the superior facilities there for refining the crude product.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS has been appointed a member of the Appeal Tribunal for Southampton and the Isle of Wight under the Military Service Act.

*The United States gallon equals .833 of an Imperial gallon, or 6 United States gallons equal 5 Imperial gallons.

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:—

Ashpitel, G. F. (of Dominica), Army Transport Service.
 Calder, Private John C. (son of Dr. William J. Calder, M.D., C.M. Edin., and nephew of Mr. Charles M. Calder, of Savanna-la-Mar, Jamaica).
 Davenport, A. G. S. (of Dominica), King Edward's Own Horse.
 Eienne, Clarence (of Dominica), Marine Transport Service.
 Johnson, Private R. H. (of Barbados), The London Scottish.
 Mackenzie, Corporal W. (bookkeeper on Caymanas Estate, Jamaica), The Borderers.
 McMillan, J. (of Dominica), Black Watch.
 Rees Williams, Owen (of Dominica), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.
 Roe, C. A. (of Jamaica), Royal Naval Air Service.
 Simon, 2nd Lieut. F. (of Dominica), R.A.M.C., 71st Field Ambulance, 23rd Division.

Killed in Action.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ROBERT LOWNDES ASPINALL, D.S.O., Cheshire Regiment, who was killed on July 2, was the elder son of the late Robert Augustus Aspinall, J.P., D.L., and brother of the Secretary of the West India Committee. Born in 1869, he passed into Sandhurst from Eton, and was gazetted to the 15th (the King's) Hussars in 1888. He was promoted captain three years later, but left the regiment when it proceeded to India. He went out to South Africa with the Yorkshire Regiment, and subsequently was appointed to Sir John French's staff as A.D.C. He was mentioned in despatches and was awarded the D.S.O., and the Queen's and King's medals, the former with five clasps. At the outbreak of the present war he was stationed in the North of England with the Yorkshire Regiment, and at the end of 1914 raised a new battalion of the "Green Howards." When this was made a reserve battalion he applied to be appointed to a battalion going overseas, and was given the command of the Cheshire Regiment, which he was gallantly leading into action when he was killed.

CAPTAIN HARRY ALFRED BUTT, of the Gloucester Regiment, who was killed in action in France on June 8th, was the eldest surviving son of the Rev. Holden Butt, formerly Canon of Georgetown, British Guiana.

FLEET PAYMASTER CHARLES R. HARVEY, who lost his life in H.M.S. *Queen Mary* in the North Sea battle on May 31st, will be remembered in Jamaica as Secretary to Commodore Sir F. W. Fisher on the West Indian station until Port Royal was reduced to a cadre.

CAPTAIN JOHN ROBERT WALPOLE, of the Royal Surrey Regiment, who fell in action on July 1st, purchased a small estate in Antigua in 1914, but abandoned it at the outbreak of war and obtained a commission in a service battalion of the Queen's, in which he had served from 1904 to 1910, when he sent in his papers and went in for rubber planting in Malaya. Educated at Eton he was the son of Sir Charles Walpole, of Broadford, Chobham, Surrey, a former Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands, who retired as Chief Justice of the Bahamas in 1893.

Died of Wounds.

SECOND LIEUTENANT LEON HOPE CENTENO, of the 4th Suffolk Regiment, son of the late Mr. Leon Centeno, of Trinidad, has succumbed to the effects of shell shock received in action in February last, at the Cliff Military Hospital, Felixstowe.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BERTIE WOLSELEY, Royal Field Artillery, who died of wounds on July 5th, was the only son of Mr. W. A. Wolseley, a well-known British Guiana estates' proprietor, and a former member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and Mrs. Wolseley, of Sunner Terrace, Onslow Square, and Kentons, near Reading, and great-grandnephew of Sir Charles, seventh Baronet, of Wolseley, in Staffordshire. He was educated at Harrow and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, received his commission in February, 1915, and was promoted on November 15, 1915. He had served at the front

since May, 1915, and he joined his battery in December, 1915. Lieutenant Wolseley had served with distinction, and had recently been recommended by his battery commander for great coolness and gallantry under exceptionally severe fire. He would have been twenty years of age on July 7th, and his untimely death is deeply deplored by his commanding officer and comrades.

Missing believed killed.

LIEUTENANT HUGH GILBERT FRANCIS CLIFFORD, Lincoln Regiment, who was reported as "Missing believed killed" on July 1st, was the only son of Sir Hugh Clifford, Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, 1903-1906, and now Governor of the Gold Coast, and of his late wife Minna, daughter of Gilbert à Beckett, and grand-son of Major-General the Hon. Sir Henry Hugh Clifford, V.C., C.B. Born in 1897, he was educated at Downside Abbey, Wimbleton College, and Sandhurst in August, 1914, and received his commission in the following December. Lieutenant Clifford was wounded in March, 1915, at Fromelles, and returned to the front in April of this year.

Wounded.

Branch, Corporal Wilfrid (of Antigua), 31st Royal Fusiliers, has been slightly wounded in France.
 Halfhide, Sergeant R. G. (of Demerara), Royal Montreal Regiment, was wounded at Vinny Ridge.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have under consideration the question of a special corps badge for the British West Indian Regiment, and designs have already been approved by the Officers of each of the battalions.

* * *

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent continue to solicit gifts of socks which are greatly needed for men who have come over from the West Indies and enlisted independently, and of games, puzzles, and musical instruments for invalids in hospital. Such gifts should be sent carriage paid to the Hon. Secretary, 5, Trevor Square, S.W., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

* * *

The West Indian Contingent Committee is receiving voluntary assistance from Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, who has been appointed a member of the General Purposes Committee, and from Mr. G. B. Smith-Rewse, who has been offered and has accepted, with the permission of the Colonial Office, the post of Assistant Hon. Secretary. Mr. Smith-Rewse is a member of the Colonial Civil Service, and is on leave of absence from the Western Pacific.

* * *

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,351 4s. 4d., of which amount £1,024 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Montserrat War Fund Society (earmarked for Montserrat men)	10	0	0
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (names of donors not yet received)	4	3	4
Members of the Jamaica Club (per T. H. Sharp, Esq.)	1	9	0
All Saints' Anglican Bible Class, Barbice, British Guiana	0	0	0
Miss Maud Baynes	10	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

OBITUARY.

MRS. GARDINER AUSTIN.

We regret to announce that Mrs. Gardiner Austin died on June 25th, at her residence, 102, Redcliffe Gardens, London.

Mrs. Gardiner Austin was the widow of the late Hon. J. Gardiner Austin, M.L.C., of "Rumore," Barbados. A correspondent writes: "The funeral was on Wednesday morning at 10.30, the first part of the service being held at St. Luke's, when the Rev. T. Anderson officiated. 'Lead, Kindly Light,' Mrs. Austin's favourite hymn, was beautifully sung as a solo by a lady, accompanied by the organ, and the concluding hymn, 'Now the labourer's task is o'er,' was sung as a solo too. The coffin was then taken to Hammersmith Cemetery, where her father and mother are buried, and the rest of the service was read. The coffin was placed in a grave lined with ivy, and the flowers and wreaths were numerous. On the head of the coffin was placed a beautiful large wreath of white flowers and mauve orchids from her five sons and three daughters, and a beautiful white cross from her fourteen grandchildren. Amongst the floral tributes was a lovely sheaf of white lilies sent by the staff of Cayman & Co., the late Mr. Austin's firm in Barbados. Amongst those present at the church and cemetery were Colonel Austin, C.M.G., and Mrs. Gardiner Austin and their son, Miss Austin, Mrs. Preston, Mr. Grant, Mrs. Moxley, Sir James and Lady Hay, Mrs. Forster Alleyne, Miss Frieda Alleyne, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Park, and many others. The sun came out and shone on the little group, who seemed to linger lovingly by the grave where one so dear to them all had been laid to rest, and who will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends and by her many devoted children. Colonel Austin was returning to his duties at the Front next day. Much sympathy is felt with Mr. Harold Austin, who, with his wife and children, is on his way home from Barbados via New York, and who will be arriving in England about July 14th."

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Kinetto, Ltd., are just releasing a further series of films descriptive of West Indian life and scenery. They were taken—and admirably taken, too—by Mr. C. Weddip on behalf of the Company, and will no doubt prove a great attraction in these days when Englishmen have special reason to be interested in everything Colonial, and are tired of the unpatrician "Charlie Chaplin." Incidents on the voyage to the "Land of Springs" are depicted, and a West Indian audience would no doubt recognise many of the passengers shown indulging in the sports that while away time on board ship. Mr. Weddip has timed tropical exposure to a nicety, and the views of such beauteous spots as the Roaring River Falls, the Blue Hole, Bog Walk (a scene in which is reproduced in the present CIRCULAR), and the glorious Blue Mountains are quite the best we have ever seen. We certainly advise cinemagoers—as we believe patrons of the cinema are called—to ask for these West Indian films at their local halls.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Cayman Islands.

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

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1914-15	3,343	3,038	17,345	1,810
1913-14	5,044	2,856	33,000	8,000
1912-13	3,397	3,105	25,000	10,000
1911-12	3,795	2,700	28,444	12,323
1910-11	2,779	2,716	26,232	10,992

The Report states that when regard is had to the present depressing effect on the trade of all countries in consequence of the War, it cannot be said that the revenue has suffered to any very appreciable extent during the past year, though signs are apparent that these islands will not for long be permitted to enjoy such a favoured position.

On Friday, the 13th August, a hurricane of unprecedented severity devastated the island of Cayman Brac within the period of one hour, rendering the inhabitants homeless and in many cases destitute. Fortunately the death of one child only was reported. Of two hundred and sixty-one houses only one remained intact, while 75 per cent. were totally destroyed; 98 per cent. of the coco-nut trees at Cayman Brac have been blown down; at little Cayman 40 per cent. have met with a similar fate. All provision grounds were destroyed. Of Government property, in addition to the new Government Building completed two weeks before the storm which was unroofed and forced from its foundation, the old Court House, school house, lighthouse, and boat-house have been completely swept away. The actual damage sustained in respect of house property amounts approximately to between £7,000 and £8,000, and to coco-nut trees, £20,000, taking the average annual yield of a tree at one pound.

The road which runs by the seashore throughout the island has been for the most part obliterated and will require no inconsiderable sum to restore.

As regards exports, the value to all countries amounted in 1914-15 to only £1,810, the average for five years being £8,625.

The trade of these islands during the year under review cannot be said to have been affected by the war to the extent anticipated. A turtle-canning factory was erected in Georgetown and canning operations began in July. Five hundred turtle were canned in twenty-two days. This represents nine hundred and sixty cases, each case containing two dozen tins.

The calipee and skin of the turtle are put up separately from the meat itself. These are placed in cans of varying sizes, namely, 2 lbs. and 3 lbs., and in future 1 lb. tins will be added.

The prices paid under contracts of five years' duration are as follows:—51s. for grown females from 120 lbs. upwards, and 32s. 6d. for males of 120 lbs. upwards. These prices are somewhat in excess of those previously obtaining. Estimating the amount of turtle caught in the course of a year at two thousand head, this would yield approximately four thousand cases of twenty-four tins each.

There are at present forty people employed in the factory, with every prospect of an increase in this number as time goes on.

Efforts will also be made to stimulate an interest in the cultivation of sponges. When regard is had to the success of this industry from small beginnings in other parts of the Empire, there does not appear to be any reason why equal success should not attend the establishment of it in the Cayman Islands. The only difficulty would seem to be the expert knowledge that would perhaps be required to initiate the people in the proper method of growing and curing. The growing of sponge would be a blessing to the people of the Lesser Islands now that the Hawk's bill turtle trade is at a standstill and the coco-nut industry crippled.

In June, 1911, a census of the Cayman Islands was taken, showing a total population of 5,564. Of these 2,322 are white, 2,211 are coloured, and 1,031 black. 3,087 were returned as able to read and write, 749 as able to read only, 1,728, including children, as illiterate. In religious denomination the people are mainly Presbyterian, 3,364 being returned as such. There were 981 Baptists, all in the Lesser Islands, and 357 are returned as of the "Church of God." During 1915 there were 171 births, 81 males and 90 females. Of these 143 were legitimate and 28 illegitimate. In the same period there were 44 deaths, 26 males and 18 females.

St. Lucia.

The Report of the Hon. C. Gideon Murray, Administrator of St. Lucia, for the year 1914-15 shows that the revenue for the year was £8,525 below the estimate. The cause of the falling off was a considerable loss under Customs and Port and Harbour dues owing to less trade and shipping during the year, consequent upon the war.

The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years was:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
	£			£
1914-15 ...	57,795	68,352	306,152	241,422
1913-14 ...	67,490	68,352	228,405	274,460
1912-13 ...	66,292	67,824	315,361	287,716
1911-12 ...	71,778	99,328	518,590	273,101
1910-11 ...	65,008	67,288	277,207	238,955

The value of the imports for the calendar year 1914 was £306,152, £77,747 more than in 1913. Coal was accountable for £20,391 of the increase, the amount imported being 120,288 tons, valued at £146,860, as compared with 114,350 tons valued at £126,469 in 1913.

The value of the exports was £241,422, of which £99,658 was the value of produce of the Colony, and £141,764 of other places, including £128,639, the value of bunker coal. Island produce represents an increase from £88,600 in 1904 to £117,700 in 1913. It is noted that whilst the export of island produce has thus increased, the percentage of sugar and cacao exports has fallen from 93.3 to 87.1.

The erection of the Government lime-juice factory, to which reference was made in the last report, was completed and opened in the year under review. It is stated that the business of the factory is conducted on a co-operative basis. In determining the profits there is deducted from the amounts realized

for the sale of produce the amounts paid for the purchase of limes and lime-juice together with all expenses of working the factory and disposing of the produce, and, in addition, a sum equivalent to 10 per cent. of the amount paid for the purchase of limes and lime-juice, the remainder being regarded as gross profits to be divided, one-third being paid to the Government, and two-thirds to the vendors of fruit and juice, this latter to be distributed to the vendors by way of bonus, in proportion to the amounts paid to them for limes or lime-juice. The sum equivalent to 10 per cent. of the value of the limes and lime-juice purchased, together with the sum representing one-third of the profits referred to in the foregoing sentence, to be paid to the Government by way of interest and sinking fund in respect to the sum expended in erecting the factory.

The price paid for limes and lime-juice is based on a scale of prices having a relation to the value of concentrated juice, and insuring a safety margin of profit to the factory. The seller of fruit realises his full value when he gets his bonus derived from the share of profits.

The agricultural industries generally were making good progress.

Lime cultivation is making rapid progress and the value of the lime-juice exported during the year 1914 (£5,572) exceeded that for the preceding year by £3,682. The value of the export (the only available indication of the production) of cacao in 1914 was £38,846, as compared with £36,888, although the amount exported (7,971 bags) was less by 198 bags than the export in the preceding year. The value of the sugar exported in 1914 was £44,483, as compared with £65,661 in 1913. A small quantity of cotton was again produced in the Choiseul district. The export figures were 5,100 pounds of lint, valued at £255, and 128 cwt. of seed, valued at £37. The planting of coco-nuts is increasing. With careful selection it is possible to get local nuts of excellent quality for planting, and the demand has been so considerable that the export for the year shows but a slight increase. The quantity shipped was 53,638 nuts, valued at £294; and 142 cwt. of copra, valued at £176, also figures among the exports. The year was a bad one for honey, the exportation being valued at only £270, which is £226 less than in the previous year.

Owing to the War, which has closed the European market to the fruit, the pineapple industry of the Azores is in a bad way. Azores pines are grown under glass, and are therefore much more costly to produce than the Hawaiian pines, with which they cannot compete in America. The decline in the industry is illustrated by the following figures, given by the *Journal of the Society of*

Year.	Cases.	Value.
1910	128,000	£140,400
1911	134,000	£116,600
1912	145,000	£104,400
1913	170,000	£108,800
1914	175,000	£64,400

NOTES OF INTEREST

MRS. R. BELFIELD and Mrs. T. W. O'Neal, of Barbados, have returned from the Italian front, where they have been employed in radiographic Red Cross work.

MR. ARTHUR C. BROUGHTON, whose marriage to Miss Allwright was recorded in last CIRCULAR, is returning shortly with his bride to Demerara, where he occupies the position of engineer on Plantation Cane Grove.

LUCIEN DUREAU, son of our old friend M. Georges Dureau, of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, who fell on the Field of Honour in October last, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre.

It is expected that the first steamer of the season will leave Calcutta with East Indian emigrants for British Guiana and Trinidad in October, and it is hoped that she will be followed by other vessels at fairly regular intervals.

THE engagement is announced of Second Lieutenant Basil L. Q. Henriques, H.S.M.G.C., youngest son of the late Mr. David Q. Henriques, West India merchant, and Mrs. D. Q. Henriques, of 17, Sussex Square, W., and Rose Louise, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lowe, of 80, Broudesbury Road, N.W.

ALL that Sir Marcus Samuel had to say about the Company's interests in Trinidad at the annual general meeting of the "Shell" was that their interests were comparatively small there, and that commercial success was not yet in sight, though their shipments to the Admiralty and others had been larger than those of any other company.

THE "pals" of the Barbados Citizens' Contingents depicted in the illustration facing page 268 are—Standing, left to right, F. V. Barnes, K. F. Pilgrim, Leo R. Hutchinson, G. S. Corbin, and B. T. Seale; and seated, Cecil Archer, C. C. Leach and F. H. Tyrill. All are in the 3rd Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, and our readers will, we think, agree that they present a very business-like appearance.

THE West India Committee have received and forwarded to the proper quarter £130 12s. 3d. collected by the Editor of the *Port of Spain Gazette* for the Perysse Fund, which maintains a hospital at Perysse, and £20 from Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner, on behalf of the inhabitants of Grand Turk, being the proceeds of a theatrical entertainment for the British Red Cross Fund.

THANKS in great measure to the enterprise of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Oliver Underwood, representatives of the expeditionary forces of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the West Indies were entertained at the May meeting of the

Marble Craft Lodge, No. 3522, at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, on Empire Day. A strong patriotic note was struck by the speeches, which were interspersed with music.

DR. FREDERIC G. W. DEANE, of Barbados, has been promoted to be Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps on his appointment to be Administrator of Woodside and Springburn Hospitals in Glasgow. The position is a responsible one, for these two institutions have 300 and 200 beds respectively, and have attached to them four auxiliary hospitals, namely Gallowhill, Gartshore, Lockhart and Elioek.

COLONEL H. F. C. KITCHENER, to whom Lord Kitchener's title passes, has resided for many years in Jamaica. Under the late War Secretary's will he receives a legacy of £1,000 and no more "because he is already well off and because of the benefits conferred . . . on his issue." Broome Park Estate in Kent, and the sums settled on the late peer, go to Colonel Kitchener's son, Commander H. F. C. Kitchener, R.N.

OWING no doubt to the dislocation of the mail service the list of subscriptions owing to the West India Committee for the current year is heavier than usual. In view, however, from the exceptional conditions arising out of the war, the CIRCULAR has, as a matter of courtesy, been sent to members in arrears, though it should have been discontinued many weeks ago. The Hon. Treasurers hope that those members who have not yet paid their dues will respond by forwarding a remittance by first available opportunity.

THE British West Indies have now contributed £2,864 5s. 3d. to the fund of the National Committee for the Relief of Belgium, of which Mr. W. A. M. Goode, of the West Indian Club, is Hon. Secretary. The total is made up as follows:—Jamaica £10, Bahamas £30 2s., Antigua £36 7s. 3d., St. Kitts-Nevis £31 1s. 5d., Dominica £538 2s. 6d., Virgin Islands £2 16s., Grenada £122 16s., St. Lucia £79 1s., St. Vincent £68, Trinidad £359 3s., Bermuda £536 16s. 1d., and British Honduras £1,950. The grand total of the fund is now £1,830,000, and the Committee hope to complete the second million before very long.

SIR CHARLES BRUCE, G.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands from 1893 to 1897, and now Deputy-Lieutenant of Kinross-shire, has received a gracious message of sympathy from the King and Queen on the death of his wife, which took place on April 15th, from pneumonia following a chill. The Council of Government and people of Mauritius have also forwarded to Sir Charles, who was their Governor from 1897 until his retirement from the Colonial Service in 1903, the expressions of their regret and sympathy through Mr. Bonar Law. Lady Bruce, who was a daughter of Mr. J. Lucas, enjoyed well-deserved popularity during her sojourn in the West Indies.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sugar for Local Use.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MAY 30th.—We have had excellent rains during the last fortnight. The fall has been lighter in Berbice, but generally the weather is favourable. The Planters' Association have endorsed the resolution of the Chamber of Commerce on the sugar question.

The Governor has appointed Messrs. J. Hampden King, A. P. Sherlock, and B. Gainfort a Committee to deal with the question of sugar required for local consumption. This has been fixed that 12 per cent. of the quantity made from January 1st to June 30th, and 5 per cent. from July 1st to December 31st be retained, and the selling prices have been fixed at \$5 per 100 lbs. for yellow sugar, \$4 for refining sugar, \$4½ for yellow molasses sugar, and \$3.65 for refining molasses sugar.

The Governor leaves the colony by the next Canadian steamer on six months' holiday. The inaugural meeting of the British Guiana branch of the Royal Colonial Institute was held at the Reading Room of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society on the 24th inst., Sir Charles Cox, K.C.M.G., in the chair. In the evening the Annual Dinner was held in the Park Hotel, and was a very successful and pleasant function. There was a general collection in aid of the Red Cross Fund held throughout the colony on Empire Day. Up to the present time some \$4,000 has been sent in to the Treasurer.

JUNE 10th.—Mr. W. S. Clarke, Inspector-General of Police in Barbados, has been appointed to a similar position here, in succession to Colonel De Rinzy. The weather has been very favourable, good rains having fallen. The sugar crop has been harvested successfully and glorious rains are now falling.

DOMINICA—A Notable War Gift of £10,000.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on May 10th, an Ordinance was passed unanimously increasing the rates for licences and the duties on alcoholics by 50 per cent., and doubling the export duties on produce, with the object of raising as speedily as possible a sum of £10,000 to be presented to His Majesty's Government as a contribution towards the expenses of the War, and as an expression of loyalty and deep affection of the people towards His Majesty, his Government, and the Motherland, and in appreciation of the peace, security and prosperity which have continued to bless the Presidency during the course of the present War through the vigilance and protection of the officers and men of His Majesty's Navy and Army.

Miss Margaret E. Nicholls, Hon. Secretary of the local Red Cross workers, has been honoured by receiving a letter from Queen Alexandra thanking her, Mrs. Edwyn Henderson, and the Ladies' Committee for a contribution of £168 0s. 10d. raised at a bazaar for the relief of our blind and crippled soldiers and sailors.

JAMAICA—The Island's Various War Funds.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during May was oppressive, the maximum temperature being 91.2 deg. F., the minimum 70.1 deg. F., and the mean 78.8 deg. F. The total rainfall in Kingston was 11.02 in., or nearly 2½ times the average, 6.82 in. having fallen on the 12th. Torrential rains prevailed throughout the island from the 11th to the 13th, causing considerable damage to the highways and the loss of a few lives through floods. The crops did not suffer.

A telegram has been received by the local Government from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, announcing the acceptance by the Imperial Government of the offer made by the colony to contribute £60,000 per annum for 40 years to the Home Government in connection with the Jamaica War Contingents, etc. The Government Railway receipts for the month of April show a slight increase over the corresponding month last year—i.e., £11,917 against £11,353. Increases are noted under the heads of logwood, ginger, sugar, rum, and general merchandise, while other dyewoods, coffee, pimento, oranges, bananas, and cacao show a falling off.

It is reported that inquiries are being made as to the possibilities of establishing a new factory for extracting

logwood dye in the island. There has been much disappointment over a big drop in the price of logwood, which at one time had risen to over £8 per ton. This price has been cut in two. It is not unlikely, however, that when the huge stocks which have been accumulated for shipment at different points have been removed, a substantial increase in the price ruling in the local market will be recorded.

The Board of Directors of the Canadian National Exhibition have awarded Diplomas of Merit to Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Daniel Finzi & Co., The Jamaica Tobacco Co., and Cyril C. Henriques for their exhibits sent to Toronto last year.

At a recent meeting of the Merchants' Exchange, the question of a preferential tariff in Great Britain on our sugar was discussed, and it was decided to communicate with the sugar planters on the subject with a view to their meeting and formulating some concerted action.

A Committee has been appointed by the Governor to consider the question of providing suitable work for men of the Jamaica War Contingent discharged during the progress of, or after, the War. The third Contingent from the Bahamas has arrived here, and the men are undergoing the regular training with the Jamaica recruits. The Canadian Government, through the Governor-General, have offered to train the Jamaica soldiers now at Halifax, disabled by frost-bite, for future usefulness in various occupations suitable for Jamaica, and the offer has been gratefully accepted. The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	3,678	12	1
Jamaica Polish Jews' Fund	1,681	11	4
Jamaica New Testament Fund	52	7	1
Jamaica Soldiers' Comforts Fund	210	19	11
Jamaica Victoria League (Russian Prisoners)	88	7	0
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers	346	16	3
Jamaica Blue Cross	39	15	7
Jamaica Hospital Bed (Miss Donet)	709	15	10
Jamaica Cigarette Fund	4	13	6

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, writing from Morant Bay on June 9th, referring to the late Archbishop, said: "He stood out prominently as being one of our ablest men. He took an active interest not only in Church work, but in everything concerning the island." Mr. Phillips went on to say that everyone was pleased that Mr. A. H. Miles, I.S.O., the Collector-General, had been made a C.M.G. He continued: "The boom in logwood has utterly collapsed, and prices have come down to an ordinary level, but still, however, paying. Inflated prices never do any good, and any commodity of this kind is always more benefited when prices stand at a level which will always create consumption. The Committee in regard to the extension of sugar cultivation is still working hard, and we hope some result will be attained."

TOBAGO—The Reception of a French Cruiser.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MAY 31st.—Only light showers have fallen during the month, registering in this (King's Bay) district about 4 in. Cacao trees are laden with new leaves and flowers, which may hold if there is no prolonged dry spell. The sugar estates are all hard at work, and their output will exceed that of 1915. The natives are less keen on common process sugar since they have been compelled to use the Trinidad Vacuum Pan variety. Empire Day was joyfully celebrated in the usual manner. The War has brought to the native mind the sense of protection, from the Fleet especially, and a British warship is hailed as a protector indeed. At Man of War Bay last week the French Cruiser — paid a few hours' visit, and the Commander must have been amused by the "unofficial" boarding officer—the black overseer of Charlotteville Estate, the only person brave enough to take the risk of going alongside. (There are no resident Government officials, except the rest house keeper; not even a policeman.) The natives were terribly scared when the warship arrived, thinking it was German, and many hid in the bush. The story that reached me (six miles distant) was that a battleship had arrived at Charlotteville filled with wounded Germans rescued from their warship, which had been sunk! Mr. Tucker, J.P. of Speyside, three miles on the other side of the main ridge, on hearing of the warship's arrival, rode over and met some of the officers

on shore, and exchanged mutual civilities, but it was too late to go on board. It is comforting to know that our shores are guarded by friendly warships as well as our own. Even in Tobago the "Marseillaise" is bravely sung by the school children, and three sounding cheers were given at a recent concert for the brave defenders of Verdun.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, JUNE 1st.—Chief Justice Lucie-Smith—a great favourite with all classes—presided over the sittings of the Supreme Court on May 18th. There were no cases of any importance. Mrs. F. A. Gray, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Tobago Branch of the Red Cross Society, and other ladies held an open-air Fete and Bazaar in the Botanic Gardens on the 10th, which netted £50. On the King's Birthday these ladies will sell roses in Scarborough for the same good cause.

A steady flow of emigrants is taking place in a quiet, unostentatious manner to the gold mines in Venezuela and the cane fields in Cuba, where a remunerative wage, it is alleged, is paid them. The class that go—young and strong able-bodied men—can all be spared at any time, but especially now. The cacao crop is finished this part of the island, but not altogether so in the Windward district, where sugar-making continues. The health of the island is excellent; vegetables and fish are plentiful, but the labour supply causes serious thought amongst the planters, big and little.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JUNE 8th. Since last mail we have had some good showers, but the heavy rains are still to come. Sufficient has fallen to permit of corn planting, and there is likely to be no scarcity of that cereal in the autumn. The prevailing idea in Tobago is to grow for personal consumption, and only what can be safely spared is exported to Trinidad. These occasional shipments meet bad markets at times and I hear complaints that there is a very small price paid wholesale even at the best of times. Every man for himself makes poor marketing, but I fear it will take years yet before the idea of co-operation appeals to the natives. One hears of trading sloop-taking freights of provisions, etc., and disappearing with cargo and proceeds. Such risks do not encourage production, hence the absolute necessity for a regular weekly steamship service, and which no doubt will be resumed in that nebulous period "after the war." Light cacao pickings still continue, and coco-nuts for copra making are being gathered all through the island. Even the small-holders are planting coco-nuts freely. From the Trinidad newspapers it would appear that our new Governor has created a very favourable impression. We Scots are naturally pleased to have a fellow-countryman as Governor of the colony, and, with others, wish him a successful and pleasant term of office. Captain Davidson, A.D.C., a war veteran, is indirectly interested in a plantation in Tobago, and no doubt this will encourage him to pay the island an early visit.

Several planters have recently left on a visit to the old country, the latest being Mr. Skaw and Mr. Orde, of Louis D'or Estate, with his family. This district has almost been depleted of Europeans, and it is no easy matter to make up a set at tennis at the Roxburgh Court. Five young men have volunteered for active service within a radius of four miles from here, and there is not a man of military age left that could possibly leave.

TRINIDAD The Immigration Ordinance.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 17th.—The Legislative Council Session which was formally closed before the arrival of Sir John Chancellor, has been reopened in the form of special meetings by His Excellency. Probably he was struck with the quantity of business left unfinished, and certainly, when one glanced at the agenda for the first of these meetings, held yesterday, it would seem that if our worthy Legislators have not recently done things which they had better left undone, they have certainly left undone things which they should have done. The new Immigration Ordinance is a striking case in point, which, in the public interest, brooks of no delay, and it was quite satisfactory to see the progress made with it yesterday under the able chairmanship of His Excellency, who, without any appearance of undue haste, has a happy way of curtailing extraneous and unnecessary oratory in a manner conducive to the progress of business.

Sir Norman Lamont presented an extensively signed petition for the appointment of a Board of Control, consisting partly of officials and partly of members of the public, to supervise the railway, which is now absolutely in the hands of the General Manager. Everyone admits that Mr. Marwood is an able man, and one of the hardest working and most conscientious in the service, and I do not think that the object of the petitioners is to cast any reflection upon him. But there is a general impression that recent frequent breakdowns and some accidents are due to the railway having been starved of proper renewals and equipment, not by the General Manager, but by the higher authorities to whom he applied in vain for sufficient votes. The public, in any case, are dissatisfied, and they have some reason to be, and they want to get at the truth of who is to blame. It is to be hoped that the prayer of the petition will be given effect to one way or another. Trinidad history records too many examples already of the evil results of ignoring public complaints that have afterwards proved more than justified.

MARRIAGE.

Goffe-Powell On Saturday, July 1st, at the King's Weigh House Church, London, W., by the father of the bride, Ernest George Leopold Goffe, M.D., B.S. Lond., Senior Assistant Medical Officer, North Eastern Hospital, Tottenham, son of the late John Beecham Goffe, Esq., J.P., of Port Maria, Jamaica, to Edna Mary Powell, M.B., B.S., Lond., eldest daughter of the Rev. Edward Pearce Powell, M.A., of Sutton, Surrey.

WANTS.

Superintendent Engineer. — 38, married, wishes to take up an appointment anywhere abroad. Qualifications—Constructional, Boilers, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Tea and Rubber Machinery, Aerial Tramways, Wire Shoots, General Engineering, Repairs, Office Correspondence. Enjoyed excellent health in East sixteen years. Services available at once.—Apply J. M. W., c/o The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Wanted—Copies of CIRCULARS dated March 9th and May 4th. Sixpence per copy given.—Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Venezuela's 30 per cent. Surtax.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Sir,—Kindly allow me to make a few remarks on the letter published in your CIRCULAR of the 29th ultimo, with reference to the Venezuelan 30 per cent. surtax.

This tax was not devised by Germany as a blow to British trade. Your correspondent over estimates the German influence in that country. It was devised by General Antonio Guzman Blanco, then President of Venezuela, and the beneficial effects of that policy to the country were due to him and not to the German foresight. It was due to the imposition of this surtax that Venezuela was able to build railways, open mines, etc., etc.

General Guzman Blanco, a clever and far-seeing politician, wanted to open the country. Money was required, but Venezuela, although a large and rich country, was altogether unknown in the financial centres of Europe, as all the business was done at the time with the West Indian Islands, St. Thomas being by far the largest supplier of European goods to Venezuela. To divert this trade direct to Europe, Guzman Blanco devised this 30 per cent. surtax with the immediate result that the Venezuelan merchants went direct to Manchester and other business centres to buy. Credit was established and before long Venezuela got all the money she wanted to open up the country.

What your correspondent calls an "embargo" is simply a differential tariff; not against Trinidad particularly, but against all the British, French, Danish and Dutch West

Indies, Puerto Rico (American colony), and Cuba (American protectorate). It has now been established very close on 50 years.

Naturally, the original reason of this surtax has disappeared many years ago, however subsequent Governments have kept to it as they found that it helped them to protect their Custom houses against smuggling. As a rule high tariffs encourage smuggling, but in this particular case, the surtax is a preventive against illicit trade, on account of the special conditions of the Venezuelan Custom houses.

There is no doubt also that the wholesale houses in Caracas have used their influence with the Government to keep this surtax as it gives them some protection against the competition of the Trinidad houses and also against those of Curaçao.

I believe it would not be difficult to come to an agreement with the Venezuelan Government for the abolition of the surtax. The present Government is a great improvement on many of its predecessors, and certainly on a more business basis; it is worth while trying, and making some concessions to that country though the privilege should not be paid too dearly, as the business that may result will certainly be very much below of what is expected by the majority of people who are not well acquainted with Venezuela.

To-day, Venezuela is supplied direct by all the markets of the world, and only the small trader could come over to Trinidad to buy, and of these, I am afraid the Trinidad merchants have already had some sad experience. The wholesale houses, whether in Caracas, Ciudad Bolívar, Carupano, or Maracaibo, receive the goods direct from England, and all the other markets; goods for Ciudad Bolívar are transhipped at Trinidad, those for Maracaibo at Curaçao, and for the other places are landed at the respective ports. The direct communications are fairly good, and at regular intervals; the Leyland and Harrison boats from Liverpool, the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique from Bordeaux and St. Nazaire, the Royal Dutch Company from Holland, the "Veloce" from Italy, the Red D. Line from New York, the Compañía Transatlántica from Spain, so I do not see how your correspondent can compare Trinidad in connection with the Venezuelan trade to Hong Kong.

With reference to the Canadian trade, in which your correspondent seems particularly interested, I do not see why Canada cannot have a share of the Venezuelan trade. There is no differential tariff in favour of the American products, and Canadian goods enter Venezuela on the same tariff conditions as those of the United States; for the time being arrangements could be made to have the goods transferred in Trinidad to local steamers and being shipped from Canada at *through rate* to a Venezuelan port, the transshipment in Trinidad would not subject the goods to the extra 30 per cent. tax. There is a Venezuelan line of steamers plying regularly from Ciudad Bolívar to Maracaibo, calling at Trinidad regularly.

A word more about German trade. It may interest your readers to learn that far from the Germans having been able to eliminate English goods from Venezuela, the German houses in the country held more stocks of British goods than of German goods, and now they are suffering more from the shortage of British goods, without which they cannot manage, than from the shortage of German goods, which are of very much less importance.

Yours truly,

M. J. TAUREL.

27, Highbury Quadrant, London, N.

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.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Burmah Co. and Trinidad

At the Annual General Meeting of the Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., Mr. John T. Cargill, the Chairman, in the course of his remarks said that the developments in Trinidad, to which he referred last year, had been continued, but had still not reached a stage at which he could definitely report that the enterprise was destined to be successful. Production problems presented by the geological configuration of the country, as well as refining problems presented by the constitution of the oil itself, made it impossible that they could yet regard this enterprise as having passed from an experimental stage, but so far as had been possible under these difficulties and those connected with the supply of tonnage and of all kinds of necessary plant and materials which war conditions had brought about, they had continued the production and shipment of oil for the British Admiralty and others; and as regards the geological and refining problems with which they were confronted, these were receiving such attention from experts in them both as they felt hopeful would in due course succeed in their solution.

Trinidad Petroleum Developments.

Sir Lionel Phillips, Bart., presiding at the 11th Ordinary General Meeting of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation on June 29th, said that the development operations of Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., in which the Corporation was largely interested, continued to show gratifying results. Work was at present being concentrated on the Forest Reserve property, and in addition to the production obtained from the upper strata, high-grade oil had been encountered in the lower tertiary series, where a gusher recently yielded some 20,000 barrels of oil in 30 hours, all of which was safely collected. The pipeline from this field to Point à Pierre, a distance of approximately 30 miles, was completed in the spring of this year, and was working satisfactorily. An island jetty had been constructed about a mile from the shore, where vessels of deep draught could safely anchor and receive their supplies of oil through a submerged pipeline connected with the main pipeline. Closed storage tanks had also been erected both on the field and at Point à Pierre. A refining plant, designed to take off the lighter constituents of the oil, was ordered in this country some few months ago, and it was anticipated it would be in commission before the end of the year. When this plant was erected and running, the Company would be in a position to supply fuel oil to the Admiralty specification. In the meantime contracts had been secured over a considerable period from two sugar factories in the island, from the Municipal Council of the Port of Spain, and others, and deliveries were now being made under these contracts from oil accumulated in open reservoirs. A small bunkering business was also being done. The Government, recognising the excellent work already performed by the Company, and the Admiralty having received favourable reports as to the quality of the oil, had purchased a cargo of crude oil, and had arranged to send a tanker to Point à Pierre to take delivery. A sufficient number of wells had now been sunk to secure an output of 1,000 tons per week, but this quantity could, if necessary, be very largely increased in a few months at comparatively small expense. Owing to the War it had been necessary for the Company to raise additional loans to enable it to carry on its operations to the self-supporting stage, which was expected to be reached by the end of this year. The Corporation, in view of the encouraging prospects, had no hesitation in providing the bulk of the money required. Having regard to the good work which had been done and was being carried on by the Trinidad Leaseholds, and its national importance, there seemed every reason to hope that the Imperial and Trinidad Governments would do everything in their power to foster this promising industry.

The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Co.

The Directors, in their report for the year ended December 31st, state that the net profit, after deduction of a loss of £2,946 os. 1d. on realisation of the 1914 Balata (due to shrinkage in weight caused by the delay in realisation

and delivery), amounts to £15,589 14s. 2d., which is carried to the Balance Sheet. After adding the balance brought in from 1914 (£367 14s. 2d.) and deducting the amount reserved for income tax (£321 10s. 10d.), there remains an available balance of £15,635 17s. 6d. The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend to the Preference Shareholders of 5% per cent. (£12,418 16s. 6d.) less income tax. They further recommend that £2,000 should be applied towards the reduction of the Preliminary Expenses Account, and that the balance of £1,217 1s. should be carried forward. On the Cumulative Preference Shares of the Company, of which 236,549 have been issued and are fully paid, there are outstanding up to March 31st, 1915, 2½ years' arrears of dividend, amounting to £17 10s. per cent., or 3s. 6d. on each £1 share. The Directors recommend for adoption by the Shareholders a scheme for the funding of these arrears by the issue of funding certificates carrying interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum in discharge and satisfaction thereof. The effect of the adoption of this scheme in conjunction with the cash dividend now proposed to be paid will be to clear off all arrears of Preference Dividend up to the 31st December last, the end of the financial year now under review.

The report and recommendations were adopted at the annual general meeting.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carib." London. LONDON, E.C.

July 13th, 1916.

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted 60½, Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) 89½, and New War Loan (4½ per cent) 95½.

SUGAR. On July 12th the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply raised the price of White Java and White Mauritius to 41/1½ and 40/7½ respectively—an advance of 1/—leaving American granulated at 41/7½. This is regarded as a distinct hardship to importers of West Indian Grocery sugar, the price for which is, as readers will recall, now based on American granulated, a sugar, and no doubt representations will be made on the subject, now priced by the Commission at fully 8/- to 9/- per cwt. below its proper value. Raw basis 92½ nett analysis is advanced to 36/3. The market for grocery has been quite firm. The supply of brown sugars, on the other hand, exceeds the demand, and these kinds are consequently lower. Reports from Cuba continue to be generally favourable.

The probable reduction of the Mauritius crop due to the cyclone of May 26th is now placed at from 10 per cent. to 30 per cent., according to locality. Nothing very definite can, however, be stated until it is seen whether the growth of the canes will start again, and it must be remembered that the cold season has started. The fact that many canes have broken away from the stool below the ground may also interfere with growth, development, and maturing so that sugar content and purity will be low. Still, the crop should exceed 200,000 tons. It is noteworthy that the cyclone was the latest to strike the island since the hurricane of April 29th, 1892, which reduced the crop by 50 per cent.

Reports from Germany do not tend to confirm the statements made that she is storing up supplies of sugar to dump on these shores after the war. According to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* the supply of sugar with tea and coffee in the restaurants is now prohibited; but reports of this nature especially when they come from the land of the Hun are not to be trusted.

According to the Board of Trade returns the total imports of sugar into the United Kingdom in June were 177,772 tons, as against 83,294 tons for the same month of 1915. Of the imports in June last 33,844 tons were refined, and 124,128 tons raw. The refined sugar included 10,000 tons from the United States, 14,517 tons from other countries outside Europe, and 145 tons from Mauritius.

The raw sugar was supplied mainly by Cuba, which sent us 87,270 tons, the Philippine Islands 10,557 tons, and the British West Indies and British Guiana 20,495 tons.

For the six months to July 30th, the total imports of sugar were 827,938 tons, as compared with 710,226 tons in the same period of 1915. Of the 1916 imports 261,225 have been refined and 566,713 raw.

The value of sugar imported in June was £4,358,320, as against £1,789,597 for the same month in 1915, and £2,068,960 for June, 1914. For the six months ended June 30th, the total value was, 1916, £19,848,997; 1915, £15,049,678; and 1914, £11,255,849. It is noteworthy that for the United Kingdom's sugar bill for the first six months of the present year over £15,950,000 sterling have been paid to foreign countries, which might have gone to our colonies.

West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to July 1st are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	22,765	24,261	22,795	28,389	16,361
Deliveries ...	28,622	19,391	14,746	15,095	14,739
Stock (July 1)	5,248	11,079	20,653	15,133	6,110

Prices in New York during the fortnight have remained fairly steady, the quotation for 96° Cubans being at the time of writing \$6.40.

RUM. According to the Board of Trade returns 957,409 proof gallons of "rum (including imitation rum)" were imported into the United Kingdom in June last, as compared with 1,059,930 and 493,891 proof gallons in the same months of 1915 and 1914 respectively. The quantities entered for home consumption, in proof gallons in the same month, were, 1916, 95,731; 1915, 111,794; 1914, 149,934. For the six months ended June 30th, the imports in proof gallons stood at, 1916, 4,969,551; 1915, 4,567,679; and 1914, 3,385,660 and the quantities entered for consumption, 1916, 1,983,103; 1915, 2,580,041; and 1914, 1,636,507. It is to be regretted that there is no differentiation in the figures between rum and imitation rum, and the attention of the Board of Trade has been called to the matter by the West India Committee.

The market remains in a state of suspended animation pending the publication of the promised Order in Council regarding the compulsory warehousing of rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act.

The stocks in London on 1st July were—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	5,167	4,430	7,987	6,170	7,984
Demerara ...	14,149	6,059	10,652	7,641	6,985
Total, all kinds ...	32,924	18,124	26,146	21,645	22,271

The Customs duty on "foreign" rum entering France has been raised from 80 fcs. to the prohibitive figure of 450 fcs. per hectolitre. The product of Martinique and Guadeloupe is still heavily protected as heretofore. In view of the moderate duties imposed on French wines entering this country representations by the British Foreign Office regarding the practical prohibition of rum in France should be favourably entertained.

CACAO. The market has been dull to flat. Biddings at the auctions have been conspicuous by their absence, and most offerings have been withdrawn. A dull tone prevailed at the auction on July 11th, 7,847 bags were offered, and though Ceylon remained steady, West Indian kinds were quite neglected; 2,429 bags Trinidad and 1,168 St. Lucia were bought in, while 9 bags Grenada were sold at 78/-. The Board of Trade returns for June give the following figures regarding the imports and consumption of cacao:—

From	Month ended June 30.		
	1916.	1915.	1916.
Ecuador ...	12,580	46,951	22,389
Brazil ...	3,906	11,852	9,082
British West Africa ...	4,657	78,847	82,450
Ceylon ...	1,338	3,343	1,758
British West India Islands	16,633	22,848	22,231
Other Countries	11,230	17,707	18,305
(Imports ...	50,344	181,548	156,215
Total Entered for Home Consumption ...	44,394	61,940	31,355

From	Six months ended June 30.				
	1914.	1915.	1916.		
Ecuador	Cwts. 92,087	103,977	46,837		
Brazil	64,509	84,670	58,688		
British West Africa	146,706	439,960	767,248		
Ceylon	16,687	48,553	34,612		
British West India Islands	131,627	151,993	146,612		
Other Countries	55,075	72,121	164,106		
Imports 506,691 901,274 1,218,103					
Total Entered for Home 312,299 469,356 456,512					
Consumption .. 312,299 469,356 456,512					
The stocks in London on 1st July were:—					
	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	28,220	10,302	10,328	10,760	7,140
Grenada	17,423	3,746	12,884	7,335	4,539
Total, all kinds	198,210	78,204	97,169	80,613	109,633

COFFEE. This commodity has been steady. About 500 packages of Jamaica have realised firm prices, from 65/- to 66/- per cwt.

The Board of Trade returns of imports and consumption of coffee (including roasted and ground) for June are given below:—

From	Month ended June 30.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Mexico	Cwts. 4,002		
Central America	20,309	73,364	12,454
Colombia	5,981	10,256	20
Brazil	339	63,184	243,472
Other Foreign Countries	3,143	32,497	27,652
British India	18,441	4,714	406
British West India Islands	171	8,085	955
Other British Possessions	1,937	3,822	3,405
Imports 54,323 195,922 288,364			
Total Entered for Home 23,530 19,964 15,518			
Consumption .. 23,530 19,964 15,518			

From	Six months ended June 30.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Mexico	Cwts. 33,411	10,239	3,781
Central America	325,595	307,838	183,709
Colombia	35,385	58,705	8,388
Brazil	158,848	365,395	710,436
Other Foreign Countries	25,375	128,187	99,436
British India	122,441	68,773	43,154
British West India Islands	3,335	22,915	6,089
Other British Possessions	16,060	31,686	17,460
Imports 720,360 993,738 1,072,453			
Total Entered for Home 141,410 169,842 155,490			
Consumption .. 141,410 169,842 155,490			

COTTON. The Board of Trade figures for June show that 155,699,400 lbs. of raw cotton were imported, bringing the total for the first six months of the year to 1,140,807,900 lbs. To the latter total Egypt contributed 245,039,000 lbs., the British East Indies 475,945,000 lbs., the British West Indies 1,024,600 lbs., and other British possessions 292,000 lbs. The remainder all came from foreign sources.

During the week ended July 6th 323 bales of West Indian Sea Island were imported into the United Kingdom. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that West Indian Sea Island cotton has been in moderate request since last report; the sales amount to about 100 bales, chiefly St. Vincent, 19d. to 23d.; St. Kitts, 10d. to 21d.; St. Bustatus at 16½d., and stains, 10½d. to 12d. Prices remain firm.

COPRA. The market continues very dull and there is only a small demand, owing to the prohibition of exports. £31 may be quoted for West Indian, c.i.f. terms.

GINGER. The market for Jamaica has been very quiet, buyers being unwilling to pay the high prices asked. Only a small business has been done at from 90/- to 120/-, according to quality.

HONEY is dull at 1/- to 3/- drop. Jamaica was offered at a recent auction, but only small sales were effected at 44/- to 59/- for dark liquid to fine pale set.

COCO-NUT OIL. Ceylon spot hogsheads are quoted £55; June-Sept. £49 c.i.f.; hand pressed £43 10s.

ARROWROOT. Quotations have undergone no change.

SPICES. The Board of Trade returns are as under

	Month ended June 30th.		
	1914	1915	1916
Cinnamon	lbs. 23,175	253,342	166,792
Ginger	cwts. 11,942	11,926	6,279
Pepper	lbs. 688,080	4,730,740	2,309,820
Unenumerated	344,608	2,479,106	4,053,818
Imports 628,510 1,546,173 2,151,492			
Total Entered for Home 55,926 27,045 21,717			
Consumption .. 6,857,398 22,043,012 15,476,297			
Unenumerated 2,932,392 10,470,344 21,017,247			

Pimento remains dull and inactive. The West India Committee in the winter asked the Army Council if some use could not be found for pimento for our troops in the trenches, and experiments in this connection were conducted. The decision, however, was unfavourable. London stocks are now 20,499 bags against 13,336 bags at the same date in 1915. The demand for ginger has been quiet. Nutmegs are quoted 10½d. to 1/- for 100/80; 9½d. to 10½d. for 120/100; and 9d. to 9½d. for 140/120. Mace—Good to fine 2/- to 2/8; broken 6d. to 1/4.

RUBBER. Plantation is rather firmer, after being down to 2/2½. Fine is quoted at 2/6½ c.i.f., smoked sheet 2/3½. Para is dull but steady; fine hard being 2/8½, and soft 2/5.

BALATA. The market keeps firm for Venezuela block with possible buyers at 2/6½ c.i.f., for near positions. Panama block is steady. Small sales having been made at 2/1½ c.i.f. Spot parcels are held for 2/2½ to 2/3 landed terms. West Indian sheet is also steady; quotations, nominal 3/2 for forward shipment; 3/4½ to 3/5½ spot landed terms.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. Walter Abbott | Mr. Wm. Greig | Sir Frederic Maxwell |
| Mr. A. C. Broughton | Mr. Hart-Beckett, C.M.G. | Mr. G. W. Penrice |
| A. M.I.C.E. | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Miss R. Robinson |
| (till end of July) | Mrs. E. Haynes | Mr. E. G. A. Saunders |
| Mr. G. G. Browne | Mr. T. W. Innes | Mr. C. W. Scott |
| Mr. G. S. Browne | Mr. E. C. Jackson | Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne |
| Mr. A. Cameron | Mr. A. H. Kirby | Mr. F. B. H. Shand |
| Mr. A. Campbell | Hon. A. Don Lockhart | Mr. R. B. Shart |
| Mr. J. W. Cathcart | Mr. Clement Malone | Mr. M. J. Taurel |
| Mr. W. Morris Fletcher | Mr. A. I. McColl | Mr. Ancher Warner K.C. |
| Mr. R. P. Gibbs | Mr. H. E. McCulloch | and |
| Mr. John T. Greg | Mr. A. Marsden | Mr. F. H. S. Warnford |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
 Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Heuston, Notts.
 Mr. H. D. Seadmore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldmaid Road, Brighton, Sussex.
 The Rev. Dean Shephard, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.
 Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
July 19	Booker	Anakras	Liverpool	D.
" 21	Elders & Fyffes	Cavina	Bristol	D.
" 22	Leyland	Sylvanian	Liverpool	A. B. E. F. G.
" 24	"Direct"	Crown of Granada	Glasgow	K. L. M. N.
" 26	Harrison	Colonial	Liverpool	A. B. E. F. G.
Aug. 4	"Direct"	Serrana	London	K. L. M. N.
" 9	Elders & Fyffes	Camito	Bristol	D.
" 9	Leyland	Albanian	Liverpool	D.
FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
July 28	R.M.S.P.Co.	Caraquee	Halifax, N.S.	A. B. E. F. G. I.
Aug. 11	"	Chaleur	"	K. L. M. N.
FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Aug. 4	Royal Dutch	Prinses	Amsterdam	B.E.

A. Barbados; B. British Guiana; C. British Honduras; D. Jamaica; E. Trinidad; F. Antigua; G. St. Kitts; H. Nevis; I. Montserrat; J. 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 India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6612 CENTRAL.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.1.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON

July 26th, 1916.

THE TRADE OF TRINIDAD.

IF any evidence were needed of the prosperity of Trinidad and Tobago, it would be found in the Annual Report of Mr. H. B. WALCOTT, C.M.G., on the trade of the colony for the year ended December 31st last. From this it appears that the only local industry which has been injuriously affected by the War has been that of asphalt. The exports of that commodity in 1915 were 94,770 tons less than those for the year 1913, and the receipts from the Export duty and royalty accruing to the Government showed a falling off of £23,100 and £7,559 respectively, the fears of the Government, which were not shared by all the planters, being thus justified. Notwithstanding this, the total revenue for the year, excluding the proceeds of the Export duties in aid of immigration and agriculture, which yielded £16,702, showed a net increase of £28,908, amounting as it did to £445,656, as against £416,748 for 1914. This satisfactory result was effected by the imposition as from January 1st, 1915, of export duties on sugar, cacao, coco-nuts, and copra—a form of taxation which is open to many objections, but which in this case seems to have been unavoidable, and consequently justified. It is satisfactory to note from this report that the effect of the preference in the Customs tariff given to Canada under the trade agreement of 1912, and also to the United Kingdom, has been to benefit greatly the trade with the Dominion in respect of such articles as flour, fish, oats, beans, peas, condensed milk, and potatoes. It is, however, disappointing to learn that it has had little or no effect in transferring to any appreciable extent the trade in the majority of manufactured articles to the

United Kingdom. This, we fear, cannot altogether be attributed to the War, since the pre-war year showed no appreciable increase in trade between the Mother Country and the West Indies. It would seem rather that manufacturers in the United Kingdom, who are proverbially reputed to be rather "slow in the uptake," have not yet realised that a wide variety of their goods are treated preferentially as to duties in the British West Indies—a fact which should be made clear to them by their Chambers of Commerce. During the year the transference of the trade in flour from the United States to Canada made further headway, the imports from the Dominion rising from 138,398 barrels, valued at £126,355 in 1913, to 203,759 barrels, worth £237,217, whilst the imports from the United States fell from 128,464 barrels (£118,172) in 1913 to 43,792 barrels (£53,645). Incidentally this is a tribute to the Canadian flour millers, who the opponents of reciprocity would have had us believe would never adapt themselves to West Indian conditions as regards quality and package. On the other hand, the exports from Trinidad to Canada showed a large falling-off owing to the greater part of the sugar crop going to the United Kingdom. Mr. WALCOTT regards the quantity of cacao going to Canada—1,424,654 lbs.—as disappointing, but this is only what we expected, having regard to the known needs of the Dominion and the impossibility of meeting them solely from the British West Indies, owing to requirements of customers who prefer light-coloured chocolate. Cacao manufacturers in Canada, and consequently producers in the British West Indies, are, moreover, still at a disadvantage by reason of the fact that British manufactured cacao is admitted on preferential terms, whether it is made from British or foreign cacao—an anomalous state of affairs, as we have repeatedly pointed out while sugared goods have to be made with British sugar to secure the preference. Dealing with local industries generally, Mr. WALCOTT discloses the interesting fact that, in spite of the increase in quantity and value of sugar exports, cacao still ranks first in the colony's exports, the value of "golden beans" shipped amounting to £1,865,266, or 54 per cent. of that of the total exports, as against £1,070,423 for sugar and its by-products, rum and molasses. The export of petroleum from the local wells was again hampered by the scarcity of oil ships, but the exports amounted to 14,113,858 gallons of crude oil and 172,730 gallons of petrol spirit, an increase of 1,960,071 gallons of crude and 134,225 gallons of petrol as compared with the figures for the preceding year. The transshipment trade with Venezuela benefited from a further increase of imports of cacao from the mainland Republic, 10,404,345 lbs. being received for transshipment, as compared with 5,927,485 lbs. in the year 1913. The exports

to Venezuela, on the other hand, were below the average, and little improvement can be looked for until the 30 per cent. surtax on goods from the West Indies is removed—and the present seems an opportune moment for the ventilation of the question. In concluding this brief notice of MR. WALCOTT'S admirable Report, we must not omit to refer to the coloured statistical diagrams with which it is embellished. Apart from other information, they show at a glance in a striking manner the rapid progress which Trinidad and Tobago are making along the path of prosperity—progress which should, and no doubt will, be still more marked when the local oil industry is energetically developed by all the companies concerned.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE BAHAMAS.

WE have read with interest the Report of the Development Board of the Bahamas for the year ended 31st March, 1916, which has just been published by the Colonial Government. During the second year of its operations, the Board, which was established mainly to foster the tourist traffic by means of advertisement and better communications, appears to have done all that could be expected of it with the limited means at its disposal. An extensive advertising campaign was, in collaboration with the steamship companies, maintained in the United States and Canada; better and more frequent transport facilities were secured from the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (better known as the Ward Line), and an experiment, the success of which was not wholly demonstrated, was made in the direction of the establishment of a steamer service with Jacksonville, in Florida. It has also been part of the policy of the Board to encourage artists and authors of note to visit the colony, and amongst them may be mentioned MR. RICHARD LE GALLIENNE, the famous poet and author, whose fascinating articles in *Harper's Magazine* no doubt attracted many tourists, and MR. STEPHEN HAWES, the Futurist painter. A Country Club and Racing Association has been established, with assistance from the Board, and the contract with the Submarine Film Corporation continued. Many of our readers no doubt viewed with interest and pleasure the wonderful submarine pictures which were produced by this Company at the Philharmonic Hall last winter, and as these pictures were shown all over the United States and Canada, the result must have been of benefit to the colony. We regret to learn that an application which the Board made to the Legislature for increased funds has been negatived by the House of Assembly. By the Act of Constitution the House voted to the Board £3,000 for each of the first two years of its existence, and £2,000 for each of the remaining three. The Board found that the obligations incurred during the first two years rendered necessary an increase of the vote to £3,000 for the third and probably for subsequent years, and this application being refused, the Board felt no option but to resign. To MR. WELLS DURRANT, M.A., K.C., the Attorney-General, who has been Chairman of the Board from its inception, must be assigned the greatest credit for the good work that

has been done, and we regard it as unfortunate that he has not felt able to continue his services. We understand, however, that the Governor has appointed a new Board, which will, it is to be hoped, carry on the efforts of its predecessor as far as its small vote allows. If it is conceded that the tourist traffic is one of the assets of the colony, it follows that money spent on advertising the many and varied attractions of Nassau is money well spent, and it is only necessary to point to Bermuda to show the satisfactory results obtained from judicious expenditure on advertising. The argument that the colony cannot afford it on account of the War might perhaps be an argument in favour of abolishing the vote altogether, but not of placing it at a figure which obviously is absurdly low. But from the latest reports it does not appear that the financial condition of the colony is anything but sound, and if the War has had any effect at all, it has been in the direction of stimulating trade. The main exports, sisal and sponge, have never been so large nor so high-priced, and recently a large export trade has grown up in logwood, which is used for dyeing purposes in America. We trust that the House of Assembly—which holds the purse-strings—will, on reflection, still find means to accede to the application of the Government and of the Board, and grant the extra £1,000 recommended. We are convinced that it would be in the interests of the Bahamas to do so.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, London, on July 13th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the members present were Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Alexander Duckham, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Sir William Trollope, Bart., and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The Chairman suggested the desirability of forming a standing committee with reference to the West Indian oil industry, and Mr. Duckham was requested to confer with the Secretary on the subject.

The following were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Walter C. de Gale (Grenada)	{ T. Greenwood. E. L. Marshall.
Percy Lindo (Jamaica)	{ Lewis Ashenheim. J. L. Stone.
C. Vernon Lindo (Jamaica)	{ Lewis Ashenheim. J. L. Stone.
C. Bruce Austin, M.C.P. (Barbados)	{ A. S. Bryden. J. H. Boyce.
A. L. Springer (Trinidad)	{ W. Gordon Gordon. John J. McLesel.
William Hadden (Trinidad)	{ W. Gordon Gordon. J. Smith.

The Sugar Preference Sub-Committee reported that in accordance with the powers granted them by the Executive on May 11th, they had nominated

Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. E. A. de Pass and Mr. Edward R. Dawson to represent the Committee on the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Mr. G. H. Pritchard, of Queensland, and Mr. E. A. Saunders, of South Africa, members of the Council of the Organisation, attended by invitation and explained its objects. After discussion, it was resolved:—

"That the despatch of a letter to West Indian Estates Proprietors in the British West Indies and in the United Kingdom, and to the Chambers of Commerce in the British West Indies, inviting subscriptions to the British Producers' Organisation be authorised."

The Immigration Sub-Committee reported the despatch of a cablegram (the text of which was published in last issue) to Hon. Correspondents in British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

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.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR

The Prime Minister has appointed a Committee to consider the commercial and industrial policy to be adopted after the war, with special reference to the conclusions reached at the Economic Conference of the Allies, and to the following questions:—

(a) What industries are essential to the future safety of the nation; and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them.

(b) What steps should be taken to recover home and foreign trade lost during the War, and to secure new markets.

(c) To what extent and by what means the resources of the Empire should and can be developed.

(d) To what extent and by what means the sources of supply within the Empire can be prevented from falling under foreign control.

The Committee is composed as follows:—

The Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T., G.C.M.G. (chairman).

Mr. Arthur Balfour.

Mr. H. Gosling.

Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, M.P.

Mr. A. H. Illingworth, M.P.

Sir J. P. Maclay, Bt.

The Right Hon. Sir A. Mond, Bt., M.P.

Mr. Arthur Pease.

Mr. R. E. Prothero, M.P.

Sir Frederick H. Smith, Bt.

Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P.

together with the following gentlemen, who are

presiding over Board of Trade Committees on the position of important industries after the war:—

Sir H. Birchenough, K.C.M.G.

Lord Faringdon.

Sir C. G. Hyde.

The Hon. Sir C. A. Parsons, K.C.B., F.R.S.

Lord Rhondda.

Mr. C. Scoby-Smith.

Mr. Percy Ashley, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. G. C. Upcott, of the Treasury, have been appointed Secretaries.

In the House of Commons on July 24th, several Members of Parliament asked the Prime Minister why the Overseas Dominions were not represented on the Committee. In reply, Mr. Asquith read a telegram which, he said, had been sent by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Self-Governing Dominions early in May:—

"His Majesty's Government desire as soon as practicable to convene a Conference representative of the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India to consider the commercial policy to be adopted after the War.

"In view of past fiscal controversies in this country, we consider it essential as a prior step in order that the Conference may have practical results, to set up a Committee here with a view of discovering how far agreement among ourselves may be possible under the changed conditions brought about by the War. But we wish to make it clear that in our judgment the appointment of this Committee, whatever may be its result, will not as we hope delay unduly the holding of the larger Conference or interfere in any way with the free and unprejudiced discussion of the problems with the overseas representatives.

"I trust that this method of procedure will commend itself to your Ministers."

Mr. Asquith added that the Dominion Governments concurred in this procedure, and that the Committee had accordingly been appointed.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The professional optimist, who has so often predicted that Germany was falling back on old men and boys, has been refuted again. At least one official British *communiqué* bears witness to the valour of the enemy, while a Hungarian with them writes a most glowing account of their fighting qualities. As for Tommy Atkins he contents himself with saying that the Boche is a "good sticker." The very fact that, with conditions fairly equal, our men find it so difficult to make headway is certain evidence that the Germans are making a fine fight. But that they have been either surprised or outmanoeuvred on both the eastern and the western fronts is clear from the number of prisoners taken. On the one it totals 200,000; on the other, 20,000. The truth is they are beginning to lose the advantages of their interior position, superior numbers, and long preparation for the war. Russia and England are each well supplied with munitions, and both are putting large new armies in the field, with more to follow. Therefore, Germany cannot now hold up first one and then the other through her power of transporting reinforcements quickly. She is pressed equally on both sides, and has not succeeded in capturing Verdun or otherwise striking hard in the west, and in the east her great

thrust at Russia failed of its ultimate object. As for Turkey, she is proving a broken reed. Not only is she unable to stay the Russian advance in Armenia, but to check the revolting Arabs who are now in possession of the territory from Mecca to Jeddah. Germany has always boasted that she is the military nation. She now has a task worthy of her.

The Battle of the Somme.

This great battle is proceeding satisfactorily for the Allies, who are putting in practice against him the enemy's own tactics at Verdun, consisting of a slow and methodical advance preceded by an intensive bombardment, which flattens out trenches and defences so that it would seem as if no living thing could survive, much less men. But they do, and are then full of fight on both sides of "No Man's Land," as they prove daily. With the capture of Contalmaison, the British completed the capture of the enemy's first line positions. It had been converted into a miniature Verdun, so cunningly contrived that each fortified detail was flanked by another one. So strong was our hold on it that the counter-attacks of the enemy failed to shake us.

The same method which had been crowned with such success in the capture of the German first line positions, was employed in the capture of his second line positions, and so promptly was the attack followed up that several howitzers were taken, together with a store of ammunition, which the enemy with a little more time would have destroyed. The following day his second line defences were penetrated to a considerable depth on a front of four miles, since when we have consolidated our gains. For the powerful German counter-offensive was brought to a standstill after effecting a lodgment in the northern outskirts of Longueval and Bois de Deville, most of which lost ground has been regained. In addition our troops have made fresh progress in the section between Longueval and Bazentin, and are on the way to capture the enemy's third line positions. On the rest of the front, from the Ancre to the sea, enemy positions have been raided with such frequency as to prevent the withdrawal of any important bodies to aid in the defence of the menaced line of the Somme.

The Battle Ground.

The French and British offensive is limited to the valley of the Ancre and the Somme which is a succession of undulating plateaux and woods in the shape of an arc, beyond which is the open country. The river Somme between Bray and Clerly cut the battle-field into two unequal parts. Above Clerly the river bends, running from south to north in front of the French line south of the river. This, with the canal and marshes, forms an obstacle to the French advance, on which the Germans counted. That is why they placed fewer men in this sector, a fact that accounts for the relatively speedy French occupation, not only of the enemy's first and second lines, but of his third line between Barleux and Soyecourt.

North of the Somme beyond Hardecourt, where the Allied lines join, there is no natural obstacle but

an ideal battle-ground which stretches to Cambrai, 20 miles distant, and to the river Scheldt. It will, therefore, be readily understood why the Germans are putting up their strongest defence in this sector which is that held by the British. Combes is threatened by both French and British. Ultimately progress north of the river will take in the rear the defences of the Somme. Hence their desperate efforts to prevent the British from pushing westwards, not even hesitating to sacrifice the Prussian Guard. The fact that they cannot stay the British advance must be as depressing to them as it is encouraging to us. Just as "French's contemptible little Army" showed its superiority to the best that Germany could produce, so do Kitchener's "contemptible armies."

Verdun.

The Somme offensive has placed the enemy in something of a dilemma, for if he desists from his attacks on Verdun he will release a large number of heavy French guns for use against the hard-pressed positions in Picardy, and if he continues the attacks the use of the large forces required to pursue them reduces his own chances of holding his third-line defences in the valley of the Somme. Since two German divisions attacking Fleury and the Vaux Chapitre Wood, gained ground in the Chapelle Sainte Fine, the enemy's activities have been restricted to minor attacks and artillery action, while the French have recovered much of what they lost then.

In the region between Soissons and Champagne our Allies, including the Russians on this front, have been carrying out a series of raids like those which harass the Germans in Flanders and Picardy.

The Eastern Front.

Just when it seemed that our Allies were about to make another big push in Volhynia and Galicia the unexpected happened. Germany sent strong reinforcements to both fronts, and the fight along both of them continues. For the possession of Kovel, in particular, the enemy is making heroic efforts along the Stokhod—its last natural line of defence. For a failure to stand his ground here, if not to straighten out a dangerous salient, may compel him to withdraw from this all-important key position altogether, the immediate sequel of which would be a complete reorganization of his line in the Polish Quadrilateral.

On the southern face of the Lutsk salient, which runs parallel with the Galician frontier so as to form an angle, the Russians have followed up their success in driving the Austrians into the river Strypa, below Werben, by forcing them across the Lipa. General Sakharoff, aims at the German communications in Galicia, and at widening the Lutsk salient to Gorokchow, thus obliterating the existing angle. The flooding of the Dniester, owing to heavy rains, is likely to interfere with operations immediately south of its junction with the Strypa, but in the Bukovina heavy fighting continues in the region of the passes. In the north General Kuropatkin is holding Marshal Hindenburg to the defensive, while conserving his own resources for a future offensive.



CYCLISTS AND SIGNALLERS.



A DRUM AND FIFE BAND.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

The Italian Front.

In the region of Asiago the Italians continue to harass the Austrians, and have been closely engaging the enemy around Mount Pasubio, where lost ground was retaken. Elsewhere in the Trentino they have made progress, especially on the Posina, and compelled the Austrians to remain on the defensive. Germany's notification to all Italians of military age to leave Belgium, and to Italian workmen that she will not pay the pensions to which they are entitled, has revived the demand in Italy for a declaration of war against Germany. Though much German capital has been withdrawn from Italy much German property can be seized and German commercial undertakings supervised.

In the Middle East.

After a long pause the Russians have again struck at the Turks in Armenia. Not only have they recaptured Mahmakhatum, a considerable town midway as the crow flies between Erzeroum and Erzincan, but have successfully stormed Baiburt, which stands on the main road between Erzeroum and Trebizond. Both these positions were of high strategic importance to the Turks, who put up a gallant defence to retain them. Their hold on Armenia has been further weakened by the loss of Kyghi, a road centre 40 miles to the south-east of Erzincan, the great Turkish military depot. On the road to Mosul, however, the Russians have had to fall back before superior forces of the enemy, and are having trouble with the tribesmen in Persia.

A Submarine Liner.

We have no sense of the spectacular. Ten submarines, constructed in Canada for the Navy, crossed the Atlantic, and we never even mentioned it. Germany sends one as a "liner," and sets the whole world gaping for a few hours, as she did when the *Möwe* was to open a new era in commerce raiding. But it all amounts to next to nothing in the long run, so, perhaps, our stolid way is the best after all. The United States, following the line of least resistance, has decided that the *Deutschland* is a merchant vessel. The Allies, do not agree, their contention being that a ship which assumes the guise of a warship and unarmed freight carrier at will, evades international law, and, therefore, cannot claim its protection.

In East Africa.

With the capture of the Usambara Railway to the sea at Tanga, the most fertile part of Germany's last colony is in British hands. The converging drive in the remainder is being pushed successfully, and General Smuts has reached a point well on the way to the central railway. Though the season when military operations are practicable is drawing to an end, it is hoped that there will yet be time to finish the job.

(To be continued.)

The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 1/- net, may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

CORPORAL ALFRED KEDDIE CURRY, who was killed in action on July 3rd, was the son of Mr. Adolphus Curry, of Rock Sound, Eleuthera, Bahamas. After the outbreak of war he enlisted in British Columbia, and went to France with the first Canadian Contingent. He had been selected for special work on several occasions, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal a few months ago.

SECOND LIEUTENANT HENRY LIONEL FIELD, Royal Warwick Regiment, killed on July 2nd, was the third son of Mr. H. C. Field, of Alfred Field & Co., Birmingham—a firm with West Indian interests—and Mrs. Field, of Courtlands, Edgbaston, Birmingham, a grandson of the Right Hon. Jesse Collings, and a direct descendant of Oliver Cromwell. He was educated at Marlborough Coll. ge, and was a student at the Birmingham School of Art. He enlisted soon after the War broke out, and got his commission in October, 1914. His eldest brother, Captain G. C. Field, in the same regiment, though a different battalion, was reported missing on June 26th during a raid on the German trenches.

LIEUTENANT CLARENCE ESPEUT LYON HALL, of the South Wales Borderers (Pioneers), who was killed in action on July 7th, was the son of Mr. C. Lyon Hall, of 65, Sinclair Road, Kensington, and grandson of the Rev. Clarence Hall, of Somerset Hall, St. Dorothy's, Jamaica, and of Mr. Bancroft Espeut, of Spring Garden, Buff Bay, Jamaica. Lieut. Lyon Hall, who was educated at Oundle, Northamptonshire, and was only in his 21st year, was gazetted a lieutenant in the regiment with which he was serving on October 15th last. It was only last month that he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

Writing of Lieutenant William Bertie Wolseley, a notice of whose death from wounds appeared in last CIRCULAR, Lieut.-Colonel Warburton, who commanded his Brigade, in a letter to Mrs. Wolseley, said:—"I should like you to know how highly we all think of him. He is extraordinarily capable, cool and fearless, and only a short time ago I sent his name up to the General for gallant conduct. His place in the battery is impossible to fill." Brigadier-General Kirby wrote:—"Your boy was one of the best and most promising officers I have met for some years in the Royal Regiment. He was of the high standard we old Gunners wish to get, but rarely do." In addition to the particulars published in last CIRCULAR, it may be mentioned that Lieut. Wolseley was born at Plantation Lusignan, Demerara, on July 7th, 1896.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Second Lieutenant A. C. Hart, of the Machine Gun Corps, who has been wounded, and is now reported missing, is the youngest brother of Major G. V. Hart, who commands a battalion of the British West Indies Regiment.

WOUNDED.

Second Lieutenant N. D. Dalton (the youngest son of the late Mr. Goring R. Dalton, of Booker Bros., Demerara), Machine Gun Corps, was wounded on July 1st.

Second Lieutenant Arthur Pantin (son of Mr. C. G. Pantin, Assistant Auditor-General of Trinidad and Tobago), The Northumberland Fusiliers, has been wounded in France.

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN JACOBUS DARKELL HILL (son of Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill, of British Guiana), who is now a Staff Captain in France, has been awarded the Military Cross.

SECOND LIEUTENANT OWEN S. MELHADO, of the Yorkshire Regiment, who, as already stated, died in hospital at Malta of wounds received in Gallipoli, has been mentioned in despatches by General Sir Charles Munro for gallantry.

in the Dardanelles operations. Mr. Melhado was the son of Mr. Reginald Melhado, of St. Andrew's, Jamaica.

LIEUTENANT CLARENCE ESPEUT LYON HALL, whose death is recorded above, was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in June last.

SECOND LIEUTENANT A. MCARTHUR, of the 12th Northumberland Fusiliers, and late of Ptn. Skeldon, has been decorated with the Military Cross for gallantry.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

- Ferguson, 2nd Lieut. Vivian (Jamaica Scholar, 1914), The Gordon Highlanders.
 Frith, Neville (son of Mr. H. M. Frith, of the Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
 Frith, Roland (son of Mr. H. M. Frith, of the Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
 Hall, Edwin C. (son of the late Mr. E. S. Hall, of the Bahamas), Canadian Cyclist Corps.
 Holmes a Court, Private Arthur W. (eldest son of the late Hon. Arthur W. Holmes a Court, of Antigua, and grandson of the Hon. T. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), Canadian Expeditionary Force.
 Johnson, Private R. H. (of Barbados), The London Scottish.
 Reynolds, 2nd Lieut. Herbert John Sidney (son of the late Rev. C. H. Reynolds, B.A., of Jamaica), The Manchester Regiment.
 Rudolf, Oscar Royston (second son of Mr. H. J. Rudolf, of Hampstead, Jamaica), Machine Gun Section, Winnipeg-Manitoba Company, Canadian Expeditionary Force.
 Sawyer, R. H. (son of Mr. R. W. Sawyer and grandson of the late Hon. R. H. Sawyer, C.M.G., of the Bahamas), Canadian Army Service Corps.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

- Burnside, Lieut. George F. C. (son of Mr. F. A. Burnside, of Nassau, Bahamas) has been transferred from the Devonshire Regiment to the Machine Gun Corps, and appointed Temporary Captain for service abroad.
 Lorimer, Lieut. J. S. (grandson of the late Mr. Robert S. Lorimer, of Plantation Wales, Demerara), has been promoted to a Captaincy in the Norfolk Regiment, and is in command of a trench mortar battery.

SEEDLING CANES.

Rather over a quarter of a century has now elapsed since seedling canes—that is to say, canes grown from the actual seed of the cane, which must not be confounded with "seed" cane, the term used in some countries for the pieces of cane used for planting—came into existence. Professor J. B. Harrison and Mr. J. R. Bovell, of Barbados, were responsible for the re-discovery and application to practical use of the power of reproduction possessed by the cane, although some years back the fact had been casually noted by a Barbados planter.

This discovery opened up new prospects in cane cultivation. Prior to it, the only way in which new varieties of canes could be obtained was by "sports"—that is to say, chance variations formed in the cane-field, which on cultivation maintained their properties. Should the cane grown in any particular country show signs of deteriorating, practically the only way of getting over the difficulty was by the substitution of another variety of cane from another country, which might or might not be found suitable for the purpose.

History does not narrate any important decadence of any particular variety of cane before that of the Bourbon in the 'eighties in the West Indies, and the Cheribon cane in Java about the same time,

This is probably due to the fact that sugar competition was not so severely felt prior to then, and the easy conditions of market had not probably led to much worry over a few tons of sugar more or less. Certainly it is on record that the Bourbon cane was brought to the West Indies from the Isle of Bourbon at the end of the seventeenth century, while others think that canes from Brazil had been brought into Barbados. This, however, was not due to the decadence of the existing cane, but rather to the improved qualities of the cane introduced compared with that of the existing canes. In fact, Sir William Young, in his "Commonplace Book," gives a glowing account of the greatly improved returns from the then newly introduced Bourbon cane.

The advent of the seedling cane, therefore, opened up a vista of the most glowing description to the sugar planter. Visions of canes with a sugar content far in excess of that of the beet, the saccharine sweetness of which had been raised from 8 or 9 per cent. to 18 per cent. by means of selection and cross-breeding, and with a yield far in excess of that of the existing canes, were in the minds of the sugar planting world, and it was anticipated that a new era was opened for the cane sugar industry.

Like all grasses, the flower of the cane—the feathery panicle which forms such a striking object waving over the cane-fields at the period of maturity of the cane—is bisexual, and therefore self-fertilising. The more cultivated the cane, the less fertile the seeds become, and their cultivation becomes a matter of the greatest delicacy. In nature, in the cane-field there is, of course, some germination of seeds from the flower of the cane, but the small grass-like shoots of the young cane are easily mistaken for grass, and removed as such in weeding, especially in view of the tradition as to the non-productive power of the cane. In planting operations, even after the arrival of the seedling cane, replanting the cane-field has to be carried out either by "tips"—that is to say, the upper joints of cane not required for grinding—or else by pieces of the entire cane, the "eye" at each node of the cane ultimately becoming the cane of the next crop. The reasons for this are twofold. In the first place, the sowing and cultivation of the cane by means of seed is not practicable on account of the time that would be taken in growth before maturity was arrived at, apart from other difficulties of cultivation; and in the second place, because there would be no guarantee as to the character of the resulting canes, on account of the many types of cane which one sugar-cane flower would produce.

The methods by which seedling canes are produced are three—viz., by selection, by cross-breeding by actual individual fertilisation of the petal of the cane desired to be crossed with the pollen of the crossing cane, and, thirdly, by enclosing together the flowers of the two varieties with the view of securing some fertilisation in the ordinary course.

Of these methods, the first is the one generally employed. The flower is carefully cut up into minute fragments. These are then sown in boxes of carefully prepared soil, covered with gauze to prevent outside seeding, and kept under suitable

atmospheric conditions. If the cane is one the seed of which germinates readily, the surface is soon covered with tiny grass-like sprouts. When these are about two inches high, they are carefully transferred to baskets or pots, one to each, and then cultivated until the young cane can be planted out on a suitable nursery. Each is numbered, and its future career carefully noted. When the cane has arrived at maturity, it is cut, weighed, and analysed. If the results are promising, the stool is allowed to ratoon to see how the ratooning properties are, while the joints of the cane are planted in the cultivation method, so that its further career may be watched.

As an average flower of the cane may produce a hundred or more young seedlings, no two of which may be alike in character, it is readily understood that this method requires a gigantic amount of work. Out of many thousand seedlings, but few pass through the ordeal in a manner satisfactory enough to entitle them to the still more trying ordeal of an estate cultivation.

The second method, that of actual fertilisation with the pollen of the desired cane, has not been very successful. The process is one of great mechanical difficulty, and even when successfully carried out there is no guarantee that the resulting cane will possess any of the desired properties of either of the parents, and this remark also applies to the third method.

It is to be regretted that, after a quarter of a century of investigation, involving an enormous amount of work, the visionary cane has not been produced. Further, no cane has been produced equal in manufacturing and other properties to the older existing canes. But where seedling canes have shown their value has been in affording substitutes for canes which have shown signs of deterioration.

Perhaps the most notable instances of cane collapse on record are, as already stated, those of the Bourbon in the British West Indies and the Cheribon in Java. These canes had both been cultivated for many years, and up to the collapse point had shown no signs of decadence. The immediate cause of the collapse of the Bourbon was the rind fungus, which attacked it violently; of the Cheribon in Java, the root disease sereb. So sudden was the collapse of the Bourbon that whereas in 1890 that cane had produced the biggest crop ever yielded in that island, in ten years' time not a Bourbon cane was to be found in it. Now various canes evolved by the seedling process have been substituted for the worn-out canes.

There is, however, one great defect in seedling canes. Up to now no seedling cane has been found to have the enduring properties of the old-time varieties. It is difficult to say why this is, but at the same time the fact remains. But with a constant stream of seedlings coming on, those worn out canes always be replaced, although it is a costly operation.

One great advantage in connection with seedling canes is that canes can be chosen to suit the climatic conditions of the country, and this is a point of the greatest importance.

On the whole, then, the seedling cane industry—

for it is an industry—has become an indispensable adjunct to the cane sugar industry.

There is one piece of advice which may be of special value to those requiring seedlings, and that is to select one which has been thoroughly tested under conditions analogous to those for which the cane is required. This is a *sine qua non* for success. To select a twelve months' cane for conditions requiring sixteen or eighteen months for maturity, to choose a cane requiring heavy rainfall for conditions where drought obtains, or a cane which does not ratoon where ratooning is wanted, is to court disaster.

WHITE LABOUR IN THE CANE FIELD.

One of the large sugar estates in Natal has, it appears, been coquetting with the question of white labour for the cane fields. A writer in the *Rand Daily Mail* is responsible for the following remarks on the subject:—

Perhaps no experiment has been more interesting than that which has been carried out on one of the large sugar estates of Natal, and whilst in Durban the other day the writer took the opportunity of obtaining a few particulars in regard to it. Unfortunately it has only been conducted on a small scale, and the War has interfered with an extension. But the result has, nevertheless, been distinctly encouraging, in the opinion of the gentleman who controls the estate, and one came from him with the impression that the sugar industry affords greater scope for the employment of white labour than has hitherto been considered possible.

Twelve months ago, or thereabouts, eleven white men, with no previous experience of sugar estates, were put to work. To-day half a dozen still remain on the property, and this fact in itself is regarded as an excellent indication. Most of the men were British, and they were given jobs previously performed by Indians. They were provided with free quarters, and, as regards pay, they were started on twice the wages that the Indians had been receiving.

To-day the six men who are still there are getting considerably higher remuneration than when they commenced their engagement. No figure was given, but it was inferred that the men could not be altogether dissatisfied with their lot. And, as sugar planters are not philanthropists, but regard things from the practical point of view, it has to be assumed that in this particular case the replacement of the Indians was not unsuccessful.

The verdict of the authority mentioned was indeed wholly favourable. "The men, who belonged to the better class of poor whites, were taken on trial, but the experiment has proved quite encouraging—sufficiently encouraging, at any rate, to go on with it. The men were very good all round, and I have no doubt that, under proper conditions and arrangements, a considerable number of this class of men could be worked into the sugar industry. The industry could, in fact, absorb some hundreds, provided the thing was done on proper lines."

In this case the men ranged in age from, say, 25 years to 40. The conditions and surroundings

were novel to them, and they had to learn at the firm's expense, as it were.

"To succeed to the fullest extent," said the gentleman interviewed, "and to produce the greatest efficiency, we must catch them young. We should have youths of 16 or 17, and train them. That would necessitate some form of apprenticeship, and it would be necessary in that case for the Government to be a sort of sleeping partner, and to exercise some control over the lads. The Government and the sugar planters would have to co-operate in their interests. Such a scheme would have to be run on proper lines. This would entail a certain amount of expenditure, and it could not, I am afraid, be considered at the present time."

It was laid down definitely, however, that, in the sugar trade, there was a good deal of work now done by Indians that could better be performed by white men, because of their superior intelligence, provided the latter did not expect the high rate of pay that prevailed in some of the other industries. The sugar industry, it was pointed out, could not stand this.

"Many of the jobs," it was added, "are only of a semi-skilled character, and men can earn a good deal more than if they were working as navvies. And, of course, they would be usefully employed, and not spending their days in idleness or something worse."

Further enquiry showed that on another estate a similar class of poor whites had been tried, and that four or five had proved capable and smart. This trial, however, was not exhaustive. Most of the men did not stay, although some at least were shaping extremely well when they left.

As to the attitude of the Government on the scheme, nothing could be positively ascertained at the moment. Investigation has been carried out with a view to seeing whether white labour could not be placed on the sugar plantations on terms advantageous to family men, and it is understood that the report presented to the Government has been to the effect that such a scheme would probably not be a success. A branch of the White Labour Department has recently been established at Durban, and doubtless the matter will be given further attention.

Naturally there are those connected with the white labour movement who hold that the sugar plantations should be worked for the benefit of the white man rather than for the Indian. The industry, they argue, is a highly protected one, obtaining a very substantial help, both through the Customs and by means of preferential railway rates, and in view of this, it is urged, pressure should be brought to bear by the Government upon those owners of plantations who are not willing to agree to a white labour scheme.

Again, it is held that the sugar industry was never so prosperous as it is to-day, thanks to the War, and the time is, therefore, considered opportune for the Government to insist upon the employment of more whites. The experience of Queensland is also quoted. Here Kanaka labour was entirely replaced by whites, and the sugar industry, it is pointed out, went ahead by leaps and bounds, this in itself being an argument why a

white labour policy should be initiated on the sugar plantations of the Garden Province.

Incidentally, one may say in conclusion, the point was also discussed as to whether the victims of miners' phthisis might not be assisted by the Government to become sugar planters in Zululand or Natal.

"So far as the work is concerned, it would be an admirable thing," remarked one gentleman, but another authority was equally emphatic that such a scheme could not be considered. "The men," he remarked, "could not live on the coast," and it was useless, therefore, to think of miners investing their compensation or their savings in the cultivation of the cane.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

A prominent member of the East Indian community in Trinidad writes to us as follows apropos of recent articles in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR on the subject of immigration:—

"We have learnt, without any measure of surprise, of the abolition of indentured immigration from India. From the date of the late visit of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale to South Africa on the occasion of the 'Passive Resistance,' and on account of the most unfortunate conduct of the Canadian people towards Indian immigration, the feeling in India was rising against a system that was capable of such degrading results. East Indians were aware of this sense of consciousness on the part of India, and fully believed that, sooner or later, that feeling would find expression in the total abolition of Indian immigration to the Colonies abroad. That end has been most unfortunately achieved and will prove mutually detrimental to both East Indians and the Colonies concerned. The immigration system as obtaining had become unquestionably old and obsolete and required urgent remodelling, but beyond this it is admitted by all wide-awake Indians that immigration was a true blessing not only to the Colonies but to our people as well.

"The abolition is regarded by thoughtful Colonials, irrespective of class or colour, as a fatal blow to the sugar industries of the Colonies, since that industry cannot be possibly continued without contracted labour. That this blow should come at a time when the sugar prosperity was visibly returning and an opportunity was thus given to make up for lost advantages, is a matter to be most deeply regretted. The solution of this most complex problem rests in the hands of the Indian Government and the people of India. The suggestion to send prominent East Indians to India from the Colonies, will, in our own opinion, go a long way in helping the situation. If this suggestion could materialise in time to enable the delegation to arrive in India in December next, when the 'Indian National Congress' holds its annual Conference, it would certainly be a most happy occasion for this visit; for then the leaders of the people of India could be conveniently met at the Conference, and the question affecting immigration could be effectively discussed."

CODRINGTON COLLEGE.

On the occasion of the Annual Commemoration at Codrington College, Barbados, on June 7th, the Rev. A. H. Anstey, the Principal, gave an interesting review of the work of that institution.

In the course of this he stated that 246 students had been in training at the College since its affiliation to Durham University in 1875.

Of these, no fewer than 62 students have been in residence in the past five years. Forty-three have left, whilst nineteen are still in residence. The examinations for which the students enter are Classical, Mathematical, and Theological Honours; Pass Degrees in Classics and Theology; and a 1st standard in Theology. Of those who left, seven obtained honours in the Primary Classical examination (one second and six thirds), and nine in the Final Examination (one first, three seconds, and one third in Classics; and two seconds and two thirds in Theology).

The examination for the B.A. is divided into two parts; thirteen passed the whole, and five the first part. The 1st standard has been reached by three students whilst in residence. There remain thirteen who have taken no degree. Out of this number two obtained honours in Classics in their first year, three passed the First Year classical examination, four went to the War, and four terminated their course without passing any examination.

In the five years there has not been a single failure among the Classical and Theological students reading for honours, and only one in mathematics, in which case a pass was awarded. At the close of last term—a period beyond the five years—ten men out of thirteen were reading in honours—six Classics, two Mathematics, two Theology. The forty-three ex-students may be classed in the following way:—Eighteen are working as clergy, fifteen being in the West Indies. Nine are schoolmasters—seven in the West Indies. Two are serving as ministers of different denominations, both in the West Indies. Seven have gone to the War, of whom one has been killed. This number has now increased to nine. One, Stanley Reeve, was killed shortly after winning the Military Cross, and another, John Price, fell in battle just over a year ago. *Dulce et decorum est pro patri mori*. One holding an honoured name in this island, Eyare Bovell, died in England whilst reading at the Temple. One joined the Civil Service in Barbados. One is reading for his examination, and the others left before their time. Three old students have resided at the College to read for the B.D. or B.C.L. degrees, whilst doing work at one of the institutions connected with the College.

A University prize at Durham was awarded to a student during his term of residence for an essay on Plato. One old student in Orders passed the examination for the B.A., and two others examinations or essays to qualify them for the M.A. degree. The teaching staff consists of four Professors, and is supplemented for purposes of helping the students reading for honours in Classics and mathematics by the staff of the Lodge School. Too much praise cannot be given them for their loyal and conscientious work. Eight students in Deacons' Orders have been attached to the S.P.G. Chaplaincy whilst reading for their degrees. Three were successful. Of the three latest, two failed and one is still at the College. Twenty students in all have come out from England to read for their degrees, being supported either by the payments of friends or S.P.G., and not from the funds of the College. The remaining 42 students have been drawn from the following sources:—Barbados 34 (Harrison College 13, the Lodge School 4, other schools 11), Trinidad 5, Antigua 2, Guiana 1, Windward Islands 1. It should be added that Guiana has made considerable payments for men not on the list of students, and is partially maintaining a student from Barbados.

The fees of the students have been paid in the following ways:—Island Scholarships 12, College Scholarships and resources 13, S.P.C.K. 6, S.P.G. 11, friends 4, relations 8, clerical staff 8. It will be seen that eight students only out of sixty-two have been able to pay their own fees.

Though the numbers of the College are small, it has taken a creditable place in the athletic world. The

students, however, are strongly discouraged from playing matches outside the College during term time. The captains of the cricket, football, and athletic teams at Harrison College, the Lodge School, and Queen's College, Trinidad, have all been represented at the College in the period under review.

In connection with the College, the Rawle Institute for training male and female elementary teachers has been started, to which the Government gives £300 per annum. Twenty-nine teachers have been trained or are now in training. Over £1,000 has been spent in building or furnishing, which is not included in the College accounts. The buildings and other furniture are the property of the College. In five years the debt of £1,150 due to S.P.G. has been paid off. The College estates have been leased for £800 per annum.

This year has been rendered memorable by a large bequest under the will of Mr. Joe Forte. "Its significance," said Mr. Anstey, "appears to me to lie in the fact that a man of unblemished character, with an honourable name in the Home country as well as in Barbados, who received his education in one of the most famous English schools under a very distinguished schoolmaster, who as a planter and a loyal Barbadian knows the needs of this island, thought that the College had a great office to fulfil."

One bishop, two deans, four archdeacons, thirteen Canons, and sixty-two clergy at present serving in the West Indies are ex-members of this College.

In conclusion Mr. Anstey said, "In higher education, the headmasters of Combermere, Parry, Coleridge, and Alleyne Schools in Barbados, and of the Grammar School in Antigua, four assistant masters at Harrison College, one at the Lodge School, two at Combermere, and one at the Parry School were all members of this College.

"The indirect work of the College for primary education has been spoken about. It will be remembered that there are still some masters working who were trained by Bishop Rawle. In this connection it may be mentioned that we are trying to teach, and I can bear witness to the great help received from the students, and to the responsive way in which the teachers have accepted the lesson, a true standard of values, that purity, honesty, regularity, and punctuality are of primary importance, and essential for any real success in life. Again, that all honest work is equally valuable in God's sight, whilst the welfare of the West Indies depends upon our having an intelligent and reliable class of agricultural labourers who do not look on work which is vital to the interests of the community as degrading. In the words of our late great Archbishop, which were endorsed by the Chamberlain report of 1869, the entire youth of an agricultural country should be trained in an atmosphere favourable to agriculture, and they should learn that agricultural work is not only fit for slaves."

COTTON IN JAMAICA.

Mr. Conrad Watson, who was closely identified with the success of Sea Island cotton cultivation in Montserrat, is convinced that that variety of cotton can be profitably produced in Jamaica. In support of his view, he submitted to the Vere Branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society recently the following export returns for five years:—

	Lint Value.
	£ s. d.
1910, 13,388 lbs.	868 9 0
1911, 17,853 lbs.	1,178 6 6
1912, 36,227 lbs.	2,727 19 2
1913, 69,296 lbs.	4,128 2 6
1914, 32,233 lbs.	1,575 12 8*

* The crop fell off in this year owing to drought and to the destruction of a large part of the crop by fire.

He claims that cotton is a suitable form of cultivation for such districts as Portland and Vere and its neighbourhood. He admits, however, that Jamaica cotton is not so good as that produced by

the other islands, owing to the irregular rainfall—a disadvantage which can, however, be counteracted by proper cultivation and careful handling. The Jamaica cotton has also been deteriorating owing to carelessness and the reckless introduction of other varieties, and consequent hybridisation. Owing to doubtful practices on the part of some growers, who mixed cotton rejected by local buyers with better qualities, it became a risk to pay three-pence per lb. for seed cotton before the War, as the purchaser was buying cotton worth only one penny per lb. mixed with cotton worth three-pence per lb., the mixture reducing the value to that of the poorest quality.

Mr. Watson referred to other causes produced by the War which affect the industry at present, viz. (1) Delay in selling in Liverpool, (2) difficulty in getting cotton shipped, (3) high rate of insurance, (4) almost prohibitive rate of freight, which amounts to about 2½d. per lb. of lint, which resulted in the most that could be paid for the best Sea Island cotton being 2½d. per lb. of seed cotton.

In conclusion Mr. Watson said that if the industry was to be a success, the peasant grower must be carefully taught the requirements of the spinners. This had been done by the Agricultural Departments in every West Indian school where cotton was produced, but efforts in that direction in Jamaica had been spasmodic and feeble. Whenever the time was considered opportune, the industry should be established on sound lines with expert advice from the Department of Agriculture. Coming from such a source, it would be acted on, but advice given by a grower was looked on with suspicion.

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, in their eleventh annual report, state that the grant of £10,000 per annum from Imperial Funds expired on 31st March, 1916. As the result of negotiations with the Colonial Office, the Government have since sanctioned a grant of £1,000 for the year 1916-17 on condition that this will not be taken as an admission that when peace is restored it will be possible to sanction a continuation of the previous amount of the grant. The Council much regret that the Government are unable to continue the full amount of the grant, since the operations of the Association must accordingly be curtailed. It is, they add, some consolation, however, that the Government, by continuing the grant, even in a much restricted form, recognise the necessity of the continuation of the work of the Association. In this connection the Council wish to draw attention to the increasing urgency of a rapid extension of the work of the Association. The consumption of cotton in the United States is, they point out, rising by leaps and bounds, and it is estimated that for the year 1915-16 their home consumption will amount to 7,000,000 bales, or 58.3 per cent. of their crop, as against 4,361,000 and 35.6 respectively in 1910-11.

The total subscribed capital of the Association is £476,586, of which £468,235 has been allotted in

the form of shares, leaving £23,414 still to be raised.

The partial failure of the crops in West Africa and the reduced production in Uganda have affected the turnover in cotton during the year, but, on the other hand, there has been a large increase in the quantity of cotton received from the Sudan. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the turnover in cotton during the year was a record one as regards the number of bales, but the value is a little below that of 1913 on account of the low prices ruling in the early part of the year. The total amount of cotton which has passed through the Association's hands during recent years is shown in the following statement:—

Year.	Bales.	Value. £
1910	21,388	296,160
1911	27,673	373,583
1912	40,094	507,122
1913	47,466	661,227
1914	38,694	456,147
1915	48,057	627,793

It was anticipated that the Association would incur a loss in 1915, as the Council decided to maintain the buying price at the highest possible level, for fear the native producers would be so much discouraged that they might abandon the industry altogether. Luckily the low basis of prices after the outbreak of war did not last for so long a time as was expected, and the Council are glad to be able to report that after providing fully for depreciation, development work, etc., the accounts show a surplus for the year's working of £9,798 18s. 6d. The Council have decided to write off £1,000 to meet losses on advances to planters, and a further sum of £4,000 to cover the depreciation in the value of shares and investments. A further loss will be incurred in realising the investments to provide the repayment of the capital lent by the British Cotton Ginning Co., which, in accordance with the agreement with this Company, has to be repaid in 1916. The sum of £3,000 has been written off in this year's accounts towards this loss. After the above deduction there remains a surplus of £1,798 18s. 6d., a not unsatisfactory result, taking into consideration the exceptional difficulties which had to be faced in 1915.

The estimated amount of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire in the last six years is as follows (stated in bales of 400 lbs. each):—

	Bales.	Bales.
1910	43,500	72,800
1911	60,800	82,350
1912	71,490	75,200
1913	—	—
1914	—	—
1915	—	—

With regard to the West Indies, the Council state that the position of affairs there was a source of grave anxiety to the Association, as the planters generally were dissatisfied with the great delays in selling and with the prices obtained for their cotton as a result of the falling off in the demand for Sea Island cotton. The arrangements which the Council were able to make with the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association to those planters who undertook to ship their 1915-16 cotton crop under the terms of the guarantee, helped to a certain extent to relieve the situation. Since the

beginning of 1916 there has been a substantial rise in the value of Sea Island cotton, and the outlook is now much better than it has been since the outbreak of hostilities.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by the planters in some of the islands in making shipments, owing to the shortage of steamers, and in many cases the Association has been asked to make advances on the cotton prior to shipment. The Council regret that it would be quite impossible for them, with the limited resources at their command, to make any considerable advances in this manner, and it is to be hoped that there will be a considerable improvement in shipping facilities, more especially in connection with some of the smaller islands. Complaints have also been received regarding the freight charges, which in the case of Jamaica were almost prohibitive.

The exports for the year ending 30th September, 1915, amounted to 1,823,956 lbs. of Sea Island, and 426,128 lbs. of Maria Galante cotton, giving a total of nearly 6,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, and a value of £120,649.

The following statement, which is appended to the report, shows the quantity of raw cotton exported from the various cotton-producing British possessions (India and Egypt excepted) in bales of 400 lbs. in each of the years from 1911 to 1914:—

	1911	1912	1913	1914
SUDAN	29,155	25,746	12,994	9,521
WEST AFRICA—				
Gold Coast	24	51	69	59
Nigeria	5,595	10,932	15,903	14,124
TOTAL WEST AFRICA	5,619	10,983	15,972	14,183
EAST AFRICA—				
Uganda Prot. (a)—				
Ginned Cotton	16,597	21,764	23,861	29,999
Unginned	12,786	13,591	12,356	8,453
East African Prot.	415	738	337	44
Nyassaland	3,400	8,094	6,003	6,621
TOTAL EAST AFRICA	33,198	44,187	42,557	45,117
WEST INDIES—				
St. Lucia	10	12	10	13
Bahamas	33	33	34	—
Jamaica	45	91	173	81
St. Vincent	1,345	1,130	1,212	1,056
Barbados	1,851	1,040	1,083	565
Grenada	686	951	1,002	895
Leeward Islands	3,685	2,680	3,076	3,151
Trinidad & Tobago	15	34	18	—
TOTAL WEST INDIES	7,670	5,971	6,608	5,761
SUNDRIES	3,275	7,138	5,910	4,007
APPROXIMATE				
GRAND TOTAL	78,917	94,025	84,041	78,589

It may not be generally known that it is to the Victoria Regia lily that the Crystal Palace now at Sydenham owes its origin. When the building Committee were at their wits' end to know how to house the International Collection of 1851, and two hundred and forty plans had been rejected, Mr. Paxton, who was at that time building a glass house for a specimen of that gigantic lily, submitted a design based on a new conservatory at Chatsworth, which was at once accepted.

JAMAICA AND THE GRAND FLEET.

A Record Price for Jamaica Rum.

That the price of rum would rise as the result of the war was a foregone conclusion, but the most sanguine planter would never have dreamt of its ever reaching £9 10s. per gallon. Yet that figure was touched at the sale room of Messrs. E. D. & F. Man, brokers to the Admiralty, on July 13th. The occasion was the sale in the interests of the seamen of the Grand Fleet of four barrels of rum, the gift of certain firms and individuals in Jamaica through the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Three of the barrels, which were presented by Mr. Edwin Charley, Mr. D. Finzi, and Messrs. J. Wray and Nephew, had been intended for H.M.S. *Aberdonian* whilst the fourth, contributed by the proprietors of Llandovery Estate, was earmarked for H.M.S. *London*. As, however, the Admiralty would not give their consent to the rum being consigned to individual ships, but would only accept it for the victualling depot, which would not have benefited the men, it was decided, after consultation with the brokers, to offer the whole consignment for sale and to devote the proceeds to the purchase of vegetables and fruit for the fleet, and the event was widely advertised. Messrs. Man's sale-room, Mincing Lane, E.C., was crowded when the sale was opened.

Mr. Arthur Dix, who officiated as auctioneer, addressed a few remarks at the outset. The first barrel was sold for £6 5s. per gallon to Mr. Rowett (of Messrs. Rowett and Leakey), who had travelled from Aberdeen to London for the express purpose of attending the sale. The second barrel sold for £5 5s. per gallon to Messrs. Alfred Lamb and Sons, the third for £6 per gallon to Mr. Rowett, and the fourth for £9 10s. per gallon was also bought by Mr. Rowett. Lots 1 and 2 were then returned to be re-sold, when the first barrel realised £5 a gallon, the purchasers being Messrs. Henry White and Co.; and Mr. Rowett bought the second barrel at £4 per gallon.

Yet again were they sold, together with Lot 4. This time Messrs. E. H. Keeling and Co. purchased the first barrel at £4 per gallon. The second barrel was again bought by Mr. Rowett at £4 per gallon, and Lot 3 (the fourth barrel of the original sale) was purchased by Messrs. E. D. and F. Man for £6 5s. a gallon.

The total amount realised by the sale and re-sale of the four barrels, the real value of which was about £28, was £1,143, and this sum, together with £46 obtained by the sale at the same time of four old prints of West Indian interest, the gift of an anonymous donor, was handed over to the West India Committee to use for the benefit of the men of the Grand Fleet. It has since been sent by them to the Vegetable Products Committee. The record price ever paid before was 10s. a gallon.

The Grand Fleet has also been the recipient during the fortnight of a handsome gift of cigarettes from Jamaica, Mr. James Johnston, Brown's Town, having forwarded to the seamen three cases containing 30,000, as a gift from the people of the Jamaica Evangelistic Mission.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Negotiations for their Sale Completed.

It is authoritatively stated that the Danish Government has informed the United States of its willingness to sell to them the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix (or Santa Cruz), and St. John for £5,000,000. A treaty providing for the immediate transfer of the islands after ratification by the Danish Parliament and Congress, and after payment, is now awaiting the signatures of Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State, and the Danish Minister at Washington, M. Constantin Brun.

The acquisition of these islands, which have long been coveted by Americans, would add 127 square miles to the territories of the United States. It may be recalled that as far back as 1867 a proclamation was issued in St. Thomas announcing the approaching cession of the island to the United States. The Senate, however, refused to ratify the Convention for the sale, and negotiations were abruptly broken off. In 1901 fresh proposals were made for the purchase of the island by the Americans, and on this occasion the Danes "got their own back," for whilst the Folkthing voted for the transfer, the Landsting rejected the treaty by a tie vote.

The following particulars regarding the Danish West India Islands, which are taken from the "Pocket Guide to the West Indies,"* may be of interest at this juncture.

St. Thomas lies in latitude 18° 20' N. and longitude 64° 55' W., 40 miles to the east of Porto Rico and 150 miles north-west of St. Kitts. Owing to its geographical position and fine harbour it has long maintained an important position in the West Indies, being well known as the headquarters of several lines of steamers, a coaling station, and a port of refuge. There is always a good stock of coal kept there, and the island is as unrivalled in the West Indies for the facilities which it affords for the expeditious coaling of steamers by day or night, as it is for its docking arrangements, shipyards, and repair shops. The island is the headquarters in the West Indies of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, the Hamburg-American Line, the vessels of which before the war used to make nearly two hundred entries into the port in the course of a year, and the East Asiatic Company of Copenhagen. The population amounts to about 10,000 souls, but, owing to emigration, principally to the neighbouring republics of Santo Domingo and Haiti and to the United States of America, it has been declining in recent years. The island, the area of which is 32 square miles, is of volcanic origin, and has a range of hills running east and west, which slope down to the sea. Charlotte Amalia, the principal town, is built upon three spurs of a mountain, and it is easy to see that the harbour occupies the crater of an extinct volcano.

Sugar was once the principal industry of St. Thomas. Bay-rum, which is manufactured from leaves of the bay tree (*Pimento acris*) grown in the neighbouring island of St. John, is now, however,

practically the sole article of export. Tropical fruits and ground provisions are produced in considerable quantities for local consumption. St. Thomas was once the principal entrepot in the West Indies, and purchasers from the other islands and from Central and South America used to go to it for their supplies. Since the establishment of steamship lines and the telegraph system they have found it more convenient to deal direct with the merchants and manufacturers in Europe and America and to receive their goods direct. St. Thomas now only supplies some of the Virgin Islands and, occasionally, Haiti and Santo Domingo. The imports into the Danish West Indies (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix) in 1912 were valued at \$1,394,760 and the exports at \$482,192.

Columbus found St. Thomas inhabited by Caribs and Arawaks when he discovered the island in 1493. In 1657 it was colonised by the Dutch, but the colonists departed to what is now New York, giving place to the English twenty years later. It is the oldest of the three Danish colonies in the West Indies, having been taken possession of on behalf of the Danish Crown on March 30, 1666. In 1671 the Danish West India and Guiana Company was formed in Copenhagen, and acquired the island. After slavery was introduced in 1680 St. Thomas enjoyed great prosperity. The island was purchased from the company in 1755, and the King of Denmark took the government into his own hands, throwing open the port to all nations in 1764. The British held the island for ten months in 1801, and again from 1807 to 1815, when it was restored to Denmark, in whose hands it has since remained.

Charlotte Amalia.

St. Thomas has a very picturesque and at the same time exceedingly valuable harbour. It is almost completely land-locked, being surrounded on three sides by hills, and has a great depth of water. A floating dock owned by the St. Thomas Dock, Engineering and Coaling Company, Ltd., which is capable of raising vessels of 3,000 tons gross weight and 300 feet keel, is moored in a sheltered position. It began operations in 1875, since which year it has raised and lowered over a thousand vessels. A notable feature of the port is its well-appointed Quarantine Station, which has become quite a place of resort for visitors, especially during the warmer season, when it is not being used for its proper purpose. The town of Charlotte Amalia (population 8,000), so called after the consort of King Christian V., which straggles over three spurs of the mountains down to the water's edge, is singularly beautiful when seen from the deck of the ship as one enters. The towers known as Blackbeard's and Bluebeard's castles are conspicuous on the hillside. Near the water's edge is the brilliantly red Danish fort. In 1912 a West India Company was formed in Copenhagen for the purpose of dredging and improving the harbour and for providing docks, warehouses, etc. The streets of Charlotte Amalia are clean and the houses well-kept. The town is well policed, and the writer had met a visitor to it, who, after dining not wisely but too well, was compelled to expiate an overnight offence by sweeping the streets next morning. If

* "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," 1914. London: Duckworth & Co. Chicago and New York: Rand, McNally & Co.

the visitor is a good pedestrian, and desires to obtain a splendid bird's-eye view of the town, harbour and sea, with glimpses of St. Croix, and, if the day be clear, of Porto Rico and Bieques in the distance, he cannot do better than climb the hill to the north-east of the town, proceeding as far as Mafolie. If he desires a more extended view, he should choose the hill to the west end of the town, known as Frenchmen's Hill—which owes its name to French Huguenots who took refuge in the island, and once lived there in some numbers—continuing aloft as far as Solberg. An hour's walk in the first instance, and a somewhat longer one in the second, will give him as fine a view as can be seen in the West Indies, or, for that matter, in any part of the world. Either of these trips can be made on horseback, but as the hills are very steep, and the roads sometimes rugged, it is well to make sure that the animal to be ridden is sure-footed. If the visitor be a cyclist, with only a short time at his disposal, he will find good roads to the east of the town as far as a sugar estate, whence he can return by a circuitous route, and, passing through to the west, proceed as far as Nisky; he will thus obtain a view of the suburbs and main street, but will miss the beautiful views which can be obtained from the hills. A few minutes' walk up the hills to Blackbeard's or Bluebeard's Castle, in the neighbourhood of the town, will repay the pedestrian. These two castles are supposed to have been the headquarters of two celebrated buccaneers, and many romantic tales are told regarding them. Bluebeard's Castle was really built by the Government in 1689 and was called Frederiksfort. It was used as a fort until 1735, and was sold with the surrounding land to a private individual in 1818.

Blackbeard's Castle,

on Government Hill, dates from 1674, when it was built by one Carl Baggert. John Teach, or Blackbeard, who is said to have lived in it, was a scoundrel of the deepest dye. In "Tom Cringle's Log" he is described by "Aaron Bang, Esquire," as:

The mildest manner'd man
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat;
With such true breeding of a gentleman,
You never could discern his real thought.
Pity he loved adventurous life's variety.
He was so great a loss to good society.

He had fourteen wives, and one of his favourite amusements was to take his comrades to the hold of his ship and half suffocate them by kindling brimstone matches. He would also blow out all the candles in his cabin and blaze away with his pistols right and left at random. He eventually died in a desperate encounter with the frigates *Lime* and *Pearl*.

The small island of St. John—situated about 3 miles east of St. Thomas—belongs to the municipality of that island. It has an area of 21 square miles, and a population of 918 only. The Danes took formal possession of it in 1684, but it was not properly settled with respect to population until 1726, when permission was given to sixteen of the inhabitants of St. Thomas to cultivate the island. In the days when sugar was king it contained several very valuable estates, and naturally a much

larger population. For instance, at the beginning of last century it had about 3,000 whites and free coloured persons, besides 2,500 slaves, and this was its condition up to the time of emancipation. The "bay leaf" tree (*Pimenta acris*), the leaves of which are used in the manufacture of that most agreeable toilet requisite known as bay-rum, of which there are several manufactories in St. Thomas, is a growth of the island. The leaves are conveyed to St. Thomas, where the bay-rum, which has become so popular throughout America, is distilled.

Notwithstanding the unimportance of the place, those who have a day or two to spare, and can enjoy a little boating as well as "roughing it" in the matter of accommodation, will find that a trip to it will fully repay them. There is much fine scenery about St. John, and the island has a romantic side to its history, having enjoyed its own little slave insurrection in the old days long gone by.

St. Croix or Santa Cruz lies 40 miles south-south-east of St. Thomas. Its total area is only 74 square miles, and its population 19,683. A range of hills runs parallel to the coast at the western end, the highest peak being Blue Mountain. The principal towns are Bassin or Christiansted on the north shore and West End or Frederiksted at the western end, which is commercially the more important place.

The Industries of St. Croix.

Sugar cultivation is the principal industry, and there are about one hundred sugar estates in the island. A central sugar factory was established by the Government in 1876, which still continues to work, and in the West End quarter of the island another, Le Grange, has been established by private enterprise. The breeding of cattle is carried on, but chiefly as an aid to sugar cultivation by providing the necessary stock of working cattle, oxen and mules, and manure. St. Croix produces all kinds of tropical fruits in abundance, and efforts have been made in recent years by one or two planters, not unsuccessfully, to cultivate such fruit as oranges and bananas systematically for local use and with a view of exporting them in the future.

The history of the island of St. Croix has been varied and eventful. It was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage, and in 1643 it was inhabited by two distinct parties of English and Dutch. They quarrelled, however, and the Dutch were expelled. In 1650 the English were defeated by Spaniards, who in their turn yielded to one hundred and sixty Frenchmen from St. Kitts. France entrusted the island to the Knights of Malta in 1651, and in 1733 it was purchased by King Christian VI. of Denmark. In 1801 it was taken by the English, but restored to the Danes after a few months. Captured again by the English under Sir Alexander Cochrane in 1807, it remained British until 1814, when it was again handed to the Danes.

Not far from St. Thomas is a rock which closely resembles a ship and is consequently known as Sail Rock, though by some it is called Frenchman's Rock. During the American War it received a severe punishing from a French frigate. Taking it for a ship the captain hailed it. His hail was re-

turned by an echo. The French captain then fired a broadside at the rock, the sound of which reverberated from it, some of the shot also ricocheting back. Believing that they had fallen in with a man-of-war, the Frenchmen kept up a heavy cannonade until the morning, when they discovered to their mortification the mistake which they had made.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Sugar Duties in Australia and South Africa.

On July 17th Mr. Outhwaite asked the President of the Board of Trade what import duty upon sugar was imposed by the Commonwealth of Australia for the protection of the local sugar-growing and refining industries.

Mr. Harcourt, in reply, said that the duties at present leviable on sugar imported into the Commonwealth of Australia from all countries, except South Africa, were as follows:—

Sugar :	Per cwt.
The produce of the sugar-cane	6s.
Invert sugar and invert syrup, including brewers' priming sugars	6s.
Glucose	8s.
Other sugar	10s.

Under the Customs Tariff (South African Preference) Act, 1906, the rates of duty leviable on sugar imported from South Africa were—

Sugar :	Per cwt.
The produce of sugar-cane :	
Produced solely by white labour	4s.
Produced wholly or partly by black labour	5s.

[NOTE.—The importation of all sugar into the Commonwealth is at present prohibited, except with the consent of the Minister of Trade and Customs (Proclamation of 7th September, 1915).]

Mr. Outhwaite then asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he could state the wholesale price of sugar in any one of the chief cities of Australia at any date in 1913, and the price at the same date of that year in London, and in any chief city of New Zealand.

Mr. Harcourt, in reply, said that he was afraid it was quite impossible to give quotations which would show the relative value of sugar of absolutely identical quality in the three countries. He found, however, that No. 1 white sugar in Brisbane varied in price in 1913 from £21 to £23 15s. per ton; that No. 1 Auckland refined sugar at Wellington was quoted at £18 11s. per ton in the same year; and that No. 1 Tate's cubes were £18 11s. per ton in the middle of August, 1913, in London.

OBITUARY.

MRS. MCCONNELL.

As we go to press we learn with regret of the death, at 26, Kensington Court, W., on July 24th, of Mrs. McConnell, widow of the late Mr. John McConnell, of Demerara, and mother of the late Mr. Frederick V. McConnell and of Mr. Arthur W. McConnell.

THE RIGHT REV. JOHN FRANCIS WELSH, D.D.

We regret to state that Dr. John Francis Welsh, D.D., Bishop of Trinidad, died at Westminster on Friday, July 21st.

The news of the death of the Bishop of Trinidad will have been received with deep regret in that island and Tobago. Born at Huddersfield sixty years ago, he was the youngest son of Robert Welsh, Esq., of Tweedsmuir, Peebleshire. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford,

taking his B.A. degree in 1881, and his M.A. five years later. He was ordained in 1881, and was curate of St. James', Whitehaven, from 1881 to 1883, when he left to take up the position of lecturer at St. Bee's Theological College, where he remained until 1886. He was Principal of Warminster Missionary College from 1887 to 1904, when he was consecrated Bishop of Trinidad. Dr. Welsh was an excellent chess player, and was, while up at Oxford, President of the University Chess Club.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

WEST INDIAN bananas, which have been sold at two or three for a penny, are now fetching one penny each in London.

SIR HESKETH BELL delighted the French community of Mauritius by addressing the unofficial Members of Council in their language after taking the oath as Governor of the colony.

MISS AMY BAYNES, formerly of Antigua, third daughter of the late Hon Edward Baynes, Commissioner of Montserrat, is on active service as a "V.A.D." nurse at No. 11 Stationary Hospital, British Expeditionary Force, France.

CAPTAIN ALAN WILEY HUGHES, who has become the proud father of a son, is a son of Mr. George Hughes, of Fieldhead, Wimbledon, of "Molascuit" fame, who has many friends in the West Indies, where he spent some years of his life.

OUR sympathies are extended to Mr. Norman Rodger, General Editor and Manager of the *International Sugar Journal*, whose brother, Lieutenant Rodger, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, was killed in France by a shell on July 1st.

MR. MARTIN H. G. PEREIRA, of Paradise Lodge, Enmore, British Guiana, whose death in Barbados is announced, practised for many years as a solicitor on the East Coast of Demerara. He was the only son of Dr. M. Pereira, Government Medical Officer, who died at Fort Wellington in 1886.

SIR WILLIAM ALLARDYCE, Governor of the Bahamas, and the Earl of Harewood, President of the West India Committee, have been promoted to be Knights of Justice of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, and the Countess of Harewood and Lady Allardyce have been appointed Ladies of Grace of the same Order.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. P. M. Cran, B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers (Special Reserve), and Rosina, youngest daughter of Mr. John McNeil, of John McNeil & Co., Ltd., Govan, Glasgow. Miss McNeil has many friends in the West Indies, she and her sister having accompanied their father on a tour of the islands in 1913.

CAPTAIN HENRY HAMILTON KITCHENER, R.E., of the Royal Flying Corps, son of the late Lieut-

General Sir F. W. Kitchener, K.C.B., Governor of Bermuda, and of Lady Kitchener, was married on July 8th at St. John's Church, Chelsea, to Winifred Esther Everest, eldest daughter of the Hon. A. W. Bluck, M.C.P., and of Mrs. Bluck, of Hamilton, Bermuda.

* * *

We extend our hearty congratulations to Mr. Walter B. Durie, Managing Director of the *Jamaica Times*, on the occasion of his marriage to the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hopkins, of Bromley, Half-way Tree, which was solemnised at Anburndale, Mass, on June 10th. Mr. Durie is a capable business man who has lately been taking an increased interest in public life in the island of his adoption.

* * *

THAT very deserving body, the Trinidad Home Industries and Self-Help Association, which was formed by Lady Maloney in 1901, and aims, like similar bodies in Barbados, British Guiana, and Jamaica, at assisting distressed gentlewomen, has felt the pinch of the War and consequent failure of two successive tourist seasons. According to the report for 1915-16, the year's work resulted in a loss of \$641.57, as compared with a profit of \$351.72 in the preceding year. With the colony's staples fetching such high prices, it is hoped that some kindly proprietors will wipe off the deficit.

* * *

THE West India Committee have been in communication with the Ministry of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with regard to the desirability of the Canadian mail steamers calling at Nevis, which is at present quite isolated. It was pointed out that as the steamers remain about eight hours at Montserrat, it should be possible, by a little speeding-up of the process of discharging and loading, to save an hour or two for Nevis. The Company claim, however, that Montserrat is a slow working port, owing to poor lighterage facilities—a disability which should be remedied by the local authorities.

* * *

MR. C. A. SPRECKELS, President of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, in an official statement to the stockholders, dated New York, June 19th, says that if the Company were to be liquidated, the shareholders would find themselves in the possession of over a million dollars in cash and a plant free and clear of encumbrance. From a capacity of 3,000 barrels of sugar daily, the plant has been enlarged to one of 10,000 barrels, the cost being defrayed entirely out of earnings. Mr. Spreckels holds the view that the present favourable conditions under which the American industry is conducted, due to the destruction of mills and ravaging of the fields, which have put it out of the power of European sugar-producing countries to supply their own or the world's needs, is likely to continue for several years after the end of the War.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

A cricket match played "Somewhere in Egypt" on June 18th, 1916, between the 2nd Batt. British West Indies Regiment and the 55th Batt. Australian Infantry resulted in a substantial win for the West Indians by an innings and 81 runs. In the first innings Christopher distinguished himself by taking six wickets for four runs! The scores are given below:—

2nd BATT. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT. 1st Innings.	
Lt. Johnson, b Naylor	18
Lce-Cpl. Jones, b Mattison	0
Pte. Bernard, b Mattison	2
Pte. Christopher, b Naylor	7
Srgt. Gomes, lbw b Springer	5
Pte. Wilkinson, b Smythe	20
Lt. Stockhausen, b Smythe	0
Pte. Stuart, b Martin	0
Lt. Cox, c Mattison b Springer	24
Lt. Farquharson, not out	15
Pte. Farr, b Smythe	4
Extras	9
Total	112

55TH BATT. AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY.			
1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Srgt. Cosgrove, run out	0	b Farquharson	3
Srgt. Taylor, b Christopher	1	c Snb b Cox	0
Srgt. Naylor, lbw b Christopher	1	c Farquharson b Cox	1
Lt. Pentistone, b Bernard	1	b Wilkinson	3
Srgt. Mattison, c Barr b Christopher	1	b Stuart	0
Pte. Springer, b Christopher	0	b Cox	2
Pte. Fisser, not out	2	b Wilkinson	0
Pte. Martin, c Cox b Gomes	0	run out	0
Lt. Goldstein, b Christopher	1	b Stuart	1
Pte. Chapman, b Gomes	1	not out	5
Pte. Smythe, b Christopher	3	b Wilkinson	0
Extras	3	Extras	1
Total	14	Total	17

* * *

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,385 8s. 10d., of which amount £1,024 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Brodie and Rainer, Ltd.	25	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—			
Per month.			
Kingstown Club	1	12	0
Hon. C. F. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
F. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
A. Gillizean, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
W. F. Lawrence, Esq.	2	2	0
R. P. Pile, Esq.	2	1	8
Per the Colonial Bank, Dominica:—			
Alex. Duncan, Esq.	5	0	
F. Woodward, Esq.	3	0	
J. H. Steber, Esq.	2	6	
J. F. Marsden, Esq.	2	0	
J. G. Goodwin, Esq.	12	6	
	4	5	0
Total	34	4	6

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

THE anti-vermin shirts and pants which have been supplied to West Indians at the Front by the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee are greatly appreciated, and as there is an increasing demand for these garments, it has been decided to hold work parties at 5, Trevor Square, on Tuesday afternoons at 3 o'clock, commencing on August 1st. It is hoped that as many members of the Ladies' Committee as possible, as well as others interested in the West Indies, will attend these meetings. The Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee will be glad to receive gifts of magazines and copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to send to men at the Front and in hospital. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the undermentioned gifts:—

Mrs. Brodie, Mt. Edgecombe, Grenada: 55 prs. socks.
Miss Goffe: 3 prs. socks.
Lady Llewelyn: 3 prs. socks.
Lady Sendall: 6 prs. socks.
Captain Fielden: 6 prs. socks.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Weather conditions have rarely been so uniformly favourable in the West Indies as they have been of late, and with the continuance of good prices for the staples, the outlook is distinctly good. Provided that no hurricane occurs to upset calculations, the next sugar crop should be a bumper one.

The usual summer migration of residents to the United Kingdom seems likely to fall to insignificant dimensions this year, few people caring to travel under the conditions resulting from the War. Still, we have to welcome Mr. H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P., who will, however, be returning to Barbados at the end of August; Mr. J. J. A. Carlee, of Trinidad, Mr. C. W. Scott, from the same island, and Sir Walter and Lady Egerton from British Guiana.

BARBADOS—Favourable Weather and Good Crops.

The *Barbados Advocate* of June 15th reported that the weather continued favourable for reaping, which was still in progress, though a few showers would be welcome in some places to bring on provision crops. A *Gazette Extraordinary* was issued on June 14th to shadowing the prohibition of the export of Muscovado sugar after the shipment of 13,000 tons on the grounds of the probability of the wholesale export merchants selling abroad all the Muscovado crop coming into their hands, and of there being a consequent shortage of such sugar for local consumption.

The death has occurred of Dr. C. J. Manning, Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. Dr. Manning was buried at St. Leonard's Cemetery.

The House of Assembly appointed a Committee, comprising the Speaker, Mr. G. B. Sealy, Mr. S. C. Thorne, Dr. R. G. Pilgrim, Mr. G. D. L. Pite, and Mr. H. B. G. Austin, to consider and report on the advisability of making overtures to the Dominion of Canada on the subject of substantial preferential treatment for the sugar and other products of Barbados, if, after the War, it is found impossible to persuade the Imperial Government to give a preference to sugar and other commodities produced in the British Empire. They invited the Legislative Council to co-operate in the matter, but that body declined to do so on the grounds that it would be impracticable to make overtures to or conduct negotiations with the Legislature or Governor-General of Canada, and that even if it were practicable, the present moment was inopportune for doing so.

BRITISH GUIANA—Estates Changing Hands.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JULY 1st.—Confidence in the future of the sugar industry here seems to be growing. Pln "Hampton Court," which was bought by a local syndicate in 1913, has now been sold to a new syndicate for \$150,000 delivery to be effected on January 1st, 1917, the present proprietors thus getting the benefit of this year's profits. "Cove & John" has also been sold for \$120,000, on the same terms, and it is understood that the purchasers are now in negotiation for Pln. "Everton."

Good rains have fallen during the fortnight, and generally the weather is favourable.

Dr. K. S. Wise, Surgeon-General, has returned from a visit of inspection of the Pomeroun and North District. Mr. C. K. Bancroft and Mr. C. Wilgress Anderson, Forestry Officer, left for the Corentyne on the 7th to investigate an improved method of bleeding balata. A report of the Committee on Immigration has been published as a sessional paper. Important work in connection with the East Coast Defences has been carried out at Lusignan, a massive breastwork of greenheart having been constructed in four places in order to break the force of the waves. Elsewhere several recommendations of the Sea Defences Commission are also being carried out. News has been received, with regret, of the death of Mrs. G. Risien in Portuguese East Africa on June 2nd. She was sister of the Hon. Frank Fowler, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, Mrs. H. E. Murray and Mrs. F. H. Dav, and her husband was engineer of the New Colonial Company's estates in Berbice.

JAMAICA—Blue Mountain Crops Short.

HON. BERESFORD S. GOSSETT, JUNE 21st.—Coffee crops in the Blue Mountains are very short this year, owing to the excess of rainfall last year, when we had over 200 inches of rain for 1915 in the Blue Mountains. Freight on coffee to Liverpool are 160/- compared with 45/- before the War, so we are feeling the effects of the War out in these remote parts of the Empire.

TRINIDAD—The Immigration Conference.

MR. EDGAR TATE, JULY 3rd.—The Intercolonial Immigration Conference was held here last week. The delegates were:—From Jamaica, the Honourables P. C. Cork, C.M.G., and E. St. John Branch, B.A., B.C.L.; British Guiana, the Hon. J. Hampden King and Mr. H. E. Murray, with the Hon. A. P. Sherlock and Mr. J. M. Fleming as Assessors. Trinidad was represented by the Honourables A. de Boissiere and W. G. Kay, with Mr. J. J. McLeod as Assessor. The meetings were held *in camera*, but I may say that Mr. Cork was elected Chairman, and proved an excellent one. The Governor opened the proceedings on the 24th with a helpful address, and then retired. Sitings were held on 24th, 26th, 28th, and 29th June, and the report was signed on the 30th, so that no time was lost. The delegates will submit the report to their respective Governments, after which, I presume, it will be published.

We were all glad to welcome back to the colony our old friend Mr. H. R. Murray, who, it is an open secret, has been exceedingly successful since he transferred his fortunes to Demerara. I understand he has been nominated for a seat in the Court of Policy there, and he should prove a most useful member. Added to a great fund of common-sense, he always showed much tact in the handling of labour, and while favouring no class, evinced a sympathy with all interests, which rendered him generally popular in the Napparimas, where for some years he occupied the important position of Attorney at the Usine St. Madeleine.

The action of the British Producers' Organisation has been followed with interest here, and we are glad to see that your Committee is co-operating with and is so well represented on that body. It is expected that a resolution supporting the objects and aims of the Organisation will be moved in the Legislative Council at its next meeting. The Council, under its new President, has been getting through useful work rapidly. At the last meeting the Immigration Ordinance was put through its final stages, thus removing from the Statute Book the objectionable clauses to which exception had been taken.

The Chamber of Commerce had a rather interesting

meeting on June 24th, when the question of the charges made against the Governments and the merchants of Trinidad by the U.S. Consul, whose despatch on the matter to his Government was somehow obtained and published in the *Mirror*, was brought forward. In the result, a resolution was unanimously passed characterising the statements of Mr. McCormico as false, asserting that his presence in the colony was undesirable, and requesting the Government to call upon him for a retraction, or to take steps to obtain his withdrawal from the colony. The President, Mr. Gordon Gordon, brought forward an important motion advocating that the necessary steps should be taken to commute the return passage to India of all desirable immigrants, which Mr. Adam Smith will bring forward in Council on behalf of the Chamber.

Advantage was taken of the presence of Mr. Sherlock to further discuss the proposal for an Associated Chamber of Commerce, and the matter has now been put well in hand. Sugar crop operations are over. The returns are not yet in, but they are known to be generally satisfactory. The Usine heads the list, with about 21,000 tons, beating its own best record a long way. And as the last canes were handed over to the mills, down came the welcome rain. A finer season in all respects for all descriptions of produce could not have been if made to order. Cacao continues to come in. There has been practically no break in the crop, and much remains yet on the trees.

The *Port of Spain Gazette* of June 17th records the death of Mrs. Louis de Verteuil, on the preceding day, at the advanced age of eighty-six. She was the mother of Mr. Ludovic de Verteuil, Dr. Ferdinand de Verteuil, Hon. Carl de Verteuil, Mr. Paul de Verteuil, Mr. Louis de Verteuil, and Mr. St. Yves de Verteuil, and the Misses Ange and Blanch de Verteuil.

The shipments of cacao noted below amounting to 3,685,219 lbs., for June, do not represent anything like the quantity received and ready for export, but which owing to want of freight room, remains in store at Port of Spain waiting first opportunity of carriage to the English and French markets. It is expected, however, that the glut will be removed by certain large bottoms due early in July. Due, no doubt, to the previous acceptance, at recent high prices, of orders for European markets, the demand was brisk for a time, and prices advanced to \$13.90 for Ordinary and \$14.25 for Estates. But after requirements had been satisfied, values again declined, and we quote to-day \$13.24 and \$13.50 for Ordinary and Estates respectively. Large supplies continue to come forward from Venezuela, and it is anticipated that this will continue for one or two months. All that arrived found ready sale at prices varying from \$14.00 to \$14.50, according to quality. A notable feature in the cacao market for June was the shipment of 178,800 lbs., for the Argentine—a larger quantity than taken by France.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during June were as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs
United Kingdom	797,915
B. N. America	32,524
France	176,800
Spain	5,000
Argentine	178,800
United States America	3,494,080
Total for June	4,685,219
Shipped previously	32,562,751
Total from 1st January to June	37,662,970

To same date 1915	39,346,826
" " 1914	54,323,618
" " 1913	37,161,054
" " 1912	35,494,209
" " 1911	35,100,943
" " 1910	39,277,699
" " 1909	34,472,394
" " 1908	29,725,362

TURKS ISLANDS—The Freight Charges on Salt.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, GRAND TURK.—The weather in May, as in the preceding two or three months, was exceptionally dull and oppressive. The maximum temperature was 90 deg. and the minimum 68 deg. Fahr. The total rainfall registered by the United

States Weather Bureau was 0.69 in. Rain is badly needed, tanks being very low, and what little water there is left being hardly fit for use. In some parts of the Caicos Island they have had quite a lot of rain during the month.

On the evenings of the 4th and 5th an amateur theatrical entertainment, under the management of Mrs. Ted Frith, was given in the Church Hall at Grand Turk. The proceeds, which amounted to £20, have been sent through the Commissioner to the Secretary of the West India Committee for Belgian Red Cross work.

On the 24th the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Nassau arrived in his sailing yacht *Message of Peace* on a tour of inspection, and to hold confirmation services at Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and East Harbour, sailing from here on the 27th for Salt Cay, thence to East Harbour, from which place he sailed for Nassau.

A Conch Shell Industry.

Business, as far as the salt industry is concerned, is dormant. From news to hand from New York, it is not likely any vessels will be chartered to load salt for some time owing to the high rate of freight charged, and it is evident that unless the situation speedily changes a serious crisis must ensue. The Committee recently appointed to inspect and report on the ponds, etc., in the Dependency have completed their inspection, and have been in session several days; but what the outcome will be is hard to say. Their report should in any case be a very interesting one. The new conch shell industry is growing rapidly, and there are now several buying and shipping the shells to New York, as many as thirty sailing craft arriving from the Caicos Islands with shells in a day. The sea front presents a lively appearance while unloading during the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately, the stench from the partly decayed portion of the conch left in the shell is very offensive, and does not encourage one to spend much time in the vicinity. The dried conches are being shipped to Hayti by thousands, and at first were selling at 4s. a hundred, but owing to the quantity shipped the price has dropped considerably. The shipment of dried conches during the month exceeded 200,000. Eight hundred and seventy-two packages of conch shells, 21 bales of sponge, 66 cases of canned lobster, and 14 live turtle were shipped to the United States during the past few weeks. The conch shell industry has been a great help to the labouring classes during the past few weeks; as many as 35 boats may be counted passing the office daily just about sunrise on their way to the conching ground.

The outlook for the Dependency under existing conditions is far from promising. With facilities for getting off their salt it would improve matters, but owing to their being so improvident it would only improve matters for the time being, and although over £9,000 has been returned to the Salt Pond Proprietors during the past five years, many ponds to-day are in a worse condition than they were five years ago, the money having been expended for raking salt instead of repairing, cleaning, etc., for which it was intended. With the present loss of revenue there is nothing for the Commissioner to carry out his various improvement schemes. The sum of £375 is being remitted by first outgoing mail to the Secretary of the West India Committee for Red Cross Fund, being amount contributed by the inhabitants of the Dependency. The telephone is working satisfactorily.

BIRTH.

Hughes.—On the 11th July, at 18, The Grange, Wimbeldon, the wife of Captain Alan Wiley Hughes, Royal Fusiliers, of a son.

DEATHS.

Harragin.—On July 2nd, at 67, Wellington Road, Edgbaston, Frances, wife of the late J. A. Harragin, Part of Spain, Trinidad, mother of Mrs. H. J. Knaggs, Mrs. S. W. Knaggs, Mrs. John Cadman, and Mr. John John Harragin. Interred at the Parish Church, Edgbaston.

McConnell.—On the 24th July, 1916, at 26, Kensington Court, W., Josephine Emma, widow of John McConnell, of Demerara, aged 69 years.

THE FROGHOPPER PEST.

Mr. C. B. Williams, the Entomologist in charge of the Frog hopper investigations which are being conducted in Trinidad at the expense of the Trinidad proprietors and the local Government, recently visited British and Dutch Guiana. In Demerara he inspected one estate on which the local frog hopper (*Tomaspis flavilatera*) is common. In a report he says: On this estate 386,222 nymphs were hand picked during last July and August. *T. flavilatera* is very closely related to *T. saccharina* and there should be no difficulty in getting any parasites of the former to attack the latter. There is no doubt, however, that the ability to flood the fields gives the planters here a powerful weapon against insect pests that the Trinidad planters do not possess. The manager of the estate above-mentioned described to me how some fields heavily infested with frog hoppers were flooded and then as the insects crept up the canes they sent boys through who shook them off into the water, when they were drowned in enormous numbers.

Mr. Williams gives the following report of a visit which he paid to Marienburg Estate in Surinam:—

The wet season was just commencing, the first heavy rains of the season having fallen the previous day, and it rained heavily during part of my visit. The Frog hopper (*Tomaspis Urichi*) was found commonly on two parts of the estate, which Mr. Sheddon, the manager, pointed out as having been most heavily infested last year. It was not in sufficient numbers to be doing any damage at present, but as the wet season is only beginning it will probably increase rapidly during the next few months. The adult is much larger than the Trinidad species (*Tomaspis saccharina*), the female is very dark brown with two transverse irregular rows of three small orange yellow spots on each forewing; the male is paler brown and has in addition to the spots and orange yellow, marks at the base of the wings externally. The adults are found sitting in the characteristic position head upwards at the base of the leaves of the cane. At the time of collecting (mid-day) they were sluggish and easily captured with the fingers. Fifteen adults were caught, of which eleven were females and only four males.

Eggs were not found in this wild state, but some were obtained from females in captivity which were given the choice of green leaves and moist dead trash. They were without exception laid in the dead trash. As is usual they were embedded in the material, but in many cases were inserted more deeply than is usual in *T. Saccharina*. Several eggs that were laid in a dead rolled up leaf were inserted into the second, third, and even fourth layer from the exterior. Seven females (of which one was freshly emerged and probably did not lay) laid over sixty eggs in the course of twenty-four hours. The eggs are 1.37 mm. long by 0.33 mm. broad. They are pale, dull yellow in colour, spindle-shaped, slightly less pointed at the posterior end which is more deeply embedded than at the anterior end which may be visible at the outer surface.

The young or nymphs were found surrounded by their froth usually under the leaf sheaths of the cane from near the ground to three or four feet up. One was found in the rolled up leaves at the top of the cane nearly five feet from the ground. I did not have an opportunity of examining the roots below the ground, but Mr. Sheddon assured me that he has never seen any nymphs on the roots. This is an important difference in the habit from both the Trinidad Frog hopper (*T. saccharina*) and the Demerara species (*T. flavilatera*). The froth made by the nymphs is of the loose soft type, similar to that made by *T. saccharina* and not like the close stiff froth made by *T. pubescens*, one specimen of which I obtained from grass alongside of the cane fields. Seventy-one nymphs were collected, of which 2 were in the first stage, 8 in the second, 14 in the third, and 47 in the fourth. This difference in numbers is, I think, entirely due to the greater conspicuousness of the older nymphs.

The first stage is 2 to 3.5 mm. long, has the antennae five segmented, and no trace of wing rudiments. The second stage is about 5 mm. long, has six segmented antennae and very slight wing rudiments. The third stage

is about 7 to 8 mm. has seven segmented antennae and distinct wing rudiments. The fourth stage is 1.2 to 1.4 cms. long, has eight segmented antennae and long wing cases. They are all pale yellow in colour, with a faint reddish tinge on the sides of the abdomen and dark meses meta thorax and wing cases. In the last stage just before the adult emerges the dark colouration is partly developed. A more technical description of the young stages is reserved for the present. In the sort time that I had in the field no natural enemies were observed.

This frog hopper appears to be a possible serious pest to sugar cane, but, owing to its habit of attacking the cane above ground, it will not, I think, even be so serious as the Trinidad species, as the short stem is more able to withstand loss of sap than the roots. On the other hand flooding the fields, as is done in Demerara for *T. flavilatera*, will have little or no effect on this species.

Judging by the numbers we were able to pick in a very short time I should think that organised hand picking, particularly at the beginning of the wet season, would be worth while if the pests recur again this year as commonly as it is reported to have done last August. The position of the nymphs above ground lends itself to control by spraying if such a thing were considered possible. Light traps might be tried on a small scale until the proportion of the two sexes caught by them has been determined. No trace of Green Muscadine was observed on any insects in the cane field. If this could be introduced it might be successful in view of the short and comparatively moist dry seasons in this country. I find that there are specimens of this species in the Museum at Georgetown, Demerara, taken "somewhere in British Guiana," but neither Mr. Bodkin nor Mr. Moore has ever taken it. The nearest related species in Trinidad is *P. Guppy's*, an apparently rare species of which the habits are unknown.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

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

British Guiana (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.) July 15th, "Are having abundance of rain"; (Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) July 15th, "Weather showery and favourable"; (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) July 26th, "Weather very favourable."

Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd), fortnight ended July 5th.—PORT ANTONIO: 22nd, 23rd, Fine; 24th, Rain; 25th, 26th Fine; 27th, 28th, Rain; 29th to July 31st, Heavy Rain; 1st, Fine; 5th, Rainy. KINGSTON: 22nd, 23rd, Fine; 24th Showers; 25th, Fine; 26th to 28th, Showers; 29th to July 2nd, Rain; 3rd to 5th, Fine.

MRS. GILCHRIST, who passed away at Georgetown, Demerara, on June 15th, was the widow of Mr. Alexander M. Gilchrist, a well-known planter, who died in 1902. Her brothers, James and William Gray, also resided in the colony, the former having been for some years in the Public Works Department. One of Mrs. Gilchrist's sons, Mr. W. J. Gilchrist, is Magistrate and Chief Censor of British Guiana, whilst another, Mr. R. W. Gilchrist, is Clerk in the Treasury.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 IS. 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A Suggested Parcel Post Economy.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I have no genius for invention, or, rather, for giving practical material shape to occurring ideas; otherwise I might at this juncture in our nation's story be able to help substantially, perhaps (?). In conversation with a merchant friend in this city a few days ago, the subject of economy being incumbent upon us as a nation, and the grand example being shown by the best people, with the noble lead of Royalty, we drifted to one item of expenditure in connection with Post Office administration—which may or may not be worth a thought—whereby savings may be practicable.

In the parcels post department, quite a number of "returned empties" pass to and from the local post office alone. The aggregate of those handled throughout the Empire must be prodigious. The feasibility of having the boxes constructed in nests of various sizes would suggest itself as one means of reducing the item of freight; but, as we thought, still another idea commended itself as being more promising of results for curtailing expenses. It is the making of these boxes in dissectible or collapsible form, so that they can be easily forwarded, occupying considerably less space as "returned empties," and as easily reformed for use in conveying the parcels post.

The idea is, perhaps, not original. If it is, I have no doubt there are many who can and will develop it, and possibly secure a patent thereon. Both my friend and I will be glad to think that, although debarred the honour and privilege of rendering our quota of active service for King and Empire, we have contributed a thought which may fructify in something useful, and possible of attainment, and, above any other consideration, something that shall be labelled "Made in Britain."

Faithfully yours,

J. T. THIBOU.

St. John's, Antigua, W.I.
June 14th, 1916.

Jamaica Newspapers.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I am engaged on an account of "The Press and Printers of Jamaica, with special reference to Newspapers." In the West India Library of the Institute of Jamaica is a valuable collection of Jamaica newspapers, and from it a bibliography of the newspapers of the colony has been compiled. I am anxious, if possible, to supplement it with any information which any of your readers can supply.

I should be much obliged for any information concerning Jamaica newspapers, and I should be also glad to receive offers of any, either as donations or for sale.

I am, etc.,

FRANK CUNDALL.

Institute of Jamaica, Kingston.
June 17th, 1916.

WANTS.

The charge for the insertion of notices under this heading and "Births, Marriages and Deaths", is 2/6 for three lines.

Superintendent Engineer.—38, married, wishes to take up an appointment anywhere abroad. Qualifications—Constructional, Boilers, Steam, Gas and Oil Engines, Tea and Rubber Machinery, Aerial Tramways, Wire Shoots. General Engineering, Repairs, Office Correspondence. Enjoyed excellent health in East sixteen years. Services available at once.—Apply J. M. W., c/o The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Wanted.—Copies of CIRCULARS dated March 9th, May 4th and 18th, June 1st and 15th. Sixpence per copy given. Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carib." London. LONDON, E.C.

July 26th, 1916

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted 59½, Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) 88, and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) 96.

SUGAR. The market has undergone practically no change since last report. Grocery sugars continue to be readily absorbed, and Demeraras are in favour, thanks to the inability of the home refiners to cope with the demand for white sugar—a state of affairs for which apathetic Governments in the past, which allowed home industries to be crushed, are responsible.

As already stated the Mauritius crop is, owing to the cyclone, not likely to exceed 200,000 tons, including 165,000 tons of crystals which have now been purchased by the Royal Commission at 18/- f.o.b., as against 17/4 paid last year. The Commission have also made large purchases of Java sugar.

The Formosa crop is estimated at 315,000 tons.

The shortage of sugar for preserving is being acutely felt, and while the Royal Commission is providing the fruit preserving trade with 75 per cent. of its requirements and a promise of more later, the retail stores are quite unable to cope with the demand from individuals. The Commission have had under consideration the question of sales of centrifugal muscovado to arrive and have laid it down that these must be made on the basis of 40/7½ for average qualities subject to grading up and down according as the sugar is superior or inferior to the extent of 1/6. Thus really fine muscovado will fetch 42/1¼. It has been pointed out to them by the West India Committee that producers will not know how the sugar will be graded and what will constitute "average qualities," and it is suggested that if the Commission find it necessary to interfere in the sugar trade next year samples of the various grades might be sent out to the colonies concerned.

The Royal Commission have been purchasing American granulated f.o.b. at \$6.25, and Canadian granulated at the same price f.o.b. St. John. A result of this has been that the refinery has been replenishing itself with Domingoes at \$5.15 c.i.f. in lieu of West Indian preferential sugar, the duties not entering into the question. Apart from this the slack demand for West Indian sugar and the unwillingness of the refiners to bid is not easy to explain, unless it is through the stores of the refineries having been well filled earlier in the year. Canada is prospering and the harvest though not so good as that of 1915 will be better than in 1914.

Messrs. Willet and Gray give the receipts of sugar at the Cuban ports, including outports, during the past week as 14,000 tons, against 10,000 last week and 16,000 in the corresponding week last year; exports as 65,000 tons, against 38,000 last week and 57,000 last year; and the stock as 546,000 tons, compared with 598,000 and 540,000 tons, respectively. The market in the United States has had an easier tendency. Raw centrifugal, 6.27c. to 6.33c.; muscovado, 5.82c. to 5.88c.; refined granulated, 7.55c. to 7.65c.

Guma and Mejer give the following as the Cuban crop figures to 30th June, 1916, compared with those of the two preceding campaigns:—

	1916	1915	1914
Exports	2,152,840	1,603,891	1,763,039 tons.
Stocks	659,256	688,162	576,849 ..
Local Consumption	46,690	41,800	48,460 ..
Total production...	2,858,786	2,333,853	2,388,348 ..

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to July 15th are given below—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	30,248	30,570	23,985	29,921	29,285 Tons.
Deliveries	31,442	21,292	16,268	16,145	20,459 ..
Stock (July 15)	9,911	15,287	20,321	15,615	6,727 ..

RUM. The market continues to be lifeless, and the lack of animation characteristic of the summer season has been accentuated through heavier purchases than usual earlier in the year, and the uncertainty with regard to pending action of the Government under the Finance Act and Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act. We regard it as certain that the warehousing period for rum will be extended by Order in Council from nine months to one year.

The rum stocks in London on 15th July were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	5,889	4,378	8,581	6,366	7,942
Demerara	13,998	5,576	10,594	7,429	6,651
Total, all kinds ...	33,556	18,296	26,665	21,392	21,775

CACAO. The shortage of sugar is believed to be affecting the cacao market; 14,711 bags were offered at the last two auctions, of which 10,000 bags were of British origin. About 600 bags of Trinidad were purchased by the Government brokers at 82/-, a decline of 3/-. Fine St. Lucia and Grenada also declined, good to fine selling at 77/- to 78/-, while fair common Grenada realised 73/- and St. Lucia 70/-. Pine Jamaica sold at full rates.

The stocks in London on July 15th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	27,660	10,374	10,810	11,366	7,063
Grenada	15,547	3,507	11,039	6,590	4,931
Total, all kinds ...	200,711	77,517	99,224	82,146	110,317

COFFEE. No sales of Jamaica have been reported. Costa Rica has met with fair demand at 75/- for bold greyish, 72/- for pale greyish; peas 79/- to 86/-. Superior Santos is quoted for shipment, 58/6 c. & f.

COTTON. From January 1st to July 20th, 3,948 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that West Indian Sea Island cotton has continued firm in price since our last report, particularly as there is some rumour of damage to the Carolina crop by storms. The sales amount to about 150 bales, including St. Vastatus 18d. to 19d., Nevis 19d., St. Kitts 20d., Antigua 15d., and Trinidad 18d., with a few stains at 10d. The stock remaining in Liverpool is very small.

BANANAS. Jamaica 19/- per cwt. Canary 14/- per cent bunch.

COCO-NUTS. Jamaicas 27/- per 100. Copra is steady. Singapore £31 5s.; Ceylon £32 5s. The market to United Kingdom ports remains dull, with little demand from consumers.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil.—Market quiet; none offering; value 9/-. Distilled no demand; sellers 8/-. Handpressed 9/-. Lime Juice (raw). Business has been done at 2/6 for fine green Grenada. Holders now ask 3/- for Dominica and 3/6 for Jamaica. Given a continuance of the war and warmer weather, Government requirements are likely to increase. Concentrated: No business to report. Buyers offer £23, but there are no sellers at that price.

SPICES. The market shows no change. Nutmegs: 100/80 10yd. to 1/-; 120/100 9yd. to 10d.; 140/120 9d. to 9d. Mace.—Good to fine 2/- to 2/8; broken 6d. to 4d.

ARROWROOT. Government requirements have resulted in the sale of 1,600 barrels, partly in second hands, at 25d. to 27d. There is no general demand, and quotations remain unchanged.

GINGER. Very quiet and scarcely any transactions have been recorded.

HONEY. Nothing doing since last mail. Large supplies were to be offered at auction on July 26th, but prices were not obtainable on going to press.

RUBBER. 846 lbs. of rubber was received from Trinidad in June, bringing receipts from that source to 3,438 lbs. from January 1st. Fine Plantation, 2/2½; fine hard Para, 2/10.

BALATA. Sheet, 3/5½; Block, 2/9½.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Mr. H. B. G. Austin,
M.C.P. (till August) | Mr. John T. Greg
Mr. Wm. Greig | Miss E. Robinson
Mr. E. G. A. Saunders |
| Mr. A. C. Broughton,
A.M.I.C.E. | Mr. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G.
Mr. Albert T. Haumond | Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne |
| (till end of July) | Mrs. E. Haynes
Mr. E. C. Jackson | Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Mr. J. C. Shaw |
| Mr. G. G. Browne
Mr. C. S. Browne | Mr. A. H. Kirby
Hon. A. Don. Lockhart | Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. N. J. Tausel |
| Mr. J. J. G. Carlee
Mr. J. W. Cathcart | Mr. Clement Malone
Mr. A. L. McColl | Mr. Aucher-Warner, K.C.
and |
| Mr. W. Morris Fletcher
Mr. H. de Gule | Mr. A. Marsden
Sir Frederic Maxwell | Mr. F. H. S. Warneford |
| Mr. R. P. Gibbs | | |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill N.
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton Sussex.
The Rev. Dean Shepherd, 11, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick W.
Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Aug. 4	"Direct"	Serrana	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 5	Elders & Fyffes	Camito	Bristol	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 5	Harrison	Magician	Liverpool	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 7	"Direct"	Ormiston	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 9	Leyland	Albanian	Liverpool	D	
" 16	"Direct"	Cathlam	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 19	Elders & Fyffes	Caranado	Bristol	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
" 19	Leyland	Seythian	Liverpool	A, E	
FROM CANADA					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Aug. 11	R.M.S.P.Co	Chaleur	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N	
25	"	Chignecto	"	"	
FROM HOLLAND					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Aug. 4	Royal Dutch	Prins Der Nederlanden	Amsterdam	B, E	

A, Barbados; B, British Guiana; C, British Honduras; D, Jamaica; E, Trinidad; F, Antigua; G, St. Kitts; H, Nevis; I, Montserrat; R, Dominica; L, Grenada; M, St. Lucia; N, St. Vincent.

The holders of the principal shipping companies whose steamers call at West Indian ports can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Divi-	Latest Quotations.		PRICES
			July 27
4%	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
4%	Barbados	5% Redeemable 1923-42	74
3%	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1915	85A
3%	British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-43	74½
4%	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	78½
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1934	84½A
3%	Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1919-49	73
3%	Jamaica	5% Redeemable 1922-44	75
4%	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	82½A
4%	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	81
3%	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1912-44	65½
6%	The Colonial Bank		5½
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		138
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		81
4%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures		92½
4%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures		94
4%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures		94½
6%	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		10½
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures		105
6%	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		5
6%	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		12½
6%	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15% paid)		36
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		29½
—	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.		95-100
7%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.		70-75
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures		72-73
1½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		21½
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.		
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd "		
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures		

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SIXTHING LANE,
6643 CENTRAL LONDON, E. C.,

Telegrams: CANIS, LONDON

August 9th, 1916.

WHITE SUGAR MANUFACTURE.

THE production of white sugar direct from the cane-juice without the intervention of a refinery process is making steady progress. The system has been profitably adopted in Java, Mauritius, Louisiana, Hawaii, and elsewhere; but as yet nothing has been accomplished in this direction in the British West Indies. A reason for this may perhaps be found in the trade agreement with Canada and the adherence of the Dominion to the archaic Dutch Standard for assessing the sugar duties, which practically closes the door to the importation of white sugars. At present the relation between the demand for preferential sugar in Canada and the supply is fairly evenly balanced, and it must occur to the planters that it would be obviously to their advantage if the requirements of Canada were to exceed the output of the West Indies, as that would enable them to secure a greater proportion of the preference. Would it not, then, be advantageous if they were to turn a proportion of their crop into white sugar for the English market? There seems now to be good reason for hoping that Great Britain will afford preferential treatment in the Customs tariff to her Colonial sugars, and whilst it is true that this would be an inducement for home refiners to purchase West Indian sugar, there seems no reason why producers should not reap a direct benefit by putting white sugar ready for immediate consumption on the market. The demand for "yellows"—stimulated though it has been by war conditions—is normally comparatively small, and the ability to manufacture them is limited, owing to conditions of soil, varieties of

canes, etc. A market, therefore, for direct consumption sugars secured by a preferential tariff in which a price approximating to that of refined sugars could be obtained would seem to offer great temptations to sugar producers, provided, of course, that the cost of manufacture did not nullify the advantage of price. That it should not do so has been, we think, sufficiently proved by the experience of Java and Mauritius, where the manufacture of white sugar has made rapid progress, even though the hold of the Eastern markets enjoyed by these sugars has been slight compared with the advantage which would be enjoyed here under a preferential tariff. In the past, German granulated sugar has been consumed largely in this country for general purposes, and there is no reason whatever why it should not be replaced by West Indian and other British plantation white sugar. There are various processes of plantation white sugar manufacture. The best known of these, one or the other of which should meet any condition of juices likely to be encountered, are the sulphitation in its several forms, and the double carbonatation processes. Besides these there is the Norit process, which, although it has not proved generally successful with cane-juice direct from the mill, affords cheap and satisfactory means of refining locally high-grade sugars. Additions to machinery are necessarily involved, and though there might be difficulty in British engineers furnishing these at present, owing to the demands of war, it is high time that planters were considering their future line of manufacture in view of the keen competition likely to arise from the extraordinary developments rendered possible by the substantial profits now being made in neutral sugar-growing countries. Directly the war is over there should be no difficulty in obtaining the requisite plant for the adaptation of existing factories to the new conditions. The amount of white sugar which could be marketed here depends almost entirely on its quality. As matters now stand, the needs of this country are about two million tons of sugar a year, and of this the Scotch and English refiners can handle about 800,000 tons, and there is no reason why plantation white sugars should not go a long way towards making up the balance. Without venturing to encroach on the prerogative of the planters to manage their own affairs, these few words on white sugar manufacture may not be out of place. Provided the process resorted to is adapted to the quality of the cane-juice to be dealt with—a point of the greatest importance—the manufacture can be satisfactorily carried out both as regards quality and quantity. But if, for example, the sulphitation process is applied to canes whose juice can only be profitably dealt with by a double carbonatation process, disappointment is

inevitable. The entire question is one of such importance that we would suggest the desirability of the planters sending a representative or representatives to the white sugar making countries to investigate and report upon it, as the Cuban planters did recently. With an exact knowledge of the kind of juice to be dealt with, they would then decide upon the processes—we say processes advisedly, for one process will not necessarily suit all the varieties of juice met with in the West Indies—best suited to West Indian conditions. The Mauritius and Louisiana processes would probably suit most of the island canes in the West Indies, while with the canes of the juice met with in British Guiana a more strenuous process, such as double carbonation, might be necessary. Then again, as mentioned above, the subject of central refineries worked on the Norit process could also be dealt with. In view of the keen competition which will prevail in the cane sugar world after the War, it will, we think, be agreed that the West Indian proprietors would do well not to lose sight of the possibilities of white sugar manufacture.

A PATRIOTIC APPEAL.

WITH the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a body entitled the United Workers is issuing an appeal to all Britons overseas which deserves, and will, no doubt, command attention. This appeal, which has been endorsed by the Earl of Cromer, Earl Grey, Viscount Milner, and other distinguished Statesmen, aims at inducing residents in our Dominions and Colonies to strengthen our economic position by supporting the various War Loans which have been or may be issued. They point out that the whole German nation, whose resources are being conserved in a most remarkable way, is supporting its armies, and that there were no fewer than 5,279,645 subscribers to the recent German war loan—a fact which tends to show that the "Fatherland," though no longer "happy," as it was once supposed to be, is by no means exhausted. Britain, who must buy her food and raw material abroad, and lend her Allies more than a million pounds a day, has at last realised that every single citizen is called upon for his or her maximum effort. Through her Cabinet Ministers she has called upon the people for self-denial, for the utmost conservation of resources, and for the loan of every spare penny. And the people, now that they understand this to be an economic struggle, are responding more and more, and are showing their determination to produce more, to consume less, and to adjust their whole economic outlook to the War. Meanwhile, it is of the utmost importance that every Briton overseas, man and woman, should understand the position, and the United Workers are doing a good service in enlisting the support of every man, woman, and child in the British Empire towards providing "silver bullets," towards winning the War, in which economic ordinance will play a prominent part. Our friends overseas can help very materially by subscribing generously to any local War Loans which may be raised, and by applying through the banks or their

agents for 5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, which have the advantage of being issued free of income tax. Even those of very slender means can "do their bit" by placing their savings in the local Savings Banks.

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 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.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

After Two Years.

The Allies have every reason to look forward with hope. The Navy, which has from the first kept open our sea communications, has won one of the decisive battles of the War, in which the enemy was out-maneuvred, out-gunned, and out-manned. On land, the spell of trench warfare in the West has been broken, the Anglo-French forces on the Somme, progressing mile upon mile where the Germans at Verdun progressed yard upon yard. Even in front of that great fortress the French have assumed the offensive, proving that there, at least, the enemy has "shot his bolt." In the South the Austrian push has been turned into the defensive, owing to the vigorous advance of the Russians, which is continuous from the Baltic to the Roumanian frontier. The moral and material bonds between the Allies, instead of weakening, as Germany hoped, have strengthened with every month of the War, producing a unity of direction as well as of purpose. Finally, each one has prepared herself to play her part in the common cause—England, which, on land, was not organised for a European conflict at all, by an effort whose magnitude is the marvel of the nations. Consequently the third year of the War opens with the formidable initial advantage due to consummate preparation on the part of the enemy considerably reduced.

The Battle of the Somme.

The capture of Pozières and the Delville Wood were two notable successes. The attack on the first was carried out on two sides by Territorials and Australians, who found that it was not so much a fortress as a whole series of fortified positions. From behind the gratings of every cellar of every house a hail of lead from enemy machine-guns was poured into British troops. Seeing that, under such

conditions, the village could only be carried with heavy loss, a halt was called while the German defences were again bombarded. Then, with rifle, bomb, and bayonet, our men gradually worked their way through the village. It took them three days to perform this fine piece of work. To demonstrate the difference in the material strength of the Allies, one should mention that similar operations at Neuville-Saint-Vaast during the French offensive in Artois last year took two months. It is the Germans who are now fighting against superior weight of metal, and are characteristically indignant at the reversal of their relative position.

A large share in the capture of Delville Wood was taken by the South Africans, who are familiar with bush fighting. Their adversaries were some of the choicest of German troops, but these were driven back inch by inch from their prepared positions.

Further progress has been made by the British between Longueval and Guillemont, the Trones Wood, and the Maltzorn Farm.

The French Push.

From Hardecourt our Allies have made an important bound on a front of nearly four miles, which has brought them to the bottom of the valley down which runs the narrow-gauge railway from Combles to Peronne. They now hold the outskirts of Maurepas and occupy the wood to the south of the town, besides Monacu Farm to the east of them. The position, then, is that the British, except at Guillemont, are on the east side of the ridge which runs between the Ancre and the Somme. Guillemont itself defends Combles, which is also threatened by the French from the South. There are, therefore, interesting possibilities in the new situation for the Allies, and to the enemy they cannot but be a cause of grave concern. Hence the sacrifice of some of his best troops, and his fierce defence and counter-attacks. The fighting in this region is, in fact, more desperate, and the bombardments more intensive, than they were at Verdun.

Verdun.

Since their attack on the Chapelle-Sainte-Fine on July 13th, the Germans have scored but one success in this sector. The French, on the other hand, are continuously making small local gains. They have not only recovered the ground lost at the Chapelle-Sainte-Fine and one of the redoubts at the Thiaumont Work, but the whole village of Fleury, on the right bank of the Meuse, and a number of trenches on the Thiaumont-Fleury front. The truth is that the Germans have so weakened their forces in front of Verdun that its fate has been practically decided.

On the Eastern Front.

During the past fortnight the Russians have taken over 50,000 prisoners, not including a whole Honved regiment, which surrendered on the Stokhod. The German efforts to stem the Russian tide by withdrawing troops from the Trentino and

France have so far been fruitless. Hence the Austrians are again fighting on their own territory. Even the Russian cavalry, who forced their way through the Carpathians, have contributed to the enemy's discomfiture, for though they were too far in advance of the main body for any considerable military operation, they so alarmed the civilian population of Hungary that it fled in thousands towards Budapest, thus impeding the movements of Austrian troops. In the Bukovina the Russians are still attacking strongly about Kimpolung, while further north General Letchitsky, by a brilliant move, has moved a stage nearer the railway junction at Stanislaw. Galicia is thus threatened from the south-east as well as from the north-east.

Fall of Brody.

Here General Sakharoff has struck a shrewd blow against the stoutest German troops available to the enemy, for once the Brody sector goes, the fall of Lemberg, the centre of the Galician petroleum wells, will be imminent. With the capture of Brody itself, the road to the capital, forty miles distant, is greatly facilitated for the Russian armies, and the position of General von Bothmer on the Strypa becomes critical. So does General Linsingen's in front of Kovel, since he has had to retire behind the Stokhod, the town's last line of natural defence. A glance at the map shows that at several points the enemy's front includes several dangerous salients, but the remarkable defensive works he has constructed have, so far, defied any enveloping movements on the part of the Russians.

In the north, in spite of Hindenburg's strongest efforts, the Russians have advanced twenty versts beyond Riga. If they are able to continue their progress in the direction of Mitau, and ultimately of Shavli, the whole of the German defensive organisation on the Duna will be outflanked. But before that happens there will be desperate fighting to save East Prussia from another Russian invasion.

In the Middle East.

The Grand Duke has struck a decisive blow at the Turks in Armenia by the capture of Erzincan, defeating Izzet Pasha, who so ably defended the lines of Tchataldja in the first Balkan War. As the enemy set fire to a great part of the town, it suggests that he deems Armenia lost to him for ever. The Russians, on their side, are in possession of the essential points of the Trebizond-Erzincan-Kharput line. In the first place they have a direct base of supply for their armies, which up to the present have had to depend on the long and roundabout route by way of Tiflis. In the second place the Grand Duke has before him the choice of three alternative plans. He can advance southwards towards Diarbekir and Kharput, thus threatening the Turkish communications with Mesopotamia and Baghdad; westwards across the desert to Sivas, which is a stepping-stone to the Bosphorus; or south-westwards towards Alexandretta, which, if captured, would not only isolate Mesopotamia, but would place the whole of Syria, Palestine, and the Suez region at the mercy of the Allies.

A Maritime Franc-Tireur.

Captain Fryatt, the plucky captain of the G.E.R. steamer *Brussels*, which was captured by the Germans, has been tried by a packed court-martial for having attacked a German submarine, and shot. The crime adds yet another to the terrible list, which includes the sinking of the *Lusitania* and the murder of Nurse Cavell. Germany tries to justify her conduct by describing Captain Fryatt as a *franc-tireur*. But the reason why this type of impromptu combatant receives such short shrift on land is because he shoots at regular soldiers from behind hedges or any other kind of cover. But there is no cover on sea, a ship being a marked target. Moreover, the law of nations has always sanctioned defence by a merchantman against a warship, and it should be remembered that when Captain Fryatt tried to ram the U33, the Huns were sinking merchantmen at sight. The proper course would have been to treat the crew of the *Brussels* as prisoners of war.

The Drive in East Africa.

General van Deventer is astride of the Central Railway at Dodoma, fifty miles east of Kilimatinde. He advanced towards it by three roads, in each of which the enemy was encountered and beaten after a stout resistance, with considerable losses in material and cattle. In the course of clearing the coast country south of the Usambara Railway the fort of Pangani has been occupied, and the last German gunboat having been destroyed on Lake Tanganyika, the Allies are masters of the Lakes. General Smuts is now menacing the very centre of German power in the colony.

The Return of the Zeppelins.

After an interval of nearly three months, Zeppelins have renewed their attacks on the East Coast. During the course of the first, in which three Zeppelins participated, the enemy was hampered by fog and the vigilance of the anti-aircraft gunners. There were no casualties and trifling damage. The second attempt at "frightfulness" was absolutely ineffective, though seven Zeppelins took part in it, and seven counties were visited. The third, which was on an even larger scale, achieved no greater results. None of the raiders seem to have penetrated far inland, which is no doubt accounted for by the activity of the anti-aircraft guns, one at least of the Zeppelins having been damaged, as was reported by the Dutch, who saw her on her return journey.

(To be continued.)

AMONG the publications for sale at the West India Committee Rooms are "The Banana," by William Fawcett, B.Sc., "Cacao," each 7/6 net, post free in the United Kingdom 7/11, or abroad 8/3; "The Cane Sugar Factory," by F. I. Scard, price 1/-, post free 1/3, besides various Handbooks and Directories, a list of which can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

Notices regarding the following officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, identified with the British West Indies, who have been killed in action or have died of wounds or shell shock have been published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time:—

CAPTAIN EDWARD BAYLIE AMPHLETT.
 CAPTAIN ABOY FELLOWS ANDERSON.
 CAPTAIN ASHLEY H. ARBUTHNOT.
 MAJOR KENNETH WYNDHAM ARBUTHNOT.
 PAYMASTER ALAN M. AUSTIN.
 LANCE-CORPORAL ALEXANDER BAILEY.
 LIEUTENANT B. M. B. BATEMAN.
 CAPTAIN H. R. BENTLEY.
 LIEUTENANT WILLIAM BERESFORD GOSSET.
 MAURICE K. F. BERKELEY.
 CAPTAIN ERNEST SCOTT BROWN.
 LIEUTENANT AND ADJUTANT RICHARD C. BLAGROVE.
 HAROLD BROWN.
 LIEUTENANT J. H. ("JACK") BROWNE.
 LIEUTENANT BURFORD-HANCOCK.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT G. GERVASE BUSHE.
 CAPTAIN HARRY A. BUTT.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT KENNETH W. CALDER.
 EVAN STUART CAMERON.
 CAPTAIN D. CARMICHAEL.
 CAPTAIN EDWARD W. CARRINGTON.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT LEON HOPE CENTENO.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT R. COMPTON-THORNHILL.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT A. CRUM-BWING.
 CORPORAL ALFRED K. CURRY.
 LIEUTENANT GORDON DAVSON.
 LIEUTENANT FRANK A. DE PASS, M.C.
 SURGEON P. L. J. M. DE VERTEUIL.
 LIEUTENANT FREDERICK W. DES VOEUX.
 LIEUTENANT E. C. ELLIS.
 LIEUTENANT LESLIE W. ESCOTT.
 COLONEL GODFREY FAUSSETT, D.S.O.
 CAPTAIN STEPHEN FIELD.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT R. D. FORD.
 LIEUTENANT GASKELL, R.N.
 J. L. HAMPTON.
 WALTER HAMPTON.
 CYRIL C. HENDERSON.
 CAPTAIN FERRIS NELSON GRANT.
 MAJOR J. W. GRIFFITH.
 CAPTAIN W. B. HADDON-SMITH.
 FLEET PAYMASTER CHARLES R. HARVEY.
 LIEUTENANT C. M. HARVEY.
 CAPTAIN E. R. HAYES-SADLER.
 LIEUTENANT E. J. B. HAYES-SADLER.
 LIEUTENANT RONALD L. O. HENRIQUES.
 CAPTAIN GEORGE E. HEWETT.
 SERGEANT G. P. GURNEY HOARE.
 BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. B. HODSON, C.B., D.S.O.
 LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IAN GRAHAM HOGG, D.S.O.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT P. B. G. HENRIQUES.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT GUY WILIE HUGHES.
 BRIGADIER-GENERAL PAUL A. KENNA, U.C., D.S.O.
 CAPTAIN KENNEDY.
 HENRY KERR.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT J. L. E. REY LAKE.
 BRIGADIER-GENERAL NOEL LEE, V.D.
 COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR ERIC LAURENCE.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT G. G. W. LEARY.
 CYRIL A. LINTON.
 COMMANDER ROBERT H. LLWELYN, R.N.
 FLEET SURGEON F. F. LOBB.
 LIEUTENANT LUCKETT.
 LIEUTENANT EVAN LUCIE-SMITH.
 I. C. LYON.
 LIEUTENANT CLARENCE E. LYON HALL.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT ALAN MACDOUGAL RITCHIE.
 LIEUTENANT M. S. G. McGRATH.
 CAPTAIN J. K. MARTIN.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT OWEN S. MELHADO.
 CAPTAIN ALLAN ERNEST MESSER.
 CAPTAIN W. A. A. MIDDLETON.
 MAJOR G. F. MOLINEUX-MONTGOMERIE.



ROARING RIVER FALLS, ST. ANN, JAMAICA.

From "Picturesque Jamaica," by Dr. V. P. Parkhurst.

SECOND LIEUTENANT J. H. SUTTON-MOXLY.
 MAJOR GEORGE FISON MULLER.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT J. H. MUSSON.
 LIEUT.-COLONEL G. H. NEALE.
 LIEUTENANT G. S. NESS.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT MEREDYTH OWEN.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT W. W. PARK.
 LIEUTENANT W. B. PARKER-SMITH.
 LIEUTENANT REGINALD R. G. PECK.
 W. H. F. ("JACK") PERCIVAL.
 DERRICK A. K. PILE.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT H. STANLEY REEC.
 (Military Cross).
 MAJOR FRANCIS G. RICHARDS.
 ORME ROETT.
 LIEUTENANT R. M. FORBES ROSS.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT THOMAS WOOD RUTHERFORD.
 ROY R. SEARS.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT M. W. SETON-BROWNE.
 ASSISTANT PAYMASTER HUBERT Z. SIMPSON, R.N.R.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN SMALL.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT D. PIKE STEPHENSON.
 LIEUT. HALDANE D. STOKES, M.V.O.
 CAPTAIN STRACHAN.
 CAPTAIN E. A. L. STURRIDGE.
 MAJOR EDWARD C. TALBOT.
 SERGEANT WELLESLEY S. TAYLOR.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT C. A. R. TENNANT.
 CAPTAIN H. R. THOMAS.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT L. I. L. THORNTON.
 LIEUTENANT E. P. J. TINNE, R.N.R.
 CAPTAIN F. W. TOWNEND.
 LIEUTENANT H. R. C. TUDWAY.
 LIEUTENANT G. S. H. TYNDALE.
 MAJOR C. J. VENABLES.
 CAPTAIN JOHN R. WALPOLE.
 CAPTAIN A. C. WARD, D.S.O.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT W. B. WELLS-DURRANT.
 LIEUTENANT WILLIAM B. WOLSELEY.

KILLED IN ACTION.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER J. S. WILSON, who went down with H.M.S. *Indefatigable* in the Battle of Jutland on May 31st, was son of Sir David Wilson, K.C.M.G., late Governor of British Honduras, and brother of Mrs. Gordon Gordon, of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

PRIVATE L. ST. JOHN HAUGHTON SANGUINETTI, of the Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action on July 1st. He was the eldest son of Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti, of Kingston and St. Andrew, Jamaica.

PRIVATE H. NORLE, of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Contingent, attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment, was killed in action on July 3rd. Until the outbreak of war he was in the employment of the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, whose association with the Direct West Indian Cable Company justifies the publication of his name under the above heading. His Commanding Officer writes:—

"Noble was always to the fore when any risky work was to be done. For his excellent work he was promoted sergeant for gallantry in the field. Alas! poor fellow, he never knew it. In the morning of the 3rd he was attached to the Battalion and a successful attack was made on a wood. Early in the show he was hit in the arm and was returning to get the wound dressed when he was attacked by a Hun. Wounded as he was he fought and succeeded in killing his opponent, being killed himself as well. The two were found locked but with Noble on top."

"We all mourn the loss of a gallant chum. Bert was always cheerful and often when things were looking rather blue he would cheer us up with a song and soon all the boys would forget their troubles. It was during this attack that one of our Bermuda boys succeeded in smashing up a machine gun which was causing a deal of trouble. For this he has been awarded the Military Medal. Personally, in Noble I have lost a good pal, and I know the news of his death will be a great shock in Bermuda, where he was universally popular."

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWARD PERCIVAL DOYLE, West Yorkshire Regiment, who was severely wounded on July 5th while leading a bombing party and died the same day, was the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Doyle, of San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies. He was 26 years of age and was educated at Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain, and afterwards entered as a student at the Middle Temple.

Called to the Bar in 1913, he practised in Trinidad and shortly after the outbreak of war, returned to England and enlisted in King Edward's Horse. After active service in France he received a commission. His commanding officer writes:—"He was quite one of the best officers I had."

HONOURS.

LIEUTENANT F. H. THOMAS, Royal Marine Light Infantry, of H.M.S. *Talbot*, son of Inspector Herbert T. Thomas, of the Jamaica Constabulary, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for services in the Dardanelles on the occasion of the Suvla Bay landing. Lieut. Thomas was Staff Officer to Captain Fawcett Wray, and displayed great gallantry. He is one of the five sons of Inspector Thomas, who all gave their services to the King and Empire. The eldest, Captain H. R. Thomas, Royal Garrison Artillery, fell in action on Christmas Day, 1915, but the survivors are still with the colours.

WOUNDED.

J. W. A. MACINLEY (Antigua Estates' Proprietor), King Edward's Horse, has, we regret to learn, been seriously wounded.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

Bushe, Second Lieut. William F. (stepson of Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), The Black Watch.

Codrington, Lieut. C. W. (son of Sir Gerald W. Codrington, Bart., Antigua Estates' proprietor), Queen Alexandra's Own 19th Royal Hussars.

Collier, Gunner F. C. (son of Mrs. A. J. Collier, of Water Street, Georgetown, Demerara), Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Gooding, Second Lieut. W. U. (son of Dr. C. E. Gooding, M.C.P., of Barbados), The Highland Light Infantry.

Manning, Hugh (son of Mr. T. E. Manning, of Messrs. Samuel Manning & Co.), Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Medford, W. H. L. (son of the late Mr. W. E. Medford, M.C.P., Barbados), Army Service Corps, Horse Transport.

AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

The Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture in Jamaica, reverts in his report for the year 1915-16 to the question of the possibility of the extension of the sugar industry of the island, which, it will be recalled, gave rise to some differences of opinion locally.

"The planters of Jamaica," he says, "are now seriously considering a revision of their major industry, bananas, in favour of sugar. When the matter was raised by the West India Committee in 1904, I gave the opinion that the expansion of the sugar industry in Jamaica was limited, and that it would not pay our planters in the long run to give up bananas, cacao, and coco-nuts for sugar. I estimated our export of sugar for the next ten years at an average of 20,000 tons, or about 2½ times that of the previous decade. The Collector-General, however, to whose great experience and judgment I defer, has estimated for 35,000 tons of sugar per annum for Jamaica as the result of the more favourable conditions now in sight for British sugars, and this without trenching on our other industries.

"A new light is now thrown on this matter by the recently expressed desire of banana planters

in St. Catherine and St. Thomas to give up the whole or a portion of their banana cultivation in favour of sugar. The irrigable area of St. Catherine is the finest agricultural region in the island, and assured crops of cane can be relied on here. The planters of St. Catherine now consider that sugarcane is the best rotation crop for bananas on these lands, and that the danger of exhaustion of these soils and the production of second-class fruit from the loss of humus in the soil resulting from prolonged banana cultivation would be well met by a rotation of cane and bananas in approximately equal proportions. The project of a St. Catherine sugar factory has been seriously considered at intervals during the past fifteen years, and it would now appear that the time is favourable for the fruition of this scheme. Owing to favourable railway facilities, a considerable area of land could be commanded to serve this factory with canes.

"Our experience in Vere has indicated that even under the most unfavourable conditions of price that ruled in the years before the War, the sugar industry would have been profitable if only crops could have been assured, drought having been the crucial factor hitherto in preventing the industry from being successful in that district. As the St. Catherine planters are ready and willing to devote the best lands under irrigation to canes as a rotation crop to bananas, the success of a sugar factory would appear to be assured. The value to the island of such a stabilising factor in our industries has long been recognised, and any increase in sugar in Jamaica on sound modern lines is to be welcomed.

"The immediate profit from the growing of sugar in Jamaica is undeniable. The St. Catherine lands may safely be estimated to yield an average of 32 tons of cane per acre over three crops. If the factory started in January, 1918, I estimate that the planters would receive £25 per acre gross for their canes from the factory on a 6 per cent. basis for the first three years of the venture. This estimate is based on a review of the war situation, the shortage of beets in Europe, the lack of labour in the Central European area, and the general prospects of the sugar-cane for the period stated.

"Even after peace has effected a moderating influence on the financial basis of the sugar industry, it is reasonable to anticipate that sugar will remain more valuable than before the War for some years, while the conditions in St. Catherine are so favourable for sugar that this area should be able to compete on level terms with the rest of the world.

"The question of rum is also of vital importance to the sugar industry in Jamaica. It seems to me that if 5,000,000 British soldiers and sailors have been accustomed to the stimulating and comforting influence of Jamaica rum during their arduous service in the War, there will pass into civilian circles thereafter a disposition to regard rum as a good and wholesome stimulant.

"The prospects of rum are therefore regarded as promising, and to offer additional encouragement for a revival of sugar, our old industry in Jamaica.

"The present depression in the banana industry should not, however, be taken as indicating the passing of our principal staple. Far from it. Jamaica holds the exact geographical position of

the premier banana country of the world, and with the return of normal conditions we can rely again on a revival and expansion of this industry, which, with all its faults and drawbacks, has in truth and fact been the chief foundation of the advancement of the country during the past twenty years.

Panama Disease.

"Last year I had hoped to be able to report a reduction in the incidence of Panama disease of bananas for this year and up to the end of 1915. This appeared to be likely, but an unfortunate outbreak in a valley in Portland, where the disease had been present for a long time before it was recognised, has raised our records during the last quarter of the financial year, so that the number of diseased plants discovered and treated for the year 1915-16 stands at 236 plants, as against 168 for the previous year.

"This disease has not been found in any new parish during the year, but the cases were distributed as follows:—

Portland	...	160	...	24	...	32
St. Mary	...	2	...	—	...	2
St. Ann	...	15	...	5	...	—
Hanover	...	39	...	4	...	4
Total	...	236	...	33	...	38

"It will be noted that the diseased plants average between three to four in each case, and that the work is largely that of stamping out the incipient infection wherever it appears.

"The 'disease plot' at Balcarras was replanted, after a rest of three years, with Jamaica and China bananas. All the former developed the disease, while the latter remained healthy. It is therefore clear that the residual infection of Panama disease is of long standing, and with our present information it is not possible to state whether 'Panama diseased' land will ever again be fit for planting the commercial banana.

"Owing to the depression in the banana trade, we have seized the favourable opportunity of clearing off all the bananas from the original area at Balcarras and also on that in Hanover, where the disease was first discovered four years ago."

Will those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of "the British West Indies Regiment, Egyptian Expeditionary Force," or to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., for transmission to men from the West Indies serving in English regiments? All ranks are eager for West Indian news.

MR. R. M. BLEAKIE, the American who talked of putting up a Central Sugar Factory in St. Catherine, Jamaica, and had several conferences with the local planters on the subject, has, it is understood, failed to get the necessary backing to enable him to carry through the scheme. Cuban capitalists did not consider it big enough, and other possible investors preferred to "wait and see" what the attitude of the British Government would be towards the sugar question after the War.

BANANAS AND FRUIT PROHIBITION.

The Board of Trade announced recently that, with a view to economising the tonnage employed in the importation of oranges, it had been arranged that on and after August 7th all such imports (except the produce of the British Empire) must be carried in specially licensed ships. In order to give effect to this scheme a proclamation has been issued prohibiting the import of such oranges except under licence. It is explained that, generally speaking, import licences will be granted, not for specific consignments, but for any or all consignments which are brought by vessels specially licensed for the purpose.

An Advisory Committee, comprising Mr. Benjamin Cohen, K.C. (chairman), Mr. Walter Greenwood, Mr. Harry M. Isaacs, and Mr. A. H. Van Cruisen, and with headquarters at 22, Carlisle Place, Westminster, S.W., has been appointed to give effect to the scheme.

Whilst in some quarters the hope is expressed that the opportunity may be taken of shutting out foreign bananas and admitting British fruit only, it must be remembered that the present object of the Government is to economise tonnage, which would not be effected by simply replacing the American and Canary bananas by Jamaica fruit. Apart from that, it is clear that if Central American bananas—the variety which competes with the Jamaica fruit—were shut out of this country, they would be diverted to the United States, where they would presumably displace a corresponding quantity of Jamaica fruit. In a word, there would simply be a readjustment, which would bring no benefit to the Jamaica planter.

The question of a preference in the future for Jamaica bananas is another matter altogether. This would involve making the fruit dutiable, which would be resented by the consumer in this country, and probably not generally welcomed in Jamaica, if one may judge from the representations which were made when it was proposed to put bananas in the dutiable list in Canada with a view to the grant of a preference to British fruit.

As we go to press we learn by cable from the Merchants' Exchange in Jamaica that an influential meeting of banana planters has been followed by a deputation to the Governor on this subject, to which further reference will be made in next issue.

SUGAR MARKET TERMS.

The various quotations of the sugar markets and the expressions used in connection with sales are apt to cause some bewilderment to the lay mind. In the circumstances a few explanatory remarks on the subject for the benefit of the uninitiated may be of interest.

At the outset it may be stated that the two principal centres of the sugar world before the War were Hamburg and New York, the former setting the pace for beet sugar, and the latter that for cane. The Hamburg quotation was for 88° sugar "f.o.b."—that is to say, "free on board" at that port. The

88° is the "rendement" or net sugar, the figure being calculated by taking the polarisation of the sugar and deducting five times the ash or mineral matter and once the percentage of glucose (that is to say, uncrystallisable or "fruit" sugar) present, which, however, very rarely occurs in beet, and is only taken into account if over .05 per cent. Thus, if the sugar polarised 94° (that is to say, if it contained 94 per cent. of sugar according to the polariscopic test), and 1.20 per cent. of ash, the rendement or net analysis would be 88°. "88° sugar" refers entirely to raw beet, and is quoted "per cwt." Grocery beet sugar fit for direct consumption consists of white crystals polarising over 98°.

The quotations in the New York market are for 96° polarisation centrifugal raw sugars and 89° polarisation muscovado. These figures represent the actual polarisations, with no deductions or corrections whatever, and must not be confused with the 88° "rendement" referred to above. The quotations are for "duty paid" and "landed" sugars. In order to arrive at the "c.i.f." (cost, insurance, freight) price—that is to say, the price at the port of departure, including insurance and freight—the duty has to be deducted. This at present is \$1.25 per 100 lbs. for 96° polarisation sugar, and \$1.08 per 100 lbs. for 89° polarisation sugar. This figure, with 1 or 2 cents added for landing charges, deducted from the market value gives the c.i.f. value of the sugar.

The above is for non-preferential sugar, or sugar which receives no preferential treatment in the Customs tariff. When Cuban sugar is under consideration \$1.01 per 100 lbs. instead of \$1.25 has to be deducted, Cuban sugar receiving a preference of 20 per cent. in the United States Market. It is frequently noted that Porto Rico sugars, which pay no duty, but which, under normal circumstances, should be quoted at the same price in New York as Cuban sugars duty paid, are generally quoted at a lower figure than Cubans. This is due to the fact that Porto Ricos, being duty free, receive no drawback when re-exported in the form of Refined, and are therefore of less value to refiners than Cubans, which pay duty, and are consequently entitled to a drawback when exported as Refined.

Another quotation of the New York market is that of Granulated Sugar. This is quoted duty paid, but when it is exported a rebate equivalent to the duty (at the present moment \$1.36 per 100 lbs.) is made. The actual quotation for this sugar when shipped would be the quoted figure less the duty on 99.9° polarisation sugar, \$1.36 per 100 lbs.

In the English market the quotations in normal times are always for "duty paid" sugars. The kinds of sugar quoted are: Cubes (refined "lump" sugar made by being cast in moulds)—Loaf (refined sugar drained in moulds of the familiar "sugar-loaf" shape and then broken up) is no longer made here—Granulated (small crystals prepared in the refineries), Castor (the finely-ground refined sugar), and Pieces (the secondary products of the refineries). Then there are the "Plantation sugars"—that is to say, sugars for direct consumption made on the cane sugar estates, notably Java and

Mauritius white sugars and West Indian grocery crystallised, the "Demerara" yellow sugars. "Yellow crystals" are the dyed imitation of these, made by coating white crystals with a yellow dye. Finally there are the Muscovado sugars, the old brown moist sugars, and the "Syrups," the secondary products from the West Indian crystallised. As already mentioned, all of these are quoted duty paid and per cwt.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

A Meeting at Glasgow.

A meeting was held under the auspices of the British Empire Producers' Organisation in the City Hall, Glasgow, on Saturday, August 5th. The Rev. A. J. Forsen, of Govan, presided, and amongst those present were Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand; Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Chairman of the Organisation; Sir George Makgill, General Secretary, and Councillor Whitehead.

At the outset of the proceedings Mr. Parker explained the objects of the Organisation, and read the following cablegram from Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier:—

"I sincerely hope that the deliberations of the conference may materially aid in giving shape and substance to the desires of the people for a policy at once worthy of a great nation and necessary for its salvation at the present juncture. I hope and trust that the conference will not forget that there is very much to be done and but little time in which to do it."

Sir Thomas Mackenzie said that New Zealand hoped very soon to place a duty of 50 per cent. upon all enemy manufactured goods that had to enter the Dominion. (Applause.) If we diverted trade to the Germans, we knew—at any rate, they in the Colonies knew it for years—that every shilling the Germans earned might be used for the degradation of this Empire and the ruination of civilisation. We therefore should go on the principle of working as much as possible on the resources that we could command, and confine our trade as much as possible within our Dominions. People quarrelled in Great Britain about Free Trade and Protection; they in New Zealand had the same discussions five-and-twenty years ago, and scrapped the whole lot. They had settled down to the policy of viewing all questions from the standpoint of their effects on them as a community and of their relation to the Empire as a whole. While they had neither adopted Free Trade nor Protection in its entirety, yet they had placed a certain amount of protection on certain industries.

German trade was built on rascality and treachery. Surely we ought to see as a nation that we had nothing to do with such undesirable people. The time was more than ripe for the gathering together of representatives from all our Overseas Dominions for the purpose of forming a new policy in which they would all have, in proportion to their contributions and responsibilities, a say in the policy that was dominating the whole Empire. (Applause.) Then we would have the Empire strong for defence and strong for civilisation. Ger-

many was going down in this fight. There was no doubt of that. But she was going to begin another fight that was infinitely more dangerous than this present fight. She was going to organise a system of trade that would insinuate itself into our very vitals and would finally grasp us if we allowed her to do so. There had been an awakening in this country. The German had disclosed his character and discovered ours. He believed the sword would not be sheathed until that bloody destroyer of liberty and humanity was effectively disposed of for all time.

On the motion of Mr. John Thomson, General Secretary of the Associated Blacksmiths' and Ironworkers' Society, it was agreed to appoint a committee to keep in touch with the central organisation of the British Empire Producers in London and to further its propaganda locally.

Mr. G. H. Pritchard, referring to the sugar question, said that one thing that was necessary was a change of fiscal policy—and he did not doubt that the War had convinced them of that—and another was organisation. The Germans were fine organisers, but when the time came we could organise as well as they, and even better. Mr. E. Saunders, South Africa, spoke mainly on the question of aliens, urging that all aliens in this country should be under registration and complete control. Unless we dealt drastically with the alien question we would have failed to learn one of the lessons of the War.

Several questions were asked and answered, after which Mr. Parker Smith, in proposing thanks to the speakers, said it had been a great encouragement to observe how the people of this country had received their brothers from overseas; for in many matters we might take a leaf out of the book of the younger countries. If we regarded this as a homogeneous Empire, and not as a collection of individual countries, there was ample room for the development of an Imperial policy; and it was to promote such a policy that their Organisation existed.

On the suggestion of Mr. John Thomson, of the Blacksmiths' Society, a local committee was formed to further the interests of the Organisation; and the meeting also adopted a resolution urging the Government to put into immediate execution Lord Kitchener's policy regarding enemy aliens, and further declaring that steps should be immediately taken to render British industries free from enemy control of any description.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON, President of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Gordon, have arrived in England on their first visit since 1914. Mr. Gordon Gordon, who, it is satisfactory to learn, is in the best of health, has taken a shooting at Ballinluig, and will leave for the North before the 12th.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5/- net, may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE CUBA—KEY WEST FERRY.

Reference was made recently in these columns to the advantage which sugar producers enjoy in Cuba through being able to get their machinery from the manufacturers in America to their plantations without break of bulk by the Key West ferry.

Our contemporary the *Louisiana Planter* devotes an article to this subject. Less than two years ago, it reminds us, all of Cuba's incoming and outgoing freight was necessarily handled by steamers, and even now, more frequently than not, these vessels are forced to take on and discharge cargo under conditions far from satisfactory. With only one ferry in operation, the net amount of the products that annually pass between Key West and Havana in railway cars has reached half-a-million tons.

As yet only a small fraction of this tonnage is outgoing sugar; a much greater proportion is molasses in tank cars, while the largest single item on the list is the equipment for the various plantations.

For a variety of reasons—such, for example, as insufficient warehouse space on the plantations—the change from water to rail transportation of the sugar itself is bound to be a gradual one. Tank car shipments of molasses have already passed a million gallons during the present season, and, even considering the rise in price of this product in other markets, it must be conceded that this tank-car movement has had much to do with the change in value at the points of origin in Cuba. It is evident that the presence there of independent bidders who would take the product of any factory free to offer its molasses for sale, played an important part in bringing to Cuba the conditions that have recently come about here and elsewhere. Without the tank-car route the independent movement of molasses would have been beset with insurmountable difficulties.

Among the new factories that were operated for the first time this year, and among the older places where extensive improvements were made in equipment, there stand out several whose machinery was brought down in the old-fashioned way. Standing out with equal prominence are other places whose equipment was loaded on cars in the shops of its manufacturers and taken off these cars by the ingenio cranes. The factories in the first class started late; many of them with patched-up machinery. Those in the second class started on schedule time and made satisfactory records, while in the other places the bad beginning was never overcome.

Were it necessary to depend on the old methods of getting machinery to Cuba, it would not be possible now to count upon the erection of a dozen or more new ingenios during the coming six months; but a task of almost equal size was accomplished during the same months in 1915, and to the Oversea Railway must go a large share of the credit. Without these improved shipping facilities the rapid expansion of Cuba's sugar industry would be entirely out of the question.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Sir Walter Egerton Entertained.

Sir Walter Egerton, Governor of British Guiana, who recently returned to England on leave of absence, was entertained at luncheon by the members of the West Indian Club on August 1st. Mr. Davson presided, and the company present included Sir Edward Cameron, K.C.M.G., Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. E. C. Jackman, Mr. M. Garnett, Major I. B. Davson, Mr. Cecil Richter, Captain Napier, Mr. C. J. H. King, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. F. F. C. Messum, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. G. Perch, Mr. C. W. Prest, Mr. E. A. Robinson, Lieutenant E. V. Field, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. Will Irwin, and Mr. W. A. M. Goode.

Mr. Davson, proposing the health of the guest, referred to His Excellency's schemes of development of British Guiana, which, owing to the War, had had to be abandoned for the time being. He pointed out that the present prosperity of the sugar industry was due to abnormal causes, and urged that proprietors should be allowed to devote the balance of profits which the Home Government had left to them to the improvement of their factories and cultivations, so that they might be fully prepared for the severe competition which they were certain to meet in the future. Dealing with the abolition of indentured immigration, he said that if His Excellency could assist in evolving a new scheme which would meet the requirements of British Guiana, and also the views of the Indian Government, he would earn the lasting gratitude of the colony. Referring to all that the colony had done in regard to the War, including the despatch of a third contingent, he felt that it did not look for praise, but was proud to do its part in fighting the fight of civilisation against the powers of barbarism.

Sir Walter Egerton, having expressed his thanks for being elected a Vice-President of the Club, spoke of the possibility of developing trade relations between British Guiana and West Africa, possibly by an extension of the Canadian Steamship service. He referred to the potentialities of the interior, the development of which, however, must await happier times. Regarding the sugar industry, he agreed that it was now essential that proprietors should improve their estates so as to be ready to meet all competition in the future. He regretted that more of them were not turning their attention to rubber as an auxiliary product, as he felt sure that it could be produced successfully. So far it was only being grown, and not being cultivated, in the colony. Referring to immigration, he looked forward to continuing to receive a labour supply from India, and had offered his services while at home to assist in evolving a scheme which might meet with the approval of all concerned. He paid a tribute to the manner in which the colony had responded to the calls of war, and hoped that in the future there would be such a re-arrangement as would enable the British Empire to be self-supporting.

Mr. Goode then proposed the health of Sir Edward Cameron, Governor of the Gambia, and

previously Administrator of various West Indian Colonies, welcoming him back to the Club, and congratulating him on the "K.C.M.G." recently conferred on him. Sir Edward Cameron said the military contingent from the Gambia had played no small part in the capture of the Cameroons, and that there was no more loyal part of the Empire than this West African unit. He hoped there would be closer trade relations between West Africa and the West Indies after the War.

Mr. A. N. Lubbock, proposing the health of the Chairman, referred to the formation of the Association of West Indian Chambers of Commerce which Mr. Davson had suggested. He hoped that this would be quickly carried through, in order that the West Indies might be able to speak with a united voice in discussing Imperial trade relations after the War.

GIFTS FROM THE WEST INDIES.

A Letter of Thanks from Lord Beresford.

The West India Committee have received and forwarded to the proper quarter contributions of £378 10s. 3d., collected by Mr. T. R. N. Laughlin through the *Port of Spain Gazette* (Trinidad), and £375 collected by the local Patriotic Committee of Turks and Caicos Islands, and remitted by Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O., the Commissioner, towards the British Red Cross Society's Ambulance Fund. The satisfaction which the receipt of these substantial gifts has given is shown by the following letters received from the Director of the Motor Ambulance Department, the originals of which have been sent to the colonies concerned.

British Red Cross Society,
83, Pall Mall, S.W.,
July 24th, 1916.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., enclosing a cheque for £378 10s. 3d., for which I have pleasure in enclosing an official receipt in duplicate.

It is quite unnecessary to allot the Ambulance specially for the use of the Trinidad Detachment of the British West Indies Regiment, now in Egypt, as all wounded either of the home or overseas contingents have equal use of the Ambulances.

The amount subscribed is not sufficient to cover the cost of an Ambulance, and, I am, therefore, placing the amount to the credit of our "Transport of Wounded Fund," and will ear-mark it for the upkeep of one of our unendowed Ambulance cars. I will have a plate attached to the Ambulance stating that it is being maintained by the people of Trinidad.

Will you please convey to Mr. Laughlin, and, as far as possible, to subscribers generally our most grateful appreciation of this most handsome sum.

I have just returned from a visit to the convoy in France and I have seen for myself the magnificent work they are doing in the rapid transport of the wounded to hospital. It will be a satisfaction to subscribers to know that the money they have so kindly sent through Mr. Laughlin will be used to enable us to continue this splendid work.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. M. CLARKE,
Director Motor Ambulance Department.

British Red Cross Society,
83, Pall Mall, S.W.
25th July, 1916.

Dear Sir,—Thank you so very much for so kindly forwarding us a cheque for £375, the sum being a contri-

bution from the inhabitants of the Turks and Caicos Islands, collected by the local Patriotic Committee and forwarded by His Honour Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O., Commissioner, towards the maintenance of their Motor Ambulance presented to the Society some months ago.

I am so glad that the subscribers have allowed this further contribution to be used for the upkeep, as we are much more in need of funds for upkeep account than we are for the purchase of new cars.

It is a wonderful subscription from so small a community, and I do hope you will convey to the organisers of the fund, and as far as possible to the subscribers generally, our deep appreciation of their magnificent effort and our grateful thanks for their kind help.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. M. CLARKE,
Director Motor Ambulance Department.

The proceeds of the record sale of rum referred to in last CIRCULAR, amounting to £1,132 15s. 6d. (the figure previously published in the Press was incorrect), have been forwarded by the West India Committee to the Vegetable Products Committee, which provides the Fleet with fresh fruit and vegetables. A letter of thanks, of which the text is given below, has been received from Admiral Lord Beresford and forwarded to the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

1, Great Cumberland Place,
London, W.

THE JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

Dear Sirs,—On the part of the Vegetable Products Committee, I return you and the generous donors of the casks of rum—viz., Edwin Charley, Esq., D. Finzi, Esq., Messrs. J. Wray and Nephew, and the proprietors of Llandovery Estate—our warm thanks and grateful appreciation of your sympathy with the objects of our Committee.

As the Admiralty declined to accept the gift of an extra allowance of rum to the ships' companies of the Grand Fleet, it was felt by our Committee that the men would benefit more if the rum was sold by auction and the proceeds devoted to the purchase of fruit and vegetables. The sale took place on the 14th July, and realised the splendid sum of £1,132 15s. 6d. There were also some pictures generously presented, which were sold at the same time.

It is impossible to overrate the appreciation and gratitude of the ships' companies for the supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables sent to them by a generous public through our Committee. It is ennobling to realise that our kith and kin in far-away Jamaica recognise the brilliant work that has been accomplished by the British Navy.

I remain, Gentlemen, etc.,
(Signed) BERESFORD, Admiral.
President, Vegetable Committee.

The West Indian Contingent Committee was in August, 1915, formed, at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to provide for the welfare of the West Indian and Bermuda War Contingents and of men connected with the British West Indies who have come over independently to serve in His Majesty's Forces. Its object is to afford assistance and advice, to furnish comforts, to visit men in hospital and generally to provide for their well-being. The Committee wish to make it known that they will be glad to receive the names and addresses of officers, non-commissioned officers and men from the British West Indies on active service. The address of the Committee is 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., while that of the Ladies' Committee attached to it is 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

THE BARBADOS POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Colony's Badge now correctly shown.

The attention called by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR* to the mistake in the design of the Colony's badge on the postage stamps issued in 1912 has resulted in the publication of a fresh issue which does not err in this respect. The badge on the 1912 stamps was described as "Britannia riding in a chariot drawn by sea-horses." It was pointed out by the CIRCULAR that this description was quite incorrect, as the figure wore a Crown instead of Britannia's traditional helmet, and that though she carried in her right hand a trident she had an Orb in her left. It seemed clear that the figure depicted represented a queen.



THE GREAT SEAL OF BARBADOS, 1660-1685.

Enquiries at the Heralds' College elicited the fact that Barbados had never received a grant of Arms and that the badge of the Colony was a survival of the design of a former Great Seal.

This seal in the days of Charles II. represented



THE BARBADOS PENNY OF 1792.

From "Coins and Tokens" by James Atkins.

very clearly the *Sovereign* in the sea chariot. During the reign of Queen Anne, a female figure was substituted for the male, and in subsequent reigns the Queen was replaced by the Kings as shown by the old Barbados penny of 1792, reproduced on this

*The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Vol. XXVI., No. 367, October 22nd, 1912, page 515; No. 368, November 5th, page 535; and No. 371, December 17th, page 609.

page. It seemed probable that when Queen Victoria ascended the Throne her portrait was substituted for that of the King, and that after Her Majesty's demise it was not replaced, as it should have been, by that of King Edward VII., earlier precedents being forgotten or overlooked.

The new Great Seal of the island correctly shows King George V. in the chariot drawn by sea-horses, and His Excellency Sir Leslie Probyn is to be complimented upon having adjusted the recent anachronism in the Colony's postage stamps.



BARBADOS PENNY STAMP OF 1912.

It may be mentioned in this connection that there have been other instances of anachronisms in the designs of West Indian postage stamps. For example, the St. Kitts-Nevis issue of 1903 shows Columbus viewing the island through a telescope, though the great explorer discovered the island in

1493, and telescopes were not invented until 1608.



THE NEW BARBADOS STAMP OF 1916

it appears in the Great Seal of the time of Charles II., is now given for the first time. This motto is adapted from Virgil (Eclogue I., l. 67).

To revert to the Barbados stamp it will be noted from the illustration on this page that the Colony's motto: "*Et penitus toto regnantes orbe Britannos*" (The British reigning over the whole world), as

The Victoria Embankment has recently been thronged from morn to dewy eve by visitors in holiday mood intent on seeing the German minelaying submarine U C 5, which has been moored at Temple Pier. The prize rears her whale-like back from the muddy Thames within a pistol shot of H.M.S. *President*--a vessel once well known in West Indian waters as the *Buzzard*, and now devoted to the use of the Royal Naval Volunteers. Within a fortnight over 180,000 people have paid their sixpences or threepences to inspect the prize, and it does one good to see the White Ensign floating above the German naval flag.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Two more members of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, "consigned to the West India Committee," reached London *via* Havre on August 3rd, their names being W. H. L. Medford and G. J. A. Gloumeau. Medford, as recorded elsewhere, has joined the Army Service Corps, Horse Transport, and Gloumeau is now in the A.S.C. Mechanical Transport. These young men are setting a good example to the shirkers who left for the Colonies before the Military Service Bill was introduced.

* * *

The Committee and members of the Mill Hill Park Cricket Club entertained a number of sick and wounded soldiers of the Empire on Saturday, July 29th. Among those present were a party of twenty-four B.W.I. men, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They played cricket, a game they all seem "born to"; tennis also proved an attraction. Those who were unable to take part in games were interested spectators of the sports, and a thoroughly pleasant afternoon was spent. Teas were provided, and among the workers were Mr. A. Staines Manders, Manager of the International Rubber Exhibition, who organised the entertainment, and Miss D. Fulton.

* * *

Through the courtesy of Mr. A. Criscuolo, Manager of the Philharmonic Hall, twenty-four men of the B.W.I. Regiment now in Bethnal Green Military Hospital were given an opportunity on Saturday last of seeing the Williamson Submarine Pictures of the Bahamas, which are again being exhibited in London. Excellent seats were provided, and the men appeared thoroughly to enjoy the pictures, being keenly interested in the shark fight and other familiar scenes. After the performance the party was provided with tea and then taken for a drive through London, accompanied by Mr. Osmond, Chief Clerk of the West India Committee. They were thus able to see a number of places of interest, such as Hyde Park, the Albert Hall and Prince Consort Memorial, Buckingham Palace (where they gave three hearty cheers for the King), Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's, and the Tower, and also obtained a view of the captured German submarine mine-layer UC5 before returning to hospital.

* * *

The Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee are holding work parties at 5, Trevor Square, on Tuesday afternoons from three to six. As there is a constant demand for the anti-vermin underclothing which the Committee is supplying to men at the Front, it is hoped that as many ladies as possible will find it convenient to assist in making these garments. Gifts of socks, magazines, books, cigarettes, etc., for men at the Front and in hospital are always useful, and may be sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Lady Hayes Sadler: books, magazines and 1 pr. socks.
 Lady Llewelyn: 21 prs. socks.
 Mrs. McAdam and Miss Bovell: 3 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Bromley: 1 pr. socks.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,543 18s. 10d., of which amount £1,025 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received—

Collected by George D. Murray, Esq., of Alley, Jamaica	50 0 0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—	
Misses Millie, Marguerite, and Mona Simmons	2 0 0
Collected at Vermont Village by Mrs. Punnnett and Miss Hazell	17 0
H. M. Hayward, Esq.	4 0
Per month	
Kingstown Club	1 14 0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10 0
H. F. Hazell, Esq.	10 0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10 0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8 4
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5 0
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3 0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2 0
A. Gillezean, Esq.	2 0
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1 0
	7 6 4
"West Indian"	3 6
	£57 9 10

It will be seen that the fund continues to make steady progress. Notable among contributions recently received is £50 collected by Mr. George D. Murray, of Alley, Jamaica. This gentleman very kindly issued collecting cards with spaces to show the amounts contributed under the denominations of 1d., 3d., 6d., and 1/-. The Contingent Committee are much indebted to Mr. Murray and to Mr. A. L. Neita, master of the Alley Elementary School, who kindly acted as treasurer.

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent 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.

A list of publications for sale is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, post free on application.

THE Convention for the sale of the Danish West Indian Islands to the United States, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR (page 296), was signed at Washington on August 4th.

The full-page illustration of Roaring River Falls, St. Ann, Jamaica, is reproduced from "Picturesque Jamaica," by Dr. V. P. Parkhurst, for a copy of which the West India Committee are indebted to Mrs. H. N. Carvalho. These beautiful falls, which figured some years ago on the postage stamps of the colony, are on the property of the Hon. Sir John Pringle. The water descends in a series of foaming white cascades, and is broken in its course by rocks, on some of which plants and palms have maintained a foothold. "Picturesque Jamaica" was published at Kingston, in five parts, in 1887.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ADMIRAL SIR J. O. HOPKINS, who died at Highcliffe on July 30th, at the age of 82, was Commander-in-Chief on the North America and West Indies Station from 1892 to 1895.

* * *

MR. G. B. SMITH-REWSE has been compelled to give up the work which he has kindly been doing for the West Indian Contingent Committee, having been appointed Acting Agent and Consul in the Tonga Islands, for which he leaves this month.

* * *

MR. and MRS. CECIL RICHTER, with their infant son, have arrived in London. Mrs. Richter, who is a daughter of Sir Frederic Hodgson, the late Governor of British Guiana, will remain in England for some little time, but her husband is only paying a flying visit.

* * *

Two relics of Nelson's time—a sword and a medal presented by the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's to Captain Charles Brisbane, of His Majesty's ship *Arctusa*, for the conquest of Curaçao, on January 1st, 1807—have just been sold at Debenham, Storr & Sons for £250.

* * *

RESIDENTS in the Colonies are in clover with regard to the cost of living as compared with the people in this country. Mr. Harcourt, in reply to a question by Mr. C. N. Barnes, has shown that last month the average increase in the retail prices of food in the chief towns of the United Kingdom, as compared with those prevailing in July, 1914, was 65 per cent. In a word, £1 now only goes as far as about 13/4 did before the War.

* * *

MR. W. W. CRAIB, formerly of Berbice, British Guiana, and now administrator of the sugar estates of the Cuba Company in Cuba—a concern which has just paid 30 per cent. to its shareholders for the second year in succession—has just returned to England from that island on leave of absence. In the course of an interview with a representative of the CIRCULAR, he stated that the Cuban sugar industry was increasing by leaps and bounds. "The American," he said, "does not wait; he just goes ahead." Mr. Craib added that planters were preparing for increase in the output of sugar of from 300,000 to 400,000 tons, or nearly twice as much as the total crop of the British West Indies. With regard to market conditions in the United States the Cuban planters had had no fear of the threatened suspension of their preferential advantages by the Tariff Act of 1913. Indeed, they had felt that it would have rather benefited them at the expense of Porto Rico, Hawaii, Louisiana, and domestic beet. The chief difficulty at present experienced in Cuba was that of getting delivery of plant from the United States, prices having gone up nearly 100 per cent. in some cases, whilst constructional steel makers wanted as much as 72 weeks in some cases for delivery, whilst ten months for delivery of mills was by no means unusual.

MR. HENRY C. WARNER, a former Warden of Savanna Grande, Trinidad, and now manager of the Kleinwort cacao estates in that island, has just returned to England for the first time for 35 years. To a representative of the CIRCULAR shortly after his arrival he said that the advice given by the late Mr. Carruthers to plant *Hevea* or Para rubber was being justified by results, while the cultivation of *Castilloa* was proving a comparative failure. Para rubber trees had been successfully tapped for some years at the St. Clair Experiment Station, where the average annual rainfall was under 50 inches, and the lowest 39 inches only, and the trees on Mr. E. A. Robinson's "Ne Plus Ultra" Estate—which, he incidentally remarked, was rightly so called, for there was none better—in Manzanilla, where there was a heavy rainfall, were extremely promising. "This," said Mr. Warner, "goes to prove that the island generally is well suited to Para rubber cultivation." He added that on the estates which he was managing there were now 40,000 rubber trees, the oldest of which were four years old, besides cacao, limes, and coco-nuts. Even on poor lands and in the driest districts the trees were flourishing. Mr. Warner is a Vice-President of the Trinidad Cane Farmers' Association, and in the course of conversation he referred to the indebtedness of the island to the late Sir Nevile Lubbock, President of the West India Committee, and to Dr. Morton for having established the successful cane farming system.

CANE CULTIVATION IN CEYLON.

A Possible New Industry.

MR. van Buuren deals in the *Tropical Agriculturist* with the possibilities of cane sugar production in Ceylon. He points out that in the past attempts at cane cultivation have been wrongly made on the lines followed in planting coco-nuts and rubber; but a sugar-cane crop cannot be left to itself; the mechanical condition of the soil is of the utmost importance to the shallow root system of sugar cane, and intensive cultivation is essential. In districts of heavy and constant rainfall in Ceylon rubber and coco-nuts are preferred to sugar, and it is, therefore, on irrigable tracts that sugar cultivation must be pursued, and there are large areas of such land available. As the growth of sugar cane must be constantly forced from the day the cane first sprouts until it is ready to ripen, an unrestricted water supply must be available, whilst strong sunshine, which is equally necessary, is assured in the areas referred to. In Ceylon, labour is cheap, and the cost of manufacture of sugar is reckoned at £4 per ton. A factory with a capacity of 500 tons of cane a day would be best suited to the conditions mentioned. With a working season of 100 days, an area of 3,500 acres, estimating a low yield of 15 tons of cane per acre, would have to be planted. The cost of such a factory is put at £40,000, and it is concluded that a company working with adequate capital and modern machinery both for cultivation and manufacture ought to be able to produce sugar at about £6 15s. per ton.

THE LONDON LETTER.

MR. CHARLES SANDBACH PARKER, who was recently appointed Chairman of the newly formed British Empire Producers' Organisation, is the head of the Parker family of Fairlie, Ayrshire, having succeeded his uncle, the Right Hon. Charles Stuart Parker, a distinguished scholar, and Fellow of University College, Oxford, in 1910. His grandfather, Charles Stewart Parker, of Aigburth, Liverpool, was a well-known West Indian merchant, and one of his forebears was a planter in Virginia, who was an officer in the King's service who fought in the American War. Mr. Sandbach Parker was elected many years ago a member of the Executive of the West India Committee as Chairman of the West India Association of Liverpool, and has remained one ever since. He was for eighteen years a partner in Sandbach, Timme & Co., of Liverpool, and Sandbach Parker & Co., of Demerara, from which firms he retired in 1908 to undertake the management of the Demerara Company, in London, of which he is now Chairman. He is the Unionist candidate for the Barnstaple Division of Devonshire.

* * *

THE second anniversary of the declaration of war against Germany was commemorated by many patriotic meetings and an exchange of courtesies among the Allies. The Prime Minister addressed a gathering at the Queen's Hall in the evening, which followed a great meeting at the Albert Hall organised by the National Committee of Patriotic Associations, of which Sir William Grey Wilson, late Governor of the Bahamas, is the ever courteous Hon. Secretary. But the West Indian association with the meeting did not end there, one of the speakers, who delivered a telling address on Woman's Work in the War, being Mrs. Hudson Lyall, wife of Mr. G. Hudson Lyall, son of Mr. Thomas Pile, late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados.

* * *

In order to avert a threatened petrol famine, supplies of that spirit, which is already being retailed at as high a figure as 2/10 per gallon, are being ruthlessly cut down. The result is already apparent in a great diminution of taxis and private motor-cars in the streets and the reappearance of the hansom cab and "growler." The Government are blamed for the present state of affairs, which is largely attributable to a shortage of tank steamers. It would seem almost incredible if it were not known to be a fact that many of these vessels were diverted from their original purpose and refitted as storeships, etc., for which they were found unsuited. The oil industry of Trinidad is languishing for want of tankers, and the moment seems opportune for the Government to evince a greater interest in the development of that potential source of petrol and oil supply.

* * *

MR. WILLIAM LAWTON, the Secretary of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, has made a discovery which should comfort housewives who have been unable to obtain preserving sugar for love or money. After a year's experiment he has found that table salt can successfully be substituted for a

large proportion of the sugar generally used for fruit preserving, and that in this connection Demerara and soft brown sugars give the most satisfactory results. Experience showed him that nearly every variety of fruit required its special proportion of salt and sugar, the latter varying from 3 ozs. only to the pound of fruit up to a maximum of 6 ozs., whilst the quantity of salt needed also differed considerably in each case. Mr. Lawton, whose address is 1, Upper Montague Street, Russell Square, offers to give his recipes free of charge to applicants sending him a stamped envelope. It may be mentioned that ample supplies of Demerara and moist sugars can be obtained from the West Indian Produce Association, 14, Creechurch Lane, and it will be interesting to learn of the experiences of any of our readers with this new form of jam-making.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The Paris Economic Conference.

In the House of Commons on August 2nd, the Prime Minister made his promised statement with regard to the proceedings at the Paris Economic Conference of the Allies, whose recommendations were summarised in the Circular of June 29th (No. 463). He said that the main objects of the Government in going into the Conference were to convince the enemy that the Allies, whatever their individual points of view might be on economic matters, were resolved to wage this War with as complete unity and determination in the economic as in the military sphere, and secondly to make such preparations for the period following on a declaration of peace as seemed essential to the Allies in view of the known attitude and will of Germany. The Germans were counting on the advantage they would derive from having destroyed works and factories in Belgium and those parts of France which they had invaded, and from having a large merchant fleet for the time being safely interned in her own ports or in those of neutrals. They were already organising their industries and we should not be blind to this—for an attack on our Allied markets and for a vigorous and, if possible, a victorious competition in neutral markets. Mr. Aspinall proceeded to explain the recommendations one by one, and with regard to the second he pointed out that its effect would be to bind the Allies not to grant the Most-Favoured-Nation treatment to any of the enemy Powers either in the Treaty of Peace itself or in any other way for a term of years after the War, thus securing the freedom of the Allies to make such commercial agreements among themselves or with neutral countries as they might think expedient without being hampered by the obligation to extend to the enemy Powers any concession made as the result of such an arrangement.

With regard to the measures of mutual assistance and collaboration a resolution provided that the Allies might "have recourse either to enterprises subsidised, directed or controlled by the Governments themselves, or to the grant of financial assistance for the encouragement of scientific and technical research and the development of national industries and resources; to Customs Duties or prohibitions of a temporary or permanent character; or to a combination of these different methods." The choice and selection between any combination was left to the discretion of the separate Governments.

The resolutions had already been formally and publicly adopted by the French Government, and the same course had been taken by His Majesty's Government—a decision which he hoped would meet with the approval of Parliament. Some action had already been taken. The Board of Trade were actively engaged in devising schemes to render us independent of enemy supplies as regards dyes, spelter, and other important commodities. A State scheme of assistance to scientific and industrial research had been already created. Investigations were being made by expert committees into the conditions and needs of a number of important branches of industry and trade.

and into the problems of finance, and the question of commercial and industrial policy generally had been referred to a Committee which was collected from the point of view of representing not so much the interests or opinions of one particular section, but of representing every point of view that could reasonably demand recognition—a Committee of which Lord Balfour of Burleigh was Chairman. The Government further were communicating with the Dominions and with India in regard to the resolutions of the Conference, and a Conference would be held with representatives of the Dominions and India to consider the whole question of the Empire's trade policy in the light of the resolutions.

Most of the speeches which followed supported the action of the Government, a notable exception being that of Sir John Simon (the ex-Minister who opposed conscription) who in the course of his remarks said that even if it were true that Germany would have considerable stocks of sugar to dump on the British market after the War the house should pause before deciding that that would be an absolutely unmissed blessing. If it were true, then, when the War was over, one of the consequences would be that the price of sugar in this country would go very rapidly down, and he would be very much surprised to learn that the working classes or the manufacturers of this country, who needed sugar for their raw material, were going to set up a howl. The only effect of taking artificial measures to keep European beet sugar out of this country when the War was over would be that the high price of sugar would be maintained, and supplies would have to be drawn from a distance rather than from comparatively close sources.

The Panama Canal.

On August 3rd Sir Archibald Williamson asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he had any information showing that the American Government contemplated abandoning the Panama Canal, and that American engineers were in England investigating data regarding a canal route through Nicaragua.

Lord R. Cecil in reply said: Our information is that although the movement of shipping through the canal is occasionally delayed for a short time owing to the necessity of dredging after landslides, the canal traffic is otherwise proceeding normally. His Majesty's Government have no information with regard to the last part of the question.

THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

Its Strength in the West Indies.

Evidence of the strength of the "Entente Cordiale" in the West Indies has recently been afforded by visits of the Governor of Martinique to St. Lucia and of the Administrator of Dominica to Guadeloupe. It is noteworthy that both the Union Jack and Tricolor have flown in turn over each of these islands, but animosity has long since given place to the friendliest of feelings among the inhabitants.

Castries, St. Lucia—whch it is interesting to recall was so named after Maréchal de Castries, France's Colonial Minister of 1784—was *en fête* on Easter Monday, when Mr. Gideon Murray welcomed M. Guy, Governor of Martinique. The volunteers, cadets, and members of the local war contingent were drawn up on the wharf, and the scene was an animated one as the vessel bearing the visitors drew alongside. The Administrator, Mrs. Murray and Lady Carter went on board, and the members of the Executive Council also took part in the reception which followed. At Columbus Square an address was presented to His Excellency by the Town Board, for which Mr. Williams was the spokesman, and a move was then made to Government House

on the Morne, where luncheon was served. The company included, besides the Administrator and His Excellency M. Guy, Madame Guy, Mrs. Gideon Murray, Lady Carter, Miss Nairn, M. le Commandant Supérieur des Troupes de Martinique and daughter, Lieut. Prat, Chef de Cabinet; M. le Capitaine de Champeaux, Major Harris, Captain de Minvielle, Lieut. Samson, Mr. B. P. E. Bulstrode, Hon. F. du Boulay, M.L.C., His Honour Chief Justice F. H. Collier, Hon. D. Ferguson, M.L.C., and Mrs. Ferguson. After luncheon the party proceeded to the Botanic Station at the head of the harbour, where a fair was formally opened by His Excellency, the French Governor.

The fête, which was in aid of "La Croix Rouge Française," was organised by Mrs. Laffitte, assisted by Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Macphail, Mrs. Baccant, Mrs. Harris, Miss McHugh, Miss Macphail, and Miss Salmon. The grounds were tastefully decorated by Mr. Rogers, assisted by Mr. Gilkes and Mr. Carrington. The organisers and the Committee of the local "Croix Rouge Française," of which Mr. de Minvielle, French Consular Agent, is Chairman, Miss McHugh, Secretary, and Mr. A. S. Duff, Treasurer, are to be congratulated on the success of the fair, which realised £181.

The visit of Mr. A. W. Mahaffy, Administrator of Dominica, to Guadeloupe, was made at the invitation of the Société Guadeloupéenne, which, on the lines of the Development Board of Nassau, aims at popularising the island as a tourist resort. Mr. Mahaffy, who was accompanied by Mr. T. Cools Lartigue, Mr. A. Welby Solomon, and Mr. D. O. Riviere, "crossed" from Roseau to Pointe à Pitre at Whitsuntide, and on arrival on the Saturday, was greeted with a salute of 15 guns, whilst St. Gerard's Band, which was on board, under the leadership of Mr. J. H. Casimir, returned the compliment by playing *La Marseillaise*. Not to be outdone the Band of the Société Philharmonique responded with our National Anthem. Mr. Mahaffy and party were welcomed by M. Emile Mervart, Governor of Guadeloupe, and proceeded to the Hotel Martineau, where they were entertained at a *dîner d'honneur*. A gala performance at the Theatre Municipal followed, an amusing feature of which was the rendering of the song "*Le Deception de Guillaume*," to the familiar air of "Tipperary."

On the Sunday after a cruise in the harbour in a motor launch, and a drive through the Gosier district, the party visited the Museum, Schelchoeur Museum, and the Cathedral. Complimentary speeches in French—which Mr. Mahaffy speaks fluently, were made at a luncheon at the Martineau, and in the afternoon a review of boy scouts and cadets was held in the Place de Victoire for the benefit of the visitors. Later in the day, the party proceeded by motor to Basseterre, the civil capital, where they were entertained at Government House, prior to a *Retraite aux Flambeaux*.

On Monday the Congress of the Société Guadeloupéenne was held at l'Ancien College, and Mr. Mahaffy no doubt gleaned many hints for the betterment of Dominica, amongst which, it is to be hoped, was in respect of hotels, which are so sadly needed in the British island.

Charmed with the warmth of their reception, and the attractions of Guadeloupe, the Administrator and his party returned on the Tuesday to the seat of his Government.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Since the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers were taken off the West Indian route it has been no easy matter to trace the movements of passengers between the West Indies and this country. Among recent arrivals are included the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon and family, Mr. F. J. Morris, and Mr. Henry C. Warner from Trinidad; and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Richter from Demerara. Crop conditions and prospects were still almost uniformly favourable when the last homeward mail closed, and the health of the colonies was good.

BARBADOS—The Light Railway Closed Down.

The *Barbados Advocate* of June 28th reports: "The weather during the fortnight has been sultry and close, the majority of days resembling August rather than June. There have been frequent light showers with indications of heavier rains to follow. The reaping of the crop still continues, although several of the estates have long since finished. Local foodstuffs continue high, sweet potatoes which bulk so largely in the food of the labouring people of all classes are now being retailed at seven pounds for ten cents.

The Elections on June 26th resulted in no change in the personnel of the House of Assembly. A report on the state of the railway by Mr. McLaren, of John Blackwood, Ltd., has resulted in the line being closed to traffic. The death of Dr. C. J. Manning, Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, has caused widespread regret. Pln. Hope (140 acres, Windmill), St. George's, has been sold to Mr. A. B. and Mr. C. K. Edwards for £4,600. A proposal is on foot for the erection of a theatre in Queen's Park.

BRITISH HONDURAS Grain Cultivation Advocated.

MR. G. E. GRABHAM, JULY 13th.—Next to the war the continual rise in prices is the great anxiety, and one wonders if the limit has been reached or if we still have to face further increases. The great trouble here is the total absence of industrial enterprise and technical education; and under existing circumstances it seems impossible to think the manufacturer of any of the colony's products into commercial articles at prices that could compete with the world's markets could be successfully carried on.

The second contingent are still waiting the arrival of the transport, and from all one hears the men are getting very tired of the long wait. It is rumoured, however, the transport really will arrive within the next few days, and it is to be hoped the men will not have another disappointment.

Fine dry weather still continues, and the usual June-July floods have not yet taken place. The fruit crops have been unusually abundant, and one hears of thousands of bunches of bananas being left to rot through want of freight facilities. It seems such a pity some of the energy spent on fruit growing cannot be turned to grain crops, and thus make the colony more independent of imports. It is said to be a bad year for coco-nuts, and production certainly is below the last year or two. However, the best months are still to come.

JAMAICA—New Bank Branches at Morant Bay.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during June was seasonable, i.e., hot as usual; the maximum temperature was 94.1°F., the minimum 71.3°F., and the mean 81.1°F. The total rainfall in Kingston was 153 inches, the average for 40 years being 4.40 inches. Thunderstorms prevailed on ten days and the maximum

velocity of the wind was 30 miles an hour on the 11th. A rather sharp earthquake was experienced in Kingston on the night of the 21st. No damage was caused.

Branches of the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Colonial Bank were opened at Morant Bay during the month. A record cargo of Jamaica bananas, 78,000 bunches, was taken to England by the Elders & Fyffes steamer *Manzanara* during the month. Disappointment is nevertheless expressed at the continued shipments of bananas from Central America to England in British bottoms while few ships are available to lift the Jamaica fruit for that market. The logwood business continues brisk, the prices, however, are ruling lower, at about £3 10s. 6d. per ton.

Six hundred East Indian coolies reached here from Calcutta during the month, and have been distributed to the various plantations in the country. The Hon. St. John Branch and P. C. Cork left for Trinidad to attend the conference on East Indian immigration on the 12th.

An appeal has been made for subscriptions towards a memorial to the late Archbishop of the West Indies.

The Earl of Clonmel sailed for England on the 5th June. The earnings of the Jamaica Government Railway for the month of May show a falling off of £2,182 as compared with the corresponding month in 1915. The drop was chiefly due to a decrease in the haulage of bananas. Coffee, ginger and oranges also show a decrease. The active war funds now stand as follows—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	3808	13	10
Jamaica Polish Jews Fund	1823	18	1
Jamaica New Testament Fund	57	6	5
Jamaica Soldiers' Comforts Fund	232	16	11
Jamaica Victoria League Russian Prisoners	95	8	10
Jamaica Blue Cross Fund, No. 1	44	15	10
Jamaica Blue Cross Fund, No. 2	106	11	9
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers' Fund	487	15	9
Jamaica French Red Cross	67	12	0

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, MORANT BAY, JULY 20th.—We had a meeting on the 18th inst. of planters and those interested in the welfare of the island, to discuss the question of extension of the sugar industry—and the gathering had representatives from every parish in the Island of Jamaica. The Member for Kingston, the Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, took a very active part in the discussion, and although, as he said, he had no individual interest in sugar, yet his interest in the island created his warmest sympathy. Messrs. Farquharson and Phillip Cork also spoke—the latter giving statistics and conditions under which Antigua had benefited by Government aid for their Central Factory.

ST. LUCIA—State of Local War Funds.

MR. A. S. DUFF kindly sends the following list of contributions made by the people of St. Lucia to various war funds.

	£	s.	d.
British Red Cross Society	1399	11	5
National Committee for Relief in Belgium	89	1	0
La Croix Rouge Francaise, through British Ambassador in Paris	480	0	0
Do do in French notes	Fcs. 125		
Collected by Mr. de Minvielle, French Consular Agent in St. Lucia, and sent to French Vice-Consul, Trinidad	44	1	7
To provide Comforts for St. Lucia Contingent	116	18	5
Collected by Miss McHugh for Relief of Belgians in England	37	0	0
Christmas gift to H.M.S. <i>Berwick</i> and French warship <i>Descartes</i>	25	0	0
Tobacco for Canadians at front	25	19	10
Collected by Mr. Rogers for relatives of St. Lucia sailors lost in H.M.S. <i>Good Hope</i>	33	17	0
In addition we have sent away to Mr. Aspinall 800 tins of guava jelly and 200 tins to Queen's Canadian Hospital, valued at 6d. per tin	25	0	0

We have also sent away other gifts in kind, such as pillows, bags, and knitted comforts.

TRINIDAD.—Trade after the War.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JULY 17th.—There was a full dress debate in the Legislative Council on a resolution moved by Mr. Adam Smith and seconded by Mr. Alex. Fraser, supporting the movement at home with regard to trade after the war. It had been hoped and expected that the vote would be unanimous, but a vigorous opposition was led by Sir Norman Lamont, who was supported by Mr. D. Slyne and Dr. Clare. Mr. Bell, Director of Public Works, and Mr. Walcott, on the other hand, supported the resolution which was eventually carried in the following amended form by 16 votes to 3.

1. That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable that legislation, both Imperial and Colonial, should be initiated as early a date as possible, having for its object the safeguarding of British Trade after the war, and its protection against the unfair competition formerly created by the dumping of the products and manufactures of Germany and other enemy powers in British Markets.

2. That this Council advocates the adoption of efficient measures to build up the industries of the British Empire for British capital and labour on British soil.

Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara have agreed regarding the establishment of an Association of Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, the memorandum and articles of association are being printed, and as soon as these have been confirmed by the colonies named, and the others who will be invited to participate, the matter will, I hope, be put through. It is proposed that the first meeting of the associated bodies should be held early in 1917. Pending this meeting I have been requested and have consented to act as Hon. Secretary.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Agricultural Society are taking time by the forelock in devising means to retain in the island as far as possible all available Indian immigrants, by offering suitable inducements. Personally, I have no doubt that by far the larger number entitled to repatriation will elect to remain in a country where their present position and future prospects are so infinitely superior to anything of the kind in India.

By the regular New York liner sailing on the 19th inst. the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, will be proceeding to England via U.S.A. He has lately had somewhat a long spell as acting Governor, and once again has exhibited the tact and ability, and consideration for all classes, in a somewhat difficult position, which have resulted in his being so justly and generally popular. He wants a rest badly after the hard and conscientious work of the past few months, and we all wish he may enjoy it.

MARRIAGES.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Fryer-Fenwick.—On July 15th, 1916, at St. Saviour's, Paddington, Charles Henry Barr, younger son of the late G. E. S. Fryer and Mrs. Fryer, of 63, Evelyn-gardens, S.W., to Frances Mary (Mollie), second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Fenwick, of 161, Sutherland Avenue, W.

Cane-Perkins.—On Monday, 24th July, at St. John's, Meads, Eastbourne, by the Rev. John Salwey, Captain Maurice H. Cane, R.A.M.C., third son of the late Leonard Cane, M.D., of Peterborough, and Mrs. Cane, of Eastbourne, to Marjorie Amy, second daughter of the Hon. H. I. Perkins, I.S.O., F.R.G.S., F.G.S., Surveyor-General of British Honduras, and Mrs. Perkins, of Wimbledon Park, and granddaughter of Major-General B. Norman Perkins, Bengal Staff Corps.

WANTS.

Nurse wanted.—Lady, with two children, would pay passage of nurse to West Indies or British Guiana in return for services. Apply "Nurse," c/o West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Ruddock-Ruddack.—Information wanted of this family, of Tobago, 1819, particularly of Coat of Arms. Alexander R. was Captain or Admiral R.N. in 1819. William Abbot, c/o B. F. Stevens & Brown, 4, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W.

OUR LIBRARY.

Copies of all books noticed under the heading "Our Library" are obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Singing in the Wilderness.

A WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS. By Winifred James (Mrs. Henry de Jan). London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1915. Price 7/6 nett.

The Central American wilderness that Mrs. De Jan describes is not one of the great open spaces of the world unspoiled by man. It is that far more miserable wilderness which man creates between the processes of marring and making, when nature is outraged and civilisation is not yet achieved. The township of which she tells us with so much natural gaiety and shrewd common sense, is as yet in the making. Her house on the hill, "stark and empty," perched upon a dump of damp and clinging clay, is, when we first hear of it, furnished mainly with a telephone, electric light, and a shower bath; strange furniture in the wilderness. There is a railway at hand, but as it does not bring you the things you want when you want them, or take you where you wish to go when you wish to, it is but a mockery. There is an ice factory, also, which would seem to have chilled nothing but the society of the neighbourhood, if anything so frigid can be called society at all. Servants are there—to be waited on.

Indeed, the coping stone, to use Mrs. De Jan's metaphor, is there, but the foundation of civilisation has yet to be well and truly laid. What is there for a woman, with an American husband, stranded in such a place but work and introspection, and out of this work and introspection Mrs. De Jan has produced a book as gay as it is instructive; compact of wit and wisdom and intuition, and feminine from cover to cover. We are told that only the mussels of the ford, trampled by passing hoofs, produce pearls. So we can imagine that we have to thank the multifarious domestic sufferings of Mrs. De Jan for her charming discursive and illuminating correspondence.

The form in which the book is cast, is that of letters to a woman friend—a very dangerous form this, and full of pitfalls for the unwary author. Nothing is quite so dull as a dull letter. On the other hand nothing is quite so bright as a gay letter which tells us just the things we want to know; and, happily, it is this kind of letter that Mrs. De Jan writes. She tells us of her home-coming, and the way in which she at once shocked the conventions of the wilderness, by carrying a scent spray, described by her husband as a "goddam syphon," which to carry openly he asserted "looked like hell"; and we have her description of the bare and empty rooms, of the first meal of uneatable steak, bottled anchovies, bread and butter and tea.

Then letter after letter tells of the happenings at the little town. The waiting for the house to be rebuilt into a little palace, followed by the decision to wait no longer but make the best of the materials at hand; the coming of the furniture, and its disposal; the trials of coloured painters and decorators; the woes of servant training; the misery of sand flies, and of sulphur fumes; the construction of the Japanese garden; the lawn and coco-nut tree devoured by locusts; all these little matters are related with a gusto that gives to each its due importance. Intermingled with the domestic facts, we are given reminiscences of life at home, of women's clubs, and some capital asides on dogs. All dog lovers will delight in the description of the four bull terriers, and "Ginger," the weird nondescript of uncertain origin, whose appearance sets you thinking of new art paper weights and of "the sand sausages they have in cottages to keep the draught out"; a most engaging animal.

In addition to this running commentary on her own life, Mrs. De Jan gives some excellent sketches of character, notably negro, and we venture to say that no professional sociologist, however deeply he might have dived into facts or figures could give us a more convincing account of the manners and customs of the civilised negro. There are also to be found many shrewd comparisons between American and British methods of taming the wilderness,

comparisons which certainly favour the British. Of the American in the wilderness, Mrs. De Jan says, that although he can hold on, "he can't hold on gaily; for this reason. If anything goes wrong with his business the bottom is out of his universe. He has not taught himself the value of play." And again: "In an English camp of this size there would, by this time, have been at least a tennis-court beaten out of the mud or the coral."

If the American cannot hold on gaily, the English woman can and has, and no one reading her account of sufferings bravely borne and difficulties gaily overcome, but will be the better for it. The book is a tonic for depression, and in these days particularly welcome.

Cuban Unrest in the 'Fifties.

THE LOPEZ EXPEDITIONS TO CUBA, 1848-1851. By Robert Granville Caldwell. Princeton: Princeton University Press, London: Humphrey Milford, 1915. 5/6 net.

So deceptive is the atmosphere of romance which clings round the adventures of buccaneer and filibuster that it is difficult at times to recognise that all the centuries-old turmoil of the Spanish Main was based upon the fundamental facts of bitter international rivalry and of hidden, but no less forceful economic necessity. Pirates and privateers, rogues and Quixotes, liberators and enslavers, all the multitudinous adventurers of the New World, even when seemingly independent actors in an accidental drama, have been, in fact, the merest pawns in the great game of diplomacy, or the blind instruments of economic laws which only now are beginning to be understood.

None of the many recorded adventures appears on the surface more hopelessly romantic than those of Narciso Lopez, ex-Spanish Field-Marshal and Cuban Revolutionary. Conceived in a spirit of unselfish patriotism, the Lopez expeditions of 1848-51 were carried out with such absurd disregard of actualities that their story, were it not corroborated in every detail by contemporary records, might well be considered the imaginative work of a young novelist. Nevertheless, as Professor Caldwell demonstrates in the excellent monograph before us, the expeditions, stupidly as they were organised and disastrous as they proved to their Cuban originator, and to many of his American dupes, were the natural outcome of the conditions obtaining at the time.

Professor Caldwell first treats of the conditions in Cuba, and of the system of Government under which the most progressive members of the island community were considered mere producers of revenue for the Spanish crown. At one time the spoiled child of the Spanish colonies, Cuba, after Mexico had secured her independence, was taxed unmercifully, and, at a time when money was urgently needed to develop the immense resources of the island, her people watched, in vain anger, the wealth their industry had created being consigned to Europe, or, worse, being used to enforce the tyranny under which they suffered. Hence it was natural that always there was disaffection, though the disaffection was held in check by many and contradictory fears. A revolution, even if it succeeded against the Spanish power, might have involved the insurrection of the slaves, indeed, the Count of Alcega, writing to the home government, frankly declared that "this terrible weapon which the Government holds in its hand might in the last extremity prevent the loss of the island."

Thoughtful Cubans, moreover, believed that an independent Cuba might become the seat of a war between England and the United States. England was feared because of her opposition to the slave trade, the States because under American rule or suzerainty, Cuba, it was thought, would not remain Cuban, but become Anglo-Saxon. There was, however, a strong party in Cuba in favour of the movement to annex the island to the States, while in the States this movement was powerfully supported in the South, for the reason that the annexation would secure the position of the slave-owner, whether American or Cuban. American statesmen, it should be added went constantly in fear of Cuba passing into the hands of a great maritime power, so that North and South, though for different reasons, were inclined towards annexation.

Such were the conditions when Lopez decided that the time was ripe for Cuba to secure her independence. A

rising was arranged for June 24th, 1848, but the non-arrival of arms from the States delayed matters, and the conspiracy becoming known to the Spanish authorities, Lopez had to flee the country. In New York Lopez approached first Jefferson Davis, and then Major Robert E. Lee, and on both declining to lead a proposed expedition, he decided to organise and lead it himself. This adventure was a fiasco from the beginning. Every movement of Lopez was reported to the Spanish authorities, and in the end President Taylor took such vigorous action that the whole conspiracy collapsed. Lopez then turned to the more congenial South.

Here was organised the abortive expedition of April, 1850, when an army numbering 600 men, after various adventures on land and sea, returned to the States having achieved nothing beyond arousing the energy of the Spanish Government. Nothing daunted, Lopez set sail the following year with an army some 400 strong. Landing at Morillo, the little force was virtually surrounded within an hour or so of its arrival. Of the sufferings of this army during the days that ensued little need be said. With the utmost gallantry it fought until, Lopez captured, it was finally dispersed in the mountains, and one by one the men were forced to surrender. Lopez and a number of Americans were executed, and for a time all open hostility to Spanish rule was stamped out.

We cordially commend Professor Caldwell's graphic description of these expeditions to the attention of our readers.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carth," London. LONDON, E.C.

August 9th, 1916.

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted 59½, Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) 86½, and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) 95½.

The unwillingness of the Canadian refiners to bid for West Indian sugars has been a disconcerting feature of the fortnight. With the United Kingdom and United States markets closed to them as well by prohibition British West Indian sugars are in the unenviable position of being "all dressed up and nowhere to go." The situation would be relieved if licences were to be granted for exports to the United States in approved cases, and it is understood that as the result of representations these are to be granted. Meanwhile the American market has been fluctuating and dull with downward tendency, Cubans falling from \$6.27 to \$5.96. Absurdly exaggerated reports as to the destruction of sugar by fire after the great munitions explosion in New York led to a temporary flicker, but the gain was soon lost. In spite of a spell of hot weather and good fruit crops there has been a poor demand in the United States for white sugar. Excellent domestic beet and Louisiana cane prospects have also tended to depress values, though these sugars will not be available yet.

Messrs Guma-Mejer place the exports of Cuba for the first six months of 1916 at 2,152,840 tons and stocks at 659,256, or a total of 2,812,096 tons for the exportable crop to June 30th, as against 2,292,653 tons for the same period in 1915. To June 30th 583,300 tons of Cuban sugar were exported to Europe as against 218,324 tons for the same period last year.

No change has been made in the quotations of Government sugar by the Royal Commission and West Indian crystallised is still being sold on the basis of American granulated, 41/73, at which price they are readily absorbed.

Messrs. William Connal & Co. report that the meltings for home consumption on the Clyde during the past seven months have been 125,632 tons, against 132,860 tons in 1915, and 116,231 tons in 1914. Those for the three ports of London, Liverpool, and Clyde (according to trade circulars) during the same period have been 507,554 tons, against 539,297 tons in 1915, and 548,942 tons in 1914.

The Board of Trade returns show that the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom last month were 130,800

tons, as against 101,463 tons in July, 1915. Of the imports last month 28,115 tons were refined and 102,687 tons raw. The refined included 15,471 tons from the United States and 12,049 tons from Java, while Cuba supplied 71,754 tons of raw. 2,996,592 cwt. of sugar were entered for consumption in July last, as against 2,906,238 cwt. and 3,602,087 cwt. for the same month in 1915 and 1914 respectively. For the first seven months the consumption figures are 1916, 16,882,647 cwt.; 1915, 19,633,808 cwt.; and 1914, 20,874,244 cwt. It will thus be noticed that the efforts of the Royal Commission to check consumption are bearing fruit.

For the seven months ended July 31st the total imports of sugar were 958,512 tons, against 811,695 tons for the corresponding period of 1915. Of the imports 289,112 tons were refined and 669,400 raw. It is noteworthy that the value of sugar imported for the year to July 31st was £22,680,722, against £12,754,694 for the same period in 1914.

With regard to Continental beet, it is stated that the shortage of labour is making itself seriously felt in France, and a shorter crop is expected in Russia, which yielded 1,600,000 tons last year.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to July 29th are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Imports ...	31,796	30,998	23,994	31,544	19,463	Tons.
Deliveries ...	34,817	23,336	17,443	17,217	17,289	"
Stock (July 29)	8,084	13,671	19,503	16,166	6,662	"

RUM. According to the Board of Trade returns 838,777 proof gallons of "rum (including imitation rum)" were imported into the United Kingdom in July last, as compared with 415,971 and 697,722 proof gallons in the same months of 1915 and 1914 respectively. The quantities entered for home consumption, in proof gallons in the same month, were, 1916, 82,396; 1915, 157,085; 1914, 163,541. For the six months ended July 31st, the imports in proof gallons stood at, 1916, 5,808,328; 1915, 5,265,401; and 1914, 3,822,249; and the quantities entered for consumption, 1916, 2,065,499; 1915, 2,737,126; and 1914, 1,820,048.

The stocks in London on 29th July were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Jamaica ...	6,933	4,978	8,819	6,348	8,554	Puns.
Demerara ...	13,755	5,125	10,953	7,634	6,495	"
Total all kinds ...	34,968	18,905	27,270	21,581	22,472	"

Supplies are increasing while the demand is falling off. A few hundred puncheons of Jamaica have sold at 2d. to 3d. decline and buyers appear to have satisfied their requirements for the present.

CACAO. At auction of July 31st, 2,600 bags were sold at improved prices; of 1,670 bags of Grenada a good part was sold at 68/- to 81/6; a small part of 712 bags of Trinidad fetched 58/-; some Jamaica 73/-; 28 bags Dominica 77/6; and 55 bags British Honduras 76/- to 77/-.

The Board of Trade returns for July give the following figures regarding the imports and consumption of cacao:—

From	Month ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Ecuador ...	9,272	17,398	59,836
Brazil ...	1,760	34,538	12,318
British West Africa ...	3,109	110,896	51,989
Ceylon ...	3,674	1,739	1,435
British West India Islands ...	9,569	15,064	37,659
Other Countries ...	7,487	26,987	16,534

(Imports ...)	34,871	206,622	179,771
Total Entered for Home Consumption ...	41,566	76,921	32,935

From	Six months ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Ecuador ...	101,963	120,113	106,673
Brazil ...	65,966	118,967	71,006
British West Africa ...	149,168	543,179	808,643
Ceylon ...	20,138	49,582	35,011
British West India Islands ...	140,387	166,763	182,571
Other Countries ...	62,470	98,996	180,640

(Imports ...)	540,092	1,097,600	1,384,544
Total Entered for Home Consumption ...	353,865	546,277	489,447

The stocks in London on 29th July were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Trinidad ...	28,059	11,672	10,910	11,795	7,522	Bags
Grenada ...	17,550	3,616	9,942	7,298	6,651	"
Total all kinds ...	213,541	85,246	97,581	83,622	121,211	"

At auction on August 1st there was a good demand for fine Grenada at 2/- to 3/- advance. Other growths slow and unchanged.

COFFEE. The Board of Trade returns of imports and consumption of coffee (including roasted and ground) for July are given below:—

From	Month ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Mexico ...	1,162	9,064	—
Central America ...	12,461	19,366	41,945
Colombia ...	5,523	10,094	—
Brazil ...	5,966	79,599	119,152
Other Foreign Countries ...	4,812	21,666	9,949
British India ...	4,410	1,616	164
British West India Islands ...	379	424	194
Other British Possessions ...	3,076	2540	20,246

(Imports ...)	37,789	144,369	181,650
Total Entered for Home Consumption ...	20,665	20,608	16,877

From	Six months ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Mexico ...	35,104	19,303	3,781
Central America ...	335,367	324,604	205,755
Colombia ...	41,285	68,799	8,388
Brazil ...	167,817	444,994	829,588
Other Foreign Countries ...	29,940	149,853	104,585
British India ...	126,360	70,389	43,318
British West India Islands ...	3,673	23,339	6,283
Other British Possessions ...	17,009	34,226	27,706

(Imports ...)	756,555	1,135,507	1,229,404
Total Entered for Home Consumption ...	162,075	190,450	172,369

There is no business passing with Jamaica, France having ceased to buy.

COTTON. 119,600 lbs. of West Indian cotton were imported last month as compared with 370,400 lbs. and 52,900 lbs. for the July of 1915 and 1914 respectively. For the first six months of the present year the imports were 1,144,200 lbs., as against 1,349,500 lbs., and 21,422 lbs., for the corresponding periods in 1915 and 1914.

Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that in the absence of stock there is no business to be reported. West Indian Sea Island values remain firm.

BANANAS. The imports of bananas into the United Kingdom for July and for the first six months of the current year have been as under:—

Bunches ...	Month ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Bunches ...	1,058,270	1,184,867	585,333

Bunches ...	Six months ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Bunches ...	4,708,062	5,026,680	3,612,246

Jamaica bananas are quoted 20/- per cwt., and Canary 12/6 per crated bunch.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil, distilled, 8/-, with small business, there being plenty now offering. Hand-pressed.—In the absence of supplies 9/- to 9/6 is quoted nominally. Lime Juice, raw.—Holders ask 3/- for Dominica and 3/6 for Jamaica, and Government enquiries now about should lead to a good business. Concentrated.—Buyers are apathetic but business could probably be effected at say £23.

SPICES. The Board of Trade returns for July are as follows:—

	Month ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Cinnamon ...	21,220	98,076	96,288
Ginger ...	6,653	10,653	2,048
Pepper ...	592,210	1,335,239	1,557,568
Unenumerated ...	414,154	809,118	435,379

	Six months ended July 31.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.
Cinnamon ...	649,730	1,644,249	2,247,780
Ginger ...	62,579	37,687	23,765
Pepper ...	7,449,606	23,378,251	17,033,863
Unenumerated ...	3,346,546	11,279,462	21,452,620

WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Association of Glasgow was held on August 9th at 134, Wellington Street, Glasgow, Mr. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, occupying the chair. The Report was unanimously adopted, and the Directors retiring by rotation, namely, Mr. Crum Ewing, Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Mr. William Wilson, and Mr. David Blair, were re-elected. Mr. A. H. Donald continues to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. W. Tomlinson as Hon. Secretary.

The Directors' report, received as we go to press, refers to the steps taken by the Royal Commission to regulate the distribution and price of yellow crystals following the large advance in price due to the competition of several large confectionery manufacturers, whose wants the Commission failed to satisfy. The Directors offered "strenuous opposition since it forced those Estates making yellows for London, either to continue that class of sugar at the sacrifice entailed by acceptance of the Sugar Commission's artificially low figure, or alternatively to risk the complete loss of the market for West Indian grocery crystallised (which has taken so many years to build up) and make raw sugar for Canada, thus obtaining the World's market value which latterly has been several pounds a ton higher than the Commission's selling price for refined. Though granting a modification in some of the conditions, the Commission were obdurate as regards the basis of price."

Dealing with immigration the Directors express the hope that pending new arrangements the India Office will not insist on a premature termination of the existing system. They state that at a recent meeting it was resolved to participate in the movement for securing a preference for British colonial sugar and that their Chairman has joined the Executive Council of the British Empire Producers' Organisation with which other kindred West Indian bodies have also identified themselves.

THE temperance party is having the time of its life. Seizing the opportunity of the War it is pressing forward its propaganda on every possible occasion. It will no doubt be of interest to producers of that most delectable and wholesome spirit rum to learn that a petition *two and a half miles long* favouring the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for the period of the War and six months after has been prepared. It emanated from Ulster; otherwise one might have regarded it as another injustice to Ireland.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" may be obtained of the West India Committee at the nominal price of 1/-, or 1/3 post free.

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.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P. (till August)	Mr. John T. Greg	Dr. Frank Oliphant
Mr. A. C. Broughton, A.M.I.C.E. (till end of July)	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. G. G. Browne	Mr. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G.	Miss B. Robinson
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. E. G. A. Saunders
Mr. Lionel Devaux	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. E. C. Jackson	Mr. G. S. Seton-Frowne
Mr. H. de Gale	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. F. B. B. Shad
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. J. C. Shaw
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Clement Malone	Mr. R. B. Short
	Mr. A. Marsden	Mr. M. J. Tauvel
	Sir Frederic Maxwell	Mr. Aucher Warner, K.C. and
	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. F. H. S. Wainford
	Mr. J. Melvill	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooks, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
Lieut. Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill N.
Mr. F. Driver, 41, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsund Road, Brighton Sussex
Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Aug. 16 ...	"Direct"	Catalina	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
.. 18 ...	Elders & Fyfes	Corona	Bristol	D
.. 19 ...	Leyland	Scythian	Liverpool	A, E
.. 22 ...	Hooker	Imutika	Liverpool	B
.. 23 ...	Harrison	Spectator	Liverpool	D
Sep. 1 ...	Elders & Fyfes	Corona	Bristol	D
.. 2 ...	Leyland	Medusa	Liverpool	A, E
FROM CANADA				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Aug. 25 ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chignecto	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, I
Sep. 8 ...		Chaudiere		K, L, M, N
FROM HOLLAND				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Aug. 4 ...	Royal Dutch	<i>Britia</i> <i>Wendlandam</i>	Amsterdam	B, E
.. 26 ...		<i>Tellus</i>		
Sep. 15 ...		<i>Pr. Frederik Hendrik</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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Divid.	Latest Quotations.		Prices
			Aug. 9
4 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77 1/2
3 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	74
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	74 1/2
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1921-43	80
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81 1/2
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	77
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	77
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1922-44	81 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	81 1/2
4 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81 1/2
3 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	81 1/2
6 %	The Colonial Bank		101
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		128
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		86
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		87
4 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		92 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		102 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		106
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		105
6 %	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		51
6 %	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		107
6 %	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)		107
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27-30
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Part. Pref.		95-100
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		70-75
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		72-75
1 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary		21-3
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		74
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd		35
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		52 1/2

West India Committee Circular.

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LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

August 23rd, 1916.

A JAMAICA BANANA PROBLEM.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE received a cablegram on August 11th from the Merchants' Exchange of Jamaica, soliciting their assistance towards persuading the Government to prohibit the importation of Costa Rican and Colombian bananas into this country. Unfortunately the help of the Committee was invoked rather late in the day, on an unfavourable reply to representations made by the Governor of Jamaica on behalf of the planters having already been received as far back as July 25th. Immediate steps were, however, taken to lay the views of the Merchants' Exchange before the West India Department of the Colonial Office by Mr. E. A. DE PASS, Chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee, and the Secretary at a personal interview and by letter. The complaint of the Jamaica planters is that while the markets of the United Kingdom are being flooded with Central and South American fruit, their bananas are rotting on the trees. They therefore urge that the foreign fruit may be shut out of the English market in order to extend the demand for Jamaica bananas. This certainly sounds a reasonable proposition; but it is not quite clear whether such action would have the desired effect. As has already been pointed out in these columns, if the foreign bananas were shut out, the only market to which they could be shipped under existing conditions would be the American one, where presumably they would displace a corresponding quantity of Jamaica fruit—in other words merely a re-adjustment would result. But there is another difficulty. MESSRS. ELDERS & FYFFES state that

the steamers which now carry the Costa Rican and Colombian fruit to this country are unsuited for the north-side ports of Jamaica, and they add that in no circumstances would they allow the vessels to call there. If, therefore, these steamers were diverted to Jamaica, they would only call at Kingston, where they would probably pick up their own contract fruit, which would not benefit St. Mary and the other suffering parishes in the slightest degree. It might be said that the Government might commandeer the steamers, but it is inconceivable that they would venture on a banana business—which this would involve—especially in times like these, and it is equally unlikely that they would risk calls at northside ports if it involved danger to the steamers. As far as we can gather, the present troubles of the northside planters are almost entirely due to shortage of tonnage, which has been aggravated by the suspension of the sailings of the Hamburg-America Line's controlled "Atlas" service, upon which the United Fruit Company's largest competitor depended for the conveyance of the greater part of its fruit. Assuming this to be the case, the situation might be relieved by the release of steamers by the Admiralty and their application to a service between Jamaica and the United States, and it is in this direction, we believe, that negotiations have recently been proceeding. Incidentally it is suggested that much of the Costa Rican and Colombian fruit imported into England is produced by German firms. If this is indeed the case, it should be most rigidly excluded. We understand that the United Fruit Company produce 80 per cent. of the bananas grown in those countries; but if there is any doubt about the balance, the course of action that the Government should adopt is clear. The present difficulties of Jamaica make us regret more than ever that the Legislature should have refused to renew in any form the subsidy for a direct steamer service between that island and the United Kingdom. They did this under the belief that the Imperial Government were unwilling to contribute towards the subsidy—a belief which we are satisfied was a mistaken one. MESSRS. ELDERS & FYFFES have stepped into the breach and provided passenger and mail facilities, but they have consistently declined to carry freight, which has been the *fons et origo* of Jamaica's complaints. The result has been that the shippers have, since the Imperial Direct Line Service was suspended, probably footed an increase in the bill for freights larger than the annual subsidy formerly paid by the local Government. But it is no good repining. The situation has to be faced, and it is earnestly to be hoped that after the War, steps may be taken to bring Jamaica once more into direct mail and freight communica-

tion with the Mother Country, and that similar advantages, which are their right, may be available for the Bahamas and British Honduras, colonies at present hopelessly side-tracked. The question of Colonial preference, too, will be raised, and we shall await with interest the views of the Jamaican banana planters on this subject. Assuming that Costa Rican and Colombian bananas were to be shut out of the United Kingdom market, that could only be a temporary measure, and to give a preference to Jamaica over foreign fruit would involve making bananas dutiable. A proposal to tax bananas in Canada with a view to giving a preference to West Indian fruit was strongly opposed in Jamaica some years ago owing to the fear of retaliation by the United States. We gather, however, that our friends in Jamaica are less nervous than they were since Washington has viewed with perfect equanimity the trade arrangement between Canada and the West Indies. This is as it should be, and another factor which makes for preference is the rapidly increasing consumption of bananas in the United Kingdom. From 6,714,479 bunches in 1911, the imports rose to 9,007,001 bunches in 1914, and 8,143,092 bunches last year. In view of these figures, is it unreasonable to hope that the time may come when the United Kingdom will be able to consume Jamaica's entire crop? The possibility of effecting arrangements for facilitating the meeting of French requirements from British sources is also well worth consideration.

Since the above lines were written, the difficulties of the Jamaica banana planters have been solved in an altogether unlooked-for manner. On August 15th a cyclone swept over the island, destroying practically the entire banana crop. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the colony in its misfortune, and whilst we shall anxiously await further details of the disaster, we feel confident that the people of Jamaica will face their troubles in the resolute spirit characteristic of the British race, and that the colony will once again show its remarkable recuperative powers. This fresh calamity brings with it a lesson, and that is the danger of depending to so great an extent as Jamaica has done on a single industry, and especially on one which is so susceptible to hurricanes, and the paramount importance of developing other industries, and notably that of sugar, for which the moment seems to be so particularly opportune.

THE FUTURE OF LOGWOOD.

AMONG other industries which have come into their own again since the outbreak of war is that of logwood. This tree, known to scientists as *Hæmatoxylon campechianum*, furnishes the finest black, dark blue, and purple dye in existence, which has the advantage, not possessed by aniline dyes, of being absolutely "fast." That is to say, it neither "runs" nor "fades." Unlike indigo, which once flourished in the West Indies, but succumbed to careless cultivation and foreign competition even before the manufacture of aniline dyes, logwood has always enjoyed a market, though by no means so large a one as its merits deserve. The chief demand for the wood has in recent years

been in America and France, where home-made dyes are protected by tariff against German substitutes. It has been asserted that, with the improvement in aniline blacks, the use of logwood for dyeing gradually became restricted to finer qualities of black cloths, stockings, etc., because of the greater facility in the application of the said anilines. It may be that owing to the prevailing habit in France, and to some extent in America, of wearing the *frac* or dress-coat in the day-time on official and matrimonial occasions, it is of the utmost importance that those garments should be coloured by a dye which is proof against the effects of the sun, and will not turn rusty and seedy-looking in the daylight. The dye-using trades in the United Kingdom have, on the other hand, shown a preference for the cheaper, more easily applied, and inferior German dyes, with disastrous results to themselves when supplies thereof were unobtainable. It may here be explained that logwood is widely distributed in Yucatan, British Honduras, Jamaica, Haiti, and to a lesser extent in several other West Indian islands. Originally the general practice was to ship the wood itself—a costly business, especially in these days, owing to its bulk—but for the past twenty years a factory has been in existence near Spanish Town, where the dye has been extracted from the wood and shipped either as logwood extract or hæmatoxylin crystals, while more recently a second factory, established by a combination of British dye-works firms, has been successfully producing the same products at Lacovia, in St. Elizabeth. Some years ago the makers of logwood extracts in Havre formed a combination, but, probably owing to the handicap of heavy freights on the bulky raw material, the Jamaica-produced extracts began to compete successfully with their products, even in their own market. Even in the United States similar competition must have been felt. The outcome appears to have been the formation of a merger or trust whereby the businesses of the two Jamaica factories, those of the French combine, and the largest of the American concerns were united. One of the results of this combination of interests was the practical abolition of competition for the purchase of logwood in Jamaica, and, we believe, in Haiti. The management of the Trust in Jamaica, buying alike for the local factories' requirements and for those of the States and France, had secured a virtual monopoly of the trade, to the obvious disadvantage to the growers. One effect of this was that, whilst it became unprofitable to cut the logwood growing at any distance from the ports, that in close proximity to the sea was becoming exhausted. When war led to the exclusion of German dyes from the States as well as from the belligerent nations, many moribund logwood dye industries sprang into life again. As usual, the Americans were first in the field to realise their requirements of the raw material, and large contracts were quickly placed in Jamaica. When the British dye manufacturers, who were outside of the Trust, discovered that there was room for them also in the enlarged demand for hæmatoxylin, they experienced a temporary difficulty in procuring supplies of wood from Jamaica, and urged the Govern-

to bring pressure to bear on the Colonial Governments to take steps to enable them to secure supplies without having to climb for them—a proceeding which, we may say, the owners of logwood trees properly regarded as not being "cricket," if we may be pardoned for mixing metaphors. Prices, however, which before the War had been as low as about £2 10s. per ton—a price which made the cutting of trees at any distance from the port of shipment unprofitable—had meanwhile soared to about £8, and as there appeared grave danger of speculation by outsiders who had hitherto taken no interest in dyewoods, which would have been very injurious to the trade, the export of logwood and its products was temporarily prohibited; but the embargo was soon raised when it was found that the requirements of the British trade amounted only to a matter of 7,000 tons, with which quantity they were easily supplied. Apparently, however, this very action served to stimulate the speculation it was hoped to prevent, and prices advanced as high as £11 f.o.b., a somewhat fictitious price, leading to some over-supply, which, coupled with excessively high freights, and scarcity of sailer tonnage, has temporarily depressed the market. It is to be hoped that after the War, steps will be taken to reorganise the logwood industry and to place it on a sounder basis. This can best be done by the establishment of further logwood extract factories in Jamaica and Belize, and though the existing processes are "secret," it should be within the powers of many of our chemists to devise means for extracting the essential product of the logwood tree for shipment in an economical form. There must be no more peaceful penetration of British Colonies by foreigners to the extent of controlling what might be valuable industries, and provided that security against cut-throat competition is granted by the Mother Country by preferential treatment, there is no reason why a really flourishing logwood industry should not be built up in Jamaica, British Honduras, and elsewhere.

WEST INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

An Associated Chamber Inaugurated.

At a meeting of a provisional executive committee held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on June 20th, an Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies was definitely formed on the lines suggested by Mr. Edward R. Davson in May, 1914. The Georgetown (British Guiana), Trinidad, and Barbados Chambers have already consented to join the new body, and the co-operation of the other Chambers of Commerce in the British West Indies is being invited, and will no doubt be secured. Mr. Edgar Tripp has been appointed Hon. Secretary, and the West India Committee have been requested to represent the Associated Chamber in England.

This new body, the formation of which has been warmly advocated in these columns, should have a successful career before it. Its existence will enable the British West Indian Colonies to speak with a united voice at the meetings of the Imperial Cham-

bers of Commerce, and the Associated Chamber should prove a valuable factor towards securing co-operation and uniformity in many matters of common interest.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Some people are disappointed at the comparatively slow advance of both the Russian and Anglo-French armies after the rapid and striking successes of their co-ordinated offensive when it was initiated. But then the element of surprise was present alike in Picardy and Volhynia. Ever since, the prevailing conditions of this War, above all other wars—the vastness of the areas and numbers concerned—have told. In addition, the terrain has been difficult. Take, for instance, the advance of Letchitsky on Stanislaw. The country to be negotiated was a network of rivers, streams, lakelets, marshes, and hills. In Picardy, woods, large villages, and hills alternate. The great thing is that the enemy is now no longer on the offensive anywhere. Again, while Germany was conquering Serbia, she had to abandon other enterprises, whereas Russia has been able to occupy Armenia without any slackening on her European front. The Allies, too, have been able to recuperate and expand their armies more quickly than the Germans. Will these be in a position to put the necessary efforts to resume the offensive on either front? On that the continuance of the Allies' push depends. So far it has been progressing favourably, but signs of German exhaustion are still to seek.

The German Dug-outs.

The reason why the advance to Bapaume is slow may be gathered from a vivid account sent to the *Morning Post*, from an authoritative source, of German dug-outs. The larger ones are entered through a steel door, from which a thirty-foot staircase made of wood descends. At the bottom there are spacious rooms in which floors, walls, and roofs are closely boarded, as also are the connecting passages. A second thirty-foot staircase leads down to another group of rooms treated in the same way as those above. Each of these dug-outs would easily house a whole platoon, and give it almost complete security under artillery fire. Their military purposes are several. They keep down casualties and shelter reserves of machine-guns until the moment of our advance. When our troops reach the German trenches these dug-outs are hard to clear, and, sometimes, to find; and if they are not cleared, their occupants may emerge and harass our men in the rear with rifle and machine-gun fire.

French and British Gains in Picardy.

The main centre of British activity has been in the region of Guillemont, where on August 8th we advanced on a front of well over a mile and a depth of 600 yards. Four days later progress was made for about 400 yards on a front of nearly a mile north-west of Pozières, and some enemy trenches were captured on the plateau north-west of Bazentin-le-Petit towards Martinpuich, though

the Germans re-entered them the following day, only to be driven out again. There have also been advances between Thiepval and Pozières and west of the Fourceaux Wood.

The finest gains in this sector lately have been made by the French. In co-operation with the British, General Foch's troops stormed the German third-line trenches on a front of four miles to a depth of from 650 to 1,100 yards and entered Maurepas, from which they threaten Combles on one side and Clery on the other. Five days later they made important gains in the same region, and have been able to hold them, as so far the enemy has made no counter-attack, which he finds is a costly business. Combles, which is the Allied objective here, is the key of a fine defensive site, and is doubtless fortified with great skill.

In the East.

Here none of the offensives launched by Hindenburg serve to stay the progress of the Russians. In the Bukovina they are at the mountain gate of Hungary, having captured the villages of Jablonitza and Vorokhta near the pass, along which one of the main lines to Budapest runs. Letchitsky's centre and right, after capturing Stanislaw, a railway junction, continued their triumphant advance to Nadvorna, which closes one of the few minor routes which traverse the mountains between the Jablonitza and Wyszkw passes.

In Galicia Bothmer has at last been forced out of Tarnopol and back to the Dniester by the enveloping movements of Sakharoff in the north and Letchitsky in the south. But, thanks to the three railways converging on Lemberg and an excellent system of roads, he was able to send the impedimenta of his army ahead. If the general retreat continues, his two wings must be separated by the marshes of the Dniester between Chodoron and Sambor, the left remaining in touch with Bohem-Ermolli, who is still fighting stubbornly south of Brody, and the right covering Stryj. Here Bothmer's lines of communication are threatened by Letchitsky's army advancing between the Dniester and the Carpathians.

Meanwhile, further north stern fighting is in progress for the possession of Kovel and Baranovitchi, and both of them for the same reason. In short, all along the Eastern front the enemy is on the defensive. Since the great advance began, the Russians have captured over 350,000 men, and lately, many Germans, besides 405 guns.

Verdun.

Verdun will be remembered as one of the greatest battles in the history of France, and the turning-point of the present War. Each day that passes tends to show that the onslaught on the fortress has been one of the costliest and most futile of the enemy's efforts, and so far has he involved himself that he must continue it. The French are in consequence preparing for a new offensive on the part of the Germans after a short interval of quiescence. Fleury is well held by our Ally, and in its neighbourhood General Nivelle has, by a series of grenade engagements, carried some German trenches near Chapelle Sainte Fine.

Fall of Gorizia.

The capture of Gorizia by the Italians after fifteen months of desperate fighting ranks among one of the great achievements of the War. The position was one of enormous strength, natural and artificial, and was defended by the Austrians with the utmost tenacity. The successful assault on Monte Sabotino, 2,000 feet high, and on Monte San Michele, August 7th-8th, rendered the continued occupation of Gorizia down in the valley untenable by the enemy, and, to use his own version, he retired "in order to avoid severe losses." It appears that the reduction of the Austrian Verdun was effected by something like surprise. Large masses of troops were concentrated in the Trentino as if preparation were being made for an offensive. At night they were sent to the Carso and a feint attack launched in the vicinity of Monfalcone. Finally the real assault was delivered on Sabotino and San Michele, and so sudden was the surprise that both cavalry and cyclists took part in the action.

Pressing eastwards, the Italians are advancing so as to threaten the great port of Trieste and Aidussina on the way to Laibach. Since the beginning of their great offensive they have captured over 16,000 prisoners.

On August 12th an Italian air squadron bombarded the Whitehead torpedo works just west of Fiume with good results.

Forward Move from Salonika.

Under the command of General Sarrail, the Allied forces in the Balkans are beginning to move, the Serbian army on the left, the French in the centre, and the British on the right. The most important capture so far is Doiran Station, which is close to the river Vardar and the Serbian-Greek frontier at the point where the Salonika-Seres railway turns eastward. As the Central Powers are no longer in a position to launch such another offensive as that of 1915, and the Turks and Bulgarians are not of themselves able to resist a rigorous push by the Allies, it is clear that sustained progress in this theatre of the War must ultimately lead to the separation of Turkey and Bulgaria by the cutting of the Berlin-Vienna-Sofia-Constantinople railway at Nish and the re-occupation of Serbia. The way to Sofia by road and railways presents no great natural obstacles, and to Kumanova the road is the best in Macedonia, and adapted to motor traffic the whole way. As for the damage done last year by ourselves and the Bulgarians, it can easily be repaired by our engineers.

On July 30th, Russian troops were landed at Salonika, and on August 11th an Italian contingent was disembarked. The arrival of these Allies, who were cordially welcomed by General Sarrail, has caused the greatest enthusiasm.

New Battle in Egypt.

The most important operations which have taken place in the neighbourhood of the Suez Canal since early in February of 1915 ended in the discomfiture of the Turks, under German leadership and scientifically organised. But not only were the British better supplied with water, but they had long been



SHIPPING LOGWOOD.

A Scene on the Wharf of Messrs. R. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd. and Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Ltd., Kingston, Jamaica



RED CROSS WORKERS IN ST. LUCIA.

Some Lady Helpers at a Red Cross Fete at Castries, St. Lucia, organised by Mrs. Laflitte and others

preparing to deal with just such an attack as the enemy launched on August 3rd-4th. His numbers were fully 18,000, well equipped, and apparently provided with unlimited ammunition. They were allowed to advance from Rumani, where they had gradually established themselves, as far as our command deemed advisable. They were then attacked, the thermometer being 100° in the shade, by the Australians, supported by British Territorials, and dispersed with heavy losses—9,000—in killed, wounded or prisoners. As usual when they are driven to bay, the Turks resisted stubbornly, and showed great skill in fighting rearguard actions at Katia, Oghratina, and Bir-el-Aba, all of which they were compelled to evacuate. The pursuit is being continued by British Yeomanry and the Australians. The Territorial Artillery did excellent service, as did the Flying Corps and the monitors in the Bay of Tina.

The fact that the Turks have again attacked in this region, especially at a moment so disadvantageous to themselves, can only be explained by their subservience to their German masters.

German East Africa.

With the capture of Ujiji, the principal port of Lake Tanganyika, the enemy is deprived of a district whence came the greater part of the half-caste Arabs who, as officers and non-commissioned officers in charge of native levies, have been the backbone of German resistance. Moreover, the Central railway is cut, not only at Kilimatinde and Dodoma, but at several points in the mountains. Bagamoya, a port to the north of Dar-es-Salaam, has been occupied by the Navy, and General Smuts' forces are rapidly closing in on the capital itself. The days of Germany's last remaining colony are numbered.

At Sea.

For the first time since the Jutland Battle, the German High Seas Fleet came out on August 19th, but finding Admiral Jellicoe fully prepared for an engagement, returned to port. The British Fleet, which was searching for the enemy, lost two new light cruisers, the *Falmouth* and *Nottingham*. Happily the loss of life was not heavy. All but one were saved on the one, and all but thirty-eight on the other.

It was subsequently announced that on the same day submarine E 23 (Lieut.-Commander Robert R. Turner, R.N.) had successfully torpedoed a German battleship of the *Nassau* class, and that it was believed that she had sunk.

H.M.S. *Lasso*, a destroyer, was sunk off the Dutch coast on August 13th, with a loss of six lives. She was mined.

The day before, two hostile seaplanes dropped bombs over Dover, a few casualties resulting in slightly wounded. There was no material damage beyond some broken windows. The raiders were driven off by anti-aircraft guns and aeroplanes.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH EMPIRE TRADE.

The public luncheon has quite taken the place of the evening banquet as a means of ventilating important questions and paying compliments to distinguished visitors. One of the most successful of these functions held recently took place at the Waldorf Hotel on August 18th, when many people well known in the political and professional world met, at the invitation of the Council of the British Empire Producers' Organisation to give a send-off to Mr. G. H. Pritchard, one of the Queensland delegates to the recent Sugar Conference, who is returning to Australia.

Mr. Andrew Fisher (High Commissioner for Australia) presided, and among those present were:—

The Earl of Denbigh, Sir Thomas Mackenzie (High Commissioner for New Zealand), Mr. G. H. Roberts (Labour M.P. for Norwich and one of the Government Whips), Major Sir Thomas Robinson (Agent-General for Queensland), Sir Peter McBride (Agent-General for Victoria), the Hon. B. R. Wise, K.C. (Agent-General for New South Wales), Mr. C. Sandbach Parker (Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation), Sir H. W. Mercer, Sir John Prescott Hewett, the Hon. J. H. Pelletier (Agent-General for Quebec), Mr. Richard Reid (Agent-General for Ontario), Sir Owen Phillips, M.P., Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Charles McNeil, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Captain C. Bathurst, M.P., and Sir George Makgill (Secretary).

Mr. Sandbach Parker, in proposing the toast of "British Empire Industries," said that when war broke out we found that many of what were called "pivotal industries" were more or less completely controlled by Germany, with the result that we were almost destitute of some necessities, such as dyes, and were compelled to purchase at enormous prices other necessary articles, such as metals and sugar.

This state of things was entirely due to the system of *laissez-faire* and Individualism which had been for fifty years the accepted policy of the Government of this country. The interests of the British producer had been neglected on the grounds that cheap raw material and cheap food from foreign countries, meaning low wages, would enable our manufacturing industries successfully to compete with those of all other countries. Then came the War, and with it the rude awakening to the fact that we had allowed ourselves to become dependent to such an extent on foreign supplies and finance that only drastic action by the Government averted famine in some articles and a complete failure of our banking system. The whole fabric of our industries and finance was found to have been undermined by the Germans. Our country was honeycombed with enemies, naturalised and unnaturalised, and to this day the Government had found themselves unable sufficiently to purge the country of these mischievous and unwelcome aliens. It was then that the British public began to wake up.

After dealing with the Organisation's work in connection with the sugar industry, and expressing their obligation to the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes—(cheers)—Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, and Sir George Foster, Canadian Minister for Trade and Commerce, Mr. Parker went on to state that the Association had organised sections of sugar machinery manufacturers, fertiliser manufacturers, and a strong British agricultural section; and other sections were in course of formation. As to the method by which a self-supporting Empire might be achieved, they advocated a general tariff for neutrals, with graduated differential preferences in favour of British Empire and Allies' products, surtaxes against unfavourable neutrals and enemy products, and that enemy products should be absolutely prohibited entrance to any part of the Empire for a minimum

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/-.

of five years. Their tariff recommendations were based upon and closely followed the principles of the Canadian tariff, which had proved successful in influencing trade and production into Imperial channels, and as a scientific tariff was second to none. The first point this country had to decide was whether we intended to revert to our pre-war conditions of dangerous dependence upon enemy countries for many of our vital industries. Were we again going to import from Germany and allow Germans to undermine our whole industrial, financial, and social system? There was only one answer—Never. The second point was, What was to take the place of enemy supplies? The answer was again clear. Empire resources must be developed. The War had completely destroyed the old insular and detached attitude of the Mother Country to our Dominions and possessions overseas. Never again could we dare to request that they should be dragged at the tail of the Mother Country's "most-favoured-nation clause" in commercial treaties, which had now at last been shown up as the most hollow sham of the nineteenth century. The third point was, What were to be our future relations with our Allies? This Association advocated close commercial and political relations between them and our Empire. But here arose two grave dangers: There were proposals in various quarters that this country should admit the products of Allies and the Dominions overseas on equal terms. In his opinion this course would ruin any chance of the Empire becoming self-supporting. The desire to provide manufacturers with cheap raw materials had led the London Chamber of Commerce recommending in their "tentative tariff" that raw materials should be imported free, even from enemy countries. That Association's view was that Empire sources of raw material should be developed. It could not be too strongly urged that production was the bedrock foundation of all manufacture and trade, and that control of reliable and regular supplies was of greater importance than mere cheapness. A further question was, What were to be our relations with neutrals? The Organisation's proposals provided for negotiating favourable terms with those who were willing to make favourable terms with us, and apply a surtax to those who were not. Lastly, what were to be the future relations of Labour and Capital in this country? The Association recognised that the future conditions under which our workers lived and worked must be improved, and that unless steps were taken to increase production in this country, not only would improvement be impossible, but it was probable that conditions would be worse than before the War. Unemployment and low wages would be aggravated, and there would be less money available for improvement of their conditions of life. If security of market were given by a tariff, the advantages reaped by the employers from that tariff should be fairly shared with the workers, and this could be best achieved by a higher level of wages and improved conditions of life.

Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., in responding to the toast, said he thought that gathering marked a significant change in the industrial and commercial life of our nation, because of the frank recognition of the necessity for a better understanding between Capital and Labour.

Many of those who, like himself, had had their energies absorbed in the past in trying to earn a living, had been compelled by the present War to take a wider outlook, and had learned more than they ever knew before of the meaning and the potentialities of the British Empire. Perhaps the Oversea Dominions, from their detached position, had been able to obtain a clearer vision and a surer grasp of the great issues of the War in their relation to the future of the Empire, but he could say this much for himself, that he was not a follower of the *laissez-faire* policy. Although there were some parts of the previous speaker's remarks against which he would be disposed to enter a caveat, he could agree that previous to the War we had allowed ourselves to become the least self-contained country in the world. Throughout his political career he had always regarded as criminal that we should disregard as we had done the development of the resources within our own shores, while we were content to draw from any and all parts of the world the

things that were ever necessary to our existence. Great Britain should first develop to the utmost its own resources, and in so far as it lacked anything it should supply the deficiency from the British Empire with the aid of British labour. He knew that some of his friends were unwilling to shed the old shibboleths; they were still inclined to talk in the jargon of a century ago, and were not unhopeful that we should be able to resume the old business relations with our enemies when peace was restored; but he did not agree with that view. Germany would have to undergo generations of purging and purification before we would be prepared to resume our old relations with that country. As to the best means to accomplish the task which that Association urged should be undertaken—the task of making the Empire self-supporting—he was free to confess that he had not made up his mind as to the most effective methods to adopt. His mind was still in at state of flux. But one thing was certain—the past state of things had gone, never to be recalled. He cared nothing about the terms "Free Trade" or "Tariff Reform" or "Protection," but he believed in his own country; he believed in the British Empire, and he was prepared to shape his course on the lines that would make this country self-supporting within the limits of its resources and enable it to draw upon the rest of the Empire for anything which it lacked within itself.

Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P., in proposing the health of "The Guest," said that the gospel of a self-contained Empire did not mean the development of the Oversea Dominions at the expense of the Mother Country. Agriculture was still the greatest industry in this country, but it could be made greater.

Mr. Pritchard, in acknowledging the toast, said the hope of the people of the Oversea Dominions was that the slender ties which now held them to the Motherland should be strengthened. They had always been prepared to give the Mother Country preferential conditions, and had again and again offered to do so, but unfortunately the door had been slammed in their face.

GERMANY'S SUGAR POLICY.

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have recently issued a Memorandum* on The Recent Development of German Agriculture, prepared at Lord Selborne's request, by their Assistant Secretary, T. H. Middleton, C.B. Some very interesting information is given as to the founding by Germany in direct association with agriculture of the great sugar industry as well as the potato-starch and potato-drying industries. It is, the Memorandum says, admitted in Germany that the sugar beet industry has exercised the most important influence on the rural economy of Germany. Quoting from von Bulow's book "Imperial Germany" (1914), the Memorandum adduces the testimony of German statesmen in favour of protection for agriculture as the "mother of the nation's strength." Its value for military service was the subject of inquiry before a Commission appointed in 1906 by von Bulow, and it was found that the country districts for every 100 estimated as forthcoming for military service, country districts supplied 114 men fit for military service whilst large cities and towns supplied only 65 men and 83 men respectively.

The Memorandum concisely summarizes the State aid afforded so as to develop the German beet sugar industry. To assist exporters since 1861 direct and indirect export bounties were given. By the aid of this cash export protection, our sugar industries in their protests showed that the German exporters were enabled to make up for themselves the fall

* 1st June, 1916. [Cd. 8305.] 4d.

caused by the German bounty system in outside markets in the price of sugar. The Memorandum states that by the terms of the Brussels Convention bounties ceased as from 1st September, 1903, but a protection of 2/4 per cwt. was allowed as between excise and import duties. It also quotes the Berlin economist, Dr. Eltzbacher, as urging the agriculturists to grow more sugar beet in 1916 as the most nourishing crop for the land grown by the farmer.

THE EMPIRE'S SUGAR SUPPLY.

Vigorous Action in Jamaica.

The West India Committee has received a despatch from the Governor of Jamaica transmitting the following resolutions which were adopted at a public meeting held in Kingston on July 18th, His Excellency presiding.

That this meeting desires to submit for the consideration of the Home Authorities the following suggestions, viz. —

(a) That measures be adopted to prevent, at the termination of the war, the wholesale dumping of sugars produced in enemy countries.

(b) That a substantial preference be allowed on all sugars produced within the Empire sufficient to encourage and maintain a great industry.

(c) That such arrangements be made as may seem advisable and possible whereby the present and future productions of sugar in this Colony, to the extent of 200,000 tons per annum, may be assured of a profitable market in other portions of the Empire, and in friendly countries.

(d) That His Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to transmit this resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for submission to the Home Government, and also to the British Producers' Association through the West India Committee.

The meeting, which was one of the largest and most representative ever held in Jamaica, was held at the Edmonson Hall. His Excellency Sir William Manning presided, and was supported on the platform by the Hon. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., Hon. E. St. John Branch, K.C., Bishop de Carteret, Hon. Beresford S. Gossett, Hon. S. S. Stedman, Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, Hon. H. Cork, Hon. H. W. Griffith, Mr. Robert Craig and Mr. A. W. Farquharson, while in the body of the hall were Hon. Sir John Pringle, Hon. Robert Johnstone, J.S.O., Hon. L. J. Bertram, Hon. J. H. W. Park, and the leading planters, merchants, and professional men of the island.

Mr. A. W. Farquharson moved the first resolution on the agenda, which was in the following terms:—

"That this meeting on the evidence and data produced is definitely satisfied that there are large areas of land in Jamaica admirably adapted for the growth of sugar cane, and that it is of vital importance to the welfare of the island, that the production of sugar, one of the world's chief staples, should be established on an extensive scale."

He reminded the audience that Jamaica's former prosperity had depended mainly on sugar, of which

150,000 hhds. had been exported in 1805. He outlined the economic circumstances which led to the decline of the industry, and quoted Dr. Paaske to show that it had been the intention of Germany to wreck the cane sugar industry for the benefit of beet. Sugar was the third greatest staple in the world, standing next only to live stock and grain. The growth of the industry had been phenomenal, production of cane and beet having risen from 2,750,000 tons in 1870, to 18,773,436 tons in 1914—a jump in a single generation of more than 600 per cent. Comparing the sugar industry of the world with that of bananas, he said that the output of bananas was only 2 per cent. compared with that of the output of sugar.

Proceeding, he said that in the Plantain Garden River Valley there were apparently 2,800 acres available for cultivation, making with 5,000 acres in the Morant River Valley, 7,800 acres in St. Thomas alone. Again, in Trelawny there were 7,500 acres, and so on.

Mr. Harry Cork, who seconded the resolution, criticised the Director of Agriculture for putting the estimate of Jamaica's possible sugar production at such a low figure as he had done. He, the speaker, had inspected every part of the island except Green Island, and he was prepared to stake his reputation on the statement that if cane factories were established in the different districts of the island a production of 200,000 tons per annum could be reached. The Government had aided the banana industry, and he saw no reason why they should not also assist an industry which suffered far less from hurricanes.

The resolution having been put to the meeting and carried unanimously, Mr. Robert Craig moved:

"That His Majesty's loyal subjects in Jamaica deplore the fact that this colony is at present mainly dependent both in respect of imports and exports on trade with a foreign country, and welcome with the liveliest satisfaction, the prospect of a self-supporting empire.

"They realise that a great policy of Imperial consolidation, accompanied by a preferential Imperial tariff, would revive and maintain trade and manufactures within the Empire, and substitute a real Imperial independence for that dependence upon foreign countries on which we have too long relied."

This was seconded by Mr. Gamble and similarly carried unanimously.

The Hon. H. L. Simpson, in moving the third resolution, the text of which is given at the beginning of this article, made a stirring speech. He deprecated, he said, Government control while favouring the authorities stretching out a guiding hand to the sugar industry. He was satisfied that the days of Free Trade were over. The colonies had suffered from mistakes of the past and from Germans having been allowed to overrun the mother country.

Mr. W. Morrison, seconding, said that bit by bit inch by inch, the war of beet against cane, started by the Governments of Europe, had developed until the pioneers of sugar manufacture had been outstripped by the German beet producers. Quoting Mr. Hughes, whose name was received with rounds of applause, he said that we must look after our own interests and not provide a market for German goods. They were asking the mother country to

foster the British sugar industry so that when the planters produced their sugar and re-established it in the old markets they would not find the mother standing aside and allowing them to be bullied and beaten.

The resolution having been carried unanimously, Mr. Harry Cork moved a resolution favouring the erection of Government-aided Central sugar factories. He pointed out that a factory to produce 3,000 tons of sugar per annum would cost about £45,000, and one to take 10,000 tons, with a light railway, etc., about £100,000. Capitalists would not risk money unless they had security, and the failure of the sugar industry in the past had been due to the fiscal policy of the mother country. He referred to the success of the Government-aided sugar factory in Antigua, and added that what that island had done, Jamaica could do also.

Bishop de Carteret having seconded the resolution, Mr. Lewis Ashenheim spoke in its support. He referred to the exodus of labourers to Cuba, and said that it was a matter for serious consideration what steps should be taken to induce men to stay at home and assist in developing their own island. In any Central Factory scheme it would have to be arranged that the growers should benefit as well as the planters. The best Central Factory scheme was one which, after payment of fixed charges and provision for a sinking fund, would leave 75 per cent. for division among the growers on what they had delivered to the factory. Mr. T. H. Sharp having also spoken in support, the resolution was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Simpson, Mr. Cork, Mr. A. W. Farquharson and Mr. Robert Craig were appointed a Committee to assist in carrying out the views expressed in the resolutions.

A CYCLONE IN JAMAICA.

The King has sent to the Governor of Jamaica, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a telegram of condolence with the sufferers from the hurricane which, as announced in the Press, swept over Jamaica on August 15th. It was despatched on August 18th, and runs as follows:—

I am commanded to inform you that the King has learned with much concern of the misfortune which has befallen the people of Jamaica by the destruction of their crops by the recent hurricane. His Majesty desires that his warm sympathy should be made known to those who have suffered, and he is glad to learn that the loss of life is believed to be small.—BONAR LAW.

News reached the West India Committee on August 15th that a hurricane was passing over Jamaica. At 11.40 p.m. on the same day the following message was received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from His Excellency Sir William Manning:—

Regret to inform you that severe hurricane passed Jamaica on 15th August. Owing to complete dislocation of telegraphic communication I am unable to learn what damage has been done to cultivation except in the nearer parishes, where it is reported that the destruction to bananas is serious. I am in hopes that the northern side of the island may have escaped with less damage. Will telegraph fully, however, as soon as information is available (however?). Damage to build-

ing in Kingston unimportant. Highest velocity of wind in Kingston 72 miles per hour for a few minutes, and for short period velocity of wind varied between 40 to 60 miles per hour.—MANNING.

Jamaica has been singularly unfortunate in recent years with respect to such visitations, for it will be recalled that last year there was a severe "blow," and that on August 11th, 1903, a cyclone caused damage to the extent of £125,000 on the north side, whilst on November 17th-18th, 1912, the west end of the island suffered from a similar cause.

At 5 a.m. on August 18th the Secretary of State received a further message from the Governor as follows:—

My telegram of 16th August. The hurricane therein reported passed over the whole island. The whole of the banana plants in the island have been destroyed. The damage to coco-nut trees has been in places more serious than in others, but for the most part of the island the destruction of trees has not been great, although the crop of nuts on the trees has been blown off in cases to a very considerable extent. Cocoa has suffered up to 30 to 60 per cent. of the crop on the trees, though extensive damage to the trees themselves has not been reported. It is feared that native food crops have been much damaged. So far reports as to destruction of smaller settlers' houses does not appear to be serious. Damage to railway roads and Government buildings and property not serious. Loss of life reported up to date twelve, eleven of whom were drowned at sea. Telegraphic communication in the island not restored yet fully.—MANNING.

THE BOTANY OF ANTIGUA.

By L. RICHMOND WHEELER, B.Sc. (LOND.).

The following article is reprinted from "The Journal of Botany, British and Foreign," by kind permission of the Editor, Mr. James Britton, K.S.G., F.L.S., late Senior Assistant, Department of Botany, British Museum.

These notes have been drawn up at the close of two years' residence in Antigua, during which I have investigated the plants of the different regions into which the island is divided; while I have visited practically every island of importance in the Lesser Antilles except Barbados, and so have been able to compare the flora of Antigua with those of the other islands with which Antigua is connected by position and geological considerations. The islands thus visited include St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Trinidad; the last-named is, of course, to be considered as part of South America from the scientific standpoint rather than as belonging to the volcanic or calcareous series which form the chain of islands known as the Lesser Antilles. I have also had opportunities of discussion with local botanists, planters, and agricultural officers.

There is a most regrettable absence of books dealing with the natural history of the islands; and many valuable papers (most of which are by Americans) on their geology, etc., are difficult of access to a student on the spot. Crisebach's *Flora of the British West Indies* is still invaluable, and is the only flora dealing with the plants of these islands in a complete way; but it is very old-fashioned, and in many ways obsolete, the first and only edition having been published about 1863; it also labours

under the disadvantage of having been written by a botanist who never visited the West Indies, but had to depend entirely on collections of dried specimens. Fortunately one of these, made by the Rev. Mr. Wullschlagel, of the Moravian Missionary Society, included a large number of Antigua plants. The admirable and exhaustive researches of the various agricultural departments in the West Indies, under the supervision of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, are entirely concerned with economic crops and agricultural investigations.

Another difficulty facing the student is the general lack of knowledge of, and interest in, wild plants among the populations of these interesting islands. So these notes must be regarded as incomplete and in need of amplifications and additions, for which I should be grateful to any persons with a knowledge of the subject. I have pleasure in acknowledging assistance from Dr. A. B. Rendle, of the British Museum, and from Dr. Tempamy and Mr. Jackson, of the Agricultural Department of the Leeward Islands.

I.—CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTER OF THE PLANTS OF ANTIGUA.

A. *Geographical*.—Antigua lies in latitude 17 N. and longitude 61 W., being one of the more northerly islands in the Lesser Antilles. It belongs to the British Crown Colony of the Leeward Islands, and is the seat of Government. Its nearest neighbour is Barbuda, about twenty-seven miles to the north, while Montserrat is about thirty miles to the south. Its area is 108 square miles, being somewhat smaller than the Isle of Wight. The coastline is long, as there are many bays and harbours all round the island. The sea around Antigua is very shallow, and is beset with coral reefs, so that the harbours are of little value for shipping. If the land were elevated 100 fathoms, the island would increase many times over in area, and Barbuda would then form part of it.

It lies well within the limits of the North-east Trade Wind zone, which blows steadily upon the island for nearly every day in the year with considerable strength. When this fails, either a heavy and oppressive calmness prevails, or else very slight breezes blow from the east or south, but these are so slight and so infrequent that they may be neglected from the point of view of seed dispersal. A glance at a map of the world will show the impossibility of seeds being carried to Antigua by the Trade Wind, as there is no land in the Trade Wind belt nearer than the Cape Verde Islands, 2,000 miles away, and the gale does not even blow directly from these islands to the West Indies.

The island lies in the path of the North Equatorial Current, but this current is not felt very strongly. As this current flows in the same general direction as the North Trade Wind, with which, of course, it is intimately connected, and as, like the Trade Wind, it arises in the landless bosom of the North Atlantic, it is clear that it cannot affect the flora of the island by introducing plants whose seeds are water-borne like the Coco-nut and Manchineel.

The only wind which could possibly be the means of introducing new species of plants is the destruc-

tive Hurricane, which blows sometimes with the greatest violence and fury over Antigua and the neighbouring islands, bringing total destruction in its wake. Hurricanes, however, are fortunately rare, only two being recorded for the last forty years in Antigua; and the number of plants introduced by their agency must be very few, if indeed any at all.

B. *Climatic*.—The climate is tropical, but, like other small tropical islands, does not show any great degree of heat. The temperature does not show any great extremes, whether considered from the daily or annual aspect. The average annual maximum is about 85 or 86° F.; the average annual minimum is about 72° F. On the hottest days the maximum is seldom above 90° F., while in the coolest nights the lowest readings are never below 60° F. These figures are fairly correct for the whole of the island, for, as the highest mountains are less than 1,400 feet, there are no stations where cool temperatures occur, as on the mountains of Dominica (5,000 feet) or Jamaica (6,000-7,000 feet) or most of the other West Indian islands.

The lowness of the islands is the cause of the relatively small rainfall, which has averaged about 45 inches per annum for the past forty years. As a contrast to this, most stations in the fertile and mountainous island of Dominica, 200 miles to the south, get an average yearly rainfall of 130 inches, certain points having nearly 300 inches in the year.

There is no rainy season in Antigua, though, as a rule, the months from September to December are wetter than the early months of the year. Droughts are of frequent occurrence, and are sometimes very severe; while the rains, when they do come, are often very local, one estate getting three or four inches while another a few miles away gets little or none.

The early months of the year are cooler than the later months, but this is due more to the greater power of the Trade Wind than to differences of temperature.

There are no seasonal changes in plants as there are in England, or in tropical countries like India, where one season is regularly wet and another regularly dry. During the dry weather the plants adopt a xerophytic habit; leaves drop off, flower buds remain unopened, and seeds lie dormant in the ground. But should a few inches of rain fall after weeks of dryness, no matter what the time of year, all the seedlings sprout vigorously, the trees are covered again in sheen, the activity of the quiescent cambium is renewed, and great bursts of glorious flowering occur on such trees as the Flamboyant (*Poinciana regia*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), and Scarlet Cordia. It follows that terminal bud-scars and "annual" rings have no significance as registers of the age of a tree, but merely indicate the number of droughts and intervening spells of wet weather.

Owing to the smallness and irregularity of the rainfall, the whole vegetation partakes of a xerophytic character. This is the more marked as there are no large springs in the island and no streams worthy of the name. Many parts of the island have a large amount of sodium chloride, so that water drawn from them shows an amount of chlorine

greatly above the average; thus at two stations in the Central Plain the sodium chloride content was considerably over 1,000 parts per 100,000. This also tends to produce xerophytic characters in the flora, especially in the Central Plain.

The geographical configuration of the island, with the mountains in the south-west, causes more rain to fall in that part than in the north and east. The rain drains quickly off the steep mountains and gives a fair supply to the valleys between them, such as Christian Valley and Blubber Valley.

c. *Geological*.—The geology of Antigua is very interesting, and has called forth various theories of very divers natures; and the relations of the different formations to one another cannot yet be considered as settled. All geologists, however, are agreed that Antigua consists of three distinct formations which occupy respectively the north-east, south-west, and centre of the island, their boundaries running approximately from north-west to south-east.

The northern formation is a limestone which is usually considered to belong to the Oligocene. It corresponds with the limestone of which Barbuda, the eastern half of Guadeloupe, Anguilla, and a few other islands are composed. This region is hilly but not mountainous, very little being over 400 feet, and it presents a smooth and gently undulating aspect like the chalk hills of the Chilterns or the lower ranges of the Downs. The lower layers of the formation are usually strongly impregnated with sodium chloride. Many small islands such as Long Island and Iguana Island lie off this part of the shore, and are mostly low; sometimes with small cliffs of hard limestone cut about and eroded by the Atlantic surge. This formation is termed the Antigua Limestone.

The south-west portion of the island is of volcanic origin; its date is uncertain, but it is certainly not a primary igneous rock. There is abundant evidence at many parts of the coast of this region to show that the volcanic matter was forced through sedimentary rock. For instance, between English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour, the two formations can be seen side by side, the sedimentary strata having been upheaved and metamorphosed by the intrusion of the igneous rock. There are no definite craters to be found, though such inlets as English Harbour and Five Islands Bay have been sometimes considered as such.

The mountains here, though not often rising above 1,200 feet (Boggy Peak, the highest, being only 1,360 feet), are bold and rugged, showing the features of a mountain plateau worn by erosion. The mountains are only scantily clothed with vegetation; but the valleys, sheltered by their steep sides, are very fertile, and, owing to their protection from the desiccating influence of the Trade Wind, and to their comparatively good rainfall, show a strong resemblance to those of moister islands like Dominica and Trinidad. Many tropical products, such as Vanilla and Cocoa, can be grown in them which could not exist in other parts of the island. They are also enriched by soil washed down from the surrounding heights. These mountains are Andesitic in composition.

The land between these two ranges of hills is

called the Central Plain. It is, however, very undulating, and is not of homogeneous composition. It consists largely of clays, but is also diversified by sandstones, gravel beds, and limestone, which last forms the small hills found mainly in its north-western part. Its origin and place in the geological history of Antigua are not decided yet, but they must be settled by geologists and not by botanists. Part of it is doubtless alluvial, but the tuff which occurs is very probably older than the Antigua Limestone. The surface is mostly covered by clay, which is very heavy in the southern part near Bendals. There are small ponds scattered through it at intervals, and there is a small watercourse called Bendals stream which allows the surplus water to run off after heavy rain, when it may be quite swollen, though usually it is very dry.

Both the Central Plain and the Limestone district are largely covered by sugar estates, sugar being almost the only crop which can be grown with satisfaction under the prevailing climatic conditions.

All round the coast, especially in the numerous bays and harbours, there are swampy tracts covered with Mangroves; while in other parts the shore consists largely of beaches of coral sand maintaining a well-marked group of halophytic plants.

d. *Human Agency*.—As Antigua has been inhabited and cultivated by the British for 250 years, it is evident that a number of plants must have been introduced, intentionally or otherwise. The Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) and *Casuarina equisetifolia* are examples of trees which are not really indigenous, but which have almost become a part of the wild Flora. The Coco-nut (*Cocos nucifera*), too, is almost certainly an introduced species.

Of real weeds very few seem to have been brought in. One good example is the Sow Thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), with its variety *S. asper*, from Great Britain, which is now commonly found around cane fields. Another and a tropical weed is the Mexican Poppy (*Argemone mexicana*), called "thistle" locally because of its spiny leaves; this is rarely found except round dwellings or crops, where it is plentiful.

No doubt the most serious change produced by human agency is seen in the reckless destruction of the native trees in time past for fuel for sugar-making. Although Antigua could not be said to have been covered with forests, nevertheless there were dense thickets and hangars of such valuable trees as the Logwood (*Hæmatoxylon campechiinum*) and Mango (*Mangifera indica*) on many hillsides, which are now bare or sparsely covered with small Acacia bushes. This is greatly to be regretted from the view-point of conservation of rain; much of the small rainfall comes in heavy showers upon the parched land and rushes off the surface to the sea through the little channels which exist in all parts, and so is irretrievably lost. The presence of strong masses of low trees must also have been a great check upon evaporation, which is very considerable owing to the strength of the sun, the constancy and force of the North-east Trade Wind, and the exposed character of the island (except for the mountain valleys already mentioned).

(To be continued.)

THE MICROSCOPY OF COFFEE.

The "Tea and Coffee Trade Journal" reprints an interesting article on Coffee from Dr. Andrew L. Winton's "The Microscopy of Vegetable Foods" (New York: John Wiley and Sons), from which the following extracts are made.

Coffee—next to sugar the most important product imported from the tropics—is the seed of a small tree or shrub, *Coffea Arabica* L. (order Rubiaceae), a native of Abyssinia and other parts of Africa. In the fifteenth century the tree was introduced into Arabia, where the beverage became popular with all classes, notwithstanding the opposition of the Mohammedan priests. Coffee drinking was soon taken up by all the Saracenic races, and later by the European nations.

For over 200 years the culture of the coffee tree was limited to Arabia, but in the latter part of the seventeenth century it was successfully undertaken by the Dutch in Java, and somewhat later in Surinam, and the industry soon spread over Sumatra, India, Ceylon, Western Africa, and other parts of the Eastern Hemisphere, as well as over the West Indies and the tropical parts of South America. To-day Brazil leads the world in coffee production, although the choicest grades come from Arabia (genuine Mocha coffee) and Java.

The white and delightfully fragrant flowers of



Fig. 1.—Coffee (*Coffea Arabica*). Cross section of berry, natural size: *Pk*, outer pericarp; *Mk*, endocarp; *Ek*, spermoderm; *Sa*, hard endosperm; *Sp*, soft endosperm.

the coffee tree are produced in the axils of the leaves. The fruit (Figs. 1 and 2) is about the size of a small cherry, and is red or purple when fully ripe. It normally contains two cells, each with a single plano-convex seed so situated that the flat surfaces of the two seeds adjoin one another, but in the so-called peaberry coffee one of the ovules is abortive, the other developing into a rounded seed filling the single cavity. The outer portion of the fruit is dark coloured and pulpy, lined by a buff, parchment-like endocarp. The seeds, which before roasting are yellow or light green, have a longitudinal cleft on the flattened side due to the folding of the endosperm. A papery spermoderm, known as the silver skin, covers not only the outer surface, but penetrates also the cleft. The minute embryo (Fig. 2 *Em* and Fig. 3) is situated in the endosperm near the base of the seed.

Various processes, some dry, others wet, are employed for removing the pericarp and spermoderm from the seed. In the West Indies and South America, the larger part of the fruit flesh is first removed by a pulper, after which the pulp still adhering is loosened by a fermentation process and washed away by water. After drying, the spermoderm and endocarp are broken away from the seed and separated by winnowing. The spermoderm is also removed from the surface, but not from the cleft. Roasting swells the seed greatly,

changes its colour to dark brown, and develops the characteristic odour and flavour of roasted coffee by the formation of caffeol and other substances.

As fresh material is not obtainable in the temperate zone except from botanical gardens, alcoholic or dried specimens must be used for histological studies.



Fig. 2.—Longitudinal section of berry, natural size: *Dis*, bordered disc; *Se*, remains of sepals; *Em*, embryo.

Coffee beans, as found on the market, whether unroasted or roasted, consist only of the endosperm, embryo, and that portion of the spermoderm within the cleft, although occasionally fragments of the pericarp occur with the beans as an accidental impurity.

Coffee reaches the consumer either "green" (unroasted) or roasted, and in the latter case either whole or ground. Roasting, as ordinarily conducted,

changes the colour of the bean to a rich brown, which renders most of the microchemical tests of little value, but does not seriously obscure the structure of either the spermoderm or endosperm.

Whole coffee, also known as "coffee beans" and "coffee berries," is characterised by the form and horny texture of the endosperm, and the presence of the spermoderm or "chaff" in the cleft. The spermoderm without special preparation is readily identified under the microscope by the more or less isolated sclerenchyma cells; the endosperm, in section, by the knotty-thickened walls, and the absence of more than the faintest trace of starch.

The adulteration of genuine coffee with beans previously used for the manufacture of coffee extract cannot be detected by microscopical examination, although the coating of these beans, as well as of inferior grades of unextracted coffee, with various pigments, is sometimes evident in microscopic sections.

Ground Coffee varies in fineness from coarsely crushed beans to a powder passing a 1 mm. sieve.

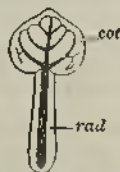


Fig. 3.—Embryo enlarged: *cot*, cotyledon; *rad*, radicle.

Usually there is an abundance of fragments large enough to section with a razor, either dry or after soaking, thus permitting an examination of the cell-walls of the endosperm. The papery flakes of the spermoderm may be picked out with forceps.

If a handful is stirred with cold water, true coffee, except for a few over-roasted fragments, floats; whereas the common adulterants, including peas and other legumes, cereal grains, chicory and other roots, imitation coffee, etc., sink rapidly to the bottom, their nature being determined by microscopic examination. Artificial coffee made from oil-seed products is said to float.

Outer Coffee Hulls, consisting of the epicarp, the mesocarp, and traces of the palisade layer, are utilized by the Arabians in the preparation of a fermented liquor, "Kischer" or "Gischer." These hulls are also exported from coffee-growing regions

under the names "Sultan coffee," and "sacca-coffee," as an adulterant of coffee, the fact that they are a product of the coffee tree and the claim that they contain a certain amount of caffeine and other valuable constituents being offered as excuses for their use. These claims are not worthy of consideration, as the product is even more worthless than most of the common substitutes.

The hulls occur in small amount in genuine coffee, but when the amount is considerable, adulteration is indicated. They are of a black colour, with a ring about 2 mm. in diameter at the upper end, in the middle of which is the scar of the style. Highly characteristic elements being absent, it is often difficult to identify the material in powder form. The epicarp and brown mesocarp resemble the corresponding tissues of the carob bean, though the epicarp of coffee may be distinguished by the stomata with two adjoining cells and the thicker-walled mesocarp, the contents of which do not give the blue or violet colour on warming with alkali.

Inner Coffee Hulls, consisting of endocarp with particles of the adhering palisade layers, are parchment-like in texture and of a buff colour. Although they have scarcely more value than sawdust, they have been used in the United States as an adulterant of wheat bran and other cattle foods. Charred hulls have recently been detected by the writer in ground pepper. This material is characterized by the groups of crossing fibres.

Artificial Coffee Beans moulded from dough, sometimes with admixture of chicory and other materials, resemble genuine roasted beans in form and colour, but are distinguished by the exact correspondence of beans from the same mould, the shallow cleft, the absence of chaff in the cleft, the granular texture, and other physical characteristics which can be learned only by experience. As usually prepared, they sink at once in cold water. Under the microscope, starch and other elements of the constituents are identified.

Artificial broken coffee similar to the artificial beans, but made in irregular lumps, not moulded in the forms of beans, resembles closely broken coffee beans, and serves as an adulterant both for whole and ground coffee. Another form of artificial coffee much used in America consists of pea hulls, cereal matter, and molasses, made into small pellets.

The fruits and seeds used most commonly as substitutes or adulterants of coffee are wheat, rye, barley, maize, and other cereals, also cereal products, such as bran, middlings, bread, etc.; peas, beans, lupines, cassia seeds, astragalus seeds, parkia seeds, chick peas, soja beans, pea-nuts, and other leguminous seeds; dried figs, prunes, pears, bananas, and carob bean pods; date stones, ivory nuts, acorns, grape seeds, fruit of the wax palm, cola nut (*Mussaende-Kaffee*), and false flax.

Chicory is by far the commonest root used in coffee. It is gummy, sweet to the taste, colours cold water a deep yellow, and is identified by the vessels and latex cells. Other roots used are dandelion, beet, turnip, and carrot, all of these being adulterants of chicory.

Coffee Substitutes (European). Among the hundreds of proprietary articles sold in Europe as sub-

stitutes for coffee are the following: "Kanon" (rye, coffee, chicory); "Datel Kaffee" (wheat, chicory, figs and coffee); "Homeopathischer Gesundheitskaffee" (wheat, chicory and cocoa shells); "Hygienischer Nährkaffee" (cereals and acorns); "German Soda Coffee" (cereals, chicory, and sodium carbonate); "Jamaika Kaffee" (barley); "Mokka-Sakka-Kaffee" (barley and other constituents); "Saladinkaffee" (maize); "Malto-Kaffee" (malt or mixtures of malt and other cereals); "Kraft-Kaffee," "Frucht-Kaffee," and "Allerwelts Kaffee" (lupine seeds); "Mogdad," "Neger," and "Stephanie-Kaffee" (seeds of *Cassia occidentalis* and *C. sophora*); "Sudan-Kaffee" (seeds of *Parkia africana* and *P. biglobosa*); "Schwedische Kontinental Kaffee" (seeds of *Astragalus boeticus*); "Duetscher" or "Französischer Kaffee" (thick pea); "Ungarischer Kaffee" (coffee, lupines, and chicory); "Africanischer Nussbohnen Kaffee" (peanuts); "Bayrischer Kaffee" (beets, figs, rye, and legumes); "Mokara" or "Feigenkaffee" (figs); "Figue" (figs and chicory); "Melilotin Kaffee" (coffee, chicory, and date stones); "Almond Coffee" (originally made of the tubers of *Cyperus esculentus* L., later of acorns, chicory, and dandelion root); "Frank Kaffee" (chicory); "Café de Rheims" and "Rations Coffee" of the French army (coffee and chicory); "Domkaffee" (chicory).

Coffee Substitutes (American). Among the preparations made in the United States, the following have been found to consist of various preparations of cereals: "Ralston Cereal Coffee," "Grain-O," "Postum Cereal Coffee," "Ayer's Hygienic Substitute for Coffee," "New Era Hygienic Coffee," "Shredded Cereal Coffee," "J. W. Clark's Phosphoric Cereal Nervine Coffee," and many others. Other preparations are: "Old Grist Mill Entire Wheat Coffee" (wheat, peas, and real coffee); "Fischer Mills Fresh Roasted Malt Coffee"; "Kneipp Malt Coffee" (barley or malt); "Kentucky Coffee" (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*).

A letter from Mr. E. J. Shelford in St. Kitts, received as we go to press, records a fatal motor accident which resulted in the death of Mr. Evelyn Todd, son of Mr. Percy Todd, of Cayon Estate, and the narrow escape of Mr. Edward Shepherd, Mr. Arthur Mackie, and Mr. A. Stevens. Going down Cayon Hill the brakes of the car in which they were riding failed to act, and the car was overturned. Mr. Shelford also records the death of the Hon. E. C. Wattley, Crown Attorney, who has been succeeded by Mr. E. E. Meggs. The Central factory crop amounts to 11,591 tons of sugar from 101,240 tons of canes ground.

AMONG the publications for sale at the West India Committee Rooms are "The Banana," by William Fawcett, B.Sc., "Cacao," each 7/6 net, post free in the United Kingdom 7/11, or abroad 8/3; "The Cane Sugar Factory," by F. I. Scard, price 1/-, post free 1/3, besides various Handbooks and Directories, a list of which can be obtained on application to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The West Indian Contingent Committee have decided to present distinctive cap badges to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British West Indies Regiment. A design has been approved by the War Office, and His Majesty the King has graciously sanctioned the inclusion in it of the Imperial Crown. The badges are now being manufactured, and it is hoped that they may be despatched to Egypt in about a month's time.

A further list of subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund will be published in next issue. Donations, which will be acknowledged in these columns, may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. A statement of accounts to June 30th last and an interim report will shortly be published.

Socks, carbolised shirts, musical instruments, cigarettes, games, and back numbers of the CIRCULAR are among the items in greatest demand for the men of the B.W.I. Regiment and men from the West Indies serving at the Front. These articles may be sent to the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, Knightsbridge, by whom they will be gratefully accepted. The receipt of the following gifts is acknowledged with thanks:—

Lady Cameron: 2 lots books and magazines and playing cards for hospitals.

Mrs. Bromley: 1 pr. socks.

Mrs. Arthur: 3 prs. socks and 2 boxes cigarettes.

Jamaica War Contingent Association: 450 anti-vermin shirts.

The West Indian Contingent Committee, having now been recognised by the Board of Customs as a central authority for the control and distribution of dutiable gifts, is prepared to receive and to forward to their destination parcels containing articles which would otherwise be dutiable for men from the West Indies serving in His Majesty's Forces. Such parcels must be carefully packed, and no gift parcel must contain a larger quantity of dutiable goods than is reasonably sufficient for the personal use of the addressee. Parcels must have clearly written on them the name, rank, and regimental number of the intended recipient and a statement regarding the contents, and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. *Parcels for men of the British West Indies Regiment should be sent direct as heretofore.*

Subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1918.

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 continuing subscription for life membership is £10 10s. 1850 100. 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.

REVIEWS AND PERIODICALS.

The record of the West Indian Cotton Conference of 1916, which is given in the WEST INDIAN BULLETIN (Vol. XV., No. 4), makes that number of the Agricultural Department's journal a valuable work of reference for cotton planters. The Conference was pre-eminently practical, and, the delegates taking part in the discussions being either trained scientists or practical agriculturalists, or both, the theory and practice of cotton culture were very happily brought together. The papers read were all of great interest, as were also the discussions they provoked. One of the most important of the latter dealt from many points of view with methods of seed selection, and, incidentally, with the problems of accidental hybridisation and spontaneous retrograde mutations. The President pointed out that the ideal pure strain cotton can only exist in the abstract, and that what is meant by "pure strain" is a cotton having certain particular characters of lint which are of commercial importance. He therefore proposed that Fine Spinners should be asked to state what characters they considered the most desirable; adding that he felt sure they would ask for greater uniformity. Mr. W. Nowell maintained it was unnecessary to employ the wire cage method of preventing hybridisation, adopted in Egypt, while Barbadian lint, the product of mixed types, satisfied the spinner and commanded a good price. So far as the use of the cage is concerned, he may have been right, as the risk run in the Islands is not very great, the pure strains predominating. Nevertheless, the importance of perpetuating and safeguarding pure strains yielding a lint of high value cannot be over-estimated, and no means to that end may be entirely overlooked. THE JOURNAL OF THE JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY for July contains much interesting matter. "H. L. M." continues his article on the Sugar Industry, and, dealing with the labour question, maintains that where good barracks are provided and the labour force is judiciously "weeded," a reliable and permanent force of labourers can always be collected. To cheapen the cost of production, what is wanted, "H. L. M." asserts, is the full use of implements such as steam ploughs, engine-hauled cars on train-lines, and so on. Mr. S. A. Schleifer demonstrates the usefulness and profitableness of the wood-lot, and recommends that an acre of the best land should always be planted with cedar plants in rows between bananas. In six years or more, he states, the cedars will have no effect upon the bananas, while the cultivation of the latter will hasten the growth of the former. Mr. A. H. Ritchie contributes a useful little note on the possible value of bee-keeping in relation to coco-nut plantations. PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO for June opens with an account of the Society's welcome to the new Governor, Sir John Robert Chancellor, R.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., now the President of the Society. Among other useful notes and articles in this number of the "Proceedings" is a summary of the opening ceremony of the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of 1916, the report of the

Executive Council, and the Judges' remarks. The report of Mr. C. Tate Regan on poisonous fishes in the West Indies is also included. An important feature of THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURIST for May is the series of articles on the manuring and aeration of soils, and on the influence of bacteria upon their fertility. These articles have been gathered from many sources, and together form quite an important little literature of the subject. Some instructive experiments in coco-nut cultivation in Ceylon are recorded in the same number. The experiments were intended to test the value of artificial manures in comparison with that of the natural resources at hand, and the effect upon production of "dry farming," i.e., ploughing twice a year and harrowing monthly. So far as the tests have gone, dry farming seems to have thoroughly justified itself. THE EXPERIMENT STATION RECORD of the United States Department of Agriculture, for June, and the "Abstract" number of the same journal, issued in July, are packed full of matter of interest to the agriculturalist. Of course, the "Record" covers the whole field of agriculture, but the planter of the tropics will find that his interests are not neglected. The subject lists given in the "Contents" are very full, and reference to special notes is easy. The abstracts from works dealing with the sciences in which the agriculturalist is interested are as clear and concise as they are numerous, and they seem to cover the whole field of contemporary discovery and investigation so far as they have been made public. The July number of UNITED EMPIRE, the journal of the Royal Colonial Institute, deals in a series of editorial notes with the progress of the War, and with the economic problems which will face us on the conclusion of peace. Incidentally the editors announce a movement for the establishment of an Artists' Rifles (O.T.C.) Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute. Other features of the number are Sir Lionel Phillips' paper on "South Africa and the Empire Problem," read at a meeting at the Institute in June last, and a bright, and, in the nature of things, highly controversial article on "The Public Schools and the Dominions," by Mr. E. Iliff Robson. THE NAVY for August naturally devotes a good deal of its editorial space to the "Battle of Jutland," and in a series of notes and articles the battle is re-fought and its importance emphasised, while the inept official report which made a great victory appear as a minor defeat receives the treatment it deserved. A very interesting feature of this number of the Navy League's organ is a contribution by Dr. F. Hyde Maberly, who gives a long list of words and phrases which, having their origin in our maritime adventure and enterprise, have been woven into the fabric of our language and become household words.

Will those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of "the British West Indies Regiment, Egyptian Expeditionary Force," or to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments? All ranks are eager for West Indian news.

OBITUARY.

MR. H. E. McCULLOCH.

We regret to state that Mr. H. E. McCulloch, formerly of British Guiana, died in London on June 28th.

Mr. H. E. McCulloch, who was born in 1860, was the last surviving son of the late Mr. James McCulloch, of Belfast. He went out to British Guiana in the 'eighties in the employment of the New Colonial Company, and, after serving as overseer in Berbice and Windsor Forest, became manager of Plantation Taymouth Manor, in Essequibo. He left the colony in 1904, and two years later went out to the Straits Settlements to plant rubber. In 1909 he was appointed manager of Alma Estate, and on his retirement this year he received a substantial testimonial from his Directors in recognition of his services. He was married in 1900 in Essequibo, and leaves a widow and one daughter, besides many friends, to mourn his loss.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

United British Oilfields.

Presiding at the third general meeting of the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., on August 16th, Mr. H. N. Benjamin said that of the capital expenditure during the year, £19,750 had been obtained by loan against stocks of crude oil. Wells drilled accounted for some £30,000. Eighteen wells were drilled at a greatly increased cost owing to the War. Stocks of oil were larger by about £2,000. Pending a profit and loss account, the same procedure as last year had been adopted in weighing the proceeds of the oil against its cost. This showed a debit balance of £1,733, which was, however, less adverse than it appeared, inasmuch as during the year under review but a small portion of the oil consigned to the United British Refineries, Ltd., was actually delivered to buyers. Shareholders would be gratified to hear that the oil remaining on consignment as at the end of 1915 had, during the current year, all been disposed of at prices which would return to the Company an amount substantially in excess of that at which it was valued on the balance-sheet. They were satisfied that the Company's title was now secure. Further experience of the geological conditions prevailing on the developed part of the Company's area confirmed the previous impression. The anticipations of very difficult underground conditions had been proved, so far as they reasonably could be, as regards the most accessible of the Company's areas. In the hope that a better configuration might be found underlying other parts under the control of the Company, a well was drilled further afield into the deep sand. This well gave a very large flow for a short time. It, however, choked itself very shortly after being brought in. Before cleaning out and reopening this well the pipe line had been laid down and completed, and there were hopes of shortly hearing that the cleaning of the well had resulted in the recovery of a substantial production, so that this field might prove a satisfactory one. Another well in the same district was in progress, while the working with the drill of a further district which held hopeful prospects was under consideration. The general stratification underlying the island was expected to be far less generous in its curves than would promise one of the great oilfields of the world. Given a material increase in the crude oil produced, and unless circumstances should change, the foundations had been laid for a satisfactory trade. There was, however, need for an increase in the volume of production. In the form of an improvement in this respect, substantial financial support had been obtained from parties interested, without which assistance the enterprise must have come to a stop some considerable time back. During the current year it was hoped that the proceeds of the oil would be sufficient to offset the revenue charges, and perhaps show a small excess.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON, of Trinidad, has contributed 100 guineas towards the Kitchener Memorial Fund.

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A FURTHER list of those connected with the West Indies who are serving in His Majesty's Forces will be published in next issue.

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THE fame of Sir Daniel Morris' celebrated seedlings has evidently extended to Germany, for the *Morning Post* of August 10th recorded the descent of the German Biplane "B147" in a Dutch village.

* * *

THE Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have arranged for their steamer *Quillota* to make a further voyage to the West Indies, leaving London on September 15th, taking saloon passengers at previous rates.

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A FEW subscriptions to the West India Committee for the current year are still outstanding. Those members who have not yet paid their dues are requested to forward a remittance direct or through our Hon. Correspondents *without further delay*.

* * *

THE Board of Agriculture has issued a timely note of warning with regard to the danger of using benzoate of sugar as a preservative in jam manufacture. They state that serious results might follow an attempt to substitute this material for sugar. Other authorities condemn the use of glucose which has very little sweetness and a slight sulphury flavour. Both militate against its use for jam-making.

* * *

MR. W. A. HORN, at the Ordinary General Meeting of the British New Guinea Development Company on August 15th, described Papua as the home of the sugar-cane. The natives grew it in their gardens, and it thrived wonderfully. There were large areas of land suitable for its cultivation in Papua. Given security with regard to duties, Papua could soon produce all the cane sugar that Australia, and a good deal of that which the Empire, required.

* * *

THE Right Rev. G. F. C. de Carteret, D.D., Assistant Bishop, has been unanimously elected by the Jamaica Synod to be Bishop of Jamaica in succession to the late Dr. Enos Nuttall. Dr. de Carteret, who was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, was ordained in 1889. Successively curate at Canterbury, Tulse Hill and Cheltenham, he became Vicar of St. Paul's, Southwark, in 1897, and of Christ Church, East Greenwich in 1901. He was consecrated Assistant Bishop of Jamaica in 1914.

* * *

MR. H. A. BALLOU, Entomologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture since 1903, has just passed through London on his way to Egypt to investigate the ravages of the pink boll worm, and to recommend measures for its control. Mr. Ballou

has been "lent" to the Egyptian Government for a year, at the end of which he hopes—and the hope will be shared by the planters in the West Indies—to resume his work with the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Ballou, who is the youngest daughter of the late Mr. Horace Deighton, M.A., Headmaster of Harrison College, Barbados, and sister of Mrs. E. A. Hinkson and Mrs. Somers-Cocks, will accompany her husband to Egypt.

* * *

IT may not be generally known that Mr. Thesiger, the great-grandfather of Lord Chelmsford, the present Viceroy of India, was a West Indian planter. He was proprietor of Duvallé's estate in St. Vincent, a property which, like many others, was ruined by the Soufrière. Ejecta discharged from that volcano in 1812 formed a barrier across the head of the valley at the foot of which Duvallé's was situated, and behind this a lake of considerable size was formed. A year later the barrier gave way, and the waters rushed down the valley, overwhelming the sugar works, negro dwellings, and sugar cultivation. So complete was the destruction that the idea of reclaiming the property was never entertained, and Mr. Thesiger left the island. His son, whose career, but for this disaster, might have been moulded on different lines, became the Lord High Chancellor.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT has asked that a few notes regarding the Canadian sugar market may be added to the information given under the heading "Sugar Market Terms" in last issue. The position in the Canadian market is very similar to that in the New York one, quotations being for 96° polarisation centrifugal raw sugars and 89° polarisation muscovado, and the terms c.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) or c. and f. (cost and freight). British produced sugar receives a preference of 33½ cents per 100 lbs. off the duty, and to arrive at the duty-paid price for 96° polarisation sugar, \$1.0375 has to be added for preferential, and \$1.375 for non-preferential sugar. The corresponding figures for 89° polarisation sugar are \$.985 and \$1.285 respectively, or \$1.53 and \$1.94½ if the sugar is over No. 16 D.S. To arrive at a comparison between the Canadian price for British produced sugar and New York quotations, the amount of the Canadian preference is added to the New York c.i.f. figure, after adjusting the question of freight and making allowance for the preferential rates existing in the New York market. In Canada the Customs Tariff is complicated by the use of the "Dutch Colour standard" test as well as polarisation. A syndicate in Holland annually prepares standards of colour. Specimens of various colours are put up and sealed in small bottles, the darkest being numbered No. 8, and so on through the various gradations of colour to the lightest, which is numbered No. 25. Comparison with these is made to arrive at the colour standard of any particular sugar. The object of the use of this foreign standard in Canada is to protect the local refiners, sugars above "No. 16 Dutch Standard," which are quite light coloured sugars fit for direct consumption, being subject to such a greatly increased duty that it is practically prohibitive.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The rumoured withdrawal of the second coastal steamer from the contract Trinidad-Tobago service was causing much anxiety in Tobago when the last homeward mail left the island. The West India Committee are informed, however, that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have not, and have never had, any intention of withdrawing the *Belize*. A justifiable Tobago grievance is the lack of medical attendance, which has become accentuated through the resignation of the medical officer for the northern district, leaving two doctors on the island to attend to 22,000 people.

BARBADOS.—A Patriotic Gift of £20,000.

A cablegram from Barbados states that a mass meeting held at Bridgetown on August 4th passed a resolution in the following terms:—

"That, on this, the second anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, this meeting of the citizens of Barbados 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."

The House of Assembly of the Colony has passed a similar resolution, and has also resolved unanimously that a second sum of £20,000 should be granted to His Majesty's Government as a further symbol of loyalty and attachment. This generous gift has been gratefully accepted by His Majesty's Government.

JAMAICA.—Central Sugar Factories.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, MORANT BAY, JUNE 17th.—We have an enormous burden of taxation—our contribution of £60,000 a year for forty years towards our Army Contingent is a heavy one—but the effort will be made to carry it heroically. At last Session of Council the Import Duties were increased, and the free list almost abolished—and the death duties terrifically high—and with all these out of a limited production it simply means that every foot of land is mortgaged forever to the Government. In other times when taxation had to be increased efforts were made to so increase production that the burden was lightened, but to-day we are faced with an Administration which apparently never thinks, and goodness knows where it will all end. In the thoughtless craze for revenue only our Government struck off from the free list all things necessary for erection or completion of Central Factories—and one Canadian capitalist, who has recently taken up sugar and is erecting a Central Factory, finds that to-day he has to pay duty on railway engines, rails, ploughs, and all such that he has imported for erection and completion of his factory, and the capitalist thinks Cuba would have been better. The Government of our Island until three months ago had the option of remitting duty on whatever they decided as being reasonable and right; but the Legislature took away the power.

ST. VINCENT.—Ravages of Boll Disease.

MR. W. N. SANDS, JULY 22nd. The weather so far this season has been quite favourable for the different crops. Sugar and molasses are now being exported to Canada in quite considerable amounts from St. Vincent. The exports of sugar will reach several hundred tons. The exports of peas and ground-nuts also showed satisfactory increases. The outlook for Sea Island cotton industry is anything but bright just now. Recent investigations by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the local Agricultural Department point to the fact that the cotton stainer has been responsible for a great deal more damage to the crops of the past three years than was at one time thought. Energetic measures are being taken in the endeavour to control the pest. In the light of present knowledge, it is estimated that the value of the cotton destroyed last season by internal boll disease following attacks of the stainer cannot have been less than £8,000, and was probably a good deal more.

TOBAGO.—More Motor-Cars landed.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JULY 12th.—The rainy season has set in with moderate and, at times, heavy showers, but thus far without any excessive rains. Thunder and lightning have been frequent. Sugar making has stopped perforce and fields round the few factories are being cleared for the new crop. Cacao pickings are on a very small scale. The trees are loading up well, and if weather continue favourable, the new crop may start about October. July is a busy time on the coco-nut plantations. This year most nuts will be made into copra, which finds a readier and surer market than the nuts themselves.

By last week's *Belize* two more motor cars were landed—one for Mr. Hamilton, Greenhill, and the other for Mr. Murray, Kendal Place. Cars are no longer a novelty, and can be hired, and this is a great convenience for visitors. The horses are not yet quite used to them and there have been some narrow escapes on the hilly roads, which, in most places, have no protection on the outside. The natives already hire cars for weddings and funerals, although the distances from the garage must make it an expensive luxury.

MR. G. DAVID HATT, JULY 6th.—On June 3rd news of the Jutland naval battle on May 31st came through, and we mourned the loss of Surgeon Clemens of H.M.S. *Defence*, who was born here of English parents 27 years ago. Now that our exports are officially valued at £80,886 for 1916 (as against £10,000 in 1889) the time is chosen for withdrawing our coastal steamer *Barima*, and not for Imperial use. Last year Tobago exported to Port of Spain 48,475 lbs. of native grown leaf tobacco, officially valued at over £2,541, all of which was spent by the peasant cultivators in buying land and erecting new cottages. The cultivation of the leaf is, however, looked at askance by some highly-placed Trinidad officials, and it is threatened with extinction by "a stroke of the pen"—presumably because it is in the hands of the peasants who have neither voice nor protection in the deliberations of Council. Five steel drums, three with contents and two empty, were washed ashore on our southern coast last week, also an iron buoy. The drums are capable of holding each 180 gallons. It is a silent rectified spirit, 90 per cent. over proof, distilled from wheat, colourless, flavourless and odourless, said to be used by the Germans in the "faking" of whiskies, brandies and especially costly liqueurs. The doctor for the northern district has resigned, and sails for England early next month, leaving but two doctors to attend to 22,000 people scattered over long distances until such time as the vacancy is leisurely filled as customary.

TURKS ISLAND.—Labourers leave for Haiti.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather in June, as in the preceding few months, was exceptionally oppressive and dry. The maximum temperature was 91° F. and the minimum 71° F. The total rainfall as registered by the United States Weather Bureau was 1.68 inches, of which .96 of an inch was registered on the 30th inst. As in the preceding month it has looked very threatening on several occasions but has terminated in local squalls. Rain is badly needed on account of the water supply, East Harbour being particularly short and at present are being allowed so much per head. In some parts of the Caicos group they have had one of two good squalls, but without more all crops will be a failure. Some of the pond proprietors at Grand Turk started raking during the latter part of the month, but the salt industry generally is at a standstill. Freight rates still being somewhat high is responsible for the slackness in shipments, but from news to hand they are likely to drop somewhat in the near future.

On the 18th instant SS. *Iroquois* arrived from New York. Mr. Mowbray, of Bermuda, was a passenger. He is now connected with the Aquarium at Battery Park, New York, and is paying a visit to the Dependency for the purpose of making a collection of some of the fish frequenting these waters. The month has been exceptionally quiet, and had it not been for the Clyde steamers taking labourers from here it would have been a hard one for the labouring class—an exceptionally large number being taken during the month owing to the number of extra freight boats being put on to remove congested freight at

various Dominican ports. The conch shell industry has been very active during the month, one large shipment being made to the United States. The work of extracting fibre has been resumed on the plantations at Grand Turk and Jacksonville, East Caicos. This work has also been revived on a plantation at "Haul Over," Caicos, the property of Mr. C. H. Durham, of East Harbour.

The general situation of the Dependency is gloomy, but despite the slackness of the salt industry it becomes more difficult every day to get work done, especially of so-called skilled labour, all having fallen into such a slipshod manner that it is disgusting the way in which they do their work, at the same time being very independent as to their hours and expecting first-class pay. The telephone system is working satisfactorily and the subscribers now realise the convenience of same and what they have missed during the years of delay.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Frame.—At Caldwell, New Jersey, U.S.A., on the 10th inst., the wife of Alastair M. Macgregor Frame, of a daughter.

DEATH.

McCulloch.—On June 28th, at a nursing home in London, following an operation, Hugh Ewing McCulloch, late of Penang, and 112, Malone Avenue, Belfast.

WANTS.

Nurse wanted.—Lady, with two children, would pay passage of nurse to West Indies or British Guiana in return for services. Apply "Nurse," c/o West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Wanted.—Copies of CIRCULARS dated March 9th, May 4th and 18th, June 1st and 15th. Sixpence per copy given. Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Ruddock—Ruddach.—Information wanted of this family, of Tobago, 1819, particularly of Coat of Arms. Alexander R. was Captain or Admiral R.N. in 1819. William Abbat, c/o B. F. Stevens & Brown, 4, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W.

Secretary or Clerk.—Trinidadian of European descent, late Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, invalided out of the Army, seeks appointment in England as Secretary or Clerk. Has experience of West India trade, having been in the Royal Bank, and later with a firm of Canadian agents. First-rate references and testimonials.—Apply G. A. S., c/o The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		B. Guiana.		B. Honduras.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		
	Jan. 1 to June 30.		Jan. 1 to July 27.		1916		1915		Jan. 1 to June 30.		
	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	
Asphalt ..	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Balata ..	Lbs.	—	—	503,316	853,291	—	—	—	37,556	200	
Bananas ..	Bches.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,852	
Bitters ..	Galls.	—	—	17,730	48,963	—	—	—	37,730,970	—	
Cacao ..	Lbs.	—	—	906,116	1,120,514	—	—	—	7,427,249	—	
Coco-nuts ..	No.	—	—	367,842	146,269	—	—	—	1,320	—	
Coffee ..	Lbs.	—	—	160,469	172,939	—	—	—	1,871,381	—	
Copra ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,061	—	
Cotton ..	Lhs.	105,181	220,247	7,054	471	—	—	—	—	—	
Diamonds ..	Carats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dyewoods ..	Feet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ginger ..	Lbs.	—	—	18,940	33,418	—	—	—	1,009	—	
Gold ..	Ozs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,845	—	
Honey ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Limes ..	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lime Juice ..	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lime (Citrate of) ..	Lbs.	—	—	37,572	7,938	—	—	—	—	—	
Lumber ..	Feet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Manjak ..	Tons	46	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	
Molasses ..	Puns.	50,871	28,180	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,348	
Oranges ..	No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340,840	
Petroleum ..	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,049,347	
Pimento ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rice ..	Lbs.	—	—	10,220,940	13,895,396	—	—	—	—	—	
Rubber ..	Lbs.	—	—	7,893	1,979	—	—	—	—	35,888	
Rum ..	Galls.	41,837	14,512	2,787,712	2,353,626	—	—	—	—	319,607	
Sugar ..	Tons	39,089	18,363	40,052	49,974	—	—	—	—	43,206	
Timber ..	Feet	—	—	71,294	85,900	—	—	—	—	12,431	
		Grenada.		St. Lucia.		St. Vincent.		Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.	
		Jan. 1 to June 30.		Jan. 1 to July 15.		Jan. 1 to June 30.		Jan. 1 to June 30.		Jan. 1 to June 30.	
		1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915
Arrowroot ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	3,149,470	—	—	—	—	—
Cassava Starch ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	1,011,144	—	—	—	1,300	—
Cacao ..	Lhs.	—	—	540,848	1,171,520	85,234	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, M. Galante ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	17,518	—	—	—	185,765	—
Cotton, Sea Island ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	212,352	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Seed ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,016	—
Ground Nuts Bags & Brls.	—	—	—	—	—	1,713	—	—	—	58	—
Molasses ..	Galls.	—	—	67,666	—	—	—	—	—	887	—
Sugar ..	Tons	—	—	3,198	3,740	233	—	—	—	10,216	—
Sitrap ..	Galls.	—	—	1,565	—	17,848	—	—	—	24,710	—
Rum ..	Galls.	—	—	14,456	6,191	1,046	—	—	—	983	—
		Montserrat.		Dominica.							
		Jan. 1 to June 30.		Jan. 1 to June 30.							
		1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915	1916	1915
Cacao ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Lint ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limes ..	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime Juice raw ..	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.. consid.	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses ..	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Papaine ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Starches ..	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar ..	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The figures from British Honduras, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, Antigua and Dominica, have not yet been received.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone : 5642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams : "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.

August 24th, 1916

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916.
Consols are quoted 59½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) 86½;
and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) 96½.

SUGAR. The home market remains unchanged, supplies being readily absorbed at the Royal Commission's prices which have undergone no variation, Canadian and American granulated and West India crystallised changing hands on 41/7½ basis. The value of the operations of

the Commission from the consumers' standpoint is receiving increasing recognition.

Figures now available show that in 1915 our imports of refined sugar fell from 18,450,897 cwts. in 1913 (the pre-war year) to 10,109,633 cwts., and those of unrefined sugar from 20,934,293 cwts. to 19,537,500 cwts., our total sugar imports showing a decline from 39,385,190 cwts. in 1913 to 29,647,133 in 1915. Our raw sugar imports are now entirely cane, only two cwts. of beet (from the Netherlands) having been admitted, as compared with 13,542,112 cwts. in 1913. Imports of cane, on the other hand, have risen from 7,392,181 cwts. in 1913 to 19,537,498 cwts. in 1915. The total sugar bill of the United Kingdom for 1915 was £31,812,160 as against £32,118,170 in 1914 and £23,066,621 in 1913. An increase in the importation of saccharin from 1,242,213 ozs. in 1913 to 2,124,183 ozs. in 1915 tells its own regrettable tale. Our sources of supply of sugar in the last three years are shown in the tables published on this page.

REFINED SUGAR : LUMPS & LOAVES.	1913 Cwts.	1914 Cwts.	1915. Cwts.
Russia	—	1,578	—
Denmark (inc. Faroe Islands)	3	14,291	937
Germany	722,227	444,151	—
Netherlands	958,886	776,739	673,811
Belgium	290,006	149,989	—
France	54,043	27,588	11
Austria-Hungary	593,917	483,127	—
United States of America...	—	18,723	260,259
Mexico	—	—	—
Other Foreign Countries...	5	1	3

Total from Foreign .. 2,619,087 1,916,187 935,021

British Possessions — — 4,030

Total ... 2,619,087 1,916,187 939,051

OTHER KINDS.	1913. Cwts.	1914. Cwts.	1915. Cwts.
Russia	58,798	43,273	42,801
Norway	186	3,994	16
Denmark (inc. Faroe Islands)	234	134,547	1,444
Germany	8,586,837	5,756,180	—
Netherlands	2,612,446	1,840,600	1,183,594
Java	—	2,276,657	2,102,331
Belgium	705,282	64,294	—
France	477,393	29,605	681
Algeria	—	9,803	—
Portuguese East Africa	17	5,323	—
Spain	—	183,994	9,682
Italy	9,747	185,034	9,822
Austria-Hungary	3,367,360	2,082,664	—
*Egypt	5	73,999	—
United States of America...	7,704	2,122,062	3,513,768
Mexico	4	453	—
Colombia	—	1,326	—
Peru...	1	6,676	22,551
Chile ...	—	3,804	—
Brazil	—	6,277	—
Argentine Republic	—	435,992	581,128
Other Foreign Countries...	6	—	18

Total from Foreign .. 15,826,010 15,266,557 7,467,896

†Egypt	—	—	202
Mauritius & Dependencies	5,469	412,898	1,614,075
British India	3	227,220	21,583
Hong Kong	45	2	—
Australia	—	34,130	45,771
Canada	129	20,413	19,968
British West India Islands	138	73	1,111
Other British Possessions	16	326	36

Total from British .. 5,800 695,062 1,702,746

Total ... 15,831,810 15,961,619 9,170,582

* Included in "British Possessions" in 1915.

† Included in "Foreign Countries" prior to 1915.

UNREFINED SUGAR : BEETROOT.	1913. Cwts.	1914. Cwts.	1915. Cwts.
Denmark (inc. Faroe Islands)	628,996	400,232	—
Germany	9,428,937	3,039,063	—
Netherlands	217,687	114,494	2
Belgium	49,323	—	—
Austria-Hungary	3,217,169	1,303,429	—
Total ...	13,542,112	4,857,218	2

CANE, &C.	1913. Cwts.	1914. Cwts.	1915. Cwts.
Danish West India Islands	4,836	3,618	—
Germany	11,583	30,727	—
Netherlands	6,467	12,551	—
Java...	1,979	5,827,655	5,871,923
Dutch Guiana	92,120	85,760	31,920
Belgium	—	169	—
France	—	358	2,293
Reunion (Bourbon)	—	212	—
Portugal	—	94,077	3
Portuguese East Africa...	203,594	337,211	274,257
Egypt	—	10,528	—
China	—	3,870	—
United States of America...	61,441	387,826	1
Philippine Is. and Guam	—	54,400	120,769
Cuba	4,484,546	5,237,335	7,194,922
San Domingo	188,249	349,315	5,600
Mexico	82,685	109,527	2,261
Guatemala	61,705	22,116	1,317
San Salvador	5,176	5,711	1,109
Costa Rica	—	—	21,873
Colombia	—	2,883	19
Venezuela	6,169	48,670	53,614
Peru	549,735	930,855	628,809
Brazil	102,655	399,141	465,621
Uruguay	—	4,230	—
Argentine Republic	—	518,543	287,089
Other Foreign Countries...	5	103	4,887

Total from Foreign .. 5,957,592 14,384,437 14,965,994

Union of South Africa	578	900	8
Mauritius & Dependencies	401,500	979,507	2,221,624
British India	77,005	200,349	17,327
Straits Settlements and Dependencies (including Labuan)	—	9,949	—
Hong Kong	—	3,007	—
Australia	—	150,215	4,893
Canada	794	133	—
British West India Islands	587,273	624,755	1,477,826
British Guiana	367,439	772,533	849,826

Total from British .. 1,434,589 2,741,348 4,571,504

Total ... 7,392,181 17,125,785 19,537,498

The American market has been quiet with a slightly improving tendency until yesterday; latest quotations being Sept. \$4.42; Dec. \$4.27; March \$3.80; May \$3.86. Latest estimates place the loss of sugar through the munitions explosion and subsequent fire in New York at 25,000 tons. The Czarnikow-Rionda Company in their report see a "generous prospective demand" for sugar "ahead," and consider that prices should undergo a material advance from the present level. Stocks of granulated throughout the United States are abnormally low.

Truman G. Palmer, in his admirable "loose leaf service" gives some useful figures regarding the world's consumption of sugar, on which the following table is based:

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR PER CAPITA.

	1914-15	1904-5	1894-5
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Germany	74.95	32.96	31.04
Holland	53.44	35.67	25.66
Russia	29.26	19.51	10.11
Austria-Hungary	37.38	20.53	19.82
Sweden & Norway	60.48	42.68	30.07
Switzerland	74.87	44.14	44.67
Denmark	93.48	60.63	46.76
Belgium	42.79	34.26	42.97
United States	86.04	71.66	62.69
France	39.01	34.41	28.35
Spain	15.91	12.20	—
United Kingdom	89.69	81.35	87.55
Italy	10.45	7.28	6.00

The increase in consumption in Germany is significant, and bears witness to the efficacy of the British blockade.

The Royal Commission having arrived at the conclusion that there is comparatively little jam made in the home—a conclusion with which grocers who have experienced a "run" on "preserving," much less the housewife, will not agree, considers that no concession to home preserves is needed, and supplies and prices remain unchanged.

A Commission of Enquiry has reported that Queensland, with its existing mill-power, could produce 100,000 tons of sugar to make good the shortage of Australian production. Replying recently to a question in the Commonwealth Parliament the Treasurer said he could not disclose the price paid for sugar purchased. The sugar was raw, the object being to employ Australian refiners. He hoped that next year it would not be necessary to purchase foreign sugar.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to August 12th are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	37,542	33,327	23,994	32,306	22,831 Tons.
Deliveries	37,525	25,517	20,260	18,346	19,006 ..
Stock (Aug 12)	11,032	13,819	16,686	15,800	8,313 ..

RUM. The position of the market is quite unchanged since last report. A few parcels of uncoloured Jamaica have found buyers at full rates but otherwise the demand is dormant, stocks in London on 12th August were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	8,442	4,778	8,708	7,061	8,228 Puns.
Demerara	13,407	5,195	10,625	7,571	6,688 ..
Total, all kinds	36,309	19,394	26,873	22,020	22,301 ..

The total imports of rum into the United Kingdom in 1915 reached the enormous total of 10,438,061 proof gallons, as compared with 5,666,284 in 1914 and 4,699,601 in the pre-war year. Of the 1915 total 7,322,653 proof gallons came from British possessions, Cuba contributing 2,894,175 and the Argentine 177,909, the latter no doubt including the "silent spirit" which was a subject of complaint. Imports of imitation rum also increased—from 6,203 proof gallons in 1914 to 46,167 in 1915. It emanated chiefly from the United States, and it would be of interest to know what happens to it!

On August 18th the long looked-for Order in Council under Section 23 of the Finance Act was issued. As foreshadowed in the CIRCULAR as far back as June 1st last, the concession to rum has been extended until May 19th, 1917, subject to the modification that the period of compulsory warehousing is increased from nine to twelve

months, three months being credited for the voyage, etc., as heretofore. It is understood that if stocks do not permit of full compliance with the Act (which is now being insisted upon in the case of whisky and brandy) after May 19th next, a further concession will be granted. A better demand in the autumn is anticipated.

CACAO. There were no auctions this week. At the sales on August 15th, the demand was somewhat irregular. West India kinds were 1/- per cwt. dearer, but foreign descriptions were neglected. 2,440 bags Grenada were mostly sold at 78/- to 82/6. Other West India kinds were bought in. The imports of raw cacao into the United Kingdom in 1915 amounted to 183,181,510 lbs. as against 93,511,294 lbs. in 1914 and 78,359,596 lbs. in 1913, the last normal year. It is noteworthy that our imports from Portuguese West Africa have risen from 426,234 lbs. in 1913 to 2,185,414 lbs., and those from Portugal from 2,555,702 lbs. to 2,913,325 lbs., from which it may be assumed that the cocoa manufacturers are now satisfied as to the labour conditions in the islands of San Thomé and Principe. Imports from British West Africa were 81,377,888 lbs. as compared with 26,072,245 lbs. from the British West India islands.

The stocks in London on 12th August were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	29,257	13,960	10,653	11,885	7,682 Bags
Grenada	17,275	3,098	9,797	5,694	6,687 ..
Total, all kinds	230,440	100,838	95,621	81,436	122,290 ..

COTTON. West Indian Sea Island may be quoted 19d. for fine (as against 13d. at the same date in 1915) and 21d. for extra fine. Messrs. Wolfenholme and Holland report that in the absence of stock no sales have taken place.

COFFEE. The market after being weak is rather firmer. Latest quotations for Santos being Aug., 46/6; Dec., 48/7½; May, 50/9. Moderate supplies at auction have met with slow demand. Like those of cacao, imports of coffee into the United Kingdom have greatly increased since the war, the figures being—1915, 1,464,340 lbs.; 1914, 1,036,705, and 1913, 846,471.

	1916	1915	1914
European Stocks (Aug 1)	3,555,000	4,459,000	7,672,000 bgs.
Visible Supply	7,907,000	8,502,000	11,466,000 ..

BANANAS. The imports of bananas into the United Kingdom have shown a notable increase since the outbreak of war. In 1915, 8,143,092 bunches were imported, of which 2,828,454 came from the Canary Islands, 2,790,559 from Costa Rica, 2,067,392 from Colombia, 736 from other foreign countries, and 455,927 bunches only from the British West Indies, 24 bunches coming from "other British possessions." The total imports in preceding years have been—1911, 6,714,479 bunches; 1912, 6,978,867 bunches; 1913, 7,539,984 bunches; and 1914, 9,007,001 bunches.

The hurricane which devastated Jamaica on August 15th should not affect supplies of bananas for the United Kingdom, which, as will be noted, are mainly derived from foreign parts; but Jamaicas and West Indies have, however, risen sharply to 23/- to 24/- per cwt., and Canaries to 14/- to 18/6 per crated bunch.

COPRA. The market is very slow, and prices have again declined. West India may be quoted £31 to £31 10s. c.i.f. terms.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice 2/6 to 3/6 per gallon nominal. Concentrated very dull, manufacturers being well supplied with Sicilian citrate. Distilled Lime Oil quiet at 8/- per lb.; handpressed 9/- to 9/6 per lb. It is to be regretted that there is no differentiation in the official returns in this country between lime juice and lemon juice. It may be mentioned, however, that the imports of the two in 1915 were 1,211,494 gallons as compared with 750,086 gallons in 1913. These figures include 959,528 gallons of (presumably) lime juice from the British West Indies in 1915 as against 609,127 gallons in 1913. The steady increase in the imports of lime and lemon

juice from "other British possessions" should be noted, 8,347 gallons having been imported in 1915 as against 100 gallons only in 1912.

SPICES. Nutmegs. 267 packages sold at ½d. to 1d. per lb advance; 54's at 1/10, 61's at 1/7, 65's at 1/3, 71's to 84's at 1/-, 121's to 133's at 10d. to 11d. Mace firm; 150 packages sold at 1/3 to 2/2, choice pale 2/11. Pimento. Demand very limited; small sales have been effected at 2½d., but sellers are generally asking 3d. to 3½d.

ARROWROOT. Sales have been made to the Government at 2½d. to 2d. per lb. Our total imports of arrowroot in 1915 were 48,367 cwt., as compared with 36,406 cwt. in 1913. It is refreshing to note that all came from British possessions and mainly the West Indies.

RUBBER. Firmer. Fine Plantation 2/3½; smoked sheet 2/3½; fine hard Para 2/11½; soft 2/6½.

BALATA. The market continues very firm, owing to scarcity of supplies, most arriving via New York. Venezuela Block: Forward quotations are nominal at 2/9 and 2/9½ c.i.f. Spot sales have been made at 2/11 and 3/- landed terms. Panama block in small supply. Quotations 2/3 and 2/4 c.i.f. West Indian sheet forward quoted 3/2, spot 3/4.

HONEY. There has been practically no enquiry privately since last auctions, though prices are nominally unchanged.

THE CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. Edgar Tripp for the following figures showing the shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of July, 1916.

Destination.	Weight in lbs
United Kingdom	1,111,042
B. N. America	195,204
France	2,563,766
United States America	2,484,380
Total for July	6,354,392
Shipped previously	37,662,970
Total from 1st January	44,017,362
To same date, 1915	42,877,872
" " 1914	57,606,311
" " 1913	41,184,685
" " 1912	37,412,876
" " 1911	38,637,754
" " 1910	43,026,466
" " 1909	37,849,833
" " 1908	32,953,086

The shipments constitute a record for July, but this is due to the large quantity held in store over June owing to want of freight room until early in July. However, it is satisfactory to note that total shipments to date are 1,139,490 lbs. in excess of those to corresponding time last year.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" may be obtained of the West India Committee at the nominal price of 1/-, or 1/3 post free.

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. The compounding subscription for life membership of the West India Committee for individuals is £10 10s.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P. (till August)	Mr. Wm Greig	Dr. Frank Cliphant
Mr. G. G. Browne	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. G. S. Haynes	Mr. E. C. Jackson	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. J. J. G. Carlee	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. E. G. A. Saunders
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Hon. A. Don Lockhart	Mr. C. W. Scott
Sir Walter Eserton, K.C.M.G.	Mr. Clement Malone	Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. F. B. B. Shand
Mr. H. de Gale	Mr. A. Marsden	Mr. J. C. Shaw
Mr. Lionel Devaux	Sir Frederic Maxwell	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. R. P. Gibbes	Mr. Alfred Mendes	Mr. Aucher Warner, K.C.
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate	and
Mr. John T. Greig	Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D. 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.	Mr. F. H. S. Wainford
	Mr. F. Driver, 45, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.	
	Mr. H. D. Soudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.	
	Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh.	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Sep. 2	Elders & Fyffes	Covina	Bristol	D.
" 4	Leyland	Mercian	Liverpool	A. E.
" 6	"Direct"	Savan	London	A. B. E. F. G.
" 8	Leyland	Antillian	Liverpool	K. L. M. N.
" 11	"Direct"	Crown of Granada	Glasgow	D.
" 15	Royal Mail	Quilista	London	A. B. E. F. G.
" 16	Elders & Fyffes	Camilo	Bristol	K. L. M. N.

FROM CANADA

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Sep. 8	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chandiere	Halifax, N.S.	A. B. E. F. G. I.
" 22	"	Caraquet	"	K. L. M. N.

FROM HOLLAND

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Aug. 26	Royal Dutch	Tellus	Amsterdam	B. E.
Sep. 15	"	Pr. Frederik Hendrik	"	"

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Prices Aug. 23
Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
Barbados	3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	74½d
British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	85½
British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74½
Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80
Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	84½
Jamaica	3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	73
Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	75
St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	81½
Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	83½d
Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	81

The Colonial Bank		
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	126
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	86½
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures	87½
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	92½
	Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures	102½
	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	103
	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	95-100
	Trinidad Cattle Co. Ltd. (£1 shares)	70-75
	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	72-75
	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	21-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	95-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Pref.	70-75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	72-75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary	21-30
6.	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	7
6.	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd	7
6.	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5 % Debentures	98

West India Committee Circular.

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September 6th, 1916.

THE HEALTH OF BARBADOS.

THE annual report of the Public Health Inspector of Barbados for the year 1915 is satisfactory, inasmuch as it shows a notable decline in the death-rate, the figure being 19.2 per 1,000 of the population, or the lowest for some years past. A great decrease in infantile mortality contributed towards bringing this about, the number of infants who died being 193 per 1,000 births, as compared with 403 in 1914 and 213 in 1913. Another satisfactory feature is the very considerable decrease in the number of cases of typhoid notified. Indeed, the report is a record of progress in many directions. But if, on the one hand, it gives indications that the medical authorities have done much to cope with preventable disease, on the other it fearlessly exposes the fact that much remains to be done before it can be said that the Barbadian public has used to the full the knowledge and power which science has recently made available. At the conclusion of his report DR. HUTSON asserts that "it cannot be said that the sanitary organisation of the island and its working are so far subjects for congratulation," and it must be confessed that the facts dealt with in the body of the report fully carry out this statement. To slender central control and the supineness of local authority the doctor ascribes the lack of sanitation to which he has called vigorous attention; and he is doubtless right. The hope of the future, he believes, lies in improved knowledge of sanitary needs and practice, and a more earnest desire for better things. And again he is right. Yet there is something more needed, namely, the knowledge and conviction that sanitation pays—that public

money spent upon the improvement of the public health returns interest a hundredfold. This is so everywhere, but probably now, and in the immediate future, nowhere more certainly than in the West Indies, which for their prosperity must always and to a great extent depend upon a healthy and vigorous indigenous agricultural population. Above and beyond everything else, population counts; and every baby that dies of neglect is a loss to the community—a loss that assuredly could be computed in pounds, shillings, and pence. The public everywhere has an apparent conviction that by-laws are in themselves prophylactic, and that, given good by-laws, all will be well. A good deal of DR. HUTSON'S report is devoted to combating this belief, and he demonstrates again and again that the intentions of the sanitarian and the legislator are being thwarted by faulty administration. Sometimes the by-laws are permissive. In that case they may be adopted in one parish and ignored in the next; drastically carried out in one neighbourhood and perfunctorily in another. Obviously this is wrong, and that in a matter affecting so vitally the whole community, uniformity, which can only be secured by a central authority acting through, but controlling, local bodies, is most desirable. For instance, in the matter of mosquito destruction it is shown in DR. HUTSON'S report that in many instances the parochial reports did not tally with the reports of the Public Health Inspector, and premises assumed to be free from mosquitos were found to be infested. It is urgently recommended that the known value, as a larvicide, of "millions" should be taken advantage of to the full, and these little fish distributed by the health officer wherever required. There was no case of plague in Barbados, but as a precautionary measure rat destruction was carried on vigorously on the wharves and foreshore of Bridgetown, the toll for the year being 13,535 rats and 13,011 mice. Some interesting investigations into the question of the possible effect of rainfall upon the incidence of typhoid seem to prove that there is no connection whatever between them. A very instructive section of the report deals with pellagra, in the cases of which there had been a very satisfactory decrease, the figures being 225 cases, against 567 in 1914. DR. HUTSON, from investigations, shows that in Barbados the disease attacks poor and badly nourished people exclusively, that so far as can be judged it is not communicable from person to person, and that all the evidence points to its being caused, like beri-beri, by the lack of some essential substance in the dietary. In other words, it would seem that the establishment of healthy and moderately prosperous conditions would eradicate the disease. Lastly we would call attention to one very striking feature of the report. The death-rate and infant mortality of Barbados are compared not

with those of this or that tropical district, but with those of England and Wales, thus showing the true spirit of reform—an intention to aim at the higher records rather than to rest content with surpassing the lower. Such has been the progress of medical science that no tropical district, much less one so advanced as the West Indies, may now excuse its negligence by referring to its latitude.

THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SYSTEM.

SOME years ago the late LORD STAMFORD, who gained experience of the West Indies as a master at Codrington College, Barbados, drew attention to the great advantages which the adoption of an agricultural credit system would afford to those colonies. DR. G. B. MASON took the matter up, and, having obtained a good deal of information on the subject from the Agricultural Organisation Society, placed it at the disposal of the Government of St. Kitts. The proposals which he tentatively put forward were, however, pigeon-holed, and nothing further was done until he was transferred to St. Vincent, where he succeeded in interesting the then Administrator, MR. C. GIDEON MURRAY, in them. MR. MURRAY recognising the possibilities of the co-operative movement invoked the assistance of MR. ELLIS, a Wesleyan Minister, who evolved an agricultural credit scheme which was subsequently adopted with success. A recent report on the working of the agricultural credit societies in St. Vincent demonstrates that the principles of the Raiffeisen Co-operative system can be successfully applied on a considerable scale to agriculture in the West Indies. We say considerable scale, for although the amount which has been loaned by the Government and other sources is but a little more than one thousand pounds, the initiation of the system has been most satisfactory. Ten societies are already in existence, with a membership of 263, and although "a general disappointment has been experienced in the different crops," it is recorded that every loan, with accruing interest, has been repaid promptly; that in only one case has a society been forced to sue a member, and that on no occasion has it been necessary to impose a levy. Moreover, the stability of the societies has already been recognised by the Colonial Bank, and the whole of the loans are gradually being transferred to its hands. Apart from the effect which the introduction of these mutual credit societies is likely to have on the material well-being of the people, the moral effect must also be considered. It is soon borne in upon the minds of members that their joint and several liability for the debt incurred by each of them necessitates a close scrutiny into the character of every applicant for membership. Thus the corporate good name of the society soon becomes a moral asset. The members must be frugal, thrifty, and industrious, that the loans may be promptly paid. But frugality, thrift, and industry, backed by capital, must in the end produce evidence of prosperity, and others are inspired to qualify for membership. So the thing grows. A higher morality and an increased efficiency leading to prosperity, and prosperity in its turn inculcating

the values of morality and efficiency. It is sometimes thought that the establishment of any kind of peasant proprietorship withdraws labour from the greater market, but really all the evidence goes to prove the contrary. The ownership of property is the beginning of civilisation, for such is human nature, that the more a man has the more he wants, and wants may only be satisfied by work. Every peasant proprietor means a family attached to the soil and trained in agriculture, and even if the actual proprietor be fully occupied on his own land, which is not inevitably the case, there is always the growing family to take his place in the ranks of labour. Consequently this experiment in St. Vincent deserves the most careful attention of the Governments and public of the other islands. It will be remembered, by those who read the report of the proceedings, that in his presidential address at the opening of the West Indian Cotton Conference, DR. WATTS referred to the development of Anguilla from a position of extreme poverty to one of comparative satisfactory agricultural prosperity, owing principally to the creation of a peasants' cotton industry. This peasant industry had arisen as the result of a co-operative system of seed-cotton purchase introduced by MR. CARTER REY, the Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee in the island, with the assistance of loans from the local Government and the British Cotton Growing Association. But it is the same everywhere. It has been said of a fertile land that you tickle it with a hoe and it smiles in a harvest. Human nature is unfathomably fertile, and a harvest of industry may always be reaped from it if the proper means are utilised. We shall look forward with interest and with confidence to the next report of the St. Vincent experiment.

THE HURRICANE SEASON.

THE smiling and fertile island of Dominica, which has been singularly free from hurricanes in recent years, has shared the recent fate of Jamaica. On August 28th it was swept by a tropical storm of great violence, which caused loss of life and widespread destruction. Judging from the meagre reports at present available, the Dominica hurricane was more severely felt than the one which destroyed the banana crop of Jamaica in a single night on August 15th-16th last. Fifty-seven lives were lost, and the death-roll, we regret to state, includes the names of MR. WILLIAM DAVIES, a prominent planter and a former member of the Legislative Council, and of his wife. It is to be feared that in several—if not in many—parts of the island, and notably in the district known as the Layout Flats, cultivation has been laid flat. This represents a misfortune not only to Dominica, but also to this country, which depends on the island as the principal source of supply of lime juice—a commodity in strong demand just now for our soldiers and sailors. Whilst sympathising with the relatives of those who have lost their lives, and with the planters, we can only express the hope that the Presidency will, as tropical islands fortunately speedily recover from this temporary setback to

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

rapidly growing prosperity. It is too early as yet to assess the damage that has been done; but much must depend on the extent to which planters availed themselves of the insurance scheme originated by Sir Hesketh Bell and the late Mr. Christopher Head. With regard to the finances of the Presidency also it is impossible to speak with any degree of certainty, the figures for the year ended March 31st being not yet available here. On March 31st, 1915, there was a surplus of £25,000, including the reserve fund for contingencies, which had been wisely established some years before. On account of that fund upwards of £13,000 is invested with the Crown Agents. It must, we fear, be assumed that the capital value will, in consequence of the all-round depreciation in the value of securities, have shrunk to about £9,000, and as some of this is earmarked for public works, etc., it is clear that the Administrator will have his work cut out to make ends meet. We trust, however, that any need for an appeal for public assistance, which, as experience has proved, would have a very pauperising effect, may be obviated.

DOMINICA.

Fifty-seven Casualties through Hurricane.

Private advices were received on August 29th to the effect that a severe hurricane had passed over Dominica on the preceding day. On September 5th the Colonial Office published the following cablegram from His Honour, Mr. A. W. Mahaffy, on August 31st.

Regret to inform you that violent storm August 28th caused loss of over fifty lives. Damage is serious to crops, roads, bridges. Impossible to estimate cost of repair as yet, but will exceed that of last year. Full report will follow by early mail.

Mr. Bonar Law telegraphed:—

His Majesty the King has learnt with much concern of the grave effects of the recent storm in Dominica, and commands me to express his warm sympathy with the relatives of those who perished and his regret at the losses suffered by the Presidency.

The Administrator of Dominica, in a second telegram said:—

Gracious message from his Majesty the King will be communicated to sufferers will be received with deepest gratitude.

Your telegram 2nd September.—Casualties amongst Europeans confined to William Davies and his wife. Davies for a long time a leading Colonist sometime Member of Council and prominent planter. His death is much deplored. Our total casualties fatal 57. I am leaving to-morrow morning on tour of inspection in district of Windward Coast, where peasants have suffered heavily.

From information to hand from various sources it is feared that the damage to crops has been widespread. Fortunately, however, the island is in a sound financial position and is better able to face the calamity than it would have been some years ago, the revenue in the last twenty years having risen from under £25,000 to approximately £50,000 per annum. (The total in 1914-15 was £48,895 14s. 10d.)

The winning side can always command friends, as Germany assured the world when Bulgaria joined the Central Powers last year. Hence the significance of Roumania's decision to throw in her lot with the new Grand Alliance. Hitherto the risks have been too great for a minor Power situated as she is. Though her army consists of about three-quarters of a million of men, well trained and equipped, the step she has taken is, perhaps, less important from the military side than from any other. The chief accession of strength she brings to the Allies is moral, after that strategical. For up to now the Roumanian frontier has supported the Archduke's army in the Bukovina, and the Russians were prevented from crossing the Danube to attack Bulgaria from the north. The new situation will, therefore, lead to the invasion of Hungary and to the elimination of Turkey and Bulgaria from the war. It will be noted that Roumania declared war on Austria-Hungary, whereas it was Germany which, in retaliation, declared war on Roumania, though thereby she has lost a valuable source of food supply.

Italy, in declaring war on Germany, has made a move, which, sooner or later, was inevitable when she broke with Austria-Hungary. The last link in the historic Triple Alliance has been broken for ever. These decisive steps taken by Italy and Roumania must further reinforce the moral effects in the world of Allied success East, West and South.

The most immediate effect of Italy's new relation to Germany is to add appreciably to the available tonnage of the Allied Powers, for 36 German merchant vessels are interned in Italian ports.

The Western Front.

The Allies continue to make satisfactory progress north of the Somme, in spite of the increased weight of artillery which the Germans have been bringing up since the early days of the offensive in Picardy. The British on August 24th made an important advance on Thiepval, when the enemy's trenches in the Leipzig salient south of the village were carried on a front of 700 yards to a depth of 350. One of its features was the defeat of the Prussian Guard, who, though they have fought as good warriors should, have been hurled back four times during the present offensive. There have also been smaller gains on the whole front, which, together with the French capture of the entire village of Maurepas, and the threatened envelopment of Thiepval, must be causing the enemy great anxiety. The Germans have, indeed, delivered many counter attacks, but nowhere with great success. One reason is that he so often allows some days to elapse before he tries to regain lost ground, which, by then, is consolidated. It cannot be that he overlooks an elementary principle of trench warfare. Therefore one can only suppose that the intensive bombardment of the enemy's trenches so upsets the moral of his troops that they have to

be replaced by others before a counter attack can be made.

The Struggle for Thiépval.

This nest of machine guns and formidable improvised fortifications is the last remaining pivot of the original German system of defence between the Acre and the Somme. By their advances from the Leipzig redoubt and Mouquet farm the British threaten it on the West, East and South. Moreover, by the capture of an isthmus of ground between Mouquet Ravine and Courcellette Ravine they reached a culminating point from which the eye sees the whole country that descends in a north-easterly direction to Bapaume. Thiépval itself protects one of the longest spurs of the plateau, most of which is now in the possession of the Allies.

The French, besides breaking all the German counter attacks have gained possession of Hill 121 to the north of Maurepas, which is now firmly linked with our position at Guillemont. They have, too, assaulted two strong places, Le Forest and Clery, which latter lies at the bend of the Somme where it changes its course of east and west to one of north-west and south-east. Through its capture by the French Peronne loses the protection of the river, and can be outflanked because our Allies now possess a new line on the right bank. In combination with the French the British by a brilliant dash have made themselves masters of part of Ginchy, the highest point in the vicinity, and the long-contested village of Guillemont.

Allied Superiority in the Air.

The Germans themselves admit that they are inferior to the Allies in the air, that is if letters found on prisoners are to be believed. Not only are our pilots and observers easily first, but our machines beat the much-vaunted Fokkers, which dare not show themselves above our lines, whereas ours fly continually above the enemy's lines, adding considerably to the strain on the nerves of his troops, as well as signalling useful information to our gunners. It is very obvious that as German "aviators are not masters of the field" in this way their artillery must be at a disadvantage.

On the Eastern Front.

With the entry of Roumania into the war this front has been extended by something like 700 miles, a prospect, which might even appal Marshal von Hindenburg. In addition to his post as supreme commander of all the Austro-German armies from Riga to the Danube he has been made Chief of the General Staff in succession to General von Falkenhayn, who has been dismissed. This is not exactly a sign of confidence. Apparently von Hindenburg, who is the popular idol, is to be made a scapegoat for the blunders of the Hohenzollerns.

With the loss of a neutral frontier in support of his flank the enemy will be driven to reorganise his whole forces in the East. To outmanœuvre the flanking operations of the Allies on the offensive

the German Staff will require, too, a large mobile reserve. Whether it can be done or not in the new circumstances remains to be seen.

News from the Russian front, though brief, is satisfactory. In the Volhynia-Galicia theatre, Bothmer, one of the ablest of the German generals, still holds out on the Zlota-Lipa, and the forces defending Kovel have been strengthened. In the region of the Jablonica Pass, the Russians have captured several heights dominating this route into Hungary. One of them is Kovela, a peak over 6,000 feet high, and the highest in the wooded Carpathians. The Maramaros railway is not yet cut, but it is seriously menaced.

Roumanian Thrusts.

Roumania has lost no time in striking against the enemy. From the Borgo Pass in the Carpathians to the Iron Gate Roumanian and Austrian troops are in conflict. The angular form of the frontier is all to the advantage of our new Ally, as it forces the enemy to defend successfully both sides of the angle. If the Roumanians continue to advance into Hungarian territory, the Austrians will be compelled to retire from their positions in the Carpathians between the Busan and the Borgo Passes. But if Hungary has been inclined to lukewarmness in the war, she will fight with desperation now. For no Magyar can conceive Transylvania, which Roumania is invading, as anything but Hungarian without profound humiliation. In the meantime Russian warships have steamed up the Danube to Rustchuk, and Russian troops are crossing that river with a view to bringing Bulgaria to account for her attack on Serbia. But, so far, King Ferdinand has not yet declared war, though Turkey has.

In the Balkans.

General Sarrail, who has now under his command British, French, Russians, Italians and Serbians, will be greatly strengthened by the accession of Roumania to the Grand Alliance. The feverish attacks of the Bulgarians on the Allied outposts were, probably, a forlorn hope designed to influence Roumania at the last moment. The attack on Kavalla, whose outer forts they entered with the connivance of the Greeks, was more serious in intention; but it was frustrated by the fire of the Allied warships. The Serbians are steadily gaining ground in their own country, a process which will be hastened now that Bulgaria is threatened on the north by Russia and Roumania.

In Armenia.

The attempts of the Turks to relieve the pressure on their centre by attacks on the Russian flanks are doomed to failure. They tried one a while ago, the Russians retiring almost on Hamadan. But, at the same time, they advanced on Erzingan. Similarly, their recent retreat towards Persia before superior Turkish forces was merely the prelude to activity in the Lake Van region, where they had been quiescent for some months. Their series of attacks here has given them possession of Mush and carried them to the vicinity of Bitlis. In their



PICKING SEA ISLAND COTTON.



PULLING AND BURNING OLD STALKS.



GRADING AND CLEANING COTTON.



A BALE OF ST. VINCENT COTTON.

THE ST. VINCENT COTTON INDUSTRY.

From photographs by W. N. Sands, Esq.

thrust from Lake Van to the south-east they came into contact with the Turks around Kermanshah and Hamadan. In an engagement at Rayat, about 100 miles east of Mosul, the Turks were defeated. Two regiments were completely surrounded and captured, together with much booty.

German East Africa.

The converging columns, British, Belgian and Portuguese, are sweeping the enemy systematically from the Lakes, north, west and south-west, to Tabora, the terminus of the Central Railway. Dislodged from the Nguru Hills and Dakava, after putting up a stiff fight, he has fallen back, first on Mrogoro and then on Mahenge. But as he is being pushed on the south to this point by General Northey's column the big drive must soon end with the surrender of the enemy and the country cleared. In the coastal area Dar-es-Salam has been taken in co-operation with ships of the Navy.

In the Air.

On the night of August 24-25 a Zeppelin visited the East Coast, dropping bombs, all of which fell in fields, causing neither damage nor casualties. On the following night a return visit was paid by six airships. On this occasion eight persons were killed, and some injured, including fifteen soldiers. The damage was slight, and had no military significance whatever. This raid was rendered more than usually memorable by an encounter between a seaplane and a Zeppelin, which latter was pursued to the coast of the Continent, the seaplane endeavouring to find a vital spot in the raider with its machine gun. It returned in safety.

On September 2-3 the greatest Zeppelin raid upon England yet recorded took place. Thirteen airships were employed in it, London and industrial centres in the Midlands having been their objective. Owing to the activity of our anti-aircraft guns and aircraft only three were able to approach London, and one was brought down in flames near Enfield. Fifteen people were killed or injured, and some damage was done to houses. The gallant young airman, Lieutenant William Leeffe Robinson, who administered the *coup de grace* to the raider which had "passed through heavy and accurate gunfire," has deservedly been awarded the Victoria Cross by the King.

(To be continued.)

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON has succeeded in releasing Mr. Frank Wild and his twenty-two companions from their prolonged captivity on Elephant Island, where they were marooned in April last on their return from the Antarctic expedition. West Indians will hope that sugar was among the food-stuffs which helped to sustain the life of the party, for it will be recalled that Sir Ernest decided to make cane sugar and no other. All his requirements in this respect were met by the West India Committee, who presented him with 243 cases of pure cane sugar each case containing three 14 lbs. tins.

THE OVERSEER AND FACTORY CONTROL.

There are a number of sugar factories which are not large enough to warrant the cost of an efficient professional chemist, but in which some knowledge of how the manufacture is going on is quite as essential. The owner of a factory making 100 tons a week can no more afford to lose ten tons of it from bad manufacture than the owner of a factory making 1,000 tons can afford to lose 100 tons. The onus therefore falls on the overseer in charge, and as there can be no control of sugar processes without a certain amount of chemical observations, the following is intended to enable the overseer who has received no scientific training to carry them out and utilise them in such a manner that, at any rate so far as the boiling house is concerned, a fair idea may be obtained of the character of the work being done.

All the assistance the overseer will require is that of an intelligent—but not too intelligent—native who will perform the mechanical part of the duties, subject, of course, to an occasional visit from the overseer, and one hour a day should be sufficient for the latter to do his part of the observation work. The mill work must remain untouched, as the examination of the megass requires a large amount of the time of a professional chemist, but the eye in this case will give some idea of the character of the work, while in any case the steam department is looked after by the engineer.

So far as the strictly scientific part of the work is concerned, the following are the essential items of control, the manner of obtaining which it will be endeavoured to describe in as non-technical a manner as possible:—

I.—Specific gravity of juice, syrup and molasses.

II.—Polarisation of (a) juice and syrup, (b) sugar and molasses and filter cake.

III.—Estimation of glucose in juice and syrup.

I.—The *specific gravity*—that is to say, the weight of a given volume of juice as compared with that of an equal volume of water—is obtained by means of an instrument called a hydrometer. This consists of a weighted bulb with a graduated stem which floats in the liquid to be tested, the point to which it sinks, which is on the stem, indicating the specific gravity of the liquid. This point with water is taken as 1. The juice, free from "cush-cush" and other solid matter floating in it, is poured into a glass cylinder of a size large enough to allow the hydrometer, or "spindle," as it is sometimes called on account of its shape, to sink slowly in the juice, care being taken there are no air-bubbles clinging to it. If the instrument sinks to the mark 1.065, it means the specific gravity is 1.065; in other words, that the juice weighs 1.065 times as much as the same volume of water. It is important that the instrument should be graduated at the mean temperature at which it is likely to be used, and it is also important that water at 62° F. be taken as 1 in graduating it. If this be the case, the indication multiplied by 10 will give the weight of a gallon of juice—a useful figure. Thus, in the above instance, the weight of a gallon of juice would be 10.65 lbs.

The three hydrometers necessary are (a) one for juice, graduated from 1.040 to 1.090; (b) one for syrup, graduated from 1.190 to 1.290; (c) one for molasses, graduated from 1.300 to 1.450.

Another convenient spindle in use in sugar works is the Brix or Balling instrument. In appearance it is the same as a hydrometer, but it is so graduated that in a pure solution of sugar, with which it is standardised, each degree represents 1 per cent. solution by weight. Its use in sugar works is to give an indication of the total amount of solid matter in the juice, syrup, and molasses. It presupposes that all the solid matter in these products is sugar. Some of the bodies present have a specific weight which is not the same as that of sugar, but for practical purposes indications of the Brix, provided that it is graduated at the temperature at which it is to be used, gives a sufficiently approximate figure for the amount of solid matter present. There are thus two instruments of the hydrometer description in use in sugar works, the one—the hydrometer proper—indicating the specific gravity of the juice, and conjointly the weight of a gallon of it, and the other—the Brix or Balling—indicating approximately the solid matter in the juice of percentages. For instance, the equivalent Brix indication to a specific gravity 1.073 would be 18°, meaning that the juice would weigh 10.73 lbs. the gallon, and would contain approximately 18 per cent. of solid matter.

II.—Polarisation.—A description of the construction of a highly scientific apparatus like the polariscope would be out of place here, and directions for its manner of working is all that is necessary. As to the theory of its construction, it is sufficient to say that light in a peculiar condition, "polarised," is affected by sugar and sugar solutions in such a manner that the degree of the effect is proportionate to the amount of sugar in the solution through which the light passes, and that this effect can be measured by compensation with quartz, which has a similar effect upon a polarised light as sugar.

If a polariscope is placed so that a strong light is thrown through it from the end opposite the telescopic eyepiece and adjusting quartz wedges, a disc divided into two halves is seen. The fine line down the centre of this disc is now focussed accurately by the telescopic adjustment. If the polariscope is accurately adjusted and the vernier or micrometer screw is at zero, the two half-discs should be the same tint. If now the tube filled with the sugar solution is placed in the trough in the centre of the frame and the cover closed, the appearance of the half-discs will be changed, one being lighter and the other darker. If the compensating quartz wedges are now moved by means of the adjusting screw until the half discs are of the same tint again, the distance which they have been moved represents the amount of sugar through which the polarised light has passed, and is recorded on the scale either on the scale with vernier or other means adopted to measure accurately the distance moved.

The polarisation of the juice is of no use unless the sample polarised accurately represents the quality of the juice which has entered the factory.

To obtain a true average, and at the same time to reduce the polarisation work to a minimum, the following method is recommended:—

At intervals of half an hour during the watch a quart sample of juice is taken by the laboratory boy or attendant from the juice tank before any liming or sulphuring is done. This is strained through a fine gauze strainer into a large glass cylinder to be used for the hydrometer and Brix indications. Prior, however, to this instrument being inserted, the juice, free from air-bubbles, is poured into a 50-55 cc. flask until it comes up to the 50 mark. The solution of basic acetate of lead is now added until the 55 mark is reached. The contents of the flask are now well shaken, the flask being clasped by the fingers and sealed with the thumb, and the contents are then poured into a Winchester quart bottle, the stopper of which must be at once replaced. Towards the end of the watch, the Winchester quart and its contents are well shaken, and some of the juice filtered through a paper filter into the small lipped glass cylinder, on the rim of which the filter funnel rests.

(a) The polarisation is carried out in the following manner:—

The 200 mm. tube of the polariscope is now taken. This must be absolutely clean and dry, with covering disc fitted and cap tightly screwed at one end. The tube is then held in the left hand in an upright position with the open end on a level with the eye. The filtered juice is then poured into it, bubbles of air being avoided by the juice being allowed to run down the side as much as possible. When the tube is properly filled, the juice will stand in the form of a rounded button on the top of the tube. The covering glass is then taken and slid along the surface of the end of the tube, thus securing that no air is shut up in the tube, and the metal cap slightly screwed down. The tube is now inserted into the polariscope and the observations taken as described above. Several readings of the scale should be made until they become accordant.

With the usual instrument, each degree represents .26048 grms. of sucrose in 100 cc. of the liquid examined. If, therefore, the compensation observed has been 55 degrees, the amount of sucrose present will be $55 \times .26048$ equals 14.35 grms. in 100 cc., and as the 100 cc. of juice originally taken had been diluted to 110 cc. by the lead solution, the 10 per cent. has to be added to the above figure, which will give 15.78 grms. of sucrose in 100 parts of juice. To express in lbs. per gallon, the grms. of 100 cc. are divided by 10. In the above instance, therefore, the juice would contain 1.578 per gallon. If percentages by weight are required, the lbs. per gallon figures are multiplied by 100 and divided by the weight of the gallon obtained from the hydrometer indication as already explained. If, for example, in the above instance the specific gravity is 1.065, the percentage by weight would be

$$\frac{1.578 \times 100}{10.65} = 14.9 \text{ per cent.}$$

The polarisation of clarified juice and syrup is conducted in the same manner, only in the latter case the syrup should be diluted with three times its weight of water, and correction for this made

by multiplying the result by 4. These items, however, are only required when inversion is suspected, in which case the relation of sucrose to glucose in the clarified juice and syrup has to be compared. The process of sampling has to be the same as with juice. It may here be remarked that the zero of the polariscope scale is apt to be displaced from jolting and other causes. The instrument has a small screw for adjustment, but it is advisable for a layman not to use this, but to check the polariscope from time to time with quartz plates provided for the purpose, the necessary correction being made in the reading.

(To be continued.)

CUBA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Cuba is indeed making sugar while the sun shines. New central factories continue to spring up on every side. According to Mr. Himely, the Punta Alegre Sugar Company's new mill in the Caibarien district of Santa Clara, of which Mr. E. F. Atkins is President, is nearing completion. It will make 75,000 bags in the first season, and subsequently 300,000 bags. Central Adelaida is being erected in Camaguey Province, by Mr. Laureano Falla Gutiérrez, the well-known planter, and owner of Centrals "Andreita," "Manuelita," and "Cieneguilla," of Cienfuegos. It will have a capacity of 200,000 to 250,000 bags, but is not expected to make over 50,000 to 60,000 bags in the coming crop. The Alto Cedro Sugar Company mill is being erected by the West India Financial Corporation at Marcané, Province of Camaguey, and will have a capacity of 180,000 to 200,000 bags. The Tacajó Sugar Corporation is putting up a mill in Oriente with a capacity of 170,000 to 200,000 bags. Central Oriente, near Palma Soriano, Oriente, with a capacity of 100,000 to 120,000 bags, also expects to commence grinding in the coming crop. The Algodones Sugar Co. is setting up a Central factory with a capacity of about 100,000 bags south-west of Ciego de Avila, in Camaguey Province.

The Miranda Sugar Co., organised by the Warner Sugar Refining Co., of New York, has taken over all the assets of "Palmarito" estate, and will construct a new mill of 150,000 bags capacity near Bayate, Oriente. The next crop will begin to be taken off at "Palmarito" and will be continued at "Miranda" as soon as the house is ready for work.

Central Baraguá in Camaguey is being constructed by Messrs Jules Godchaux & Co., of New Orleans, with a capacity of 100,000 to 150,000 bags, and will probably make 60,000 to 70,000 bags in the coming crop.

Central Santo Tomás, near Moron, Santa Clara, will have a capacity of about 50,000 bags. Central Redención is an old sugar estate which has not ground since many years. It is, however, being re-constructed, and will have a capacity of about 50,000 bags. Two other places, Central Occidente, near Quivicán, Havana Province, and Central Nombre de Dios, near Guines, in the same pro-

vince, are old factories which are being reconstructed and hope to make 30,000 to 40,000 bags each in the next crop.

THE JAMAICA BANANA INDUSTRY.

The following letter has been received by the West India Committee from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to one forwarding a copy of a despatch sent to the Merchants' Exchange on August 15th:—

Downing Street,
25th August, 1916.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th August (No. 549) relative to the question of the provision of tonnage for the transport of the Jamaica banana crop.

2. As you are aware, the position has unfortunately been altered by the recent hurricane; and a telegram was received from the Governor on the 18th August stating that the necessity for shipping no longer exists.

3. Mr. Bonar Law desires me, however, to place on record, for the information of the West India Committee, the following statement of the steps taken in the matter prior to the receipt of the news of the hurricane.

4. In the telegram from the Governor of the 9th August, to which reference is made in the telegram from the Merchants' Exchange, he reported that he had met a deputation of banana planters both large and small of the parish of St. Mary, which is the leading banana parish of the island. It was pointed out that the banana industry, the staple industry of the island, was in a very grave position. The industry had suffered most severely in the years 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 owing to droughts, war and hurricane. The present year had been in every way a good planting year, and it was hoped and expected that the banana planters, not only the smaller men who had been very hardly hit, but also the larger planters without contracts, would be able to recover their losses and recoup themselves for the bad years. There was at the time a very fine crop of bananas ready for shipment, but owing to the shortage of shipping only those larger planters who had contracts with the fruit companies were able to sell their fruit, and that only to a limited extent. The smaller planters and also the majority of the larger planters were therefore faced with ruin not only in St. Mary but in the other banana parishes. Unless therefore they were able to sell their fruit they would be unable to continue the cultivation of their fields, with the result that the staple product of the island would go out of cultivation in many instances to the very serious loss both of the people and of the Government. The Governor added that many of the planters both large and small had had to mortgage their lands in order to carry on their cultivation during the adverse years above referred to in the hope that in more favourable times they would be able to repay their loans; that the Government agricultural loan banks had financed the smaller settlers since the early part of 1913 through a series of unfavourable years; and that if there were no amelioration of this condition of affairs, it was likely that the Government might also incur considerable loss.

5. The Governor also drew attention to adverse comment in the colony on the present employment of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes' ships, and made a proposal with a view to securing the diversion to Jamaica of some of the steamers of that line carrying fruit from Costa Rica to the United Kingdom.

6. After consultation with the Board of Trade and persons interested, Mr. Bonar Law replied to the Governor on the 14th August that he had learnt with great concern of the grave position of the industry, and informed the Governor that Messrs. Elders & Fyffes had explained that the difficulty was due to the inability of the American Fruit Companies to secure sufficient tonnage; that the Company had sent the *Chirripo* to Jamaica that week,

and were sending the *Tortugero* the following week; that their steamers which make fortnightly calls at Kingston with mails and passengers are not of the type which could be sent to load bananas at smaller ports; and that it seemed that if their steamers were compelled to leave the Central American trade the result might be the diversion to that trade of equivalent tonnage now employed in carrying bananas from Jamaica to the United States.

7. It was considered that, in the circumstances represented by Messrs. Elders & Fettes, the Company could not do more, and that it would not be desirable or practicable for them to divert vessels from their Central American route. The Governor was so informed; and also that your Committee was apprehensive of the effect of his proposal and that, in the circumstances, the Secretary of State did not see his way to proceed with it unless the Governor could satisfy him that the objections raised were not valid.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary, West India Committee.

THE BOTANY OF ANTIGUA.

(Continued from page 334.)

II.—THE FLORA OF ANTIGUA.

Origin.—As has been already shown, wind and sea can scarcely have brought any new plants to the island, while very few of the plants introduced by man have succeeded in establishing themselves as wild plants; though, in addition to the examples previously given, we have an interesting case in the pink Lotus Lily, whose large peltate leaves and big flowers adorn nearly all the ponds in the island.

Some seeds may, however, have been introduced by birds. Duck, geese, and pigeon used formerly to visit Antigua in large numbers, and do so still to a less extent. Also terns, frigate birds, pelicans, and sea-gulls are common, and breed on the small islets which abound round the coast; so, too, do the gaulins, heron-like birds, either white or grey. All these birds are powerful fliers, and can pass from island to island with the utmost ease, and some of them doubtless travel between North and South America, passing through the Caribbean Islands on their way. Unfortunately, great havoc has been caused among all the birds of the islands, especially the Trochilidae and Passeridae, by the Mongoose. This lives in a wild state, having been introduced originally to keep down the rats. It has thoroughly gained a footing, and is likely to maintain it, in spite of the persecution it is now subjected to on account of its ravages among birds and lizards—Nature's sentinels over the insect pests which harass the crops of the island. Seeds introduced by birds would usually be those likely to occur in the soft mud from ponds or swamps which might adhere to the feet; I think it is very doubtful indeed whether there are any plants in Antigua in these situations which can have been brought in this way. It is interesting to note, in this connection, that a Mistletoe is abundant in Barbuda, and bears berries freely, and yet it is never or very rarely (I have never seen it) found in Antigua, although its host plant, the Lobloily,

is fairly common; and Mistletoe depends on birds for its seed-dispersal.

So that, in the main, the Flora of Antigua is of great antiquity, and its origin can only be explained when the origin of the islands of the Lesser Antilles has been determined.

General Characters.—The climatic conditions already described make Antigua a thoroughly xerophytic station. In every part we find prickles, spines, reduced leaf surface, fleshy leaves, thick-skinned leaves, overlapping leaves. Again and again during the year, as weeks of dryness intervene, leafless and flowerless stems meet the eye in every direction, rendered all the more conspicuous by the bursts of leafage and flowering when a few inches of rain revive these hardy plants. And woe to the unlucky botanist whose period for collecting coincides with a period of drought!

The vegetation is largely composed, both as regards species and individuals, of a few dominant orders.

The Grass Family (Gramineæ) takes a foremost place, as it does throughout the world. But the Antiguan species are very poor and stringy, and include hardly any kinds which are useful as fodder. Some of them, such as the Devil's Grass (*Cynodon Dactylon*), with its long, troublesome suckers, and the Burr Grass (*Cenchrus tribuloides*) have subterranean stems which serve to withstand drought as well as to perform vegetative reproduction. Other common grasses are *Sporobolus inaeuis* and the Bamboo Grass (*Arundinaria*). But it is difficult in many cases to decide between aboriginal plants and those whose seeds have been brought in from Barbados or elsewhere. The grasses are wide-spread, as a rule, and not typical of the various botanical divisions of the island dealt with below.

The Leguminosæ are very abundant, all three sub-orders being represented. The Acacias, locally called Cossi, form the preponderating part of the scrub, which originally covered all the lower parts of the island. Papilionaceæ abound, being mostly twiners; none of them have leaf-tendrils. Many Cæsalpinieæ occur abundantly; the Nickers (*Cæsalpinia* spp.) and many Cassias are indigenous and very common, while Barbados pride (*Cæsalpinia pulcherrima*) and the Flamboyant are among the most successful ornamental plants.

The Combretaceæ have a vast number of individuals among the Mangrove in the swamps and in the Antigua Whitewood (*Terminalia Buceras*) of the low-lying parts of the Central Plain.

The Euphorbiaceæ are well represented, as are the Convolvulaceæ, with *Ipomœa* and *Cuscuta* as the chief genera.

Amaryllidaceæ are very common both as wild and cultivated plants; much more so than the Liliaceæ.

Solanaceæ furnish many of the commonest weeds and also some garden plants like the Egg-Plant—the Tomato and English Potato are also grown.

Compositæ are only represented by a few species, which are, however, mostly very common, such as the different kinds of *Wedelia* and the wild Tobacco (*Pluchea odorata*).

Only two or three small orchids occur in the

island, one being the Yellow Orchid (*Oncidium Lemonianum*). Cactaceæ and Bromeliaceæ, as might be expected, are very well represented, including the most markedly xerophytic plants in the flora.

There are very few indigenous Palms. The Date, Coco-nut, and Cabbage Palm (*Oreodoxa regia*) all grow well, while the graceful Cru-gru occurs in the sheltered valleys of the volcanic region. The Coco-nut is certainly introduced by man, and probably the Date (*Phoenix dactylifera*) also.

The Tree Ferns which are so conspicuous in St. Kitts are conspicuous in Antigua only by their absence. Indeed, ferns of all kinds seem to find the dryness of Antigua too much for them. Their absence is everywhere noticeable.

A Comparison of the Flora with those of the neighbouring islands.—The flora of Antigua differs markedly from those of the other islands. The difference is mainly due to the xerophytic characteristics of the vegetation of Antigua, consequent on its small rainfall and its openness to the Trade Wind. Only in the valleys of the south-west do we find the rich green and the tropical profusion of Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent, and the rest. Only here can limes, oranges, bananas, and other typical fruits be produced; and only here to any extent are there patches of true forest with giant Silk-cottons (*Eriodendron*) and long hanging lianes.

The Central Plain, with its principal covering of Acacias, is, both geologically and botanically, unique in the West Indies, to my knowledge. The plants of the Volcanic Region are of the same general type as those of the volcanic islands composing the Windward and Leeward Islands. The Limestone area differs considerably in the character of its flora from Barbuda, which is only twenty-six miles north of it, and is composed entirely of limestone, being a typical coral formed island. It has very little "Cossi"; it is covered in most places with bush consisting of "Wattle," Loblolly (*Pisonia subcordata*), which is frequently crowned by a species of *Loranthus* bearing smallish white berries, *Pimenta acris*, and Balsam (*Lantana*?). Prickly Pear (*Opuntia Tuna*) is not common, while the Turk's Head (*Melocactus communis*) occurs all over the bare limestone surface. Many other shrubs and herbs occur which I had no time to identify during a short visit I paid, but at least I could note that they were distinct from any Antigua plants. Mention will be made later of the very interesting and quite distinctive group of plants found on the limestone cliffs at Two Foot Bay, where the little hills (200 feet or less) occur which alone break Barbuda's uniform level just a few feet above the sea.

In dependence on the three geological divisions of Antigua there are three Typical Plant Associations, which are well defined and distinct from one another. In addition to these there are two which depend on the character of the shore, *i.e.*, the Mangrove and Littoral Associations. All these are more or less modified in accordance with the special xerophytic conditions which distinguish Antigua from its more lofty neighbours.

THE PLANT ASSOCIATIONS OF ANTIGUA.

1. *The Mangrove Swamps.*—Many parts of the coast are shallow and swampy and are covered with Mangroves. This is especially the case on the leeward side of the island if the coast is low, as in the harbour of St. John's and the flat land lying to the north of it round Mackinnon's. *Rhizophora Mangle*, "the" Mangrove, abounds, growing in the water with its dense network of buttress and pillar roots and its seeds with their long protruding radicles. Scarcely in the water, but in very moist and swampy situations, where hardly anything else will grow, are two other Mangroves; one of these is the "Olive" Mangrove (*Avicennia nitida*), each bush surrounded by its mass of aerating roots, and with its leaves glistening with their coating of salt crystals. The other is the less known, but nevertheless common, *Laguncularia racemosa*, with its thick leaves turned edgewise to the sun on their reddish petioles. Yet further back, where it is possible to walk without extreme discomfort, comes *Conocarpus erectus*, showing a less degree of adaptability to sea-covered swamps than the other Mangroves; it is sometimes known as the West Indian Alder.

Only one other plant seems able to follow the Mangroves over the foul-smelling slime; this is *Batis maritima*, which, with its woody main stem, its green fleshy side shoots, and its leaves and flowers reduced to the barest minimum, is equally at home on dry coral sand and saturated mud. Other plants occur on the fringe of the swamps, or on the firmer sandy patches which are found here and there; they are chiefly sand dwellers. I have found *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Euphorbia buxifolia*, and even the xerophytic orchid *Oncidium Lemonianum*. The chief animals of these swamps are the little "Jumbie crabs," with one claw often larger than the rest of the body, which tunnel into the smelling mud in vast numbers; while on the firmer soil around are the large openings to the tunnels of the well-known land crabs. Wading birds such as yellowlegs, ringed plover, gulls, etc., are common; but I have not found any plants which might be considered to have been brought by them from other islands, though such plants might be expected to occur chiefly in these muddy situations.

2. *The Littoral Region.*—This may be either a beach of white coral sand, such as is seen to perfection in James Bay, where a ridge of sand about 150 feet across separates the surf from a mangrove lagoon; or else a rocky shore continually drenched with salt spray, examples of which are well seen in the north of the island, especially on Iguana Island.

The sandy shore, which is composed almost entirely of coral and shell debris, all of which is calcium carbonate, has a well-defined Plant Association, almost as characteristic as the Mangrove Association. The trees, which flourish here in abundance, are the Manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*), the Seaside Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*), and the Seaside Mahoe (*Thespesia populnea*), all of which are undoubtedly part of the aboriginal Flora; to these the Coco-nut may be added. The shrubs include

Yucca aloifolia (Spanish Needles), the Grey Nicker (*Cesalpinia bonducella*), perhaps the Black and Brown Nickers, the Coco Plum (*Chrysobalanus icaco*), and one or two shrubby Papilionatæ which I have not identified. Among the herbs which are commonly found are *Euphorbia buxifolia*, *Ipomœa pes-capræ*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, the hardy *Batis maritima*, Devil's or Bahamas Grass (*Cynodon Dactylon*), occasional examples of Burr Grass (*Cenchrus tribuloides*), and a kind of Marram Grass. *Portulaca oleracea* is very common as a weed in cultivated sandy soils, but does not appear to grow actually on the sea shore like the rest. Several Cassias belong to this Association, *C. ligustrina* being common; while the ubiquitous Dagger (*Agave americana*) also occurs on the sand.

The Plant Association for the rocks is less constant in character, but it includes such typical forms as *Sophora tomentosa* and the Seaside Tansy (*Borrchia arborescens*). The Loblolly (*Pisonia subcordata*) belongs here, although it sometimes occurs also on the sand, and close to the Mangroves in the swamps. *Pimenta acris* and the local "Wattle" are limestone plants which grow near the sea, while the widely-spread Prickly Pear and Turk's Head Cactus may also be classed here.

Some mention may be made of the limestone cliffs in Barbuda at Two Foot Bay, which are exposed to the full blast of the Atlantic; they have a most interesting Flora which would repay careful study (as indeed would that of the whole of Barbuda); the only member I was able to identify in a short visit was *Conocarpus procumbens*, which is not found in Antigua. The Flora at Two Foot Bay is unlike anything else in Barbuda and Antigua, or in the other islands which I have come across, the nearest approach to it being that found on certain precipitous and rugged hills in the Five Islands district not far from St. John's, the only town in the island; they belong perhaps to the particular limestone there known as Scaforth's.

3. *The Volcanic Region.*—The Flora of the low but rugged, andesitic, mountains consists mainly of shrubs and of Cactaceæ and allied plants. The common Prickly Pear (*Opuntia Tuna*) is abundant though not confined to this region; the little Prickly Pear, known locally as the "Sucker" (*Opuntia triacantha*) is found in large numbers near English Harbour, though not in other parts. It is "horrid with spines," and the oval stem pieces easily break off and adhere to one's boots and clothing. Very possibly this is a means of vegetative reproduction, for flowers and fruits seem to be rather infrequent in this species. Another Cactus typical of the region is the Turk's Head (*Melocactus communis*), which is specially abundant near the sea; while a new species of *Mammillaria* was recently discovered by Dr. Rose, of the Smithsonian Institute of New York. The tall Dildo (*Cereus insularis*) is abundant on the mountains, and also occurs on the limestone, as does *Melocactus* to some extent, especially in Barbuda (see above). The Frangipani (*Plumeria alba*) and the tall Dagger (*Agave americana*) are typical of this region, and present strongly xerophytic characters.

The shrubs include a few acacias and great quan-

ties of Guava (*Psidium Guajava*) and Cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), which only occur in this area. The Logwood grows on many of the sheltered mountain sides, and so does the stately Cabbage Palm (*Orcodoxa regia*).

(To be continued.)

THE TRINIDAD OIL INDUSTRY.

The "Leaseholds" 6-inch Pipe Line.

In consequence of the war, the export of oil from Trinidad at one time practically ceased, but latterly it has been resumed on a fairly extensive scale. The trade in fuel oil for bunkering purposes is now rapidly on the increase, and other signs of the awakening of the local oil industry are manifesting themselves.

In his report for the nine months ended December 31st last, Mr. P. Stevens, Inspector of Mines for Trinidad and Tobago, states that during the period under review the amount of drilling done was somewhat less in proportion than for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1915, although it compares very favourably with the number of feet drilled during the year ended 31st March, 1914. The figures are as follow:—

	12 mths. ended March 31, 1914.	12 mths. ended March 31, 1914.	12 mths. ended March 31, 1914.
Private Lands ...	26,546	19,516	21,324
Crown Lands ...	15,387	38,453	18,729
Totals ...	41,933	57,969	40,053

The number of wells drilled during the nine months was 38 as against 65 during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1915, and 41 during the year ended 31st March, 1914. Oil was struck in 23 of the 38 wells drilled. The total number of wells drilled in the colony to 31st December, 1915, is 277, of which 133 are on Crown Lands. The quantity of oil extracted during the nine months ended 31st December, 1915, amounted to 23,489,362 Imperial gallons as against 36,753,931 for the 12 months ended 31st March, 1915, and 22,523,060 for the 12 months ended 31st March, 1914.

The Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., have continued development work on the area of Crown Lands held by them under lease in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. In addition to actual drilling work new offices and stores have been built and a well equipped machine shop is under construction. A small experimental refinery as well as a number of storage tanks have been erected. Since last report this Company has laid a 6-inch pipe line from the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve area to their shipping place at Pointe-à-Pierre—a distance of 26½ miles. This line runs along the side of public roads as far as Penal Railway Station and thence on railway lands alongside the Trinidad Government Railway. Two 3-inch branch lines for the conveyance of oil fuel have been laid from the main line to La Fortunée and Malgretoute Sugar Factories. At Pointe-à-Pierre extensive preparations have been made for the laying out of a Shipping and Refinery Depot. An island jetty is now under

construction to allow of the loading of tank vessels; an 8-inch pipe line is being laid from this jetty to the storage tanks; and at the time of writing two large storage tanks are nearing completion. A well constructed metalled road has been laid into the Company's property at Pointe-à-Pierre from the Southern Main Road, as well as a siding from the Trinidad Government Railway. Several bungalows for the housing of the staff have been built—also the necessary offices, stores, etc. Work on the Guayaguayare area was closed down early in April, 1915.

The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Ltd., have done additional drilling work on their private lands at Brighton, and have also extracted oil from the old wells. New wells have been drilled in the vicinity of the Pitch Lake and have proved successful.

The United British Oilfields.

The lease to be issued to the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., has been forwarded to England for signature. Development work has been continued both on Crown and private lands. Additional wells have been drilled on the Crown Lands formerly held by the Parry Syndicate, Ltd., under prospecting license, and a pipe line has been laid from them to the storage tanks at Point Fortin. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., continued drilling on the well at San Fernando during a portion of the period under review, but, at the time of writing, the well is not completed. In addition to this, operations were commenced under prospecting licenses on Crown Lands in two other localities. One well is being drilled on lands formerly under prospecting license to Mr. J. G. Rust, and the other on lands originally licensed to Mr. Dreyfus. So far oil in paying quantities has not been struck. The Refinery erected by this Company at Point Fortin has been operated during the period under review, and oil fuel which complies with the Admiralty Specification has been produced.

The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., continue to hold a prospecting license over the Crown Lands in the Montserrat district, but negotiations have been proceeding with regard to their taking up a lease over such portions of the land as are likely to prove oil bearing. During the nine months under review drilling has proceeded steadily, additional territory has been opened up, and considerable quantities of petrol and kerosene have been produced for local consumption and exportation. The Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., have chiefly confined their attention to the production of oil from their private lands in the Barrackpore district. The Refinery has been enlarged, and practically the whole of the oil produced has been treated therein. Both the petrol and residue find a ready sale locally. No drilling has been done on the properties formerly held by the Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. The Petroleum Development Company, Ltd., took up a lease as from 1st July last over the Crown Lands in the Morne l'Enfer Reserve, which they formerly held under prospecting license.

Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has done very little work

on his Perseverance Estate. It has been confined to a small amount of drilling and the extraction of small quantities of oil, and no work has been done by the Cruse Syndicate, Ltd., since last report. Work was closed down by the Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Ltd., at the end of the last financial year; no drilling has been done by the Trinidad Oil Leases, Ltd., and nearly all the oil extracted from the wells already drilled has been exported to the neighbouring islands. The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company have, as previously reported, ceased operations since the outbreak of war.

The Trinidad United Oilfields, Ltd., took up a lease over the Crown Lands formerly held by the Petroleum Options, Ltd., as from the 1st March, 1915. A few shallow wells have been drilled, and the small quantity of oil extracted used for fuel purposes on the field. No work has been done by either the Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Ltd., or the Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Ltd.

The amount of royalty earned during the period under review amounted to £4,430 7s. 5d., of which £868 2s. 9½d. was in respect of prospecting licenses and £3,562 4s. 7½d. in respect of leases.

The New Leases Issued.

Two leases were issued during the nine months—one to the Trinidad United Oilfields, Ltd., as from the 1st March, 1915, in respect of 641 acres at Palo Seco which were originally held under prospecting license by L. J. Bernstein (500 acres) and the Petroleum Options, Ltd. (141 acres); and the other to the Petroleum Development Company, Ltd., as from the 1st July, 1915, in respect of 1,999 acres originally held by them under prospecting licence. No new licenses were issued during the period, but several extensions were granted. The Exploration License issued to the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., was extended for six months from 27th November, 1915. The Exploration License issued to the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., over a small area at San Fernando was extended for six months from 12th November, 1915. Three applications from this Company for prospecting licenses in respect of certain portions of the large area held by them under exploration license were received and are receiving attention. The time allowed to the Trinidad Grand River Oil Company, Ltd., to take up their prospecting license lapsed, and, therefore, the area of 2,319 acres reverted to the Crown.

Subscriptions from new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1918.

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.

ROUTES BETWEEN ENGLAND AND COLON.

BY A CAPTAIN, R.N.

There is an Admiralty chart of the world showing the tracks of full-powered steam vessels, and the distances between the various ports, which should be before anyone studying the question of the diversion of trade, and trade routes, due to the completion of the Panama Canal.

It is a pity that the same chart does not show the prevailing winds and the currents. Most people, however, know that the N.E. trade-winds, and the Great Equatorial current both flow from east to west, all the year round, right across the Atlantic, between Latitude 30 N. and the Equator: that further north, the prevailing winds, though not so constant are westerly, and that the Gulf Stream is a powerful current running from Florida, just north of Bermuda, past the Azores, and up to the British Isles. These currents, and winds too, make a considerable difference in a ship's run per diem, taking the average freight steamer running at eleven knots, and an appreciable difference in the coal bill, according as the ship is going with, or against them.

Another important fact in considering ocean routes must not be lost sight of, owing to the fact that the earth is spherical, and that our charts are flat. The distortion necessary to produce a chart on Mercator's projection leads to the apparent paradox that the straight line is not the shortest distance between two places on a Mercator's chart, but a curved line which trends towards the pole of whichever hemisphere the two places lie in. These facts being kept well in view, consider the tracks from Colon to the English Channel (Bishop Rock), and *vice-versa*.

The following distances are direct from the chart mentioned above:—

- A.—Colon to Bishop Rock, shortest possible track (non-stop), 4,347 miles.
- B.—Colon to St. Thomas, 1,025; St. Thomas to Bishop Rock, 3,369; 4,394 miles.
- C.—Colon to Bermuda, 1,640; Bermuda to Bishop Rock, 2,762; 4,402 miles.
- D.—Colon to Fayal, 3,280; Fayal to Bishop Rock, 1,165; 4,425 miles.

The straight line on the Mercator's chart between Colon and the Bishop, almost passes through St. Thomas or Porto Rico, and yet this track is only eight miles shorter than the tortuous route past Jamaica and into Bermuda, and then home.

Now take into consideration the prevailing winds and currents; surely it is obvious that the most favourable routes, between England and Colon, for the steamers which wish to call for coal, etc., at some intervening port, are: Outward bound, by St. Thomas; homeward bound, by Bermuda.

The point which affects us most is that St. Thomas or Porto Rico are neither of them British ports. It is preferable that British steamers should have a British port to coal or call at, if it is equally close to the route, or nearly so, and still better if it is a defended port. I believe Bermuda to be quite alive to the situation, the harbour of St. George's in the Bermudas having lately been made simple of access, while coaling facilities for moder-

ate-sized steamers are being provided. The distance from Colon to England is much better divided at Bermuda, than by either Fayal, or St. Thomas. For the outward bound route it is not easy to find a British substitute for St. Thomas or Porto Rico.

Kingston, Jamaica, though close to the homeward route, and strategically of the greatest value, as it is a magnificent harbour, does not lie near the outward route, and is too close to Colon to be used as a coaling port. Gorda Sound, Virgin Islands, is well situated, but undeveloped as a harbour, and is of no great extent. I seem to recollect that there is a great scarcity of water, either from springs or rain, which is a great drawback. Basseterre, St. Kitts, is merely an open roadstead, with a heavy swell, and the other adjacent British islands have no suitable harbour. Port Castries, St. Lucia, is a splendid harbour of long established reputation for admirable coaling facilities. It is still capable of further development, but not very much. Unfortunately, St. Lucia lies a long way to the south of the outward bound route, but I can see nothing better. The distance from Colon to the Bishop, by St. Lucia, is 4,635 miles.

If the New Zealand trade route eventually comes through the Panama Canal, the West Indian routes will become much more important, because of the New Zealand meat trade being a very vital one to Great Britain—a much more vital one than those of sugar and cacao, the principal exports from the West Indies at present.

In the event of an increase of trade, the British ports, or rather colonies, should pay great attention to the facilities afforded the steamers. The important headlands should be lighted, and the channels to the harbours buoyed, straightened where possible, and lighted so that steamers can leave or enter any time of day or night. Piers should be built to avoid discharge of cargo into lighters, which means double handling to say the least of it. I refer to the ports near the trade routes. If these matters are adjusted, the convenient port soon becomes the popular and thriving one.

I have purposely not touched on the defence of the trade routes, or the ports themselves. This is a matter of a confidential nature between the Admiralty, other Government Offices, and the shipping owners.

Anyone can see, however, that if ports of call are necessary, it is much better to have British ones than foreign ones, and defended ones if at all possible. Defences are expensive things to construct, and after this war it is not likely that money will be found to develop and fortify new harbours. On the other hand, to bring our present defended ports up to date would not be very costly, and it is to be hoped that the various Government Offices, and the Mercantile Marine will work together in this distinctly Imperial matter.

"The Pocket Guide to the West Indies," price 5/- net, may be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

CAPTAIN ARTHUR H. P. AUSTIN, of the Durham Light Infantry, has been killed whilst gallantly leading his men to take a trench. Captain Austin was son of the late Mr. W. G. G. Austin, Inspector of Schools of British Guiana, and grandson of the Right Rev. William Percy Austin, Bishop of Guiana. A brother officer wrote to Captain Austin's sister: "The trench was full of Germans, and the men wavered. Your brother, knowing that it was imperative that the trench should be taken, sprang into it almost alone in the endeavour to get his men on, though he must have known it was instant death—which it was. It will be a small consolation to you to know how heroically he died." Captain Austin served in the South African War, and his loss will be much felt by all who knew him.

SURGEON FREDERICK WILLIAM T. CLEMENS, M.B., B.Sc. (Lond.), who was killed in action on H.M.S. *Defence* in the Battle of Jutland, was the only son of the Rev. M. L. Clemens, of Moriah, Tobago.

SECOND LIEUTENANT HUGH JOSEPH FLEMING, who was killed in action on August 24th, was the only child of Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands from 1895 to 1901, and of Lady Fleming, of 9, Sydney Place, Onslow Square, S.W. Second Lieutenant Fleming, who was only twenty years of age, was born at Leamington and educated at Downside College, near Bath. After he left school he was connected with Hoare's Bank, which he left to join the Army. He obtained a commission as Second Lieutenant in the Dorset Regiment in June, 1915, and was stationed at Borrhington Camp, Wool, until he left for the Front a short time ago. On August 22nd he joined a Service Battalion of the Dorsets at the Front, and was killed by a shell two days later. The Colonel of the Regiment, in a letter to Sir Francis Fleming, said that Hugh Fleming had joined with such a good reputation, and was so popular with his brother officers, that he knew that he had lost a good officer by his death. The Captain of his company at Wool described him as "a true soldier and a gentleman," whom all the men loved; whilst his former Commanding Officer wrote, "We were all very fond of your son, and deeply regret his death."

SECOND LIEUTENANT W. R. KENNARD, of the Worcestershire Regt., head overseer of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., of British Guiana, has been killed in action. Though he had been ill in hospital, he insisted on "going in" with his regiment, and showed great bravery.

CORPORAL ROBERT BOVELL MILLER, of the Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on August 3rd, was the younger son of Mr. L. H. Miller, late Inspector of Branches of the Colonial Bank, and now of the Union of London & Smith's Bank. Corporal Miller, who was only eighteen years of age, was, like his brother Lionel, whose death is recorded below, born in the West Indies.

PRIVATE CARLOS POLLONAIS, who has recently been killed in action, was the son of Mr. Charles Adrien Pollonais, Assistant Receiver-General of Trinidad and Tobago, and of Mrs. Pollonais. Carlos Pollonais, who was only twenty-one years of age, was formerly Locker in the local Excise Department, and left Trinidad with the first Merchants' Contingent on December 29th, 1915. He joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles, with which regiment he was serving when he gave his life for the King and Empire.

PRIVATE EDWARD HOPE ROSS, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hope Ross, of St. Kitts and Wembley, Middlesex, was killed in action on July 1st last. Edward Hope Ross was born in St. Kitts on June 17th, 1897 and was only just over seventeen when he enlisted in the Public Schools Corps shortly after the outbreak of war, and on the day after sitting for his London Matriculation Examination. He was recommended for a commission, and would certainly have received one but for the

fact that he was under age. The corps was in a few months turned into a Service Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. With this he went to France in November, 1915, volunteering with great pluck before leaving England for the perilous work of scout duty in the trenches. From then until his death he was continuously on active Service, except for a ten-days furlough, which he spent at Wembley with his mother. In his last letter to his father, dated June 18th, he wrote:—"The big scrap . . . is coming off very soon now, probably before you receive this. Whether or not I shall come out alive, God only knows, but it means anyway that peace will soon be here. The Germans will be absolutely smashed this time, for we are ready for them all along the line. If everything goes well, I am confident I shall see you next Christmas, when it will be all over." In a letter to Mrs. Hope Ross his commanding officer, Major F. R. Hill, wrote on August 12th:—"I am very sorry I am unable to give you exact details of your son's death, as I was myself wounded and out of action early on the 1st July. Your son was one of the Company Scouts, and I was always able to put the utmost reliance and trust in him. He always did good work, and the Battalion has lost a true and valuable soldier. You may rest assured in the proud knowledge that your son died gallantly doing his duty in the biggest attack that was ever launched. He was one of the men I shall sorely miss him if I return to the same Battalion."

CAPTAIN FRANCIS HASTINGS THOMAS, D.S.O., of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, who was killed in action on August 15th, was the eldest surviving son of Mr. H. T. Thomas, Inspector of Police, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUTENANT FRANCIS BLAKE CAMERON, Cameron Highlanders, who, we regret to state, died of wounds on August 19th, was the youngest son of Sir Edward Cameron, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Gambia, and Lady Cameron. Like his two brothers, he was born at Grand Turk, of which island his father was Commissioner, and he was educated at Rossall School. Being in Canada at the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Royal Montreal Regiment, and came home with the first Canadian Contingent. He obtained a commission in the Cameron Highlanders in February, 1915, and went to the Front last September as machine-gun officer of his battalion. At the time of his death he was only nineteen years of age. Of his two brothers, one, Corporal E. S. Cameron, Royal Montreal Regiment, was killed at St. Julien on April 24th, 1915, whilst the other, Second Lieutenant G. F. Cameron, Cameron Highlanders, was severely wounded at Loos last September.

LIEUTENANT EYRE MASSEY SHAW, of the Middlesex Regiment, who died of wounds on July 30th, was son of Captain and Mrs. Bernard V. Shaw, of East Broadway, Hamilton, Bermuda, and formerly of Massaruni, British Guiana.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

PRIVATE LIONEL DEMPSTER MILLER, of the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, was, we regret to learn, accidentally killed at Chipstone Camp on June 12th. Born in the West Indies, he was the elder son of Mr. L. H. Miller, late Inspector of Branches of the Colonial Bank, and now of the Union of London & Smith's Bank. At the time of his death he was twenty-two years of age. Much sympathy will be felt for Mr. Miller, who, as will be noted, has lost both his sons.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUTENANT R. M. HUGHES (son of Mr. Augustus Hughes, of St. Vincent), West Yorkshire Regiment.

SECOND LIEUTENANT J. F. IRVING (eldest son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer of British Guiana), King's Own Scottish Borderers, has been wounded in both arms.

SECOND LIEUTENANT FRANK P. STUBBS (only son of the late F. H. Stubbs, M.A., Second Master, Queen's College, British Guiana, and of Mrs. Wieting, British Guiana), Sherwood Foresters, is in hospital in France.

LIEUTENANT D. R. RICKFORD (son of Mr. Howell Rickford, manager of Mara, British Guiana), East Yorkshire Regiment.

MISSING.

SECOND LIEUTENANT D. P. IRVING, third son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer of British Guiana.

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT MALCOLM SHEPHERD, of the Royal Flying Corps, youngest son of the Very Rev. H. Y. Shepherd, Dean of Antigua, is, we regret to learn, missing.

CAPTAIN THORNTON WARNER (Gloucestershire Regiment), of Trinidad has, we regret to state, been missing since July 30th last.

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN EDWARD WORRELL CARRINGTON, R.A.M.C. (son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington), has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

LIEUTENANT KENNETH SPIERS GORDON, of the Gordon Highlanders, of Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Co., of Port of Spain, a nephew of Mr. Gordon Gordon, of Trinidad, has received the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. After all the officers of his company had become casualties he reorganised the company and rendered great assistance in the defence of an important position. When many of his men were killed and wounded by machine-gun fire from the rear he set a fine example to his company.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

Beard, Lieut. E. A. Cameron, M.B., M.Ch. (son of His Honour Mr. Justice Halman Beard, Puisne Judge of Jamaica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Berkeley, 2nd Lieut. Frank Charles (only son of Mr. H. Astley Berkeley, of Mount Home, Grenada), Royal Flying Corps.

Carrington, Commander John Walsh, R.N. (son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington), H.M.S. *King George V.*

Carrington, 2nd Lieut. Charles Worrell (son of the late Sir John Worrell Carrington), Grenadier Guards.

Francis, 2nd Lieut. Philip R. (son of Colonel Claude Francis, late of British Guiana), East Surrey Regiment.

Hazell, W. H. (son of the late Hon. J. G. W. Hazell, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee in St. Vincent), 2nd King Edward's Horse.

Jackman, Ralph (of Barbados) has passed into Woolwich. Kelly-Lawson, 2nd Lieut. G. M. (son of Mr. D. O. Kelly-Lawson, of Hampden Estate, Hampden, Jamaica), Royal Garrison Artillery. *At the Front.*

Menendez, Tremar (son of Hon. F. M. Menendez, M.L.C., Bahamas), Lieut., 14th Gloucester Regiment (Bantams). Phillips, Hobart C. (son of the Hon. W. L. C. Phillips, Colonial Treasurer of Barbados), has passed into Woolwich.

Ralph, Private Lester, M.A. (late Assistant Master at Harrison College, Barbados), Civil Service Rifles.

Ross, Private Cecil Hope (son of Mr. D. Hope Ross, of St. Kitts and Weimbley), St. Paul's School Officers' Training Corps.

Ross, Miss Janet Ross (sister of Mr. D. Hope Ross, of St. Kitts and Weimbley), V.A.D. Nurse, No. 3 Stationary Hospital, B.E.F., France.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Cowie, 2nd Lieut. David F. (grandson of Mr. David Cowie, of St. Vincent), the Hertfordshire Regiment, has been promoted Captain, and is in charge of a Trench Mortar Battery *at the Front.*

Earle, Lieut. H. J. M. (son of Dr. P. M. Earle, Government Medical Officer of the Philadelphia-Leguan District, British Guiana), Essex Regiment, has been promoted Captain.

Francis, Captain Cyril (son of Colonel Claude Francis, late of British Guiana), East Surrey Regiment, is attached to the King's African Rifles.

Hughes, 2nd Lieut. R. M. (son of Mr. Augustus Hughes, of St. Vincent), West Yorkshire Regiment.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The West Indian Contingent Committee will be grateful for gifts of cigarettes and tobacco, writing pads, sweets, books and magazines for men from the West Indies in hospital. Socks, too, are always welcome. Such gifts may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following gifts:—

Mrs. Vere Oliver: 6 prs. socks, 2 boxes cigarettes.
Miss Berkeley: 1 pr. Socks, 1 pr. mittens, 1 box of books and magazines.

Miss Haynes: 4 prs. socks.

Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 2 prs. socks.

* * *

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,559 11s. 8d., of which amount £1,025 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
A. P. Cowley, Esq. (second donation)	5	0	0
H. B. Haynes, Esq.	4	0	0
W. F. Samuels, Esq.	2	2	0
R. P. Pile, Esq.	1	0	10
H. H. S.	1	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent—			
Kingstown Club	1	9	0
Hon. C. F. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	
A. L. Gillezean, Esq.	2	0	
Ryan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	3	9	0

£15 12 10

The amount of £4 3s. 4d. received by the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, and acknowledged in the CIRCULAR of July 13th, was contributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Kingstown Club	1	14	0
Hon. C. F. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Vincent Hatley, Esq.	8	4	
J. B. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
Ryan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	

£4 3 4

The object of the West Indian Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the West India and Bermuda Military Contingents and of men coming over independently to serve in His Majesty's Forces during the present War.

Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 4, or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

* * *

The West Indian Contingent Committee has received official recognition by the Board of Customs as a central authority for the distribution of parcels containing dutiable gifts, such as tobacco, intended for persons from the West Indies and Bermuda, serving in British regiments temporarily stationed

in this country. In order to escape payment of duty such parcels should be addressed to the intended recipients (whose rank, regiment and regimental number, if any, should be clearly given), c/o the Honorary Secretary, West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Full particulars regarding the nature of the contents must also be written on each parcel. It will be understood that the arrangement does not apply to gifts for persons serving abroad which, like gifts of a non-dutiable character should be sent direct, in the usual way, and not through this channel. No gift parcel which contains a larger quantity of dutiable goods than is reasonably sufficient for the personal use of the addressee can be delivered.

OBITUARY.

MR. ROBERT JOHN LECHMERE GUPPY.

Mr. Robert John Lechmere Guppy died at his residence, 85, Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain, Trinidad, on August 6th.

Mr. Guppy was a son of the late Hon. Robert Guppy, for many years Mayor of San Fernando, and of Mrs. Guppy. For some time he was Chief Inspector of Schools in the colony, but he was latterly best known as a scientist of distinction. He did much for the advancement of elementary education, and subsequently benefited the colony by his geological researches.

MAJOR DAVID L. SLINGER.

We regret to announce that Major David L. Slinger died in Grenada on Sunday, September 3rd.

The death of Major D. L. Slinger, which resulted from peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis, is a great misfortune for Grenada, with the life of which island he had been prominently identified for many years. He was senior partner of the firm of Messrs. D. L. Slinger & Co., merchants, of St. George's, Grenville, Sauters, and Victoria. He was Commandant of the Grenada Volunteer Force from its inception, and brought over a detachment of the Corps for the Coronation. He was a keen rifleman, and his name will be perpetuated by the handsome silver challenge cup which he presented for annual competition on the King's birthday between teams from Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia. The outbreak of war found him in England, where he was accustomed to spend a few months every year, but he returned to the colony and assisted in organising the local defences. Later, when it was decided to send over a West Indian Contingent for active service, he undertook the training of the local detachments, and it is probably due to his strenuous work in this connection that his health broke down. In June last he received the official thanks of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for "the great assistance" which he had rendered "in connection with the Contingents." Major Slinger was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

Will those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of "the British West Indies Regiment, Egyptian Expeditionary Force," or to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments? All ranks are eager for West Indian news.

THE SEA DEFENCES OF BRITISH GUIANA.

Since this subject was last dealt with in the CIRCULAR, Mr. Gerald Case, the expert hydraulic engineer specially engaged by the Government of British Guiana, has submitted his report. It forms a comprehensive and well-considered document, dealing mainly with the sea defences of the East Coast, which are estimated to cost \$1,100,000, a much smaller sum than was anticipated.

As foreshadowed in the CIRCULAR of 18th May, the permanent works recommended are a ferro-concrete stepped-back sea wall, assisted by a series of low lying groynes in front, designed to conserve the formation and retention of a sloping foreshore of mud, sand and shell, conveyed by the littoral currents along the coast line, which Mr. Case considers will be quite effective for the purpose intended.

Mr. Hennebique, President of the Case Coast Protection Corporation of the United States, has also recently visited the colony to confer with and advise Mr. Case in his work; and on behalf of his company this gentleman has entered into contracts with the local Government for the immediate construction of the permanent ferro-concrete wall on the Lusignan and Clonbrook sections of the East Coast, which are the most threatened portions. The contract prices for these two sections of work, we understand, being \$69,915 and \$126,201 respectively, or a total of \$196,116.

A second report by Mr. Case on the sea-defence work required on the West Coast of Demerara will shortly follow; and he has been further instructed whilst in the colony to examine and report on the Demerara Harbour and the Bar at the mouth of the Demerara River, thus following the precedent adopted in the case of Baron Siccama's professional visit of 1879-1880.

As some indication of the course likely to be taken by the Queensland Central Sugar Cane Prices Board in dealing with the Central Mills, our contemporary the *Australian Sugar Journal* quotes a hearing at Cairns of an appeal against the award of the Local Board. The award was 35/- per ton of cane on the basis of eight tons of cane to make one ton of sugar, and 120,000 tons mature cane being available, such average to be increased or reduced proportionately, if (otherwise than due to mill efficiency) it takes less or more of cane to make one ton of sugar; or if sugar rises or falls in price; or if wages should be increased by an award of an Industrial Court, provided always that the price per ton of cane to be paid to the growers shall only be reduced to meet such increase, after allowing for surplus of £5,500, as shown in evidence. Payments to be made of 25/- per ton on delivery, and the balance at end of season, with such adjustment as may be necessary. An additional 1/- per ton to be paid to farmers delivering cane per derrick and railway, also payment of railway charges by mill, which has been approximately allowed for in costs. Deduction for burnt cane, 2/- per ton.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR JOSEPH and Lady Godfrey, who have decided to winter in Barbados, leave for that island *via* New York on September 16th.

MR. F. J. MORRIS, formerly of Forres Park, Trinidad, has left London for a few months' visit to the Zambesi in connection with a cane-sugar enterprise.

IN a recent CIRCULAR it should have been stated that Mr. Henry C. Warner is now Vice-President of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago. He has vacated the similar position on the Cane Farmers' Association.

MR. ROBERT BLAIR RODEN, Chief Justice of British Honduras, will be the recipient of many congratulations on the birth of a grandson, as recorded in another column. His son-in-law was for some time Private Secretary to Mr. Gideon Murray in St. Vincent.

SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER, Governor-elect of the Leeward Islands, who is at present at Tigh-na-Bruiaich has asked us to convey to any residents of Dominica who may be in England, or representatives of individuals and firms in the island the expression of his sympathy in the recent disaster.

THE Alaska Steamship Company is the latest patron of the Panama Canal, which is again temporarily blocked by landslides. Its steamers, which carry passengers as well as cargo, will ply between Philadelphia and Puget Sound, calling at various West Indian ports *en route*.

MR. T. R. N. LAUGHLIN, of the Trinidad *Port of Spain Gazette*, has collected a further sum of £162 17s. 5d. towards the Pervyse Ambulance Fund, making £293 10s. 8d. in all. A cheque for that amount has been forwarded through the West India Committee to the bankers of the fund.

THE CIRCULAR'S list of visitors from overseas has been sadly reduced since the war began. From upwards of a hundred our visitors have fallen to less than fifty. Among the latest arrivals from the West Indies have been the Hon. P. J. Dean and Mrs. Dean from Grenada, whose many friends will learn with pleasure that they hope to remain on this side until December.

THE VENERABLE FYRE HUTSON, Archdeacon of the Virgin Islands, who died on July 15th last, at the age of eighty-six, was a scholar of Codrington College, Barbados, in which island he was born. For over forty years he was Rector of All Saints', in St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, and he only recently gave up active work. One of his sons, the Right Rev. Edward Hutson, D.D., is Bishop of Antigua, while another, Dr. John Hutson, is

Public Health Inspector of Barbados. His brother, the Rev. H. Hutson, was, until recently, Rector of St. Lucy, in the same island.

ACCORDING to the *Natal Agricultural News* the Zululand Milling Company have adopted the co-operative principle on novel lines. They are paying 3d. a ton more for cane than any of the other mills in Zululand, which is in itself no small advantage; but, in addition, planters may elect to acquire up to 1,000 shares in the Company by having 1/- per ton deducted from their cane. The Company undertakes to pay a nominal interest on the money so received. Any planter desirous of discontinuing to hold shares so acquired may dispose of his interests upon giving six months' notice.

IN spite of the increased acreage under Sea Island cotton in the United States, to which reference is made in the Produce Markets' Summary in this issue, the British West Indies—the true home of this variety—have not much to fear from American competition in respect of their cotton industry. In common with some other local industries cotton has suffered through the war, but the Fine Spinners averted what threatened to be a crisis by guaranteeing prices for two crops. For the photographs from which the illustrations facing page 348 are reproduced the CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. W. N. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Vincent.

MR. W. A. M. GOODR, Hon Secretary of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, is greatly pleased by the response from the West Indies to the children's day appeal on behalf of the children in Belgium. The following contributions have already been received: Children of Suddie, Essequeibo, British Guiana, £21; pupils and teachers of Esmond House School, New Amsterdam, £25; children of St. Lucia (per Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray, wife of the Administrator), £203 11s. 6d.; pupils of Miss McCowan's School, Georgetown, Demerara, £35 17s. 3d.; collected by the children of Mrs. Sconce, Georgetown, Demerara, £22 10s.; the Grammar School, Antigua, £70 2s. 3d.; proceeds of entertainments, Flag day, etc., in Barbados, £1,013 14s.; and collected in Montserrat, £27 14s. 3d.

THROUGH Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, the people of Barbados have presented a further sum of £400 to the British Red Cross Society for the maintenance of their gift ambulances. A cheque for that amount was forwarded by the West India Committee to the Society on August 17th. Mr. E. M. Clarke, in acknowledging the gift, writes:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, enclosing a cheque for £400. I note this is a further contribution from the people of Barbados, collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, towards the upkeep of the Barbados Motor Ambulances. I also note that with this last contribution the amount collected to date totals £3,000 and in addition the people of Barbados have also presented us with a Motor Ambulance. It is really a most magnificent effort, and we are very greatly indebted to Mr. Collymore for his very great help in collecting

such a handsome sum, and we are equally indebted to the people of Barbados for responding so generously to his appeal. Will you please convey to Mr. Collymore, and as far as possible to the subscribers generally, our most grateful thanks for their continued kind and generous help?

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—A proposed new Central Factory.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, AUGUST 11th.—Owing to frequent showers of rain, crop operations on muscovado estates have been delayed. Gunthorpe's factory is still grinding, and will continue to do so for some time, and the crop will probably amount to 11,500 tons. Though the whole island is doing well, the Windward estates and clay lands have not reached the estimate, the heavy rains of the last quarter of 1915 having literally drowned out the ratoons. Yields of 30 to 40 tons per acre are reported from certain fields, and altogether planters should be satisfied. A second factory for the Windward district is again on the tapis. A purely local company of cane growers is to be formed, which will endeavour to borrow the requisite capital on debentures, and eventually to own their own factory. The local Government favours the scheme, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture is giving its support. The aid of the Imperial Government was solicited, but the reply was that it could not be given "under present circumstances."

A very successful meeting was held at Bishop Mather's Schoolroom on August 4th, when a patriotic resolution was carried unanimously. His Excellency Hon. T. V. Best presided, and the speakers included the Bishop, Dr. H. Tempany, the Rev. W. S. Symons, the writer, who moved the resolution, and the Hon. D. McDonald, who seconded it. Miss M. Maginley, who is visiting the island, sang the "Marseillaise" and the Russian and British National Anthems. A series of Red Cross teas are being held once a month in aid of the Red Cross Fund. Children's Day resulted in a collection of £70. News of Mr. J. W. M. Maginley having been wounded at Vimy Ridge has been received with general regret.

BARBADOS—Bennett's Plantation realises £16,850.

The Mail Edition of the *Barbados Advocate* of August 10th records a favourable fortnight for Agriculture. There were several days of good general rainfall in August, and the last days of July also gave good showers. The rainfall record for the seven months of the year up to the end of July was 25 inches in St. George, 18 in St. Philip, and 28 for the hilly districts of St. Joseph, St. Andrew, and St. Peter. Reaping operations had ceased almost everywhere. The yield of canes had been generally satisfactory and the factory returns good. It is expected that there will be considerable additions made before next reaping season to the machinery at different estates, suitable for serving as Central factories; but the difficulty of obtaining machinery save at a very heavy price may cause proprietors to hold their hands. The cane crop is looking healthy everywhere.

Bennett's plantation (279 acres), which was bequeathed to Codrington College by the late Mr. Joseph Forte, has changed hands for £16,850, and is to be added to Sandy Lane.

Mr. Thomas Ellis Manning, brother of Mr. Samuel Manning, died on August 8th. The obituary also includes Mr. T. Bert Evelyn, of Wotton, who died in Canada.

NEVIS—Lack of tonnage felt acutely.

MR. B. WILLIAMS, JULY 26th.—The weather for reaping canes has been exceptionally good, and all the estates were finished save one or two. A great difficulty is being experienced and hardship encountered through want of tonnage to ship sugar, and the fact that the market is good where sugar can be sold is small consolation to the man with sugar on an island when it cannot be sold at full market rates through lack of means of exporting it.

Small sloops trading to the neighbouring islands bought several hundred barrels of sugar from small growers at 28/- to 30/- per barrel of 260 lbs. net. In the case of the larger growers the position was serious, but it is evident that the agents of the R.M.S.F. in St. Kitts, with their usual courtesy, endeavoured to help us, and a space for about 200 tons was obtained (if boated to St. Kitts). By the efforts of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., who own large interests here, the S.S. *Savau* came into our port on the 13th and lifted 150 tons muscovado sugar, 51 bales Sea Island cotton, 200 bags coco-nuts, 9 puncheons and 28 casks molasses. A large quantity of sugar and molasses is still on hand awaiting first opportunity of shipping either to Canada or the United Kingdom. The rainfall, which was very small and unevenly distributed, took a welcome change, and July has to the present given about 10 inches uniform rainfall. A fair amount of cotton is being planted, but with the advance in insecticides and everything appertaining to its successful reaping and marketing, the present price seems inadequate and discouraging.

In response to an appeal made by the Administrator to Miss Bridgewater, of the Excelsior School, a splendidly arranged concert came off at Government House on July 10th in aid of the Belgian children, the net proceeds amounting to nearly £40. The Hon. C. C. Greaves and Miss Bridgewater, whose whole-hearted energy and talent resulted in such splendid success, deserve congratulations, and one may be excused if a desire to urge them to another such effort be felt. We are now entering the hurricane season, and we can only hope that we will pass scathless, as we have for the past seventeen years. The British Empire Producers' Organisation deserves applause and whole-hearted co-operation from the Empire, especially from the British West Indies. To predict the far-reaching power of such an organisation, given adequate support, is impossible.

TOBAGO—Progress in many directions.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 4th.—"Discovery Day" (July 31st), a Trinidad holiday, delayed the coastal steamer one day; but Tobago (except officially) does not recognise that holiday. The following day, August 1st, the anniversary of Emancipation, is Tobago's great holiday, and is kept up for a week or more. Concerts, cricket matches, and visits to friends are held, and "the August" is likely to be a Tobago institution for a long time to come, although its associations are now a dim memory, and hardly mentioned except by some old inhabitants. A few old folks still claim that they "were born in slavery," but their memories are probably at fault. Planters welcome the week's freedom from work, as it gives them time to square off the crop books, etc.

Since my last letter there have been some nice showers, but the weather is comparatively dry for this season, my rainfall for July being only eight inches. Some heavy showers would be acceptable to cool the air, which is hot and still, especially at mid-day. Crop prospects continue favourable, and the first cacao pickings are expected by the end of September. Sugar planters seem all well pleased with the result of last crop, and cane cultivation is being extended. If the Government would only give some guarantee of even fair trade, central factories might yet be erected in Tobago. The little island is certainly progressing. By last post I received a circular advertising a regular motor service between Scarborough and King's Bay in conjunction with the mail contract, and the charge for seats is by no means excessive. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company are trying to popularise the trip round the island, and the passengers are increasing. All of them seem delighted with this little sea trip and the lovely scenery enjoyed all the way, both in Trinidad and Tobago.

MR. G. DAVID HAY, AUGUST 4th.—In consequence of the shortage of rain, our corn crop is ruined, as it was last year, and tobacco is in a similar plight. The quantity of this latter exported to Port of Spain, apart from what is used locally, is officially stated at 48,475 lbs., valued at £2,541 3s. 3d. It is all grown by the peasants in the dry, sunny Leeward district on their own freehold plots, in small quantities—to the dislike, strange to say, of some official heads of departments. Corn, ground into flour, roasted and boiled on the cob, is the staple food

from mid-August till the close of the year. Last year £93 9s. 2d. worth was exported.

The exports to Port of Spain for the half-year ended June 30th last are officially valued at £49,795, as against £42,348 in 1915 and £34,081 in 1914. (Cacao, £24,271; coconuts, copra, and coco-nut oil, £7,134; fruit and vegetables, £7,560; sugar and molasses, £1,653; rubber, £1,941; live-stock, £4,168; timber, £1,065; and tobacco, £848, are the principal items.)

Owing to the withdrawal of the *Barima* and the closing down of our exports to the northern and southern coast ports of Trinidad, there is now no remunerative market available for our dogs, farine, smaller size livestock for butchers, dried fish, starch, peas, sugar, timber, and avocado pears, amongst other produce.

The second anniversary of the War will be observed in the churches on Sunday, the 6th inst. The third doctor in the island has been induced to reconsider his resignation. The news of the death in England of His Lordship the Bishop reached us on July 23rd. An administrator with an iron will and power to enforce it is very urgently needed as head of the Anglican body here.

TRINIDAD The demise of "Bad John."

MR. EDGAR TRIMP, AUGUST 5th.—A public meeting was held last night at the Prince's Building to mark the second anniversary of the declaration of war against Germany. The Mayor, Hon. E. Prada, presided, and the Governor was present. The resolution of inflexible determination to continue the struggle to a victorious end, which has been circulated throughout the Empire, was moved by the Hon. H. A. Alcazar, K.C., senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council, and seconded by the Hon. H. C. Gollan, K.C., Attorney-General. Speeches in support were delivered by Mr. John H. Smith, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, Captain Randolph Rust, Mr. George F. Huggins, and Mr. A. D. O'Connor, Crown Solicitor.

The meeting was an unqualified success. It was attended by all classes, including many ladies, for whom special accommodation was provided. Every inch of room on the platform, in the large hall of the building, and in the surrounding galleries was crowded with an enthusiastic audience, which listened with intense interest throughout the proceedings, which lasted until eleven o'clock. The speeches were of a high order of merit. In the course of one of the speeches the room was darkened and the names of the honoured dead who have already fallen for Trinidad and Empire were thrown upon a screen, and the Last Post sounded amid impressive silence.

The excellent sugar and cacao crops to date have found reflection in the railway returns issued to June 30th. The total receipts from all sources for the month were:—

1914	51,878.35	Dollars.
1915	54,218.73	
1916	62,989.57	

The number of passengers carried was 152,946. Mr. Marwood, the General Manager, remarks that cacao carried during June amounted to 19,663 bags, compared with 7,146 bags in June, 1915. The Governor has intimated that he will himself enquire in regard to a petition which has been presented praying for an enquiry into the management of the railway, and suggesting that a Committee of the public should be named to form a sort of advisory directorate. It cannot be denied that general dissatisfaction has found expression during the last few years in connection with the running of this Government line. Everyone admits that in Mr. Marwood the colony has one of the most conscientious and hard-working officers in the service; his fault, if anything, is that he overworks himself with detail that might well be done by subordinates if the staff were sufficient, and I fancy the petition is not meant to be a personal reflection on the Manager, but to get at the truth of things—viz., whether the undoubtedly starved condition of the line and equipment is due to the management or to the act of a previous Executive in diverting earnings of the railway to other purposes when urgently required for the proper upkeep of the line itself. I am inclined to think the latter will be found nearer the truth.

A little excitement has been aroused by the escape of

three of the Germans interned at St. James's Barracks. The barbed wire surrounding the enclosure was found cut, and a boat anchored off in the neighbourhood is missing. Our Miscellaneous Patrol Service received early notice, and the coast and islands are being scoured for the departed ones, who, if not already within the sheltering shore of the Spanish Main, will probably be soon again enjoying the hospitality which some say has been far too lavishly extended to the Huns within our gates.

At the moment of writing I learn with regret of the death of Mr. R. J. L. Guppy, a former Inspector of Schools and the island's distinguished geologist. Mr. Guppy, strangely enough, had no letters after his name. He never sought nor would accept them; but his name is known in connection with the geology of the West Indies throughout the scientific world, and the value of his work is acknowledged. He was Honorary Consulting Geologist to the Agricultural Society, and contributed several very valuable papers to its *Proceedings*. He leaves a large family, his eldest daughter being married to the Hon. A. Fraser.

Quite a noted character in his own peculiar way came to an untimely end yesterday. His real name was John Archer, but he was known as nothing else but "Bad John." Those who know their Trinidad will recall, not unkindly, his familiar figure and character. He was very black, and generally very ragged, and his faults were numerous, but he was something of a hero in his way—a modest hero who never referred to his own brave acts—and had earned more than one medal for the saving of life if all men had the reward of their merit. He was formerly a soldier in the West India Regiment, but came here many years ago and developed a strong taste for rum, with the result that he was more often drunk than sober, and as often in gaol as out of it. That in *vinci veritas* was fully exemplified in his case, for his marked spirit of loyalty never came out more strongly than in his worst moments, when he never failed to sing the National Anthem or some patriotic air. He wore a battered old beaver hat, in which he always carried a Union Jack or a small likeness of the King. When in liquor, his *bête noire* was a policeman, and his record of 119 convictions in the police court were all for drunkenness or assaulting the police. His proud boast was that he had never been convicted of stealing. Once, when about to be sentenced, the prosecuting constable told the magistrate that it was his 97th conviction. "You're a d—d liar," said John; "it's my 107th." He was a marvellous swimmer and diver, and when the south-westerns blew at the wharf, and craft and men were in danger, none so brave as he in plunging off into the heaving swells to save life and property. Some three or four human beings owe their lives to him to-day—saved by him from the muddy depths of the harbour when seemingly all hope had gone. And he met his end in the water, trying to do a kindness to a sailor who had dropped a bucket overboard from a schooner. John, in the kindness of his heart, promptly took off his clothes and dived off the jetty for it. On coming up he struck his face badly over the eye against the keel of the schooner, and sank apparently stunned. So it is that poor Bad John has passed into the great unknown, taking with him the record of his 119 convictions more than wiped out, let us hope, by the honest bravery of his soul and the acts of heroism which will always remain to his credit.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2'6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Tatham.—On July 17th, at the residence of her father-in-law, Northcourt House, Abingdon, the wife of Meaburn Tatham (née Roden), of a son

WANTS.

Wanted.—Copies of CIRCULAR dated August 10th. Sixpence per copy given.—Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Overseers.—Public School man, age 30, twelve years' farming, orcharding, and planting experience in U.S.A., England, and the East, requires position as overseer on plantation.—Cooper, 6, Vine Place, Brighton.

THE MERITS OF "BROWN SUGAR."

A Striking Article in the "Evening News."

The *Evening News* sees a solution of the sugar shortage problem in the reversion to the use of brown sugar. In an article on the subject in its issue of September 1st it regards the use of the cheap refined white sugars from Germany as a habit only, and goes on to say: "Such a habit has the use of this variety of sugar become that it is difficult to get people to realise that there are other varieties which serve domestic purposes not only equally well, but even better.

"For half a century the brown cane sugar has been under a cloud. In a reversion to the use of this lies the solution of the difficulty.

"Whilst the neat cubes of white sugar are a tempting decorative attraction (as compared with the sandy brown variety) to the tea table, it should be remembered that it is for its sweetening qualities that we buy sugar.

"Brown sugar is in every way preferable to the white variety from a dietic point of view. The latter is sugar boiled and boiled until the original juices are entirely eliminated and practically nothing beyond crystallised carbon remains, whilst the brown variety still retains all the nature and goodness of the cane.

"It may be that there is a shortage of 3,000,000 tons in white sugar, and that the major portion of what remains is non-existent for us, but the entire crop of cane sugar is intact, and, this is the most important point, it is mainly British.

"The profits thus accruing from the whole of the sugar business in this country might be kept 'in the family,' representing trade to the extent of £40,000,000 annually between our Colonies and ourselves. There are to-day ample supplies of this West Indian sugar available, but it is in little demand because of the prejudice against the good old cane sugar that our Victorian forbears were accustomed to and enjoyed.

"The main difficulty is our lack of refineries in this country. Once we have these we can, with cane sugar grown in our own Colonies and a suitable protective tariff, beat the German at his own game in the production of white sugar.

"The present moment is not one in which we can contemplate the immediate erection of sugar refineries. Once we have the after the war we can, with suitable legislation, face the world on the sugar question.

"In the meantime each of us can do his bit by raising no protest when the good, wholesome brown sugar—the product of our Colonies—is offered to us as a substitute for the accustomed white variety of foreign origin, either at home or in our favourite restaurant."

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.
September 6th, 1916.

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted at 59½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) 96½.

SUGAR. The shortage of sugar has, if anything, been accentuated since last report, and increased supplies of West India crystallised and muscovado would be readily absorbed at the Royal Commission's rates, which remain unchanged.

Meltings for home consumption for Liverpool, London, and the Clyde for the first eight months of the year have been 571,741 tons, as compared with 608,564 tons and 618,854 tons for the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914.

West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to August 26th are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	41,378	36,346	24,076	34,118	23,410
Deliveries ...	40,153	27,758	22,574	19,725	20,467
Stock (Aug 26)	12,330	14,597	14,454	16,233	7,433

The anticipations in the CIRCULAR of August 10th have been realised. The West India Committee were informed by the Colonial Office on August 24th that the Governors of the British West Indian Colonies had been authorised by telegraph to grant licenses for the exportation of sugar to the United States of America subject to guarantees that the sugar is for consumption in the United States or Canada. This should relieve the situation, as the Canadian refiners will no longer have the whip hand, as they had when the British West Indian sugar could only go to the Dominion.

Meanwhile, however, the Canadian refiners still hold aloof, and few if any transactions are recorded as far as British West Indian sugar is concerned. The Canadian quotation is nominally \$4.25. The United States market remains dull, and, though the statistical position of sugar is regarded as a strong one, the whole country having for months past only been buying on a hand-to-mouth basis, while the refineries are only lightly stocked, holders have shown nervousness in view of the home beet crop and approaching Louisiana cane crop, which are expected to yield together 1,000,000 tons.

According to estimates received by Messrs. Willet & Gray, the Java 1916-17 crop which began in May should reach 1,500,000 tons, as against 1,264,000 tons for 1915-16.

New York prices are—September, 4.02c.; December, 4.12 c.; March, 3.83 c.; and May 3.89 c.

RUM. The better demand foreshadowed in last CIRCULAR has already manifested itself as regards May and June deliveries of Jamaicas, which, under the Order in Council, will be available for consumption in February and March next. With regard to imports from now on, all the uncertainty, which is so detrimental to trade, continues, for they will not enjoy the concession of nine months' warehousing in this country, but as the law now stands will not be released for consumption until three years from the date of manufacture, or two years and nine months from the date of landing in this country.

Though it is confidently anticipated that a further concession will be granted next year, business men naturally require some more definite assurance. The Pure Food Department of the United States, under the powers given them by Section II. of the Food and Drugs Act, have announced that rum imported from the United Kingdom shall comply with the British Immature Spirits Act. Henceforth each shipment must, accordingly, be accompanied by a certificate of age. Though this decision will go into effect at once, it is not expected that it will be rigidly enforced at first where commitments have been made.

Stocks in London on August 26th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	8,802	4,562	8,740	7,466	9,281
Demerara ...	13,860	5,330	9,720	7,845	6,693
Total, all kinds ...	37,064	19,810	25,929	22,752	23,597

CACAO. At the auctions on August 29th, 11,795 bags offered met with a fair demand. 1,622 bags Grenada were part sold at 78/- to 84/-; 2,627 bags Trinidad at 78/6 to 83/-; 1,587 Jamaica at 81/- to 82/6; 40 Demerara were sold at 80/- to 82/-; 1,102 St. Lucia part sold at 79/- to 83/6; and 32 British West African were sold at 74/-.

At auction on August 29th about 12,000 bags of all descriptions were submitted. There was an irregular demand for West Indies at steady to dearer prices for fine; other kinds slow and unchanged. Sales included 1,500 bags of Trinidad at 83/- to 84/- for plantation; 1,200 bags of Grenada at 78/- to 83/- for good to fine; Jamaica, 720 bags at 81/- to 82/6 for fine; St. Lucia, 640 bags at 73/- to 89/6 for ordinary to fine; Demerara, 42 bags at 82/- for good.

Stocks in London on August 26th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	28,037	13,270	9,879	13,269	7,399
Grenada	17,822	2,194	8,649	5,239	5,800
Total, all kinds	249,078	110,297	93,201	80,611	111,081

The Gold Coast cacao exports for the first six months of the present years amounted to 103,230,400 lbs.

COTTON. According to the ginners' report, issued at Savannah, the United States Sea Island cotton crop for 1915-16 was 91,920 bales, as compared with 81,598 bales for 1914-15; 77,490 for 1913-14; 73,641 for 1912-13 and 123,312 for 1911-12. Favourable prices during most of the season has led to a considerable increase in the acreage, estimated at 15 per cent. as compared with last year. The exports for the last five years have been as follows:—

	1911-12	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
United Kingdom	13,685	10,914	11,749	1,922	1,667
Europe...	6,615	5,161	4,833	1,991	1,060
U.S.A.					
Northern Mills	92,679	29,451	67,636	60,879	60,822
Southern Mills	9,029	10,492	14,427	15,409	21,697

During the 34 weeks ended August 24th, 4,363 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that since last report a fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton, and quotations have been raised 1d. per lb. The sales comprise Anguilla 16½d. to 20d.; St. Martin 16½d.; St. Kitts 19½d. to 21d.; Nevis 16d. to 21d.; and Barbados at 20d., with a few stains at 12d. to 14d.

COFFEE. The market has been quiet and prices fairly steady.

BANANAS. West Indian bananas are quoted at Bristol 22/6 to 24/- per cwt., and Canaries 13/- to 16/- per crated bunch.

With regard to the prohibition of fruit imports, it may be noted that a recent steamer brought 50,000 pineapples from the Azores to London. From this it will be gathered that diplomatic questions, which would have also been raised if Canary bananas had been shut out, are involved.

COPRA has been firm. London spot prices: Ceylon £29 15s.; Straits £28 15s.; Singapore £29.

West Indian £31 c.i.f. terms. The market for the United Kingdom continues very slow, and prices are again lower.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil—Distilled: Sellers at 7/6 per lb., but quiet. Handpressed: Scarce; small sales at 9/- to 9/3 per lb. Lime Juice.—Raw: Good business done in Dominica juice at 2/9 to 3/-; St. Lucia, Montserrat, etc., 2/9 per gallon. Concentrated: No change. Citrate of Lime.—Buyers at £27.

News is anxiously awaited regarding the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone which, on August 28th, swept over Dominica, our chief source of supply of lime products. Private advices state that cultivation has suffered severely, and it is expected that the current crop of limes will be reduced to vanishing point. Prices have already responded.

SPICES. Nutmegs: 100/80's sound, 1/- to 1/2; 120/100's, 11d. to 1/-; 140/120's, 10d. to 11d. Mace: Good to fine, 2/1 to 2/8; red to good, 1/8 to 2/-; blood red to medium red, 1/3 to 1/7; broken 8d. to 1/2

ARROWROOT remains very quiet, only a few barrels of fine having been sold.

RUBBER. Fine plantation is quoted at 2/3 per lb. as against 2/4½ at even date last year. Smoked sheet 2/2½; fine hard Para 3/3½, and soft 3/-. Plantation is quietly steady, and hard Para steady after being slightly easier after very firm.

BALATA. Venezuela block in small supply; market firm; sellers 2/10 c.i.f. Panama easier since last report; sellers 2/2½ c.i.f. West Indian sheet irregular. Forward quoted 3/3 landed, spot 3/5 landed.

HONEY. At the auction on August 24th about 800 packages Jamaica met a slow demand, the lower qualities being 2/- to 3/- lower. The range of value was 35/- to 58/- for dark liquid to fine pale set.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. G. G. Browne	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. T. W. O'Neil
Mr. G. S. Browne	Mr. Hart-Hennett, C. S. G.	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. I. J. A. Carlee	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss F. Robinson
Mr. J. W. Cathcart	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. D. Hope Ross
Mr. D. S. De Freitas	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. E. G. A. Saunders
Mr. H. de Gale	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. Lionel Devaux	Hon. A. Don Lockhart	Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne
Sir Walter Eserton	Mr. Clement Malouf	Mr. F. B. B. Shand
K. C. N. G.	Mr. A. Marsden	Mr. J. C. Shaw
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Sir Frederic Maxwell	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. R. P. Gibbs	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Alfred Mendes	and
Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. J. Molloy	Mr. Auchter-Warner, K. C.
Mr. Wai. Greig	Dr. Frank Oliphant	
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate		
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 38, Conington Road, Winchmore Hill, N.		
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.		
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. Rine & Co., 65, Cornhill, E. C.		
Mr. H. D. Scudamore, at Mrs. Pine's, 7, Goldsmid Road, Brighton, Sussex.		
Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Bradie & Gray, 2, Forth Street, Edinburgh		

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Sep. 15	Royal Mail	Quiffota	London	A, E, D
.. 15	Harrison	Traveller	Liverpool	A, B, E, F, G
.. 16	Elders & Fyffes	Camito	Bristol	D
.. 19	"Direct"	Union of Trinidad	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G
.. 19	Harrison	Craftsman	Liverpool	D
.. 22	Booker	Arakata	Liverpool	B
.. 29	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	A, E
.. 30	Leyland	Orman	Liverpool	D

FROM CANADA

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Sep. 22	R.M.S.P.Co.	Caraquet	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, I
Oct. 6	"	Chateau	"	K, L, M, N

FROM HOLLAND

Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Sep. 15	Royal Dutch	Pr. Frederik Hendrik	Amsterdam	B, E
Oct. 10	"	Commezzine	"	"

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Petres Sept. 6
4%	Antigua ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
3½%	Barbados ... 3½% Redeemable 1925-42	74
4%	British Guiana ... 4% Redeemable 1935	85½
3%	Grenada ... 3% Redeemable 1921-43	74½
4%	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	74
4%	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1934	74
3½%	Jamaica ... 3½% Redeemable 1919-49	71
4%	Jamaica ... 4% Redeemable 1922-44	81
4%	St. Lucia ... 4% Redeemable 1919-44	81
4%	Trinidad ... 4% Redeemable 1917-42	83
3%	Trinidad ... 3% Redeemable 1922-44	82
6%	The Colonial Bank	86
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	126½
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	86½
4½%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½% Debentures	87½
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	92½
4½%	Imperial Direct Line 4½% Debentures	103½
6%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	5
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	103
4%	Trinidad Cifields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	4.9
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	147
—	United Brit. of Trinidad "A" (15/- paid)	11
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	27-30
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Pref.	95-100
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	70-75
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	71-75
1½%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	21.3
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	7½
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	6
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	90

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone : 15, SERRING LANE,
6642 CENTRAL LONDON, E.C.1.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.
September 20th, 1916.

THE FINANCES OF JAMAICA.

THE returns of the Department of Excise, Internal Revenue, and Customs and Stamp Office for the year ended 31st March, 1916, published as a supplement to the *Jamaica Gazette*, demonstrate that, in spite of set-backs, the finances of Jamaica are in a flourishing condition. The import duty collection yielded a total revenue of £416,790, against a revenue in 1914-15 of £396,045, a Budget Estimate of £405,000, and a Revised Estimate of £390,000. Under all the circumstances this is a remarkable showing, and demonstrates the capacity of the Jamaican people to rise to the occasion, whether it be fortunate or otherwise. It will be observed that the reduction of £15,000 in the Budget Estimate, which the Government considered necessary owing to the serious leeway made during the earlier months of the year, was shown in the event to have been unnecessary, though the reduced estimate was only overtaken during the last quarter of the year, when, as MR. A. H. MILES, the Collector-General, points out, "good seasons were yielding results, the logwood boom was at its height, and the sugar and rum crops were being brought to market." A greater improvement still would have been recorded had there been no shipping shortage to curtail trade. Turning to the sources of these imports, it is regrettable to note the falling off in the percentage of manufactured goods imported from the United Kingdom, viz., from 58.7 in 1914 to 44.9, while the percentage of these goods from the United States rose from 35.9 to 52.9. With regard to exports, attention is called to the fact that "notwithstanding controlled trade, the closing of the German and Austrian markets,

and the comparative failure of our chief commodity of exchange with the United States, Great Britain's share of our exports in 1915 was only 38.1 per cent., against 81.8 per cent. in 1875." "Room for improvement here," remarks MR. MILES with truth, adding, "And it seems more than likely that the immediate future will afford the golden opportunity." There is not much doubt that the golden opportunity will be afforded. It is for the people of the Empire to insist this time upon the opportunity being taken. It should be noted that while the home country's percentage of Jamaican exports has decreased by more than half in forty years, that taken by the States has quadrupled in the same time, following the growth of the fruit industry. Trade relations with Canada in this regard show an improvement, rising from practically nothing in 1875 to 7.5 per cent. in 1915, but this improvement is too slight and too slow to be considered satisfactory. And again we must look to the growth of the Imperial idea for the required development. Coming to the consideration of the detailed statistics of exports, the most notable feature is the serious reduction in the amount of bananas exported owing to a hurricane in 1915. Yet if the lesson—and it has again been very cruelly enforced—be taken to heart, so that it emphasises what Mr. Miles very rightly calls "the folly of carrying too many eggs in one basket," the hurricane of 1915, and we must now add that of 1916 also, may not be without value to the island's economics. The importance of developing the sugar industry, especially in view of the fiscal changes which the great War must inevitably bring about, is obvious; nor is that importance lessened by the knowledge that the cane to a great extent would withstand the effects of the hurricanes, which for a time and very literally wipe out the banana cultivation. The increase in the sugar exported during the year was appreciable, being 302,885 cwt., against 251,246, the average of four years. But there is room here for immense expansion. Another gratifying feature of the export list is the increase shown in the number and value of coco-nuts exported. Whether for fruit or copra, but especially for the latter, there is a steadily expanding market for the grower of coco-nuts, and in view of the huge demand for oils, a glut of this produce is practically unthinkable. Again, experience has shown that the coco-nut plantation withstands cyclones that strip a banana plantation bare. It is satisfactory to observe that the acreage of tilled lands has increased during the year under review by some 7,000 acres, but not so satisfactory to note that nearly 6,000 acres of this increase were devoted to bananas, while less than 1,500 acres extra were devoted to sugar, and nearly 3,000 acres of coffee had gone out of cultivation. It must be mentioned that the increases and decreases specified are over and under

the averages of the four years 1911-15. The acreage under coco-nuts, it should be added, shows an increase of 11,036 acres over the same average. The detailed reports of the crop obtained in 1915 and expected in 1916 in the various parishes are most valuable, though the estimates will have to be sadly reduced owing to the recent hurricane. The annual report of the Jamaica Government Railway must be considered satisfactory, although it shows a decrease in revenue of 13.6 per cent. over the year 1915. When it is remembered how many adverse factors have to be taken into consideration, it is really remarkable that the falling-off was not greater. The total revenue amounted to £154,721, and the total expenditure to £127,287, the latter an increase of 18.7 per cent., though if the extraordinary expenditure due to the flood rains and hurricane were deducted, the ordinary maintenance expenditure would show a decrease. MR. S. COUPER, the Director of the Railway, modestly says that the revenue, under the adverse circumstances, cannot be considered unsatisfactory. He might justly have plumed himself and his staff upon something of an achievement.

"BLACK TALK."*

AT a time when, owing to the spread of elementary education, all dialects are rapidly disappearing, the collection of quaint and archaic phrases and terms of speech still current among the agricultural populations of the Empire is most desirable, for it is upon such material that the philologist of the future will have to work. In this connection it is interesting to note the historical importance of dialect, especially in throwing light upon the migrations of peoples. The little book entitled "Black Talk,"* recently produced by MR. J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK, is an instructive example of how much may be done in this way by an acute observer in his leisure hours. MR. CRUICKSHANK has jotted down from time to time words and phrases used by the negroes of British Guiana and Barbados with whom he has come in contact, has analysed these "finds" at his leisure, and now publishes the results of his inquisition in a form that renders them as useful as they are undoubtedly entertaining. In the earlier chapters of the work MR. CRUICKSHANK explains how and when the idea first occurred to him to make notes of the black man's "English"; how it comes about that the negro has lost his native tongue and adopted that of his present mother country; and how to some extent the native African idiom has been grafted on to the English dialect spoken in Guiana. Though the reasons which MR. CRUICKSHANK advances for the rapid decay of the African tongue are sound enough, we are not prepared to accept them as all-sufficient. No doubt the early slave traders deliberately mixed the peoples whom they brought from the West Coast of Africa, so that, their languages being

* "Black Talk." Being notes on negro dialect in British Guiana, with (inevitably) a chapter on the vernacular of Barbados. By J. Graham Cruickshank. Demerara: The Argosy Company. Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, post free, paper cover, 2/1; stout cover, 2/8.

different, they were unable successfully to plot against their captors; and unquestionably the fact that the imported blacks were often unable to understand each other's native speech hastened the decay of the African tongue. But even had the blacks all spoken the same language, the result of their transportation to alien conditions under alien rule would have been the same. They must have adopted the language of their employers in the end. For a long time, of course, the constant arrival of new slaves kept the African tongue alive, but when the trade suddenly ceased, the tongue was doomed; it lost its stimulus, and, which is of even more importance, its usefulness. Why should a people remain bi-lingual when all the important business of life must be transacted in one language? None the less, it is perhaps extraordinary that relatively so few words of African origin have been retained. The explanation of this may probably be sought in the fact that as the ruling classes dealt with their new slaves through intermediaries, first through the English bond-servant, and then through the English-speaking negroes, they had little need to master the African tongue. Consequently words of African origin never received that recognition which alone could have given them permanence. But if the exiled African has forgotten the languages of his forefathers, he has retained some of their grammatical constructions, and instances of these are quoted by MR. CRUICKSHANK from many of the authorities who have dealt with the subject. The African relationships of the negro dialect are interesting to trace, but of far greater interest are its English and Irish derivations. The negroes of British Guiana came in the first instance with the Barbadian planters who settled there, and it was they who were the instructors of the Africans subsequently imported. Thus it is to Barbados we must look for the origin of the dialect. That the first African slaves in Barbados were taught the English tongue by the English bond-servants might naturally be conjectured; but the vernacular of Barbados supplements this conjecture with absolute philological proofs. Turns of phrase point to this English county or the other, while the continued use of words common in the seventeenth century, but now obsolete in England, date these first lessons in English with considerable accuracy. In the main section of his book, MR. CRUICKSHANK gives us a series of phrase and word notes alphabetically arranged, in which the derivations of certain turns of phrase, quaint substitutions of words, and curious omissions or elisions, are ascribed to the various dialects of the English countryside. Thus, "a" for "I" is a common substitution in Westmoreland and Yorkshire, "a" for "of" in Devon and other counties. It is a very remarkable collection that MR. CRUICKSHANK has made, and has as much interest for the students of English dialect as it has for students of "black talk." A trick of the negro, it is noted, is the interpolation of a consonant between two words. This, MR. CRUICKSHANK surmises, is for the sake of euphony, and, if so, is typically African. It is possibly for the sake of euphony, but we doubt if it is of African derivation. Three instances are given by MR. CRUICKSHANK, and in two of

these English origin is probable. Thus, asked how old he is, a veteran says, "No able fo' n' use shovel and hoe." Here "n" probably stands for "to," a well-known vulgar redundancy. Questioned as to the fruitfulness of an old pear tree, a man replies, "One—one pear off'r it." Surely the "r" stands for "of," the "off of" already noted by MR. CRUICKSHANK elsewhere. Even the other case quoted is probably English in origin. "Does this farm pay you?" "Sah, me a get li'l bit out a r' am." The "a" may be "off," and the "r" a very redundant "of." Not the least interesting part of a most interesting book is that in which the Barbadian dialect is traced to the old country, and to a bygone age there. The influence of the Bible upon the negro's talk is of course noted.

AN ILL-TIMED AGITATION.

WE are extremely glad to learn that the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association, to say nothing of the more prominent members of the local East Indian community, have completely dissociated themselves from the movement originated by certain elective members of the Court of Policy of British Guiana with the view of securing the super-session of SIR WALTER EGERTON as Governor of the Colony. Apart altogether from the question of taste and decency involved in attacking SIR WALTER whilst his back is turned and he is absent from the Colony on well-deserved leave of absence, it is, we venture to assert, quite unpardonable to attempt to stir up political strife at a time when the Empire is involved in the greatest war the world has ever known. We earnestly hope that wiser counsels will prevail, and that this aspect of the unfortunate controversy which has now arisen will appeal to the people of British Guiana, and we trust that the example of this country—where the political truce that was declared at the beginning of the War is still being conscientiously observed—will be followed.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided over a meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday, September 14th. The other members present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. T. H. Greenwood, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

The following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder
The Peter Coaling Co. Ltd.	{ Mr. W. A. Griffin. { Mr. E. L. Marshall.
Mr. P. L. M. Orde (Tobago)	{ Mr. Robert S. Reid. { Mr. W. A. Wolseley.
Dr. A. H. Rich (Dominica)	{ Mr. H. W. Everington. { Dr. S. Vassallo, M.D.

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. F. U. Tronchin (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. A. P. Bowhill. { Mr. W. H. McTurk.
Mr. Arthur G. Marks	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. { Mr. E. R. Davson.
Second Lieut. C. L. Seton-Browne	{ Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne. { Mr. C. Gurney.
Sir Hylton R. Brisco. Bart.	{ Mr. Hugh F. Wildy. { Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. Lewis R. Grant (British Honduras)	{ Lieut.-Col. James Cran, M.D. { Hon. A. R. Usber.
Mr. Robert Gill (Nigeria)	{ Mr. Frank Evans. { Mr. C. Fred Worters.
Mr. S. E. Moir (St. Kitts)	{ Mr. D. Hope Ross. { Mr. W. A. Griffin.
Mr. Philippe de la Bastide (Trinidad)	{ Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. { Mr. E. R. Davson.
Dr. Dunbar R. B. Hughes, M.B., C.M.	{ Mr. W. Grahame Lang. { Mr. H. Astley Berkeley.
Mr. S. P. Goodall	{ Mr. E. J. Sheldford. { Mr. C. Fred Worters.

On the recommendation of the Hon. Treasurers, it was decided to open an account with the Colonial Bank with the view of facilitating the collection of subscriptions in the British West Indies.

The Secretary reported the receipt of a letter dated August 15th from the Hon. H. P. Sewell covering the following resolution adopted at a meeting of the Northside Sugar Planters' Association of Jamaica on June 3rd:—

"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."

It was pointed out that the Association consisted of the owners and managers of the principal sugar estates in the parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, and St. James.

The following letter from Mr. Edgar Tripp was read:—

The Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies.

Trinidad,
27th July, 1916.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that at a meeting of the preliminary Executive Committee, held at Port of Spain, on 30th June, it was decided to start the formation of an Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies on the lines proposed by Mr. E. R. Davson in May, 1914.

Up to date, Demerara, Barbados and Trinidad have given assent, and the other British Colonies, excepting Jamaica, are being communicated with, and I trust will co-operate.

I have written full particulars of proceedings to date to Mr. E. R. Davson, from whom you will no doubt hear in due course, and it only remains for me now to ask whether your Committee is still prepared, in accordance with what we understand was originally arranged to afford the Association the benefit of representing its interests in London.

I am, etc.,

EDGAR TRIPP,
Honorary Secretary.

The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Committee would be glad to represent the interests of the Associated Chamber, of the formation of which they had learnt with much satisfaction.

The following letter from the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute was read:—

Sir,—

1. The Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute have received from the Honorary Secretary of the British Guiana Branch the following Resolutions which were passed at a meeting of the branch held in Georgetown on May 24th last:—

BE IT RESOLVED:—

That in connection with the Enquiry now in progress by the Board of Trade with respect to measures for securing the position after the War of certain branches of British Industry, the Local Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute in British Guiana draws attention to the following subjects as peculiarly affecting that Colony, with a view to such action as may properly be taken by the Royal Colonial Institute to secure their due consideration:—

(a) The desirability of the appointment of a Commission or a Committee on the requirements and resources of the tropical Colonies of the Empire

(b) The necessity for preferential trade within the Empire, with special reference as regards the very large undeveloped resources of British Guiana; to the subsidiary questions of—

1. The introduction of a greatly increased supply of agricultural labour from tropical sources;

2. The improvement and acceleration of means of overseas transport for the products of the Colony;

3. The attraction of capital for the improvement of existing equipment for manufacture on a sound basis of security;

4. The readjustment of tariffs where they operate to the restriction of the development of the Colony and the expansion of its industries.

(c) The continuation under every encouragement of the Colonization of British Guiana, preferably from India, under conditions mutually acceptable to the Colony and to the Government and people of India.

(d) The recognition of the Colony as an Imperial asset and assistance in the development of its coasts, forests and savannahs, by rail or otherwise, to a degree commensurate with the Colony's available means and based on scientific investigation of its resources.

2. The Trade and Industry Committee have for some time past taken an active part in forwarding the trade and industrial development of the Crown Colonies, and are much impressed with the importance of the questions raised by the branch, particularly question (a), in view of the fact that a large proportion of the products of the Crown Colonies have hitherto been sent to foreign countries.

The Committee are of opinion that the time is opportune for an exhaustive enquiry into the condition and prospects of Crown Colony trade and industrial development, and believing that combined action on the part of the principal societies dealing with Crown Colony affairs would be the more effective way of bringing it about, it is proposed to call a meeting of such societies for the purpose of discussing the question of a deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to urging the appointment of a Commission or a Committee in accordance with the above resolutions.

3. A meeting will be held for this purpose in the Council Room of the Royal Colonial Institute, Northumberland Avenue, on Wednesday, 20th September, 1916, at 3.30 p.m., when it is hoped that representatives of your Society will attend for the purpose of discussing the question referred to.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES R. BOOSE.

Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Edward R. Davson, and the Secretary were nominated to attend the meeting.

Notes of thanks were passed to Sir Robert Llewelyn for the gift of the following books to the library—

Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies. By Captain Lawrence Archer. London, 1875.

Extracts from the Journals of the late Rev. Thomas Coke, LL.D. Dublin, 1816.

The Grenada Handbook, Directory and Almanack, 1896 and 1897.

The West Indian. A Comedy.

and to Mrs. H. P. Carvalho for the gift of a copy of—

Picturesque Jamaica. By V. P. Parkhurst, Jamaica, 1887.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Somme Battle.

The capture of Guillemont, the highest point in the ridge, by the British was a feat as notable as the capture of Pozieres. It was followed up by the occupation of Ginchy, Leuze Wood, the Quadrilateral, a strongly-fortified position between Ginchy and Bouleaux Wood, in an irresistible rush. The French on their side having, like ourselves, won the enemy's second-line trenches, have made a leap forward, capturing in less than half an hour on a front of four miles the whole of his first-line trenches south of Combles. Following up this advantage, they took Hills 145 and 76, the Marrieres Woods, and, later, the village of Burchavennes, to the north of Peronne, and the Ablé Wood, east of the Bethune-Peronne Road. The result of these combined movements is the isolation of Combles, whose outlet to the Germans is dangerously narrowed. Furthermore, we hold completely under our fire the Peronne Bapaume main road, thus crippling the enemy's automobile transport between these two points. He can now only use this road along its northern half between Saily and Bapaume.

Novel War Weapons.

The Germans challenged us to a war dominated by mechanical science, and we are proving that we can outstrip them at the game, which they fondly believed to be their own. The latest of our inventions is the armoured motor-car, whose construction has been kept a profound secret. These monsters, with their power of passing over all kinds of obstacles, have given the Germans a disagreeable surprise, terrifying them, and, apparently, meeting and disposing of machine-gun fire effectively. Moreover, we have in ordinary use heavy motor-lorries, whereas enemy ingenuity stops short at a light vehicle.

South of the Somme.

Here there has been a notable extension of the Allied front, since the French, after the capture of Chilly, progressed to the east, reaching the outskirts of the town of Chaulnes, a movement which endangers the German communications with Roye. Further north, Barleux is strongly defended by heavy artillery on the slopes of the ridge from Villers-Carbonnel to La Maisonette. When it is carried by the French the enemy will have to withdraw to the right bank of the Somme, when the river will be to us what it has been to the Germans—a line easy to hold against counter-attacks. The French can then mass men against Nesle and Roye.

Against all these Allied successes the enemy has little to show on his side. He has fought bravely and counter-attacked at every point gained by both



THE BADGE OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

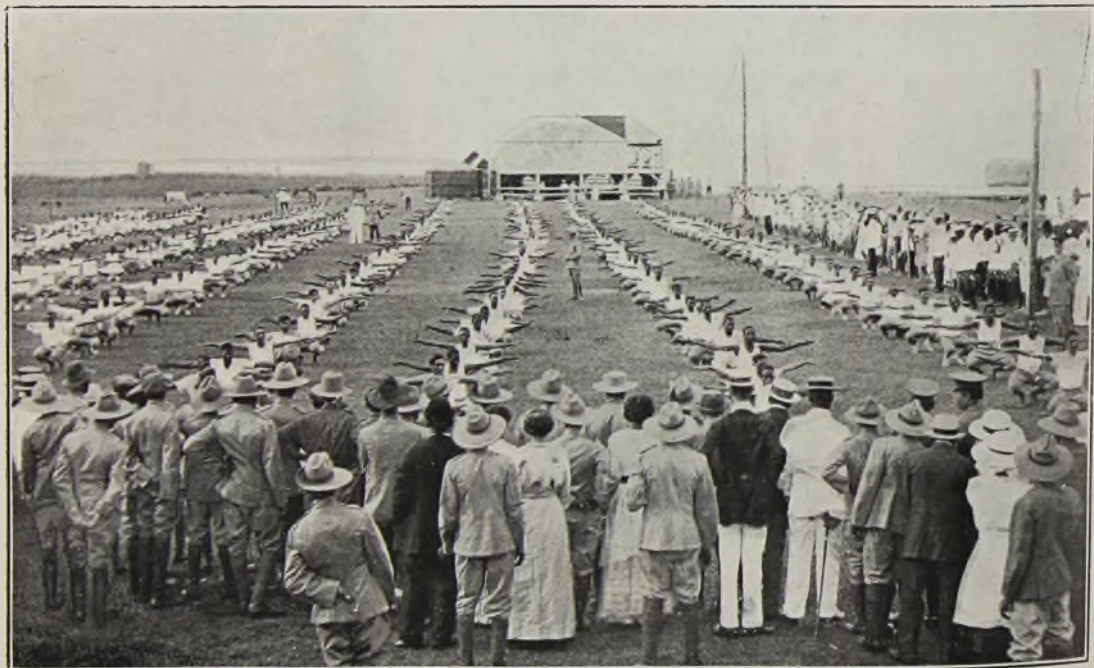
The King has graciously sanctioned the inclusion of the Imperial Crown in the badge of the British West Indies Regiment. The design of the badge has now been approved by the Army Council, to whom it was submitted by the West Indian Contingent Committee. The Committee is presenting to the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the British West Indies Regiment cap badges according to this design.



SOME BRITISH HONDURAS OFFICERS.



AN "ENTENTE" MEETING IN MARTINIQUE.



THE BRITISH HONDURAS CONTINGENT AT PHYSICAL DRILL.

the French and the British, in some cases with advantage to himself. But it has always been temporary. He even transferred a division to this front from Verdun to deliver an attack against the positions so brilliantly captured by the French on Tuesday. That they failed might have been expected. Disspirited troops who have been fighting a losing battle in one quarter lack the *elan* to retrieve a situation no brighter in another quarter. Though the nearest point which is vital to the Germans is Roisel, eight miles due east of Peronne, it is easy to understand why they are fighting so desperately to retain the line of the Somme and Mont St. Quentin. For if either of these is outflanked, Roisel, on the road between Brussels and Paris, would be immediately threatened.

Verdun.

The assault on this fortress, whose splendid defence, like the victory of the Marne, was one of the turning-points of the War, is slackening. Hindenburg has, indeed, withdrawn some of the troops for operations elsewhere. The French are, in consequence, steadily driving back the enemy, thus compelling him to use discretion in weakening his forces in this sector.

On the Eastern Front.

General Brusiloff has struck again, and simultaneously with the surprise attack of the Roumanians on Transylvania, thereby immobilising the Archduke's army between the Pripet marshes and the Dniester. This time it is Halicz which has fallen. It is a strongly-fortified position on the left bank of the river, the point of junction for all the main roads in southern Galicia, and an important bridgehead. The enemy having been forced out of the last natural line of defence in front of Lemberg, the Gnula Ijpa, it is not clear where he can make another strong stand. For the Dniester, after it leaves Halicz, affords no protection to the capital, and, the Russians being in possession of Stanislan, the right bank of the river is menaced. Meanwhile, General Letchitsky is continuing his progress across the Carpathians so as to combine with the Roumanians in seizing the Maris line, and so outflanking the Austrian defences in Transylvania. In the wooded Carpathians the Russians, who have captured Mount Capul, north of Kirlibaba, are in touch with the Roumanians.

Towards Temesvar.

Orsova, which stands on the Danube where three nations meet on the Cerna river, has, after a severe struggle, been captured by the Roumanians. It will be remembered as the starting-point of the Teutonic hordes which overran Serbia and Montenegro last year. The victorious Roumanians are establishing a bridgehead on the Cerna and pushing on in the direction of Temesvar, the junction upon which mainly depends the enemy communications with Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire. Moreover, the lower part of the Danube is cut off from the Central Empires, so that it is no longer a supplementary route to the Constantinople-Wienna-Berlin Railway. As to the defence of Transylvania, Austria seems to have been taken completely by surprise at Roumania's entry into

the War. The Carpathians and immediately beyond were so bare of soldiers that the advance troops of Roumania were met by peasants armed with scythes and axes. The Roumanians are closing the Transylvanian passes as tightly as the Italians are blocking the roads from the Julian Alps and Tyrol into the valley of the Po.

In The Dobrudja.

On the Danubian front the Bulgarians have occupied Turtukai, Silistria, and Dobritch, besides Roumanian territory in the Dobrudja. As our new Ally was not in strength here, the incidents have no great military importance, and she has since taken measures to guard against further danger from this direction. The idea that by a march through the Dobrudja, Bukarest might be taken is fallacious, the city being on the left side of the Danube. As a matter of fact, the province, in the strategic sense, leads to nowhere. But it will enable the Russian Army, under the Bulgarian soldier of Kirk Kilise fame, a fairly easy march to join hands in the near future with General Sarraill.

In the Balkans.

The Allied forces are continuing to advance along the whole line from Florina to Seres. The splendid stand made by the Serbians at Ostrovo against superior Bulgarian forces, which fought bravely enough, not only saved the flank of our broad front from being driven in, but disspirited the Bulgars, who hoped to bring off a dramatic military *coup* to keep Roumania quiet for a little while longer. The French are steadily moving up the Vardar Valley, the British along the railway in the Struma region, and the Serbians to the Greek frontier.

Greece, meanwhile, is again at the parting of the ways. Inspired by the action of Colonel Christodoulis, who, at the head of a small Greek force, and acting on his own responsibility, checked the Bulgarian advance at Seres, a revolutionary committee was formed at Salonika. The Greek garrison was besieged, promptly surrendering, and further strife was only prevented by General Sarraill. Elsewhere in Greece the tide of feeling has risen since Roumania's decisive step was taken, though King Constantine is still obsessed by the idea of German potency. New demands were made upon him by the Allies, supported by sea-power. One of these was the deportation of all enemy agents, whose departure will no doubt help to clear the air. The Zaimis Government has fallen, and another has succeeded it. Rather than take part with the Allies, 3,000 Greek soldiers surrendered to the Bulgarians. The numbers would have been 6,000 only for the action of Colonel Christodoulis.

The Italian Front.

Winter is setting in on the Dolomites, and already the first snows have fallen. Nevertheless, the Italians have stormed Mount Couriol, scaling its perpendicular wall rising above its wooded slopes. It is of high strategic importance. In the Carso the Italians have captured San Grado, which formed the pivot of the Austrian armies east of Gorizia. The progress of our Ally is being continued to Trieste and the sea.

(To be continued.)

THE OVERSEER AND FACTORY CONTROL.

(Continued from page 351 and concluded.)

(b) The polarisation of sugar is carried out as follows:—

An average sample of sugar is taken and the polariscope weight, usually, as mentioned above, 26.048 grms., representing, with that quantity dissolved to 100 cc., the indication of 100 degrees of the scale of the 200 mm. tube, is weighed out in the counterpoised metal scoop provided for the purpose. The weighed sugar is then transferred to the 100 cc. flask, that is with the flask with the 100 cc. mark on the neck, the sugar being eased into the flask with a glass rod held in the left hand while the scoop containing the sugar is held in the right. The end of the rod is then washed in a jet of water from the wash bottle into the scoop, which, in its turn, is rinsed several times into the flask. Water is then added until the contents of the flask are a short distance from the neck of the flask, the contents are then agitated by holding the neck by the thumb and two fingers until the sugar is dissolved. The solution of basic acetate of lead is then added drop by drop, the flask being slightly shaken after each addition until there is every appearance of complete coagulation of the impurities, a point the recognition of which can only be obtained by practice. Another drop of the lead solution is then added, and with the wash bottle, the facile use of which is soon acquired, the contents of the flask are made up to the 100 cc. mark. It may be here remarked that whenever any liquid (except mercury) is made up to a mark on the neck of a flask or the stem of a burette, the bottom of the saucer curve formed by the liquid has to be on a line with the mark and not the edges.

The contents of the flask are now well shaken and poured on to a filter paper in a funnel in the same manner as with the juice polarisation. Using the 200 mm. tube the polariscope indication, commonly called the polarisation, indicates the percentage of sucrose in the sugar. Thus, if the sucrose is at indication of 96.5, the sugar will be said to polarise 96.5 and will contain 96.5 per cent. of sucrose. The filter cake is examined in the same manner as sugar, but is not so easy an operation, and the large quantity of impurity present requires a correction to be made of 5 per cent. which has to be deducted from the polarisation result.

Molasses is also treated in the same manner. No correction is made. The solution is not so colourless as the juice solution, and a 100 mm. tube is used, the indication being multiplied by two.

Glucose.—The quantity of glucose produced is determined as follows:—

Into a small porcelain dish about three inches in diameter deliver from a graduated burette 100 cc. of copper solution and add an equal quantity of water. Place on a piece of iron gauze over an earthenware cylinder within which is a spirit lamp, then when the blue liquid commences to gently boil, drop in from another graduated burette some of the juice which has been prepared for use from the polariscope, carefully noting the point on the

graduation of the burette before doing so. Keep the contents of the dish in motion by gently tilting the dish with a brass rod while the operation is going on. As the juice falls into the boiling liquor a red deposit of copper sub-oxide is formed, the blue colour gradually disappearing. When it has gone, and no more, the amount of juice added is read off from the burette. If there is much organic matter left in the juice the deposit may be orange colour or even orange green in colour, and a similar effect may be produced if the juice is added too quickly. It is important, therefore, to add the juice very slowly with intervals of, say, two or four seconds between the drops and slower as the end of the action takes place. The reading of the burette, which is graduated in cc., is now taken, and the difference between the reading of the indication at the commencement and the end of the operation gives the amount of the liquid required to decolourise the 10 cc. of Fehling. This requires .050 grms. of glucose to completely decolourise it. If, therefore, 8 cc. of juice has been required,

$$\frac{.05 \times 100}{8 \text{ c.c.}} = .6 \text{ grams.}$$

will be the amount of glucose present in 100 cc., or, dividing this amount by 10 as before, .06 lbs. per gallon. It must not be forgotten that 10 cc. has to be added, for the dilution with the lead solution added, making these figures .66 and .066 respectively. If percentage is required the lbs. of glucose per gallon is multiplied by 100 and divided by the specific gravity multiplied by ten. If this figure is .066 the percentage will therefore be .66 multiplied by 100 divided by 10.6—6.2 per cent. The clarified juice is treated in the same way, but syrup is diluted with three times its volume of water before treatment, correction being made before the dilution by multiplying the result four times.

It is of the utmost importance that in all the above operations the utmost cleanliness is exercised. No flask, tube, or bottle, which has been used should be left without being thoroughly cleaned immediately after use.

The figures yielded by the above various laboratory results which are of use in considering the work of a sugar factory are—

(a) *Juice*—Quotient of purity.
Glucose quotient.
Glucose ratio.
Impurity quotient.

(b) *Syrup*—Glucose ratio.

(c) *Molasses*—Quotient of purity.

In each case the quotient of purity is found by taking the percentage by weight of sucrose present, multiplying it by 100, and dividing by the Brix indication. Thus, if there was 15 per cent. of sucrose in a sample of juice, and the Brix indication was 17, the quotient of purity would be

$$\frac{15 \times 100}{17} = 88.3$$

The glucose quotient is found in the same way. Thus, if a juice contained 1 per cent. of glucose,

and the Brix was 17, as before, the glucose quotient would be

$$\frac{1 \times 100}{17} = 5.9$$

The impurity quotient is obtained by adding together the purity quotient and the glucose quotient and deducting the sum from 100. Thus, taking the purity quotient and the glucose quotient as above, the impurity quotient would be :

$$100 - (88.3 + 5.9) = 5.8.$$

The glucose ratio is the percentage relation of the glucose to the sucrose. Thus, in the above case it would be

$$\frac{1 \times 100}{15} = 6.6$$

The foregoing form the laboratory operations essential to a simple control of manufacture in the Boiling House for a cane sugar factory, which can be carried out by an intelligent overseer who has had no scientific training, but has received an ordinary education. The next point to take into consideration is the utilisation of the information thus obtained. It is presumed that the juice is accurately weighed or measured. The sugar is, of course, weighed in the ordinary affairs of the factory.

The information available is :—

1. Quantity of sucrose entering the Boiling House.
2. Quantity of sucrose recovered as merchantable sugar.
3. Quality of the juice.
4. Quality of residual molasses.
5. Nature of work of filter press.
6. Whether inversion has taken place or not.

The overseer has now in his possession all the information necessary for him to form a good idea of the work of the Boiling House of which he has charge. The returns should be made up weekly under the following headings :—

- Quantity of sucrose entering the Boiling House.
- Quantity of sucrose obtained as first sugar.
- Percentage of sucrose in first sugar on sucrose in juice.
- Quantity of sucrose in other sugars.
- Percentage of sucrose in other sugars on sucrose in juice.
- Total sucrose obtained.
- Percentage on sucrose in juice.
- Purity of juice.
- Purity of residual molasses.
- The first sugar figures should be actual. These can usually be obtained by the Tuesday of the week and care should be taken to keep the juice for the week separate, which can be easily done in the small factories for which these notes are intended.

Other sugars have to be estimated for the week's return, but every month the estimate should be corrected, and, of course, at the end of the crop the actual figures are obtainable.

The filter cake should be examined occasionally

when the cake seems good. A bad cake speaks for itself.

Clarified juice and the syrup can be examined from time to time. If samples be collected for ten hours in the same manner as with the juice, commencing the collection of the syrup samples one hour after that of the clarifier and continuing the collection an hour later, a correct comparison can be obtained. If the glucose ratio of the syrup be higher than that of the clarifier juice then there has been inversion.

The purity of the residual molasses forms a guide to the extraction which has been obtained, the lower purity indicating the greater extraction.

The purity of the juice gives an idea of its working capabilities in the form of the impurity quotient.

Nothing has been said about the first mill juice, but this can be examined from time to time, as its composition will help to give the overseer some idea of the nature of the canes he has to deal with.

The question of what should or what should not be recovered from the sugar in the juice is an important one. The tendency of the modern development of Boiling House machinery is in the direction of reducing or even nullifying the influence of the kind of sugar made on extraction, and, also, to a considerable extent, of the quality of the juice. The latter, as might be expected, exerts, however, an effect upon the extraction when the impurities present are beyond a certain proportion.

It may be taken as an axiom that when a first quality sugar only is made; that is, when the secondary sugars are worked up into first sugar, the extraction will not be quite so good as when second sugars are shipped.

The factors which determine the working quality of the juice are the glucose and impurities present. Glucose does not rank with the latter on account of having a distinct value as constituting a portion of the "sweets" of molasses. It does not prevent crystallisation, outside the property it has, in common with other highly soluble bodies, of increasing the quantity of "mother liquor," and thus holding up more of the sucrose than would otherwise be the case. Refiners regard it as throwing out of action its own weight of sucrose, in buying raw beet, and deduct once the quantity present from the polarisation in valuing the sugar. This is certainly an outside figure. Speaking generally, the influence of the glucose present in varying the extraction may be disregarded.

The gummy and mineral matters in juice, which form the bulk of the impurities going on with the clarified juice, occupy quite another position as regards interference with the crystallisation of the sucrose. The allowance which the refiners make in the raw beet valuation mentioned above for mineral matter is no less than five times the quantity present. This acts by actually combining with the sugar, forming uncrystallisable bodies. The gums present act by producing such a viscous condition of syrup that the sucrose cannot get deposited on the already formed crystals. The proportion present of these two items is indicated by

the impurity quotient, and it is the impurity quotient which has to be considered in comparing the extraction obtained with the composition of the juice.

The following figures are based on work with juice the impurity quotient of which is not above 12. It is presumed that the factories, although small, are well provided with machinery, and it may here be remarked that a comparatively small factory without crystallisers can obtain quite as good an extraction as a large one with crystallisers.

The three classes of sugar into which cane sugar manufacture may be divided are :—

1. Refining sugar, polarising 96°.
2. White sugar, polarising 99° and upwards
3. Yellow (Demerara) sugar, polarising 95° to 97°

with their secondary sugars as the case may be.

With juice of an impurity of 12, and under the following extraction should be obtained :—

1. 90% of sucrose on the sucrose in the juice in the proportion of 90% of first sugar and 10% second sugar.
2. 89% in the proportion of 90% first sugar and 10% second sugar.
3. 86% in the proportion of 85% first sugar and 15% second sugar.

As to the allowance for sugars of greater impurity than 12, it is impossible in the present state of knowledge of the subject to say what should or what should not be the allowance to be deducted from the above extraction. Much depends upon the nature of the impurity. With the same variety of canes grown under the same conditions it is probable that some definite factor could be obtained as the result of observation.

There is just one word to be said as to the basis of the whole system with which we are now dealing. Unless the measurement or weighing of the juice is accurate there can be no satisfactory control in sugar works by a chemist or any one else. It is strongly recommended that the cold juice should either be measured in tanks or by some of the mechanical appliances made for the purpose.

There is always an element of uncertainty about clarifier juice measurement apart from the question of allowance for temperature.

There now only remains to specify the list of laboratory apparatus necessary for the above control.

Shadow polariscope to hold a 200 mm. tube, with two 200 mm. tubes, one 100 mm. tube spare cover, glasses and washers and two standard weights. Two quartz plates for checking purposes, one indicating about 50° and the other about 90°.

Balance to carry 50 grms. and weights; .01 gm. with weights 50 to .01 gm.

Six nickel weighing scoops for sugar.

Six flasks graduated at 100 cc. on neck.

Six flasks graduated at 50-55 cc. on neck, and two each hydrometers standardised at 84° F., and referred to water at 62° F., 1,000 to 1,100, 1,040 to 1,090, 1,190 to 1,260, 1,350 to 1,450.

Two each Brix spindles, 8 deg. to 20 deg., 65 deg. to 85 deg., standardised at 84° F.

One dozen small glass rods, 6 in. in length.

On: dozen glass cylinders, 6 in. by 1½ in.

One dozen glass cylinders for use with hydrometers.

Three 50 cc. burettes graduated in one-tenth in with stop cocks.

Two wooden burettes stands with clamps.

Six 6 in. by 4 in. earthenware cylinders with iron gauze covers.

Six spirit lamps for use with cylinders.

Six Winchester quart bottles stoppered.

One Winchester quart of basic lead acetate.

One Winchester quart of Fehling solution.

One dozen glass funnels 2½ in. diameter.

Twelve dozen packets filter paper for use with the funnels.

Six dozen test tubes 5 in. by ½ in.

The above should supply a good outfit for factories where a supply of the necessary articles is not obtainable on the spot, and should safeguard the situation as regards breakages. Nothing is more annoying during the progress of a crop than to have the continuity of Returns spoiled by a shortage of apparatus, and the foregoing specification has been made out on a scale liberal enough to prevent this occurring under ordinary conditions.

It is hoped that with the assistance of the above, overseers connected with sugar factories which do not employ a chemist will be able to keep a useful control over the manufacture. Further information on the subject may be found in "The Cane Sugar Factory," which can be obtained from the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., price 1/-, and is a work especially designed for overseers.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Their Sale to United States Opposed.

The United States Senate ratified the Treaty for the purchase of the Danish West Indian Islands on September 8th.

The Danish Landsting (the equivalent of our House of Lords) adopted on August 25th by a large majority, composed of Liberals and Conservatives, a motion declaring that if the ratification of the sale of the West Indies could not be postponed until after the war, it should be submitted to a new Rigsdag elected according to the reformed Constitution.

The Government declined a postponement, and the Ministerial speeches, according to the *Times* correspondent, gave the impression that they were addressed to a wider audience outside Parliament. The Minister of the Interior, who said that the opponents of the sale were influenced by circles committed to an unneutral policy, received an effective reply from the Conservative M. Rottbol, who said he had no knowledge of such circles.

Members representing West Indian interests declared that they had been forced to abandon hope for the future of the islands because of the Government's failure to support them and its vacillating treatment of the negro troubles.

SUGAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Domestic Sugar Producers, Incorporated, in their official organ, *Facts about Sugar*, devote an article to the possibilities of the development of the sugar industry in the Philippines.

In this it is stated that the possibilities of the islands as a sugar producing country have hardly been scratched. It is estimated that only 10 per cent. of the land is privately owned and less than half of that which is privately owned is under cultivation. The islands have a climate and soil which are ideal for the raising of sugar cane, and, as compared with other cane growing countries, with the exception of Java, a larger and cheaper supply of labour. What the sugar industry in the Philippine Islands primarily lacks is capital to provide modern milling and transportation facilities.

Sugar has been produced in the islands for over one hundred years. As far back as 1795, the records of the imports into the United States show the importation of 296,000 pounds from the Philippine Islands. The production gradually increased in the islands until 1893, when, according to the most authentic records, over 300,000 tons were produced. After that date the production fell off owing to a number of causes, chiefly the unsettled conditions resulting from the insurrection of the islands against Spain and subsequent insurrection against the United States. With the establishment of the American sovereignty in the islands the production has rapidly increased, the exports since American occupation being as is shown in the following table:—

	Tons Produced.	Value \$.
1899	63,324	2,333,851
1900	86,317	3,000,501
1901	62,370	2,293,058
1902	74,730	2,791,432
1903	123,068	3,955,823
1904	82,850	2,668,507
1905	125,265	4,977,026
1906	138,663	4,863,865
1907	132,595	3,934,460
1908	167,232	5,664,666
1909	123,876	4,373,338
1910	140,782	7,040,690
1911	164,657	8,014,360
1912	205,045	10,400,575
1913	234,283	9,491,540
1914	234,757	9,457,982
1915	203,941	9,712,757

In addition to the exports it is estimated that between fifty and eighty thousand ordinary tons of sugar are consumed locally.

The natural market for Philippine sugar is China on account of the freight preferential in favour of the islands. With the exception of Formosa, the Philippine Islands can land sugar in China cheaper than any other sugar producing country, and the crop of Formosa is required for consumption in Japan. In 1909, however, Congress admitted sugar into the United States free of duty from the islands. At that time there was a limitation of 300,000 long tons placed upon imports, but this limitation has now been withdrawn, so that as the law stands at present an unlimited amount of Philippine sugar may be imported into the United States without

duty. Since that date the great bulk of Philippine sugar has gone to the United States. It is interesting to note, however, that in 1913—a year of low-priced sugar—conditions were reversed and 80 per cent. of the crop went to China.

Generally speaking, the methods used for the production and manufacture of sugar in the islands are primitive. Almost without exception the native planters are limited in production by the capacity of their mills, owning land capable of producing considerably more cane than they can manufacture into sugar. In order to keep all of their land in fair condition, the custom has developed of planting different areas every year and disregarding ratoons. Shallow ploughing with small native ploughs is the invariable custom, and the cane is planted in narrow rows, while fertilization or irrigation is practically unknown. The average production per acre is probably not more than a ton of sugar, although it has been proved that with modern methods at least three tons can be secured.

The milling methods are even more primitive than the agricultural customs. The cane is ground in mills which vary from two stone rollers propelled by a carabao to small three or five roller mills. The extraction secured varies from 40 to 70 per cent. of the juice in the cane. In most cases the extraction is so small that the bagasse has to be dried in the sun before it can be burned, and during an unusually rainy season such as last year, the milling capacity is greatly reduced by the inability to dry the bagasse sufficiently so that it can be used for fuel. After the juice is extracted it is drawn off into large kettles, where it is boiled down and muscovado sugar of five grades produced—the highest having a polarisation of 88 degrees.

Three large modern sugar enterprises have been started recently, and the results attained by these have had the effect of creating a very general demand among all Philippine planters for the introduction of modern methods of cultivation and particularly of manufacture. The San Jose Estate on the island of Mindoro has been developed by Messrs. Welch & Fairchild. This property consists of a large tract of what was formerly friar lands, and the development has included the construction of a railway system, the erection of a large modern mill, and extensive irrigation system. A similar enterprise, known as the Calamba Sugar Estate, has been developed on the island of Luzon, under the general management of the Pacific Commercial Company, by a group of San Francisco and Boston capitalists. A third enterprise has been developed at San Carlos on the east coast of Negros by a group of Hawaiian capitalists. This enterprise is a purely manufacturing one, the milling company having entered into contracts with the planters for the grinding of their cane on a share basis. These are the only modern plants on the islands. Several smaller plants having a capacity of from 100 to 300 tons a day have been developed by local planters.

The *Dewa*, belonging to Messrs. James Nourse, Ltd., has, we regret to learn, been sunk by a submarine.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Mr. Bonar Law made a notable speech on the occasion of a luncheon given by the West Indian Club in honour of Sir Edward Morris, Premier of Newfoundland, on September 13th, which he honoured the members by attending. Responding to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. Bonar Law said:—

Newfoundland is almost the smallest of the British Dominions, but it has played, and is playing in the war a part worthy of its position as the oldest of British Colonies. It has sent in support of the Empire numbers of men in proportion to its population which bear comparison with those who have come from any other Colony. Newfoundland has a comparatively large seagoing population on account of its fishing industry, and a larger number of men from Newfoundland are serving in one way or another in the British Navy than have come from any other Colony. In addition to that, they have sent us troops. These troops have borne a share in the very hardest phases of the terrible struggle in which we are now engaged. One section of them took part in the Dardanelles Expedition. That expedition was a failure, but it is one of those failures which are more glorious than most successes; and, in my belief, as long as the British Empire lasts, what was done there will be remembered as amongst the most glorious deeds which have ever been done in our history. It was there that the Australians and the New Zealanders first attained, if I may say so, their manhood—first showed the quality of which they are made. They are doing now in France deeds not less glorious than those which distinguished them in Gallipoli. Another section of these troops had terrible experiences in France. We all know of the losses suffered, but to none has there been greater losses than fell to the battalion of the Newfoundlanders.

The losses were borne with courage though with sad hearts, but there has been no murmuring; and it was my duty to convey to the Government of Newfoundland not only our appreciation of the gallantry displayed by their troops, but a statement from the War Office as to how proud they were of the men who were sent to fill up the places of those who had so gallantly fallen.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE NAPOLEONIC WARS.

I am not going to say on this occasion anything about the help which has come from the great Dominions, but from the West Indies, in addition to their contingents, men have come voluntarily at their own expense, they have joined our regiments, and have taken their part in the fighting; and the same thing is true of every Crown Colony where men of British race are to be found.

It was said that it was the trade of the West Indies more than anything else which enabled Great Britain to win the long-drawn-out struggle with Napoleon. What the West Indies were in the time of the Napoleonic wars, the British Empire as a whole has been in keeping up the financial position of this country in the struggle in which we are now engaged. It is not men only, it is the resources of the Oversea Dominions which have helped us, and the knowledge that every production within the Empire which could be used was available, that has proved one of the greatest assets we have had.

THE WAR GOING ON WELL.

I am not able to say anything on a subject which would interest you most, and that is the war. But I think it is going on well. It has taken time, a long time, to bring to a striking point the resources of the Allies, but they are being used now. You remember how anxious we were in the early part of this spring. That anxiety has gone, and it has gone for this reason, above all others, that the Allies are now working together as a unit; they are fighting on every front and in a way which makes it impossible for our enemies to make use of what was their greatest asset—their power to shift their troops from one point to another and to press us at different times. We were short of munitions, but there is no shortage now; and one of the best signs, on the whole,

of what the issue of the war is going to be is to read the whining in some German newspapers about the cruelty with which the British troops are exterminating their German enemies by artillery.

I do not profess to see the end of the war; there may be a long struggle in front of us. I do not say in what way it is to end, but of this I am sure: that of the ultimate issue there is no doubt. And if we could get into the inner councils of the German General Staff we should find, I think, that that is realized as clearly by them as by us. The end is, perhaps, not within sight, but it is coming, and I wonder if you have begun to realize as I do what are the problems which will confront us then.

AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS.

In my belief, the problem of reconstruction after the war will be a difficult task, it will try severely the character of our people and the capacity of our Government, more even than the task which we have had in winning the war. I am not going to speak of problems at home, though I think of them much, but there are two in connection with the Dominions to which I will refer. One is the question of emigration. It is not an easy problem. After this war, with the loss of so much of the most virile of our manhood, it will be the duty of this country to keep at home as many as we can keep; for, after all, the strength of the centre of the Empire is necessary if the Empire is to be strong. That is one side, but there is another. We must give to the men who are fighting our battles the best chance of the widest outlook which is available for them. There will be emigration, and the Government, whatever it is, will be much to blame if two things are not made certain—that, whatever emigration does take place, shall be within the British Empire, and shall not lessen the strength of the Empire as a whole, and that, whatever emigration there is to be, shall take place under the best conditions for the men who have fought our battles.

Both your chairman and Sir Edward Morris spoke of a larger problem—the one which is facing us all. This war, so far as our Dominions are concerned, is being carried on under conditions which never existed in the world before. It required and does require great good will and good sense on the part of both the Dominions and the authorities at home to enable an arrangement to work by which one set of men should contribute lives and treasure and have no voice as to the way in which those lives and that treasure are expended. That cannot continue. There must be a change. The war has done more, I believe, than many generations in other directions could have done in welding the Empire together. We feel that we are one, and it rests chiefly with the men of the Colonies and the Dominions—for I am sure of this, that here at home the people of this country are ready to accept any system of closer union which the Dominions desire to see adopted—it is chiefly on these that will rest the task of trying to find some method by which in the future the unity which has characterized us in the war will be found to be as durable when peace comes. (Cheers.)

LORD NORTHCLIFFE AS AN EMPIRE BUILDER.

Proposing the toast of the guest, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, who presided, said that

Newfoundland afforded an example and incentive, showing what might be done within the Empire for support of industrial products for which in the past we had been dependent upon other countries. That distinguished personality who sometimes shocked the public by exposing the sins of the Government, thrilled them with accounts of gallant deeds done by our Allies, and again threw them into despair with reports of the domination of the enemy in Spain—Lord Northcliffe had done much in the building up of Newfoundland trade. Whatever view might be taken of the opinions of Lord Northcliffe and his journals, his action in risking capital wisely in developing the paper and paper pulp industry of Newfoundland, securing within the Empire this source of raw material, was an example and incentive which might well be followed, and, if followed, would solve many problems of Empire, and especially in the West Indies.

The Club welcomed Sir Edward Morris as an old friend, and wished him God-speed on his return. His visit to the Mother Country would have assured him that the

sacrifices and heroism of the people of Newfoundland were profoundly appreciated.

Sir Edward Morris, in responding, expressed a hope that after the War wider scope and opportunity might be given for the trade of the West India Islands.

For over 200 years Newfoundland had been in close communication with the West Indies, and naturally had wished for advancement in their trade and commerce and in other aspects of their life, and from time to time had mourned when certain vicissitudes occurred in the islands. Hereafter when the terms of peace were being settled and matters adjusted, no doubt the careful consideration of those in authority would be given to means for giving voice to the views and wishes of parts of the Empire overseas.

Among the members and their friends present at this very successful luncheon were:—

Mr. G. B. A. Grindle, C.M.G., Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., Major H. Knox Niven, Captain E. L. T. Grant, Mr. E. L. Jackman, Captain H. C. Rigaud, Mr. H. F. Reeve, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. G. J. Johnson, Mr. P. J. Dean, Mr. A. E. Elder, Mr. Griffin, Mr. L. S. Suchy, Mr. L. Keir, Mr. R. E. Berger, Mr. H. E. West Taylor, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. W. Black, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. E. Gill, Mr. C. R. Swanson, Mr. F. P. C. Messum, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Douglas Pile, Mr. G. B. Mason, Mr. A. Scaife, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Mr. H. M. Graham, Mr. A. F. Messer, Mr. R. A. Swan, Mr. T. Greenwood, and Mr. J. W. Clark.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

On September 12th two more members of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, J. A. Hadley and H. D. Weatherhead, reached London. Hadley has joined the Artists' Rifles, and Weatherhead will also be enlisted very shortly. The total "strength" of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent is now 39.

The names of the officers of the British Honduras Contingent in the illustration facing page 369 are: Seated (left to right), Lieut. Matthews, Adjutant; Lieut.-Colonel James Cran, M.D. (Commanding Officer), and Second Lieut. Noot; and standing, Second Lieuts. O. Schofield, E. Schofield, G. Hulse, and Jeffries.

The object of the West Indian Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort of the West India and Bermuda Military Contingents and of men coming over independently to serve in His Majesty's Forces during the present War. Donations, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

As we go to press we have learned with regret that the British West Indies Regiment has sustained several casualties through shell fire. It is gratifying to learn that the men behaved splendidly under fire. Some officers of another regiment who were with them said that the men seemed to be absolutely indifferent to shell fire, and that they would never have believed it if they had not seen it for themselves.

The names and addresses of two men from the

West Indies who are prisoners of war in Germany are given below, as no doubt some readers of the CIRCULAR may like to communicate with them:—
Coy.-Sergt.-Major N. Sproston, Middlesex Regiment, Bloc 2, Cie 9, Prisonnier de guerre a Minden i Westf, Germany; Corporal Henry D. Richards, Canadian Infantry, Baracke 1, Kriegsgefangenenlager Soltau, Litchenkerst (Hannover), Germany.

The cap badges which the West Indian Contingent Committee are presenting to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British West Indies Regiment are nearing completion. The design, which is reproduced on another page, is described heraldically as: "An oval bordered medallion surmounted by the Tudor Crown. On the border the inscription, 'The British West Indies Regiment.' Within, the ship of Columbus in full sail proper. Surrounding the oval, dexter a wreath of laurel, and sinister a palm."

Private McCarthy, of the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt, has distinguished himself by rescuing a man from drowning. It seems that on August 6th a transport driver was proceeding with a ration boat when his mule took fright and plunged into the Canal. The driver was thrown from the mule and sustained kicks in the ribs. He was unable to swim, and Private McCarthy, who was in the boat, dived into the Canal, fully clothed as he was, and succeeded in rescuing the driver, who was in an unconscious condition.

The movements of the British West Indies Regiment lead to the belief that the demands on the West Indian Contingent Fund are likely to increase considerably before very long, and it is hoped, therefore, that subscriptions will continue to be forthcoming on a liberal scale. Since the last list of subscribers was published the Hon. Treasurers have to acknowledge with thanks £5 from Sir William Trollope, Bart., and £21, being half the proceeds of an amateur theatrical performance kindly organised by Mrs. A. M. Low and given by a talented company of amateurs at the Princes Building, Port of Spain, on August 10th. This last-named contribution was earmarked for any members of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent who might be in need of assistance. It is hoped that other kind friends will organise similar entertainments, and will help to strengthen the fund.

The West Indian Contingent Committee continues to receive many applications for anti-vermin shirts and pants from West Indians at the Front. The men who have been supplied with these garments testify to their efficacy and comfort. The shirts and pants which are being supplied by the Ladies' Committee are made from a very simple pattern, the material used being a soft unbleached calico known as Tiffany. After being washed in boiling water and thoroughly dried, they are soaked for an hour in a solution of carbolic (1 in 40), and when dry are packed in waxed paper ready for use. With the approach of colder weather

a demand for warm clothing has already arisen. It is clear that a much larger quantity of comforts will have to be supplied this winter than was required last year. Gifts of socks, helmets, cardigans, gloves, mufflers, etc., will be most acceptable, and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W.

THE BRITISH HONDURAS CONTINGENT.

The Hon. George E. Grabham writes from British Honduras:—

"Now that the second British Honduras Contingent for active service has reached its destination overseas some notes regarding it may perhaps be published. The departure of the men from Belize on July 15th was made the occasion for a public holiday, and practically the entire population of the town gathered to bid them farewell, great enthusiasm being displayed among all classes. Out of the men who had been under training, practically all passed the medical examination. Of the rejected men, six managed to get on board the transport as stowaways, and were not discovered until the transport had left.

"The Contingent includes cooks, bakers, blacksmiths, mechanics, motor engineers, telephone repairer, carpenters, shipwrights, cabinet makers, tailors, shoemakers, engine driver, painter, stenographer, printer, etc. It is therefore self-contained and capable of doing practically everything that is required of an army on active service, without any outside help. Eighty per cent. of the men can swim, and practically all are accustomed to boats. Part of the Contingent is also trained in the use of the maxim gun and in signalling.

"British Honduras has now supplied a number of men for service at the front which, out of a total population of 43,000, one-fifth of which cannot speak English, whilst another fifth do not speak it in their homes, cannot be regarded as otherwise than extremely creditable. The great success which has attended recruiting locally speaks volumes for the patriotism of the Colony and those responsible for raising the Contingent and training it under most difficult conditions.

"Originally, it was intended that the Contingent should be despatched in the latter part of March, but, owing to unfortunate delays with the transport, it was practically four months after this before they left. This delay threw a very great strain not only on the Government and the officers, but on the men themselves, for the accommodation available was most inadequate, and much discomfort had to be borne. All this, I am told, was endured without a single complaint, and there were exceedingly few cases where military punishment had to be administered.

"The Governor, Sir Wilfred Collett, took a most active interest in the training, and it would be impossible to praise too highly the work of Lieut.-Colonel Cran, who was appointed to the command

of the local forces after the tragic death of Colonel Slack (who is a busy man at all times, and was hard at work from daylight to late at night) and his officers, who all devoted themselves wholeheartedly to their work. Praise and thanks are due to all, but I would like to mention in particular Lieut. Matthews, who was Camp Adjutant, and was for five months on continuous duty day and night, and proved himself equal to cope with every detail of his duties.

"In addition to the work of raising, maintaining, and training the Contingent, Lieut.-Colonel Cran had to attend to the training, etc., of the Territorial Force, and it is of the utmost importance at the present time to maintain this in a highly efficient condition.

"There are many details I might furnish you with, but much has already been published, and my main object in writing this letter is to ask you to give your help in getting the facts of what the colony has done realised and brought prominently to notice, for we feel we are entitled to this, and it is full time that the colony should cease to be thought of as one of those places in the back of beyond."

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

CORPORAL WILLIAM BAIN, of the London Scottish Regiment, who has been killed in action in France, was the son of Mr. J. P. Bain, for many years manager of Messrs. Cadbury Bros.' cacao plantations in Trinidad. In the early days of the war he felt it his duty to enlist, and, leaving the estates, which he had been helping to manage, he came over to England and joined a battalion of the London Scottish.

SUB-LIEUTENANT ALISTAIR GORDON CAMERON, R.N.R., who has been killed on active service was the only son of Mr. Alistair Cameron, of Plantation Sunbury, Barbados. He was 25 years of age, and did admirable work in the submarine mining branch.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL HENRY FREDERICK HUGH CLIFFORD, D.S.O., who fell in action on September 11, was the second son of the late Major-General the Hon. Sir Henry Clifford, V.C., and a brother of Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of the Gold Coast, and formerly Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago (1904-7), whose only son, Lieutenant H. G. F. Clifford, Lincoln Regiment, was reported "missing, believed killed," on July 1 last. Born in August, 1867, he entered the Army in 1888, being gazetted to the Suffolk Regiment, and was promoted captain in 1897, major in 1910, and lieutenant-colonel in 1914. From August, 1902, to January, 1905, he was A.D.C. to Lieutenant-General Sir William Butler, G.O.C. Western District. He won the Queen's and King's medals with five clasps in the South African campaign, taking part in the actions at Pretoria and Colesberg. He was awarded the D.S.O. in February, 1915, and in the following May was reported wounded. He was appointed to the command of a brigade in June, 1915.

SERGEANT DAVID BRYCE GILLESPIE, who has been killed in action, was the younger and only surviving son of Mr. William Gillespie, of the firm of Gillespie Brothers & Co., London and New York, and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. He was educated at Harrow, and was afterwards in the New York and London Offices of his father's firm. Not, however, caring for a business career, he went some years ago to Canada, and when the War broke out was fruit-farmer near Nelson, British Columbia. He at once joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, in which he became a sergeant. On arrival in this country with the second

Contingent he gave up his stripes in order to at once get to the front, and was sent with a draft to Flanders, where he soon regained his rank. For the past nine months he had seen active service in Flanders and France. He was killed during an advance on the night of the 11th inst. Sergeant Gillespie was 36 years old, and leaves a widow and three young children.

GUNNER HARRY HADLEY, of the Canadian Field Artillery, who was killed in action on June 24th, came from the island of St. Vincent.

PRIVATE JAMES A. WADE, of the Artists' Rifles, who has been killed in action, was the eldest son of the late James H. Wade, of Endsleigh Estate, Sangre Grande, Trinidad. He came over with the first Trinidad Merchants' Contingent and joined the Artists' Rifles in November, 1915. He passed his examination for a Commission, but was told that he would have to wait because he was under age. He preferred, however, to transfer to a fighting unit, and on June 24 he left for the front with a service battalion of the London Regiment. On several occasions Private Wade distinguished himself on night patrols between the lines, and once, at great personal risk, he found important papers belonging to the colonel of the Cheshires, who had been killed when a certain position was retaken by the Germans. For this he was highly commended by his superior officers. Colonel Warde Aldam wrote of him:—

"Unfortunately he did not appear to know what fear was: he stood up head and shoulders over the parapet and was missed by a Boche sniper; instead of getting down, he stopped there, and fired where he thought the Boche was, and then without coming down reloaded and was about to shoot again when he was hit full in the middle of his face."

His Captain, Captain A. Reynolds, wrote:—

"This is what happened exactly. He was a very brave and plucky boy and his one idea was to serve me and his company to the best of his ability, consequently he set the finest example to everyone, and if there was a patrol going, he always wanted to go with them. I had to stop him going so often as I did not consider it right that he should always be in the thick of things. This particular afternoon he found a German sniper and they had two shots at each other, but Jack was up too high and he was killed outright without any pain whatsoever. He has been buried by the side of his comrades in a quiet little cemetery."

DIED OF SICKNESS.

PRIVATE VINCENT GOMES PEREIRA, of the British West Indies Regiment, died at St. Columba's Hospital, to which he had been removed by the West Indian Contingent Committee, on Saturday, September 16th. He was son of Dr. M. G. Pereira, Government Medical Officer of the Morawhanna District of British Guiana, and of Mrs. Pereira. Taken ill in Egypt he was transferred from there to the Tooting Military Hospital. Acute tuberculosis supervened, and though every endeavour was made by the Committee at the instance of Sir Walter Egerton, to secure the repatriation of this gallant young man, the illness made too rapid strides, and it was not practicable. Private Pereira came over with his brother, Private E. G. Pereira, with the first British Guiana Contingent. It will perhaps be comforting to his parents with whom much sympathy will be felt—to know that all that was possible was done to make the closing days of Vincent Pereira's young life as happy as they could be under the circumstances. The funeral took place with military honours on September 20th at St. Mary's Cemetery, College Park, N.W.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUTENANT ROLF GUILLAUME BERTRAM, who died September 6th of wounds received in action on May 19th last, was the second son of the Hon. Louis John Bertram, C.M.G., M.L.C., Auditor of Jamaica since 1897. He joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force after the outbreak of War. After being wounded he was transferred to the Hospital of the Imperial Daughters of the Empire, where he died.

PRIVATE JOHN JONES, of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, who has died of wounds, a prisoner in Germany, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jones, of Brown's Town, St. Ann, Jamaica.

MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED.

SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGE H. J. ROSS, who is reported "missing, believed killed," was the only son of the late Mr. H. J. Ross, one of the proprietors of Plaisance Estate,

Grenada, and nephew of Mr. Hamilton Ross. When the war broke out he was home from Trinidad on leave, and, although he might have obtained a Commission, he preferred to enlist. He was promoted to be sergeant, and about a year ago was given a Commission in the Essex Regiment, and left for the front soon after. In a letter despatched a few days before his death, he wrote, "the relieving feature of these things is that the Huns know that they are beaten!" His acting second in command wrote to Lieut. Ross's sister:—

"I have great difficulty in writing this for I am afraid your brother was killed yesterday morning. We had to make an attack on the German line and your brother was in charge of "D" Coy. He had got his men lined up for the advance, and started off fairly well, but when they got to the Huns they were caught by a perfect hail of bullets from machine guns and a barrage of bombs. Your brother was seen to get through the wire, and got wounded and dropped into a shell hole; immediately after a German bomb dropped right in the hole. No one actually saw his body after but I am afraid there is not a shadow of doubt as to what happened. . . . We are all fearfully depressed at losing him, he was always so merry and bright and undoubtedly the most popular officer in the Battalion. . . . I had the deepest admiration for him. He was always so plucky and, no matter what the condition, always cheery. The moment he came into any Mess in the Battalion things always brightened up."

It may be noted that two of Second Lieutenant Ross's sisters have lost their husbands in the War. Colonel Cadogan, commanding the Welsh Fusiliers, who was killed at Ypres in the early days, and Colonel Donald Wood, who fell in action a month before his brother-in-law.

WOUNDED.

PRIVATE GEO. M. COLE, Somerset Light Infantry, attached to 1st Wilts Regiment (late B.W.I. Regiment) eldest son of Geo. M. Cole, Esq., M.L.A., Nassau, Bahamas.

PRIVATE ELLIOTT D. FORTE, Overseer on Pln. Cane Grove, British Guiana, and now a Private in the Gloucestershire Regiment, has been slightly wounded. His brother, Stanley Forte, who was also a Private in the Gloucesters, was killed in action the same day.

LANCE-CORPORAL BRUCE M. MAURA, Somerset Light Infantry, attached to the 1st Wilts Regiment (late B.W.I. Regiment), second son of Mr. W. J. Maura, of Nassau, Bahamas.

HONOURS.

LIEUTENANT HORACE TOWNSHEND CLARE, Adjutant to the — Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery was mentioned in General Sir Charles Munro's despatches for gallant and distinguished service in the Gallipoli campaign. Lieutenant Clare is son of Dr. the Hon H. I. Clare, Surgeon-General of Trinidad and Tobago.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

Boyd, Sergeant John (son of Mr. Thomas Boyd, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), The Lancashire Yeomanry.

Colthurst, Private A. (grandson of the late Hon. Chas. Forbes Coulthurst, of St. Andrew, Jamaica), The Essex Regiment.

de Verteuil, Trooper George (son of the late Mr. Adrien de Verteuil, of Tortuga Estate, Trinidad), 3rd (King's Own) Hussars.

Fairbairn, 2nd Lieut. E. P. (son of Mr. P. P. Fairbairn, Town Clerk of Georgetown, Demerara), The Scottish Rifles.

Hinkson, Lance-Corporal D. C. D. (younger son of Mr. Ernest Hinkson, of Locust Hall, Barbados), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Lunney, Dr. Robert Emil (son of Mr. Francis Lunney, of St. Croix, Danish West Indies), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Lunney, Gunner W. G. (son of Mr. Francis Lunney, of St. Croix, Danish West Indies), Howitzer Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Lunney, Corporal James C. (son of Mr. Francis Lunney, of St. Croix, Danish West Indies) Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Lunney, John (son of Mr. Francis Lunney, of St. Croix, Danish West Indies), — Canadian Battalion.

Seton-Browne, 2nd Lieut. C. L. (son of the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne), The Leicester Regiment.

Sband, 2nd Lieut. Francis B. B. (of Dominica, son of the late Hon. C. A. Sband, of Antigua), who saw active service with the R.N.V.R. at the Dardanelles, has been gazetted to the Royal Flying Corps, Balloon Section, and is now at the front.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Bailey, 2nd Lieut. H. P. (of Barbados), late Artists' Rifles, has received a Commission and has been gazetted to the East Surrey Regiment.

Stubbs, 2nd Lieut. Frank P., is, we are glad to learn, not wounded after all. There is, it seems, another F. Stubbs in the same regiment who has not been so fortunate.

THE BOTANY OF ANTIGUA.

(Continued from page 354 and concluded.)

4. *The Antigua Limestone.*—The Flora of this region, while forming a distinct Association, nevertheless includes some plants which occur in the Littoral or Volcanic groups. The plants which are common to the Volcanic and Limestone Associations are the Prickly Pear (*Opuntia Tuna*), the Dildo (*Cereus insularis*), the Dagger (*Agave americana*) and the Logwood (*Hæmatoxylon campechianum*). Plants which occur both on sandy shores and on the Limestone hills are the Seaside Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) and the wide-spread Dagger. The Seaside Grape is indeed as typical of hillside plants as of seashore plants. All the above are commonly found in this area as well as in the others mentioned. There are, however, a great number of plants which are almost entirely confined to this part of the island, or to the limestone hills, which crop out in certain parts of the Central Plain, especially at its western end near St. John's. These include *Pedilanthus tithymaloides*, known locally as the Milk Bush or Slipper Plant, a deadly poisonous species; two kinds of Thorn Apple or Wild Fire Bush (*Datura Stramonium* and *D. Metel*); the privet (*Clerodendron aculeatum*), beloved of humming-birds; the Wild Tamarind, which makes horses' tails drop out; and the Love Bush (*Bryophyllum calycinum*) with its thick fleshy leaves, which form buds so easily in the notches round the margin. *Tecoma stans* is frequently found, and so is a species of *Ficus* (? *F. religiosa*), with its small forest of stems like the Indian Banyan, and the White Cedar (*Tecoma leucoxylo*n). The Wild Balsam (? *Lantana*), with its thick yellow gum, is one of the most dominant plants. The Wild Pine (*Tillandsia utriculata*) and the Old Man's Beard (*Tillandsia usneoides*) are very common epiphytes, but occur almost equally in the Central Plain; the Dodder (*Cuscuta* sp.) is chiefly but not exclusively found in this area. In the Barbuda Limestone the Loblolly is very common and often bears a Mistletoe (*Loranthus*) upon it, but the Mistletoe is seldom (if ever) found in Antigua, while the Loblolly occurs mainly near the sea, and but seldom on the Limestone hills. The Castor Oil (*Ricinus communis*), a well-known member of this Flora, and the Soursop (*Anona muricata*) and the Papaw (*Carica Papaya*) occur as well as the wild Sage (*Lantana Camara*).

5. *The Central Plain.*—The Flora here includes

many kinds of plants; there are the weeds of the canefields, the hygrophyllus and hydrophyllus plants of the ponds, and the trees and herbs found generally throughout the district. But the typical plant is the Acacia, which covers all the level clays, and which quickly invades a deserted piece of cultivated land, in most cases so over-running it that the other wild plants hardly get a chance, except the Grasses. The commonest species appears to be *A. arabica*, but a number of species occur. The acacias are met with sometimes in the Limestone and Volcanic districts, but are never dominant except in the Central Plain.

A number of large trees are found, usually near small ponds or the beds of streams. Among them are the Antigua Whitewood (*Terminalia Buceras*), the huge Silk Cotton (*Eriodendron*), the Sandbox (*Hura crepitans*), and the "Evergreen," whose enormous roots frequently grow 100 feet in length in search of water. It is their power of abstracting water from dry soils which enables them to keep their leaves when other trees have shed theirs, thus earning their name. These spreading roots have caused serious damage to the foundations of the large stone church of St. Peter's, Parham. The Tamarind has quite established itself, too, but is not to be regarded as indigenous, and the same may be said for the Mahogany (*Swietenia Mahagoni*).

The ponds are always small, but usually manage to exist through the droughts; they are often covered by the Pond Weed and by *Nymphaea ampla*, which is indigenous, or by its rival, the Egyptian Lotus, which is ousting it in most places. The Water Violet (*Eichornia tricolor*) is also found, but, like the Lotus, has (probably) been introduced by human agency. Round the margins grow a yellow *Mimosa*, *Wedelia*, various Sedges (*Cyperus*), *Bambusa vulgaris*, the French Weed (*Commelina elegans*), *Crinum longiflorum*, the Wild Tobacco or Cattle Tongue (*Pluchea odorata*), and the Wild Cane (*Gynerium saccharoides*). *Ruellia tuberosa*, with its tuberous roots and explosive capsules, is also found in damp situations; it is known locally as Daniel's Great Gun. *Mimosa pudica*, which abounds in Trinidad, is never found in Antigua.

The pastures abound in herbs, many of which are Papilionaceæ; among them are the Sweetheart (*Desmodium incanum*), *Crotalaria retusa*, *C. incana*, *C. sericea*, *Cassia obtusifolia*, *Wedelia buphthalmoides*, *Stachytarpha cayennensis*, the Cankerberry (*Solanum bahamense*), the yellow *Mimosa*, Love-in-a-mist (*Passiflora foetida*), and a *Euphorbia* (? *E. heterophylla*), with its bracts splashed with red. *Emilia sonchifolia* is one of the few examples of Compositæ.

A great number of plants occur mainly on the roadsides or among the canefields. In addition to *Argemone mexicana* and *Sonchus oleraceus*, many appear to be indigenous, being found in wild places as well as in the midst of cultivation. Many Ipomœas abound; there are numerous Leguminosæ, usually twining, such as the Wild Pea (*Centrosema virginianum*), the Winah (*Teramnus uncinatus*), and the Blue Pea (*Clitoria ternatea*); erect Papilionatæ

include a *Phaseolus* and *Æschynomene americana*, which is sensitive, like Mimosa. Wild Lord Lavington (*Leonurus sibiricus*) and the Monkey Bush (*Abutilon indicum*) are common weeds, and the Whitehead (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is extremely common, especially along roadsides. The Stinking Weed (*Cassia occidentalis*) is frequently found and several species of *Salvia*.

The flowers of the undoubtedly aboriginal plants are, on the whole, inconspicuous and not brightly coloured, though there are exceptions. With this may be correlated the absence of the gorgeous butterflies and moths found in most West Indian islands, those of Antigua being small and few in number.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE Colonial Bank, which now accepts drawing accounts, has, for the convenience of its customers, opened an office at 51, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

MR. T. W. O'NEAL, Chairman of Committees of the House of Assembly and Chancellor of the Diocese of Barbados, has returned to England to resume war work. It will be recalled that Mr. O'Neal was employed for some time in the Postal Censorship Department.

IN order to facilitate the collection of subscriptions from members in the British West Indies, the West India Committee have opened an account with the Colonial Bank. In future, members of the Committee will be able to pay their subscriptions at any of the branches of the Bank.

WILL those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, or to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments? All tanks are eager for West Indian news.

HIS many friends will be glad to learn that Dr. H. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee in Dominica, who recently underwent a rather serious operation at Rochester, U.S.A., is making good progress towards recovery. He will, it is understood, spend some weeks at Toronto, and return to Dominica towards the end of the year.

AN engagement is announced between Flight Sub-Lieut. Norman E. Woods, R.N.A.S., younger son of Mr. William E. Woods, of "Rangiora," Arthur Road, Wimbledon Park, and Florence Innes, youngest daughter of H. I. Perkins, I.S.O., F.R.C.S., F.G.S., Surveyor-General, British Honduras, and Mrs. Perkins, of Wimbledon Park, and granddaughter of Major-General Edward Norman Perkins, Bengal Staff Corps.

THE Pennsylvania Pure Food Department has called attention to the fact that sugar helps to ward

off fatigue. Consumed in fairly large quantities it acts rapidly, its full effects being felt about two hours after taking it. Scientific experiments carried out with the aid of an ergograph, an instrument for registering accurately variations of muscular power, show that sugar gives an increase of physical power ranging from 60 to 75 per cent.

A SERIES of popular lectures on "The Tropical Countries of the Empire," illustrated by the collections of the Imperial Institute, will be delivered by Miss Edith A. Browne, F.R.G.S., on Wednesdays in October, November, and December, at the Imperial Institute, at 3 o'clock, commencing on Wednesday, October 4th, 1916. Admission to the series of lectures will be free by ticket, for which application should be made to the Director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

THE death is announced of Mrs. Macquarrie, who spent many years of her life in Demerara. Born in Edinburgh, she was a daughter of Mr. Edmund Jeffrey. She was married in 1883 in Georgetown to Mr. Macquarrie, a well-known colonist of British Guiana, who died in February last year. She leaves a son, Mr. Edmund J. Macquarrie, and two daughters, the elder of whom was married in 1912 to Mr. Stanley Heald, of Messrs. Fitzpatrick & Graham, Accountants.

MR. GEORGE E. CRABHAM, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee in British Honduras, has been provisionally appointed a member of the Legislative Council of that Colony in succession to Lieut.-Colonel James Cran, M.D., who resigned on finding that his new duties of Officer Commanding the local forces so fully occupied his time. Another Hon. Correspondent of the Committee has just been appointed a member of a Legislative Council, Mr. E. J. Shelford having been nominated to sit on that of St. Kitts.

THE entente cordiale in the West Indies has been further strengthened by a visit paid by the Hon. C. Gideon Murray, Administrator of St. Lucia, to Martinique, where he and his party were entertained by the Governor. The CIRCULAR is indebted to Captain Maxwell Crockett for the photograph taken on this occasion, from which the illustration facing page 369 is reproduced. It was taken on the steps of the Military Club, which was opened in the presence of the visitors. The Administrator is seen on the left of the picture, standing on the right of the Governor of Martinique.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1918.

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.

"DAGONET," in his entertaining notes under the heading "Mustard and Cress," in the *Referee* of September 10th, sings the praise of Demerara sugar in the following verse:—

Demerara! Demerara!
That's the sugar now for me,
Demerara! Demerara!
Grandma took it in her tea.
I can see with memory's eye
As I glance the years adown,
Spoonful of it golden brown
Used for pudding and for pie.
Demerara, sweet your sway!
While the price of white is up
Golden brown shall fill my cup,
Demerara, boom-de-av.

In his speech at the opening of the Indian Legislative Council on September 7th, Lord Chelmsford, dealing with the proposed scheme for supplying labour to the Colonies, said that they had to deal with the question of the control of persons so engaged. The Government were trying to devise a plan for securing recruitment in India under decent conditions, and for maintaining proper regard for sex and proper treatment of the labourers in the country of destination, with terms of engagement similar to those in force in the Malay Peninsula. The Government of India would be departing gravely from its duty if it allowed emigrant labour to leave the country without proper protection and safeguards. No uncontrolled recruiting would be allowed, and the Local Governments were being consulted in the matter, pending a discussion which would soon be held in London.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—A Laboratory for the Grammar School.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, AUGUST 25th.—The weather during the fortnight has again been favourable to the growing crop, while playing havoc where sugar has still to be made. Gunthorpe's is still grinding.

Mrs. Cyril Gomes has been making a special collection for distressed Belgians, and a concert has been organised with the same object by Mrs. J. Gomes. Over £136 has thus been raised. Mrs. Archibald Spooner is also helping by actively collecting garments. Mrs. Dalglish, wife of the local manager of the Royal Bank is working for the Servians, and altogether the people of Antigua are lending a helping hand. On Thursday, the 17th inst., Miss Frances Marguerite Chevalier was married to the Rev. H. Shepherd, son of Dean Shepherd, and curate at the Cathedral. Over 500 guests were invited to the wedding which was the most largely attended wedding ever held in Antigua. The Bishop, Archdeacon Branch and Dean Shepherd officiated, and the guests were entertained afterwards at the Deanery. The honeymoon was spent at Clarence House. Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin has opened a fund for the erection of a laboratory as an addition to the Grammar School, which should fill a long-felt want. This year Archdeacon Branch has, by his own efforts, succeeded in paying off the debt on the school buildings, which now becomes the property of the diocese of Antigua. Another of Antigua's sons has made the great sacrifice. "Archie" Hart having given his life in the great cause. He was the son of Mr. William Hart, a Scotsman, and one of the oldest and most respected merchants of Antigua. Captain Hancock has arrived to take up the position of Private Secretary to the Governor.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sea Defences Problem tackled.

Work on the construction of the 4,000 ft. reinforced

concrete sea-wall on the East Coast of Demerara from Two Friends to Hope, under the contract with the Case Coast Protection Corporation, is now in full swing, and 300 feet have already been completed. The wall is on the lines of that recommended by Mr. Buck, the Director of Public Works, and approved by the Sea Defence Commission, the general alignment being also the same as that selected by him. The stone crusher, engine, and concrete-mixing plant imported for the construction of permanent work is said to be working well. Similar plant has been acquired for the West Coast sea defences. In accordance with Mr. Case's recommendations the stone lying on the coast and forming old and useless structures is being crushed and converted into concrete, the need of quarrying and transporting stone from the Mazaruni being thus obviated.

A further contract has now been made with the Corporation for the construction of a similar wall of 7,030 feet from Grove to Clonbrook, and the preparation of the machinery and water supply is already in hand. It is hoped that both sections will be finished by the close of the year, and that a very large saving in the maintenance of the sea defences will be effected. The zeal and enthusiasm with which all parties have at last united to eradicate what was for many years a canker on the financial prospects of the colony is most refreshing and too great thanks cannot be accorded to the Sea Defence Commission for their determined stand and sensible recommendations—which should in the long run save the community much expense.

The new works are being conducted under the control and supervision of the Hon. E. C. Buck, Director of Public Works, who is acting for the Government and Sea Defence Commission.

Both the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and the British Guiana Planters' Association have dissociated themselves from a movement set on foot by some elective members of the Court of Policy to memorialise the Secretary of State to recall the Governor, who is at present enjoying a well-earned holiday. An influential section of the East Indian community has also repudiated the memorial, the full text of which is published in the *Daily Argosy* Mail Edition of August 19.

The Rev. Canon Pringle, Vicar of St. Philip's, Georgetown, died on August 13th after a long illness. The obituary also includes Mr. Frank Dargan, Barrister-at-Law, second son of the late Mr. Patrick Dargan.

Mrs. La Bonne Mère, on Mahaica Creek, has been sold to a local syndicate for \$120,000 as from August 1st.

JAMAICA—Increasing Customs Receipts.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The weather during July was somewhat cooler than usual, and there were frequent rain squalls. Several atmospheric disturbances were reported in the Caribbean, all of which luckily gave Jamaica a wide berth, and it was probably due to their influence that so much rain fell. The maximum temperature was 92.5° F., the mean 79.9° F., and the minimum 69.3° F. The total rainfall in Kingston was 3.94 in., the average for 40 years being 1.81 in. The maximum velocity of the wind was thirty miles an hour on the 1st. Thunderstorms prevailed on seven days.

The Telegraphic Money Order service with Great Britain was inaugurated on the 1st, and seems likely to prove popular. Mr. Ritchie, the Government Entomologist, having been relieved of his position with the Government, has been engaged in the same capacity by the Vere Estates. The Right Rev. Bishop de Carteret, has been nominated as Bishop of Jamaica to succeed His Grace the late Archbishop Nuttall. A meeting of the Synod will be held next month for the purpose of electing him. At an election held on the 19th, Dr. B. Penso and Mr. L. Sherwood were returned as members of the City Council. The death took place in England, in the early part of the month, of Dr. Castle, Senior Medical Officer of the public hospital.

Mr. V. M. Cutter arrived here on the 22nd to take up his position as General Manager of the Tropical Division of the United Fruit Company. Mr. Cutter's office will be in Kingston, and his duties will not interfere with those of Captain List, at Port Antonio, who retains his post as Manager of the Jamaica division. The Hon. St. John Branch, Attorney General, and the Hon. Philip Cork,

delegates from Jamaica to the Immigration Conference in Trinidad, returned on the 15th, and have handed their report to the Governor. This report has, however, not yet been made public. The Customs receipts for the first three months of the financial year show an increase over the estimates of £19,177. The "Export Tax" brought in nearly £35,000, as compared with an estimate of £27,500.

The annual report of the Post Office and Telegraphs Department shows an increase over the revised estimates of £985 in the former, and £1,068 in the latter department. A rare phenomenon was observed off the south-east coast of the island on the 11th, when a large water-spout overwhelmed and sank an 87-ton schooner belonging to the West India Chemical Works. One life was lost in the disaster. The departure of the fourth contingent has been delayed by an outbreak of measles. It is hoped that the epidemic will soon be mastered, and that the men, who are otherwise quite ready, will be enabled to proceed overseas. One of the most enthusiastic and representative meetings ever held in the island took place in Kingston on the 18th to discuss the sugar question. A Committee has been appointed to report and make recommendations as to the future developments of the sugar industry in Jamaica. The suggestion has been put forward that the Government erect Central Factories, and the idea is being widely discussed. It is probable that this matter will be put before the electorate in due course, and before it is brought up in the Legislative Council. An effort has been made by certain American gentlemen doing business here to interest American capital in a scheme for erecting Central Sugar Factories in the island, but it would appear that this has fallen through, or at least has been shelved until it is seen what course the Imperial Government will adopt in the matter of a preference for British sugar. A closer trade relationship between Jamaica and Canada has also been receiving a considerable amount of attention in the local press, and it is reported on reliable authority that an emissary from the Dominion will shortly visit the island to make enquiries in this connection. It is thought that Sir Robert Borden is using his influence in this direction. The Red Cross Fund was assisted to the extent of £1,000 during the month by a donation from Mr. I. F. Thompson, of Good Hope, Trelawny. Mr. Thompson is an American gentleman with large interests here. He has also donated in the past £1,000 to the Aeroplane Fund as well as several other sums to various locally raised charities.

The active War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	4,359	20	8
Jamaica Belgian Orphans Fund	101	8	1
Jamaica Hospital Bed (Miss Douet)	784	12	7
Jamaica Polish Jews	1,824	9	1
Jamaica Blue Cross (No. 1)	74	19	0
Jamaica Blue Cross (No. 2)	123	3	0
Jamaica Contingent Comforts	237	8	0½
Jamaica New Testament Fund	59	17	11
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers	511	2	9
Jamaica French Red Cross	106	13	0
Jamaica French Red Cross (Gleaner)	26	7	6

MONTSERRAT—Cotton Crops promising.

Mr. K. P. PENCHOEN, AUGUST 19th.—We had a south-easterly gale here on Sunday, the 13th, and rain fell 12 to 2 inches throughout the island. There has been no material damage done to the cotton crop and the rain has been beneficial.

We are as yet unable to get away the balance of 53 bales cotton from last crop, and it is certain new crop will be ginned before the balance of old crop is shipped. The cotton crops are promising, and providing there is no bad weather, a good return should be obtained.

A fête was held on the 7th August, the anniversary of the hurricane of 1899, by members of the Montserrat Women's War Fund, and £22 was realised.

ST. KITTS—Major Burdon leaves for home.

Mr. F. J. SHELFORD, AUGUST 8th.—The Hon. Major I. A. Burdon, who has been unwell for some little time, leaves for England to-morrow on a few months' leave of absence. A very successful garden fête, organised by Mrs. Burdon and a Committee of ladies, was held at old

Government House on the August holiday in aid of the Overseas Club Aeroplane Fund. An interesting feature was a Red Cross tent and relics from the front which were shown by Mrs. Burdon, who wore her service uniform.

[We are glad to learn that our hon. correspondent has provisionally accepted a seat on the local Legislative Council.]

ST. VINCENT—A Cotton Stainer Ordinance.

MR. W. N. SANDS, AUGUST 5th. At a large public meeting held yesterday, the 4th inst., in Kingstown, and presided over by the Administrator, a resolution of loyalty was passed, it being the second anniversary of the declaration of War. Similar resolutions were passed in the small towns throughout the Colony.

An Ordinance termed the Cotton Stainer Ordinance was passed at a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 25th ult. This was made necessary owing to the fact that the cotton stainer had been proved to be responsible for the spread of internal boll disease of cultivated cotton—causing loss of crop each season. Under the Ordinance power is given the Agricultural Department to take such steps as are necessary to control the pest. As the Officers of the local Agricultural Department had shown that two native trees, namely, "Silk Cotton" and "John Bull," or "Mahoe," were the chief food plants of the pest in the close season for cultivated cotton, and, furthermore, had traced infestations of young fields to these sources, the first work to which attention had been devoted was the destruction of Silk Cotton and "John Bull" trees. The weather had been favourable for the different crops so far.

TOBAGO Many visitors from Trinidad.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 16th.—After a spell of twelve days of very light showers and intense sunshine, on 12th till to-day, we have had six inches of rain on the coast and probably much more inland, if the river torrents may be taken as a guide. Some minor landslips and road washes took place, but nothing serious, so far as I have heard. Even steep hillsides are practically safe in heavy rainfalls if the fields have good terrace or contour drains with suitable outlets, apart from their value as moisture conservers in the dry season. The young cacao crop is still most promising, although planters were rather anxious during the dry spell. Pickings will probably start mid-September, but even now small gatherings continue, and these will share in the better prices now being paid. Copra is being freely shipped from Tobago. Coco-nut planting is extending and our exports will soon favourably affect the statistics of the Colony.

Quite a number of Trinidad visitors have been in the island of late, and the round trip—both Trinidad and Tobago—is becoming increasingly popular, largely on the recommendation of our medical men. After the War Tobago must get a hotel and thus become a health resort and not merely a port of call. As you predicted motor cars are becoming quite an ordinary conveyance, but our excitable horses are still rather shy of them.

TRINIDAD—Successful Patriotic Meetings.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 16th.—After writing you on the 5th, the news came in of the patriotic meetings also held in the boroughs of San Fernando and Arima on the 4th instant. At the former town, the resolution was moved by Sir Norman Lamont, in a speech of striking eloquence, ably supported by that most popular of priests, the Very Rev. Canon Cantwell. At the latter, Mr. W. E. Beccles, the Mayor, presiding, the honour fell to a worthy ex-Mayor, Mr. J. F. Wallen, who was followed by the S.J.P., Mr. Van Buren and others, who did full credit to themselves and the cause advocated.

On the initiative of Mrs. A. M. Low, a clever company of amateurs presented the comedy of Jack Straw at the Prince's Building on Tuesday night, for the benefit of war funds, including the West India Contingent Fund. Unfortunately, Mrs. Low herself, who was to have taken the part of Lady Wanley, for which report said she was eminently prepared and fitted, was unable to act owing to the death of her father, Mr. Lechmere Guppy. Her place was taken at two days' notice by Miss Stella Fenwick who, nevertheless, played it in the most charming and effective manner. Mr. A. M. Low has not, I

think, appeared previously on the local amateur boards, but his rendering of Jack Straw was a very capable one. The same may be said of Mr. F. C. Marriott, as Ambrose Holland, who is, however, an old favourite from whom one naturally expects things. The rest of the cast were of really unusual amateur quality, and kept everything going with a swing from start to finish. I suppose I ought to say something of the principal lady, Mrs. C. R. Smith, who assumed the ungracious character of Mrs. Parker Jennings, but as she happens to be connected with me, I must content myself with remarking that she apparently quite satisfied the audience, which included the Governor, and a crowded house embracing all classes of the community.

DEATHS.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Macquarrie.—On September 4th, 1916, at Westcliff-on-Sea, England, Florence, widow of the late Charles John Macquarrie, of Georgetown, British Guiana.

Gillespie.—Killed in action on the 11th September, 1916. Sergeant David B. Gillespie, Canadian Infantry, second son of William Gillespie, Fir View, Weybridge, and dearly loved husband of Gwendolen Gillespie.

WANT.

Wanted.—Copies of CIRCULARS Nos. 468, June 29th; 464, July 13th; 465, July 27th; 468, Sept. 7th. Sixpence per copy given. Manager, The West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Direct Production of White Sugar.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I consider that your remarks in the CIRCULAR of August 10th on the advantages of the direct production of high-grade white sugar strike a very important note, and are worthy of close attention on the part of those interested in sugar in British Guiana and our West Indian Colonies generally. There is never likely to be a more favourable opportunity for such a development, but I do not think the Carbonatation process of clarification the best suited to the requirements.

During the past five years I have spent some considerable time in Java, specially studying the working of the latest white sugar-making processes, and I am confident that any of the British Guiana or West Indian juices may be successfully defecated and dealt with by what is now known in Java as "fractionated sulphitation"—a process quite new when so favourably commented upon by Dr. Prinsen Geeligs in his book, "Practical White Sugar Manufacture," issued last year (Norman Rodger, publisher), but much improved during the last two seasons, and now being extensively adopted in the factories of Java.

With this process the very best grade of white sugar is being produced directly from quite difficult juices, and with thoroughly satisfactory boiling-house recoveries, the costs comparing favourably with those met with in the average 96 test sugar factory when the increased value of the product is taken into consideration, and there is no reason why equally good results should not be got in our Colonies, provided the factory equipment is well proportioned and arranged, and operated under scrupulously clean conditions, with proper chemical control. The fuel question, however, will require special attention, as the extended system of multiple milling, and the liberal use of macerating water, necessary to secure the highest sucrose extraction from the cane, coupled with the heat and power required for the various refinements incident to white sugar making, will materially accen-

tuate the very poor heat generation and utilisation efficiency at present so noticeable in most British Guiana and West Indian factories. That it is possible by improved furnace conditions to do the whole work of the factory without fuel other than megass, and to even have a surplus of megass, has been fully demonstrated during the past crop at certain important British West Indian factories with which I am now concerned, and which previously, whilst not by any means the worst offenders in this respect, carried a fairly considerable fuel bill. I am confident that where the fibre content of the cane exceeds 12 per cent. of the cane by weight, the finest quality of white sugar can be turned out without extraneous fuel, provided the factory equipment is well proportioned, arranged and operated.

With the Bach Fractionated Sulphitation process it is possible at a moment's notice, and without complication, to turn from the production of white sugar to that of 96 test sugar, and vice-versa, the additional equipment carried in the factory to meet the requirements of the white sugar process being quite small. In Java it is considered highly important to be able to supply either market promptly.

With the Carbonatation process practically the whole of the clarification plant would have to be duplicated to do this, and the cost of lime would be heavy, as neither in British Guiana nor most of the islands is there suitable limestone.

There is no doubt whatever that a sugar which should meet the requirements of the most fastidious taste, sentimental and otherwise, can be produced directly at the factory, but there is also the question of getting the product into the hands of the consumer. The conditions brought about by the War render this less difficult, perhaps, than would have been the case a few years ago. However, it is still, I think, a point of some importance, and deserving of thought.

The highest economies and best chances of success will be attained by consolidation of acreage and interests, and this should be kept in mind when deciding upon the improvement of factories rendered possible by the present circumstances.

The practice of working only part of the twenty-four hours, so commonly met with in British Guiana, is bad, and continuous operation throughout the week hours must be arranged for.

Labour costs are becoming greater, and even in Java, where there is an abundance of cheap labour, labour-saving devices are being carefully considered, and the entire auxiliary equipment of the latest factories has been arranged for electrical operation, partly on that account.

Cuba has enormous further possibilities, and is steadily developing them on most liberal and advanced lines, and it is not unlikely that in the near future she will take a more permanent interest in our markets.

In that Republic also the keenest possible attention is being given to the matter of reducing costs, and there, as well as in Java, it is to day considered doubtful whether a factory dealing with less than 1,500 tons of cane per day will be able to compete successfully in the world's markets in the near future, and I would respectfully suggest that it will be a safer policy for our Colonies to develop on similarly sound lines rather than look for salvation in preferences to be arranged in future fiscal schemes. It will be a great mistake to perpetuate as separate entities many of the comparatively small factories now operating in the Colonies mentioned. Owners should get together and group up on a co-operative basis wherever possible and so form combinations which will be able to face the future with confidence.

Large factories fitted with every labour and heat-saving refinement, with scope to justify the retention and employment of the very best administrators, engineers, and chemists, and arranged to turn out any grade of sugar required in the world's markets, from finest white to raw crystals, will, in my opinion, be eminently successful. Smaller factories, cramped in their scope and working for special or preferential markets, must always be at a disadvantage and in danger.

Yours truly,

FRANK P. RUDDER, M.I.Mech.E.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SRETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.
 Telegrams: "Carib," London.

September 20th, 1916.

BANK RATE 6 per cent. as from 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted at 60, Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) 86½, and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) 96½.

SUGAR. The Board of Trade Returns for August show that 107,495 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom during that month. Out of this, 28,505 tons were white sugar, the United States being accountable for 24,739 tons and Java for 3,760 tons. Of the 78,990 tons of raws, Java delivered 9,078 tons, the Philippines 11,519 tons, Cuba 23,405 tons, Peru 1,998 tons, Mauritius 4,977 tons, and the British West Indies 7,115 tons.

For the year, out of the 1,064,733 tons of sugar imported 817,617 tons belonged to the category of refined, while 247,116 tons were raws. Of the refined sugar, it is interesting to note that 70 tons came from Germany! It is to be hoped that this item, small though it be, is not a precursor of pre-war conditions. 4,279 tons came from Holland; 15,890 tons from Java, a small quantity compared with the 62,539 tons which came from that colony during the corresponding month of last year. The United States contributed 255,358 tons in the form of cubes and granulated, and Mauritius 26,766 tons of plantation whites. The Argentine has been responsible for the small quantity of 250 tons. The contributors of raw sugar have been—Java, 39,123 tons; the Philippines, 56,026 tons; Cuba, 492,765 tons; Peru, 24,403 tons; Mauritius, 81,435 tons; the British West Indies and British Guiana, 57,505 tons; Dutch Guiana, 1,187 tons; British India, 50 tons; and other countries, 2,938 tons.

The stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom on the 31st of August amounted to 144,550 tons, and the consumption based on imports 1,055,983 tons for the eight months, an average rate of 131,998 tons a month, as against the average monthly rate in 1915 of 164,000 tons.

The Cuban crop up to the 17th inst. amounted to 2,969,108 tons, with one Central still working. The 3,000,000 tons is therefore assured. For the year 504,572 tons have been exported to the United Kingdom, and 118,629 tons to France.

The estimate of the current Java crop has, according to Willett and Gray, been raised to 1,500,000 tons.

There has been no change in quotations in the home market, the demand being active at full prices. Tate's cubes are quoted at 47/1½ for No. 1, and 46/7½ for No. 2 quality. Fine granulated 42/4½ with Standard at 41/7½. Canadian and American granulated are quoted at 41/7½ in outports, and white Java in London at 41/- to 41/4. The above are, of course, Government prices.

In the New York market the recovery which had commenced at the date of the last summary has continued, and the price of duty paid 96° Cubans rose rapidly from \$5.14 to \$5.52 on the 13th. A relapse took place on the 14th, but the higher level was again reached on the 18th, and at yesterday's date the price was up to \$5.77. Granulated has participated in the rise and now stands at \$6.50.

The total stocks at the three principal ports of the United Kingdom were for the week ending the 16th September:

	1914	1915	1916
London	37,285	58,231	25,938 tons.
Liverpool	7,913	14,099	17,289 "
Clyde	8,326	5,351	10,444 "
	53,524	77,681	53,671

RUM. It is to be regretted that imitation rum is still bracketed with the genuine article in the monthly trade returns, though a differentiation is now made, it is satisfactory to note, in the annual trade statement. In August the imports were 820,513 galls., as against 1,304,740 galls. and 278,843 galls. in the corresponding months in 1915 and 1914. Deliveries in the same month were 1916, 1,177; 1915, 41,438; 1914, 52,907.

For the first eight months of the year the figures are:

	1914	1915	1916
Imports	1,983,898	2,932,324	2,158,793
Entered for Consumption	289,471	355,705	187,962

Exports in August were 1916, 26,641; 1915, 20,142; 1914, 34,050; and for the first eight months of the year—1916, 296,928; 1915, 384,060; and 1914, 517,596.

There has been some demand for home trade qualities of Jamaica, and a fairly large business has been effected at 5/6 to 5/7. Some sales of Demerara have taken place at 3/11 to 4/11 proof.

CACAO. At auction sales on the 19th 12,162 bags were offered, of which 2,000 bags were West Indian.

There was very little demand. Out of 1,538 bags Trinidad 900 sold at 84/- to 85/-; 65 bags Grenada sold at 73/- to 80/-; 40 bags St. Lucia sold at 73/- to 76/-. The Jamaica and Demerara lots were bought in. Privately, 75 bags Jamaica sold at 82/6.

For the month of August the imports and deliveries of cacao into the United Kingdom were as follows:—

From	1914	1915	1916
Ecuador	9,041	25,255	53,461
Brazil	6,768	44,856	1,773
British West Africa	4,359	64,000	14,158
Ceylon	2,918	3,352	1,173
British West India Islands	11,085	32,955	10,647
Other Countries	2,631	40,227	12,814

Total	Imports	36,802	210,645	94,026
	Entered for Home Consumption	31,151	81,682	35,731

The figures for the first eight months of the year are as under:—

From	1914	1915	1916
Ecuador	111,004	145,368	160,134
Brazil	72,734	163,823	72,177
British West Africa	153,527	583,341	799,680
Ceylon	23,056	52,461	36,184
British West India Islands	151,472	199,718	192,725
Other Countries	65,101	138,194	193,368

Total	Imports	576,894	1,282,905	1,454,268
	Entered for Home Consumption	385,016	627,959	525,178

The increase under the heading "other countries" is no doubt due to receipts from the quondam German colonies, notably the Cameroons, which will, it is hoped, soon figure separately as British colonies.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that no business has been reported in West Indian Sea Island cotton since the date of the last summary, owing to exhaustion of stocks. New crop Carolinas in Savannah are commanding full prices.

The Board of Trade Returns for August give the imports of raw cotton for the month as being 132,353,900 lbs., as against 64,989,300 lbs. for the corresponding month of last year. This brings up the imports for the eight months of the present year to 1,421,681,900 lbs., as against 2,085,802,900 lbs. for the corresponding months of last year.

Out of the month's imports only 14,401,200 lbs. came from British possessions. These included 6,589,800 from Egypt, 5,522,600 from the British East Indies, and 187,900 from the British West Indies. The foreign imports for the month included 110,584,700 lbs. from the United States, 24,600 lbs. from Brazil, and 7,342,800 lbs. from other foreign countries.

For the year to the 31st of August 1,081,898,600 lbs. came from foreign countries, as against 359,783,300 lbs. from British possessions. Of the foreign imports 1,049,499,400 lbs. came from the United States, 74,800 lbs. from Brazil, and 32,324,400 lbs. from other foreign countries. The British imports were 264,908,500 lbs. from Egypt, 640,539 lbs. from the British East Indies, 1,352,100 lbs. from the British West Indies, 8,629,600 lbs. from other countries in Africa than Egypt, and 887,300 from other British possessions. The exports for August were 13,372,200 lbs., making 210,932,200 lbs. for the eight months. Of the latter 131,528,700 lbs. made their way to the United States, 21,911,200 lbs. to Holland, 19,952,800 lbs. to Russia, 4,505,100 lbs. to Sweden, 10,599,400 lbs. to France, and 4,368,100 lbs. to Portugal. The exports to Sweden last year for the same period were 21,487,000 lbs., nearly five times as much as for the present year, which, in the

light of the commercial relations of that country to Germany, is an interesting fact.

COFFEE. There has been very little demand. At auction sales on the 18th 567 bags Jamaica were bought in. The Official Returns show that 94,902 cwts. of coffee were imported for August, as against 141,372 for August, 1915. Of this the British West Indies contributed 2,178 cwts., the bulk, 80,882 cwts., coming from Brazil. For the eight months of the year the imports were 1,322,007 cwts., of which 8,461 came from the British West Indies and 909,879 cwts. from Brazil. The exports amounted to 36,578 cwts. for the month, and 372,787 cwts. for the eight months. The principal country for export was Holland, which absorbed 130,496 cwts. in the eight months.

BANANAS. The imports into the United Kingdom in August were only 559,005 bchs., as against 970,583 bchs. and 1,143,103 bchs. for the corresponding months in 1915 and 1914. For the first eight months of the years the imports have been—1916, 4,171,251 bchs.; 1915, 5,997,263 bchs.; and 1914, 5,851,166 bchs. For the same period the exports from the United Kingdom have been—1916, 91,843 bchs.; 1915, 234,636 bchs.; 1914, 384,687 bchs.

The demand has been good, and Jamaica bananas are valued at 24/-, as against 18/- to 20/- for high quality Canary.

RUBBER. Plantation very firm. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2/5 $\frac{1}{2}$; smoked sheet at 2/5 $\frac{1}{4}$. Para is fully steady. Fine hard is quoted at 3/3 $\frac{1}{4}$, with soft at 3/-. According to the Board of Trade Returns 12,791,200 lbs. were imported, as against 11,795,000 lbs. for August last year. This makes 167,200,800 lbs. for the eight months, as against 121,669,300 lbs. for the corresponding months of last year.

The largest amount came from the Straits Settlements, which exported 32,086,900 lbs. for the eight months to this country, as against 46,303,400 lbs. for the same period last year. The Federated Malay States came next with 28,845,500 lbs., as against 18,587,800 lbs., followed by Brazil with 16,338,200 lbs., as against 20,364,700 lbs. Ceylon contributed 1,391,500 lbs., as against 20,563,800 lbs. last year. The exports amounted to 74,755,300 lbs. for the year and 8,062,100 lbs. for the month.

HONEY. Practically nothing has been done since last auction. The next auction is held to-day.

SPOICES. The demand for Ginger is very slow, and sales are only in retail quantity at 82/- to 120/- for fair common lean to bold bright. There has been nothing offered in either Mace or Nutmegs since last report, and prices may be considered to be unchanged.

BALATA is scarce. Venezuela block is quoted, sellers at 2/10 c.i.f.; Panama block sellers 2/2 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.i.f.; West Indian sheet 3/3 forward.

COPRA Market steadier. West Indian may be quoted at £31 c.i.f. London.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Sellers are asking 8/6 for distilled, but no sales have been reported for the fortnight. There has been a small sale of handpressed at 9/9 per lb. Lime Juice. Raw. The Government demand continues, but owing to shortage of labour stocks can only be handled slowly. Jamaica is selling at 3/3 per gallon. Concentrated. There are signs of a demand at last, and it is hoped that sales will be quoted in our next. Citrate of Lime. There have been buyers at £27 per ton.

ARROWROOT Prices unchanged. No business has been done since the date of last Summary.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 ls. 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. The compounding subscription for life membership of the West India Committee for individuals is £10 10s.

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STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.					
Date	Line.	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination.	
Sep. 27	Booker	Arakaka	Liverpool	B.	
" 29	" "Direct"	Sargasso	London	A, B, E, F, G.	
" 29	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	K, L, M, N.	D.
" 30	Leyland	Oraniam	Liverpool	A, E.	
Oct. 11	" "Direct"	Crosus of Galia	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G.	K, L, M, N.
" 11	Elders & Fyffes	Covina	Bristol	D.	

FROM CANADA.			
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep. Destination.
Oct. 6	R M S.P.Co.	Chaleur	Hallifax, N.S.
" 20	"	Chignecto	"

FROM HOLLAND.			
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep. Destination.
Oct. 10	Royal Dutch	Commerwijn	Amsterdam B.E.

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices Sept 20
4%	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	77
4%	Barbados	4% Redeemable 1925-42	74
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1935	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
3%	British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-45	74 $\frac{1}{2}$
4%	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	80
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1934	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Jamaica	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Redeemable 1919-49	75
3%	Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1922-44	75
4%	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
4%	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
3%	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1927-44	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
6%	The Colonial Bank		6 $\frac{1}{2}$
7%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		86 $\frac{1}{2}$
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		86 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Debentures		87 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures		91 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	Imperial Direct Line 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Debentures		103 $\frac{1}{2}$
6%	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		103
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures		103
	Trinidad Gilfields Ltd. (£1 shares)		11
	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		15 $\frac{1}{2}$
	United Brit. of Trinidad A** (15/- paid)		11
4%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27-30
4%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.		95-100
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		21 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.		8
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd		6
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures		9

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October 4th, 1916.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

THE people of the West Indies have every reason to be proud of their military contingent, in the maintenance, as in the formation, of which the West Indian Colonies are working in more complete harmony than they have ever done before. This latter point was emphasised by SIR EVERARD IM THURN and SIR FREDERIC HODGSON at a meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee, reported in another column, and it may be, indeed, as SIR EVERARD suggests that this practical demonstration of the essential unity of the islands, and the sinking of all petty jealousies at a time of stress, foreshadows that desire for federation which must precede any serious discussion of how federation is to be secured. The federation of the Empire has been brought nearer by decades since the outbreak of the War, and it may be that the federation of the oldest part of the Empire has by the same cause been brought within the zone of practical discussion. Be that as it may, the fact remains that upon one subject—the great War—all the islands are at one. On the outbreak of hostilities, the West Indies were desirous of bearing their due share of the Imperial burden. From then onwards, in a constant stream, young men, many of them travelling at their own charge, passed from the islands and the adjacent colonies on the mainland to the Home Country to take commissions or to enlist in the various regiments of His Majesty's Forces. Contingents were also at once offered, but in view of the possibility of German raids on the islands, it was felt that it would be unwise in the extreme to denude them of fighting men; hence the offers were declined. As soon,

however, as the seas had been swept clear of the enemy, the offers were renewed, and accepted by the Army Council, and a contingent representative of all the West Indian Colonies was rapidly formed and embodied as the British West Indies Regiment. All reports as to the bearing of the men, both under training and upon active service, have been highly favourable; while, on the other hand, the men themselves have had but one complaint, viz., that they have not gone quickly enough into the firing-line. It is a complaint with which we must all sympathise, yet we would have our West Indian soldiers remember that those who answer their country's call, and do faithfully the duty required of them, have satisfied all the demands of honour. What that duty at any time may be, must always be for those in authority to decide. As we have said, the West Indies have every reason to be proud of the response made by their young men. This justifiable pride, happily, has found expression in gratitude practically displayed. On August 30th, 1915, at the instance of MR. BONAR LAW, the West Indian Contingent Committee came into existence to look after the Welfare of the Regiment while in training and afterwards. At first confining their duties to the Regiment, the Committee soon recognised that equity demanded that the comfort of all West Indians serving with the Forces should be under their charge. Upon the formation of the Committee, funds were immediately forthcoming, and generous gifts have enabled them to provide our West Indian soldiers with such reasonable and seasonable comforts as they have required. The Committee have been unsparing of their labour. The Ladies' Working Committee especially have done splendid service, first under the chairmanship of LADY PHILIPPS, and latterly under that of LADY DAVSON. The work, however, grows, and more help is needed, and ladies willing to assist are invited to send their names to MISS MARY MOSELEY, the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee. Subscribers, too, have been generous, and after making all necessary disbursements, there remains a substantial amount in hand. Altogether, apart from a sum of £974 earmarked for special purposes, of which £880 has already been spent, the donations received during the ten months ending June 30th last amounted to £4,308. £746 has been disbursed in the purchase of comforts, Christmas gifts, band instruments, clothing, and sporting requisites, and in gratuities, etc. The expenses of administration, owing to the fact that the West India Committee placed their staff and offices at the service of the Contingent Committee, have been very slight, and the balance in hand is £3,566, which, of course, is highly satisfactory. Nevertheless, it must be borne in mind that, considerable as this

sum may seem, it is by no means sufficient to carry on the work of the Committee as the people of the West Indies would naturally wish it carried on, and still leave an adequate sum in hand for eventualities when peace is declared. The time of greatest expenditure, as SIR EVERARD IM THURN, SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, and MR. R. RUTHERFORD all explained at the meeting, has yet to come. The increasing number of casualties alone must necessitate increased expenditure on hospital comforts, etc., while conditions at the end of the War will unquestionably make considerable demands upon the funds then in the hands of the Committee. The number of men recruited in the West Indies may not be publicly stated, but it is at least safe to say that it vastly exceeds 3,566, which number would make the balance in hand on June 30th amount to precisely £1 per head, and how much, or rather how little, clothing and comfort and recreation, to say nothing of steamship fares to the West Indies, can be purchased for a sovereign must be obvious to everyone. We are justly proud of the West Indies' contribution in men; we must not be shamed by what those at home did for the boys at the Front. We know how the great Dominions have contributed their youth to the great cause for which the Empire is fighting, and we know that in this regard the West Indies can claim a footing of full equality with any other part of the Empire. We know also that the Dominions have provided lavishly for the comfort of their boys; and can the West Indies, the oldest of all the colonies, the very nucleus of the Empire, do less for theirs? The question answers itself. We know that as soon as the people of the West Indies understand the position, the needed subscriptions will at once flow in. The West Indian has been blamed before now for his extravagance, but a lack of generosity has never yet been laid to his charge. Times are bad, and misfortunes are many, but all our material hardships are light as thistle-down compared with those which our great-hearted lads at the Front are bearing with a cheerfulness that is past all praise and beyond all price.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

THE story of the early years of the cane farming industry in Trinidad is one of a constant struggle against adverse conditions. The system, as our readers are probably aware, was initiated by the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK in connection with the then Colonial Company's Central Factory, the Usine St. Madeleine. It was thought that if the East Indian who had passed through his indenture, and the West Indian peasant residing within reasonable distance of the factory, could be induced to grow canes and sell them to the factory, not only would the average cost of the canes to the factory be reduced, but, at the same time, the material and moral position of the peasantry would be greatly improved. East Indian immigration, although essential to the cane-growing estates, is a severe tax upon the sugar industry. Not only is the introduction of the immigrant, who only arrives at his full efficiency after a considerable period of his term of indenture has expired, costly, but cot-

tages, hospitals, and numerous other obligations, all tend to swell the total cost of this source of labour, and, consequently, of the estates' canes. If canes could be purchased from farmers, who would have none of the standing expenses of the estates, and who could, therefore, part with the canes for a lower figure than it cost the estates to grow them, the average cost of canes to the factory would be less, while the farmer would not only reap a substantial reward for his labour, but also be at liberty to devote himself to other agricultural pursuits.

For many years the farming system had to stand the strain of prejudice on the part of the planter on the one hand, and distrust on the part of the farmer on the other. The former considered that the growing of canes by the farmers would deprive him of the labour necessary for his cultivation, would furnish an inferior quality of cane, and prejudice the regular supply of cane to the factory during grinding. The farmer distrusted the *bona fides* of the estates authorities to whom he sold the cane in dealing with a commodity for which there was only one market. The unsatisfactory condition of the sugar market as the result of the Continental bounty system, and the consequent low price paid for the canes, had also a deterrent effect on the industry. It must moreover be remembered that when cane farming was started in Trinidad, minor agricultural industries, beyond those of the growing of provisions by the industrious, and the theft of them by the idle, were practically non-existent. The conduct of a regular industry like cane farming was also something entirely new to the peasantry, who could not be expected to grasp the conditions associated with it all at once. The situation was further aggravated by lawsuits connected with the cane contracts, instituted by the farmers with the encouragement of a Chief Justice of socialistic propensities, who looked upon the planter as the incarnation of malignant despotism and upon the farmer as the apotheosis of virtuous industry. These, indeed, at one time threatened to put an end to the young industry, and, no doubt, would have done so had this official continued in office.

Fortunately, however, the bad times were successfully got over, due mainly to the untiring energy of the late DR. MORTON, head of the Canadian Mission in Trinidad, who was not slow to recognise the advantage of the system to the peasantry, to the persistent support of SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, and to the patience and fair dealing of the managers of the estates. It only needs reference to the cane farming and crop returns appearing elsewhere in the present issue, for it to be seen that the industry is now in a flourishing condition, and is an important and firmly established branch of the sugar industry of the colony. These records, it will be noticed, date back to 1898, when the industry was growing out of its early troubles. The broad facts brought out by the returns are, that whereas in 1899 the canes supplied by the farmers only amounted to 20 per cent. of the total ground, in 1916 the farmers supplied 46 per cent., and that, whereas in 1899 the sum of \$219,011 was paid to the farmers, in 1916 the payments amounted to no less than \$1,008,065.

Further interesting details show that the number of farmers in 1898 was 6,150, of which 3,824 were West Indians and 2,326 East Indians, and that in 1916, the total number was 19,226, of which 8,212 were West Indians and 11,014 East Indians. The stimulating effect of the war, with its higher prices for sugar, is well seen in the increased supply of cane in 1915 and 1916. In 1914, 201,799 tons were supplied; in 1915, 325,071 tons; and in 1916, 363,775 tons. A point of considerable importance in connection with the industry is that of the productive power of the farmers. It was one of the arguments against the system that the production of the farmer, working for himself, was less than if he had been engaged in growing canes under the supervision of the estates' authorities. No doubt there was, and still is, although to a less extent, justification for this view. The quantity of canes supplied per farmer as an average of the years 1898, 1899, and 1900 was only 16.3 tons; for the three years 1914, 1915 and 1916, 18.4 tons. This appears to be a poor supply, seeing that the farmer has the advantage of the labour of his family to assist his own efforts in the direction of cultivating his cane juice, and that there is no difficulty in renting land for the purpose if his own area is not sufficient. No doubt, working for the estate, the farmer's labour would be worth more in canes, but it must be remembered that, growing canes for the factory on his own account, he has to supply, some way or the other, the wants of himself and his family, which, in the other instance, would be provided by his wages. Then, again, the absence of manure—for the cane farmer is not likely to be in a position to provide this of his own initiative—has much to do with the apparently poor figure of his individual cane supply. In this connection it is interesting to note that at Waterloo for the 1916 crop, MR. CARLLE's cane farmers contributed 31.5 tons per head, but the explanation of this is the virgin soil which had been handed over to them, and is by no means an index of what should be the case all round.

The growing cane farming industry of Trinidad is essentially a peasant industry, and could never, for reasons every factory manager realizes, entirely take the place of the estates' cultivation. But it is evident that as an adjunct to the sugar industry of Trinidad it has come to stay, and is likely to prove an important factor in any future development of the industry in that colony.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1918.

It is hoped that members will help to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing eligible candidates for admission. Particulars regarding membership—for both 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 corresponding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (100 00). 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.

A NEW CUBAN "CENTRAL."

The Central Ciego de Avila.

Owing to the very low price of raw sugar which prevailed for some years previous to the War, very little new machinery was installed in Cuban sugar factories and very few new factories were built. Shortly after the European conflagration broke out, new factories sprang up like mushrooms, and owners of existing factories hastened to increase the capacity of their plant to meet the extraordinary demand for sugar.

One of the most successful of the new factories, Central Ciego de Avila, was, however, a pre-war factory, its erection having been started in July, 1913, and completed in February, 1914, when it started grinding and finished a most successful crop. This central factory is the property of the Ciego de Avila Sugar Company, and was built by Messrs. Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd., the well-known Glasgow firm of sugar machinery engineers. It stands close to the Cuba Railroad Company's station at Ciego de Avila, where that railroad is crossed by the Jucaro and Moron Railroad, and has sidings on both lines. As the Sugar Company buys most of the cane required from the planters in the surrounding districts, the situation of the factory on both railroads is most advantageous for bringing in the cane as well as for shipping the sugar.

Central Ciego de Avila was designed with a view to providing ample room, light and ventilation, thus securing, as far as possible, the cleanliness of the factory and the comfort of the workers. In many of the older factories in Cuba and elsewhere, and especially in those which have been enlarged from time to time by the addition of new plant, the visitor finds himself in a dark maze of machinery in which pipes run in all directions, and the floor, where it is not littered with odd pumps and other pieces of machinery having no apparent connection with anything in particular, is usually flooded with pools of sour molasses and dirty water. These dark and unclean conditions encourage the growth of harmful bacteria, which seriously affect the keeping qualities of the sugar.

The Arrangement of the Plant.

In Central Ciego de Avila the machinery is practically all installed on two floors, the upper floor being in the form of a broad gallery with a large central well, the entire building being well lighted by the glazing in the roof. The cane enters the factory at one end and the juice from the mills passes through the various processes of purification, evaporation, crystallisation and curing, the sugar finally emerging bagged at the other end of the building, where it is stored in a well-lighted and well-ventilated sugar store. The treatment of the scums is carried out in a separate building.

The cane is brought to the factory in 30-ton railroad cane cars, each car being emptied by a hydraulic side-tipping machine into a large cane hopper, from which the cane is elevated by a heavy elevator 72 inches broad, driven through steel gearing by a twin cylinder steam engine. The cane

then passes through a Krajewski crusher and four 34 in. by 72 in. mills. The crusher and mills are all fitted with Stewart Patent No. 2 type hydraulic attachments which enable the leathers to be replaced in the shortest possible time. With this attachment when a hydraulic leather bursts the cylinder is quickly lifted out and replaced by a spare cylinder containing a new tested leather.

The crusher and four mills are all driven by one 42 in. dia. by 60 in. stroke steam engine through steel compound gearing. The juice after leaving the mills passes through a mechanical strainer, which removes any bagasse chips which may be suspended in it. It is then pumped up to the juice heater, which is of the high velocity self-cleaning coil type and has 800 square feet heating surface. From the heater the juice passes to the defecators, where it is lined and heated to the boiling point. The defecated juice passes on to the quadruple effect and the scums are collected, lined and re-defecated, the final scums being pumped to the filter press house for further treatment.

The Quadruple Effect.

The quadruple effect evaporator has a total heating surface of 12,000 square feet in solid drawn copper tubes expanded into bronze tubeplates. From the evaporator the syrup passes to the storage tanks for feeding the vacuum pans. The latter are of the calandria and coil type, each 13 feet dia., and each having a total heating surface of 2,240 square feet and a capacity of 45 tons of massecuite. After the massecuite is grained it is discharged through closed piping into a mixing receiver from which it is elevated by means of compressed air to the crystallisers, of which there are twelve, each 7 feet dia. by 23 feet long.

The sugar is cured by twelve 40-inch belt-driven Weston centrifugals, which are driven by one high-speed steam engine direct coupled to the counter-shaft. A dry sugar elevator takes the first sugar to a bagging bin from which it is bagged, and the second sugars are elevated after curing to a mixer, where they are mixed with first syrups to a magma and used as a foundation for further crystallisation in the crystallisers. The evaporating and graining plant is served by two 6-foot barometric condensers with vacuum and water pumping engines, the condensing water being cooled in a large cooling tower and reservoir. The steam generating plant consists of eight multitubular boilers 8 feet diameter by 22 feet long, with separate flat grate type bagasse furnaces fed by a double-decked bagasse carrier from the mills. The factory is lit throughout by electric light, and has a well-fitted chemical laboratory.

Central Ciego de Avila grinds about 1,350 tons of cane per day of 24 hours, this being about one quarter of the capacity of its mammoth neighbour, Central Stewart, which was built some nine years ago by the same firm, Messrs. Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd., of Glasgow.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" may be obtained of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., at the nominal price of 1/6, or 1/3 post free.

PLANTATION WHITE SUGAR.

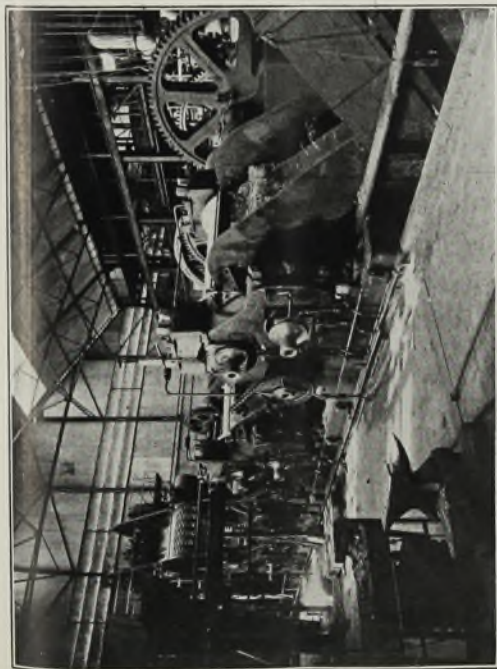
Dr. Wm. E. Cross contributes to *Sugar* an important article on plantation white sugar manufacture. An interesting discussion has been going on recently in sugar circles with regard to the advisability of using bone black filtration in making plantation white sugar, and there is, he states, a sharp line of difference between the bone black advocates and their opponents, who maintain that bone black can only be economically used in the large sugar refinery.

Of course many experiments have been made in the past to endeavour to install the bone black filtration in the ordinary cane factory, but these experiments failed, it is claimed, solely because of technical defects in the planning and execution of the experiments. It is pointed out that a refinery may have to use 150 kilos of char per 100 kilos of sugar if the melt has an average purity of 89 per cent., and that, therefore, it would be impossible to treat the unclarified cane juice of say 75 to 80 per cent. by this method, because of the enormous amounts of char which would be required. This latter idea, therefore, is no longer entertained, and so the question resolves itself into the practicability of remelting the sugars in the factory itself, and of using the bone black to produce white sugars from this melt.

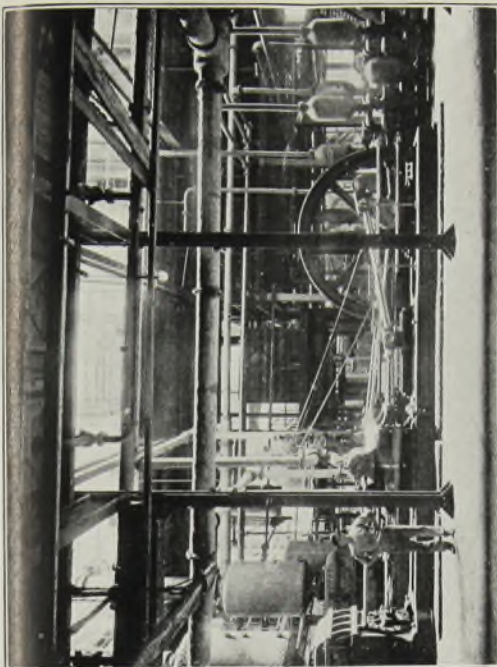
The advocates of the bone black method are of the opinion that this process is essential for the production of a high-grade white, pure sugar, that plantation whites made by other processes always leave something to be desired, both in quality and selling price. They claim, on the other hand, that the bone black process is no longer the elaborate and expensive proceeding that it was twenty-five years ago, that the cost of the process is now so low that its adoption is entirely practicable for the ordinary sugar factory. The suggestion is made, too, that the factory equipped with a bone black plant could make use of its machinery all the year round—making and refining its own sugars during the grinding season, and acting as refinery of raw sugars purely during the rest of the year.

These rather optimistic views are severely handled by the critics. It is pointed out that careful and efficient methods of clarification will give a high-grade white sugar which can well compete with the product of the refineries, and, furthermore, that these methods could be improved and elaborated without their cost approaching that of the bone black treatment. Moreover, the bone black process does not convert all the raw sugar into the white product, except by repeated remeltings and filtrations of low products, so that it is by no means a case of turning all the raw sugars into whites in one operation.

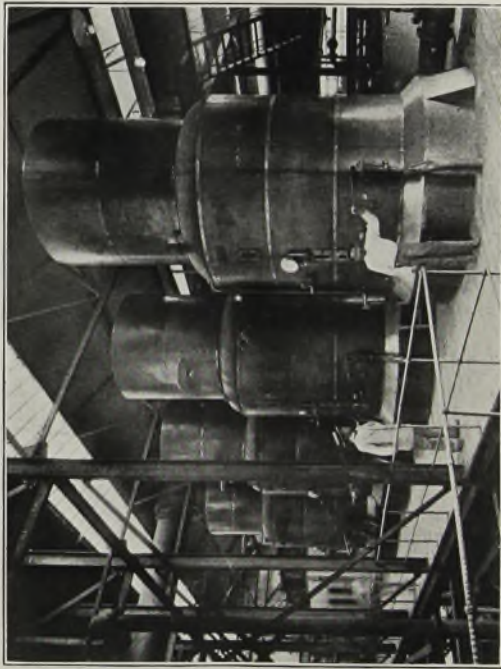
Again, the factory would have to do on a small scale what the refinery does on a large scale. At this they obviously could not compete. Practically the same labour would be required as that necessary to operate a large refinery, and overhead costs would be disproportionately large. Even the



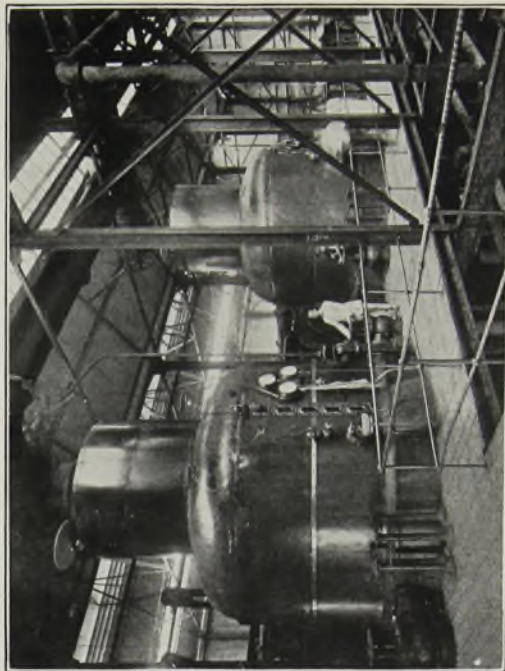
THE MILLING PLANT.



THE CONDENSING-WATER PUMPING ENGINES.



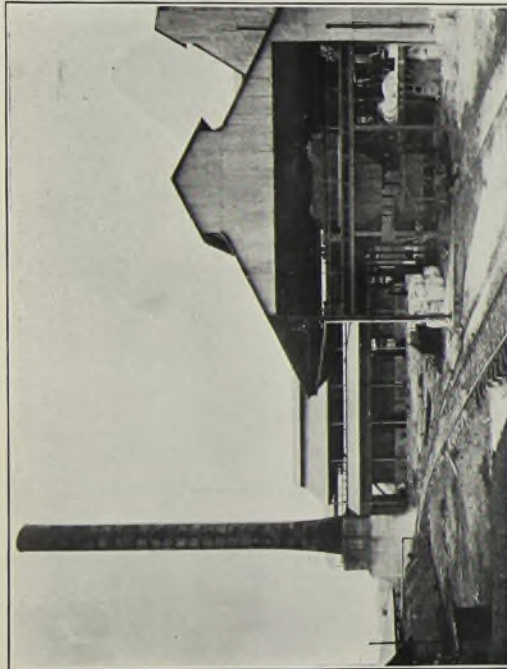
THE QUADRUPLE EFFECT.



THE VACUUM PANS.

THE CENTRAL CIEGO DE AVILA, CUBA.

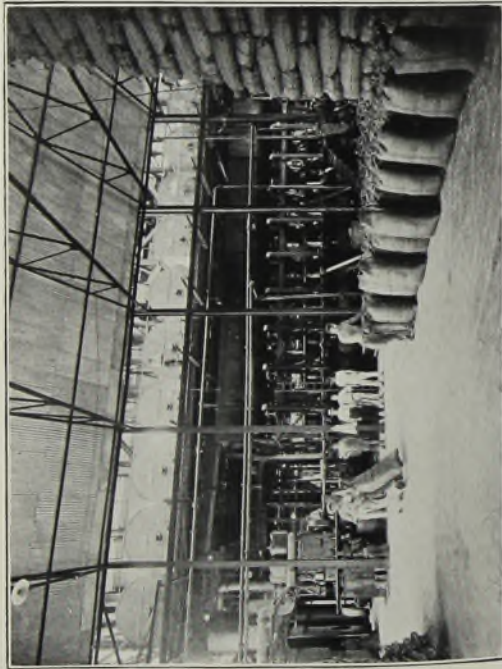
Erected and Equipped by Messrs. Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd.



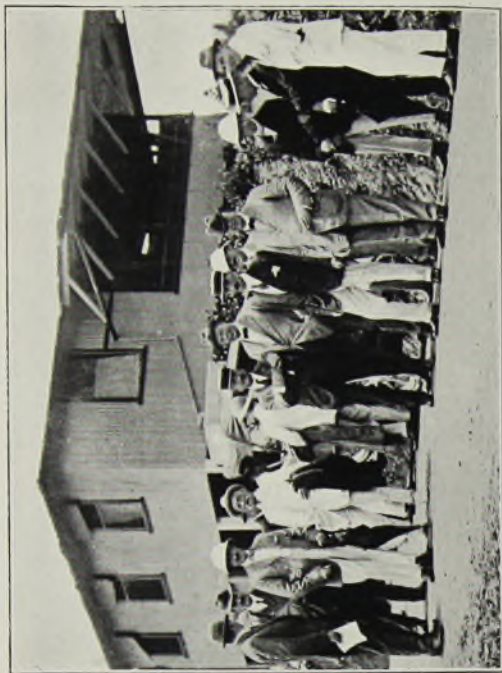
FILTER-PRESS HOUSE AND BOILER-HOUSE, CENTRAL CIEGO.



SOME WEST INDIAN INFANTRY MEN, IN FRANCE.



CRYSTALLISERS, CENTRIFUGALS AND SUGAR-STORE, CENTRAL CIEGO.



GUESTS OF THE TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.

refineries themselves are abandoning their smaller plants in favour of mammoth installations which represent the last word in efficiency and economy. So that in making white sugars by practically the same process as that used by the refineries the sugar factory would appear to be entirely unable to compete.

Again, as to the question of the sugar factory acting as a refinery all the year round, it is pointed out that in the United States at least very considerable capital would be required to do this. The sugar factory as at present constituted pays for its cane every month, or at most every two weeks—and sells its product, the raw sugar, for cash. As a refinery it would have to buy its raw sugar for cash and sell its refined product on terms of cash in ten days, or even longer.

In conclusion, therefore, it would appear that the controversy under discussion, while probably not yet terminated, puts the bone black proposal in rather a weak position. Although the final evidence will be obtained when some factory equips itself with the bone black installation and makes

the experiment of refining both its own and purchased raw sugars.

It is interesting to note, in connection with the above, that when the Usine Ste. Madeleine, in Trinidad, was erected by the Colonial Company in 1870, it was equipped with "char" filters and made white sugar. These were subsequently scrapped on account of the cost of the char, and the unsatisfactory treatment of the juice by it, the factory being remodelled for the manufacture of refinery sugar by the usual process. It is understood that a further rearrangement of machinery is contemplated in this factory, the object being a reversion to the make of white sugar by a sulphitation process.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Edgar Tripp, the CIRCULAR is able to publish the statistics regarding sugar-cane farming and the local sugar crop for the years 1898-1915, which he has prepared for the local Agricultural Society.

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	4,840	3,632	42,283	14,527	\$38,351	393	285
Bronte	4,285	**2,227	27,688	25,583	70,596	707	264
Caroni	5,340	2,490	30,424	36,139	85,407	945	634
Craigish	892	390	**5,655	7,279	19,216	278	224
Esperanza	2,899	1,785	20,490	18,320	48,364	236	144
Forres Park	1,880	893	10,721	14,280	37,700	534	176
Hindustan	859	172	2,065	8,434	22,265	195	227
La Florissante†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mon Desir	196	145	2,185	769	1,538	**10	**15
Reform	1,050	300	4,551	11,362	29,970	**500	**400
Tacarigua Factory	3,102	1,194	17,191	27,390	95,349	859	919
Tennants' Mission Group	3,008	1,136	13,156	††23,215	85,000	**1,025	**1,163
Southern Group	4,553	3,300	36,282	13,692	36,439	**307	**264
Usine St. Madeleine	20,890	12,934	133,871	83,358	220,344	4,001	1,765
Waterloo	†8,505	3,237	54,218	49,938	126,974	320	1,266
Woodford Lodge	*3,934	1,818	25,326	29,489	81,262	704	467
	64,231	35,653	426,106	363,775	\$1,008,665	11,014	8,212
Return for 1915	58,822	34,376	426,262	325,071	\$869,790	9,202	7,078
1914	55,488	35,690	407,797	201,799	486,630	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	454,530	176,447	412,658	6,443	5,820
1909	52,972	39,553	451,801	154,663	337,817	6,077	5,324
1908	48,933	36,340	380,334	139,422	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	24,418	144,868	144,868	482,053	5,424	5,462
1904	50,744	1,669	385,015	171,947	360,046	4,646	4,685
1903	47,778	1,783	337,632	166,590	348,445	4,443	4,440
1902	57,334	4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,506	4,850
1901	60,880	3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
1900	46,277	1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
1899	58,837	1,571	426,306	106,741	219,011	2,828	3,870
1898	58,109			105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

§ From Collens' Year Book * Estimated Second Sugars yet to be manufactured 93 tons. ** Estimated.
 †† Exclusive of 9,042 tons ground at Brechin Castle and Usine St. Madeleine. ‡ 2,934 tons canes delivered to Tacarigua Factory. † About 20,000 tons of Canes were made into Cane Juice Rum.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation, of which Mr. W. M. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, is Patron, and Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Chairman of Council, has issued the first of a series of monthly reports which will furnish a useful record of work accomplished. In this it is pointed out that about a year ago it was found that Germany, with characteristic foresight, was making preparation to resume trade with Great Britain, as soon as peace was declared, in the hope of effecting by means of commercial war what she has been unable to achieve in the field.

In the autumn of last year, a draft contract form for dealing in German sugar after the War was printed and passed around amongst the sugar brokers of Mincing Lane. At the same time it was rumoured that Germany was about to make enormous purchases of raw materials from neutral countries for delivery on conclusion of peace, with other preparations for a trade campaign which should make her dominant in the commercial world. Then at last the British public awoke to the danger. The Press took the matter up; the Chambers of Commerce held conclaves, and more than one association for the defence of British industries was proposed. One of the earliest to be formed was the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which was founded about the end of last year by Mr. Charles McNeil, who in the earliest stages had some assistance from Sir George Makgill, now General Secretary, and later found in Mr. V. A. Malcolmson a most energetic and able colleague. The two principal aims of the Organisation were then clearly laid down: firstly, to make the Empire self-supporting, and secondly, to remove from our industry and commerce all German influence and control.

The sugar industry was chosen as the best to begin with, owing to the fact that it had been so largely in enemy hands. By the middle of February most of the sugar producing interests of the Empire had been drawn together, and the first regular meeting of the Organisation took place, at which were present representatives of India, Australia, Natal, Mauritius, and Great Britain.

A large public meeting was held under the auspices of the Organisation in Glasgow on April 28th, and this and the subsequent meetings in London have been already reported in the CIRCULAR. The Organisation received the support of the West India Committee, which nominated four of its members to the Council, and offices were opened at 2, Hatton Court, London, E.C.

CONSIDERABLE speculation is occurring as to the result of the trench war operations on the soil in France and Belgium. The land is literally ploughed from the effects of shell fire for a considerable depth. Not only is the subsoil brought up to the surface in large quantities, but also the vegetation and bacteria of the soil are destroyed by the noxious gases from the explosives used. Will the latter be disinfection in a profitable sense, or will it be absolute destruction of the life of the soil?

THE FUTURE OF LOGWOOD.

The Collector of Taxes for Kingston, Jamaica, in his report for the year ended March 31st last, deals with the future of the logwood industry. "Kingston," he states, "is not a parish where agricultural pursuits are followed, so it does not fall to me to write about the products of the soil; but the piles of Logwood that grow higher and higher at the places of shipment in Kingston whither the wood is sent for exportation are such visible reminders of one of the at present principal sources of wealth to the island, I have thought it would be interesting to refer to the reason for the present abnormal demand for this dyewood, which lost its high value on the introduction of the aniline dyes."

Aniline dye was a discovery by an English chemist. The discovery passed into German possession, and the chemists of that country have developed the discovery into a commercial indispensability, the dye industry becoming a German monopoly of great value. Not so many years ago dyeing was done with vegetable and animal products. The indigo plant, madder, fustic, logwood giving the principal dyes under vegetables, while in animal colours cochineal gave the red dye. On the introduction of the aniline dyes the days of the old dyes came fast to a close; there was just a slight pause when it was discovered by the public that aniline colours were not "permanent," but this defect was soon overcome by the German chemist. The magentas and aniline blues were replaced by the alizarine colours, the first to be made fast being blue, green, indigo, orange, maroon, and then alizarine black; next followed the anthracene and indanthrene colours. These dyes soon decided the fate of the old dyes. The War has now shut off from the world the supply of the aniline dyes, so the old dye-woods have now to be resorted to as a matter of "Hobson's choice." But the wonderful range in the shades furnished by aniline dye makes it an indispensable requirement to the modern dyer, and as a wealth-producing bye-product it is of the first importance to the country that owns the secret of its manufacture. It is therefore safe to predict that under these conditions it will rapidly regain its place in the markets of the world on the cessation of hostilities. It has been suggested that other countries besides Germany will manufacture this dye after the War. The following observations will give an idea as to whether there is such a likelihood.

Every 100 parts of coal contains 72 parts coke, 22 parts gas, 6 parts coal tar. There are 155 distinct substances in coal tar which are divided into 6 series, viz.: Benzol series—73; naphthalene series—14; anthracene series—5; phenanthrene series—5; marsh gas series—45; miscellaneous—13. These substances reduced to 5 elements fall under the divisions carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur. These re-grouped into 5 divisions, according to elemental combination, give 92 compounds. Out of the 92 compounds 9 are available for coal tar dyes. These nine crude yield 300 different intermediates. About 900 different dyes have been developed by the Germans to date, from which about 10,000 shades and brands for

different purposes are made. The great success achieved in the aniline dyes industry represents 40 years of State-helped scientific research backed by so perfect an organisation that the industry has become nationalized.

Coal supplies one of the essential ingredients in making high explosives, and it is well known that the German dye works have been working continuously during the war on explosive ingredients, and the making of those ingredients goes hand in hand with the making of coal tar colours, so an estimate of the colossal quantity of stored dye can easily be arrived at. "If I now assume the role of prophet, I would now prophesy, as much as I dislike being a Jeremiah, that so soon as the war ends our Logwood will again grow largely to adorn our forests, for the day shall have passed when a ton weight of the wood may be counted on to put anything like seven bright sovereigns in our pockets."

TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY.

An interesting event in the history of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., occurred recently. Since the establishment of its shipping place at Point-a-Pierre, this Company has done a good deal of bunkering, but it has now despatched the first big cargo of oil fuel, some 6,000 tons, by a tanker. Where the vessel came from or whither she goes it is not proper in these days of censorship to say, but she will have reached her destination before these lines are published. The occasion was marked by the presence, on the invitation of Mr. H. S. Fuller, the genial attorney of the Company, of the Governor, and a party of about twenty ladies and gentlemen, who left Port of Spain in a special fast launch about 8 a.m., followed by the tanker. On arrival at the loading jetty the ship was brought alongside, and whilst connections were being made and water ballast pumped out, the guests proceeded on shore, where, after inspection of the wonderful work, which, in so short a time, has transformed a bush-covered hill into a hive of activity, houses, workshops and huge oil tanks having sprung into existence as if by magic. The guests were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Fuller at lunch, after which Mr. Fuller delivered a short speech regarding the Company.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Fuller, having welcomed His Excellency and the other guests at the inauguration of the shipping and refinery site, said:—

"The occasion was an epoch-making one, both for the Company and also for the Colony, marking as it did a step forward in the growth and development of Trinidad as an oil country. The crude oil to be taken by the tanker was, as they were aware, destined to be converted into fuel for use by His Majesty's Navy, and petrol that may help the work of our wonderful airmen. Continuing he said:

"This is the first shipment of crude oil that, previous to leaving these shores, has been carried through a pipe-line for so long a distance, whilst the pipe-line itself is the first main or trunk line to have been constructed in Trinidad. The oil that is now being shipped comes from the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve, about seven miles distant from Siparia. The pipe-line after leaving

the field is laid under various roads as far as the Trinidad Government Railway at Penal, from which point it is continued underneath the railroad track until it emerges on the Company's property here, and connects with the various storage tanks that have been erected. The length of the pipe line, which has an internal diameter of six inches, is 25½ miles from the pumping station on the field to the tanks you see, whilst the oil is pumped through in one operation, that is without relay stations en route. The pumps used are capable of moving over one thousand tons of crude oil each twenty-four hours and are in duplicate, to provide, as far as possible, against risk of failure.

"The actual time occupied in laying the pipe-line was less than three months which would be considered highly satisfactory in an old established oil country, and reflects the greatest credit on Mr. Ibbett, the Company's chief engineer, and all his staff. When the line was tested the results exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

"From the tanks the oil is conveyed through an eight-inch pipe line, laid at the bottom of the sea, to the Island Loading Stage, approximately 11 miles from land. The oil flows to this Stage and to the ships taking it by gravity, though powerful pumps have been installed to expedite the rate of loading if necessary.

"The total amount so far spent by this Company in Trinidad alone amounts to approximately £135,000, practically the whole of which has been circulated in the island. Of this sum, salaries, wages, and payments to local contractors account for £87,000, whilst the various merchants and stores in the island have received more than £30,000; the construction and maintenance of roads have cost £10,000, and over £5,000 have been paid to the Trinidad Government. In addition to these sums, there has been further large expenditure both in England and America for drilling plant, machinery, tanks, etc. When taking these figures into consideration, it must be remembered that this Company is only one of a number, some of which are spending as much or more in developing the oil industry.

"Work was only commenced in August last year on this Shipping Site, which was then little more than waste land, mostly covered in bush, and the progress made in the last twelve months is a great tribute to the quality of the labour to be got in the island. The Company has endeavoured, as far as possible, to utilize in all branches of its work the services of those born or resident in the Colony.

"Trinidad has been a long time coming to its present position as an oil-producing country, and that it has arrived even thus far is largely due to the persistent and courageous efforts of Mr. Randolph Rust, whom I am pleased to see here to-day, and who must likewise be gratified to witness the fruition, in part at any rate, of his many years' arduous work."

After lunch the party proceeded to the Island Jetty, about a mile from the shore. His Excellency then promptly turned on the huge tap and had the satisfaction of seeing good Trinidad oil, destined to help in the destruction of the Hun, pouring into the open hold.

After all sorts of good wishes for ship and cargo, a very merry party returned to port, delighted with a day's outing, associated with so much of material interest not only to the colony but the Empire, and feeling under ever so much obligation to host and hostess for the opportunity of enjoying it.

The names of the members of the party depicted in the illustration facing page 389 are, reading from left to right:—

Mr. H. S. Fuller (with paper in his hand), —, Hon. W. M. Gordon, Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Edgar Tripp, Hon. E. Prada (Mayor of Port of Spain), Hon. A. Fraser, Hon. Dr. H. L. Clare (Surgeon-General), Hon. Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Hon. Denis Slyne, Mr. Ibbett, Mr. Percival Stevens and Mr. A. Catherall.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Whatever scientific invention may do for us, men are the most important element in military operations. The infantry is the main nerve, as well as the muscle, of the Army, and ours maintains its ancient reputation. It is matchless. But though numbers may not win, only numbers can, and, if we are to meet the requirements of the British Army in France, the Military Service Act will have to be more rigidly enforced, if not amended. A Man-power Board has been appointed, whose duty it is to act as a corrective to the antagonism which exists between the various Government departments, so that each competes against the other, creating confusion in the organisation of our resources in men. Out of over 8,000 available men in the service of the State, less than one-tenth have been released. An army corps has sought industrial dug-outs or the bomb-proof shelters of munition factories, while the "one-man business" has been another common means of evading military service. Before the age-limit is raised, all these men must be "combed out." There must, too, be a rooting out of shirkers in the Colonies, where many young men suffering from cold feet took refuge in the earlier days of the War. As things are, the Army is getting too many men of forty or thereabouts, and too few men of twenty-five. It is most regrettable that the recruiting problem has always been treated not as a whole, but in parts. That unity of action as between the Allies in the field, which has achieved so much, is just as necessary at home seems to have been overlooked. Meanwhile, the prospective needs of the Army are indefinite, and the only safe course for us to pursue is to develop our man-power to its utmost extent.

The Western Front.

The taking of Courcellette was a brilliant feat. As in other recent successes, British troops swept forward with irresistible dash, but here a trench lying at right-angles to the general direction of the advance had first to be taken. This, together with all the other intricate operations necessary to the storming of fortified positions, was performed so skilfully and rapidly that the Bavarians, who were in superior numbers, were led to believe that they were overwhelmed. They were very bitter when they discovered their mistake. But it is because the higher command in the British Army is able to rely on the nerve, dash, and discipline of British and Dominion troops that at the very height of the Somme battle they were able to make a sudden bound forward beyond Flers and Martinpuich. The Germans were expecting an attack, but with the preliminary bombardment, lasting from three to six days. On this occasion it only lasted forty minutes, when the striking columns swept forward to the assault, compassing a complete surprise, to the discomfiture of the enemy. In the French sector, Deniécourt, which was powerfully fortified by the Germans, was taken at the same time.

The Enemy's Counter-Attack.

To save Combles, which was nearly encircled by the combined Allied advances, and to relieve the pressure in the direction of Peronne, the Germans launched a vigorous counter-attack between Combles and St. Quentin. It was carried out by at least an army corps, stretched out over a front of three and a half miles between the Prieze Farm and the Abbé Wood Farm. For eight hours wave after wave of infantry came on, but not an inch of ground was yielded. Another onslaught between Prieze Farm and Rancourt was checked with heavy loss by French curtain fire. Nor were enemy counter-attacks on the British any more successful, though some of the best units of the enemy troops were thrown into the fight.

The Capture of Thiepval and Combles.

The capture of the lines of defence on the high ground which commanded the fortresses of Thiepval and Combles resulted in their fall. Thiepval, unlike Combles, is a position of enormous natural strength, which was fortified by every device known to military science, and was defended by some of the toughest of the enemy's troops. At first a frontal attack from the west was tried. When it failed, the attack from the south-east and east was begun with the capture of Pozières, or exactly two months before it ended in the fall of Thiepval. That the operation should have taken so long proves how formidable the fortress was.

Combles has been described as a strong centre of the German system. This is true only if one includes the outer lines of defence on the high ground overlooking the village. The place itself is situated in a hollow, and could not possibly be held once they were lost. It appears to have been used as a depot for stores but for tactical purposes it possessed little value, and no doubt would have been evacuated, only that the Allies so rapidly gained its last remaining defensive positions. On September 25th, Lesbœufs and Morval, which latter was believed by the Germans to be impregnable, fell to the British, and Rancourt and a series of strong entrenchments as far as Hill 148 to the French, who the following night carried Frégicourt and the cemetery, which lies on the outskirts of Combles. The greater part of the garrison had probably made their escape, but those that remained fought as only trapped men can fight. The losses of the Allies in the concluding stages of the capture of Combles were comparatively small.

The note of despair sounded in the latest Berlin communiqué suggests that something like a victory has been gained. Not only will our command of the high ridge that runs from Thiepval to the edge of the Bethune road enable us to execute a large-scale enveloping manoeuvre round Bapaume, but it is possible that, within certain limits, we may be on the eve of a return to the war of motion.

On the Eastern Front.

The announcement that the Halicz had fallen was premature. Bothmer, on the Naraïowka, is making a stubborn resistance, though the latest news is that an organised position in this sector has been captured on the lower Horodenka, which

brings the Russians nearer to their objective, Halicz. The old capital is the key to the best part of Eastern Galicia, and a formidable barrier to the great Hungarian plain. When it falls, the road to Lemberg will be opened, and the Russians will pour forces through the wooded Carpathians, in which they hold most of the eminences. The operation at present would be risky, as our Ally, unlike the enemy, is not in possession of a highly-developed system of communications. That the Germans understand the value of Halicz is evident from the wonderful defence they have put up, and if their reserves were not in the course of being depleted, there is no doubt but that they would create diversions in the north as they do not.

In the Bukovina and Transylvania.

By bringing up reinforcements the enemy wrested the Vulcan Pass from the Roumanians, but as their centre was brought forward and their right wing formed a junction with General Letchitsky's army in the Carpathians, their left wing was strengthened, and, by means of a wide turning movement, the Pass has been regained, and they are threatening Hermannstadt. Their right, operating with the Russians, has crossed the Upper Maros and reached the Kelemen Hills between Toplitz and Bistritz; their centre, after carrying the Hargitta heights, advancing towards Szekely Udvarhely. But if Hungary had the hope of driving back the Roumanian invader, it has been crushed by the news of the development of the Russian offensive from the Pinsk marshes to the Gergyo valley on a front of 120 miles, made up of six different sectors.

The Dobrudja.

The German success here was but temporary. Mackensen's drive was intended to secure possession of the bridge across the Danube at Cernovoda, so as to be astride of the Bukarest-Constanza railway, which would have been a notable success. As things have worked out, he has been defeated by a combined force of Russians, Roumanians, and Serbs after a two-days' battle, in which both sides fought with desperate valour. Constanza, the chief port of Roumania, is therefore safe, and can be used as a base of supplies from Odessa—a great advantage, since railway communication between Russia and the Dobruska is entirely lacking. The province is a cul-de-sac for the Bulgarians, but for the Allies a road for the invasion of Bulgaria.

In the Balkans.

The Serbians have occupied the whole of the range inside the Greek frontier, including the crest of Kajmakalan, which the Bulgars were ordered to defend to the last man, and, as a matter of fact, fought desperately to retain. In consequence of losing the heights, they were obliged to evacuate Florina, and are back in their old lines at Monastir, the Serbians being once again on their own soil. The violence of the Allied artillery fire, which is new in the Balkans, and the extraordinary skill and resourcefulness of their transport drivers in this difficult country contributed greatly to the recent successes from Florina to Seres. Monastir,

though it lengthens the Allied line and at present projects the left wing unduly, is necessary to the Allies, because it is the point of junction of the best roads leading to the Vardar, to Uskub, Veles, and Krivolak; it draws Bulgarian forces from Salonika; and, when it is taken, will enable the Allies to turn the enemy's defences of Demir Kapu and Ghevveli, together with the Vardar gorges.

Greece in Revolt.

The situation in Greece is deplorable. Crete has 30,000 men under arms, and M. Venizelos, who is a Cretan, is in the island. Thence he will go to Salonika, where he will have the support of a considerable force. Naval and military officers are leaving Athens to join the insurgents in considerable numbers, and disorder in the capital is increasing. It is believed that King Constantine is yielding in favour of the Entente, but is so little of a statesman that, from personal pique, he will not recall M. Venizelos.

Air Raids.

On September 22nd an enemy seaplane visited the Kentish coast near Dover, but after it had dropped three bombs without effect, it retreated, not entirely unscathed, under the fire of our anti-aircraft guns.

The following night an air squadron consisting of twelve Zeppelins raided the Southern Counties, the East Midlands, and Lincolnshire. The principal damage was done in the London suburbs, but none was of military significance. A station, chapel, shops, and private dwellings were damaged, and there were about 130 casualties. But the victims were not unavenged, one of the airships having been brought down in flames, happily in open country. None of its crew were saved. An hour later another of the raiders came to a more inglorious end by descending near an Essex village. The crew started on a pilgrimage of surrender. They first knocked up a labourer, who refused to open his door, and then walked on till they came across a constable, who took charge of them till a military escort arrived. Besides the loss of two new airships, Germany, by this essay in "frightfulness," has lost the crews, which consist of highly-trained men, who cannot easily be replaced.

Two nights later seven airships visited the Midlands and East Coast, industrial centres being their objective. Some damage was done to private dwellings, and there were 63 casualties.

On October 1st another raid in which ten Zeppelins were engaged, ended badly for the enemy, one having been brought down in flames near London. The increased efficiency of the anti-aircraft defences of London must be causing some anxiety to Count Zeppelin and his supporters.

Meanwhile the gallant French and British aviators have not been idle. They have bombed the enemy's Zeppelin bases in Belgium and military centres on the Rhine. Moreover, two French aeroplanes have made the long journey to Essen (Krupp's), which they bombed, both of them returning safely after their exploit.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

An Interim Report adopted.

A meeting of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held in the Conference Room at the Colonial Office on Friday, September 22nd. Sir Everard im Thurn presided, and the members present included Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., Sir Charles Lucas, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Sir Sydney Olivier, Sir William Grey-Wilson, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary. Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. J. F. N. Green, Chief Clerk of the West India Department of the Colonial Office, were also present.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies, regretting his inability to attend the meeting of the Committee and taking the opportunity of tendering his thanks for the personal care and kindness the members of the Committee had shown to men of the West Indian Contingent, which would strengthen the bonds uniting the West India colonies to the mother country.

Specimens of the Regimental Badge approved by the King were shown, and the Chairman said that the badges, which were being presented by the Committee, would shortly be ready for distribution to officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment.

The Chairman then said:

I have now to move that the report of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the ten months ended June 30th be adopted and circulated among the subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund. We are all aware, though perhaps the general public may not be, of the circumstances in which the West Indian Contingent Committee and the Fund were established. Soon after the War broke out, a considerable number of young men of military age began to come over here from the West Indies to enlist in His Majesty's Forces or to get commissions in various regiments. This led several of the West Indian Colonies to make offers of contingents. At that time it was not thought desirable, in view of the possibility of the enemy making raiding attacks on the British West Indies, that too large a number of men of military age should leave the islands. When the danger of raids was at an end, as very soon it was, the conditions and the position were different; the offers of contingents were renewed, and the Army Council considered them, with the result that it was arranged that the separate contingents should be combined into one representing the whole of the West India Islands and adjoining British territory. The arrangement was carried out in accordance with the wishes of the War Office, and from a military point of view I have no doubt was a good one. From another point of view also I think it was fortunate, because those who have followed the story will agree that it was a wonderful instance—the first in history, I think—of the whole of the several West Indian Colonies working in harmony. There will be many benefits arising out of the War, and it will be a great benefit to the West Indies if they are taught to work in harmony. Undoubtedly that will be a great gain—a great step towards the realisation of the desire for a federated West Indies with power to act as a strong unit of Empire.

As soon as the Contingent became the British West Indies Regiment—which some people confuse with the old West India Regiment—and while it was being formed, the patriotism of the people actively displayed itself, not only in generous gifts of money, but in the service of

young men. If you follow the records in the CIRCULAR you will find that the West Indies sent not only every man they could spare, but every man they could, for active service, and evinced a patriotism equal to that of any other part of the Empire. In addition to the men joining the Regiment, a stream of volunteers came over to this country independently at their own expense, or at the expense of merchants and traders in the Islands, to join regiments here.

The Committee was established in the first instance to look after the personal wants and take care to provide reasonable comforts for the men of the Regiment, but soon it extended its operations to men outside the Regiment, for whom we now do the same as for the men of the Contingent. The Bermuda Contingent came over before the Committee was in existence. They were chiefly veterans; they were attached to a unit of the British Army, in which they have fought ever since, and we got into touch with them also.

As regards the welfare of the men of the Contingent who came over, I think, if we knew all, we should be fairly well satisfied. They came over requiring training, and this they got in England at Seaford, where the climate did not altogether suit them, and then they were moved to Plymouth. If there was one fault to be found, it would be that there was felt a certain amount of impatience at being kept so long in the training camp; but I am glad to say of those of them who got their chance and have been in the fighting that they stand the shell-fire very well indeed. Others, still in training, will follow in due course.

The Contingent Funds.

Just a word on the Accounts, as to which perhaps the Honorary Treasurers may have more to say. You will see from the audited statement that if a considerable sum has been subscribed, we have in ten months expended a small proportion comparatively. It may seem a large balance to keep in hand, but it is not too large; indeed, it is not big enough when you remember that the time for the greatest call upon the Fund has not yet come. It will come when sick and wounded come over in considerable numbers. Then we shall begin to want more and more money. So we shall again immediately after the War, when men are waiting to return to their homes in the West Indies; then we must have funds to provide them with reasonable necessities.

I now beg to move that the report be adopted and circulated among subscribers.

SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, in seconding the motion, said that he was quite sure from personal knowledge that the people of the West Indies were proud that the men of military age who had gone from their midst should be standing shoulder to shoulder with those gallant soldiers of whose glorious deeds one read daily in the newspapers.

The welding together of the various units from the West Indies into a homogeneous force would have established a bond of fellowship which should bring nearer a solution of the problem of a closer federation of the West Indies.

The Committee were indebted to their Honorary Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, for the manner in which he had unreservedly given the benefit of his knowledge of the West Indies and for his unbounded energy, upon which the Committee had so freely drawn.

The Contingent "doing good work."

COLONEL SIR EDWARD WARD said that he had received good reports of the work of the Contingent from a ^{friend} official at the War Office, and yesterday he was talking to a very high official at the War Office, and without revealing any secret he might repeat what that official said—that "the West Indies Regiment was doing real good work." When that was said they might be sure that duty was being done in a way of which they might be proud.

He had been in touch with officials, and knew that every attention was given to the health of the men, and that they had the comforts they ought to have. In respect to rations, the War Office had given instructions that would put right any little difficulty that might arise.

The Chairman had referred to the balance, and he agreed that it was not too large. Up to the present the men had been supplied with what they wanted, and, speaking from experience, he could say that it was

tial to keep a sufficiently large balance in hand until the end of the War. There would be sure to be hard cases that came outside regulations, and the Committee ought to keep sufficient money in hand to meet such cases and to help men when waiting to get home.

He had seen a letter in which an officer of the battalion referred to the West Indian men as very steady under heavy shell fire, and there was reason to be proud of them.

The Accounts summarised.

Mr. R. RUTHERFORD said that the Committee was much indebted to Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. for consenting to act as Hon. Auditors of the West Indian Contingent Fund. He then proceeded to summarise the items of the receipts and expenditure. The donations received had, he said, amounted to £4,308 9s. 4d., making, with £974 13s. 6d. earmarked for special purposes, and interest on deposit and discount on Treasury Bills, a total of £5,341 17s. 4d. Against this, £746 5s. 11d. had been expended on the purchase of comforts, Christmas gifts, band instruments, and sporting requisites and gratuities to men on furlough. Of the sums specially earmarked, £880 9s. 6d. had been expended, whilst the working expenses and establishment charges were £148 3s. 6d. only, from which it would be gathered that the fund had been managed economically. With regard to the future, they must expect greater demands on the Fund in view of the present disposition of the units of the British West Indies Regiment, and to the increasing number of casualties among those who have so gallantly come over from the British West Indies to serve their King and Empire. He trusted, therefore, that liberal subscriptions would continue to come forward, so that our West Indian friends might be as well supported and cared for as the troops from the great Dominions.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER said that, according to his ideas, and looking at the figures, there was not at all a liberal fund for carrying out its purposes, and if there were casualties in proportion to the numbers in the Contingent on active service he anticipated that it would be necessary to make another appeal, and increase the balance before they could wind up their trust.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was not allowed to disclose the actual number, but, roughly speaking, many thousand men had been recruited in the West Indies, and, taking into consideration the many who came over independently, it would be under rather than over the mark to say that there were 8,000 or 9,000 men who might be in such circumstances as to need some help from the Contingent Committee.

The motion was agreed to, and, a vote of thanks to the Chairman having, on the motion of Sir Charles Lucas, been carried unanimously, the proceedings terminated.

The Interim Report.

The interim report, which is signed by Sir Everard im Thurn, Chairman, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Deputy Chairman, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, is given below:—

The West Indian Contingent Committee was established at a meeting held at the Colonial Office on August 30th, 1915, at the instance of the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies. Its object, as indicated in an appeal for funds which was issued early in September, is to provide for the welfare of the West India and Bermuda Military Contingents, and of men coming over independently to serve in His Majesty's Forces during the present war. At the inaugural meeting, Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., was appointed Chairman, and at subsequent meetings Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., was elected Deputy-Chairman. Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Robert Rutherford, Hon. Treasurers, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary. Mr. Bernard Bonyun and Mr. G. B. Smith-Rewse, of the Colonial Civil Service, kindly gave their services to the Committee as Assistant Hon. Secretaries whilst in this country on leave of absence.

The West India Committee, which had already suggested the formation of an organisation on the lines of that now established, was good enough to place its staff and offices at the disposal of The West Indian Contingent

Committee, with the result that the work of this body has been carried on at a minimum of expense. The West Indian Club also kindly extended hospitality to the Committee.

It will be noted from the statement of receipts and payments appended to this report* that, in response to the appeal above referred to, £4,308 9s. 4d. was received to June 30th, making with sums earmarked for special purposes (£974 13s. 6d.) and interest on sums placed on deposit, and discount on Treasury Bills (£58 14s. 6d.) a total of £5,341 17s. 4d. Against this the expenditure amounted to £1,774 18s. 11d., including £880 9s. 6d. of the sums specially earmarked, leaving a balance of £3,566 18s. 5d. The Hon. Treasurers also held various small sums in trust for men in His Majesty's Forces to the value of £188 7s. 4d. A very successful concert in aid of the fund, organised by Mr. John Bromley, was held on January 25th at the Royal Automobile Club, through the courtesy of Mr. Julian Orde and the Club Committee, and realised £120.

For military reasons the Contingent Committee is not permitted at present to disclose the strength of the British West Indies Regiment, which comprises the Contingents for active service furnished by the inhabitants of the British West India Islands, British Guiana, and British Honduras. It may, however, be stated that the numbers already exceed early estimates, and that recruits are still freely coming forward as required.

The general conduct of the affairs of the Contingent Committee was entrusted to a General Purposes Committee consisting of Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., Mr. R. Rutherford, and the Hon. Secretary.

Members of the Committee paid several visits to Seaford Camp, where the first units of the British West Indies Regiment were stationed, and to Plymouth, when the Depot was moved to that town. The medical conditions at the camps received attention and comforts were provided for the men in hospital. The Committee made arrangements for the reception and entertainment of forty-two non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment, under Captain G. J. L. Goulding and Lieutenant H. J. Cavanaugh, who came up to London on November 9th to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show and received a cordial welcome from the public. At Christmas, the Committee undertook the purchase and distribution of many gifts, and provided the battalions then raised with Christmas fare. It also sent several cases of provisions to the officers and men of the Bermuda Contingent attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment in France. The Committee provided bugles and instruments for a drum and fife band for each battalion of the regiment raised. It also furnished cricket and football requisites, and other games. These appear to be greatly appreciated by all ranks.

At the close of the period under review the King approved the design of a Regimental Badge submitted to His Majesty by the Committee, which decided to present cap badges to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Regiment. The badge is described heraldically as: "An oval bordered medallion surmounted by the Tudor crown. On the border the inscription 'The British West Indies Regiment.' Within, the ship of Christopher Columbus in full sail proper. Surrounding the oval dexter a wreath of Laurel, and sinister a wreath of Palm." At the request of the Commanding Officers distinctive helmet flashes were supplied to all ranks of two of the battalions.

The Committee received for safe custody many packages of civilian clothing of the men of the regiment, and forwarded others to the colonies through the courtesy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which kindly carried them freight free.

Since the departure of the Regiment abroad, the Committee has corresponded with the Commanding Officers and has endeavoured to meet the requirements of all ranks as far as possible. Non-commissioned officers and men invalided to this country have received special attention, and have been provided with comforts.

* Not reprinted here.

The Committee has kept in touch with many officers and men connected with the British West Indies who came over independently to serve in His Majesty's Forces, and has also assisted the members of the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents in many ways. It repatriated three men of the first-named contingent who had been invalided out of the Army, and provided them with board and lodging pending their departure.

At a meeting held on November 29th at 5, Trevor Square, S.W., which Mr. (now Sir) Richard Burbidge, of Harrods, Ltd., placed at the disposal of the Committee, free of rent, a Ladies' Committee was inaugurated under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, who was present on this occasion, and with the Countess of Stamford as President. A Working Committee was formed with Lady Philipps as Chairman, the other members being Lady Davson, Lady Hodgson, Lady Olivier, Lady Grey-Wilson and Miss Mary Moseley, who was appointed Hon. Secretary.

At the request of this Committee, Lady Grey-Wilson and Miss Moseley visited Seaford Camp and Hospital, and reported as to the requirements of the non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment stationed there. It was subsequently decided to organise work-parties to make warm clothing, etc., and Lady Philipps having kindly offered to have them at her residence, they were held there throughout the winter. Through the generosity of Lady Philipps some hundreds of garments were added to those made by the work-parties, and many kind friends in this country and in the British West Indies supplied comforts. The Committee was, therefore, able to supply warm gloves, woollen helmets, mittens, etc., to all men requiring them during the winter, besides bed-jackets, pyjamas and flannel shirts to the men in hospital.

Socks have been sent to the men of the British West Indies Regiment, and many West Indians in other regiments have been regularly supplied with them. The anti-vermin underclothing made by the work-parties has been a source of great comfort to men in the trenches. The increasing demand for these garments necessitated the continuance of work at Trevor Square during the summer. The Ladies' Committee has received very material assistance from Lady Hayes-Sadler's Eastern League, which for many weeks held special working parties for the West Indians at their Indian Room at Whiteley's, and has in other ways given valuable help.

Besides providing comforts, the Ladies' Committee has dispensed a fund sent by the ladies of Antigua for hampers for West Indians at the front, and has supplied many parcels of dainties to men in hospital in England and abroad. Many sick and wounded men have been visited in hospital and supplied with cigarettes and tobacco, reading matter, writing materials, games, etc., and assistance has been rendered to them in various ways. Men arriving from the West Indies to enlist have been supplied with warm clothing, those discharged have received help before their return home, and men on leave have been taken to the several Clubs for overseas soldiers and other places of interest. In April Lady Davson was appointed Chairman of the Working Committee of the Ladies' Committee in succession to Lady Philipps, who felt compelled to resign in consequence of the many calls upon her time.

In bringing this interim report to a close the Committee desires to place on record its appreciation of the help rendered to it by the Director General of Voluntary Organisations, of Scotland House, S.W., who furnished much warm clothing for distribution at short notice, and by the body known as "Smokes Soldiers Sailors," of 4, Buckingham Gate, S.W., which enabled it to distribute cigarettes and tobacco among men in hospital at a minimum cost. It also desires to acknowledge with thanks offers of hospitality from the Union Jack, Peel House, and Victoria League Clubs, of which many men from the West Indies have availed themselves.

Badges of the B.W.I. Regiment are to be presented to the relatives of men who died before the issue was made.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

With Christmas only three months ahead friends in the Colonies will, no doubt, be beginning to think of Christmas gifts for the officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment and for others connected with the West Indies who are serving in His Majesty's forces. The experience of last winter shows that it is far better in every way to send money to the West Indian Contingent Committee for the purchase of gifts than to send preserves, cakes and other gifts in kind—except cigars and cigarettes—which take up valuable space on the steamers, and have become increasingly difficult to handle on this side, owing to congestion at the docks and on the railways, and to import restrictions. The West Indian Contingent Committee ask us to state that they will be very glad to purchase and despatch to men in the Navy and Army gifts of any description on receipt of a remittance to cover the cost.

During the coming winter the demand for warm comforts for men of the B.W.I. Regiment and others from the West Indies in His Majesty's Forces is likely to be heavy, and gifts of mufflers, woollen helmets, mittens, and socks will be welcomed by the West Indian Contingent Committee. For the guidance of ladies willing to make comforts, and of work parties, the following War Office specification of the regulation muffler is published—

REQUIRED: Two bone or wooden needles No. 7; 10 ounces Alloo Wheeling or other fairly thick wool, Drab shades.

DIRECTIONS: Cast 38 stitches on to one needle, and knit plain to and fro until the length measures 58 in., the width when finished being 10 in. No fringe.

Or: Fancy knitting:
Cast 40 stitches on to one needle. Row 1: Knit 2, purl 2. Row 2: repeat; Row 3: purl 2, knit 2. Row 4: repeat. Continue as with Rows 1 and 2, 3 and 4, until the required length is attained.

Parcels should be sent to Miss Moseley (Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee), c/o The West Indian Contingent Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., who will also be glad to receive gifts of cigarettes, sweets, games, etc., for men in hospital.

It being anticipated that many people connected with the West Indies will like to have miniature replicas of the badge of the British West Indies Regiment as souvenirs, brooches of it have been prepared. These have been executed in three different styles by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., the makers of the original badge, who have kindly offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds of their sales to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Post Free	£	s.	d.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2	10	0	
Silver and Enamel	5	6	0	3	9	0	
Gilt Metal enamelled	2	0	0	2	3	0	

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,609 6s. 2d., of which amount £1,000 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes.

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. A. M. Low (Proceeds Theatrical Entertainment at Port of Spain) ...	21	0	0
Capt. R. Rust (Specially earmarked) ...	7	0	0
Thomas Osment, Esq. (3rd Collection in St. Vincent) ...	7	0	0
Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart. (2nd Donation) ...	5	0	0
J. W. McCarthy, Esq. ...	5	0	0
C. W. Doorly, Esq. (3rd Donation) ...	2	2	0
Sir Charles P. Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G. ...	2	0	0
C. E. Leys, Esq. ...	10	6	
"Aun." ...	2	0	
	49	14	6

THE WESTERN MAIN AND THE ARMADA.

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

This article is taken from the Darnell Davis Manuscripts at the Royal Colonial Institute, and is now published for the first time.

One of the principal reasons given by the King of Spain for setting forth the *Armada* was the depredations made by the English upon the Spanish possessions in the New World.* And now, those who under the leadership of Drake had

"Sought the Western Main,
Maugre and Spite the Caesar's might, and the menaces of Spain,"

put to sea, to defend their Queen and Country. They were right ready for the fray when, on the 20th of July, 1588, the Spanish Fleet "appeared like lofty Towers, in form of a half Moon, the Horns whereof stretched about seven miles wide (the Ocean seeming to groan under them), sailing slowly toward Plymouth." The British Fleet was commanded by Charles Howard, Lord Howard of Effingham, a worthy grandson of the Commander of the English Army at Flodden Field. Lord Howard was "no deep seaman (not to be expected of one of his extraction)" says Fuller; but he "had skill enough to know who had more skill than himself, and to follow their instructions." Hence it was that Drake in the *Revenge*, was his Vice Admiral, and Hawkins in the *Victory* Rear Admiral, and Frobisher in the *Triumph*, was, on the 24th of July, given command of a fourth division of the English Fleet. The number of other veterans from the Western Main who now fought in the Narrow Seas may be judged from the fact, that, besides Frobisher, among the Commanders who had served with Drake's Expedition in 1585, the following put to sea against the *Armada*:—

Robert Cross in the *Hope*,
Thomas Fenner in the *Nonpareil*,
Richard Hawkins in the *Griffin*,
Henry White in the *Talbot*,
James Erixey in the *Dudley*,
John Rivers in the *Hope*, and
Thomas Seeley in the *Elizabeth Drake*.

The brave deeds done by Englishmen against the *Armada* gild one of the most glorious pages in English History. Here it need only be mentioned that, on the 25th of July, the Lord Admiral, on board his flagship, the *Ark Royal*,† knighted John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher for their gallant conduct against the Spaniards.

In the years following that in which the *Armada* was defeated, many voyages were made to the West Indies by adventurous Englishmen. Notable among these were those valiant Captains, James Lancaster, afterwards the pioneer of the East India Company's trading with the East; Christopher Newport, the grim sea-dog who conveyed the

* The other reason was the aid given by England to the revolted Provinces in the Low Countries.

† It is of interest to note that this title has been revived in His Majesty's Navy, and is now applied to a parent ship for the air service.—ED. W.I.C.C.

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

A battalion of the British West Indies Regiment now in Egypt has scored a notable win against the Army Ordnance Department at cricket. The scores are given below:—

B.W.I. REGIMENT.

Mr. G. S. Cox, c Hamson, b Stocks ...	0
Lance-Corpl. Christopher, b Asater ...	4
Sgt. DeMetrius, b Stocks ...	6
Mr. J. L. Stockhausen, b Wright ...	28
Pte. Bernard, c Haites, b Asater ...	44
Sgt. McDonald, not out ...	15
Byes ...	3

Total for 5 wickets ... 100

Innings declared closed Ptes. Hemans, Prendergast, Corbett, Aitken, and Lance-Corpl. Jones did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Stocks ...	11	1	30	2
Asater ...	10	2	28	2
Howe ...	6	0	14	0
Good ...	2	0	11	0
Swan ...	3	0	13	0
Wright ...	1	0	1	1

ARMY ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

Pte. Stocks, c DeMetrius, b Christopher ...	0
Pte. Wright, b Christopher ...	1
Pte. Hamson, b Christopher ...	2
Sgt. Howe, run out ...	4
Mr. Evans, b Cox ...	1
Pte. Asater, c Prendergast, b Cox ...	1
Sgt. Wills, c Corbett, b Christopher ...	3
Pte. Goode, b Cox ...	0
Sgt. Haites, c McDonald, b Cox ...	0
Pte. Swan, not out ...	2
Pte. Freemantle, b Cox ...	1
Byes ...	5
	Total ... 19

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Cox ...	6	1	11	5
Christopher ...	6	4	3	4

A further instalment of the West Indian Roll of Honour will be published in next issue of the CIRCULAR.

first party of Colonists to Virginia, in 1606-1607; Sir Amyas Preston, who had distinguished himself against the Armada, and was Knighted in 1596, for his gallant conduct at Cadiz; and the valiant George Somers, who was afterwards identified with the English occupation of Bermuda. The two last named, among their exploits, burnt Santiago de Leon, now Caracas, in Venezuela, in 1595. Another was that Knight-errant Sir Robert Dudley. Of Sir Walter Raleigh's Voyage to Guiana in 1595, particulars shall be given later on.

In October, 1595, those war-worn Veterans, Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins, arrived in the West Indies in command of a Fleet, and with soldiers under the command of Sir Thomas Baskerville and Sir Nicholas Clifford. The Spaniards expected them when they arrived at Porto Rico on the 12th November, having captured the *Francis* some time before, and in that way learned of the approach of the English. On the same day that the Fleet anchored within four miles of St. John's, Sir John Hawkins died. A hot fire from the guns of the Fort greeted the English; and, "Sir Nicholas Clifford, Captain Stratford, and Mr. Brute Braon were wounded with a cannon bullet from the Fort, all at once as they sat at supper with Sir Thomas Baskerville and Sir Francis Drake, who had the stool struck from under him as he was drinking, and yet received no further damage." The same night, Sir Nicholas Clifford died of his wound, and that night they went and anchored against the Town. On the night of the 13th, a fierce attack was made by 500 men, six boats and pinnaces upon the Spanish Ships in the harbour, when a great ship was burnt, and all her men were slain or drowned. The place was, however, too strong to be successfully assailed by the invading force. On the 15th, Sir John Hawkins and Sir Nicholas Clifford were "thrown overboard," and, on the following day, the ships sailed from Porto Rico, "where though they got no profit, yet it was a most valiant attempt, and worthy to be recorded." Having taken the town of Riode la Hacha, and over-run the neighbouring Country, the English burnt the Town itself, the church and one lady's house only excepted. Then they sailed to Santa Martha, took that town, and burnt it; and the like they did with Nombre de Dios. On the 29th of December, Sir Thomas Baskerville with 750 men set off for Panama, but returned to Sir Francis Drake on the 2nd of January, 1596, having given up all hopes of reaching Panama, and having lost 20 men in the attempt.* "In this march a pair of Shoes was sold for 30/s., and a Bisket cake for 10/s., so great was their want both of cloathing and victuals." On the 5th of January the Fleet weighed and stood to the Westward; and, on the 28th, they anchored off Puerto Bello. At 4 o'clock in the morning of that day, Sir Francis Drake died. From the 15th he had been confined to his cabin with a flux, but a wounded spirit seemed to have

hastened his end: "his Death being supposed to be much hastened by his unsuccessfulness in this voyage; his great Spirit always accustomed to Victory and Success, not being able to bear the least check of Fortune, which occasioned such melancholy thoughts, as were thought to be a chief cause of his end." His interment, on the following day, was after this manner: "his Body being put into a coffin of lead, was let down into the sea, the Trumpets in a doleful manner echoing out their Lamentations for so great a Loss, and the Cannon in the Fleet were discharged, according to custom at all Sea Funeral Obsequies." The Coffin was thrown overboard under a rock to the Eastward of the Castle of Saint Philip.

"Where Drake first found there last he lost his Name,
And for a Tomb left nothing but his Fame,
His Body's buried under some great Wave,
The Sea that was his Glory is his Grave:
Of whom an Epitaph none can truly make,
For who can say, Here lies Sir Francis Drake?"

Soon after Drake's death, the Expedition left the West Indies, under command of Sir Thomas Baskerville, and returned to England early in May.

George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, was one of the most determined of the Elizabethan assailants of the power of Spain. He sent out expedition after expedition against the Spaniards, in Europe and in America, and himself took part in several. His Twelfth expedition was to the West Indies; and he led it in person, in the *Malice Scourge*, with Sir John Berkeley, in the *Merchant Royal*, as Vice Admiral. In 1596, the year following that in which Drake had made his only partially successful attack upon Porto Rico, the Earl took the island, and shipped the Spanish garrison off to Cartagena. He intended to hold on to the Island, and use it as a station whence the Spaniards might be harried; but, within a short time, 400 of his own men died of the flux, and as many more were on the sick-list, so he relinquished possession. Captain Henry Clifford, of the *Samson*, died at Porto Rico.*

In 1597, that dashing Knight-errant, Sir Anthony Shirley, landed at Port Royal, Jamaica, and marched with a force to St. Iago de la Vega, the Capital, which submitted to him. Captain William Parker, who had been cruising in the Bay of Honduras in 1597, returned to the West Indies, in 1602, and, among other exploits, captured Porto Bello, "one of the chiefest places in the West Indies." When Don Pedro de Coronna, the Governor of Cartagena, heard with what a small force Captain Parker had taken Porto Bello, he "pulled his beard, and swore that he would give his mule's lade to have a sight of mee and my companie."

In 1604, a Treaty of Peace and Alliance was entered into between James I. of England and Philip

* In his *Apologie* for his last Voyage, Sir Walter Raleigh says: "But when Sir Francis Drake, in his last attempt, might have landed at Cruces, by the river of Chyagre, within eight miles of Panama, he, notwithstanding, set the troops on land at Nonibre de Dios, and received the repulse aforesaid, and died for sorrow."

* In those days of England's struggle for independence, whole families seem to have gone to the wars. Besides the Earl of Cumberland, Sir Nicholas Clifford, and Captain Henry Clifford, above mentioned, Sir Conyers Clifford and Captain Alexander Clifford, were among those who fought against the Spaniards. The kinsmen of Sir Walter Raleigh, especially his cousins, who took up arms seem to have been numberless. This may be accounted for by the fact that his father was married thrice, and his mother twice.

VII. of Spain. By this time the Spaniards had learned that Englishmen would not concede to them a monopoly of the New World. They were themselves as full of courage as men could be; but, in seamanship they were no match for the English, who had now established themselves as a First Class Sea Power. It was from their raids upon the Western Main that this superiority on the Sea was mainly gained. The Spaniards were a brave foe, at the height of their fame as a Military Nation. They were conquerors in the New World as well as in the Old. To their fortitude Sir Walter Raleigh thus bears testimony in his *History of the World*:—

"Here I cannot forbear to commend the patient virtues of the Spaniards. We seldom or never find that any nation hath endured so many misadventures and miseries as the Spaniards have done in their Indian discoveries. Yet persisting in their enterprises with an invincible constancy, they have annexed to their Kingdom so many goodly provinces, as bury the remembrance of all dangers past. Tempests and shipwrecks, famine, overthrows, mutinies, heat and cold, pestilence, and all manner of diseases, both old and new, together with extreme poverty and want of all things needful, have been the enemies wherewith every one of their most noble discoverers, at one time or other, hath encountered. Many years have passed over some of their heads in the search of not so many leagues: yea, more than one or two have spent their labour, their wealth, and their lives, in search of a golden Kingdom, without getting further notice of it than what they had at their first setting forth. All which notwithstanding, the third, fourth, and fifth undertakers have not been disheartened. Surely, they are worthily rewarded with those treasures and paradises which they enjoy; and well they deserve to hold them quietly, if they hinder not the like virtue in others, which (perhaps) will not be found."

Such was the foe against whom Mariners of England fought, over four thousand miles away from their own Country.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE exports of cacao from the Gold Coast during the first seven months of the present year amounted to 110,232,160 lbs.

THE Danish Rigsdag has formally sanctioned the submission of the question of the sale of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John to a plebiscite.

DAMAGE to the extent of £25,000 has resulted from a hurricane which swept over Bermuda on September 23rd. The maximum velocity of the wind was 75 miles, and the barometer fell as low as 29.40.

WILL those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, or to Miss Moseley, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments? Applications for copies are being constantly received.

MR. JOHN BARCLAY advocates the planting of the Chinese or dwarf banana (*musa Cavendishii*) in Jamaica on the grounds that that variety withstands the effect of storms better than the Gros Michel at present almost exclusively cultivated. It is sug-

gested that all planters should put in at least one patch of dwarf bananas, so that when the larger trees are blown down there will always be fruit to meet local requirements.

WHILST the British West Indian Colonies are still without their regular mail service, Jamaica is to be congratulated upon the coming resumption of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's New York-Jamaica-Colon service. The Company having got a licence from the British Government to run a service between New York, Bermuda, Antilla, Jamaica, Colon, and Colombian ports, sailings on that route will be resumed in December next.

MR. FRANK P. RUDDER, who contributed an interesting letter on plantation white sugar manufacture to last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, was born in Barbados, and received his training with Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., the well-known sugar machinery engineers of Derby. He rejoined the firm in 1908 to organise their sales department, and later was appointed Director and Sales Manager. He left in 1915 to take up an appointment as engineering adviser to Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co. in connection with the big central factories which they control in Trinidad, Antigua, and St. Kitts.

CONTRIBUTIONS continue to pour in from the West Indies in response to Mr. Goode's Belgian Children's Day Appeal.

The Catholic Schools of Trinidad and Grenada have remitted through the Archbishop of Port of Spain, Trinidad, £167 16s. 11d.; Collections in the Churches of St. Kitts-Nevis realised £107 15s.; the proceeds of School Entertainments in the same island, £65 17s. 9d.; the people of Bermuda sent £239 13s. 6d.; Bequia, through Mrs. Ellen Rickard and Mr. Conrad Wallace, £2 9s.; the Schools, and others, of British Guiana, through Mr. H. W. Sconce, M.A. £300; the people of Barbados a further contribution of £7 0s. 6d.; the people of Grenada £118 8s. 10d.; and the Georgetown Higher Grade School, Grand Cayman, £1 5s.

DR. J. J. NUNAN, K.C., the Attorney-General of British Guiana, is to be congratulated upon the passing of the Roman-Dutch Law Bill by the Court of Policy. The Ordinance No. 15 of 1916, as it now becomes, provides for the codification of certain portions of the Roman-Dutch Law of British Guiana, and in other matters to substitute the English Common Law and principles of equity and certain English Statutory provisions for Roman-Dutch law. For this he has fought for several years. Another feather in his cap is the success of his proposals for forming a joint Court of Appeal for the West Indian Colonies, which were unanimously approved by the recent Intercolonial Conference at Trinidad. It is particularly satisfactory to note in this connection that the Bahamas, which have held themselves somewhat aloof from the other West Indian colonies, are likely to fall into line. The members of the local branch of the Society of Comparative Legislation, His Honour Chief Justice D. T. Tudor presiding, have shown their sympathy with the proposals, and have expressed a desire that the Bahamas may be permitted to participate in whatever scheme may be finally adopted.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS.—The Railway offered for Sale.

The *Barbados Advocate* of September 7th states that the rainfall for August has been sufficient in all parishes. Even the dry districts of St. Philip and upper Christ Church have recorded over nine inches, whilst eleven inches are reported in St. Michael. Curiously enough, St. Joseph has not had any large excess over other parishes. Everywhere the vegetation is magnificent. The cane crops are vigorous and healthy; the corn and fodder crops and root crops are flourishing. Cotton is also coming on well, although there is less of it than in former years.

Improvements are being effected in various directions. At Andrews an additional mill is to be put up and the foundations are being got ready. At Bennetts has been added to Sandy Lane, the mill has been sold and acquired by Pickering's St. Lucy. The mill from Hannays, which has been added to Foursquare, and another from Applehaites have been purchased and transferred to Balls, Christ Church.

The declaration of a baker's strike followed the action of the Governor in fixing the price of bread at 15 oz. for 6 cents. Sir W. Chandler and the Foodstuffs Committee both agreed to a reduction in weight to 14 ozs. after hearing the views of the leading bakers, but the Governor in Executive Committee refused to reconsider the decision arrived at.

Negotiations are proceeding for the sale of the railway. Mr. Toni, the local attorney, is asking £30,000 for the concern.

DOMINICA.—The Hurricane of August 28th.

The hurricane of August 28th was very severe. At 4 p.m. the barometer was at 29.70. By 7.30 p.m. it had fallen to 29.12. The wind blew with terrific force from the north before the lull came. By 10 p.m. the barometer had begun to rise again. Roseau did not suffer very much, but other places on the leeward coast (especially Colihaut) and in the country suffered severely. Rivers overflowed, roads were blocked by trees, and, as already stated, 57 lives were lost. The *Chronicle's* report of damage to cultivation may be summarised as follows: Laudat, crop down, many trees uprooted; Castle Acre, many trees down; St. Joseph's, great damage, Hillsborough, Clarke Hall, and other large estates devastated; Lisdara, damage to cultivation comparatively small; Hampstead, crop lost; Pointe Mulatre, serious damage to lime, cacao, coffee and spices; Imperial Road, great damage to crop. Mr. and Mrs. William Davis died at Concorde through the house falling on them.

JAMAICA.—The lessons of the recent Cyclone.

MESSRS. J. F. KERR & CO., LTD., MONTGEO BAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd.—The banana industry has been again entirely set back by the hurricane that passed over the island on the 15th ult., but so far no other damage has been done to the island. The rainfall with this cyclone was very light, so that the roads have not suffered to any extent. These frequent cyclones, which are so destructive to bananas, are turning the attention of all more seriously to the re-establishment of cane cultivation. We understand the Government, through the medium of the loan banks, will come forward to help the resuscitation of banana cultivations, as, temporarily, the banana has to be continued as the crop which will give most prompt returns.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, SEPTEMBER 9th.—Since our hurricane we have had continuous rain, and to any passer-by there would not seem to have been any recent hurricane, vegetation having been most prolific, and with such seasons we ought to be in a good position to commence shipment of bananas in the coming spring.

The logwood situation has become stagnant, and we are in a very fair way of giving the Dyewood Trust complete control once more, but this can only be regulated by the levying of a much heavier export duty on the manufactured article, so that we can have French, English, and

American markets for our raw stuffs, and it will be a condition that will be dealt with at the next general session of Legislative Council.

The Governor has called a special meeting of the Legislature for the 26th inst. to discuss the situation in regard to loans being made to peasant proprietors who have suffered loss of crops from the last hurricane; but as within the next two or three months, in most sections of the island, we shall have forgotten the hurricane, it is to be hoped that loans will not be too freely indulged in, as most of our people are really children of a larger growth, and we must see and educate them up to helping themselves when difficulties arise.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The first six months of the island's financial year have been almost record ones, and the value of our exports amount to £1,553,000, and this in spite of the poor sales of bananas. Sugar, rum and logwood alone brought in £991,400. As a result, instead of a deficit of £82,000 which had been budgeted for, the Government finds itself with a surplus of £12,000 at the end of the first half-year, and will be able to divert some £12,000 to assisting hurricane sufferers through the Government Loan Banks.

The August hurricane will naturally have its effect on the figures at the end of the year, but as bananas were the heaviest sufferers, and, as shown above, it was not from this source that the greatest income has been derived, the prospects are not altogether discouraging. Sugar suffered very little indeed, coco-nuts, coffee, cacao and other crops in sheltered spots escaped lightly. His Excellency the Governor made a tour of the island after the storm, and made himself thoroughly familiar with conditions, and a meeting of the Legislative Council will be called in September to consider his suggestions, and make what provisions are necessary to assist planters, etc. Six lives were lost on the 26th, when a heavy squall passing over Kingstown overturned a ferry boat in the harbour.

It is understood that the Rt. Rev. Dr. Cecil de Carteret will shortly proceed on a trip to Great Britain and the United States.

Mr. E. W. Lucie-Smith, manager of the Colonial Bank, returned from England, via U.S.A., on the 21st. Since his return it has been announced that the Colonial Bank intend to extend their field of operations to British West Africa, and that several of their employees in the West Indies have already sailed for the West Coast in connection with the opening of new branches there.

Mr. M. D. Harrel, Deputy-Inspector-General, has been appointed Inspector-General of Barbados, and will leave shortly to take up his new duties.

The death occurred recently at Edmonton, Canada, of Mr. S. Smeeton, at one time Registrar-General in Jamaica.

Hon. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, arrived here from Turks Island on the 25th, and is spending a few days as His Excellency's guest at King's House. He is expected to sail for Turks Island, via New York, on the 2nd of September.

Dr. Geobegan, Medical Officer of the Dependency, also arrived on the 25th, accompanied by his family, and sailed for England by the S.S. *Canito* on the 28th. Dr. Geobegan has volunteered his services with the forces and will join the R.A.M.C.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held on the 4th in the Ward Theatre, with the object of passing a resolution pledging Jamaica's support to the Motherland, till the present struggle shall have reached a victorious conclusion. Needless to say the resolution was carried unanimously.

A further shipment of mules and horses for the United States Army was made in the course of the month, and it is understood that they are proving so satisfactory that other shipments are to follow.

The sixty-fourth half-yearly meetings of the Ice Company was held on the 11th, but no business of importance was transacted. It is reported from reliable sources that the United Fruit Company has acquired the Montego Bay telephone system and proposes to improve and extend same; Green Island and Lucea will probably be connected

up. Messrs. W. R. Grace & Company, of New Orleans, etc., have established an agency here, and it is hoped that later this firm may see their way clear to running a regular line of steamers to Jamaica. The Atlantic Fruit Company have transferred the Head Office of their Jamaica Division from Port Antonio to Kingston.

Suggestions have been made that Jamaica, or at least the British West Indies, be represented individually at the coming Imperial Trade Conference in London, and it is hoped that a representative with wide experience in West Indian affairs may be permitted to attend and bring forward questions connected with the welfare and prosperity of the islands.

An outbreak of measles has delayed the departure of the Fourth Jamaica Contingent, and recruiting has been temporarily suspended. Except for this unfortunate epidemic, which is proving difficult to check, the 800 or more men are in splendid shape to join their comrades overseas.

The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	4,930	11	10
Jamaica Belgian Orphans Fund	122	13	9
Jamaica Hospital Bed (Miss Prouet)	802	13	10
Jamaica Polish Jews	1,868	1	7
Jamaica Blue Cross (No. 1)	74	19	0
Jamaica Blue Cross (No. 2)	155	1	4
Jamaica French Red Cross	134	11	0

The other funds remain as last reported.

The weather during August was sultry. Thunderstorms prevailed on six days and six days were squally. Several tropical disturbances made their appearance in the Caribbean, and one passed very close to the island on the 30th. On the 15th the island was struck by a hurricane which did very serious damage to the banana crops, and also to property in a lesser degree. The humidity was above normal, and the rainfall about 50 per cent. more than the average. The maximum temperature was 92.7 deg. F., the minimum 70 deg. F., and the mean 80 deg. F. The total rainfall for the month was 5.92 in., the average for 40 years being 3.88 in.; 2.04 in. fell on the 30th. The maximum velocity of the wind was 72 miles an hour on the 15th at about 6.40 p.m. The wind blew at 40 miles per hour on the 26th, and at 36 miles per hour on the 31st.

TOBAGO—As a Trinidad Holiday Resort.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 31st.—After a fortnight's very heavy rain (about 16 inches fell), we have had a few hot and dry days. Some loss was caused to the young cacao crop, and there were minor landslides, but the crop prospects are still favourable. Pickings will commence in September, and planters will be fortunate if prices continue on their present level. I have again to record quite a number of visitors from Trinidad, and I felt quite proud of Tobago when a party of them landed in a motor-car at my works, to be conveyed over the last hill-road by a dogcart to their destination. In due time our roads will be available for motors all round the island, and the views by land and sea will certainly make Tobago a favourite holiday resort in the dry season. Bridges, etc., are needed, but no one would dare agitate for these while this world-war continues.

TRINIDAD—The Responsibilities of the Railway.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 5th.—The heavy rainy weather continues, sometimes accompanied—as has occurred to-day—by thunder and lightning. There seems to have been unusually disturbed weather throughout the islands this year, and we have had our share of the tail-ends of it in the shape of sou'westers in the Gulf, which have done some damage.

The Government Railway has not only had to pay somewhat heavy damages of late for accidents to life and limb through collisions, etc., but lately lost an action where compensation was claimed for loss occasioned to a passenger by reason of its failure to connect with a gulf boat which runs under its control, and supposedly according to its time-table. To guard against similar experience in the future, I presume, some wonderfully

drastic regulations have now been gazetted, in which the public are informed that the time-tables are those "before which the trains will not start," and by which "passengers must be at the stations," but the department does not undertake that the trains shall start or arrive at the time specified, nor will it be accountable for any loss, inconvenience, or injury from delays or detentions occasioned by breakdown, etc., or error of judgment or default of agents or workmen, however arising. On their steamers, the Department will not be responsible for accidents, etc., "even when occasioned by the negligence or error of judgment of the master, pilot, mariners, or other servants of the Department," nor for risk of craft, loading, transhipment or landing.

It is stated that these regulations are issued under the Railway Ordinance, but considerable doubt is expressed whether the Government will be justified or allowed to write itself out of liability which attaches to every private corporation carrying on business as a public carrier. This is one of the evils of State-owned commercial enterprises.

TURKS ISLANDS—Dependence on the United States.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO., LTD., SEPTEMBER 29th.—The weather, as in the preceding few months, was very oppressive in July, and for the first fortnight exceptionally dry. The maximum temperature was 91 deg. Fahr. and the minimum 76 deg. Fahr. The total rainfall, as registered by the United States Weather Bureau, was 3.93 inches, of which 1.27 inches was registered on the 30th and 1.17 inches on the 31st. On the 13th the barometer dropped as low as 29.88, and the wind reached a velocity of 34 miles an hour from east about noon. On the 16th, at 4 p.m., the barometer dropped as low as 29.71, and from appearances would indicate that we were in for some bad weather, but fortunately escaped, the wind reaching a velocity of 39 miles an hour from the north-east about 3 p.m. From reports received from various parts of the Caicos Islands, it would appear that they had several inches of rain, as the low-lying portions were under water.

There is quite a quantity of salt in the ponds, and with a spull of favourable weather, despite the rain at the end of the month, the proprietors are likely to start raking again in a few weeks. From reports to hand, the outlook for the sale of salt appears much more promising, and several vessels are likely to call and take large cargoes within the next five or six weeks. Many smaller vessels which had hoped to receive charters to take logwood to the United States are likely to call here for salt owing to the fall in the price of logwood.

Generally speaking, the month has been an exceptionally quiet one. A greater portion of the labourers have, as in the preceding month, been engaged on Clyde's steamers. The conch shell industry has quietened down somewhat for the time being, but from news to hand is likely to pick up again, a case of too many in the business and underselling one another being the cause of the stoppage. About 300 packages were shipped to the United States during the month. Quite a quantity of fibre has been extracted, and is now awaiting shipment. Shipments of sponge and canned lobster have been made during the month.

On the 10th of July the Misses Rigby held a bazaar and garden party in aid of the Belgian Children's Relief Fund, when something like £10 was realised. Another garden party was arranged for July 31st for the same object, but owing to the inclement state of the weather and non-arrival of the band from Rast Harbour, it was postponed.

Being still practically cut off from all parts of the Empire owing to there being no steamship facilities, we are having to depend entirely on the United States, and owing to the embarrassed financial state of the so-called merchants here, living is becoming more expensive and harder. Under present conditions, we are told, it is useless to look for communication between Halifax, Turks Island, and Jamaica, which means that everything must come from the United States. It is hoped that with the recent rains we may soon be able to get vegetables and suchlike from the Caicos Islands. For the past three months vegetables and fruit of any kind could not be procured at any cost. The telephone system is working well, and giving every satisfaction.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Berger.—On the 1st October, at "Oak Tree House," Bickley, Kent, the wife of Harry Berger, of a son.

WANT.

Overseer.—Position as Overseer required in British West Indies. Aged 30. Total exemption. Has experience rubber growing, Malay; can keep plantation books.—Apply "H. N. C.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**The Demerara Railway Company.**

The Directors have decided, subject to audit, to recommend the following dividends on the stocks of the Company for the half-year ended 30th June 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 3½ per cent. per annum on the Preferred Ordinary Stock.

The Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.

The Directors, in their report for the year ended 30th June, 1916, which was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on September 21st, state that the year began with a credit to revenue account of £64,219 7s. 3d., to which has to be added the net result of the year's working, viz., £14,705 6s. 3d. (as compared with £13,552 12s. 2d. last year), making a total of £78,924 13s. 6d. An interim dividend of 8 per cent., free of income tax, was paid on the 1st March. A special interim dividend of £1 5s. per share was paid on the 24th March, and at the same time a call of £1 5s. per share was made, and a further payment of 3 per cent., free of income tax, as recommended, has been authorised. The balance to be carried forward is £53,399 3s. 2d. The Company's cable was interrupted between Bermuda and Turks Island on 54 days, and the insulation is still low. £7,375 10s. 4d. has so far been paid on account of the cost of repairs; the balance has not yet been ascertained.

The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company, Ltd.

The Directors, in their report for the year ended June 30th last, state that the net result of the year's working is a balance of £12,745 10s. 3d., as compared with £10,679 2s. 9d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 8 per cent., free of income tax, has already been paid, and a further equal payment, free of income tax, was authorised at the Annual Meeting on September 21st, when the report and accounts were adopted. The balance to credit of revenue account, which was last year £11,549 1s. 9d., has had to be debited with the various items recorded in the revenue account for repairs, etc., and is now £7,710 0s. 7d. The Company's cable has worked efficiently during the year, except for a few days while being repaired in the Halifax Harbour. The Shareholders approved the payment of the Directors' remuneration free of income tax.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th, 1916, show a net profit of £25,390 19s. 2d. (as compared with £30,754 15s. 3d. for the corresponding period last year), making with the balance of £38,109 15s. 2d. brought forward from the preceding half-year, a total of £60,500 14s. 4d. available, as compared with £66,889 15s. 1d. at the same date in 1915. Out of this balance the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 3½ per cent.,

less income tax, for the half-year, which will absorb £16,800, leaving £43,700 14s. 4d. to be carried forward, as compared with £30,889 15s. 1d. at the same date last year. £18,000 was set aside as provision for the depreciation of investments. Of the authorised capital of £2,000,000 in 100,000 shares, £600,000 has been paid up, and the reserve funds stand at £150,000. On the debit side of the Balance Sheet there also figure notes in circulation £496,855 5s. (£429,637 11s. 8d. at the same date in 1915); deposits at interest, current accounts, etc., £3,346,065 10s. 8d. (£2,203,247 6s. 10d.); and bills payable and other liabilities £469,978 8s. 8d. (£475,389 4s. 5d.). On the credit side appear: Specie at £371,888 14s. 4d. (£434,573); cash at London bankers and at Call and Short Notice, £234,474 16s. 6d. (£191,569 0s. 5d.); English and Colonial Government and other Investments held in London, £807,497 18s. 11d. (£1,114,683 6s. 10d.); bills receivable, etc., £1,799,747 3s. 2d. (£913,568 3s. 4d.); due in the Colonies on current accounts, £469,064 5s. 9d. (£304,129 18s. 9d.); bills discounted in the Colonies, bills in transit and advances on security, £1,266,727 (£889,641 4s. 2d.); liability of customers for acceptances, £202,498 15s. 5d.; and bank premises and furniture in London and the Colonies, £80,000. The Directors, in their report, state that on the 30th June, 1916, the investments held by the Bank amounted to £807,497 18s. 11d., including £275,500 of War Loans. These stood in the Bank's books, with the reserve for depreciation, at less than the market value after the removal of all minimum prices. The Bank also held in Treasury Bills £750,000. A branch has been opened at Morant Bay, Jamaica, and the branch at St. Thomas, D.W.I., has been closed. The Bank now occupies new and commodious premises in New York at 22, William Street, where it offers very complete banking facilities to the public. Since the last meeting an Act authorising the Bank to carry on business in all parts of the British Empire has received the sanction of Parliament. A Cash and Bill department was opened on October 2nd at 51, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., where current deposit accounts will be kept and every class of London Banking business transacted.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

Sir,—I note that in your issue of June 29th, you published, at the request of a member "of the family of the late Archbishop of the West Indies (Dr. E. Nuttall) some additions to and modifications of the obituary notice which appeared in" the preceding issue. The modifications are amazing and inexplicable. Why is it sought to separate Dr. Nuttall from the "ministry" of the Wesleyan Church. If he "never entered the ministry" of the Wesleyan Church, how did he get to Jamaica?

In my study there are volumes which contain the Stations of Ministers of the Wesleyan Church for each year 1830-1870. In the volume for 1863 I find this entry: "Jamaica District: Kingston—Jonathan Edmondson, James Rowden, Enos Nuttall, Robert Raw."

And in the volumes of 1864 and 1865 Enos Nuttall still figures in the stations of Ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church as third minister in the Kingston Circuit, Jamaica District.

Obviously, therefore, Dr. Nuttall entered the Wesleyan ministry and served for three years as third minister in Kingston, Jamaica, from Conference of 1863 to some time after Conference of 1865. His name disappeared from the list in 1866.

The recorded facts cited above make the paragraph of "modifications" amusing reading to many, and amazing reading to many others.

There is a wise saying—*quies non movere*—which might have been observed in this instance. Its non-observance caused me to look up the scraps of paper of 1863-1865.

Yours faithfully,

HERRERT H. COLB,

Wesleyan Minister.

Wesley Manse, Scarborough,
Tobago.

August 4th, 1916.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone : 6642 Central.
Telegrams : "Carib." London.

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.
October 4th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. Consols stand at 58½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 93½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 84½. The announcement of the issue of 6 per cent. Eschequer Bonds payable in three years has had a depreciating effect on gilt-edged securities.

SUGAR. Usually, at this time of the year, the beginning of the United States beet crop has a considerable easing effect upon prices. There is, however, no evidence of this occurring this year, as the world's prices, after the recent temporary slump, have risen again, and now stand at a high level. The wants of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Continent, Canada, the East, Australia, and the Mediterranean cannot be far short of 2,000,000 tons for the next three months. To meet this there will be the balance of Cuban Crop, 300,000 tons; the United States beet crop for the three months, say 600,000 tons; about 600,000 tons of the Java crop; 150,000 tons of the Mauritius crop, 150,000 tons of the Louisiana crop; about 80,000 tons of the Hawaiian crop, with, say, 200,000 tons from Peru, Brazil, Formosa, the Philippines, Fiji, and British Guiana—in all 2,080,000 tons. This supply, coupled with stocks on the low side, leaves little margin for eventualities. Until the new Cuban crop appears on the market, therefore, a continuance of the present good prices may be looked for, unless there is very unexpected action on the part of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to disturb the world's markets.

No estimate of the new Cuban crop is yet to hand. The weather, however, has been extremely favourable to the crop up to now, and, so far as present indications go, a full crop may be expected. Whether this will exceed, or even equal, the 1916 crop is another question. The expansion of the latter crop was due to a great extent to exceptionally sweet canes, which may not obtain next crop. On the other hand, there will be more factories in operation—Messrs. Willett & Gray give the ultimate power of these as 1,090,000 bags, or 187,500 tons—besides a considerable increase of power in the old factories. There are, however, great complaints on the score of shortage of labour from the amount of factory work going on at the same time as the field work. It is hard to say how much this will have affected next crop's returns. Labour is one of the problems which will require solution before further development takes place in Cuba to any great extent.

In connection with Cuban working, the Guantanamo Sugar Company has published its balance-sheet for the year ending June 30th, 1916. On a capital of \$3,000,000, a net profit of \$1,060,169 has been made, out of which \$174,194 has been laid aside for depreciation. This leaves the sum of \$885,975, or 29½ per cent on the capital.

The total Cuban exports to Europe from the 1916 crop up to September 9th are given by Mr. Hinely as 690,154 tons. Of these, 513,885 tons went to the United Kingdom, 136,536 tons to France, 16,499 tons to Spain, and 25,294 tons to other European ports.

Russia is feeling the pinch of sugar scarcity. A year ago the stocks were about 370,000 tons; the crop which ensued only reached 1,650,000 tons, a shortage of 250,000 tons on the previous year's figures. The consumption for the year is 1,800,000 tons. With about 170,000 tons of overland exports, there is not much left in the way of stocks to go on with until the coming crop commences.

The approaching Formosa crop is estimated at 312,000 tons, exclusive of native sugar. Of this, 205,000 tons are required for consumption in Formosa and Japan, leaving 107,000 tons available for export. The consumption in Japan and Formosa is 300,000 tons, of which 100,000 tons is refined sugar, 20,000 tons plantation whites, and 93,000 tons native sugar.

The United States beet crop has started. Although the yield from the roots is not so good as that of last year, the greater acreage increase will at least make up the deficiency in crop from this cause, and close upon 800,000 tons may be expected. As regards Continental yields, the

Dutch output for the coming crop is estimated at from 250,000 to 270,000 tons.

In spite of the high price of sugar and the dependence of India upon imports, the area planted in cane this year in British India is only 2,242,000 acres, as against 2,415,000 acres last year.

The bad season has not prevented a bumper crop in Natal; 113,000 tons have been turned out—the biggest on record in that colony.

The Bill authorising, *inter alia*, the formation of a Tariff Commission, which will deal with the preferential provisions of the present tariff, has passed the Senate of the United States. It is expected that sugar will be an important item in the work of the Commission when it is appointed.

There is still no demand for preferential sugar in Canada, owing, it is stated, to diminished consumption. As has been already pointed out, in a recent Summary, there is no advantage to the refiners in buying preferential sugar to be refined for export.

The London market remains in practically the same position as at the date of last Summary. The best quality of British cubes is quoted at 46/7½, with standard granulated at 41/7½. American granulated is quoted at 41/7½, with white Javas at 41/- to 41/4½. West Indian crystallised remains as before at 41/7½ for average quality.

The imports of sugar into the United Kingdom amounted to 1,157,882 tons for the year up to the 23rd September, of which 826,814 tons were raw sugar, and 331,068 tons refined.

We have been notified by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply that a further order has been issued "reducing from 2½ per cent. to 1½ per cent. the discount allowed to purchasers by the Commission's selling agents, and by refiners, and correspondingly the amount of addition to cost price that sub-dealers may make in selling to their clients. The reduction is made in view of the great enhancement in the amount on which the discount is calculated that has resulted from the high rate to which the duty on sugar has been raised; and it has been fixed at a rate which will give to dealers the same return for their services as they would receive if, with sugar at its present price in hand, the duty were still at 1/10 per cwt., as it was at the beginning of the War, and if they were allowed the established discount of 2½ per cent. on the duty-paid price." This change will have no appreciable effect on the prices that retailers will have to pay, nor on those which they should charge their customers. These latter should continue as now at the rates recognised by the Royal Commission as admissible—viz., from 5d. to 5½d. per lb. for good granulated, and from 5½d. to 6½d. for cubes, according to the circumstances of the locality as regards distance from the ports and cost of carriage.

The difficulty in obtaining sugar retail by the general public continues. The consumption for the year to date, as mentioned in the last Summary, has only been 20 per cent. short of the biggest pre-war consumption—viz., that for 1913. The price of sugar is now two and a half times what it was in 1913, and yet, if the public could have its way, there would be no diminution in consumption. Indeed, judging from the complaints, it looks very much as if the 25 per cent. greater supply, to bring the supply up to that of 1913, would not meet the occasion. What greater tribute could there be than this to the dietetic value of sugar? There is no doubt, apart from the 20 per cent. less importation and the Army and Navy requirements, that the increased physical work being done by the people, coupled with the diminution in alcohol consumption, has much to do with this clamour for sugar, and it is extremely probable that at the end of the War, provided there is no restriction of imports, the consumption will be very heavy. Australia, with its virile population, boasts an annual consumption of 130 lbs. per head, as against our pre-war figure of 90 lbs., and it will occasion no surprise if one of the effects of the War will be to raise the consumption of the people of the United Kingdom to that level. This would mean a consumption of 2,880,000 tons per annum.

Values in the New York market have been well sustained. On the 23rd ult. the price of duty-paid Cubans went up to \$6.02, but prices subsequently slackened, and went back to \$5.89 on the 26th, and to \$5.77 on the 28th,

rising again to \$5.89 on the 30th, and to \$6.02 on the 2nd at which figure it now remains.

RUM. A fairly large business has been done since the date of last Summary in Jamaica at prices varying from 5/6 to 5/7. Proof kinds are steady with some business at 3/11 to 4/- for spot. The uncertainty as to the future of shipments of rum arriving after the 19th of August last, however, is completely holding back buyers for these and forward deliveries. Much rum is produced on borrowed money, and merchants are in a quandary not knowing to what extent they can accommodate their clients.

CACAO. The market has been quiet, and there are no auction sales to report. Sales of Trinidad have, however, been made privately at 84/- to 85/-, an advance of 1/-. These were mostly for Russia, from which country there has been some demand. The spot value of Grenada is from 73/- to 72/6, and St. Lucia 73/- to 82/6.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that the only business done in West Indian Sea Island since the date of last Summary has been a sale of 25 bales stains at 12½d. Owing to the prices at which Sakellarides Egyptian cotton is ruling, good West Indian should be worth 20d. to 21d. The quantity of West Indian cotton imported into the United Kingdom up to the 28th ult. was 4,459 bales.

COFFEE. The market has been quiet. At auction sale earlier in the fortnight 550 bags good ordinary pall: h were withdrawn. There were no auction sales on the 28th ult. Jamaicas may be valued at 65/- per cwt. The value of superior Santos, c.i.f. sellers' price, is 54/-

FRUIT. The demand continues for West Indian Bananas, and these may be quoted at £17 per ton. Canary at 6/- to 14/- per crate. Oranges. The Government embargo on West Indian oranges has been removed. Jamaica may be quoted at 16/- to 18/- per case (mixed counts). Coco-nuts. Jamaica are quoted at 23/- per bag (100's).

RUBBER. The feature of the fortnight in this respect has been the entire prohibition of the exports of rubber and balata to Holland. The market has been quiet, with a slight decline in values all round. Fine Plantation may be quoted at 2/4½; smoked sheet at 2/4; fine hard Para, 3/2½; soft, 2/11.

BALATA The market is firm but quiet, and with little business passing. Quotations are nominal, Venezuela block, 2/3½ c.i.f. sellers; 2/3 buyers; W.I. sheet, 3/3 and 3/3½ forward delivery; 3/5½ to 3/6 spot.

HONEY. Very quiet. Out of 600 packages Jamaica offered at auction, only 100 sold at 35/- to 45/-.

SPICES. Ginger. There is no improvement in demand for Jamaica, which is practically neglected. Pimento. No change, and export restriction considerably hampering business. Quotations 3½d. to 3½d. per lb. Nutmegs. There have been no auctions since last Summary. Quotations are, 68's, 1/2; 75's, 1/1; 80's, 1/-; 95's, 11d.; 110's, 10½d.; broken, 5½d. to 6d. per lb. Mace is quiet. Good pale is worth 2/2; fair pale, 1/10; reddish, 1/6 to 1/8d.; broken 6d. to 8½d. per lb.

OOPRA The market has been firmer. West Indian may be quoted at £32 c.i.f. terms, less 2½ per cent.

COCO-NUT OIL Ceylon may be quoted at 48/- landed; Cochin at 53/6 c.i.f.

ARROWROOT. Market very quiet. Quotations normally 2½d. to 4½d.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Distilled is slow of sale. Nominal value 7/6 per lb. Handpressed is dearer, with some business at 10/- per lb. Lime Juice. Raw is steady, but quiet. Values unchanged, but no sales have been reported. A good business is at last being done in ordinary concentrated at £22. Citrate of Lime, buyers' price is £27.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. J. R. Bancroft	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. G. S. Browne	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. Albert Mendes
Major, the Hon. J. C. Burdon. C.M.G.	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Dr. Frank Olliphant
Mrs. Burdon	Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G.	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. J. W. Cathart	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mr. E. A. Hinkson	Miss E. Robinson
Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. T. G. Rose
Hon. P. J. Dean	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. D. Hope Ross
Mr. D. S. De Freitas	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. E. G. A. Saunders
Mr. W. de Gale	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. J. S. de la Mothe	Mr. A. Marsden	Mr. C. Elliott Sealy
Mr. Lionel Devaux	Sir Frederic Maxwell	Mr. C. S. Seton-Hrowne
Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. J. C. Shaw
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. J. Melroy	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Hon. Hugh Mc. Lelland	and Mr. F. H. S. Warneford

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Haccroate.
Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E. C.
Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.
Mr. J. Slater, c/o Messrs. Brodie & Gray, 2, Fourth Street, Edinburgh

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Oct. 11	" Direct "	Cornwall	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
" 13	Elders & Fyffes	Caronia	Bristol	D
" 14	Leyland	Albanian	Liverpool	A, E.
" 17	Booker	Amakura	Liverpool	H
" 19	Harrison	Engineer	Liverpool	D.
" 20	" Direct "	Spheriad	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
" 27	Elders & Fyffes	Camilo	Bristol	D

FROM CANADA				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Oct. 20	R.M.S.P.Co.	Chignecto	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
Nov. 3	"	Chaudiere	"	"

FROM HOLLAND				
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Nov. 3	Royal Dutch	Nickerie	Amsterdam	B, E

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.		Price
			Oct 4
4 1/2 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	74
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	85
3 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1936	84 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	73 1/2
3 %	Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	69 1/2
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82 1/2
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80 1/2
3 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62 1/2
3 1/2 %	The Colonial Bank		6
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		123
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		45
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures		88
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		93 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures		102 1/2
5 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		11
5 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		101
5 %	Trinidad Canefields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		41 1/2
5 %	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		14 1/2
5 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		27-30
5 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.		95-100
5 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.		70-25
5 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures		72-25
1 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary		21
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		8
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd		6
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5 % Debentures		95

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.
October 18th, 1916.

THE DOMINICA CYCLONE AND AFTER.

ACCORDING to the latest advices which we have received from Dominica, the situation in that island arising out of the hurricane of August 28th is not so serious as it was at first believed to be. The damage has been widespread, but not calamitous, for though the prospects of a second crop of limes have been wrecked, the output of products of the lime tree, reckoned in barrels of fruit, should not be less than that of 1915. The enormous crop on the trees on the day of the visitation has been, of course, mostly blown down, but much of the fruit was saved and converted into lime juice on those estates which were in a position to deal with the exceptionally heavy crop—and by no means all would have been able to do this. One has heard too often the cries of "ruin" which follow blows such as those which have visited Jamaica and Dominica recently to put much faith in them, and we are glad to learn that in both recent instances when it has been raised there has been little real ground for undue pessimism beyond the apparent havoc left in the wake of the hurricanes. Elsewhere in the West Indies it might be otherwise, but these tropical colonies fortunately have such wonderful recuperative power that such episodes as hurricanes, earthquakes, and similar phenomena are soon forgotten. In the case of Dominica, it seems that many of the estates had already made more lime juice before they were stricken than they had done in the whole of 1915, and some even now are hoping to—and probably will—export a record crop. With regard to the damage to public property, we gather that about £3,000 should suffice to repair roads and bridges,

the reconstruction of which should provide all the "relief" necessary for the needy sufferers from the hurricane, whose willingness to work will be the real measure of their distress. In some quarters the peasants have undoubtedly been hard hit, and may even be short of food for a few months, but we are glad to learn from authoritative sources that there is no widespread distress. In a word, the local Government appears to have the situation well in hand, and the outlook before the colony is still as promising as ever it was. That Mr. ARTHUR MAHAFFY, the Administrator, Mr. W. H. PORTER, the Treasurer, and the other officials of the Presidency have a hard time before them in the immediate future is probable, but we believe that they will be able successfully to steer Dominica through the temporary crisis; and we venture to predict that the position of the local finances and crop in 1917 will not be far, if at all, behind that of 1915. We referred recently to Mr. MAHAFFY's official visit to Guadeloupe, and we are glad to learn that practical results may already be attributed to it, His Honour having been successful in inducing the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, better known as the "French Mail," to call at Roseau on their outward and homeward voyages. Dominica will thus be placed within twelve days of Bordeaux and St. Nazaire, which should prove of incalculable benefit to the island.

THE LAND-LOCKED HARBOUR OF MONTEGO BAY.

AT a moment when the fruit industry of Jamaica has met with so severe a setback as that involved in the recent hurricane, it may seem inopportune to discuss the necessity for increased facilities for shipping bananas to Great Britain. But a little reflection will assure us that when things are at their worst is the time to consider how they may be rendered better than they ever were before. The banana plantations have been destroyed, but they will flourish again, and, unless we are mistaken in the skill and courage of the Jamaican planters, more luxuriantly than ever. The losses of the catastrophe have been enormous. But so vigorous has been the growth and so promising is the future of the fruit trade that even those losses will be recouped. That they should be recouped with as little delay as possible is of course the earnest wish of everyone in Jamaica. Consequently the question arises: In what way can an expansion of the fruit industry be compassed so that it shall be commensurate with the losses recently sustained? Which in turn involves the further question: What has hitherto and in normal season been the greatest hindrance to expansion? Surely the answer to the latter question is lack of sufficient transport. And this answer naturally

leads to the conclusion that if during the time which the plantations will take to recuperate, practical measures were adopted to increase facilities for transport, the recovery of the industry would be as rapid as even its best wishers could desire. In August last, dealing with the banana problem and the question of freights, we referred to the fact that MESSRS. ELDERS & FYFFES will not allow their steamers, which now carry Costa Rican and Colombian fruit to this country, to call at the north-side ports of Jamaica, for the reason that they consider those ports unsuitable and unsafe. If it were the case, which it is not, that the existing north-side ports are the best that the coast will afford, there would be no more to be said. But as we long ago had occasion to point out, there lies adjacent to Montego Bay, the difficulties of utilising which are recognised by seamen, a perfectly land-locked harbour waiting, we had almost said crying, for development. As MR. OSCAR PLUMMER stated in his interesting account of this fine natural harbour, which we published in the CIRCULAR of January, 14th, 1913, LORD HOOD, on the report of NELSON, had the harbour surveyed with a view to ascertaining its value in time of war. Now that the Panama Canal has altered all the strategic points of the Western and Eastern Seas, it may be that NELSON'S discovery will yet be valued by the Admiralty. Geography, unhappily, as a serious study is still neglected in Government Departments, and officials may still be imagined asking on occasion: "Where is the damned place?" However it is not the strategic but the commercial value of this harbour we have now to consider, and of that value there can hardly be two opinions. With reference to their known refusal to permit their steamers carrying fruit from Colombia and Costa Rica to call at Montego Bay, we interviewed MR. STOCKLEY, of MESSRS. ELDERS AND FYFFES, and asked him if he knew the harbour, and whether, if it were properly developed, he thought his firm's vessels would call there. He gave it as his opinion that the harbour is eminently suited for development; indeed, one of MESSRS. ELDERS AND FYFFES' captains had been asked to visit the harbour and report upon its potentialities, and his report had been entirely favourable. MR. STOCKLEY pointed out that what is necessary is a quay or pier alongside which vessels can draw up and load the fruit direct from the railway wagons. Given such facilities for loading, he seemed to have no doubt that his firm's steamers would call. Indeed, as he very justly said, given a good port with easy approach and safe harbourage, and trade to be done, ships are bound to put in. Though he admitted that Governments generally expected the trade to come first and the port afterwards. This, of course, is as foolish as to expect a residential district to grow up in a place where there is no railway station, and without any definite undertaking that there shall be one. However, in the present instance there is a trade, as ready as the harbour for development; and there is little question that with the growing demand for the banana, a really adequate port in the north would very quickly become a paying business. Be that as it

may, such a port would pay in the real sense that its cost would be recouped again and again in increased trade, and, as a Government's revenue must always depend upon the prosperity of the country, in increased revenue also. Nature has done so much in the case of this harbour that there is every encouragement for man to step in and complete the work; and we trust that now the question of a first-class north-side port has been mooted, Jamaica will not rest until the port has become an accomplished fact. Readers who turn back to the CIRCULAR referred to above will see from the old map we then published how admirably adapted the harbour is for development. Sheltered on all sides, with a boat channel as clear as when it was first surveyed in 1804, it is obvious that, given the proper facilities of quay and railway, with the plantations at hand, and a line of ships ready to call, the port must thrive from its birth.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership reaches 1,563.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., on October 12th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the following members were also present:—Mr. R. Rutherford (Deputy-Chairman), Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

The Secretary reported that the total membership was 1,554, and the following new members were admitted:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. J. D. Chandler (Barbados)	{ Mr. H. A. Bovell. Mr. R. Rutherford.
New Success, Ltd. (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. C. McCowan. Messrs. Henry White & Co.
Ph. Mara, Ltd. (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. C. McCowan. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Pln. Friends, Ltd. (British Guiana)	{ Mr. J. C. McCowan. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. Albert Mendes (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Alfred Mendes. Messrs. Pereira & Gonsalves.
Mrs. Slinger	{ Messrs. Nathan & Godfrey. Mr. W. A. Griffin. [Ltd.
Mr. James C. McLelland (Trinidad)	{ Hon. Hugh McLelland. Mr. W. A. Griffin.
Mr. Arthur W. Farquharson (Jamaica)	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Messrs. John K. Gilliatt & Co.	{ Mr. H. A. Trotter. Messrs. Henry White & Co.

The position of British rum under the Immature Spirits Act was considered. It was pointed out that the concessions under the Order in Council of August 18th did not apply to rum landed after that date, and that owing to the uncertainty prevailing as to the position of rum landed subsequently to the 19th August, the market had become demoralised, and that it was almost impossible to elicit any bid for forward shipment from the trade.

This had put the importing merchants in a very difficult position, as they neither knew what quantity to recommend the various planters to manufacture, nor what advances to make the planters against the growing crops. Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Edward R. Davson, and the Secretary were nominated to lay the facts before the Colonial Office, whose assistance it was decided to solicit.

It was also decided to represent to the Colonial Office and to the Government of the Dominion of Canada the great inconvenience suffered by planters in Nevis through the omission of Charlestown as a port of call by the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Mr. Rutherford reported that he and Mr. Davson had attended the Conference organised by the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute, and held on September 20th. Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., presided, and those present included Mr. Arthur S. Bull, Hon. J. G. Jenkins, Sir Godfrey Lagden, K.C.M.G., Mr. P. H. Lockhart, Mr. Ben H. Morgan, Mr. J. Rippon, Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., and Mr. J. R. Boose, C.M.G. (Acting Secretary) representing the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute; the speaker and Mr. E. R. Davson the West India Committee; Sir Stanley Bois the Ceylon Association; Mr. A. Hale and Mr. D. H. Reid the Malay States Development Agency; Mr. J. Gardiner and Mr. A. Leaver the Nigerian Chamber of Mines; and Mr. Charles Emerson and Sir Edward Rosling the Rubber Growers' Association.

It had been moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir Stanley Bois, and carried unanimously—

"That this joint meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute and Societies representing Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible Government is unanimously of opinion that the War has emphasised the necessity for a Special Committee being appointed to enquire into the conditions of trade, the development of natural resources and the improvement of labour supply, transportation and inter-communication services of such Colonies with a view to making the Empire more self-supporting."

And it had been moved by Sir Edward Rosling, seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford, and carried unanimously—

"That the Secretary of State for the Colonies be requested to receive a Deputation from the Royal Colonial Institute and Societies representative in London of the Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible Government for the purpose of laying before him the views embodied in the above Resolution."

These resolutions had been subsequently confirmed by the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute.

SUBSCRIPTIONS from new members elected to the West India Committee during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1918.

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.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

From the speeches of Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial Staff, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Lloyd George, it is clear that the need for more men is appreciated by the Government. Last year action was so belated that the offensive on the Somme, which should have commenced on May 1st did not begin till July 1st. If we had reached our present position in Picardy two months ago, as we should have done, it might have been possible to break through the German line, and force the enemy back to the Meuse. The necessity in military affairs of looking ahead at least six months if not twelve, is better understood in high places than it was, one sign of it being the celerity with which the Man-Power Distribution Board has got to work. Moreover, it orders, not advises, things to be done, a welcome change in the procedure of these bodies. One thing is certain, that Germany has determined that Roumania shall share the fate of Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Poland. This time we must prevent her design at all costs. Therefore we must have men, and yet more men. For to break through the strongly-fortified barriers rendered formidable by two years of ceaseless scientific and military effort on the part of the Germans we must have a crushing superiority in men and material.

The Battle of the Somme.

The operations in Picardy continue their victorious course, though they are hampered by bad weather. The British and French continue to progress, consolidate themselves in the ground gained, and repulse the enemy's counter-attacks. When, as rarely happens now, he does recover a position—the Regina trench, north of Courcellette, or Eaucourt, for instance—he is soon driven out again. The battle of the Somme is not yet war of movement, although now and again the cavalry is able to operate at favourable intervals. It is siege warfare on a moving front, which has caused the enemy heavy losses, including 60,000 prisoners, and seriously damaged his morale.

New Allied Advance.

The British are systematically clearing the ground between Courcellette and the Ancre. It is intersected by a network of communications overrunning the sunken roads, gullies, and open fields, and an elaborate chain of forts dug into the high ground above the river. Progress here is, then, comparatively slow. To the south-east, by the capture of Eaucourt l'Abbaye, which constitutes a tactical point of great strength a short distance in the rear of the German fourth line of defence, our troops were in actual contact with the enemy's main trench

system in front of Le Sars, which itself straggles across the Bapaume road. The village has now been carried by the irresistible rush of our men, and with comparatively small loss. The attack was made on a front of nine miles in combination with the French, who advanced to within a couple of hundred yards of Sailly and to the outskirts of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood. The hill on which Sailly stands is the most solid link in the chain of German defences between Peronne and Bapaume. South of the Somme the French have made another bound, this time on a front of three miles between Berry en Santerre and Chauines.

On the Eastern Front.

Official reports both from Petrograd and Berlin refer to intense fighting all along the line from the Pinsk Marshes to the Roumanian frontier. In places the enemy states that the Russian artillery fire practice is as severe as it is in the Somme district. If so, our Ally has turned the tables on the victors of Dunajetz.

On the Zlota Lipa and towards Kovel some progress has been made, which the Germans have tried to counter by a desperate but ineffective attack towards Lutsk.

In the Dobrudja.

The crossing of the Danube by a Roumanian force between Rustbuck and Turtukai gave rise to a series of wild reports. Most likely it was but a demonstration designed to cover a development of the offensive in the Dobrudja. As such it was effective, since to meet it the Bulgarians rushed up strong forces which were wanted elsewhere. When the object of the Roumanians was achieved, they retired. In the Dobrudja the Russian-Roumanian army has compelled Mackensen to fall back twenty miles, thereby lengthening his front. He, however, still profits by the initial advantage he obtained by taking the offensive first, for by fortifying himself between Oltina, on the Danube, and the Black Sea he hampers co-operation between the Allied armies in the Dobrudja and at Salonika. But since both his wings have been forced back, it is evident that he has some difficulty in maintaining the defensive. The Austrians are employing monitors on the Danube to attack the newly-constructed bridges south of Bucharest, while Russian warships are active on the Black Sea coast.

In Transylvania.

Falkenhayn, largely reinforced, compelled the Roumanians to withdraw from Kronstadt and fall back on the Vulcan and Roltrethum Passes, but the process was orderly, and gave no opportunity for the "victories" which have occupied such a prominent place in German communiqués. So quietly did the Roumanians retire, indeed, that they were able to destroy the Petroseni mines, and not only are they organising the defences of the Carpathians, but they are giving a good account of themselves in the struggle for the Caneni Pass. That Falkenhayn should have been reinforced at all is a sign that the Central Powers still possess a

fund of unexpected energy, but whether or not it is equal to the requirements on every front is improbable. Even in Transylvania, Falkenhayn is strong enough to concentrate on one point and win a local success, then move on to another and repeat the process, but not strong enough to drive the Roumanians before him through the passes into their own country. Therefore the advantage he snatches from them anywhere is temporary.

In the Balkans.

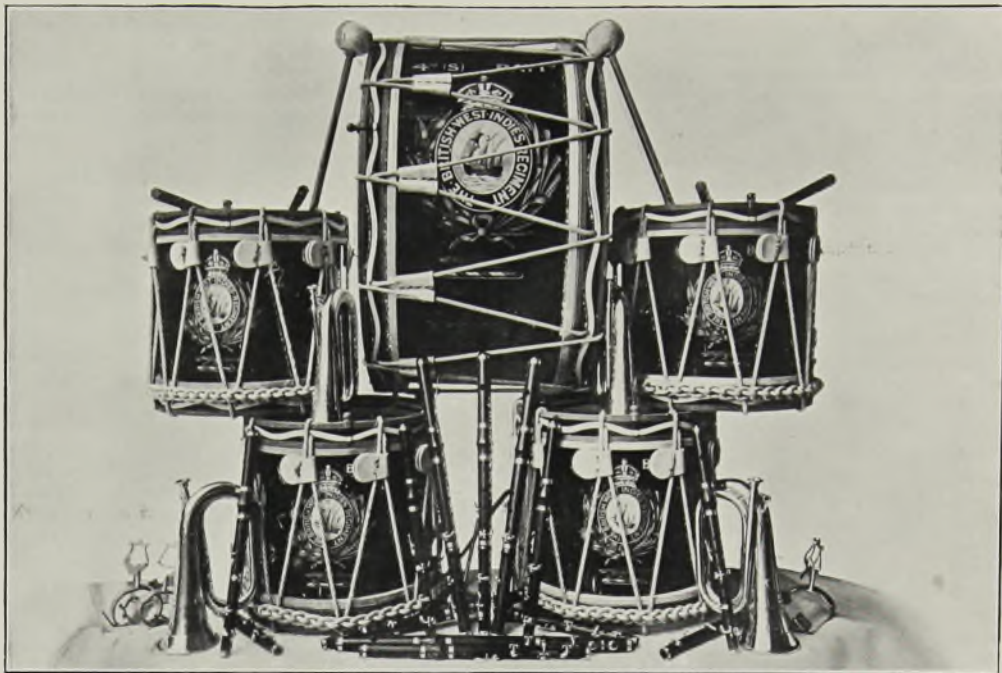
Our mastery of operations on the Balkan front is being more clearly demonstrated every day. The Allied left wing, consisting chiefly of French and Serbian troops, after capturing the whole of the Kajmakalan peak, have advanced up the valley of the river Cerna, occupying the villages as they went. West of Florina the Russians have reached Pitodiu, and are preparing to carry Mount Cecevo, which guards Monastir on this side. That Monastir will be able to hold out long in any case is doubtful, for with the progress of the Allied right wing, Prilep is threatened, and the Bulgarians are much more interested in retiring on that position successfully, and in maintaining touch with their forces in the Vardar, than in retaining Monastir. While the French hold the enemy on the Doiran front, the British have crossed the Struma, and, occupying villages on their way, have cut the Seres-Demir-hissar Railway, and are still advancing.

On the Italian Front.

The Italians have scored successes all along their line. In the Trentino they have captured a network of trenches near Monte Pasubio, which is a strong position nine miles south-east of Rovereto. On the Isonzo front they have broken the Austrian line between Sober and Verdoibn, two miles to the south of Gorizia, and, further south, after an intensive bombardment, they advanced and stormed not only Hill 208, but Novavas, north-east of Monfalcone. This exploit is the sequel to the capture of the San Grado height, and marks another step on the way to Trieste. The aqueducts of this seaport have been destroyed by Italian aviators, so that the inhabitants have been obliged to fall back on wells for their water supply.

Greece.

The Gilbertian situation created by King Tino playing on national divisions continues. But Allied diplomacy has taken a new and more active turn by presenting an ultimatum to the Hellenic Government demanding that the Greek navy, with the exception of three vessels, should be handed over as a measure of security for the Allied Fleet, together with the control of the Piræus-Larissa railway. The demands were at once complied with by the Government of nonentities whom the King has gathered round him. Their antics would matter little, only that they have capacity for mischief by retarding the advance from Salonika, which cannot be pushed until the position of Greece is more definite. In the meantime, M. Venizelos is organising a National Government at Salonika, and hopes soon to have an army corps in the field.



THE DRUMS AND FIFES OF A BATTALION OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.



SOME TRINIDAD MEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD BATTALION.

In the Caucasus.

After a long period of apparent inactivity, the forces of the Grand Duke launched a surprise attack west of Erzincan, driving the Turks headlong and capturing much material. In the coastal region of the Black Sea progress is also reported. In this theatre of the War, British armoured cars are doing good service.

The Atlantic Raid.

German activity at sea is a sign (1) that things are not going well on land, (2) that public opinion in the Fatherland has to be strung up to the point of making fresh sacrifices, or has to be cheered in depressing circumstances, and nothing seems to do that so effectually as pirate raids. Hence there is exultation in Germany at the "exploits" of U53, which, temporarily at least, blockaded New York harbour. Nine vessels were sunk, including one freighted with grain for the Dutch Government. Only for the timely aid of American warships there would have been serious loss of life, and so the German-American agreement, binding the commanders of German submarines to obey the laws of humanity in the exercise of their belligerent rights, would have been reduced to a "scrap of paper," but for the naval activity of the United States. The irony of the situation is that last December the Government at Washington sharply requested this country to withdraw the British naval patrol, which operated beyond the three-mile limit of the American coast. When it was pointed out that our warships were acting well within their belligerent rights, the point was urged, not on legal grounds, but on American sensitiveness. What will President Wilson say to German piracy off the American coast? Apparently nothing that matters. By insisting on the letter of international law he connives at the violation of its spirit. For the submarine, as employed by Germany, is the outlaw of the sea, the construction of the ship enabling her to hide her nationality and belligerent character at will, and so evade the laws of neutrality with regard to a warship visiting a neutral port.

(To be continued.)

We regret to state that Lady Fenwick, wife of Sir G. Townsend Fenwick, for many years senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, died at her residence, "The Nook," St. Ann's, Port of Spain, on August 11th. Lady Fenwick was a daughter of the late Mr. Jerome T. Bowen, a Warden of the Colony, and sister to Major A. S. Bowen, who is now on active service. She leaves a son, Mr. H. D. Fenwick, Roads Superintendent at Accra, and a daughter, Miss Stella Fenwick, with whom, as with Sir Townsend Fenwick, we express our sincere condolences in their loss. Lady Fenwick was for some years a great invalid, and the end was not unexpected. The great esteem in which she was held was evidenced by the representative nature of the congregation which attended the funeral service at St. Saviour's Church prior to the last sad ceremony, which took place at Tacarigua.

PLANTATION WHITE SUGAR.

SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE "CIRCULAR."

There is no doubt that one effect of the War will be enormously to stimulate the production of what is known as plantation white sugar, in contradistinction to the white sugar made by refiners. The want of power in British refineries, which can only cope with 50 per cent. of what is wanted in the form of white sugar by the British consumer, led, before the War, to the introduction of German and Austrian white sugar to an enormous extent. Thus in 1913 no less than 660,000 tons of white sugar came from these enemy countries in one form or another. It cannot for one moment be thought that this enemy sugar will come again into this country, if it comes at all, on the same terms as the produce of our own Colonies, or even of neutral countries. The gap will therefore have to be filled either, as at present, with American refined and white plantation sugar from the Java factories, or else with preferentially treated sugar from our existing exporting Colonies, or from Colonies which, perfectly adapted for the manufacture of sugar, have not dared to initiate its production in the face of the cheapened-by-protection products of Austria and Germany.

At the present time the main countries making white sugar direct from the cane are the Brazils, Louisiana, Java, and Mauritius. The Brazil product, which is used entirely for local purposes, is manufactured in such a manner, and is of such a character, that the process of manufacture employed hardly enters into the general question. For all practical purposes, therefore, the three other countries, Louisiana, Java, and Mauritius, may be regarded as the present homes of plantation white sugar.

The successful manufacture of plantation white sugar depends upon two factors—the clarification and the treatment of the massecuites.

As regards clarification, the process employed may be divided into two classes—those dependent on "sulphitation," or the use of sulphurous acid to neutralise the lime, and those in which carbonic acid is used for this purpose, lime in white sugars, as well as all other sugars, being the basis of clarification.

In the typical sulphitation process the juice is treated, when cold, with quantities of lime larger than would be used in the manufacture of sugar for refining purposes, the excess of which is neutralised by the introduction of the gas formed by burning sulphur in the air, the body formed being converted into sulphurous acid on contact with the juice. Sometimes the lime is added first, sometimes the sulphur gas; but in each case the resultant effect is neutralisation, or nearly so, a slight acidity being sometimes left. The juice is now raised to boiling point, boiled vigorously, and subsided, the clear liquor going to the evaporator, and the mud, as usual, to the filter presses.

There are several variants of the above process. It may be that the settling of the mud is facilitated by the addition of phosphoric acid, or phosphate of soda, to the juice, or the clear liquor is slightly

acidified with phosphoric acid and cleaned in "eliminators." A common system also is to boil the syrup, subside it, and sulphur slightly; while a modern method of sulphitation—the Bach process, which is highly spoken of—provides for the treatment of the juice in the first instance with only so much lime and sulphur, or lime alone, as would be required for ordinary clarification, the determining treatment being applied to the syrup, which is heavily limed, sulphured, boiled and filtered. This treatment causes the syrup to become easily filterable. The clear syrup is again slightly sulphured, so as to give it the necessary acidity for bright sugar. In Louisiana also, the clarified juice is generally filtered through bag filters, and in some cases continuous settling of the clarified juice is done.

In the other class of clarification for white sugar, the carbonation class, carbonic acid, as already mentioned, is the medium used for neutralising the lime. In single carbonation, the lime, in large quantity—as much as 1 to 1½ per cent. on the canes being used—is added to the cold juice, and after the temperature of the juice has been raised to between 120 deg. F. and 130 deg. F., carbonic acid gas is forced into the juice until the juice is neutral. It is now boiled and filtered through filter-presses, the clear juice going to the evaporator.

A modification of this process is one in which the clear liquor, after filtration, is made slightly acid by being "sulphured," and it is claimed that by this process, which is called the "acid thin juice" process, a much brighter sugar results than with the ordinary carbonation process.

In the double carbonation, the process of carbonating is divided into two stages. The juice is heavily limed, as in the single carbonation process, and is then heated to 140 deg. F., at which stage carbonic acid gas is added until a slight but definite alkalinity is left. It is then filtered through filter presses, and the filtered juice is again treated with carbonic acid until the juice is neutral. The juice is now boiled and filtered.

A modification of this process is that of Battelle, in which the juice is raised to the boil after the lime is added, in order to destroy the glucose. It is now carbonated to neutrality, and filtration effected. The clear juice is now slightly limed again, carbonated to neutral point, boiled, and filtered. The benefits claimed for this process are, firstly, that there is no danger of discoloration of the juice from partial glucose destruction during carbonation; and, secondly, that the Steffen process can be used to obtain the sugar from the molasses, which are practically completely exhausted of sugar by this means. The Steffen process treats the molasses with dry lime, forming an insoluble saccharate of lime, which is filtered and used for clarification purposes, the sugar in the saccharate re-entering the juice in this way.

In the De Haan modification of the double carbonation process, the necessary alkaline reaction of the first carbonation is obtained from the commencement by adding the lime and carbonic acid at the same time to a continuous flow of juice. The objectionable frothing is thus avoided.

The above gives an outline of the various clarifi-

cation processes in vogue in the present-day manufacture of white sugar direct from the cane juice. The other part of the manufacture which plays an important part in white sugar manufacture is the method of treatment of the massecuites, and the great underlying principle is that of double curing. In this the massecuite is cured without the aid of water in one set of centrifugals, the sugar made into a magma with washings from the second curing, and cured again in a second set of centrifugals, in which the necessary washing and steaming is done, the resultant white sugar going to a drier, while the washings go partly to form the magma mentioned above, with the balance back to either the syrup or the clarified juice. The drier prevents any likelihood of the sugar deteriorating in a moist climate.

The great advantages of this system are that the molasses proper are kept separate from the washings and steamings, while at the same time the formation of the magma greatly facilitates the subsequent washing of the sugar. It may be mentioned that the molasses massecuites, which are invariably built on grain from syrup, are treated in the same manner.

An important point in connection with the subject under review is that of the relative cost of the clarification processes. This, of course, must vary according to the local price of the chemicals employed and of labour. As a guide, the following figures, given by Dr. Prinsen Geerligs,* are of value as representing the Java conditions. In these the cost of the ordinary sulphitation and double carbonation are compared. Taking 1,000 tons of canes, the cost of chemicals and labour for the clarification departments are—

	Sulphitation	Carbonation
Chemicals ...	£5 12 11	£31 17 0
Wages ...	1 16 10	6 3 5
Total ...	7 9 9	38 0 5

Or if nine tons of canes are taken to the ton of sugar, the relative cost would be a little over 1/8 per ton and 8/6 respectively, a difference of nearly 7/- per ton against the carbonation process.

Another matter of the greatest importance is the effect of the process upon the extraction of sugar. In this connection Dr. Geerligs again gives information, also from Java. Taking the sulphitation yield as 100, he gives that of double carbonation as 100.32 of De Haan's process 100.64, and of the Bach sulphitation process 100.96, a difference distinctly in favour of the latter.

There is one advantage in the sulphitation system which must not be overlooked, and that is that at any moment a sulphitation plant can be turned on to the make of grey sugar if required in the ordinary manner.

In the foregoing nothing has been said as to the refining of raw sugar in a raw sugar factory, meaning by refining, the treatment of the raw sugar by a distinct process from that by which it was made. Up to recently the only way of doing this has been to decolorise the melted sugar by means of animal charcoal. For a tropical sugar factory this is placed

*"The Manufacture of White Sugar," Norman Rodger, 2, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.

outside practical politics on account of the cost of freight of the animal charcoal, or *char*, as it is called. Even for high-class raw sugars, a ton of this is required for every ton of sugar, and the freight of this would form an unentertainable item in the cost of manufacture.

The introduction into the sugar world, however, of Norite, which belongs to the class of bodies called decolorising carbons, puts an altogether different aspect on the case. This body, which is prepared by the carbonising of wood, is in an extremely fine state of subdivision, and a small quantity, varying from 2 per cent. to 5 per cent., according to the colour of the sugar treated, is said to be sufficient for the purpose. It can also be manufactured on the spot, and the cost of freight thus saved.

Were a Norite refining plant attached to a raw sugar factory, a raw sugar of a rather higher standard than the ordinary 16 D.S. 96° polarisation would have to be made by the latter. The position in relation to directly produced plantation white sugar would be as follows:

The manufacture of the raw sugar would mean less cost of chemicals and fuel, less wear and tear of machinery where the comparison is made with a sulphitation sugar, and, what is important, at least 1 per cent. more sugar extracted from the sugar in the juice. As against this, there would be cost of the Norite refining, with a rather higher cost for fuel than in a home refinery, but with no supervision expenses. The sugar turned out should be of first-class quality and constant in character, which plantation white sugar is not.

Unfortunately, at the present moment there is no evidence on a working scale of what Norite will do by itself in the direction of decolorising raw sugars. It is, it is true, used by some of the sugar-using trades in this country, and as an adjunct to existing "char" plants in some refineries, but its adaptability to the entire work of a refinery has yet to be demonstrated. The complete adaptability of Norite for refining purposes is, therefore, still *sub judice*. Attempts have been made to adapt it to raw cane juice, but, as might be expected when the amount of colour to be dealt with and the considerable impurities of an organic character to be associated with are considered, up to now the working has not been a success.

In conclusion, it must be borne in mind that the character of the juice to be dealt with is an important factor in the choice of a process. Some juice will yield readily to a sulphitation process; others may require the more strenuous double carbonation process. But whatever be the character of the juice, the economic production of white sugar for direct consumption is within the reach of every cane sugar producing concern. For success, however, every department of the factory must be thoroughly well equipped. The clarification plant must be on a scale to deal with the worst class of juice it is required to handle—not with the average, as is usually the case in a raw sugar factory. The vacuum pan power must be ample, and there must be no question of hot boiling from faulty vacua or structural defects. The centrifugal plant, also, must be of full capacity, and, of course, the boiler

power, so as to place out of the question any dragging or inefficient work for want of steam. And the work must be thoroughly supervised by a proper scientific staff. The treatment of the juices in clarification requires constant skilled watching, and the boiling of the various massecuites equally skilled observation as to quotients.

With the manufacture of ordinary raw sugars, a slight variation in colour does not affect the price. With the manufacture of white sugar, it does not take much to bring about a depreciation of £2 per ton in price. But the reward for thoroughness is high quality of sugar, big extraction from the canes, and a substantial balance in the bank.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation, of 2, Hatton Court, E.C., in their second monthly report (to October 1st), publish the resolutions passed by the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, a public meeting at Kingston, Jamaica, and the Northside Sugar Planters' Association of the same island, urging the development of the British sugar industry by preferential treatment in British markets. The formation of a British Agricultural Section at a meeting held on September 13th, over which Viscount Milner presided, is recorded, and it is mentioned that at a meeting of the Sugar Machinery Manufacturers' Section, now renamed the "British Empire Sugar Machinery Association," suggestions for a policy for securing the interests of the industry were laid before the Committee by Mr. A. R. Robertson and others. It was proposed and agreed that the members of the Section should keep the Secretary informed of any men applying to them for positions as engineers either at home or on Colonial sugar estates, and that these names should be circulated amongst the members from time to time, and further, that advertisements should be inserted in the sugar journals notifying sugar machinery engineers that a register was being compiled.

At a meeting of the Council on September 1st, the Executive Committee was empowered to invite representatives of the self-governing Dominions, as well as men prominent in the business world, representing banking, shipping, and great merchant houses, to be Vice-Presidents or Members of Council. On the suggestion of the Chairman it was further resolved that provincial committees should be formed for such centres as Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, etc., and that committees should also be formed for the self-governing Dominions.

Following an account of the Mansion House meeting of September 20th, it is stated that as an outcome, negotiations have been instituted with a view to closer co-operation between several associations which were represented at it. The feeling of the Executive Committee of the Organisation is that the time is ripe for an effort towards unification of the various attempts to organise different provinces of industry and trade. They state that it is clearly to the advantage of the nation and the Empire that overlapping should be avoided, and

that the work of various bodies with similar aims should be co-ordinated with a view to their showing a united front, now and after the War, not only to enemy countries, but to opponents of a national trade policy in the United Kingdom.

Substantial progress in the formation of new branches is recorded. Important meetings took place with representatives of the tea and rubber industries, fertiliser manufacturers, the jute trade, leather and tanning industry, wood and pulp. In reference to the indigo industry, news was received that the Behar Planters' Association desired to join the Organisation with a view to the formation of an Indigo Section. Preliminary negotiations were opened for the formation of a Chemical Manufacturers' Section.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

The results of 1914-15 and last year compared.

During the year ended June 30th last, 787 ocean-going vessels passed through the Panama Canal. It will be recalled that the Canal was closed in the middle of September, 1915, and remained closed, except for the transit of small vessels which had waited at the entrances for passage, until the middle of April. There were thus five months of the twelve in which the Canal was in normal operation. Considering the vessels which waited for the reopening and those which came early in April for passage, in anticipation of the opening which had been announced for April 15th, the operations may be considered normal for slightly less than half the year.

The traffic returns for the last two years are summarised by the *Canal Record* in the table given below:—

Item.	Fiscal year 1915.	Fiscal year 1916.	Per cent 1916 of 1915.
No of vessels	1,088	787	72.3
Net tonnage	3,843,035	2,479,761	64.5
Tons of cargo	4,969,792	3,140,046	63.4
Tolls	\$4,343,383.69	\$2,399,830.42	55.3

The working and maintenance expenses in 1915-1916 were \$6,999,750.15, the deficit being thus \$4,599,919.73, which is attributed to the Canal having been closed to traffic for several months. In the preceding fiscal year the tolls exceeded the expenses by \$276,656.38, which represented a profit of .67 per cent, on the expenditure for operation and maintenance alone, not counting anything for interest on the money invested or for depreciation of plant.

Coaling Facilities at Colon.

British West Indian coaling stations, which at present depend almost entirely on manual labour for bunkering ships, will have to face a serious competitor. The new coaling plant at Cristobal, the American suburb of Colon, the northern port of the Panama Canal, is now in regular operation for commercial use, though all the work of the contractors has not yet been completed. The unloader equipment now in use for discharging the colliers, and the two of the four reloader towers which have been taken over for the operation, are

able to supply coal to vessels as rapidly as required. In fact, the reloaders in actual practice usually supply the coal faster than required, for the work of trimming in bunkers in most of the ships requires considerably more time than is needed for the delivery of the coal to the hatches or on deck. One of Messrs. Elders & Pyffes' ships, which has a large open hatch amidships over self-trimming bunkers, received recently 1,250 tons in three hours; but where time is lost in trimming the coal in bunkers, a ship may need eight hours to take her supply.

The reloaders were designed, says the *Canal Record*, primarily for rapid delivery of coal to barges and colliers with large and conveniently placed hatches. In order to adapt them better to the delivery of coal to the run of merchant ships, with all sorts of hatches and coaling ports, the construction of portable pipe chutes will probably be authorized. These can be affixed to the discharge chutes of the reloaders and swung around to various positions to deliver the coal to ports inaccessible to the ordinary reloader chutes. This will simplify both delivery and trimming in many cases.

The barges equipped with Demayo conveyors are still in use at the Canal ports, and are in considerable demand for ships taking relatively small quantities of coal while lying at dock for receiving or discharging cargo. Locomotive cranes with grab buckets are also used, for delivery from cars to ships in dock.

In the use of the new coaling plant there is no charge for delivery in addition to the cost of the coal, which is now \$7.50 per ton on October 1st. There is a charge of \$2 per hour, however, for the use of each mechanical hoist or crane engaged in coaling ships elsewhere than at the coaling plant.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Dr. W. H. Bretz, Senior Medical Officer of St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla, in his report for 1915, calls attention to the continued prevalence of infantile mortality. The annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every thousand of births is, he points out, enormously high, as the following table shows:—

	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 of Births.
St. Kitts	271	288.91
Nevis	138	293.21
Anguilla	32	202.537

The subject has been much to the forefront lately, proved, as it has been, that "a high infantile mortality is a prodigal waste of natural resources." Statistics are against the assumption that poverty is the main cause of infantile mortality; ignorance and neglect are far more important. Congenital conditions, too, in a great measure account for this annual sacrifice, though the main cause lies not in hereditary weakness. "Nature intends all to have a fair start," but the fair start is destroyed in the first few months of existence by (a) bad or insuffi-

cient feeding and (b) neglect. Indications point to these as the main factors of the evil: (a) improper feeding by substituting farinaceous for milk food, (b) neglect caused, may be, by industrial conditions. Mothers do not realise the importance of milk as a food. The only remedy for this condition of things is to overcome the ignorant tradition of centuries by educating the rising generation to fulfil the profession of motherhood, to help in removing the preventable causes of our waste of child life; and it is only by school instruction of the rising generation that any headway can be made. Education is the most important. We must first educate the teachers, for however simple the instruction given may be, it is essential that those who impart such instruction shall be well grounded in the elements of the subject, and thus may we hope to see a reduction in this particular factor in the death rate. We must realise the fact that the wastage of infant life is enormous, and that the causes of those deaths, of the wastage, are so plain, so apparent, that there is an urgent call for the adoption of a complete systematic scheme against infantile mortality.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Many people are inclined to attribute the recent action of the Indian Government in respect of indentured immigration to the shortcomings of the system as it worked in Fiji, and it is of interest to note that that colony has been the first of those receiving immigrants to improve the conditions prevailing. Legislation for abolishing imprisonment for labour offences, which was adopted months ago in Fiji, has still to be adopted in Trinidad, though it is only fair to the Government of that colony to state that pending the passage of a bill, which was under consideration when the last homeward mail left Port of Spain, its chief provisions, which related to the punishment clauses, have been observed for some time past.

Fiji has also been first in the field in securing the immigration of families and increasing the proportion of females. Out of 346 statute adults who recently reached the colony from Madras there were no fewer than 64 families representing 187 persons. Among them were many boys and girls, who should before long become useful workers in the colony. Another satisfactory feature of the shipment was that, excluding infants, there were 50 females to every hundred males embarked.

This augurs well for the future, and it is to be hoped that the British West Indies will be equally fortunate. The indents have been unusually large but scarcity of ships has greatly interfered with emigration from India. Still it is expected that the first steamer will leave Calcutta for British Guiana and Trinidad next week, and that the others will sail at intervals of six weeks. The Jamaica steamer will probably not leave before six or eight months' time.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the preliminary arrangements for the holding of the meeting of

the promised Inter-Departmental Committee on Immigration are being pushed forward, and it is probable that it will sit in January next.

THE JAMAICA HURRICANE.

The West India Committee has received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies the following extract from a despatch from the Governor of Jamaica dated September 16th, with reference to the effects of the hurricane of August 15th:—

I have passed through almost the whole of the island since the date of the hurricane, and I have been in communication with all those who were best able to estimate the extent of the damage done, and of the loss of crops, which will result from the disaster.

There can be no doubt but that the banana industry [crop?] has been practically destroyed, and that there will be no considerable shipments of bananas until the month of June or July of next year. There may be a few bunches from plantations of younger plants which escaped destruction from the storm, though it is considered doubtful whether these young plants may not have been in cases so wrong by the wind that they will not produce fully matured fruit.

The storm, the centre of which passed along the south coast of the island, was fortunately of less intensity than that which devastated the island in 1903 and that which visited the west end of the island in 1912. The force of the wind, however, was sufficient to cause much destruction to trees, and especially to pimento and breadfruit trees, and to a minor extent to logwood trees in certain districts. It, however, did not result in very serious damage to the houses of the poorer classes, and little or no provision will be required for re-housing.

The hurricane of this year, following as it has upon a similar disaster in the same month of last year, cannot but have a serious effect upon the prosperity of the island, and more especially upon the staple industry of the colony, since there will be practically no export of bananas until June or July of 1917, and the export for the current year has been limited, due to the hurricane of last year. It is fortunate, however, that the sugar crop has sustained little or no damage, and that the coffee crop, on which the small settlers in certain parishes depend to a very large extent, will, it is believed, reach the average, though had it not been for the hurricane, it is expected that coffee would have given an abnormal crop. The cacao crop has suffered severely, and will be between 30 to 60 per cent. less than that estimated. The coco-nut crop is likewise expected to be reduced by 50 per cent.

The damage to public buildings, and to public property generally, has not been of a serious nature; flood damages to roads in connection with the hurricane and with the rains that accompanied a subsequent hurricane, which passed to the north of the island on the 30th of August, will, however, necessitate some considerable expenditure. In repairs to telegraphs, buildings, and roads it is estimated that the total will not exceed £11,000.

A "COMBINED Sale for Church of England Missions Overseas" is advertised to take place at the Kensington Town Hall on November 8th and 9th next, from 2.30 to 7 p.m. Lady Stamford, assisted by Miss Dixon and Miss S. Isaacson, will preside over a stall on behalf of the West Indian Mission to West Africa, in which her late husband—who was once a master at Codrington College, Barbados—took so deep an interest, and Lady O'Malley, Miss Sandeman and Miss Billson will have charge of a Jamaica Church Aid Association Stall.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

A complete list of the men of the British West Indian Contingent who have given their lives to their King and Empire since the beginning of the war is given below.

BAHAMAS.

JOHNSON, ALLEN. SAUNDERS, JEREMIAH.
THOMPSON, JAMES A.

BARBADOS.

LYNCH, ARCHIBALD F. WARD, GARFIELD.
MCPHERSON, CARLTON.

BRITISH GUIANA.

CHRISTIAN, HENRY SEARS, SAMUEL AUGUSTUS.
DANIEL, WILSON E. VANGRONIGAN, BENJAMIN
JARVIS, EUSEVIUS J. ALBERT.
PEREIRA, VINCENT G. YAW, H. W. FITZG. O'D.
PRIMO, T. D.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

CADLE, SAMUEL E. OSORIO, LINDSAY THEODORE
ELLIS, E. SLUSHER, ROBERT AUSTIN.
GARBOUREL, WILLIAM E. SMITH, C.
KELVIN, SAMUEL E. A.

JAMAICA.

ADAM, Z. LAKE, DAVID.
AICCHILDSON, HAROLD. LINTON, EDWARD.
ANDERSON, H. B. LYNCH, L. S.
ARCHER, LAWRENCE G. MCFAYDEN, J.
BAKER, CHAS. NATHANIEL. MCKENZIE, EDWIN PHILIP.
BANKS, GEORGE. MCLENNON, A. R.
BARRETT, EDEN SOLOMON. MACK, J.
BARRETT, JAMES. MAIS, CLARENCE ALGERNON.
BENT, EDMOND. MELTSH, JAMES R.
BLACK, H. MORRISON, CECIL.
BROUGHTON, J. MOULTON, E. A.
BRYAN, HENRY E. MYERS, EUSTACE.
BRYCE, ALBERT CONRAD. NELSON, ERNALD SAMUEL.
CLARKE, G. N. NORTHOVER, IVAN.
COLLINS, SAMUEL. O'MELLEY, JAMES.
DIXON, ROBERT D. PARKER, C.
DIXON, WILLIAM. PASSELEY, J. A.
THEOPHILUS. PRINCE, PERCIVAL.
DONALD, ARTHUR L. REID, E.
DRUMMOND, T. RHODEN, ISAAC DANIEL.
DYCE, EDWARD. RICHARDS, A. R.
EDWARDS, FREDERICK. RICHARDSON, JAMES L.
ELLIS, J. N. RICHARDS, SIMEON.
FOSTER, ALLAN MORRIS. ROBINSON, WILFORD.
GALE, A. JACOB. RUDDOCK, J.
GARWOOD, R. E. SAMMES, CYRIL.
GILLESPIE, E. SAMUELS, J. M.
GILLING, R. SAMUELS, U.
COFFE, W. SEAYON, ADOLPHUS.
GRAHAM, GABRIEL. SHAND, Z.
GRAHAM, ISAAC E. SHAW, SEPTIMUS A.
GUNTER, ALEX. WILLIAM. SILVERA, OSCAR.
HAMILTON, WILFRED. SMALL, FREDERICK W.
HANCHARD, CHARLES. SMITH, JEREMIAH EMANUEL.
MORTIMER. WATSON, JOEL J.
HANDLAN, ISATAH. WEBBATELY, PHILIP SAMUEL.
HANSON, CLAUDIUS. WHITTAKER, L.
HARRIS, H. WILLIAMS, ALEXANDER.
HAWTHORNE, E. J. WILLIAMS, J. T.
HENRY, JAMES. WILLIAMS, NATHAN SAMUEL.
HINDS, JOSEPH. WILLIAMS, WILFRED B.
HUTCHINSON, JOSEPH. WILSON, JOHN.
JAMES, D. WINT, J.
JOHNSON, JAMES A. WOODLEY, ALBERT JOSEPH.
JOHNSON, W. A. WRIGHT, A. F.
JONES, EDWIN. WRIGHT, U. A.

ST. LUCIA.

FEVRIER, DENIS. FEVRIER, NELSON.

TRINIDAD.

BONNETT, AARON. MORALDO, JAMES.
DUNCAN, GEORGE. PETERS, ARCHIBALD.
JACOBS, GEORGE H. STEPHEN, LUCIEN.

Since last list was published the names of the following officers from or connected with the British West Indies have appeared in the Roll of Honour:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUTENANT R. E. BATSON, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who has been killed in action, was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Batson, of Harmony Hall, Christchurch, Barbados. He was in America when war broke out, but soon gave up his position and came over to England to join the Colours, spending a fortnight at Barbados with his people *en route*. Soon after arriving in this country he was granted a Commission in the Cheshire Regiment, with which he went through his training. He left for the Front in July last, and on arrival at his destination was transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers. When he received his fatal wound he was with a trench mortar battery. It appears that a heavy shell burst near him, and he was so severely wounded that he died on his way to the dressing station. He came over eager to "do his bit," and he did it fearlessly, gaining the admiration of his brother officers. Lieut. Batson, who was only twenty years of age, set a noble example to others by his enthusiasm and courage, and he will be much missed by his many friends.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ARTHUR WORSLEY BLACKDEN, of the Royal Field Artillery, who was killed in action on September 28th, was the eldest son of Brigadier-General L. S. Blackden, of Trafalgar Park, Jamaica, Inspector of the West Indian local forces, and Officer Commanding the troops in Jamaica. Second Lieut. Blackden was educated at Tonbridge School and the Royal Academy, Woolwich, and was under nineteen years of age when he fell.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ARTHUR VERNON CLARE, London Regiment, who was born in Jamaica in 1895, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Clare. He was educated at Wychwood School, Bournemouth, Wiennan County College, Natal (matriculating at the Cape University at an unusually early age), and St. Edward's School, Oxford. At the outbreak of war he was engaged in the calculating room of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Cornhill. He enlisted in September, 1914, in the 12th London Regiment and went to the front in April, 1915. He had previously served both in the Natal Cadet Corps and the Officers' Training Corps. In February, 1916, he obtained a Commission in the London Regiment, and on September 15th, just a fortnight before he would have attained his majority, he fell whilst most gallantly leading his platoon.

JAMES CONACHER, of the Black Watch, who has been killed in action, was brother of Mr. Walter Conacher, manager of the St. Kitts (Basse Terre) Sugar Factory, Ltd., in St. Kitts.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ASHLEY GORDON LIGGATT, Royal Field Artillery, who was killed in action on September 16th, was the only son of Ashley Scott Leggatt, M.D., of Walton Place, and was thirty-one years of age. He was educated at Malvern, and at the age of eighteen joined the Natal Mounted Police, in which he served for seven years. He held the medal for the Natal Native Rebellion of 1906. Afterwards he entered the service of the Rhodesian Chartered Company, and later became assistant manager of the Falcon Mines, Southern Rhodesia. On the outbreak of war he returned to England and was given a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery. He was wounded on October 24th, 1915, and sent home. He returned to the Front on May 16th. Lieutenant A. O. Scott Leggatt married in March, 1915, Ada, daughter of John Bromley, of Manchester Street, London, and Shalwell, St. Kitts, British West Indies. He was also a near cousin of Mrs. Du Buisson, wife of Mr. T. Du Buisson, of Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson & Co., West India merchants.

LIEUTENANT MAURICE H. F. PAYNE-GALLWEY, who was killed in action on September 25th, was a son of Mrs. F. E. Taylor, of Spanish Town, Jamaica, and of the late Mr. Lionel P. Payne-Gallwey.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUTENANT E. W. HAVELOCK, of Trinidad, who died in hospital on September 18th of wounds received in action on September 15th, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Havelock. He was Rector of St. Anne's Presbyterian Church in the island. He joined the Royal Fusiliers after the outbreak of war, and was thirty-three years old when he died.

Mr. Edgar Tripp writes from Port of Spain under date September 26th:—

Lieutenant Havelock is greatly mourned. He came here about 1910 as Pastor of the St. Anne's United Free Church, and soon by a considerable gift of speech and the exercise of sound, practical christianity, made a name for himself which was honoured and recognised in all dominions. He was intensely patriotic, and his soul chafed at the thought of the ease of life here while men were wanted in the trenches. At our first large public meeting in connection with the war he was selected as one of the speakers, and right well he acquitted himself, only expressing one regret, viz., that he had not the privilege of joining two Catholic priests who were about leaving for the front. But the "Call" shortly became too strong for him. At first he gave valuable assistance in helping to drill recruits into shape (he knew all about it). Then he threw up everything, went home, ultimately obtained a Commission, and has now fallen, wounded, it is understood, on the 21st, and died the day after. He had married a Trinidad lady and left one young child, who, with the widow, is now at home. Few men not native of the place could be more widely grieved for than this brave young muscular Christian, whose noble example will long be remembered in his late adopted country.

PRIVATE JOHN CLARE HOADLEY, of the Royal Engineers, who has been killed in action, was at the outbreak of war a member of the British Guiana Civil Service. He was born in Trinidad, and Mr. Edgar Tripp writes of him, under date September 26th:—

John Clare Hoadley was a son of the late John Hoadley who was the much respected founder of the firm of that name, of which his eldest son is now the head. Young Hoadley was born at Port-of-Spain, but was in the British Civil Service. When war broke out he entered the O.T.C. (Artists), but could not get leave for active service. Later on, chemists were badly wanted for a special Brigade of the Royal Engineers. He happened to have studied and to have passed in chemistry, so he embraced the chance and was accepted in July, 1915. On August 4th, he was among the slain in France. He came from a family of athletes, and was one himself, and a good, straight, modest young fellow besides, popular with all, for whose sorrowing family sincere sympathy is felt.

WOUNDED AND INVALIDED.

CAPTAIN W. ARRINDALL (of Trinidad), the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

RIFEMAN H. D. BAYNES (son of the late Edwin Baynes, of Antigua), King's Royal Rifle Corps, has been severely wounded in the left leg in France, and is now in hospital at Bradford, Yorks.

SECOND LIEUTENANT REGINALD CHEYNE BERKELEY (son of Mr. Humphrey George Berkeley, late of the 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), The Rifle Brigade, has been wounded.

SECOND LIEUTENANT T. B. H. BERKELEY (son of Mr. Humphrey George Berkeley, late of the 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), Suffolk Regiment, attached to Machine Gun Corps, is suffering from shell-shock.

LANCE-CORPORAL C. B. BETHEL (of the Bahamas), Somersetshire Light Infantry, attached Wiltshire Regiment, has been wounded in the right hand.

PRIVATE GEORGE S. CORNIN (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Civil Service Rifles, has sustained a slight gunshot wound in the thigh.

SECOND LIEUTENANT CHARLES COX (son of Sir Charles T. Cox, K.C.M.G., late Government Secretary of British Guiana), Royal Garrison Artillery, is in the 2nd Western General Hospital at Manchester recovering from concussion resulting from an accident in France.

ARTHUR ST. HILL (of Barbados), Royal Fusiliers, London Regiment, is suffering from a gunshot wound in the arm.

RIFEMAN J. H. LAMOS (of Trinidad), The King's Royal Rifles, has been wounded, and is in hospital at Leeds.

HONOURS.

LIEUTENANT A. MCARTHUR, Northumberland Fusiliers, late of Pln. Skeldon, Berbice, British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross and bar for two acts of conspicuous gallantry.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

ARMSTRONG, Corporal E. Lindsay (son of the late Mr. Samuel A. Armstrong, of Barbados), King's Royal Rifles.

ARMSTRONG, Lance-Sergeant F. C. (son of the late Mr. Samuel A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

BATSON, Gunner C. S. (son of Mr. H. S. Batson, of Barbados), Canadian Field Artillery.

BAYNES, Nurse Evelyn M. (daughter of the late Mr. Edward Baynes, Commissioner of Montserrat), V.A.D., Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

BECKWITH, Captain (son of the late Dr. Beckwith, District Medical Officer of Manchester, Jamaica, and nephew of Sir Anthony Musgrave, Governor of the island, 1877-1883), Halifax Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

BERTRAND, Walter (Road Surveyor, St. George's, Grenada), King Edward's Horse.

GEORGEAN, Lieut. Dr. Joseph (Government Medical Officer, Turks and Caicos Islands), Royal Army Medical Corps.

GILLESPIE, 2nd Lieut. David H. (son of Mr. James Gillespie, of Demerara, British Guiana), The Royal Engineers.

JOHNSTONE, 2nd Lieut. Robert O. S. (son of Sir Robert Johnstone, late Chief Justice of Grenada), Royal Garrison Artillery.

LANGTON, Pte. C. L. (son of Mr. Phil. L. Langton, of Los Hermanos Caparo, Trinidad), Montreal Battalion, 1st Canadian Division. *At the Front.*

MASON, Driver B. H. (of the Bahamas), Army Service Corps, Mounted Transport.

McKINNEY, J. A. (of the Bahamas), Canadian Infantry.

MEADE, Pte. Alfred B. (of St. Kitts, British West Indies), The Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment).

ROWBOTHAM, 2nd Lieut. J. Alan (Science Master at the Grammar School, St. Kitts), Machine Gun Corps.

SMITH, 2nd Lieut. W. A. Lyne (only son of the late Captain W. J. Smith, the R.M.S.P. Company's Superintendent at Barbados), joined the Honourable Artillery Company at the outbreak of war. Went to the front in September, 1914. Invalided home May, 1915. Received Commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery in August, 1915. Returned to the front January, 1916. Invalided home and invalided out of the Army in September, 1916.

THORNHILL, Private J. O. (British Guiana), 1st Royal Berks Regiment.

THORNHILL, Lance-Corporal F. (British Guiana), London Scottish.

WHITEHEAD, Noel (of the Bahamas), Canadian Infantry.

ALTERATIONS AND PROMOTIONS.

BAILEY, 2nd Lieut. H. (who came over in charge of the 1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent), has been gazetted to the East Surrey Regiment, after passing out of the Artists' Rifles O.T.C. Cadet School.

BOWEN, 2nd Lieut. E. E. W. (of the first Barbados Citizens' Contingent, son of Mr. E. F. S. Bowen, Superintendent of Public Works, Barbados), has been gazetted to the East Surrey Regiment.

BERKELEY, Captain Rupert E. G. H. (second son of the late Hon. J. B. H. Berkeley, C.M.G., of Shadwell, St. Kitts, and Cedar Hill, Antigua), has been appointed D.A.A.G., Western Command.

BROMLEY, Captain J. E. M. (eldest son of Mr. John Bromley, of 30, Manchester Street, London, and of

Shadwell, St. Kitts), was in the Battle of Loos, with an ammunition column, and was invalided home in December with severe blood poisoning. He has since been appointed to command a Howitzer Battery, and returned to France on September 18th.

Deane, Major F. G. W. (of Barbados), has been promoted to the rank of Major, and commands Springburn-Woodside Central Hospital, Glasgow.

Rvelyn, and Lieut. A. F. (of the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been gazetted from the Artists' Rifles to the Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment).

Kirton, Captain G. G. (son of the late Mr. S. J. Kirton, of the Colonial Bank, Trinidad and St. Kitts), Cheshire Regiment.

Macedonell, Captain Esme R. (late of the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Trinidad), has been appointed Captain in command of an Auxiliary Horse Company of the Army Service Corps in France.

Maingot, and Lieut. J. L. P. (of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been gazetted to the Suffolk Regiment.

Sawyer, R. H. (grandson of the late Hon. R. H. Sawyer, C.M.G., of the Bahamas), Artists' Rifles O.T.C.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

In last issue we published a War Office specification of the regulation muffler for the use of men on active service. We now supplement this with the official specification of mittens for the guidance of ladies and work parties willing to make them:

Required:—Four needles No. 12. Two ounces Allan wheeing or other suitable wool. Drab shades.

Directions:—Cast 16 stitches on to each of three needles, making 48 in all. Knit 2 plain, 2 purl, until a ribbed cuff three inches deep is attained. Then knit all plain for another inch in length. Commence the thumb on the first needle. For this knit 2; make 1 by knitting into the loop of wool between the stitches; knit 2; make 1; continue knitting to the end of this first row. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the fourth row; knit 2; make 1; knit 4; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On first needle begin the seventh row; knit 2; make 1; knit 6; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the tenth row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 8; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the thirteenth row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 10; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On first needle begin the sixteenth row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 12; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the nineteenth row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 14; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the twenty-first row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 16; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows. On the first needle begin the twenty-fourth row. Knit 2; make 1; knit 18; make 1. Finish with plain knitting. Knit two plain rows.

Take off the 18 stitches between the increasing stitches on a piece of wool and tie securely to prevent slipping. Knit around plainly, excluding these 18 stitches, until $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch length is gained, then knit 2 plain, 2 purl, for another inch. Cast off very loosely. Take up the 18 stitches on three needles, 6 on each. Make 2 stitches at the inside of the thumb, giving eight stitches on the first needle. Knit plainly round for $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, then 2 plain, 2 purl, for 1 in. Cast off very loosely.

The mitten when finished should measure 8 ins. long and 7 ins. wide across the top.

Parcels containing gifts of woollen mittens, mufflers and helmets, which will be gratefully acknowledged, should be sent to Miss Moseley (Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee), c/o The West Indian Contingent Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W. The Committee will also be glad

to receive gifts of cigarettes, sweets, games, etc., for men in hospital.

* * *

As emphasized by the speakers at the recent meeting reported in last CIRCULAR, donations towards the West Indian Contingent Fund are still needed to enable the Committee to cope with the steadily increasing demands upon it. Contributions, 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.



A. B. W. I. Brooch

It being anticipated that many people connected with the West Indies will like to have miniature replicas of the badge of the British West Indies Regiment as souvenirs, brooches of it have been prepared. These have been executed in three different styles by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., the makers of the original badge, who have kindly offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds of their sales to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Post free.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2	10	0
Silver and Enamel		3	6		3	9
Gilt Metal Enamelled		2	0		2	5

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.



Back of Brooch

Changes have recently taken place in the commands of the British West Indies Regiment. As it is not permissible to mention the numbers of battalions, it can only be stated that Colonel A. E. Barchard and Colonel L. G. V. Hart have changed places with Colonel C. Wood-Hill and Colonel J. H. L. Poe, respectively.

* * *

Work parties are now being held by the Ladies' Committee at 5, Trevor Square, on Thursday mornings from 10 to 1. As many comforts are required for the winter workers will be welcomed, and those desiring to knit at home will be supplied with wool on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Among the recent gifts received by the West India Committee for the sick and wounded have been 100 pillows and 14 cushions stuffed with silk cotton from Mrs. Knight, of Bridgetown, Barbados. The silk cotton was from trees belonging to Mr. J. C. Hoad, Mr. E. F. S. Bowen, Mr. C. W. Shettle, and Mr. W. A. Kirton, whilst Messrs. Da Costa & Co., Messrs. Cave, Shepherd & Co., and Messrs. D. Hope Ross, Ltd., kindly provided the cloth. There were prospects of quite a good crop of silk cotton, which is becoming quite a valuable commodity since its value for stuffing life-belts has been appreciated. Unfortunately, however,

there was difficulty in getting the boys to go up into the trees, which are exceptionally tall with spiky branches, and heavy rains and high winds disperse much of the cotton.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,627 16s. 2d., of which amount £1,056 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse	10	10	0
Samuel T. Kerr	5	0	0
A. Kouric, Esq. (examined for cigarettes)	3	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

W. H. L. MEDFORD, who came over with the Barbados Merchants' Contingent, and has enlisted in the Army Service Corps, has won the Barbados Scholarship.

THE New Zealand Shipping Company, Ltd., announces sailings by its steamers to New Zealand and Australia through the Panama Canal "with liberty to call at any place on the route or not on the route."

In the article on "The Overseer and Factory Control" on page 370 of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, in the eighth line from the bottom of the first column, "100 cc. of copper solution" should read "10 cc. of copper solution."

THE Bryant Press of Toronto are about to publish a volume entitled "John Morton of Trinidad." The book, which is edited by Mrs. Morton, who now resides at Tunapuna, Trinidad, will describe the life-work of Dr. John Morton among the East Indians in the West Indies.

FURTHER evidence of the strength of the Entente Cordiale in the West Indies, if any were needed, would be afforded by the kindly act of the Colony of Martinique in presenting, as they have done, two tons of sugar and 10,000 francs for the relief of the sufferers from the recent hurricane in Dominica.

MRS. ELIZA PHILLIPS, of Vaughan House, Morland Road, Croydon, who died on August 18th last, aged 93, widow of the Rev. E. W. Phillips, Vicar of St. Mark, Surbiton, left estate of the gross value of £100,185. Among other charitable bequests she left £500 for the benefit of poor natives of the Island of St. Vincent, British West Indies.

WILL readers of the CIRCULAR who are Fellows of the Zoological Society of London kindly send to the Hon. Secretary, West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., tickets for admission to the Gardens for distribution among men from the West Indies in His Majesty's Forces? On Sundays officers and men in uniform are admitted free by application at the Society's office, but on other days payment has to be made.

MRS. INGE, widow of the Rev. William Inge, D.D., Provost of Worcester College, whose death at Oxford is announced, aged 83, was the daughter of the late Ven. Edward Churton, Archdeacon of Cleveland, and sister of successive Bishops of Nassau, in the West Indies, Bishop E. T. Churton and Bishop H. U. Churton, who succeeded to the See on the death of his brother. The second Bishop Churton was drowned whilst making a visitation of the Diocese.

THE Executive of the Tariff Reform League, which met recently at the House of Commons, has decided to undertake forthwith a vigorous educational campaign throughout the country, with the following objects:—

1. To support the Government in its adhesion to the policy of the Allied Powers laid down at the Paris Conference.
2. To urge upon the Government the necessity of taking adequate executive action on the Paris resolutions without delay.
3. To combat organisations which are in opposition to the resolutions of the Paris Conference.

The Tariff Reform League will work on national lines, wholly irrespective of political parties, and invites those who desire to assist either with service, or money, or both, to communicate with the Secretary, Tariff Reform League, 7, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

THE Bahamas Government have recently found it necessary to issue a Proclamation prohibiting the carrying coastwise of "Submarines of all kinds and vessels, boats and craft of the character or in the nature or having the appearance of submarines." This action was taken owing to an attempt being made by a gentleman claiming American citizenship, but bearing a distinctly German name, to take to Florida a dummy submarine which had been used in Nassau harbour last year in connection with their cinema work. For some months past the craft has been carefully housed on a beach, and its removal by an individual who had come to the island for the purpose excited not only the curiosity but the suspicion of the public and the authorities. It was supposed in some quarters that the object of taking the submarine away was to use it as a decoy for the British ships of war in northern waters, and in view of the subsequent appearance of U-boats off New York it would seem not unlikely that there was some ground for suspicion. The prompt action of the Bahamas authorities was, in the circumstances, perhaps, timely.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The resumption of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's fortnightly service between New York and ports on the Spanish Main, now announced for January next, will be a distinct advantage to Jamaica, but it will not help the other British West Indian Islands in the least. The steamers will, as at present arranged, call at Santiago, Cuba; Kingston, Jamaica; Colon, Savanilla and Cartagena. The British West Indian Islands and British Guiana, Jamaica excepted, which for years paid large subsidies to the Company, will still have to depend on cargo boats and the Canadian service.

ANTIGUA—The Sugar Industry after the War.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, SEPTEMBER 8th. The weather has again been very unsettled, rough and windy, with plenty of rain. A good many acres of the old crop of canes will be left standing owing to weather conditions. Gunthorpe's is expected to close down on the 16th, after making the largest crop ever reaped—say 12,500 tons.

The condition of affairs with regard to muscovado sugar has not improved. Sugars have been stored in Halifax, N.S., and we are being advised not to ship to-morrow. The Halifax refiners will not bid, and we have no remedy.

A meeting of sugar growers was held on September 4th at St. John's to consider a letter from the West India Committee regarding the British Empire Producers' Organisation. Some thirty-five persons interested in the sugar industry attended. The following resolution was proposed by Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, seconded by the Hon. R. Warneford, supported by the Hon. J. J. Camacho:—

"Resolved that this meeting pledges itself to support and co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation in its efforts to secure preferential treatment for Empire grown produce, especially sugar, and to contribute to the funds of the Organisation as far as lies in their power."

SEPTEMBER 22nd.—The weather conditions have been very unstable during the fortnight, but are more settled at the time of writing. We have had a further visit from Dr. Francis Watts.

The sad news has been received of the death of Malcolm Shepherd. He has been missing since August 11th, and we had been hoping that the worst had not happened. The sympathy of the whole community goes out to the Dean and his wife. Malcolm was their youngest son, a fine, promising, clever lad, straight as a die, a favourite with all. Thus again is Antigua paying the price, and another of her sons has paid the price of Empire.

BARBADOS—A Vigorous Sugar-cane Crop.

According to the *Advocate* of September 19th, the month opened with heavy rains which kept well up for the first week, but the second week was a spell of dry and very hot weather. On the 18th there was a welcome downpour which was not only needed in the fields but the streets, as the dust was becoming unbearable. The cane crops are healthy and vigorous everywhere. In St. Lucy they were rather low up to the end of July, but the August rains saved the situation, and they are satisfactory if less forward than last year's crop. Our St. John correspondent says he has never seen a finer crop in that parish and the report from St. Philip is the same. There was a special meeting of the House of Assembly on the 12th, when it was decided to authorise the Governor to secure the assistance of Mr. Marwood of Trinidad to make a report on the railway, with a view to the Government's acquiring that concern, which has been the subject of rather a heated correspondence.

The obituary includes Mrs. Hughes, wife of Rev. J. S.

Hughes, Vicar of St. Matthias. The health of the island is good.

BRITISH GUIANA—The British Guiana Planters Assn.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, SEPTEMBER 9th.—The weather has continued favourable. At a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association on the 28th ult., the accounts for 1915-16 were adopted. Mr. H. E. Murray was re-elected Chairman, and the Council were also all re-elected, viz., Messrs. J. Gillespie, H. Y. Delafous, G. R. Garnett, J. M. Fleming, with the writer as Secretary and Treasurer.

JAMAICA—West India Committee's Work Appreciated

MESSRS. J. E. KERR & CO., LTD., SEPTEMBER 19th.—We are glad to say that the first outlook after the hurricane was somewhat worse than it has really proved to be. Unquestionably, the entire present crop of bananas in Jamaica has been entirely lost, but the damage to the crop for 1917 has not proved so great as at first was expected, and we hope that the Spring crop for 1917 will be secured, and, in most instances, the suckers that will bring on this crop have not been shaken to any extent. In regard to the financial situation arising from the disaster, the Legislative Council meets shortly to discuss the situation, but we think that if the Government assist the small settlers through the Loan Banks that any disaster will be averted.

We very much appreciated the efforts of the West India Committee in regard to obtaining tonnage for the banana crops prior to August 15th, and we were very glad to see the success with which your efforts were met. As you say, however, there is no further necessity now for tonnage to move the present banana crop.

The banana industry, unquestionably, has proved a gamble which has gone against the grower, and we are all turning every attention now to the resuscitation of cane cultivation. The Sugar Committee are using every endeavour to work out the situation for the resuscitation of our cane cultivation on the most modern and economic lines, and we hope that their efforts will result in success, as it undoubtedly would be a great benefit to the community as a whole.

ST. KITTS—Support for British Empire Producers.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, SEPTEMBER 29th.—I regret to have to report the death of two members of the community, Mr. J. O. Challenger, merchant, who died on July 15th after a long illness, and Dr. Joseph Skeet Myers Nurse, M.B., C.M., who died suddenly at "The Grange," Cayou Street, on August 23rd, after twenty-five years of faithful service to the colony.

The island was favoured with excellent growing weather throughout the month of August. Two cyclones passed us, the one that swept across to Jamaica, and the other on the 28th ult., which, we regret to hear, played havoc in Dominica. The island cane crops promise well for next season, the growth, if anything, being more advanced than at this period last year. Some early planted cotton has given good returns, but the wet and rather rough weather of last month has blighted the hopes of several planters. The cotton area planted is rather less this year—about 600 acres—not more than half of which will give satisfactory returns.

At recent meetings of the Agricultural and Commercial Society it was decided to become affiliated to the Association of Chambers of Commerce for the West Indies, and also to support actively the British Empire Producers' Organisation, and to solicit subscriptions locally in support of their movement. At the meeting on the 15th inst. Dr. Watts, C.M.G., was present, and besides speaking in support of organising Imperial trade after the War, he strongly advocated the need of more scientific teaching and thinking in connection with agriculture in these days. Messrs. A. O. Thurston, Jos. Farara, Geo. Slack, J. R. Yearwood, and S. B. Goodall spoke in support of the Organisation, and the following resolution, proposed by Mr. J. R. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Geo. Slack, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the St. Kitts Agricultural and Com-

mercial Society desires to express its hearty approval of the views and policy of the British Empire Producers' Association and suggests that subscriptions be invited from estate owners at the rate of 5/- per 1,000 tons canes delivered the Central Factory during the last season, and that the Commercial interests be also asked to contribute to the cause."

The police authorities here have been active in routing out and bringing to justice several members of the "obeah" fraternity lately. It is astounding that in these days the obeah dealers' trade should still be a flourishing one, but without a doubt it is so, and some who practise the art are no doubt a danger to the community.

ST. VINCENT—A New Market for Stock.

MR. W. N. SANDS, SEPTEMBER 17th.—The season so far has been a fairly good one in most districts for different crops. Progress continues to be made with sugar, peas, and Indian corn, but the area in cotton is still far below the average acreage of the past few years. The exports of livestock continue to increase, and a new intercolonial market for us—namely, Martinique, has to be recorded. Although our exports, with the exception of cotton, show satisfactory increase, imports are restricted, and it is in this way more particularly that local revenue suffers. Still, in the estimates for the year it is anticipated that revenue will about balance expenditure.

A change in the organisation of the local Public Works Department is contemplated. Mr. J. Landreth Smith, Crown Surveyor, is to be made Colonial Engineer, with control of both the Public Works and Crown Lands Departments. During the absence on leave of the Hon. Conrad J. Simmons, Mr. J. B. Kernahan is filling his seat in the Executive and Legislative Councils, and Mr. T. W. S. Garraway is acting Attorney-General in place of Mr. A. C. V. Prior, who has proceeded to England on a short holiday.

The Agricultural Department has been taking vigorous measures for the extermination of the native food plants of the cotton stainer. It is hoped by these means, as well as by the early destruction of old cotton stalks and the deferring of cotton planting until May in each year, to control the pest. It is now clear that the internal boll disease following attacks of the cotton stainer is one of the chief causes of the poor yields of Sea Island cotton of the last four years.

TOBAGO—Cacao Picking Commences.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, SEPTEMBER 20th.—The weather continues favourable for the ripening crops—blazing sunshine with almost daily showers. Cacao picking has commenced, and promises to be continuous for months to come, provided the weather is right. The natives are busy planting potatoes, and the Public Works Department is also busy, while estates work is delayed, cutlassmen being exceptionally scarce. It seems certain that peasants, as well as the larger estates, are cultivating, draining, etc., more thoroughly, and this is more than utilising our rather uncertain labour supply. Fortunately, East Indians are relieving the position to some extent, but more labour is needed to develop the island.

Our mail service is exasperating. Home mails drop into Trinidad just a day after our steamer leaves, and we have to wait for a week or ten days for them.

TRINIDAD—A Cash Bonus for Cane Farmers.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 21st.—The Governor continues his visits to all parts of the country, regarding which he will soon have a personal knowledge of a very intimate, and, it is hoped, useful character. His energy seems untiring, and he takes the keenest interest in obtaining all information that may be useful.

The weather continues ideal for the planters, rain and sun in grateful proportion. One cacao crop has run into the other, and the receipts of this product seem likely to continue on a generous scale until the end of the year. The Usine St. Madeleine has paid to its cane farmers the generous bonus of 3/- per ton upon all canes delivered to that factory for crop 1916. This is much more than expected by the most sanguine of the farmers, and will doubtless prove a great stimulus to the industry. The

Hon. Gideon Murray is here, partly on a visit to the Governor, and partly to Sir Norman Lamont, and is taking much active interest in our doings and prospects. The Agricultural Credit Society's Ordinance, which was passed some time ago, thanks to the persistent efforts of the Agricultural Society, and specially to Mr. Freeman, who for some time acted as Chairman of its Bank's Committee, is in the initial stage of bearing fruit. In two districts the necessary preliminary steps are being taken to establish loan banks, and the result will be watched with much interest.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 25th.—Letters dated 8th, 11th, 12th, and 25th all reached here together by *French Mail* on 21st instant, so that it looks as if a mail miscarried, or a bag went astray for the time.

As exemplifying the old proverb of a man not being a prophet in his own country, for the moment at any rate, the Government of Barbados have paid the compliment to Mr. Marwood, the General Manager of the Trinidad Railway, of inviting him to visit that colony and inspect and report upon the value of the much troubled railway concern there, which the proprietors are negotiating for the Government to take over. I have no hesitation in saying that our sister colony could not have selected anyone more competent or upon whom they may more thoroughly rely for accurate and reliable opinion.

The war is coming home more and more to us. The last few days bring the sad tidings of two more lives much valued in Trinidad given for the Cause, those of John Clare Hoadley and Lieut. E. W. Havelock. (Mr. Tripp's sympathetic remarks about these two gentlemen who have nobly given their lives to their King and Empire, is published elsewhere in this CIRCULAR.)

It is not always, unfortunately, that officials are as popular as they, of course, should be, but Major George Herbert May, the new Inspector Commandant of the Local Forces and Inspector General of Constabulary, cannot complain under that head. He was here before, and no man in the force was more generally and justly liked. Then he was promoted to Singapore, and now he returns as chief in command on the retirement of Colonel Swain. He has had a most cordial all-round reception, of which he may be justly proud. Among his other claims on Trinidad's goodwill not the least is the fact that he is the husband of a charming creole wife, in the person of the daughter of our talented and worthy Mayor, the Hon. Enrique Prada. There is plenty of scope for a firm active hand, and a progressive mind, in the important position now filled by Major May, and none of us have any doubt as to his capacity to "fill the bill."

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

D'Albuquerque.—On the 1st October, 1916, at The Manor House, Hayes, Middlesex, the wife of Lieut. N. P. d'Albuquerque, K.S.I.L., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

Chitty-Becher—On October 6th, at the Parish Church, Barton Mills, Suffolk, Captain T. H. Willes Chitty, R.F.A. (T), elder son of T. Willes Chitty, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to Violet Elizabeth, only daughter of Major E. P. Becher, R.F.A., of Sherwood, Dominica, B.W.I.

WANT.

Brittsher, under military age, City business experience with well-known produce merchants seeks opening on plantation, or other appointment abroad. Good references, energetic, reliable and trustworthy.—"H. S." c/o The West India Committee Circular, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Imperial Aircraft Flotilla.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—The inhabitants of the British West Indies have given such frequent proof of their generosity that we hesitate to make yet a further appeal. From time to time gifts of aircraft have been received on behalf of various of His Majesty's West Indian possessions for presentation to the Royal Flying Corps. The following are the gifts to date, as far as we are aware, to the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla organised by the Over-seas Club:—

- (1) £1,500 "British West Indies"—presented by general subscriptions from residents in the British West Indies.
- (2) £2,250 "Jamaica No. 1"—presented by the people of Jamaica, through the Jamaica Aeroplane Committee.
- (3) £2,250 "British Guiana"—presented by the people of British Guiana.
- (4) £2,250 "Jamaica No. 2"—presented by the people of Jamaica, through the Jamaica Aeroplane Committee.

Presented direct to the Colonial Office:—

- (5) £2,250 "Trinidad"—presented by the Chamber of Commerce, Trinidad, through the West India Committee.
- (6) £1,500 "Dominica"—presented by the residents of Dominica. This was the first aeroplane presented to the Royal Flying Corps from overseas.

It will be seen, therefore, that the residents of the British West Indies have presented six aeroplanes to date. We are very anxious that a whole flotilla of twelve machines should stand to the credit of the West Indies, and we are inviting the powerful assistance of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to help in the task. We have recently received a cheque for £500 through the West India Committee on behalf of Mrs. Perez, Fairview, St. Joseph, Trinidad, which sum, together with previous monies received from residents in Trinidad, makes a total of £680 16s. 1d. We are hoping for a further sum from Trinidad and Tobago to complete the cost of this Trinidad machine. If this sum is forthcoming, it will bring the total of the West Indian gifts to seven, with only five more required to complete a flotilla.

For the information of those who are not aware of the work of the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla, I should like to append the following letters:—

- (1) From Lord Stamfordham on behalf of His Majesty the King.
- (2) From the late Lord Kitchener.
- (3) From Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies.
- (4) From Mr. Lloyd George, Secretary of State for War.

Yours faithfully,

F. WRENCH,

Hon. Secretary and Organiser.

The Over-seas Club, General Buildings,
Aldwych, London, W.C.
16th October, 1916.

[ENCLOSURES.]

Buckingham Palace,

5th August, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday. The information which it contains has been communicated to the King, and it is needless to say His Majesty is gratified to learn of the liberal spirit with which the Overseas Dominions have responded to the appeal from the Over-seas Club for funds to form an Imperial Aircraft Flotilla.

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) STAMFORDHAM.

War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.,
19th May, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I am gratified to hear of the prompt response to the appeal issued by the Over-seas Club to its members and friends in all parts of His Majesty's Dominions overseas, which has already permitted the presentation of an aeroplane to the Royal Flying Corps.

I was interested to learn that the aeroplane in question had been paid for by the generous donations of several thousands of British subjects overseas, and, as I understand that you are hoping to obtain the gift of an aeroplane from each part of the Empire, I sincerely wish you success in your efforts.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) KITCHENER.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.,
16th October, 1915.

Dear Sir,

I am much interested to learn of the success of the appeal made by the Over-seas Club with a view to forming an Imperial Aircraft Flotilla, containing units from various portions of His Majesty's Dominions. The fact that, as a result of your appeal, thirty-four aeroplanes have been presented to the Royal Flying Corps in seven months is a very striking tribute to the patriotism and generosity of British subjects overseas, and I sincerely hope that the Flotilla will ultimately number the hundred units which you are attempting to provide.

Yours truly,
(Signed) A. BONAR LAW.

War Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

Dear Sir,

I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Over-seas Club on the formation of the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla. I understand that to date—thanks to the splendid generosity of the subscribers overseas—you have been able to present to the Royal Flying Corps seventy-four aeroplanes, with promises of a number more.

I hope that your ambition of an Imperial Air Fleet of 100 units will be realised.

It is very gratifying to note that our kinsmen overseas are taking such a deep interest in our Air Service.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) D. LLOYD GEORGE.

[We sincerely hope that the West Indian aeroplane flotilla will soon be completed, and shall be glad to acknowledge in these pages any contributions towards this very desirable object.—Ed.]

Cane Farming in Trinidad.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
Sir,—I was much interested in reading your leading article on Cane Farming in Trinidad, which appeared in your last CIRCULAR, and in the figures showing the progress of the industry the last nineteen years.

As a frequent visitor to Trinidad in the early days of the industry, I was much struck with the efforts made by Mr. Peter Abel, of the Usine St. Madeleine, and his subordinates to make cane-farming a success. Every facility was given to the farmers to market their canes. Scales were placed in convenient situations to receive them, and everything that could be done in the way of encouragement was done. But, on the other hand, I was equally struck with the bad quality of the canes supplied by the farmers as compared with those of the estates canes, and with the want of cultivation generally displayed in the farmers' patches of canes, and came away from my visits with the uncomfortable sense that the industry was going to be a failure.

All these troubles, as you say, appear to have been got over, but I cannot too strongly warn planters, from what I have seen elsewhere as well as in Trinidad, against relying too much upon these small growers for a cane supply. The backbone of a Central Factory system is not the farmers supplying twenty tons or so of canes annually, but the farmer farming a hundred acres or more of his own land, who has capital to finance the farm during the period of growth, and who puts his knowledge and experience and energy into the cultivation of his canes.

Yours obediently,
PLANTER.

OUR LIBRARY.

The Mauritius Almanac.

THE MAURITIUS ALMANAC FOR 1916. By. A. Walter, F.R.A.S. Mauritius: The Mauritius Stationery & Printing Company, Ltd.

We have received the Mauritius Almanac for 1916. Compiled by Mr A. Walter, F.R.A.S. This publication is in its forty-eighth year, and is a monument of industry and research. If there is anything to be known about Mauritius not included in this portly volume, it will be indeed a learned Mauritian who discovers the omission. The information given is admirably arranged for reference, and we could wish that some such publication were compiled annually, giving as fully and completely all the details of the administration, trade and agriculture of the West Indies as a whole. When such a long desired work is put into preparation, its compilers might easily do worse than take the Mauritius Almanac for their guide and criterion.

THE CULTIVATION AND PREPARATION OF COFFEE FOR THE MARKET. José Jotapeu. 2/6

Within a very small compass, Mr. Jotapeu has compressed an astonishing amount of information with regard to the cultivation and preparation of coffee. In the opening chapters the various species of coffee are considered, both from the economic and cultural standpoint, and the potentialities of the West Indies, notably Jamaica, as large producers of coffee are noted. A useful chapter deals with the planter's enemies—insects and fungi, the symptoms of the attack, and the best means of eradicating the diseases set up, and of destroying the pests. Fertilisation is considered, with statistics of the crop effects of various compounds. Shade, and the best class of tree or plant to produce it, is dealt with at length, and there are useful notes on planting, pulping, drying, husking and polishing, with descriptions of the various machines in use by coffee planters. A final chapter gives some handy calculations, relating to the speed of water for generating power, and to the speed of pulleys and toothed wheels. There are several illustrations.

The illustrations facing page 408 in the present CIRCULAR depict a group of gallant young men of the 'Trinidad Merchants' Contingent who left recently for the Front to try conclusions with Fritz, whom they are eager to meet. Their spirit is splendid, and any Hun who cross their path will have a bad time. The names, reading left to right, are: Standing—Troopers Richard Hale, George W. Hodge, Felix Villarroel, Sydney Daly, and Cleveland Spencer; seated—Troopers Jules Rochemont, Oswald Hamel-Smith, William Howard, and Peter Geofroy. They visited 15, Scething Lane, on several occasions before their departure, and it is a genuine pleasure to the West Indian Contingent Committee to help men like these. The drums and fifes are among those presented by the West Indian Contingent Committee to the British West Indies Regiment.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

Presiding over the 157th half-yearly general meeting on October 4th, Sir William Maxwell Aitken, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the latter showed record figures. The deposits were the largest in the history of the Bank. This development was due to the business in New York and in London, and to prosperity in the West Indies. The realisation of securities during the year had amounted to as much as £500,000, and most of the money had been re-invested in Government War Loans. The realisations were due to the Treasury regulations regarding the disposal of American Securities, and in a measure to the decisions of the

Board regarding the sale of securities in England, which afforded an opportunity to the Bank to re-invest in Government Loans. The realisations would very probably continue during the coming half-year, and it was hoped that in time the amounts which had hitherto been carried in securities would be made use of in banking transactions.

The Profit and Loss Account was very satisfactory, although the profits had been reduced by the realised loss on sales of securities. The investments of the Bank, however, now stood at a figure in the books which, taking into account the Special Reserve for Depreciation of Investments, was less than the market value. It was hoped that in the future the loss on realisations would not fall so heavily upon the Profit and Loss Account. In the West Indies there had been a period of great prosperity. Prices of sugar and cocoa had been high, the market had been good. It was hoped that satisfactory conditions would continue.

The staff had given efficient and loyal service. Mr. Hewett, the Joint General Manager, had been unsparing in his efforts under very considerable difficulties. His staff had been depleted, due to the absence of the men who had joined the Services, and, with a growing business, the problems had been multitudinous, but he had successfully coped with them. They had engaged Mr. Bell as Joint General Manager, and during the time he had been with them he had shown a capacity for the business which was very gratifying and confirmed the confidence of the Directors in the wisdom of their selection.

An Act of Parliament had been secured which authorises the Bank to extend its operations throughout the British Empire. The New York office had been moved to extensive quarters and re-organised and equipped for the transaction of a general banking business there. Hitherto the Bank's Branch at New York had confined itself to transactions relating to the West Indies. The Bank now dealt in exchange—and the New York office was well equipped to look after the securities and business engagements of customers there. The London office had also undertaken a general banking business. A cash and bill department had been opened at 51, Threadneedle Street, and that branch was in a position to carry on banking business of every description.

The Directors had decided to extend the Bank business to British West Africa. Branches would be opened in the immediate future at Lagos and Kano in Nigeria, and at Accra in the Gold Coast Colony. The Bank intended to develop its business in every available direction, and hopes to become the Colonial Bank in fact as well as in name.

Mr. Cyril Gurney having seconded the motion, Mr. Festa congratulated the Chairman on his speech, which seemed to mark quite a new era. He assumed that the reduction in the investments meant a larger employment of bank's resources in regular banking business. He had hoped to hear something regarding the Canadian Branch.

The Chairman, replying, said that as to the Canadian business, at the time of the last meeting they had, he thought, had no authority from Parliament. Since that time Parliament had given them the necessary authority to establish there, but they had not yet opened a branch, and, indeed, there might be some delay. They had great difficulty in securing the necessary staff at present; all available men being needed for the West African business. Until they got under way there they would not be able to do anything in Canada. Of course, conditions changed. Six months or a year ago they hoped confidently to open in Canada, but the development of business in New York and in the West Indies and the decision to open in West Africa restricted them.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A resolution declaring a dividend of 3½ per cent, subject to income tax, for the half-year ended June 30th last having been carried unanimously, the meeting terminated.

The Demerara Railway Co.

The report of the directors for the half-year ended June 30th, 1916, shows the following results: Gross Revenue £26,961 6s. 1d. against £25,598 12s. 4d. for the same period in 1915, Gross Expenditure £21,776 3s. 4d. (£21,002 11s. 7d.), less amount due to the Government on account of

the Parika Extension £67 14s. 1d. (£51 10s. 4d.) and Debiture Interest £1,400 (£1,400), making net revenue £3,717 8s. 8d. (£3,144 10s. 5d.). After adding the Government subsidy (£6,250), withdrawal for the Renewal fund £827 19s. 3d. (£1,732 3s. 5d.), and the carry forward for the previous half-year £1,334 7s. 3d. (£1,203 5s. 1d.), there remains an available balance of £12,129 15s. 2d. (£12,329, 18s. 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 3% per annum on Preferred Ordinary Stock £563 10s. (£563 10s.), leaving to be carried forward £1,291 5s. 2d. (£1,491 8s. 11d.). The receipts on capital account have been £694,700 and the Expenditure £697,095 4s. (£694,622 3s. 1d.), leaving a debit balance of £2,395 4s., as against a credit balance of £77 16s. 11d. at the corresponding date of 1915.

The number of Passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	1916.	1915
Demerara Railway	197,434	206,215
Berbice Railway	35,228	32,947
West Coast Railway	137,812	129,144
	370,473	368,306

The tonnage of goods was:—

	1916	1915.
Demerara Railway	23,552	22,264
Berbice Railway	4,023	3,986
West Coast Railway	2,319	2,086
	29,894	28,336

The Traffic Receipts shew an improvement on all lines, but the expenses have again increased owing to the continued rise in the cost of labour and material. Owing to the irregularity in the Mail Services, the dates of arrival of remittances from the colony are still very uncertain, and a short delay in the issue of the proposed Dividends may in consequence again be found necessary.

GASPAREE.

BY L. R. WHEELER, SECOND LIEUTENANT, BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Gasparee, or Gaspar Grande, is one of the romantic islands near the Bocas in the Gulf of Paria, off Trinidad. It possesses some remarkable stalagmitic caves which rival the famous Blue Grotto of Capri for beauty.

Fairy isle in sapphire sea!
All my thoughts fly back to thee;
In the sun the ripples flash,
Sea-birds call, and fishes splash;
Rainbows play where breakers clash
On thy boulders, Gasparee.

Grateful in a tropic glare,
Forest virgin clothes thee fair,
Cedars vast and lianes cling,
"Qu'est ce qu'il dit" and corn-birds sing,
Palms and ferns and wild vines swing
In thy valleys, Gasparee.

But beneath the sun and sea,
Full of gloom and mystery,
Stalactite and stalagmite
Poise in pillars, crystal white,
In thy caverns, hid from sight;
Isle of magic—Gasparee

In those antres water deep
Fills the limestone basins steep;
Shades of Buccaneers of yore,
Pirates bent on gold or gore,
Kraken vast and monsters hoar,
Haunt thy shadows, Gasparee.

Yet the sunshine dauces bright
When the crannies hail its light,
Mermaids then and mermaids fair,
Dryads coy and Undine rare,
Gnomes and pixies everywhere,
Share thy beauty, Gasparee.

Gasparillo, Gasparee!
I will turn again to thee;
When the battle's shriek and blast,
March and vigil, all are past;
Thou wilt give me, at the last,
Peace and gladness, Gasparee!

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carib" London. LONDON, E.C.

October 18th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. Consols stand at 56½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 95½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 81.

SUGAR. Speaking at the Town Hall, Dewsbury, on the 29th of last month, Mr. Runciman, as President of the Board of Trade and member of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, again reviewed the dealings of the Government as regards sugar. Referring to the big sugar deal at the commencement of the War, in August, September, and October, 1914, he gave a glowing account of the action of the Government. He omitted, however, to state that in the following December, while the ex-duty price of granulated in New York was 16/8 per cwt., the ex-duty price of the corresponding sugar in London was 26/- per cwt. He further stated, in a glow of self-laudation, but with a still complete disregard for facts, that "owing to the operations of the Royal Commission, with Mr. McKenna and myself and others as members, sugar is selling in the United Kingdom to-day for less than it is selling in New York." On the 29th of September, the day of his address, the ex-duty price of granulated in New York ranged between 24/8 to 25/10 per cwt., while the ex-duty price of standard granulated in London was 27/7½ per cwt. Yesterday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Runciman reiterated his statement as to the relative prices of sugar in the United States and the United Kingdom. Although the value of granulated in America has risen during the last few days to \$7.15 duty paid, its ex-duty value was still below the value of granulated in the United Kingdom, being 27/- per cwt. as against 27/7½.

Hitherto 89°, and under, sugars have been allowed by the Commission to be imported without conditions from any country. Now a licence will only be granted when it is guaranteed that the sugar is for brewing purposes, an exception being made in the case of British Colonial sugar. It is thought that low-grade West Indians and Mauritius sugars not for brewing purposes will be favourably affected. 12,000 tons Peruvian 96° have been bought by the Commission at an equivalent of 17/- to 17/3 f.o.b. for West Indian 96's.

Continued exception is being taken to the sanction given to retailers only to sell sugar if some other article is bought. It is pointed out that gross injustice is thus done not only to customers, but also to many British industries. A margarine manufacturing company who keep their own shops, but do not deal in sugar, and would not be allowed to do so now under the regulations of the Commission as regards distribution, complains that this action of the Commission is a direct encouragement to foreign manufactures. A grocer buys Dutch margarine, and his customer has to buy it to get his sugar, instead of buying the British manufactured article at another shop.

The Royal Commission has been so unhappy regarding the distribution of the sugar supply that it would have been much better if the situation had been faced when the necessity for restriction occurred, and sugar cards issued. There is no doubt that in the matter of

sugar grocers favour their best customers, who carry out no restrictions in its use; a gross injustice being done to others who are in quite as much need of the desirable article.

The Indian imports for the four months ended July 31st amounted to 100,240 tons—almost exactly the same as for the corresponding period last year. Of this amount, 3,430 tons came from the Straits Settlements, 84,168 tons from Java, 2,251 tons from China, 1,247 tons from Japan, and 9,019 tons from Mauritius.

The Board of Trade returns for September show that the imports of sugar were 124,764 tons, of which 18,787 tons were entered under the heading of refined, and 105,977 tons as unrefined. The refined sugar imports consisted almost entirely of sugar from Java and the United States, the former contributing 6,955 tons and the latter 11,831 tons. Other countries only sent in 13 cwt. The raw sugar imports included 39,617 tons from Cuba and 3,354 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana. The above bring the total imports for the year up to 1,187,937 tons, as against 1,075,934 tons for the corresponding nine months of last year. To this total the United States have contributed 267,189 tons; Java 101,527 tons; Cuba 537,041 tons; Mauritius 106,641 tons; the British West India Islands and British Guiana 60,864 tons; Peru 24,403 tons; and Holland 4,279 tons.

The stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom on September 30th amounted to 136,250 tons, as against 144,550 tons on August 31st. The consumption of sugar for the month, therefore, based on imports, was 139,064 tons, and for the nine months 1,189,047 tons.

The home market has remained steady, with the demand, as usual, greater than the supply. The Government prices remain the same—i.e., 47/1½ for cubes, 41/7½ for standard granulated, 41/7½ for American granulated, and 41/4 for white Javas; West Indian crystallised on the basis of 41/7½ for average qualities, with 40/7 for grocery muscovado.

The New York market has been strong, with rising prices. At the date of last Summary the price of duty-paid Cubans was \$6.02 per 100 lbs., on the 11th \$6.14, and on the 14th \$6.27. Yesterday's value for this sugar was \$6.27. Granulated has participated in the rise, and now stands at \$7.15.

The West India sugar statistics in London from January 1st to October 7th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	44,833	44,499	27,085	34,775	24,212 Tons.
Deliveries ...	48,999	36,546	30,702	23,413	28,216 ..
Stock (Oct. 7)	6,939	13,962	9,335	13,202	3,456 ..

RUM. The market is still quiet, with prices unchanged.

The imports of rum (including imitation) for September amounted to 559,007 proof gallons, and for the nine months 7,371,050 proof gallons. 12,731 gallons were exported for the month and 307,659 gallons for the nine months. The stock in the United Kingdom on the 30th September was 12,069,860 gallons, the highest on record, as against 8,170,000 gallons at the same date last year.

The consumption for the nine months of the year has been 4,112,695 proof gallons, as against 3,765,603 gallons for the corresponding period last year.

The stocks in London on October 7th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	9,309	4,804	8,220	7,436	9,091 Puns
Demerara ...	13,022	6,039	7,803	6,394	6,422 ..
Total, all kinds ...	37,139	22,572	22,467	21,948	23,676 ..

CACAO. The market has been quiet. At auction sales on the 10th, 10,732 bags were offered, of which 3,651 bags were West Indian. The demand was slow. Out of 2,281 bags Trinidad, 323 bags were sold at 84/- to 85/-; 90 bags out of 431 bags Grenada sold at prices up to 80/- for fine quality, 11 out of 13 bags Dominica sold at 77/- to 80/-, and 69 out of 236 St. Lucia at 70/- for ordinary. 81 bags Jamaica were offered, but only 60 bags sold at 81/- for fine quality. 13 bags of St. Vincent, ordinary quality, sold at 65/- to 67/-; 43 bags Demerara sold at 69/-.

According to the Board of Trade Returns, the quantity of cacao which came into this country in September was 7,880,512 lbs. British West Africa headed the contributory list with 3,051,328 lbs., Brazil following with 1,631,964 lbs. 1,097,488 lbs. were imported during the month from Ecuador, 371,056 lbs. from the British West Indies, and 114,260 lbs. from Ceylon.

The exports for the month amounted to 4,837,824 lbs., nearly half of which went to Russia, that country taking 2,410,688 lbs.; 738,304 lbs. to the United States, and only 68,208 lbs. to Holland.

The imports for the nine months reached the total of 169,878,576 lbs. More than half of this came from British West Africa, that colony shipping no less than 92,185,408 lbs. to the United Kingdom. The British West Indies sent in 21,742,224 lbs., Ecuador 19,032,496 lbs., Brazil 9,765,728 lbs., and Ceylon 4,167,968 lbs. For the same period the exports have been 42,636,496 lbs., of which Holland received 9,330,496 lbs., the United States 7,232,368 lbs., and Russia 8,701,616 lbs.

The stocks of cacao in the United Kingdom on the 30th September were 100,808,000 lbs., as against 105,168,000 lbs. on the 31st August, and 47,874,000 lbs. on the 30th September last year. The consumption in the United Kingdom for the nine months was 70,238,080 lbs., rather less than the production of the British West Indies.

The cacao arrivals at the port of New York for the first eight months of the present year amounted to 1,093,599 bags, of which 144,654 bags came from Trinidad, 18,422 bags from Grenada, and 7,105 bags from Jamaica.

The stocks in London on October 7th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	21,538	14,401	12,370	12,681	7,394 Bags
Grenada ...	15,007	2,289	6,466	4,516	2,275 ..
Total, all kinds	208,863	128,783	92,662	86,050	105,445 ..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that since the date of last Summary only a few odd lots of West Indian Sea Island cotton have arrived, which have been sold at prices varying from 14d. to 21d.

The imports of cotton for the month of September were 105,349,800 lbs., of which 17,562,700 lbs. came from British possessions; while the exports amounted to 7,742,100 lbs. For the nine months the imports have been 1,527,031,700 lbs., of which 35,734,600 lbs. came from British possessions, with an export of 218,674,300 lbs.

COFFEE. Market very quiet. At auction on the 12th, 23 bags Jamaica were offered, but bought in. The value of high-class Santos is 54/-.

The imports of coffee into the United Kingdom for September amounted to 6,798,960 lbs., and for the nine months of the year to 154,863,744 lbs. Of the month's supply, 109,536 lbs. came from the British West Indies, and 1,693,970 lbs. from other British possessions. For the nine months the imports included 1,057,168 lbs. from the British West Indies, 4,852,276 lbs. from British India, and 4,780,360 lbs. from other British possessions.

The exports for the month, principally to Russia and Holland, amounted to 47,447,120 lbs. for the nine months.

The stocks on the 30th September were 149,744,000 lbs., as against 92,960,000 lbs. on the 30th September, 1915, and 150,752,000 lbs. on the 31st of August, 1916. The consumption of the United Kingdom for the nine months was 72,632,624 lbs.

FRUIT. Demand firm all round. West Indian Bananas are quoted at £17 per ton, Canary at 6/- to 14/- per crate or drum. Jamaica Oranges are quoted at 15/- to 17/- per case for mixed counts. Jamaica Coco-nuts are quoted at 23/- per bag (100's).

RUBBER. The market for plantation is very quiet, with easier tendency. Fine plantation is worth 2/5, smoked sheet 2/5. Para also very quiet, with few sellers. Fine hard is quoted at 3/3, and soft at 3/-.

The imports of rubber for the month of September reached 16,606,200 lbs., 392,200 lbs. of this coming from British India, 3,716,600 lbs. from the Straits Settlements, 6,449,500 lbs. from the Federated Malay States, 2,690,700 lbs. from Ceylon and its dependencies. For the nine months the imports amounted to 123,807,000 lbs. Of this,

British India supplied 2,816,700 lbs.; the Straits Settlements and dependencies 35,797,500 lbs.; the Federated Malay States 3,029,400 lbs.; Ceylon and its dependencies 16,605,700 lbs., and the Gold Coast 1,160,700 lbs. The exports for the month were 6,577,600 lbs., and for the nine months 81,332,300 lbs., chiefly to the United States and France.

BALATA. Market firm but quiet, owing to small supplies, with no sellers of spot block. Venezuela block is nominally quoted at 2/9½; Panama block at 2/3½ to 2/4; West Indian sheet spot has sold at 3/5 to 3/6. Forward quoted at 3/3.

In last Summary, owing to a printer's error, Venezuelan block was credited with the price of Panama block. The quotations should have been: "Venezuelan block, 2/10 c.i.f. sellers, 2/9½ buyers. Spot quoted 3/1 to 3/1½. Panama block, 2/3½ c.i.f. sellers, 2/3 buyers."

HONEY. Hardly any enquiry privately. The next auctions are to-day.

SPICES. Pimento: The market is lifeless. Importers are holding for higher rates on account of damage to crops from the hurricane, but there are no buyers. Ginger: Only retail transactions in Jamaican at 85/- to 110/- for rather small dull to good bold bright. Mace: Good pale to fine, 2/10; fine pale, 1/9; middling reddish, 1/3 to 1/5; broken, 6½d.

COPRA Market continues to advance owing to difficulty of tonnage, and buyers' price is £34 to £34 10s., usual terms.

ARROWROOT. Market extremely dull. Sales reported about 300 barrels at 2½ to 4½ for the three weeks.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime oil, Distilled is dearer. A good business has been done at 8/6 to 9/-, and now there is little offering. Handpressed is likewise dearer, with small sales at 10/- to 11/-, and supplies wanted. Lime juice. Raw is quiet, with quotations still nominal. Concentrated. Nothing fresh to report since the sale at £22. Citrate of lime. Buyers' price is £27.

AMONG recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have been the Hons. William G. Kay and Hugh McLelland, both members of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. McLelland is about to return to the colony, but Mr. Kay—who, by the way, has only one member above him in order of seniority, Mr. Alcazar—will remain here a little longer. Other visitors have been Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque—whose son, who has just become a proud father, is wounded at Guy's—Mr. Douglas Pile, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, and Mr. F. A. Hinkson, all of Barbados.

MRS. PEREZ, whose husband has just succeeded Dr. H. M. Alston as Government Medical Officer at St. Joseph, Trinidad, has forwarded to the Overseas Club, through the West India Committee, the sum of £500 towards the purchase of a Trinidad Aeroplane for the Imperial Overseas Flotilla. Mrs. A. G. Bell began to collect subscriptions towards this object in 1915, and after a while Mr. Douglas Ince took up the matter, starting a system of chain letters, with Mrs. Perez as Hon. Treasurer and Secretary. That indefatigable lady when last mail left was organising a flag day with the help of Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Scheult, Lady Lucie Smith, Mrs. Inskip Read, Mrs. Roser, Mrs. Lewis Alston, Mrs. Max Smith, Miss Burslem, and the local Girl Guides. A Ragtime Revue for the same cause is also being rehearsed. £680 15s. 11d. in all has been received and remitted.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. J. R. Bancroft | Mr. W. Morris Fletcher | Mr. Albert Mendes |
| Mr. G. S. Browne | Mr. W. Gordon Gordon | Mr. Alfred Mendes |
| Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G. | Mr. John T. Greg | Mr. John T. Moir |
| Mrs. Burdon | Mr. Wm. Greig | Dr. Frank Olliphant |
| Mr. J. W. Catheart | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Mr. T. W. O'Neal |
| Mr. Paul Cressall | Mrs. E. Haynes | Mr. T. Orde |
| Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque | Mr. E. A. Hinkson | Miss F. Robinson |
| Hon. P. J. Dean | Dr. M. H. C. Irving | Mr. T. G. Rose |
| Mr. D. S. De Freitas | Mr. E. C. Jackson | Mr. E. G. A. Saunders |
| Mr. W. de Gale | Mr. A. H. Kirby | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy |
| Mr. J. S. de la Mothe | Hon. A. Don. Lockhart | Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne |
| Mr. Lionel Devaux | Mr. A. Marsden | Mr. J. C. Shaw |
| Sir Walter Eberton, | Sir Frederic Maxwell | Mr. R. S. Short |
| K.C.M.G. | Mr. A. L. McColl | and |
| Mr. C. V. A. Espeut | Mr. J. McIntyre | Mr. F. H. S. Wacneford |

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 38, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
 Mr. F. Driver, 45, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
 Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.
 Mr. W. C. Shettle, Charles Lodge, Rye, Suffolk.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Oct. 20	"Direct"	Spheroid	London	{ A, B, E, F, G	
				{ K, L, M, N	
.. 27	Elders & Fyffes	Camite	Bristol	{ D	
.. 28	Harrison	Professor	Liverpool	{ A, B, E, F, G	
				{ K, L, M, N	
Nov. 6	"Direct"	{ Ocean of	Glasgow	{ A, B, E, F, G	
		{ Sunrise		{ K, L, M, N	
.. 10	"	Catalina	London	{ A, B, E, F, G	
				{ K, L, M, N	
.. 10	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	{ D	

FROM CANADA					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Nov. 3	R.M.S.P.Co	Chaudiere	Halifax, N.S.	{ A, B, E, F, G	
				{ K, L, M, N	
.. 17	"	Carnuel	"	"	

FROM HOLLAND					
Date	Line	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination	
Nov. 3	Royal Dutch	Nicheira	Amsterdam	{ B, E	
				{ 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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.		Pieces
			Oct. 18
4 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3½ %	Barbados	3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	74
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	85½
3 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74½
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81 sd
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	81
3½ %	Jamaica	3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	77½
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1922-44	81
4 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82½
4 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
3 %	Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62½
10 %	The Colonial Bank	"	6 sd
6 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	"	120½
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	"	86½
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures	"	70-75
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	"	92½
4½ %	Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures	"	103½
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	"	8½
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	"	103
—	Trinidad Oilfields Ltd (£1 shares)	"	413
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	"	1319
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	"	27-30
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	"	95-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	"	70-75
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	"	72-75
1½ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	"	19-9
6½ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6½ % Cum. 1st Pref.	"	8
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	"	6
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	"	96

West India Committee Circular.

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ILLUSTRATIONS:—

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The West India Committee Rooms.

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November 1st, 1916.

THE CHINESE BANANA.

THE desirability of cultivating the Chinese or Canary banana (*Musa Cavendishii*) in Jamaica instead of, or in addition to, the *Gros Michel* variety now in favour among the local planters has frequently been discussed, and we notice that the question is again being ventilated as the outcome of the recent hurricane. It is pointed out that the short and sturdy Chinese banana tree offers a greater resistance to heavy winds than the rather top-heavy Jamaica banana tree does. Again, the flavour of the Chinese banana is preferred by many people to that of the Jamaica one. It is not to be expected, however, that the smaller banana will ever displace the larger fruit now grown in Jamaica, and it is for several reasons undesirable that it should do so. There is no difficulty whatever about growing it in Jamaica, as it flourishes from the sea-level up to a height of 4,000 feet, yielding enormous bunches of fruit. Moreover, as we have already pointed out, it has the advantage that it resists wind pressure well, owing, in great measure, to its low growth, consequently obviating the serious loss to which banana planters are at present subject when strong winds blow, to say nothing of hurricanes. Here indeed is a banana for which perhaps double the acreage is available in Jamaica as is possible for the more tropical banana commonly grown, and one which is to a great extent immune from ruin by wind. It must, however, be remembered that, as Mr. FAWCETT has pointed out in his admirable book "The Banana," published by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, the Chinese banana is a delicate fruit to transport, and that when it begins to ripen it must be at once

sold by the retail dealers—a circumstance which makes it particularly difficult to handle by the trade. To enable planters to put it on the market at all, the bunch must be most carefully packed, first in a layer of cotton-wool, then in paper, and finally it is necessary to enclose it in a wooden crate. When packed, it is, of course, safe from bruising, but a wooden crate is not so easy to carry for delivery at the wharf as a bunch of Jamaica bananas. Moreover, as the crate takes up twice as much room in the hold of a ship as a bunch, a cargo of Chinese bananas consists of only half as many bunches as one of Jamaicans, and therefore the cost of freight is doubled. Some years ago the United Fruit Company, finding that some of their plantations in Costa Rica were being ravaged by a fungus disease, made an experiment with Chinese bananas, which should obviate the need of a trial of the Chinese banana on a large scale in Jamaica. They put some 2,000 acres under that variety. They were soon compelled to abandon the experiment, for they found that the people in the United States would not look at the fruit whilst they could get the ordinary Jamaica banana, objecting to their small size, and to their lack of staying powers when they were once ripe. As then, the chief market for Jamaica bananas is in the United States, the planters will be well advised to continue to plant their present variety of banana tree. At the same time, they will be wise if they follow the advice of Mr. JOHN BARCLAY, the able Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and will put in a certain number of acres of Chinese bananas to provide fruit for local consumption, which is another matter altogether.

THE COLONIAL BANK.

SIR WILLIAM MAXWELL AITKEN, in his speech at the half-yearly general meeting of the Colonial Bank, published in our last issue, referred to the intention of the Bank to develop its business in every available direction, and to become the Colonial Bank in fact as well as in name. As a preliminary to wider extensions of business when times are more propitious, the Bank is opening branches at Lagos and Kano in Nigeria, and at Accra in the Gold Coast Colony. The Directors are to be congratulated on the fact that they have not waited until the War is over to commence developments, for there is an immense amount of business waiting to be picked up by the early-comers, and if banking to some extent must follow trade, it is equally true that trade always follows the bank. The Germans have been very active all along the West African coast, and with the compulsory winding-up of so many German businesses and the loss of the Kameruns and Togoland, there will be all sorts of openings for British enterprise

and capital. The Colonial Bank has naturally been hampered a good deal in these developments by the difficulty of securing the necessary staffs, but officials of the Bank are now on their way to the West Coast, and it is hoped that soon the projected branches in Nigeria and the Gold Coast will be transacting business. The opening of the Bank's new premises at 51, Threadneedle Street, for the conduct of a general banking business will undoubtedly prove a boon to existing and prospective customers. The Bank's business with the West Indies is steadily increasing in volume, and the new branches at Port Antonio, Falmouth, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Maria, and St. Ann's Bay have now been open long enough to have proved their value to customers in the north of Jamaica in the matter of current accounts and other banking facilities which agencies do not afford. The Savings Bank business has also shown gratifying development owing to the greater facilities for such business which have been provided. There can be little question that the conclusion of the War will have a profound effect upon overseas trade generally, but especially upon the trade of our tropical Colonies, owing to the demand there will be for foodstuffs and those raw materials of manufacture which only the tropics can produce. The enterprise which the Colonial Bank is now showing should then be richly rewarded. There is another development of the Bank's business, which, unimportant as it may be in money volume, is likely, if extended as occasion permits, to have far-reaching effects upon the prosperity of the Islands. We refer to the Agricultural Credit System, with which we dealt at length in our issue of September 7th. Our readers will remember that we there stated that the Colonial Bank, satisfied with the stability of the Agricultural Credit Societies in St. Vincent, was taking over the Societies' loans. We happened to meet recently an official of the Bank who had personal knowledge of the working of these Societies, and he told us that their effect upon the character of their members was most noticeable, the joint and several liability, which is the main feature of these mutual credit societies, being productive of a public opinion of the most promising description. Idleness or profligacy are always looked upon coldly, when one's capital is at stake, and the most cheerfully happy-go-lucky of people may be taught thrift by a system which provides them with prosperity and threatens them with liability.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

IN the Memorandum which the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE earlier in the year forwarded to His Majesty's Government on the subject of the possibilities of the development of a British Colonial Sugar Industry to a degree adequate to meet the requirements of the consumption of the United Kingdom, the view was expressed that the existing state of war had absolutely annulled the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902. The Government, without making any definite pronouncement on the subject, had made it clear from replies to questions

in the House of Commons that they still considered themselves bound by the pledges not to give a preference to Colonial cane sugar over foreign beet which they had given in connection with the Convention. It is interesting now to find that the COMMITTEE'S view that the War has put an end to the Convention is upheld in Germany and Austria, as it has been in leading sugar circles in France. According to the *Journal des Fabricants des Sucres*, which has obtained its information from the German Press, Germany and Austria have concluded an agreement by which the principles of the Brussels Sugar Convention are to be observed by those two countries as towards each other. If the International Convention still continues, there would be no occasion for the German-Austrian agreement. An additional arrangement also made by these two Powers is that the markets of the Balkans and the Levant are to be reserved for Austria, while that country undertakes not to place its sugar in competition with German sugar in the "natural" markets of that country. There could be no stronger evidence than this that the Brussels Convention is a thing of the past, and we trust that His Majesty's Government will now recognise the fact that they are released from their unfortunate pledge not to give preferential treatment to British Colonial sugar in the Customs Tariff of the United Kingdom; and further, that the way is clear for such tariff arrangements as may keep the present enemy sugar from coming into this country after the War on the same footing as British Colonial sugar. The local Governments in the British West Indies should also be once more in a position to assist local enterprise by guaranteeing interest on capital for the erection of sugar factories, which they have recently been prevented from doing owing to the views of the Imperial Government that this would be violating the principles of the Brussels Convention.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Victory at Verdun.

France has reason to be profoundly thankful that her long and splendid defence of Verdun has been crowned with victory. On a front of nearly five miles her soldiers have broken through the German line everywhere to a depth of nearly two miles, carrying in their advance the village and fort of Douaumont, the quarries of Haudromont, Thioumont, and the Vaux Wood. In a day and a half they have, in fact, taken from the enemy the fruits of three months' desperate fighting. The gallant French made this brilliant leap forward meeting with comparatively slight resistance. But there it was stubborn, the defenders holding out until three-fourths of them were killed. The loss to the French was small in proportion to the gain, whereas the Germans lost in prisoners alone 4,500. As for their counter-attacks, not one has succeeded. General Nivelle is holding on to every inch of

ground he has won, and is extending its area. No wonder the French are permitting themselves to feel elation. The blow struck at Verdun is reverberating through the whole world. It was more dramatic than the cumulative successes on the Somme, because the siege—for it was that—had occupied such a large place in the eyes of the French and Germans, as well as of the Allied and neutral Powers. The German army cannot fail to be humiliated at the disaster, since the battle was more than a tactical success. The enemy is back on the line from which they can resume the offensive only at the cost of great sacrifices.

On the Somme.

The British have captured the Stuff (Staufen) and Regina trenches between Le Sars and the Schwaben redoubt. They are now contributing their part to the encircling of Le Transloy. In the French sector, the storming of Sailly-Saillisel gives the Allies possession of the Péronne-Bapaume road for a distance of over three miles, while the advance on Le Transloy from the south is being pressed.

From British Headquarters has been circulated a summary of recent events on this front, which explains that the Allied success is not to be measured by the number of square miles of territory occupied, but by its effect on the German defences. We have been engaged in a strategic battle for a line of positions selected by the enemy for its great natural strength. This ridge, which commands two plains, has, since the Battle of the Marne, been fortified by every device known to modern science, and was believed by the Germans to be impregnable. That it is now in our possession has broken the tradition of German invincibility, and proved the quality of the new armies.

It is, however, believed that, though the broken western front of the ridge captured by the Allies was difficult, it will be yet more difficult to take the gentle slopes to the east. Operations are hampered by mud and bad weather.

The Eastern Front.

Another desperate battle is being fought in Galicia, the enemy attempting to counter the Russian enveloping move towards Halicz by bringing up the 3rd Guards Division, up to then quartered in the Galician capital. For simultaneous attacks have been launched by the Russians in the Kovel region and on the Gilva Lipa. The Germans, on their side, have replied by a powerful attack on Czerniany. The result of all this desperate fighting is to leave the adversaries very much where they were. Apparently each is determined to exert its forces to the utmost in order to decide what lines the war map shall take during the coming winter. Lemberg is the prize for which each is striving—the one to retain, the other to take. The unity of direction on this front was demonstrated in Transylvania, where General Falkenhayn was unable to follow up his successes at Kronstadt and in the Maros Valley because of the Russian menace to Lemberg. The troops he should have had in reinforcements were required in Galicia.

Roumania's Stand in the Passes.

Since the Roumanians, who allowed their forces in the Carpathians to be weakened in order to pursue secondary operations in the Dobrudja, were forced back on the passes when they were in possession of one-third of Transylvania, they have held their own more or less successfully. At present the pressure is strongest in the Predeal and Gyimes Passes, through the latter of which runs the railway that links up with the Bucharest-Czeruovik line. The fighting, which is very severe, fluctuates, but in the main favours the Roumanians, who have captured Mount Kerekhavas, near the Bekas Pass, and repulsed the enemy in the Trotus, Oitoz, and Uysil Valley. On the other hand, the enemy claims a success in the Vulcan Pass. The German plan is, of course, to gain possession of the Moldavian railways, which Mackensen secures his hold on the Constanza railway. If it succeeds, the Roumanians would have difficulty in getting supplies from outside, and the position in other ways would become critical. Hence the Russo-Roumanian forces are straining every nerve to hold the passes opening into Moldavia.

In the Dobrudja.

Mackensen, heavily reinforced, has scored in the Dobrudja. Constanza, through which Roumania draws the bulk of her oversea supplies, has fallen, followed by Medjidie and Cernavoda. Therefore, if he can cross the Danube, the way to Bucharest lies open, for here is the only bridge across the river between Belgrade and the sea. For military reasons it is doubtful if either side will blow it up. If Mackensen cannot cross the river, his pursuit of the Allied Army will lead him deeper into the cul-de-sac of the Northern Dobrudja, and further from the railway, which has hitherto facilitated the supply of his army. Moreover, the country is hilly and rocky, affording defensive positions at least as favourable as the alluvial district south of the railway. The Allies, too, have the advantage of the command of the Danube estuary, together with the fort of Sabina. The one bright spot in the situation in the south is that Roumania maintains her hold on Orsova, that point on the Danube where Austria, Serbia, and Roumania meet. Until Mackensen's strategy enables him to co-operate directly with the German armies in Transylvania, it is idle for semi-military critics to say that the Russo-Roumanian forces should have been in greater strength on the Bulgarian frontier. The wiser alternative was to concentrate in the Passes, so as to save the heart of Roumania from invasion, as is actually being done.

In the Balkans.

Here the activities of the Allied Armies centres chiefly in the Monastir region, where the progress of the Serbians and Franco-Russians is slow, but continuous. The first have captured villages beyond those they recently occupied, besides prisoners and war material, and heights on the left bank of the Cerna, facing the mouth of the Strosnitza torrent. To the south-west of Lake

Prespa the French have occupied Golobroda and Laisica together with Zvezda bridges. But at this rate of progress will Monastir be taken before the winter sets in? Not only have the Bulgarians been reinforced by German and Turkish troops, but they have converted the town into a formidable entrenched camp, which will require great numerical and material superiority to storm successfully. Fortunately the British on the Struma hold the railway line, and Seres is within range of their guns.

The Italians in Epirus.

The Italians in Upper Epirus and the western slopes of the Pindus are in touch with the cavalry of the army of Salonika. After landing at Valona, they first pushed forward an advanced guard to Tepelini. Koritza is itself only twelve miles from the western shore of Lake Prespa, which is in the hands of the Allies.

Greece.

King Constantine continues his tortuous course in the full belief that Germany will defeat the Entente Powers. The Cabinet, with Professor Lambros as Premier, speaks fair to the Allied representatives, and does all it can to help Germany. As for the Provisional Government, from its headquarters at Mitylene it seems to be wielding as much authority in Greece as the Pan-German rump at Athens, where French sailors were landed to prevent a concentration of Greek forces in the Larissa region, which would have been a menace to the Allied Army in the Balkans. The latest demand of the Entente Powers is the removal of the Greek army from Thessaly to the Peloponnesus and the disbandment of the classes recently called to the colours, which have considerably added to its peace strength.

The War at Sea.

For the first time, so far as is known to the public, the Germans have with surface vessels tried to interrupt the cross-Channel service, whose safety is due to the indefatigable work of the British patrol and to the intrepidity of the officers and men of the steamers of the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway, but were foiled after another taste of British quality. The empty transport *Queen* was lost, but fortunately her crew were saved, as were the survivors of *H.M.S. Flirt*, which was also sunk, and the *Nubian*, which was taken in tow, though later she grounded. These feats on a dark night with a gale blowing prove the superb character of British seamanship.

German submarines are running amok in northern waters. The Baltic is strewn with the wreckage of Finnish, Swedish, and Norwegian vessels. Norway is the greatest sufferer, because she has dared to deny to all submarines entrance to her ports. Unless her coasts were used by German submarines, why does the Hun rage so furiously at the new regulation, which applies to all foreign under-water craft?

A British submarine has damaged a German

light cruiser of the "Kolberg" class. When last seen she was limping home in evident difficulties. As three out of the four sister vessels have been accounted for, she is probably the *Augsburg*.

H.M.S. Genista, a mine-sweeper, has been torpedoed and sunk. Unhappily all her ship's company were lost save only twelve.

The French transport *Gallia*, with French and Serbian troops on board, has been sunk by an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean. Six hundred lives out of 2,000 were lost. The Russian Navy in the Black Sea has an extraordinary feat to its credit, one of its submarines having captured a German transport, the *Rodosto*, and conveyed it to Sevastopol.

In spite of efforts to suppress the news, it is known that the Austrian Fleet has suffered a severe loss through an internal explosion on one of its newest battleships, which was blown up.

A hostile seaplane was shot down and destroyed off Sheerness Harbour by one of our naval aircraft. It had dropped several bombs, only one of which did any damage, and that was small. As seaplanes are supposed to scout for Zeppelins, particularly with regard to weather conditions, the destruction of one is a matter for congratulation beyond the immediate loss to the enemy it causes. The following day another visited Margate, but was beaten off.

(To be continued.)

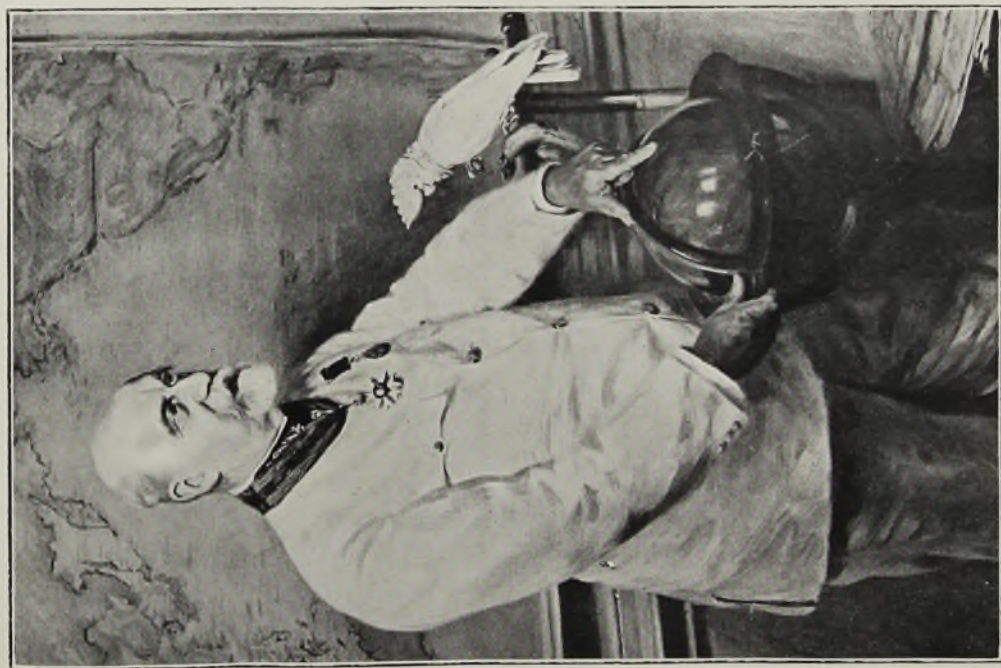
BRITISH EMPIRE INDUSTRIES.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation gave a highly successful luncheon at the Waldorf Hotel on the 31st ult. to bid farewell to Mr. E. Saunders (delegate to the Organisation from South Africa) and Mr. H. E. B. Young (delegate from Australia) on the eve of their return to their respective Dominions. Sir Henry Birchenough presided, and among those present were:—

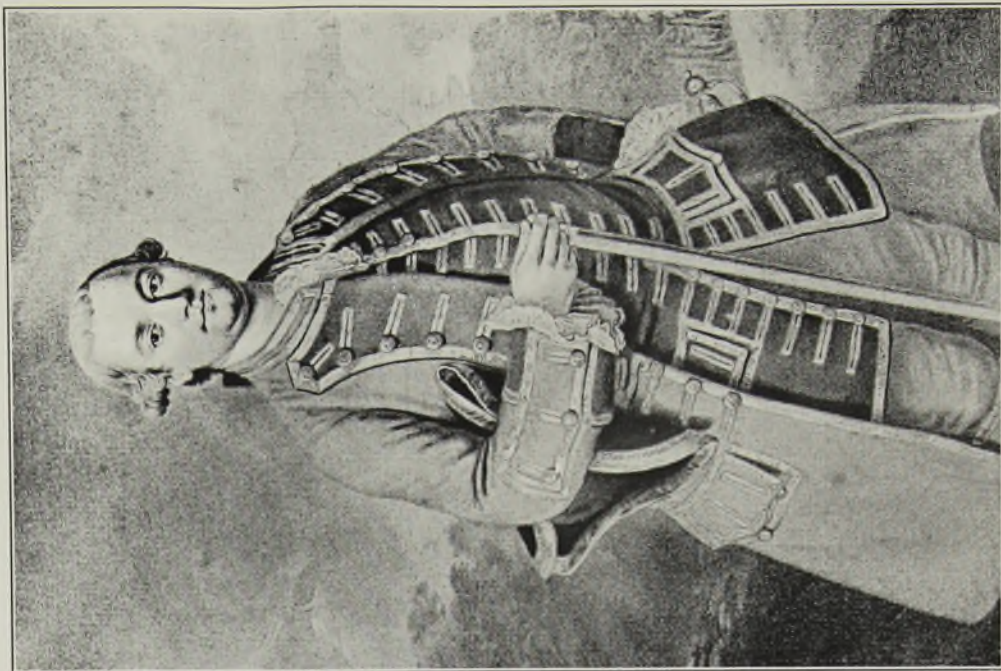
Lord Aberdare, Sir Thomas Skinner, Sir M. Manningham-Buller, Sir Nathaniel Highmore, Sir Montague Nelson, Sir Harry Wilson, Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke, M.P., Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir John McCall, Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, Sir W. Earnshaw Cooper, Sir Howard Frank, Mr. Hewins, M.P., Mr. Leslie Scott, M.P., Mr. C. Sandbach Parker (Chairman British Empire Producers' Organisation), and Sir George Makgill (general secretary).

The health of Messrs. Saunders and Young was proposed by Mr. Sandbach Parker, who said that the British Empire Producers' Organisation was in negotiation with a number of industrial associations which, he hoped, would follow the example of the British Electrical Association and become affiliated with them. It must be recognised by all countries that we were not prepared to continue our old practice of allowing Great Britain to become the dumping ground of the world by free admission to our markets. This organisation existed to press upon the Government the collective views of the industries of the Empire, and to give practical assistance in framing a policy for the future. This they had done in the case of sugar, and they were prepared to do the same in the case of other industries.

Mr. O. C. Beale, Past President and Delegate of the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers in Australia, proposed the toast of "Empire Production." He said the message he brought from Australia to the British Empire Producers' Organisation was a plea for cohesion.



SIR EVERARD IM THURN, K.C.M.G., C.B.;
Chairman of the West Indian Contingent Committee.



PHILIP THICKNESSE,
Who figured prominently in the Maroon Wars.

wanted to work with the British Organisation rather than apart from it. Referring to the extent and natural wealth of the British Empire, he said that the enormous capacity of the Empire in these resources had never been properly realised and never sufficiently utilised. It should be the work of this and kindred associations, not only in the Motherland but in the Dominions, to promote and co-ordinate that development. To that end they must trust, not to Reciprocity, which was a policy beset with pitfalls, but to Preference.

The toast was replied to by Mr. F. R. Davenport, Chairman of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, who said it was the simple duty of such as that which he represented, and which came into being for the purpose of improving its own industries, and the lot of those engaged in it, to foster and encourage the spirit of solidarity. It was that spirit which led his association recently to affiliate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation. A largely increased production was essential to enable this country and the Dominions to hold their own against outside competition, but this could not be effected with the best results under the old-fashioned methods of looking to a large output at the lowest wage expenditure on the part of employers, while the workpeople on their part strove for the highest wages with a sad disregard of output. That policy was radically wrong on the part of both, and was entirely opposed to the history of non-Empire competing trades, where the highest wages, the most up-to-date methods, and the most modern machinery combined to produce the maximum output. If action was taken upon that principle we would then be entitled to call upon the Government to pass whatever legislation might be necessary to make it effective.

Mr. J. A. Seddon, Past President Trades Union Congress, who also responded, said that before the War his presence, as a representative of the workers, at a gathering of that kind, might have been compared to that of a blackbird among pigeons or a pigeon among blackbirds, according to the critic's point of view. But the fact was that the war had come athwart all their old prejudices and shibboleths, and both manufacturers and workers had found it necessary to readjust themselves to the changed conditions. If they wanted evidence of that fact they would find it in a resolution in which the British Empire Producers' Organisation put on record their adherence to the policy that labour was entitled to its full share in any benefit which might be derived from any form of preference given to any industry.

Mr. Massey, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, who was unable to attend, wrote: "I have reasons for believing that the Germans intend after the War to enter upon an economic contest with Great Britain with a view to regaining the industrial and commercial position which they occupied prior to the outbreak of hostilities. This being so, the sooner we are prepared to meet them, and provide our own raw materials for our requirements, the better it will be for ourselves. In this matter every part of the Empire must, to a certain extent, act for itself and in accordance with the conditions which exist. . . . I think we should aim at a self-contained Empire, one part producing what the other part requires and what it cannot produce itself. It may not be possible to have Free Trade within the Empire for many years to come, perhaps never; but it is possible for each part of the Empire to give preference to the others, and it is also possible to open the door to our Allies, and this should be done to a far greater extent than previously."

MR. E. C. JACKMAN, of Barbados, is doing War work at the War Trade Intelligence Department at Westminster.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Mr. William Gordon Gordon, of Trinidad, was the guest of the West Indian Club at luncheon on October 31st. Sir George Le Hunte, late Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, presided, and the members and their friends present included:—

Mr. Peter Abel, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. E. L. Atkinson, Mr. Lawrence Benson, Mr. H. E. Berger, Capt. E. G. Boyle, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. P. J. Dean, His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana; Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G.; Mr. L. W. Gwyn, Mr. A. J. Hirsch, Mr. C. W. Humphrys, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. W. C. Kenny, Mr. I. Keir, Mr. James Miller, Mr. Allan E. Messer, Mr. F. C. Messum, Mr. A. E. Nicholls, Capt. H. G. Rigaud, Mr. F. I. Seard, Mr. J. A. Scott, Mr. H. K. Smith, Mr. R. A. Swan, Mr. G. Moody Stewart, Major R. B. Todd, and Sir Charles Walpole.

Proposing the health of the guest, Sir George Le Hunte said that Mr. Gordon had made a name for himself by his liberality and generosity both here and in the West Indies. He had been for many years a member of the West Indian Club, and had kindly enabled the members to enjoy their telegraphic news service during the War. Their guest was always ready to contribute to any worthy object, and he recalled the fact that he had presented a chiming clock to Queen's Royal College, which would always form a "striking" example of his generosity. (Laughter.) Then, again, he had taken a prominent part in the formation of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, which enabled many young men to come over here and join His Majesty's Forces, which they would not otherwise have been able to do. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Gordon, acknowledging the compliments which had been paid to him, said that he had been closely connected with the West Indies for over fifty years, and what those Colonies wanted was greater unity. (Hear, hear.) He recognised from its inception that the West Indian Club would do good work in bringing men connected with the West Indies together to thrash out the problems which those Colonies represented. It always seemed curious to him that although the islands were small, and had the same prospects and aspirations, they invariably preferred to "paddle their own canoe." Gradually, however, they were being educated up towards becoming a great West Indian Colony, federated as the Provinces of Canada had been, and with their own Governor-in-Chief. (Applause.) The reciprocity agreement with Canada had helped to bring the islands closer together, while in Trinidad a small and successful step had been made by taking in Tobago as a ward. From the day that that was done, the conditions of the island had improved, until now it was quite a prosperous ward.

During his residence in Trinidad he had witnessed many changes and upheavals, but none so notable as those caused by this deplorable War. In Trinidad they had put their shoulders to the wheel and done their best, and other West Indian Colonies had done the same. There was no patriotic fund which had not been freely contributed to by the people of Trinidad, who had also supplied aeroplanes and ambulances, and fruit for the wounded.

Still, the West Indies had had to put up with deprivations, and what they felt most deeply was the termination of the mail contract. They realised the justice of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company being relieved of the contract, as they felt confident that no ships were available; but the West Indies generally would be disappointed to learn that two vessels were now advertised to start a service between New York and Colombian ports. Instead of helping British Possessions, the Company was thus developing the trade of foreign countries. (Hear, hear.) What would make the West Indies feel this more deeply was that the French Islands had never been deprived of one single voyage by their mail steamers, which still ran fortnightly. Indeed, but for the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, he did not know how the correspondence with the Mother Country could have been satisfactorily conducted.

Mr. Gordon then proceeded to deal with the British West Indies Regiment, referring to the good work of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which, he said, deserved the fullest support, and he then concluded by urging that every effort which the West Indies were capable of making should be put forward to assist in bringing this deplorable War to a speedy and successful termination. Then we would be able to consolidate our Empire in a manner never before possible, and thereafter stand together, showing a united front against any nation which dared to depart from the path of right and justice or which attempted to filch from us our due share in the commerce of the world.

THE TRADE OF CUBA.

The rapidly increasing trade of the island of Cuba forms the subject of an interesting report by Mr. J. C. Manzer, the special representative of the Government of New Brunswick in Havana.

The total value of Cuba's foreign trade for 1915 was \$409,740,000 (as compared with \$236,403,000 in 1911), which would be equivalent to \$185 for every man, woman, and child in the island. The balance of Trade in favour of Cuba in the same year was \$98,794,000.

Tables are given which show that while Cuba has increased her total trade by \$173,337,000 in the last five years, the United States has increased her trade with Cuba by \$144,019,000 in the same period, and has increased her percentage of Cuba's total trade from .71 per cent. in 1911 to .78 per cent. in 1915. Great Britain increased her sales to Cuba in the five years 1911 to 1915, and also increased her percentage from .09 per cent. in 1911 to .12 per cent. in 1915. Canada's trade with Cuba was about the same in 1915 as in 1911, and her percentage of the total trade of Cuba dropped from .012 per cent. in 1911 to .006 per cent. in 1915.

The "zafra" or sugar crop of 1916 has been a record one both as regards quantity and price. It is conceded by all well-informed sugar dealers that the crop of 1916 will reach three million long tons. With three large mills still in operation, the output up to September 2nd reached 2,962,445 tons,

which is over half a million tons above the total of the 1915 crop, while the price has ruled higher than for many years.

The Mills in Operation.

This immense amount of sugar was manufactured by 188 centrals, or sugar mills, as they are called. The following list will show the location of these 188 sugar mills, with the number of sacks produced by each during the season of 1916:—

	Sacks.
7 Centrals in Pinar del Rio	303,183
19 " in the province of Havana	2,582,123
41 " " Matanzas	4,518,113
70 " " Santa Clara	6,517,869
14 " " Camagüey	2,356,596
37 " " Oriente	3,474,288

Of these 188 centrals, 65 are controlled by Americans, 70 by Cubans, 42 by Spaniards, 5 by English, 5 by French, and 1 by Italians.

Eighteen of these centrals are owned by the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation of New York, and six by the Cuban American Sugar Company. Seventy-six of these centrals have an output of over 100,000 sacks each the present season. The three centrals having the largest output of sugar were as follows:—Chaparra with 613,452 sacks; Stewart with 489,054 sacks, and Delicias with 420,168 sacks.

There has been a wonderful increase in the production of sugar in the last few years, the quantity having doubled since 1911. The following is a list of the number of sacks produced in the last five years:—

	Sacks.		Sacks.
1911	10,240,037	1914	18,175,971
1912	12,954,087	1915	18,069,978
1913	16,773,831	1916 (Estimate)	20,000,000

There has been erected on the island during the present season 17 new centrals, all of which will be ready to handle the 1917 crop. The situation of these centrals is as follows:—5 in Oriente, 7 in Camagüey, 2 in Pinar del Rio, 1 in Matanzas, 1 in Santa Clara, and 1 in Havana.

The following is a list of the new centrals showing total capacity, and the estimated amounts they will grind in 1917:—

Centrals.	Province.	Capacity Sacks.	Estimate for 1917 Sacks.
Miranda Sugar Co	Oriente	150,000	100,000
Algodon	Camagüey	100,000	60,000
Central Occidente	Havana	50,000	40,000
La Compañia Azucarera de Puente Alegre	Santa Clara	100,000	75,000
Central Adelaida	Camagüey	200,000	60,000
Central Alto Cedro	Oriente	180,000	100,000
El Central Oriente	"	120,000	100,000
" Tacajo	"	200,000	170,000
" Virginia	Pinar del Rio	30,000	30,000
" Galope	"	25,000	25,000
" Baragua	Camagüey	100,000	70,000
" Santo Tomas	"	50,000	50,000
" Redencion	"	60,000	30,000
" Van Horne	"	100,000	70,000
" Canagua	"	50,000	30,000
La Compañia Azucarera Central Cacocum	Oriente	100,000	80,000
Central Hershey	Matanzas	100,000	50,000

The notable feature of the exports for 1916 is

the large amount by European countries. The following list will show the exports for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916:—

Countries.	1914.	1915.	1916.
United States	1,956,453	1,740,000	1,842,992 tons.
Canada	5,457	14,701	..
Great Britain	211,462	288,644	503,081 ..
France	32,988	5,895	119,937 ..
Spain	—	95	16,058 ..
Other European Countries	8,604	—	25,294 ..
Japan	19,316	—	..
Mexico	—	—	147 ..
South America	—	—	4,128 ..

The Price of Sugar.

The first sale of 1916 crop was made at about \$3.75 per hundred pounds l.o.b. steamer Cuba, and the price advanced steadily until August, when it reached 5 cents per pound. After this, the price dropped off to \$3.60, but Cuba made no sales of any consequence at this price. The price is now again advancing, and has already reached 4 cents per pound. The bulk of the Cuban crop was sold at prices ranging from \$3.75 to \$4.90, and it is estimated that the total crop will average above 4 cents per pound. This will bring the value of the 1916 sugar crop of Cuba to the net sum of \$300,000,000. When we consider, says Mr. Manzer, in conclusion, that Cuba only has about 2½ millions of people, it shows the remarkable advance which is being made in the sugar industry.

BRITISH BEET SUGAR.

The *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture has recently published an account of last season's working of the Cantley Factory, controlled by the Anglo-Netherland Sugar Corporation.

For the crop in question the factory dealt with the produce of about 2,150 acres. The crops, on the whole, were satisfactory, yielding, on the average, just over nine tons of washed roots per acre. The sugar content of the beet also was very good, namely, 17.36 per cent., a figure comparable with that obtained under the most favourable conditions on the Continent. Growers were paid for their crops in accordance with a sliding scale of prices based on the average selling price of sugar secured by the Corporation, viz.:—

Average Sale Price of Sugar per cwt.	Price for Sugar Beet per ton.	Average Sale Price of Sugar per cwt.	Price for Sugar Beet per ton.
19 0 (or under)	25 0	24 0	30 0
19 6	25 6	24 6	30 6
20 0	26 0	25 0	31 0
20 6	26 6	25 6	31 6
21 0	27 0	26 0	32 0
21 6	27 6	26 6	32 6
22 0	28 0	27 0	33 0
22 6	28 6	27 6	33 6
23 0	29 0	28 0	34 0
23 6	29 6	—	—

On this basis farmers received 30/8 per ton for washed roots, representing an average return per acre of about £14.

Cost of Cultivation.

Figures relating to the cost of growing the crop in Norfolk and Suffolk in 1914 were published in the *Journal* for February, 1915, in an article contributed by Messrs. Orwin and Orr, of the Research Institute in Agricultural Economics, Oxford. Labour difficulties were somewhat more acute in 1915, but the actual cost of cultivation does not appear to have been materially greater than in the previous year. One grower, unable to obtain man labour for lifting, resorted to women. He reports that "during two of the wettest months I have ever known—November and December—eighteen women at piecework lifted and topped 50 acres of sugar beet at about the same cost as it would have been had men undertaken the work."

Another grower produced, at his first attempt, 14 tons of washed roots per acre, at an estimated cost of from £11 to £12 an acre. He reports, "I am so satisfied with the result that I am going to grow 50 acres this season, and, had it not been for the War, would have doubled this acreage." He states, further, that he found the lifting easier than he anticipated, "women, by using a fork to loosen the soil, lifting the beets quite easily and at moderate cost."

The following figures supplied by Mr. B. S. Sillem show the average cost of cultivation per acre on the Cantley Manor Estate in 1915, the soil being a uniform free-working loam —

	£	s.	d.
Two ploughings	16 0
Subsoiling	8 0
Farmyard manure, 10 tons at 3/6 per ton	1 15 0
Harrowing and rolling before sowing	3 0
Rolling after sowing	1 0
Seed—15 lb. per acre	6 3
Drilling	1 9
Artificial Manures	2 0 0
Chopping out and singling	1 5 0
Horse-hoeing, three times	6 0
Lifting and topping	1 5 0
Carting	1 4 0
Rent, rates and taxes	1 5 0

Cost per acre £10 16 0

Altogether Mr. Sillem grew 295 acres of beet in 14 different fields, the total yield obtained being 3,761½ tons of washed roots, which works out at the rate of 12½ tons per acre, worth £19 11s., exclusive of the value of the tops. The highest yield of washed beet—15 tons—was grown on a field of 29½ acres. The lowest yield of any was 10 tons of washed beet per acre. The average amount of dirt deducted was 14 per cent.

Some inconvenience was caused at singling time owing to a strike of workmen, and about 68 acres were "bunched" by machinery.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the heaviest crop of beet followed a crop of wheat which yielded 6½ qr. per acre. The wheat was manured with 2 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre in autumn and 1 cwt. per acre of nitrate of soda in the following spring.

It is not claimed that the figures assigned to the various tillage operations are more than approximately correct, or that they are necessarily typical of conditions generally in the Eastern Counties, but it may be mentioned that the ordinary cost of

cultivation on light land in the Eastern Counties was usually estimated before the War at from £8 10s. to £10 15s. per acre, and on loamy soils in other parts of England at from £10 to £12 per acre.

Indirect Advantages.

Against the cost of production must be set, in addition to the price obtained for the crop, certain indirect advantages accruing from the cultivation of sugar beet. There is almost general agreement that the extra treatment in the form of subsoiling, cleaning and manuring benefits the subsequent crops, though to what extent has not, so far, been accurately determined. Another item that must be considered is the value of the leaves and crowns left on the land after the crop has been removed. One grower of 50 acres reports that the residue referred to has kept 300 breeding ewes for three months, thus replacing about 25 acres of turnips, which at £5 per acre has meant a saving of £125. Cases are common where feeding on the tops has been let at 20/- an acre, and this figure is much below that usually assigned to the residue by Continental growers.

The tops are rich in potash, and, when ploughed under, their manurial value is considerable.

By-Products of the Factory.

Of the factory by-products, the chief is the dried slices or pulp, the residue after the extraction of the greater part of the sugar from the beet. This usually represents about 10 per cent. of the weight of beet manufactured. It is easily transported, and it constitutes a useful feeding-stuff. During the past season dried pulp (protos) has been selling at £8 and upwards per ton. Dried pulp prepared by the process in use at Cantley, and containing 8.6 per cent. of moisture, if soaked in nine parts by weight of water, would contain as much dry matter as mangolds of good quality, and from the standpoint of feeding units would be rather more valuable in the proportion of 17.5 per cent. in the soaked pulp to 14 per cent. in Golden Tankard Mangolds.

At £8 per ton for dried pulp the soaked pulp costs 16/- per ton, and if the actual values of the two foods are represented by the ratio 17.5 : 14, then with soaked pulp at 16/-, mangolds would be worth 12/9 per ton. It would seem, therefore, that the stockfeeder who values his mangolds at 12/9 per ton would be able to provide a substitute if in place of putting all his root land under mangolds he devoted a share to sugar beet and bought in dried pulp at £8 per ton.

Another by-product of special value at the present time is molasses, the yield of which is usually at the rate of about 2 per cent. of the weight of beets worked.

General Conclusions.

Reports received by the Board furnish evidence that growers, as a whole, are well pleased with the results of last year's operations. Owing to the high price of store cattle in the autumn of 1915, coupled with the increased cost of feeding-stuffs, it is to be feared that fattening cattle have left

little, if any, profit to the feeder. Apart from national considerations, the report goes on to say, it is becoming more and more clear that the introduction of sugar beet would be a distinct gain to British agriculture, inasmuch as it would provide an alternative to cattle- and sheep-feeding in years when stock are unprofitable. It is not suggested, of course, that anyone should entirely substitute beet for mangolds and swedes, but if a farmer had a certain area under each crop he would be less dependent on fluctuations in the value of live stock. The greater the number of saleable crops produced the safer the system of farming. At the present time labour difficulties prevent farmers from growing much sugar beet, and to attempt to grow more than they can deal with satisfactorily is, of course, inadvisable.

With its present equipment the Cantley factory could easily handle about 60,000 tons of washed beet in a season, that is to say, the produce of from 6,000 to 7,000 acres, assuming a yield of nine tons per acre (the average crop produced last year). This acreage would represent only about 1/40 of the total area annually under roots and bare fallow in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk alone. In the past, however, beet has also been grown for the Cantley factory in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Hertfordshire, and Essex. If farmers within reasonable distance of Cantley would grow even a very small acreage of sugar beet, the needs of the factory would be adequately met, and the foundations of a successful industry would be securely laid. With the conclusion of the War and an increase in the supply of sugar, a fall in the price of beet may be anticipated; but in the meantime farmers would gain an experience of the crop which should enable them to reduce the cost of growing and to secure a somewhat heavier and steadier yield.

The prices offered for the 1916-17 crop are based on the same sliding scale as that in vogue last year, as given above.

A LOCAL company has been formed in Georgetown, British Guiana, including representatives of the United States and Canada, for the development of the recently discovered bauxite deposits up the Demerara River. We also understand that exploring concessions have been granted to a syndicate in British Guiana for examining extensive deposits of the mineral more recently discovered by a Government officer in the North West District of the colony, and which are said to be the richest deposits of bauxite to be found anywhere in the world, and certainly richer than the deposits found so far in the Demerara River district. Bauxite is the mineral base for the extraction of the valuable and useful metal aluminium, now so much in demand for industrial manufactures, munitions, etc., the deposits in the north-west district yielding, it is said, no less than 6½ per cent. of the metal. The successful development of the deposits within her borders should therefore prove of the utmost importance to the Colony of British Guiana.

EAST INDIANS IN JAMAICA.

The Protector of Immigrants' Report.

Mr. F. N. Isaacs, Acting Protector of Immigrants in Jamaica, in his report for the year ended March 31st last, shows that on that date there were 20,063 East Indians in the island. During the year there were no fresh arrivals, whilst on the other hand, 174 males, 59 females, and 37 children were repatriated.

The average cost of living for an immigrant is now between 3/- and 3/6 a week. Owing to the War the price of foodstuffs has slightly advanced, but the average earnings being 6/3 for men and 4/5 for women per week, there is, says Mr. Isaacs, a good margin which can be put by. A large number of immigrants invest their savings in jewellery, which consists chiefly of necklaces made of gold and silver coins. The deposits in the Government Savings Bank show a satisfactory amount saved by immigrants during the year. To encourage depositors, the Interpreters in the several districts are enjoined to attend the Savings Bank every Saturday for the purpose of assisting those who desire to transact business.

Figures are given which show that order and control are maintained without excessive punishment. Thus, the number of cases coming under the head of labour offences was 243, a percentage to population of 8.34. Of these, 120 paid fines, or 50 per cent. of the number convicted, so that out of a total of 2,913 indentured immigrants, only 123 were sent to prison for labour offences during the year. These offences were chiefly wilful and persistent idleness, absence from work, and refusal to work.

Prosperity of the Free Immigrants.

There are now about 17,000 free Indians in the colony, the majority of whom are employed in various manual occupations, among which may be mentioned agricultural labourers, planters, shopkeepers, market gardeners, traders (itinerant and otherwise), goldsmiths, cartmen, and domestic servants. No fewer than 369 trade and spirit licences have been taken out by East Indians.

A supplemental report by the Collector of Customs shows that the land owned by East Indians in Jamaica is over 11,000 acres in extent. In the parish of St. Mary alone 2,276 acres of land is owned by Indians. Mr. Isaacs estimates that the accumulated wealth of East Indians in the island cannot fall short of £120,000.

Efforts have been made by the Immigration Department to induce immigrants to send their children to school, and employers are urged to assist as far as possible in providing the necessary facilities. No distinction is made in the Government schools between East and West Indians, and, as education is free, the children of immigrants have the opportunity of reaching any position for which education and merit are necessary qualifications.

With regard to the general condition of the free Indians, Mr. Isaacs states that they appear to be prosperous and contented. In the sugar-growing area, since the price of sugar began to improve,

the demand for labour has been constant, so that there need be no labourer out of work. Mr. Isaacs thinks, however, that immigrants in the neighbourhood of sugar factories who are enterprising would do well to turn their attention to cane farming. The cultivation of cacao and vegetables also offers very remunerative returns. The cultivation of rice, too, which has in recent years broken off, should be most profitable at present, whilst the tendency of the time-expired immigrant to leave the agricultural districts and come to Kingston in search of casual work is to be deprecated, as it reduces his inclination to obtain regular employment, and weakens his capacity as a wage-earner.

SEA DEFENCES IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Following his report on the East Coast sea defences, referred to in the CIRCULAR of the 7th September, Mr. Gerald Case has submitted to the Government of British Guiana his further report on the West Coast defences.

His recommendations follow closely those for the East Coast, viz., sloping sea dams along a selected line of coast, protected with reinforced concrete facings, in conjunction with low-lying groynes on the foreshore, designed to encourage the formation of a natural sloping beach in front of the dams, derived from mud, sand, and shell conveyed by the littoral currents along the coast.

The scheme also includes the construction of protective walls of reinforced concrete along the outlet koker channels extending to low-water mark, so as to limit and confine the erosive action of these drainage channels along the foreshore.

Mr. Case estimates the total cost of these several permanent works at \$550,000, extending them over a period of three and a half years, according to a carefully arranged detailed plan of action accompanying the report; the cost of the necessary maintenance work on existing defences in the meantime being estimated at \$53,000.

In the course of his very comprehensive report Mr. Case says: "While I have no doubt that the erosion was primarily started by interference with drainage conditions and the discharge of large amounts of water on to the foreshore, there is no doubt whatever that the erosion now going on is to a large extent due to artificial works—vertical sheet piling, wave screens, projecting dams, etc. Erosion caused by such works has certainly been going on for the past 28 years, as in 1889 Mr. Griffith, in his report on the coast, stated that in front of Haarlem there could hardly be a better preventative for the making up of the foreshore than almost vertical piling, which only served to increase the agitation and wash on the foreshore."

Indeed, the baneful effects of these so-called protective works must have extended back longer than the 28 years mentioned by Mr. Case, as the present writer remembers visiting the West Coast sea defences in the early 'seventies, when the vertical piled "wave-breakers" were being erected at Haarlem and Nouvelle Flanders estates front by the Colonial Company, under the direction of the

late Mr. A. C. McCalman and Mr. William Russell, at that time the joint attorneys of the Colonial Company.

It is satisfactory to know that Mr. Case's two reports, involving a total estimated expenditure of \$1,650,000, have been accepted by the local Legislature of British Guiana, and a financial scheme prepared for finding the necessary funds, partly by loan and partly by Government contribution of 25 per cent. and a fixed charge per acre of the areas affected by the proposed defensive works. Already an energetic start has been made on the East Coast with the construction of the permanent protective work recommended.

Mr. Case has now gone on a short holiday to the United States. On his return to the Colony he will begin on his further commission to examine and report on the Harbour of Georgetown and the approaches to the Demerara River.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The West Indian Contingent Committee will be pleased to hear from readers who may care to offer hospitality to officers or men when discharged from hospital and on furlough.

The chief articles urgently wanted besides warm "comforts," and especially socks and cardigans, are cigarettes, sweets, magazines, etc., for men in hospital. Gifts may be sent to Miss Moseley, the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.



A. B. W. I. Brooch.

Every reader ordering a replica of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment from Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., will be helping the West Indian Contingent Fund, which is still far below the figure which it must reach if all calls on it are to be met. Souvenir brooches of the badge have been executed in three different styles by the above-mentioned firm, the makers of the original badge, who have kindly offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds of their sales to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Post free.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2
Silver and Enamel	3	6	3	9
Gift Metal Enamelled	2	0	2	3

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.

THREE more members of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, namely, Peterkin Taylor, L. H. Rose, and R. B. Armstrong; one further member of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, L. Sorzano; and

G. W. Robinson, also of Trinidad, arrived in the *Serrana* to "do their bit." Rose, Robinson, and Sorzano have joined the Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, and Taylor the Army Ordnance Corps. Armstrong is awaiting an examination in wireless telegraphy.

* * *

Mrs. Bromley has very kindly undertaken the management of the work parties of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which are held at 5, Trevor Square, on Thursday mornings, from 10 a.m. to 1 o'clock. Those unable to attend the work parties will be supplied with wool for knitting, and specifications, or cut-out garments to be made at home. It is hoped that all ladies connected with the West Indies will assist in making comforts, as they are much needed at present.

* * *

In the last two CIRCULARS specifications of the War Office pattern of mittens and mufflers were published, and it is hoped that many ladies in the West Indies and at home will by now be organising work parties for making these comforts, which are already *greatly needed*. A specification of the official socks, which are *always in great demand*, is given below:—

DIRECTIONS FOR HAND-KNITTED REGULATION SOCKS.

Length of foot when finished: Size II., 10½ inches;

Size III., 11 inches; Size IV., 11½ inches.

(The largest number required are of Sizes II. and III.)

Size I. no longer required.)

Worsted: 4 or 5-ply super-fingering or 3-ply wheeling.

Colour: Grey or Lovat Mixtures.

Needles: No. 12 or 13.

SIZE II.

Cast on 64 stitches; rib 4½ inches, 2 plain, 2 purl; knit plain 7½ inches (12 inches in all).

Heel.—Knit plain 32 stitches on to one needle; turn, purl back these 32 stitches; turn, knit plain; repeat these two rows (always slipping the first stitch) fifteen times (16 in all).

With the inside of the heel towards you: purl 18 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 6 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 7 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 8 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 9 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 10 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 11 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 12 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 13 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 14 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 15 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 16 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit 1, turn, purl 17 stitches, purl 2 together.

Turn, knit 17 stitches, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over.

Pick up and knit 17 stitches down the side of the heel piece.

Knit the 32 stitches of the front needles (on to one needle). Pick up and knit the 17 stitches at the other side of the heel piece. Divide the heel stitches on to the two side needles, and knit right round again to the centre heel.

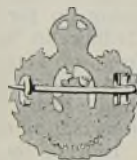
First needle: Knit to within 3 stitches of the front end of side needle, knit 2 together, knit 1.

Front needle plain.

Third needle: Knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to end of needle.

This reducing to be done every other row until there are 64 stitches on the needles (front needle 32, side needles 16 each).

Knit plain until the foot (from the back of the heel) measures 2½ inches less than the full length required.



Back of Brooch.

viz.; (a) $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches for No. 1 size sock; (b) 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for No. 2 size sock.

To decrease for the toe—Begin at the front needle, knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to within 3 stitches of the end of the needle, knit 2 together, knit 1.

Second needle: Knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to end of needle.

Third needle: Knit plain to within 3 stitches of the end, knit 2 together, knit 1.

Knit 3 plain rounds, then decrease as before; knit another 3 plain rounds, then decrease as before.

Knit 2 plain rounds, then decrease as before; knit another 2 plain rounds, then decrease as before; knit another 2 plain rounds, then decrease as before.

Knit 1 plain row, then decrease again; knit another plain row, then decrease again; knit another plain row, then decrease again.

Now decrease as above in each of the next 3 rows, which leaves you with 20 stitches, and cast off.

For Sizes III. and IV. Cast on 68 stitches and proceed by same rules, only allowing 34 stitches for the heel and making it 17 rows long, instead of the 32 stitches and 16 rows for smaller sizes, and giving, of course, the requisite length.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,886 19s. 10d., of which amount £1,306 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana Contingent Committee (ear-marked for Christmas gifts)	250	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
G. V. Ballantyne, Esq., (Georgetown)	1	0	10
Per month:—			
Kingstown Club	1	5	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	0	10	0
Don. C. B. F. Richards	0	10	0
H. P. Hazel, Esq.	0	10	0
V. Hadley, Esq.	0	8	4
J. H. Hazel, Esq. (2 months)	0	6	0
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	0	5	0
E. Hopley, Esq.	0	2	0
A. J. Gillezean, Esq.	0	2	0
J. A. Davey, Esq.	0	1	0
		5	0
J. R. Gantt & Son (rebate on B.W.I. Brooches sold-to come)	2	8	6
Miss A. C. Arrindell	0	10	0
"Anon."	0	4	0
Mrs. Courtauld (per Mrs. Bronley)	1	1	0
	£259	3	8

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

We give below a list of officers and men from or connected with the West Indies who are in hospital, and shall be glad to forward their addresses to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be wishful or willing to visit them.

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, London; Lieut.-Corpl. Bruce Maura, Somerset Light Infantry,

Dewsbury; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

Lieut. d'Albuquerque, Shropshire Light Infantry, London; Pte. C. G. Archer, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, London; Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. G. S. Corbin, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Worcester; Pte. C. C. Leach, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Liverpool; Pte. C. L. Burgess, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Manchester.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. T. J. Tite, London; Cpl. C. A. Baker, London; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Lieut.-Cpl. H. E. Palmer, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. G. S. Blackman, Taplow; Pte. G. Spanswick, Oxford; Sgt. G. Tite Dublin; Pte. C. R. Cannon, Stoke-on-Trent; Pte. R. Wilson, London. Bermuda Contingent, R.G.A.—Gur. G. S. Carr, Richmond; Gur. S. Swann, Richmond.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Lieut. C. G. L. Cox, Royal Garrison Artillery, Manchester.

JAMAICA.

Sgt. John Howe, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. E. A. Jackson, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. G. W. Brown, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, Brighton; Pte. F. McPherson, London.

TRINIDAD.

Rfln. J. H. Llanos, King's Royal Rifles; Pte. J. Roche-mont, Life Guards, London.

SIR EVERARD IM THURN, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Sir Everard Im Thurn, Chairman of the West Indian Contingent Committee, whose portrait appears on another page in the present issue, is probably one of the busiest men in London. Besides looking after the welfare of the Ceylon, Fiji, and West Indian Contingents, he is Vice-Chairman of "King George and Queen Mary's Club for the Overseas Forces," popularly known as Peel House Club, which has already accommodated no fewer than 140,000 overseas soldiers in the police barracks in Regency Street, Westminster.

Sir Everard Im Thurn made his name in British Guiana, to which colony he went out in 1877 as Curator of the local museum. He was one of the earliest visitors to the Kaieteur Fall and was the first to ascend Roraima, the remarkable mountain in the Pakaraima range on the western border of the colony. He relinquished the position of Curator in 1882 to become stipendiary magistrate of the Pomeroon. From 1891 to 1899 he was Government Agent of the North-West District. His unique knowledge of the hinterland of the colony led to his employment in the long drawn out Venezuelan boundary arbitration, after the settlement of which he entered the Colonial Office. He quickly rose to the position of Principal Clerk and was appointed Lieut.-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Ceylon in 1901. Three years later he was made Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, which position he held until 1910, when he retired. His retirement was, however, in name only, for, as already stated, Sir Everard is a very busy man, and we know that he is often at his desk as early as 5 a.m.! The portrait of Sir Everard is from a painting by Mr. J. H. Lorimer.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

Since last list was published the names of the following officers from or connected with the British West Indies have appeared in the Roll of Honour:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

LIEUTENANT RONALD MACKINNON, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, who has been killed in action, was the second son of the late Mr. L. F. Mackinnon, of Jamaica.

SECOND LIEUTENANT DOUGLAS SIMPSON PORTEOUS, K.O.S.B., who was killed on October 20th, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Simpson Porteous, of Braemar, Calton Road, Dulwich, and brother of the Stenographer to the West India Committee. He was educated at Alceyn's College, which he represented at football as a member of the Old Boys' first eleven, subsequently playing for the first team of the Townley Park Football Club. Before the outbreak of war he had served for some years in the London Scottish, and he received a commission in the King's Own Scottish Borderers on July 1st, 1915. Second Lieutenant Porteous, who was in his 31st year, was married in September, 1915, to the elder daughter of the Rev. R. S. Holmes, late of Dorchester.

SERGEANT JOHN POYER POYER, of the Canadian Infantry, and late of the Hampshire Regiment who has been killed in action was the youngest son of John Poyer Poyer, Esq., of the Limes, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, and of Henley and Husbands, Barbados.

LANCE-CORPORAL H. W. USHER, of the Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on September 15th, was the second son of Mr. J. P. Usher, of Belize, British Honduras. He came over from Belize in August, 1915, and joined the Bankers' Battalion. On June 19th last he was wounded in the eye and invalided home, but he soon returned to the front, and remained with his regiment until he made the final sacrifice.

DIED OF WOUNDS OR SICKNESS.

COLONEL BLENNAN BUHOY GRAVFOOT, C.B., of the Bombay Medical Service, who died in Egypt on September 30th, aged 56, was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, and at Edinburgh University. He took the Scottish triple qualification in 1885, the M.R.C.S. in 1886, and the M.D. of Durham in 1903. Entering the L.M.S. as surgeon on September 30th, 1886, he became major on September 30th, 1898, lieutenant-colonel on September 30th, 1906, reached the selected list on August 12th, 1909, and was promoted colonel on August 25th, 1912. Most of his service was spent in civil employment in Bombay, where he was for several years secretary to the surgeon-general, and afterwards civil surgeon of Karachi. On his promotion he was posted as A.D.M.S. to the Derajat and Bannu Brigades, and went to France in September, 1914, as principal medical officer of one of the divisions of the Indian Expeditionary Force. He served in France and Mesopotamia and received the C.B. for his services on January 14th, 1916.

WOUNDED.

PRIVATE C. G. ARCHER (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, gun-shot wound left shoulder.

PRIVATE F. V. BARNES (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, gun-shot wound in the chest.

PRIVATE C. L. F. BURGESS (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, wounded by gun-shot in the right thigh.

PRIVATE G. S. CORBIN (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, gun-shot wound in the left thigh.

PRIVATE F. H. TYRRILL (of the Barbados Merchants' Contingent), Prince of Wales' (Civil Service) Rifles, gun-shot wound.

SECOND LIEUTENANT CLEVELAND B. HAMILTON (son of C. Boughton Hamilton, C.M.G., late Receiver-General of

British Guiana). The Buffs, has sustained a gun-shot wound in the right arm, and is in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

Bailey, C. A. (son of Mr. W. H. Bailey, I.S.O., Post-master of Barbados), Canadian Engineers.

Bailey, Hugh (son of Mr. W. H. Bailey, I.S.O., Post-master of Barbados), Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Clarke, Captain (son of Sir F. Clarke, of Barbados), Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Cole, Sergt. (of Barbados), Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Inniss, R. (of Barbados), Canadian Field Ambulance.

Reis, Gunner Charles (of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Heavy Section Machine Gun Corps.

Weatherhead, Private H. J. W. (of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent), The Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps

THE Administrator of Dominica did a good stroke of business in arranging for the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique to include the island in their itinerary. Dominica can now be reached by the French line in from 11 to 12 days from Europe, whereas before the mail contract was terminated, the voyage from Southampton via Barbados was scheduled to take 14 days.

* * *

ALSO to be congratulated is Major J. A. Burdon, the Administrator of St. Kitts, upon the agreement which he has made with the Compagnie des Bateaux à Vapeur de la Guadeloupe for the inclusion of his Presidency in the itinerary of the steamers of their fortnightly intercolonial steamer service. The steamers leave Basseterre, Guadeloupe, on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., and run on the following route:—

Montserrat	Wednesday	2 A.M.
Nevis	"	6 "
Basseterre, St. Kitts arr.	"	8 "
" dep.	"	10 "
St. Bartholomews ... arr.	"	2.30 P.M.
" dep.	"	5 P.M.
Philippsburg, St. Martin	"	6 "
Marigot, St. Martin arr.	"	9 "
" dep.	Thursday	6 A.M.
Road Bay, Anguilla arr.	"	9.30 A.M.
" dep.	"	11 A.M.
Marigot, St. Martin arr.	"	12.30 P.M.
" dep.	Friday	2 A.M.
Philippsburg "	"	4.30 A.M.
St. Bartholomews ... arr.	"	6 A.M.
" dep.	"	10 "
Basseterre, St. Kitts arr.	"	3 P.M.
" dep.	"	5 "
Nevis	"	6 "
Montserrat	"	Midnight
Basseterre, Guadeloupe ...	Saturday	6 A.M.
Pointe à Pitre, "	"	5.30 P.M.

(Calling at the Saintes en route)

The service runs in connection with the European mail steamers of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, and the inclusion of the islands of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis in the itinerary should prove a great advantage, and should go a long way towards compensating Nevis for the refusal of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to call there. The first-class fare from St. Kitts to Nevis and vice versa is only 2/-, steerage being 1/6.

THICKNESSE IN JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

A portrait of Philip Thicknesse has recently been added to the Jamaica Portrait Gallery, and a copy of his "Memoirs" to the West India Library in the Institute of Jamaica.

A number of men well known in English history have been connected with Jamaica, and many of them have been referred to in histories and other works treating on the colony. But hitherto no reference has been made to that somewhat fantastic figure, Philip Thicknesse, who, in the words of Fulcher, "had in a remarkable degree the faculty of lessening the number of his friends and increasing the number of his enemies. He was perpetually imagining insult, and could sniff an injury from afar." He quarrelled with his brother officers; he ended a friendship of many years by as silly a quarrel as can well be imagined with his friend and protégé, Gainsborough; and he quarrelled, and published his quarrel on the title-page of his "Memoirs," with his son, Baron Audley.

His "Memoirs," which consist of a number of desultory chapters of a heterogeneous character, are of considerable interest to students of Jamaica history as containing the most detailed account on record of the engagements between the troops and the Windward maroons, which took place under the Governorship of Edward Trelawny.

After serving under General Oglethorpe in Georgia, Thicknesse obtained a lieutenancy in an Independent Company in Jamaica, whither he came in 1737. He paid twelve guineas for his passage to Jamaica, in "a good river-built ship," which included wine at meals.

On arrival he found his "old schoolfellow, the late Admiral [Kempenfelt, of 'Royal George' fame], a melancholy midshipman in Port Royal Harbour, lamenting that he was without friends, without interest, and without money; yet I think he was under Captain Knowles' command." On landing, after paying his respects to the Governor, he started at three o'clock in the morning, to avoid the violence of the sun, for the northside, where his regiment was stationed.

"About eight," he says, "I found myself in *Sixteen Mile Walk*, a beautiful country, adorned with many gentlemen's houses. Being at that time, very hungry, very hot, and a little fatigued, I ask'd my *foot guide* (a negro who had his hand twisted in my horse's tail), who was the best gentleman in *Sixteen Mile Walk*? for as there are no *country Inns* in Jamaica, every gentleman's house is open to all *white travellers*. My guide, considering the *richest gentleman* to be the best, named *Col. Price*, and accordingly conducted me to *ROSE-HALL*." This was Charles Price, for many years Speaker of the House of Assembly, and afterwards first baronet; and grandson of Francis Price, who came to Jamaica under Venables. After treating him with real 18th century Jamaica hospitality, Price lent him a fresh horse and directed him to a house on a distant mountain, where he said the owner, his cousin, would remount him to his des-

tinuation, Bagnells: Thicknesse adding, that similar hospitality would have been repeated throughout the whole island.

"During my residence at *Bagnall's*," he says, "I was frequently sent out with four or five and twenty men, in search of the wild Negroes, as the Assembly of that Island allowed seventy pounds for every pair of wild negroes' ears which were brought in. Just in the same manner, as the tame negroes, are allowed a bottle of rum, for every dozen of rat tails they bring in: I thank God, however, in that business I was fortunate; for I never gathered a single pair." After a year's duty at Bagnells he was removed "to *Port Maria Bay*, within one mile of a gentleman's plantation, with whom I had been acquainted when I was a boy in London. [Richard Bassett.]"

"All the regular troops in Europe," he says, "could not have conquered the wild Negroes by force of arms, and if Mr. Trelawney had not wisely given them what they contended for, LIBERTY, they would, in all probability, have been, at this day, masters of the whole country." Long, who had the opportunity of discussing the subject many years afterwards with Cudjoe, says much the same.

At the time of the outbreak Thicknesse was stationed at Hobbie's, five miles from the sea in St. George (a parish which had been laid waste by the Maroons) under the command of Lieutenant George Concannen, a brother of the miscellaneous writer, Matthew Concannen, who fell foul of Pope, but who commended himself to the Government and was appointed Attorney-General of Jamaica in 1732, which post he held with credit till 1744.

"The parish of St. George's," Thicknesse tells us, "one of the finest and most fertile in the Island, had in a manner been laid desolate, by the wild Negroes, so much so, that though it once abounded in sugar plantations, we were obliged to send thirty miles for our rum, and many other necessaries, nor durst we even appear without the walls of our barracks, after it was night, as the wild Negroes surrounded us, and frequently, when they heard our sentinels call *all's well*, would reply *ki! ki!* *Becara* call *all's well*, while we *teeve* their corn."

Reinforced by militia men and baggage negroes, Concannen started in search of a wild negroes' town, which having found, they burnt, and then went in pursuit of the maroons. "At every half mile, we found *Cocoas*, *Yams*, *Plantains*, etc., left artfully by the Negroes, to induce us to believe, they were in fear of our overtaking them, and at length we found a fire, before which they had left several *grills* of wild hog, probably *well seasoned* for us; we continued the pursuit, till near night, and then hearing their dogs bark, we concluded they had heard us also, and we gave over all hopes of seeing or hearing anything more of them."

The next day they unfortunately fell into an ambuscade, and the Maroons from the mountains dominating the Spanish River bed by which they marched "had an opportunity of knowing our numbers and seeing which of us were the *Grandémen*, for as to external dress, we were all very much alike in course jackets and trousers. The Negroes, therefore, permitted the advanced ser-

jeant, and his party, to pass unnoticed, but the minute us *Grande-men* got under their ambush, a volley shot came down, which must have killed or wounded most of us, had they taken any aim, but they are such cowards that they lie down upon their bellies, start up to fire *per hazard* and then sink down, to *re-load*; several of the soldiers, for the militia were at some distance, though not out of gunshot, were mortally wounded, and the drummer at our elbows was shot through the wrist: at this instant the baggage Negroes (seventy), who had but just got their loads upon their heads, threw them down, and ran away; and the militia, to a man, their officer excepted, (whom however we did not see) followed them. The wild Negroes at the same time, firing and calling out, *Becara run away—Becara run away.*" Concannen and the troops made the best retreat they could. "The runaway militia, got among the settlements the same evening, and had not their *hinder* wounds contradicted their *forward* declarations, they would have made their neighbours believe they had fought valiantly. I believe that a report had prevailed that Mr. Concannen, and the whole party, had run away. (I never heard of any party, whether of militia or regulars, that could stand against the ambushes of those people), that report aggravated Mr. Concannen's friends, and then it was as wickedly propagated that because Mr. Concannen, the attorney general, and Mr. Trelawney, the governor, were upon bad terms, that the governor had sent his brother, the lieutenant, upon this hazardous expedition, with a handful of men, to sacrifice him to the private resentment he bore to the attorney general. I am happy even at this distant period, however, to say that Mr. Trelawney was too wise, too good, and of too noble a disposition, to be capable of any base, mean, or spiteful action."

Three months later Thicknesse was ordered out with a party of three hundred troops under Captain Adair, to try to bring the Maroon Captain to terms, guided by one of Quoha's men who was a prisoner. "At this time Quoha did not certainly know, that Cudjoe (the captain of the west end of the Island gang) had submitted upon Governor Trelawney's terms. It was utterly impossible that those two parties could have any kind of communication or correspondence with each other; our prisoner, the *hornsmen*, was well assured, however, that the western gang had laid down their arms, and were in possession of *that* for which they contended; LIBERTY, he assured us too, that we should fail, if we attempted to possess ourselves of their town by force; it was so situated, he said, that no *BODY* of men, or scarce any individual could approach it, that they would not have five or six hours notice, by their detached watchmen, or out centinels; nothing but ocular demonstration, can convey a perfect idea of the steep and dangerous precipices we passed, and which men, wearing shoes, could not be so secure as Negroes, who being bare footed, had *toe fingers* as well as hands, to secure them from falling."

During negotiations Thicknesse was a hostage with the Maroons, and there he saw the skull of

the unfortunate Laird of Laharret, who, on going on a similar mission, had been basely murdered against Quoha's wish at the instigation of an obeah woman. Just as terms were being completed, a militia colonel nearly ruined negotiations by insisting that owing to his superior rank the terms of peace should be set down in his and not Captain Adair's name, and blows were with difficulty averted. "The Negroes could not be indifferent spectators to a scene of such confusion, and so big with mischief, and it was with some difficulty we could prevail upon Quoha to consider himself, and his people safe, between two contending parties of white men; and if Quoha had not been a *plantation slave*, who knew something of the customs and manners, of the white people, all had been lost."

Thicknesse concludes his account by a well-merited tribute to Trelawney. "I have been thus particular, as to this part of the business, because the ingenious author of the history of Jamaica, in speaking of the peace made with the wild Negroes by Governor Trelawney, has not mentioned it as *two distinct acts*, and with two separate bodies of men, under different leaders, and quite unconnected, but as if it had been *one act of grace*; to *one body of people*; whereas, it was as distinct a matter, as making peace with the French, without including the Spaniards, or the Spaniards without the French. This great and important service rendered to that island, should have been marked by the assembly with a statue at St. Jago, before the governor's door, to the man, who preserved their lives, and properties; and as they are a generous, a brave and an hospitable people, I hope, when they so properly place a statue to Lord Rodney's memory for so gallantly defending them from an attack by sea, that they will not forget, what they owe to him who secured them interior benefits of equal importance to their purses and persons."

A painting of Thicknesse by Gainsborough is in the possession of Lady Quilter. The present illustration is a copy of a drawing by Hoare, of Bath, one of the foundation members of the Royal Academy, in the British Museum. There is a silhouette portrait in the 1791 edition of his "Memoirs," and a caricature portrait of him, said to be by Gillray, in Adair's "Curious Facts and Anecdotes not contained in the Memoirs of Philip Thicknesse."

MR. H. L. PEASE, Vice-President and Managing Director of the Royal Bank of Canada, in a statement favouring the "annexation" of the British West Indies by Canada, "or some other form of political union," is reported as having said: "The entire business element and native population of the British West Indies, *being strongly pro-British* (the italics are our own), favours the idea." One might imagine from this that our West Indian Colonies were "neutrals" instead of being, as they are, and as they were before the great Dominion in which Mr. Pease resides had its beginnings, British to the backbone.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE R.M.S.P. *Quillota* will make a further voyage to the West Indies on or about November 25th, calling at the same ports as before.

MR. D. WALLACE, who has joined the Royal Naval Reserve, and is now mine-sweeping in the North Sea, has been appointed a Director of Tennant's Estates, Ltd., of which he has been Secretary since 1911.

MR. AND MRS. GUY PONSONBY are to be congratulated on the birth of a daughter, which happy event took place on October 18th. Mr. Ponsonby is the son of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, whilst his wife is a daughter of Major W. Greig, of Trinidad.

MISS DORA ALLEYNE, youngest daughter of the late Hon. Forster Alleyne, of Porters, Barbados, and of Mrs. Alleyne, of 21, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, has, we regret to say, been suffering from a form of infantile paralysis. The many friends of the family will, however, be glad to know that she is now better, and is making slow progress towards recovery.

DR. H. ALFORD NICHOLS, C.M.G., Senior Medical Officer of Dominica, and Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee in that island, who recently underwent a very severe operation, is, we are glad to learn, now convalescent at Rochester, U.S.A. He hoped to leave for Canada at the end of this month, and to spend a fortnight there before returning to Dominica.

UNDER a contract between Mr. J. Spencer Hollings, the owner, and the Administrator, the motor-boat *Windrush*, which used to ply between Nevis and St. Kitts, is now running between Roseau and Portsmouth, on the leeward coast of Dominica, calling at Mahaut, St. Joseph, and Colihaut *en route*. The contract is for one year, and the subsidy £450, payable in monthly instalments.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the Children's Day appeal of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium continue to be received by Mr. W. A. M. Goode, among the latest being £100 as the proceeds of a concert organised by Mrs. Didier in Dominica; £266 from school children and friends in Trinidad; and £2 6s. as the proceeds of the sale of a favourite doll sent over by Miss Gertrude V. H. Cropper, of St. Vincent.

In spite of the outcry as to potash famine as the result of the cutting off of German supplies of this valuable fertilising agent, it is of interest to note that Messrs. John Poynter, Son & Macdonalds supply their well-known manures with this important constituent in undiminished quantity. Their special cacao, tobacco, and banana manures still

contain 20 per cent. of sulphate of potash, and their special cane manure 5.28 per cent.

DR. ERNEST STURRIDGE left for New York *en route* to Jamaica on Saturday last. Born in the island, he left it nearly twenty years ago to practise in England, and we may be sure that he will receive a cordial welcome from many friends when he revisits the land of his birth for the first time after his prolonged absence. In the world of dental science Dr. Sturridge has made his mark, and it is noteworthy that he has been invited to address several learned societies whilst he is in New York with regard to his speciality, dental electro-therapeutics.

WE have received the following interesting letter from Second Lieutenant L. R. Wheeler regarding the doings of the Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment commanded by Colonel Wood-Hill, and now stationed in Egypt:—

"We are now enjoying very delightful weather as the summer heat is a thing of the past, and the sunny days, usually with a fair breeze, are followed by cool nights. Everybody appreciates the change. We are constantly shifting about from one camp to another, but generally it is possible to get good bathing and also a little fishing. This is a very good thing, as it has been impossible to do much in the way of games or sports owing to the heat and the sand.

"The men get all kinds of recreation, however, at the ubiquitous Y.M.C.A. tents, which are found at every permanent camp. In addition to providing facilities for writing, games, and refreshments, the people in charge are constantly organising evening concerts, boxing displays, and other entertainments; one of the most popular of these is a portable cinematograph which travels about from one centre to another in the side car of a motor bicycle. Sometimes the officers are able to organise aquatic sports, with swimming races and water polo, which make a welcome change from the somewhat strenuous work of all kinds which the troops are called on to perform.

"In many ways the 'Westies' have made a very favourable impression all round, although they have not yet had a chance in Egypt of showing their mettle under fire. A large number of officers and men have attended Bombing Courses at the Imperial School of Instruction at — or at smaller centres, and have done extremely well; their fondness for cricket has no doubt helped to make them very good throwers. At — the regiment has a great reputation for efficiency and good work in every sort of military work, including general courses, machine-gun work and signalling, as well as bombing. The general bearing and smartness of the men compares favourably with those of the other troops there, although these include representatives of almost all the different branches of the Imperial forces.

"Several officers of different corps have noticed the same qualities in the guards which the regiment provides on a lavish scale at the various stations it occupies. Of course there is room for improvement in some respects, but on the whole the general conduct of the unit is very satisfactory.

"We hear that the Cap Badges have at last arrived in Egypt, though they have not reached the unit yet. We are all very keen to see them, as they promise to be a great improvement on the first lot that was issued, besides being distinctive, which the others are not.

"By permission of the Commanding Officer, parties of N.C.O.s and men have lately visited Port Said and Cairo. This has made an enjoyable break in the rather monotonous existence among the desert sand and scrub, and has given them a chance to see some very interesting places. Those attending the — courses have also had the chance of seeing the Pyramids and some of the chief buildings and ruins in Cairo, which is quite near."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

JAMAICA—A Proposed Sugar Deputation.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—The weather during September was somewhat oppressive, though not more so than is generally expected in September. Thunderstorms prevailed on ten days, but the rainfall was greatly below the average for the month. The maximum temperature was 92.3 deg. F., the minimum 70 deg. F., and the average 80.2 deg. F. The maximum velocity of the wind was registered on the 6th, with a strength of 25 miles per hour. The total rainfall for the month was 0.97 inches (in Kingston).

At a meeting of the Sugar Industry Committee held recently it was suggested that a deputation be sent to England to confer with the Colonial Office authorities, and to ascertain exactly the position of affairs, and what steps were likely to be taken in the future in regard to sugar from the Colonies. While the suggestion itself was generally agreed to, it was decided to allow the matter to wait a little longer before putting it into execution. A proposal is on foot in St. James to erect a large Central Sugar Factory in that parish. It is claimed that, provided sufficient acreage of canes can be guaranteed to them, there will be little difficulty in inducing a large firm of manufacturers of sugar machinery to erect the necessary plant.

The Royal Bank of Canada has purchased the building and site at the corner of King and Harbour Streets at present occupied by Messrs. Young and Company, who intend to go out of business here. The Royal Bank expect to transfer their office to the new building in March next. A company is about to be formed, with a capital of £50,000, to erect a brewery and ice factory in Kingston. The American Army authorities, having found the horses and mules recently purchased in Jamaica so satisfactory for their requirements in the Canal Zone, have decided to purchase some 500 mules and 200 horses here annually, and have appointed a regular purchasing agent.

His Lordship Bishop de Carteret sailed for England via the United States on the 16th. Bishop de Carteret will make an effort to secure subscriptions abroad and at home for the memorial fund for the late Archbishop of the West Indies. Deputy-Inspector-General Harrell has relinquished his duties in Jamaica, and will shortly proceed to take up his new post as Inspector-General in Barbados. He has been succeeded here by Inspector Strachan. Mr. Monaghan, United States Consul, returned to the island on the 22nd, after a visit to the United States. His Honour Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of Turks Island, sailed for Turks Island via New York, on the 2nd.

The death occurred on the 2nd of Mr. J. Phillips, Secretary of the Jamaica Telephone Company. Mrs. William Wilson, one of the prime movers in the Jamaica Contingent Scheme, died on the 12th.

As a result of the damage done to the banana crops by the recent hurricane, and previous disasters of like nature, several planters have decided to divert some of the space given up to fruit to the cultivation of cacao, a crop less susceptible to damage by high winds.

Hon. H. A. L. Simpson has resigned the Mayoralty of Kingston, as a result of certain differences between himself and other members of the Council. The fourth Jamaica Contingent of the British West Indies Regiment sailed on the 30th.

The Legislative Council met in special session on the 26th, mainly with the purpose of considering measures for assisting sufferers from the recent hurricane.

The chief proposals before the members were—

Giving the Loan Banks power to make special loans, and strengthening the control over them, and handing over the sum of £50,000 to the Agricultural Society for this purpose.

Abolishing imprisonment for labour offences by immigrants.

Dealing with goods in transit in relation to the Black List.

Amending the Volunteer Law to allow of Military Authorities discharging volunteers serving with the Imperial Forces outside Jamaica.

Dealing with the winding-up of the business affairs of alien enemies.

Relief work for storm-distressed labourers to the extent of £21,000.

Hurricane damage repairs, £10,600.

Grant of £500 for the purchase of seeds to enable small settlers to at once re-plant.

Free railway facilities for men from H.M. naval ships when in port.

There was some opposition to the relief proposals from nine of the elected members, but this is being overcome and the £21,000 vote has been carried, and the bill for the transferring £50,000 to the Agricultural Society for the purpose of making loans will also probably pass all its readings within the next few days. Permission was asked by one of the members to introduce a Conscription Bill, but was refused on the ground of extra expenditure involved in such a measure. It is nevertheless possible that some such measure, in an amended form, may be introduced early in 1917 unless the present system of recruiting is able to meet the situation, which seems at present unlikely.

The business of the Legislative Council has not yet been concluded, and the Session may be prolonged for a further five days.

The active war funds now stands as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	4,944	6	10
Jamaica French Red Cross Fund	138	19	6
Jamaica Belgian Orphan Fund	130	2	3
Jamaica Polish Jews Fund	1,869	4	7
Jamaica Blue Cross (No. 2) Fund	162	19	0
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers Fund	671	5	6
Jamaica Contingent New Testament Fund	60	6	11

ST. LUCIA—A Local Loan Over-subscribed.

In his opening address to the members of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, recorded in the local *Gazette*, Mr. Gideon Murray voiced the gratitude of the Colony to Canada for the efficient defence arrangements maintained by the Dominion Government, and also to our ships of war. In the early months of the year the coaling trade fell off considerably, but the blocking of the Panama Canal led to a revival, vessels being diverted to Castries. With regard to agriculture, the capacity of the local lime factory was to be doubled during the year, and a successful start had been made under the Agricultural Credit Societies Ordinance by the formation of the first society at Dennery.

The estimates for 1916-17 provided for an estimated revenue from local sources of £70,069 and an estimated credit balance of £2,407 to go towards war expenditure in that year. In order to provide this the same additional taxation as was imposed in 1915 with a view to meeting the financial exigencies of the war would be necessary.

A special loan of £20,000 for the improvement of roads was raised locally and over-subscribed. Work on the Castries-Dennery road was making headway, and proprietors concerned had given facilities for widening the road over the Morne and down the Cul-de-Sac Valley.

TURKS ISLANDS—Prospects of the Salt Crop.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—The weather during August, as in the preceding few months, has been very oppressive, and despite the precipitation at the end of last month everywhere is parched and vegetation that was put out after the rain has been burnt off by the excessive heat. The maximum temperature for the month was 91.5 deg., and the minimum 71.5 deg. F. The total precipitation as registered by the United States Weather Bureau was .76 of an inch. Fortunately we have escaped so far anything of the nature of a hurricane. Reports from the Caicos Islands as to growing crops are favourable, and with occasional showers and the heavy dew there should be a supply of garden produce and fruit as is grown in that vicinity.

On the 1st instant a parade of school children, followed by a concert and bazaar in the Manse grounds, and a band concert on the Parade, Grand Turk, on the 2nd resulted in the sum of £20 6s. 8d. being placed in the Treasury on behalf of the Belgian Children's Relief Fund. On the 15th instant a concert and bazaar was held at

Salt Cay on behalf of the Belgian Children's Relief Fund, with the result that the sum of £7 10s. was placed to this account at the Treasury. On the 21st instant Dr. Audin, Assistant Commissioner and Government Medical Officer for the Caicos Islands, came up from East Harbour and took over the duties of Government Medical Officer at Grand Turk. Mr. Edmund Harriott, of Jamaica, arrived from New York on the SS. *Iroquois* on a vacation.

On the 23rd instant Dr. and Mrs. Geoghegan sailed on the SS. *Tortuguero* for Jamaica, en route for England. His Honour the Commissioner left on the same steamer on official business in Jamaica. On the 29th instant the roadstead presented a very lively appearance, there being two three-masted and one four-masted schooners at anchor to load salt, and a steamer on her way over to East Harbour to load there. From news to hand the salt industry is likely to liven up considerably during the next few months. Several large vessels and steamers are chartered to load here, to be followed by others, will tend to improve things generally.

Mr. H. F. Harriott, of Messrs. D. F. and H. F. Harriott, of Salt Cay, tells me the outlook for the sale of the stock of salt now on hand is very pleasing. He expects a steamer to take 60,000 bushels of fishery salt, which will be the largest cargo of salt of that description ever shipped from the Dependency. The conch shell industry is still dormant and until those who are shipping come to an understanding as to price and stop underselling one another, there is not likely to be much in it. Several of the shippers now have thousands of shells on hand, and from appearances storing does not tend to improve their lustre. The fibre industry has taken a sudden jump. This, too, I am afraid, like conch shells, will be spoilt by so many dabbling in it, and who have not the remotest idea of business, and as long as it gets to New York and is sold, no matter what the price, they have done well. One man here, a Caicos man, who has been in Mexico for some years, is buying in any quantity hand cleaned fibre from the Caicos Islands, having it baled here, and shipped to New York, has shown me figures of his last shipment of about two tons. He cleared a fraction under four cents a pound, not taking into account his personal labour. As the Caicos people from whom he buys, practically take the whole amount out in provisions, etc., from his store, he is not doing badly. His last shipment made eight cents a pound in New York. Large quantities are being shipped by the company in which Mr. W. S. Jones is interested. Small quantities of sponge are being shipped also.

September, and especially the latter portion, has been brighter, and with the shipment of several cargoes of salt it has tended to improve the situation. With schooners in for salt and the merchants out of provisions, some stores being cleared out of everything, did not tend to please the labouring classes, in fact it was hard to procure the bare necessities of life, and it is hoped that with a brighter outlook in the salt industry, this state of things may improve.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Obit.—On October 25th, at the Acland Nursing Home, Oxford, to Mr. and Mrs. Tylston Greg, a daughter.

WANT.

Solicitor (aged 35, exempt from military service), who served his articles with Messrs. Cornaldi & Ashenheim, Jamaica, and has practised for over eight years, seeks engagement with a business house as manager or responsible clerk. Excellent references. Reply "C.V.E.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Directors have resolved to pay out of the profits of the current year an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30th last, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum (less income tax) on the Preference Stock, and an interim dividend at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum (less income tax) on the Ordinary Stock, being at the same rate as last year. The dividend on the Ordinary Stock issued in March last will be calculated from the dates of payment of the Instalments. The dividend warrants will be posted to the Proprietors on 3rd of November.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The Central Mining and Investment Corporation, as secretaries of Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., have issued the following statement:—

The directors have not hitherto deemed it advisable to issue periodical reports of output, as, until operations have been established on a regular basis, such reports might be misleading. As shareholders were informed at the last annual meeting, production was restricted pending the provision of transport facilities and ample closed tankage accommodation. Considerable further tankage has been erected and the pipe-line has been completed to the shipping site, but, owing to the uncertainties of ocean transport created by the war, the limitation of output had to be continued during the present year. Steady work has been carried on, however, and at the present time the output approximates 1,400 tons weekly, including the yield of a well brought in during the past few weeks, which is responsible for roughly one-third of the total.

The plant for the production of fuel oil, mentioned at the last annual meeting, was ordered in February of this year. Considerable delay has taken place in the delivery of this plant, owing to war conditions, but a large portion has now been shipped, the erection of which has begun. Two tank steamers have been supplied with cargoes of crude oil f.o.b. Point-à-Pierre. A small bunker trade has been established in Trinidad, and in addition, some fuel oil is being sold under contracts with local consumers. The annual meeting will be held in December, when the chairman will deal fully with the operations of the company.

Trinidad Central Oilfields.

Mr. A. Duckham, presiding over the fifth ordinary general meeting of Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., on October 20th, said that they had done their best to secure the full share of the local markets. For this purpose they had put up a can-making factory, and they were the only firm in the island that had done so. They had secured concessions for tank depots at railway stations. These steps would gradually show their effect in increased sales. They had, moreover, never neglected an opportunity of bringing small consignments to England, where there is, of course, a ready market. For this purpose they had had to pack for export in steel barrels, which when empty had to be returned. The trading account, notwithstanding all their difficulties, had resulted in a net profit somewhat in excess of the previous year. During the year considerable constructional work was successfully carried out. On the field at Tabaquite another 1,000 tons was added to the steel storage accommodation, while an emergency earthen storage of ample capacity was prepared, and the necessary pipe-lines and pumping machinery for dealing with the output was provided and coupled up. Only eight new wells were drilled for production, and all of these turned out to be producers. At Claxton Bay, the loading station on the Company's land on the coast of the Gulf of Paria, steel tank storage for 4,000 tons was erected, and a submerged pipe-line installed to a distance of over half a mile in the sea to a point where there is a sufficient depth of water to accommodate any tank steamer which they were likely to be called upon to load. A complete pumping station had been erected for forcing the oil from the tanks through this line into the vessels. The transport from the field to the coast storage and loading

station had had the Directors' very careful consideration, and they had decided to run a pipe-line from the field to the loading station—a distance of about eighteen miles. The survey in connection therewith had been made, and the agreement with the Trinidad Government approved. The material had been delivered in the island, and one of their consulting engineers (Mr. Thompson) and one of his engineers are on the spot, supervising the laying of this line. When this line was complete the Company would possess a very cheap and efficient system of transport direct from the field to vessel. It had been found possible to lay it, practically through the whole of its length, alongside Government roads, and this at a very small way-leave to the Government. The negotiations with the Trinidad Government for the acquisition of a lease on favourable terms had terminated very satisfactorily. Although the present high prices could not be expected to rule for long after the War, he felt confident that when they were reduced they would have everything in a very complete state to deal with much larger quantities at prices which would enable them to compete advantageously. This War must have brought home to all the Governments—Allies or enemy—the vital importance of oil in the conduct of modern war, not only for use as fuel on battleships, as spirit on aeroplanes and motor-cars, but, most essential of all, for the supply of lubricant, without which the whole manufacture of munitions and also the running of the essential services of the country might become paralysed. He was confident that when the War was over the Government would, without pressing, turn its attention to the fostering of British oilfields, so that for the future it might rely for its supplies of this essential commodity not on neutral countries with the fear of uncertainty of their changing from a neutral to an enemy, but rather on the oilfields of the British Empire, which were in a position, if fostered, to produce oil to meet the requirements of the whole Empire.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.

November 1st, 1916

BANK RATE remains at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. Consols are quoted at 56; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 84½; and New War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 94.

SUGAR. The feature of the fortnight has been the great strength of the New York market. The figure for duty paid 96°s at the date of the last Summary was \$6.39, but this record was passed on the following day, when quotations went up to \$6.52, with granulated at \$7.50, and on the 26th to \$6.64. As pointed out in our Summary of a month ago, the statistical position for the next three months is a strong one, the probable supply and demand practically only balancing. The holding up of the Cuban stocks by Cuban planters, who have taken advantage of the situation, has, therefore, had a very tightening effect upon the market, and it can now be said that the ex-tariff price of sugar to the American people is higher than to the British public. On the 30th values slightly receded, 96° duty paid being quoted at \$6.52, and a further decline has taken place to-day, 96° being quoted at \$6.46, with granulated strong at \$7.65.

Mr. Himely continues to speak encouragingly of the Cuban 1917 crop, and speaks of the big profits made by the planters as having led to increased tillage and fertilizing of the cane fields. Coupled with the favourable weather, and assistance to the cultivation from the rapid reaping of crop, the yield promises to be an abnormal one. But much depends upon the next few weeks. The cyclone season is practically over, but a late cyclone, as Mr. Himely points out, would do great damage to the canes on account of their abnormal length. Then, again, there might be a continuance of rains with a prolongation of growth resulting in a late crop and poor juice, as occurred to the 1915 crop. The month of November will, therefore, be watched with the greatest anxiety, seeing what a dominant factor the Cuban crop is in the world's

supply of sugar. The Cuban crop, indeed, occupies a similar position in this respect to that which the German and Austrian crops held before the war, and next year's sugar prices will depend largely on how it turns out. This, the current, month will decide, but indications of a prolonged growing season are very apparent. In the meantime, Messrs. Willett & Gray estimate the 1916-17 crop at 3,400,000 tons.

Up to the 7th the exports from Cuba to Europe amounted to 705,258 tons. Of this 518,885 tons went to the United Kingdom, 140,536 tons to France, 16,991 tons to Spain, and 28,846 tons to various other European ports.

Considerable light has been thrown on the sugar conditions of Germany by the recently issued report of the President of the Vereinus des Deutsche Zucker Industrie. It appears that the stocks in Germany on the 1st of September, 1915, amounted to 350,000 tons. The crop, first product only, was 1,400,000, the secondary products being devoted to cattle food, etc. There was thus available for consumption in Germany during the year 1915-16 1,750,000 tons. The 1914-15 consumption was 1,600,000, which left very little in the way of stocks to go on with until the 1916-17 crop commenced.

The Association naturally wanted permission to increase the area under cultivation materially, but the Government would only sanction an increase of 10 per cent. on the 1915-16 area, which was itself 25 per cent. below the pre-war area. The report further stated that the 1916-17 crop was estimated at 1,600,000 tons, including secondary products. Incidentally the report referred to the manufacture of nitrogenous food-stuffs from sugar by an especial yeast, about which so much had been heard. The process is evidently a failure, as the molasses devoted to it were diverted to the distilleries.

The *Journal des Fabricants des Sucres* states that, according to the German Press, Germany and Austria have agreed to keep the conditions of the Brussels Sugar Convention in force as between themselves. The sugar trade of the Balkans and the Levant is to be reserved for Austria, who, on her part, guarantees not to compete in Germany's natural sugar markets with German sugar.

The International Institute of Agriculture at Rome gives the area to be reaped in France this crop as 199,440 acres, as against 208,215 acres last year; the area in Italy at 111,150 acres, as against 222,159 acres last year; the area in Holland as 147,199 acres, as against 140,912 acres in 1915; that of Denmark 76,790 acres, as against 79,180 acres.

The Cuban crop has closed, according to Willett and Gray, at 3,007,915 tons. The same authorities report an increase in the Java estimate from 1,500,000 to 1,560,000 tons, the biggest crop on record for that island. Advice from Honolulu report great activity in the direction of improved machinery for the existing factories.

The West India Committee and the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool have jointly filed an application under Part III, Section 42 (1) of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, for an increase in the case of the West India sugar trade of the statutory percentage in regard to the Excess Profits Duty. No date has yet been fixed for a hearing by the Board of Referees. Meanwhile it may be recorded decisions have been reached in the case of the rubber, cinema, omnibus, and Malayan tin industries, for which the statutory percentages have been raised to 10 per cent., 11 per cent., 8 per cent., and 13 per cent. respectively, as far as public companies are concerned.

The home market has pursued its even course, the change of price having been yet made by the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies. The Press continues to be inundated with letters complaining of the difficulty in obtaining retail supplies of sugar. The imports for the first nine months of 1916 were 1,230,491 tons; for the same period of this year 1,187,936 tons. Whence comes this agitation? In this connection it would be interesting to know what quantities the sugar using trades are consuming compared with 1914. There seems to be no abatement in the amount of sweets and chocolate for sale, and it is quite possible that the leak of sugar is in that direction. As it has already been pointed out, the consumption of sugar for that hazy period "after the war" promises to be enormous. It is a known fact that the sugar taste, once acquired, whether in the direction of sweets and chocolates, or sugar "straight,"

is permanent, and it is no doubt one of nature's provisions that it should be so.

The Royal Commission have decided that in future sugars polarising over 89° shall not be licensed for importation, and that such sugars polarising 89° and under shall only be licensed when destined for the use of brewers or of the makers of brewing sugar. As regards muscovados, licences will be granted without that restriction.

Not less than 547,394 tons of refined sugar were exported from the United States for the seven months of the present year, the value of which was \$60,581,000. This, according to the *New York Journal of Commerce*, is 3.895 per cent. more than the 1914 pre-war figure for the same period.

The *Board of Trade Journal* states that the area being reaped in Russia of beet is 1,595,092 acres, as against 1,764,149 acres last crop. The yield is expected to be, the *Journal* states, 1,090 pounds per dessiatine, equivalent to rather under six tons of beets per acre, as against 6.1 tons last year.

Writing in the *Louisiana Planter*, Dr. Prinsen Geerlings under date September 6th, speaks of the scarcity of sugar in Germany, and mentions that in Berlin the per caput allowance has been reduced to 300 grms. for the half-months, equal to about 16 lbs. per annum, the previous figure being 47 lbs. He also mentions that the crop in that country will be small in comparison with the acreage reaped, on account of the entire absence of Chile saltpetre, and the restricted supply of sulphate of ammonia. "The newer forms of these fertilizers," Dr. Geerlings remarks, "did not respond to expectations."

In a later letter to the same journal, the learned doctor, in speaking of the shortage of sugar in Holland, states, more in sorrow than in anger, that he has had to fall back upon his sugar samples of past years for his domestic supply!

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from Jan. 1st to Oct. 21st are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	49,146	48,245	27,373	35,406	24,381
Deliveries ...	51,149	39,203	32,406	24,623	26,211
Stock (Oct. 21)	9,102	15,051	7,919	12,627	2,660

RUM. The uncertainty as to whether the permission to sell rum under three years of age is going to be extended or not is causing great stagnation in the trade. Buyers will not run the risk of buying rum for near use which may have to be stored for over two years. Another trouble as the result of the Immature Spirits Act, which will become accentuated if there is no Order-in-Council giving an extension of the one year's warehousing, is the difficulty as to warehouse room. No bonded warehouse accommodation was available for a steamer arriving recently from Demerara with rum. Under present conditions of the building trade, new warehouses are not to be erected.

The market is quiet and unchanged. Jamaica may be quoted at 5/6 to 5/7; Demerara 3/4 to 4/0½ proof.

The stocks in London on Oct. 21st were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	10,140	5,250	8,102	7,246	8,796
Demerara ...	12,305	5,673	7,188	6,829	5,753
Total, all kinds ...	36,527	22,852	21,817	21,615	22,680

CACAO. The market has been very dull, with little doing. At auction sales on the 24th there was practically no demand, only 366 bags being disposed of out of 9,673 bags offered. A few bags of Trinidad sold at 84/-.

Trinidad may be quoted at 83/- to 85/-; Grenada 73/- to 82/6; Jamaica 70/- to 82/6; St. Lucia 72/- to 82/6; St. Vincent 70/- to 80/-; and Dominica 70/- to 80/-; all nominal prices.

The stocks in London on Oct. 21st were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	20,619	12,546	10,806	12,280	7,091
Grenada ...	13,122	1,945	5,059	3,116	1,823
Total, all kinds ...	202,474	127,007	85,995	82,015	101,209

COTTON. Messrs Wolstenholme and Holland report that, owing to absence of stock, no business is reported in West Indian Sea Island cotton during the past fortnight.

The imports of West Indian cotton for the year up to the 27th October amounted to 4,465 bales.

COFFEE. Demand moderate. At auction on the 31st ult. there was a moderate supply offered which was part sold at unchanged prices; 174 bags of fair ordinary grey Jamaica sold at 60/-; 53 bags Demerara Liberian were bought in.

FRUIT. Bananas West Indian are quoted at £17 per ton (truck loads); Canary 7/- to 15/- per crate. Jamaica Oranges are fetching 15/- to 17/- per case (mixed counts), and Jamaica Coco-nuts 23/- per bag (100's). All delivered free on rail London.

There is a firm demand for all the above items.

RUBBER. The market is steady, after easiness following on considerable firmness. Fine plantation may be quoted at 2/6; smoked sheet 2/5½; fine hard Para 3/4½; soft 3/2.

The increase in the statutory percentage under the Excess Profits duty clauses of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. only in the case of rubber companies has caused profound disappointment. It is pointed out that the younger concerns which are only just beginning to earn dividends after several years of waiting are seriously prejudiced. During four or five years of development the shareholders have received no return, and now all profits over 10 per cent. will be subject to the excess profits impost, which will necessitate a readjustment of share values. The older concerns which have paid huge dividends in the past will be comparatively unaffected.

BALATA. The market is practically unchanged. Venezuelan block is quoted at 2/9 c.i.f. sellers' price. Panama block at 2/3 to 2/3½ nominal. West Indian sheet, spot 3/5½; forward 3/3 nominal.

HONEY. Very little demand as yet for Jamaica; prices nominally about steady.

SPICES. Ginger. There is practically no enquiry, and quotations are nominal, at 80/- to 85/- for common small; 90/- to 100/- for good middling; with bold to fine ditto 105/- to 110/- per cwt. Pimento. Cheap lots are offered by second hand holders, and in the meantime importers are quite firm in view of advices from Jamaica. Mace and Nutmegs are firm at unchanged prices. Nutmegs, 68s, 1/2; 75s, 1/1; 80s, 1/-; 95s, 11d.; 110s, 10½d.; broken 6d. to 8½d. Mace, good pale, 2/10; fair pale, 1/9; middling red, 1/3 to 1/5; broken, 6½d.

COPRA. The market is firm and dearer. The value of West Indian is £36 per ton, usual terms.

COCO-NUT OIL. Ceylon is quoted 54/- c.i.f. Cochin 56/- c.i.f.

ARROWROOT. There has been rather more inquiry for lower priced quality. About 450 barrels reported sold at 2½d. to 3d. Quotations 2½d. to 4½d.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil.—Distilled. Quiet, after fair sales at 9/-. The new heavy arrivals may temporarily depress the market. Handpressed is wanted, there being none offering. The last price paid was 11/- per lb. Lime juice. Raw. Sales of Jamaica are reported at 3/3, spot. There is no business to report in Concentrated, and quotations remain unchanged at £22. Citrate of Lime. No business to report, prices remain unchanged at £27.

PETROLEUM OIL. American 1/1½; Water White 1/2½.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. J. R. Bancroft | Mr. John T. Greg | Mr. Albert Mendes |
| Mr. G. S. Browne | Mr. Wm. Greig | Mr. Alfred Mendes |
| Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G. | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Mr. John T. Moir |
| Mrs. Burdon | Mrs. E. Haynes | Dr. Frank Oliphant |
| Mr. Paul Cressall | Hon. R. Haynes | Mr. T. W. O'Neal |
| Prof. J. P. D'Abuquerque | Mr. E. A. Hinkson | Mr. T. Orde |
| Hon. P. J. Dean | Mr. E. H. C. Irving | Miss E. Robinson |
| Mr. D. S. De Freitas | Mr. E. C. Jackman | Mr. T. G. Rose |
| Mr. W. de Gale | Mr. A. H. Kirby | Mr. E. G. A. Saunders |
| Mr. J. S. de la Mothe | Hon. A. Don Lockhart | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy |
| Sir Walter Egerton. | Mr. A. Marsden | Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne |
| K.C.M.G. | Sir Frederic Maxwell | Mr. J. C. Shaw |
| Mr. C. V. A. Espeut | Mr. A. L. McColl | Mr. R. B. Short |
| Mr. W. Morris-Fletcher | Dr. J. McIntroy | and |
| Mr. W. Gordon Gordon | Mr. Hugh McLelland | Mr. F. H. S. Warranford |
| Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate. | | |
| Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D. 38, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N. | | |
| Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts. | | |
| Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C. | | |
| Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk. | | |

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Nov. 6	"Direct"	Cross of <i>Manasse</i>	Glasgow	A. B. E. F. G. K. L. M. N.
.. 9	Booker	<i>Imataka</i>	Liverpool	B.
.. 10	"Direct"	<i>Catalina</i>	London	A. B. E. F. G. K. L. M. N.
.. 10	Elders & Fyffes	<i>Coronado</i>	Bristol	D.
.. 11	Leyland	<i>Orubian</i>	Liverpool	A. E.
.. 13	"Direct"	Cross of <i>Lordova</i>	Glasgow	A. B. E. F. G. K. L. M. N.
.. 22	"	<i>Serrana</i>	London	A. B. E. F. G. K. L. M. N.
.. 24	Elders & Fyffes	<i>Cavina</i>	Bristol	D.
.. 25	R.M.S.P.	<i>Quilata</i>	London	A. E. D.
.. 25	Leyland	<i>Nicostian</i>	Liverpool	A. E.

FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Nov. 17	R.M.S.P.Co.	<i>Carriquet</i>	Halifax, N.S.	A. B. E. F. G. I.
Dec. 1	"	<i>Chaleur</i>	"	K. L. M. N.

FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 1	Royal Dutch	<i>Peter de</i> <i>Nederlanden</i>	Amsterdam	B. E.

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices Nov. 1
4%	Antigua	4% Redeemable 1919-44	.. ..
3 1/2%	Barbados	3 1/2% Redeemable 1923-42	77
4%	British Guiana	4% Redeemable 1913	74
4%	British Guiana	3% Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4%	Grenada	4% Redeemable 1917-42	74 1/2
4%	Jamaica	4% Redeemable 1934	.. ..
3 1/2%	Jamaica	3 1/2% Redeemable 1919-49	71 1/2
3%	Jamaica	3% Redeemable 1923-44	.. ..
4%	St. Lucia	4% Redeemable 1919-44	.. ..
4%	Trinidad	4% Redeemable 1917-42	74
3%	Trinidad	3% Redeemable 1923-44	69 1/2
3 1/2%	The Colonial Bank	.. ..	52
6%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	.. ..	119 sd
5 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	.. ..	86 1/2 sd
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures	.. ..	.. ..
5 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	.. ..	88 1/2
4 1/2%	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2% Debentures	.. ..	103 1/2
6%	Angostura Hitters Part. Preference	.. ..	86 1/2
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	.. ..	103
..	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	.. ..	81 1/2
..	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	.. ..	14 1/2
..	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	.. ..	20 1/2
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perso Pref.	.. ..	97 1/2 sd
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	.. ..	67 1/2
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	.. ..	72 1/2
1 1/2%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. ordinary	.. ..	10 1/2
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Com. 1st Pref.	.. ..	2 1/2
6%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	.. ..	6
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures	.. ..	96

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures, published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies during the current year to September 15th (except where otherwise specified), have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados.*	British Guiana.†	British Honduras.	Dominica.	Grenada.‡	Jamaica.**	Montserrat.	St. Lucia.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	St. Vincent.	Trinidad.†
Arrowroot	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,189,510	..
Asphalt	.. Tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67,666
Balata	.. Lbs.	..	554,493	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,100
Bananas	.. Bchs.	..	..	603,910	..	..	3,433,480	..	..	..	..	..
Bitters	.. Galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,754
Cacao	.. Lbs.	..	17,730	14,379	..	4,893,960	5,224,576	2,920	1,170,400	..	93,695	49,237,264
Cassava Starch	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	700	123,527	..
Cacao-nuts	.. No.	..	1,096,401	2,716,123	..	..	13,318,461	..	22,420	..	..	11,310,909
Coffee	.. Lbs.	..	43,212	..	..	..	4,853,568	..	..	..	..	1,751
Coira	.. Lbs.	..	177,968	101,469	..	..	..	..	5,862	..	..	2,436,071
Cotton, M. Galante	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	347,352	..	..	..	..	..	32,218
Cotton, Sea Island	.. Lbs.	105,181	..	..	..	..	45,459	255,649	..	255,626	216,335	7,924
Cotton Seed	.. Tons	..	..	..	..	300	..	154	..	614	..	..
Diamonds	.. Carats	..	8,245	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dyewoods	.. Tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ginger	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	30,261	..	..	..	..	..
Gold	.. Ozs.	..	..	..	..	..	1,767,920	..	..	..	..	..
Ground Nuts	.. Bchs. & brls.	..	24,569	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Honey	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	3,576	..
Lime juice raw	.. Galls.	..	..	..	..	..	123,443 gals.	..	28,512	..	..	1,008
" " condtd.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63,697	1,080	..	..	5,696
" " Oil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,217	3,137	..	..	..
Lime (hydrate of)	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	902	..	..	..
Logwood	.. Tons	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,880	..	..	..	..
Lumber	.. Feet	..	272,296	6,672	..	..	..	..	790	..	..	..
Mahogany	..	..	3,728,568	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manjak	.. Tons	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Molasses	.. galls.	50,871	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	354,163
Oranges	.. No.	..	..	..	..	..	11,782,300	12,329	68,076	110,400	10,100	389,240
Essential Oils	.. Galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	76	..	..	..	..
Petroleum	.. Galls.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,131,757
Pimento	.. Lbs.	..	22,837,684	..	..	..	5,478,030	..	..	..	..	..
Rice	.. Lbs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rubber	.. Lbs.	..	10,165	1,960	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rum	.. Galls.	41,837	2,972,438	55,600	..	1,028	1,471,897	3,447	14,456	..	7,045	491,269
Shingles	.. No.	..	1,512,500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sugar	.. Tons	39,089	42,409	10	..	..	24,209	361	4,371	13,783	435	54,878
Timber	.. Feet	..	72,678	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,112

* To June 30th. † To Sept. 15th. ‡ To Sept. 15th. ** To Sept. 15th.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SKEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.1.
Telegrams: CANIB, LONDON.
November 15th, 1916.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

LESS has been heard lately of trade after the War. The Government appear to be quite afraid of tackling the question, through fear, no doubt, of provoking Cabinet disagreements and party-political dissensions. At times it seems almost hopeless to expect that questions of Imperial trade will ever be extricated from the rut of adherence to economic shibboleths so characteristic of our paid legislators, to most of whom the King's Dominions beyond the seas loom less largely than the parish pump. Not a word of information has been vouchsafed as to the progress of the work of the Committee appointed, under the Chairmanship of LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, in July last to report on the far-reaching decisions of the Allies' Conference held in Paris in June. Meanwhile golden opportunities are being lost. Immense areas in the United Kingdom might even now be under preparation for the cultivation of wheat, if only the Government had adopted the recommendations of the Committee on Food Supplies, which advocated a guarantee to the British farmer of 45/- a quarter for wheat for three years. Now, owing to the deplorable policy of *laissez faire*, the price of wheat has soared to 74/-. The case of sugar is somewhat parallel. No official steps whatever have been taken to encourage the development of the British Imperial sugar industry, the neglect of which in the past has, as we have shown repeatedly, been responsible for the present high prices. The Government, indeed, so far from assisting the industry, has even prevented Colonial Governments from guaranteeing interest on capital for the erection of Central factories, on the grounds that it would be

against the principles of the Brussels Sugar Convention, which MR. ASQUITH's late Ministry denounced, and which is now generally recognised as being extinct. But just as this terrible War is the Colonies' war as well as that of the Mother Country, so also will the question of trade after the War be. It seems to us inconceivable that when peace is once more restored, the Dominions and Colonies will not be admitted to our Councils. When that desirable end is achieved, we may reasonably expect that Parliament—Imperial in fact as well as in name—will take a wider and more intelligent view of Imperial problems than it has done hitherto, and we may further hope that the overseas parts of the Empire will be bound more closely to the Mother Country by a system of preferential trading which will be as much to the advantage of Great Britain as it will be to them. As reflecting the views of the Colonies not possessing responsible government, we commend to the notice of our readers in this connection the forceful resolution of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce which we publish on another page. Their suggestion that the local Government should initiate as promptly as possible such legislation as will enable the policy of the Allies' Conference to be carried into effect locally will, we sincerely hope, be adopted.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

AFTER discussion of a Bill in the Unopposed Bills Committee of the House of Commons, it has been finally decided that the Rhodes Scholarships hitherto allotted to German youths on the nomination of the Emperor shall be withdrawn, and devoted by the Trustees to the British Empire. As long ago as June last, in anticipation of the decision now arrived at, the West India Committee approached the Rhodes Trustees with a view to securing for the West Indies and adjacent colonies a reasonable share of these scholarships. The Committee pointed out that the one scholarship at present allotted to Jamaica could not be considered an adequate recognition of the West Indies. At that time, of course, Parliamentary sanction for the change had not been secured, but a sympathetic acknowledgment was received from DR. PARKIN, the Organising Secretary of the Trust. Now, however, it is settled that the ex-German scholarships are to be allocated within the Empire, it is necessary that the West Indies should formulate a definite plea for a reasonable proportion of them. The Rhodes Scholarships, as our readers are, of course, aware, were established in accordance with the provisions of MR. CECIL RHODES' will. Of these scholarships, all tenable at the University of Oxford, sixty of the annual value of £300, held for three years, were allocated to the British Colonies. Two of the same value were allocated to

each of the States and Territories of the United States, and fifteen, of an annual value of £250 per annum were allotted to Germany, the nomination being in the hands of the Emperor. It is these fifteen scholarships, which, converted into twelve of £300, have now to be allocated to various parts of the British Empire. Before proceeding to deal with the existing allocation of the sixty scholarships held by the Empire, it might be well to explain for the benefit of those of our readers who have not read the provisions of MR. RHODES' will, the kind of lad whom it was his desire to help. The conditions which the candidate for these scholarships must fulfil are only partly scholastic, and the rules laid down by MR. RHODES for the guidance of those who have to select the winners are curiously characteristic of the great Empire builder. The scholastic attainment of the candidates, and the strength of character they have displayed during their schooldays must be vouched for by their headmasters. But MR. CECIL RHODES knew that the Empire's needs would not be met by the advancement of what Oxford calls, or used to call, the "Smug"; consequently he insisted that the candidate's school-fellows should testify to his love of and proficiency in all manly games, and to his possession of the qualities of truth, courage, devotion to duty, kindness, sympathy for the weak, unselfishness and *camaraderie*. The actual literary examination is the equivalent of Responsions, but it will be seen that many who could easily satisfy the examiner might fail to pass the severer test of their school-fellows' approval. Of the sixty scholarships originally allocated to the Empire, twenty-four were allotted to Rhodesia, Cape Colony, and Natal, and thirty-six to the North American, Australasian, and West Indian Colonies, the share of "the West Indies" being one, and that one allotted to Jamaica. Indeed, when we remember that residence in the island for some years is compulsory, not only in the case of the candidate and in that of his parents or guardians also, it is obvious that even if the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, British Guiana, British Honduras, and the Bahamas know of the scholarships at all, which is doubtful, they have no chance of competing, unless they send candidates and their families to Jamaica to qualify by residence. Hence it cannot be maintained that the West Indies as a whole have as yet had any share in CECIL RHODES' fine gift to the Empire. No doubt many pleas will be advanced for the scholarships now available, but no plea, come whence it may, can have a sounder foundation in fact than has that being made on behalf of the West Indies. In sketching out a scheme whereby the West Indies should receive due recognition, it is perhaps advisable to eliminate Jamaica from our consideration, for she can hardly be expected to forego the scholarship allocated to her or to bring it into what lawyers call hotchpot. Consequently we assume that Jamaica retains her scholarship. There remain, then, for consideration Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, British Guiana, and British Honduras. It is scarcely to be expected that six scholarships will be available for the West Indies, hence if all-round

justice is to be done, the scholarships allotted by the Trustees will have to be competed for in rotation, on some principle that will give due weight to population, without depriving the small populations of their share. We should think that four scholarships might be available, but for the present argument let us assume that three only are allotted. The populations of the six claimants are as follows: Trinidad and Tobago, 359,527; British Guiana, 309,938; Windward Islands, 157,264; Leeward Islands, 127,189; the Bahamas, 55,944; and British Honduras, 41,543. On this basis the allocation of three scholarships might be as follows. The Windward and Leeward Islands, one; to be competed for in alternate years, the Windward Islands to have the first year. Guiana and the Bahamas, one; to be competed for by Guiana for two consecutive years, by the Bahamas every third year. Trinidad and Tobago and Honduras, one; to be competed for by Trinidad and Tobago three consecutive years and by Honduras every fourth year. Such an arrangement would do rough justice to all concerned. Of course if more scholarships were available, Jamaica might bring her existing one into account, and a general scheme for the whole of the West Indies could then be devised. The Rhodes scholarships are to be welcomed for their own sake, but in the case of the West Indies they would probably prove another step towards that Federation, which, as yet far off, all the truest friends of the West Indies hold as the ideal to be kept constantly in view.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership 1573.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, E.C., on November 9th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman, presided, and the members also present were: Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Humphry Crum Ewing, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. d'E. Spooner, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

The Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,573, including 19 life members. The following new members were elected:—

Candidate.	Proposer & Seconder.
His Excellency Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.V.O.	{ Mr. C. M. Campbell. { Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Vice-Admiral Montague E. Browning, C.B., M.V.O.	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. W. Gordon Gordon.
Mr. William P. Ross (Grenada)	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Miss Mary Moseley (The Bahamas)	{ Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G. { Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
Lieut. I. C. C. Hobson (Trinidad)	{ Mr. J. Vigour. { Mr. G. R. Alston.
Mr. George Geddes Kirton	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.

Candidate.	Proposer & Seconder.
Mr. Harry J. Crowe (Canada)	Sir Max Aitken, Bart. Mr. Cyril Gunney.
Mr. Archibald Galloway	Mr. Charles Hales. Mr. Harold L. Carey.
Second Lieut. J. A. Robotham (St. Kitts)	Lt. G. B. Mason. R.A.M.C. Mr. F. H. S. Warnford.
Mr. R. F. Williams	Mr. Charles V. Calder. Mr. C. Lister Clarke.

A draft letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the position of rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act was approved subject to such amendments as might be necessary after a meeting between Mr. de Pass, Mr. Dayson, and representatives of the Wine and Spirit Trade Association.

Trade after the War.

A letter was read from the Hon. Adam Smith, Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, forwarding the following resolution adopted at a meeting of the Chamber on October 5th with reference to trade after the War:—

"Whereas, owing to the knowledge of German trade methods and aims revealed since the outbreak of the present war, it has become of infinite importance that immediate steps should be taken to preserve and to so foster our trade as to assist in establishing complete economic independence within the Empire.

Be it resolved,

1. That this Chamber affirms its complete accord with the conclusions arrived at by the Economic Conference of the Allies which met in Paris on June 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th.
2. That it urges the Local Government to initiate as promptly as possible such legislation as will enable the Policy agreed upon by the Conference to be carried into effect locally.
3. That it specially urges upon the Government the necessity of including such provisions in that legislation as will render it impossible in future:
 - (a) For any person of enemy parentage or nationality to own real estate or to carry on any trade or business in this Colony.
 - (b) For ships belonging to those of enemy nationality or parentage to compete in the ports of this colony with either British, Allied or Neutral owned ships on equal terms.
4. That the disabilities stated in the preceding clauses of the resolution shall apply with equal force to Limited Liability Companies, and other Corporations, but shall except always and shall not apply to such persons, Companies, or Corporations as have been allowed to trade here uninterruptedly during the war.

The Secretary reported that copies of this resolution had been circulated to the Press of the United Kingdom.

The Rhodes Scholarships.

The following letter, sent by the Secretary to the Organising Representative of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust in June last and laid on the table, was approved:—

7th June, 1916.

G. R. Parkin, Esq., C.M.G., D.C.L.,
The Rhodes Trust,
Seymour House,
Waterloo Place.

Dear Dr. Parkin,
May I express the hope that you and your co-trustees will bear in mind the British West Indies, British Guiana,

and British Honduras when considering what colonies shall enjoy the advantages of the "Rhodes Scholarships" recently at the disposal of Germany?

At the present these colonies are only represented in the scheme by the scholarships earmarked for Jamaica, which lies over 1,000 miles away from the other Caribbean islands and British Guiana. Their people, numbering in all 1,228,696, as compared with Jamaica's 855,600, consequently hear little of Mr. Rhodes' splendid benefaction.

The present seems to me to be a most favourable opportunity of extending the advantages of the scholarships to the more easterly West Indian colonies which have not yet benefited from them, and I sincerely trust that this view may be shared by the Trustees.

Hoping that you will forgive my approaching you on the matter and making this suggestion,

I am, yours truly,
(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

It was also reported that a sympathetic acknowledgment had been received from Dr. Parkin.

The members present signed a Memorial to the Prime Minister urging the formation of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry submitted by the London Chamber of Commerce.

It was decided to approach the Foreign Office with regard to questions arising out of the detention of produce in enemy bottoms in neutral ports which have become Allied ports.

Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. During the year to date, 94 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	17	Antigua	2
British Guiana	7	Bahamas	1
Grenada	6	Bermuda	1
Jamaica	6	British Honduras	1
St. Kitts	6	Natal	1
Dominica	5	Nigeria	1
Tobago	5	New York	1
Barbados	4	London	11
Canada	4	Country	15

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Hindenburg Speaks.

Field-Marshal von Hindenburg represents Germany as none of her sons have represented her since Bismarck, and as the Kaiser never can. He represents her solid, permanent qualities, and by sheer weight of character and military ability has raised himself to be Chief of the German Imperial Staff. He is not a puppet set up to save the Hohenzollerns, as foreign correspondents fancy, but an idol chosen by a whole people even as popular idols are chosen in democratic countries. In an interview which he granted to an Austrian journalist lately, he took the world into his confidence as fully as a German and a German in his position could venture. It was as colourless as most performances of the kind usually are, except for one glimpse into his heart and mind which was involuntary. He never used the word victory once, but he

made it clear that if Germany dies, she dies fighting. There will be no shortening of any front or military collapse of any kind which is not the result of force. And this bluff old soldier means what he says, and he speaks for Germany, which is now being enrolled for service *en masse*. So all those who dream of a speedy peace should take note. As for the Allies, they will take up the Marshal's challenge by increasing their efforts, and continue the conflict in the full knowledge that no step in the road to victory will be gained without the sternest fighting.

New Victories in the West.

Heavy rain and strong south-westerly gales are seriously hampering military operations in this theatre of the war. In the nature of things the enemy suffers less than the Allies from the almost continuous downpour, because the country in the rear of their front has been the scene of prolonged fighting. On his side, roads and light railways for the transport of supplies are intact, whereas on ours they have been destroyed. Moreover, the condition of the ground renders it difficult to move heavy artillery and to dig trenches. Or, to put it another way, the Allies have to consolidate their positions in adverse weather conditions, the Germans having merely to fall back on prepared lines of defence. Perhaps because he knows our circumstances, the enemy has made three counter-attacks with some degree of success, calculating correctly that otherwise he would fail. The British had made themselves masters of the high ground in the neighbourhood of the Butte de Warlencourt on November 4, but in the night part of it was wrested from them by the Germans. Similarly, the points of a local advance by the French in the village of Saillisel were lost the same night, but a little further south the French were able to improve their position in the vicinity of St. Pierre Vaast Wood.

South of the Somme the Germans, after many reverses, were able to seize the prominence of La Maisonette, and to occupy part of the Allied trenches in the neighbourhood. But these were minor successes compared to the gains of the British and French, who in the north have captured those positions north of Thiepval and the Ancre which they failed to carry in the great push, in the centre Saillisel, and in the south Ablaincourt and Pressoir, which constitute the chief strength of the Germans on the Berny-Chaulnes front.

On the Ancre a victory of first-rate importance has been won. The heavily fortified village of Beaumont Hamel and St. Pierre Divion have been captured by our troops, and considerably over 5,000 prisoners have been taken.

The Triumph of Verdun.

Not so very long ago Verdun, according to the Germans, was the road to Paris and victory. Later it was the postern gate of Germany. But so difficult do they find the game of general post, that, in the first place, they were driven out of positions which had cost half a million of men to win; in the second place they were compelled to abandon Fort Vaux because they could no longer hold it. Not only is the evacuation of a site so dearly bought an admission of defeat, which is unmistakable, but

an admission that the strain of reinforcing so many fronts at critical moments is beyond the power of Germany to make. She may, in defiance of the laws of humanity, enslave the French, Belgians, Poles, and Serbs in the territories she has occupied to conserve her wasting resources in men, but, sooner or later, the day of reckoning must come.

In Transylvania.

Falkenhayn's left wing, which attempted to invade Moldavia by way of the Gyimes Pass, has been thrown back, and the converging routes in the Trotus Valley, as well as that sector itself, have been cleared. In the Jiu Valley our Ally has made substantial advances, together with a considerable haul of prisoners, but the enemy, reinforced, has again resumed the offensive. Nor has Falkenhayn, except in the Predeal and Torzburg, met with much success in the group of passes about Kronstadt (Brasso). In the Red Tower Pass, the battle which has raged for nearly three weeks on the banks of the Aluta is still undecided, but the latest news is that the Roumanians are being pressed back. As long as Falkenhayn is held in the Passes, Mackensen's attempt to cross the Danube cannot progress, so that, apart from the necessity of preventing Falkenhayn from reaching the Roumanian plain, it is important to throw him back in the Transylvanian Alps to save Bukharest from attack in the east.

In the Dobrudja.

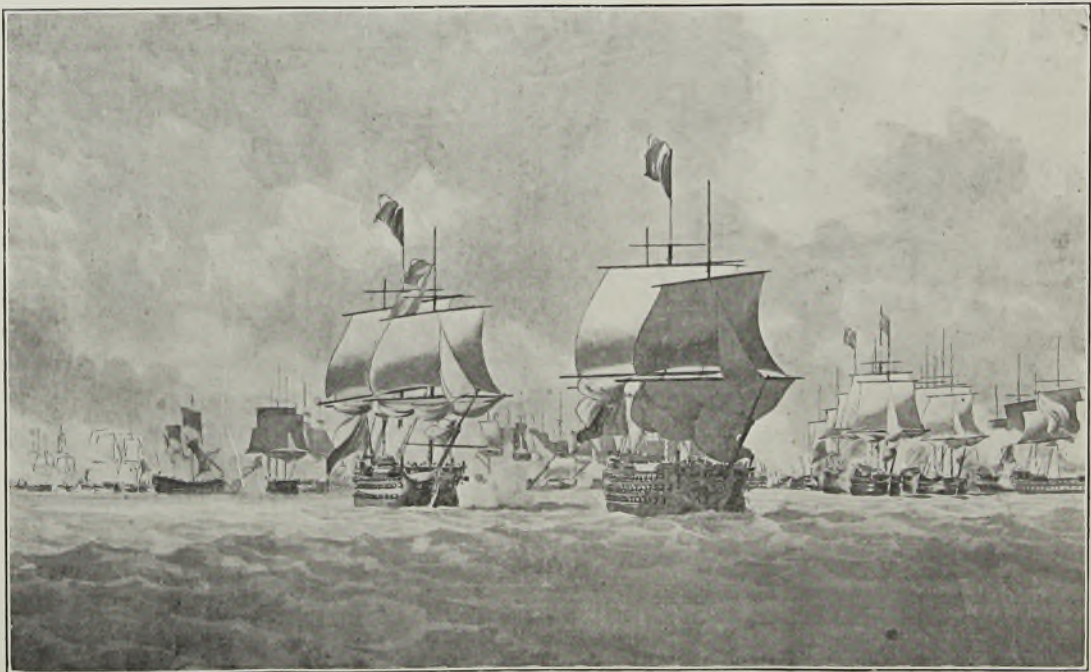
Here, Mackensen, who seemed to be settling down on the Hirsovo-Babadagh line, from 20 to 25 miles from the Danube, has had his plans upset by the Russo-Roumanian forces under General Sakharoff, who, it will be remembered, played a notable part in driving back the Austrians in Galicia. Reinforced and reorganised, the Allied forces have resumed the offensive, and reoccupied Hirsovo, the enemy, as he falls back, burning the villages behind him. On the other hand, Mackensen has crossed the Danube, and a desperate battle is proceeding for possession of the bridgehead.

On the Eastern Front.

There is a lull on this front, in which General Brussiloff is preparing for his next blow. For the rigours of winter have not the terrors for his troops that they have for the soldiers of the Central Powers, and the Cossacks, in particular, will no doubt give as good an account of themselves in raiding warfare, in which they are adepts, as they did last season. In the Pinsk Marshes region, where the soil is more or less fluid, the situation will be well-nigh desperate for the Germans, who cannot dig trenches suitable for the construction of the comfortable dug-outs they favour. A sign that Germany's man-power is waning is her "gift" of "independence" to Poland, which is forthwith to provide armies for the Central Powers.

In the Balkans.

The advance of winter and the difficult nature of the terrain tend to prevent any important advance, but the Bulgarians are unable to recover any of the ground they have lost. On our side, we have made some little progress on the Struma, and the Serbians on the Cerna. In the meantime, the diplo-



THE BATTLE OF THE SAINTS.
(From Contemporary Drawings by Nicholas Pocock.)

macy of the Allies at Athens is following the same lines that ended so disastrously at Sofia. Money and sympathy are given to M. Venizelos, but not recognition as the head of the national Government. The consequence is that the German party are able to work treacherously in the rear of the Allied Armies in the Balkans, and to oppress the followers of M. Venizelos. Great feeling was aroused in Greece by the sinking of the Greek transport *Angeliki* and the *Kiki Issaias* in the Piræus by a German submarine. Both ships belonged to supporters of the National Party. The loss of life was considerable. The Allies have occupied Katerini to prevent civil war.

Italian Successes.

The most important Allied surprise since the Anglo-French advance on the Somme in July last is the Italian offensive in the Carso, which has carried General Cadorna's troops nearly four miles across the Vallone. Not only have positions in the slopes which overlook Gorizia been captured, but the Austrian third-line trenches are pierced, and the Doberdo-Castagnevizza-Komen road, the principal artery of communication on this inhospitable plateau, is threatened by the Italian occupation of valuable observation posts rising 50 feet to 60 feet higher than those of the line from which the attack started. In all, the Austrian casualties are estimated at 25,000. As on the Somme and at Verdun, the enemy on the Carso has failed to hold entrenchments on which time and labour have been expended, and which were adequately supported by every description of artillery. As the Italians have to drag supplies, guns, munitions, and all other essentials to military operations up heights which man himself has to climb like a goat, their exploits belong to the epic order. In some parts of the Alps our Allies are fighting in fastnesses which never before had been trodden by human foot.

The Austrians have made an urgent request to Berlin for reinforcements to save the road to Trieste. That it will be acceded to, there is little doubt, the stake involved is so great. Though the Italians are only twelve miles from Austria's principal port, they have yet to negotiate the Hermuda range of hills, which is a formidable natural defence to the sea-board.

The War at Sea.

Submarine destruction of merchant shipping, neutral and belligerent alike, continues, chiefly in waters remote from the guns of the Grand Fleet, among the latest victims having been the P. & O. liner *Arabia* and the *Columbian*, an American vessel. That the Navy will solve the new problems presented by the enemy's use of the submarine as they solved those of last year, the public is confident. But many people think that if Germany was made to understand that for every ton of merchant shipping she sinks, a return in kind will be demanded by the Allies as a preliminary to peace, piracy would soon cease. Since no announcement in that effect is made by the Allied Governments, Germany is led to believe that on that score she has nothing to fear.

A British submarine in the North Sea reports that she fired torpedoes at two German "Dreadnoughts" of the "Kaiser" class. Each reached its mark, but the damage they caused is not known.

The Dutch steamer *Oldambt*, which was captured by the enemy near the North Hinder light-vessel, and in process of being taken to Zeebrugge was overtaken by some of our light scouting craft, and, in spite of the prize crew's attempt to blow her up, was taken in tow by one of our vessels. Five German destroyers which arrived on the scene were engaged and put to flight, and one officer and nine men of the prize crew were captured. The *Oldambt* was given over to a Dutch tug off the Hook of Holland.

There has been great naval activity on all fronts. In the West, large Allied squadrons have bombed steel and other centres of munition activity, and, in spite of the wind being against their disabled aeroplanes, with comparatively small loss.

In East Africa.

Heavy bush fighting is being continued in the Iringa region, where the Germans, dislodged from Tabora by the Belgian advance, have been trying to break through our columns, with Mahenge as their objective. One of our Rhodesian detachments was cut up in dense bush, and its commander wounded and captured, in another direction a strong German force suffering similarly at the same time. Vigorous enemy attacks have been beaten off by General Van de Venter's division near Neu Iringa, and east of Lupembe a strong enemy force which had entrenched itself west of the Ruhudje River was driven out of its positions and across the river by General Northey's troops with considerable losses in men and material. The Portuguese, after capturing Fort Newala, north of the Rovuma River, discovered that the Germans had poisoned the wells.

A small British post, after holding out for five days against heavy odds, was compelled to retire, half the garrison escaping.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIAN HONEY.

A minor West Indian industry which should be capable of considerable development is that of bee-keeping and the production of honey. In recent years the dread "Isle of Wight" disease has played havoc with the bees in this country, and the scarcity of sugar should stimulate the demand for all sweetening products. Honey is produced in all the British West Indian Colonies, and in several of them its production and export constitute no inconsiderable industry.

In the pre-war year 1913, the exports of honey from the British West Indies were as under:—

British Guiana	600 lbs.
British Honduras	191 galls.
Dominica ...	4,000 lbs.
Jamaica	109,434 galls.
Montserrat	1,970 lbs.
St. Lucia ...	52,298 lbs.
St. Vincent	303 galls.

Apiarists in the West Indies will no doubt be interested by the following extracts from an article on Honey contributed to the October number of *Chambers' Journal* by Mr. F. A. Douglas.

It has been suggested, says Mr. Douglas, that if sugar continues to rise in price, jam will soon be an extravagance, and that we should use honey more and jam less.

Honey, which is now a luxury, was in old times a necessity, for it was the principal sweetener of food. Sugar was only introduced during the later days of the Roman Empire, and was described first as an "Indian salt" that was sweet as honey! Its introduction to western Europe was probably due to the Crusaders, those admirable agents of international trade.

The numerous references to honey in the Bible are due to its being the common sweetener of the people; and to this day the Jews, who are fine old crusty conservatives, use honey in cooking where other people would use sugar. Still, it had a certain distinction, and was used as the symbol of fruitfulness and plenty. When Jeroboam's wife wished to propitiate the prophet she took him ten loaves, two cakes, and a cruse of honey. When Jesus reappeared to His disciples they tested His reality by giving Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb to eat. As for John the Baptist, it is known to all that his common food consisted of locusts and wild honey.

Honey is symbolically a very suitable food for times of war economy, for it owes its very existence to the economy of the bee, as it is the food stored by the bee for use in winter. But man's ingenuity has been too much for both the guileless hen and the crafty bee. The untutored hen, having been got into the habit of laying eggs, continues to lay them without the impetus of the cock, and the careful, provident bee as fast as its winter food is ravished continues to procure and store up more.

Honey from the comb is considered the most luxurious form of this delectable sweet, and most people eat the wax with the honey; but as one points out, this is as foolish as it would be to eat the paper that butter is wrapped in or the blue bag that is the familiar envelope of the sugar. The wax of the honeycomb is in no way nutritious, and it is decidedly indigestible. The proper way is to put a piece of honey in the comb on your plate, with the cells in a vertical position, and press your knife firmly down upon it, so that all the honey runs out. Eat the honey and leave the wax.

The bees, like the ancient gods, drink only nectar. The word and the idea are entirely Greek. The wine of the gods that conferred immortality became the symbol of sweetness and flavour, and so the name came to be used by botanists for the sweet juice which collects in the nectaries of the flowers. It is at once a superfluity and an ingenious device of old Mother Nature. It is indeed the reproductive juice of the plants, and so it confers immortality just as did the wine of Olympus. After the stamen and pistils have taken all they need, a residue remains, and this is the food of the bees and other insects. In seeking the nectar they further the purposes of nature, for the pollen often adheres to their wings, and they aid in fertilising the seeds.

The bee does not care for "blossoming flowers," as the poets imagine. It is a practical utilitarian creature, and prefers the period just before fructification. The bees dearly love clover; but many kinds of fruit-blossom and some kinds of forest trees are very useful to them. The blackthorn and the gorse yield it food in spring, and the heather and the blackberry and the ivy keep it going in autumn.

The flavour and quality of honey varies with the plants the bee feeds on. Heather honey is naturally popular in Scotland, and the famous Narbonne honey owes its flavour to rosemary.* *Hvbla* and *Hymettus* yielded admirable honey of old, and this was probably because so many fragrant herbs such as thyme, grew on the open sunny slopes of those southern hills. Occasionally the bee is injudicious, and chooses injurious herbs, as in the case

of the soldiers of Xenophon, who, after eating the honey of Trebizond, became either mad or drunk. This was due to the partiality of the bees for a certain poisonous azalea.

If the plants produced nectar and pollen all the year round we should have no honey; but the wise bee knows winter will come, and makes provision for it. Nectar is the normal food of the bees, honey an "emergency ration" manufactured from it in as concentrated a form as possible. Nectar consists of 70 per cent. of water, and the rest cane-sugar and flavouring matter. In honey, on the other hand, there is only 7 to 10 per cent. of water; and the cane-sugar, by the process of digestion, has become grape-sugar. All sugar becomes transformed into grape-sugar in the human system before it is assimilated. The bee, therefore, during summer digests and concentrates his food for winter. Each portion of nectar is digested by two or more bees, and regurgitated. The heat of the hive helps the process, and also aids in the evaporation of the superfluous moisture. Honey, may, therefore, be called the Benger's Food of the bee.

DOMINICA'S LIME INDUSTRY.

In his Annual Report on the Dominica Agricultural Department for 1915, Mr. Joseph Jones gives an interesting account of the growth of the local lime industry. In this it is shown that the lime crops for the past seven years, calculated in barrels of fruit, have been as follows:—

	Barrels.		Barrels.
1909	284,000	1913	391,000
1910	369,000	1914	358,000
1911	355,000	1915	390,000
1912	370,000		

The following table, calculated on the usual basis,* shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads:—

Product.	Bbls. of Fruit.	Approx. percentage of total Crop.
Concentrated Juice	229,936	59
Raw Juice	103,608	26.5
Fresh Limes...	41,494	10.5
Citrate of Lime	14,656	3.5

Comparison with last year's disposal of crop shows that owing to market conditions considerable changes may occur annually under the various heads. During 1915, concentrated juice and fresh limes practically maintained the same position as in the former year. There was, however, a considerable advance under raw juice, the percentage rising from 13 to 26.5. On the other hand, the export of citrate of lime fell from 18 to 3.5 per cent. The falling-off in the production of citrate of lime is due partly to the existing great demand for raw juice, and partly to the preference at present given to the production of high-grade concentrated juice by means of steam-heated evaporators. The business in connection with pickled limes and lime juice cordial continued on the usual small scale, the total requirements under the two heads being 762 barrels.

A heavy storm in August caused considerable damage to lime cultivation, but in regard to fallen trees, it is important to state that a lime tree blown over is not necessarily a tree lost. The proportion of loss in respect to fallen trees may not exceed 2 or 3 per cent. in some cases, in others 5 per cent..

* Mr. Douglas might also have referred to the exquisite "Logwood honey" of Jamaica, which owes its flavour to the bees feasting on the fragrant logwood blossoms.—ED.

* 50 gallons of concentrated juice equals 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice equals 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime equals 266 barrels of lime fruits.

while a loss of 10 per cent. under average conditions would be regarded as very high. The question of loss is clearly connected with the amount of displacement of the roots of individual trees. A good deal depends on an accurate survey of the situation by planters, and on the adoption of measures best suited to meet the varying conditions of injury.

For some years past root disease of lime trees on newly opened estates in forest districts has caused much concern. The matter has been closely investigated by the Mycologist of the Imperial Department, who paid two visits to Dominica for this purpose. The cause being now understood, measures as recommended are being taken on the estates concerned with promising results. Altogether the outlook in this connection is more hopeful, and the situation better in hand than at any previous time.

The position in regard to attacks of scale insects showed no change. On established lime trees these pests were, on the whole, effectively controlled by insects and fungus parasites. Lime cultivation in the course of being established, especially in the coastal zone, is always liable to severe attacks of scales, which greatly delay the maturity and fruiting of the trees. Draining, the application of manures, and, where required, the provision of wind belts, are necessary to enable the trees to withstand and overcome the attacks. Once the trees are established, the danger of infestation by scale insects is greatly lessened.

The value of fertilisers imported in 1915 was £5,337, an increase of £1,275 over the figures of the previous year. The amount of manure imported is still far from meeting the requirements of lime cultivation, especially when it is clear that very little expenditure is incurred on the majority of estates in the production of pen manures and mulches. It is estimated that after allowing for the production of considerable quantities of pen manure, an annual importation of fertilisers of a value of £15,000 is necessary for lime cultivation alone.

It may be argued that in a country like Dominica it is economically unsound to import fertilisers, and that it would be a better policy to spend the money locally on the production of pen manures and mulches, and for the utilisation of lime skins and seeds for manurial purposes. That argument cannot be refuted. The spending of so considerable a sum on labour and feeding stuffs in the local production of organic manures and their application to lime fields, would result in greater and more lasting benefits to planters than those obtainable by the use of imported concentrated manures. Unfortunately there is little probability of the adoption of so sound a policy. The tendency at present is for estates to keep as few animals as possible. Pens do not exist on many estates. Where they do exist, they are, in the majority of instances, not utilised. On a number of estates neither pen nor special manure is applied; on others, manures are only applied when the foliage of the trees is yellowish in colour and fruiting has practically ceased. Only on a few estates is a sound manurial system in existence.

How long these methods, which are so lacking in sound agricultural practice, will enable the

planters concerned to continue, is a matter for serious reflection. It is feared that the low rate of production per acre, the heavy loss owing to general inefficiency of lime mills, the wasteful system of manufacture, coupled with over-concentration of the juice, and the consequent heavy loss of acid, will not allow planters to meet the competition of other countries, which already looms in the distance, unless there is a general improvement in the methods of producing concentrated lime juice, which forms 59 per cent. of the industry, and an uplifting of the present low standard of agricultural practice in lime fields.

Modern Methods of Cultivation.

The chief feature of the year as regards the production of concentrated lime juice has been the installation on several large estates of steam-heated evaporators. It is hoped that this step will be generally followed on all estates with considerable producing capacity, as it puts an end to large losses of acid, and with care allows of the production of a high-grade juice. The amount of high-grade concentrated juice exported is by no means large. Taking the annual production at 3,000 hogsheads of 50 gallons each, it is probable that not more than one-fourth of the amount would rank as clean, well-prepared juice. Still, a good deal of progress has been made recently in this respect. Only a few years ago, no clean juice, as the term is understood to-day, was exported from the island.

Now that high-grade juice is in demand, there are indications that the market will discriminate in its favour, and that inferior grades will be penalised by lower prices. Pressure in the shape of lower market prices would be the best means of bringing about a much needed improvement, and in removing what has for some time been a reproach against Dominican producers.

While the system of concentrating by steam is the best and most economical known, the loss of acid not exceeding 3 per cent., it must not be thought that clean, well-prepared juice cannot be produced in copper taches over open fires. On the contrary, it has been shown that a high-class article can be prepared in a properly arranged battery if attention is paid to settling the juice, to skimming during boiling, and by careful manipulation of the fire. The loss of acid is much higher over the open fire than in steam evaporators, but by the exercise of care this loss has been brought down to 8.5 per cent. on a moderate concentration.

Developments in Trinidad.

One of the features of the agricultural development of the West Indies which has taken place in recent years has been the spread of the lime industry. The classic abode of this valuable fruit is, of course, Dominica and Montserrat, but the cult has spread to other parts of the West Indies, notably British Guiana and St. Lucia, and it is now taking root in Trinidad.

It has for some years been a moot point as to whether limes can be grown profitably in Trinidad, but an enterprising doctor in that Colony, Dr.

McShine, seems to have solved the problem successfully. The result of his energy in this direction is that he is now the proprietor of a model plantation of considerable extent, which is being worked on a good paying basis.

At the hospitable invitation of the owner, the Naparima District Society, whose Chairman is Sir Norman Lamont, recently held a field demonstration at Dr. McShine's plantation, at which some seventy members and other guests were assembled, who witnessed for themselves the extraordinary generosity of yield, which bore tribute not only to the suitability of the soil for the growth of limes, but also to the excellence of the cultivation which had been bestowed on the trees.

After the field demonstration, Dr. McShine read a paper on Lime Cultivation, which was followed by a discussion, in which His Honour Mr. Gideon Murray, the Administrator of St. Lucia, took part, who referred to the great progress of the industry in that island.

THE BATTLE OF THE SAINTS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

When the French nation in February, 1778, made a treaty of commerce and alliance with the American revolutionists, it was regarded in England as tantamount to a declaration of war; and in June, Spain joined forces with France, with the acquisition of Jamaica, amongst other objects, in view.

Rodney, who had been spending enforced idleness in Paris, adding to his financial difficulties by extravagant living, had been able to leave the country only through the generosity of a French friend, Maréchal Biron, who made it possible for him to satisfy his creditors. When he returned to England in May, 1778, he—knowing the locality well, having been Commander-in-Chief on the Leeward Islands station in 1761-62, and on the Jamaica station in 1771-74—made repeated application to be put in command of the naval forces in the West Indies; but it was not until the autumn of 1779 that he received the appointment at the hands of his friend Sandwich, and, as he believed, by the express wish of the King.

After defeating the Spanish Admiral and relieving Gibraltar in a brilliant manner, by which means he materially increased his naval prestige, Rodney reached St. Lucia in March, 1780, just before de Guichen took command of the French Fleet at Martinique. No decisive action was fought, although Rodney did his best to bring one about, the failure being due to misunderstandings of his signals on the part of his captains—a failure which he ever regretted, albeit he himself put some of the lack of support down to political opposition.

On the entering of Holland into the war in 1781, Rodney, who had been joined by Hood, took St. Eustatius, which was then the great centre of trade for neutrals and belligerents alike. Partly through his desire to gain much-needed wealth to pay off his debts, he brought upon himself much more

trouble than profit, and left for ever a stain on his otherwise honourable escutcheon. He confiscated not only the Dutch but British goods, and incurred the enmity of the merchants of St. Kitts and other British Islands, and laid the foundations of lawsuits which embittered his later years. His health compelled his return to England, but he was out again in 1782, when he found that some fourteen Spanish ships and eight thousand soldiers were at Cape François, waiting for de Grasse, who was off Martinique. On March 9th he wrote to Lady Rodney: "I am of opinion that the great event which must decide the Empire of the ocean will be either off Jamaica or St. Domingo." When, however, after much preliminary skirmishing, they met, on the morning of the 12th of April, when Rodney was in a position to force an action, it was off Dominica.

De Grasse had thirty ships and two thousand two hundred and forty-six guns; a large number of store ships intended for the capture of Jamaica having been sent to Guadeloupe; but the troops intended for the same purpose were scattered throughout the fleet. Rodney had thirty-six ships, with two thousand six hundred and seventy-four guns. The French ships were of greater tonnage, and, in spite of the English being coppered, better sailers—the flagship, the *Ville de Paris*, being the finest ship afloat in the French navy; and the French guns were of greater calibre. But the English officers and men were, thanks in a great measure to Rodney's unceasing efforts, much better disciplined than the French, and Rodney—as a rule feared rather than loved—received better support from his officers than de Grasse, although the French captains were not deserving of all the blame which their Admiral subsequently attributed to them.

The battlefield extended over some fifty miles of sea stretching between Dominica and Guadeloupe, in which lie the Saints, the small islands which have given their name to the battle. After about an hour's engagement on the formal lines laid down in the instructions, Rodney took advantage of a break which the varying wind made in the French line, disregarded the hide-bound fighting orders of the Admiralty, and led the way with the *Formidable* through the French line, his example being followed by four others of his ships, and also by Affleck in the *Bedford* who cut the French line further along. Then followed a series of irregular engagements. Four French ships hauled down their colours, and just as the sun set, de Grasse, with but three unwounded men on his upper deck, of whom he himself was one, struck his flag on the *Ville de Paris* to Hood on the *Barfleur*, who was second in command to Rodney. To the dismay of Hood and Douglas, the Captain of the Fleet, Rodney then gave the signal to bring to. Whether the breaking of the line was due to Rodney's own idea, to the teaching of Eldin, or to the suggestion of Douglas, must remain for ever undecided. At all events, it was a fair fight, and the best man won; and the victory crowned Rodney's career, and commenced the free and more sensible method of fighting which ended with Trafalgar.

Rodney was justly blamed for not pushing his victory to its final result, but he was prematurely old and racked by gout, and possibly after a hard day's fight felt unequal to more; but he sent Hood in chase next day, who captured two ships of the line and smaller prizes.

The news reached Jamaica on April 25th, and on the 29th Rodney himself appeared with his fleet and nine prizes. Those in Jamaica at the time fully realised the importance to the colony of the action, by which danger to the West Indies was averted.

Rodney's immediate reward was to find that he had been superseded, before his victory was known, by Admiral Pigot on the coming into office of a Whig Government; but amends were later made by the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, a pension, and a peerage.

De Grasse went home a prisoner to England in the *Sandwich*, which took Sir Peter Parker, who had charge of a convoy of merchantmen; but the prize ships, with the exception of the *Ardent*, foundered at sea in a hurricane on their way to England a little later—in September.

Jamaica took early steps to erect, at considerable cost, a monument to the victor, which to-day is one of the principal features of Spanish Town.

The Jamaica History Gallery in the Institute of Jamaica possesses a collection of pictures illustrating the event, of considerable value. They consist of Pine's painting of "Lord Rodney in action aboard the *Formidable*, attended by his principal Officers," which was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1784; engraved portraits of both Rodney and de Grasse; a copy of Mazell's engraving after Lundy's painting of the memorable action, published in October, 1782; a pair of engravings by Chesham after Dodd—"The morning of the 12th of April, 1782," and "The Close of the Battle," published in 1783; an engraving by Lerpinière after Paton's picture of the "Breaking of the Line," published in 1783; two engravings by Goldar and Rosenberg after drawings by Captain Miller—"De Grasse bearing down to succour the *Zélé*," and "The Breaking of the Line," published in 1795; and an engraving by Chesham of Pocock's painting, in the possession of the British Society of Merchants, of the memorable victory. All these represent incidents in the engagement, while two series of plates, four in each—after paintings by Dodd—represent the fate of the prize fleet sent home from Jamaica. One series is in line engraving, the other in aquatint by F. Jukes, coloured by hand.

An engraving by Thornton after Hamilton, representing de Grasse handing his sword to Rodney, is not strictly accurate. De Grasse actually handed his sword to Captain John Knight, captain of the *Barfleur*, when that officer boarded the *Ville de Paris*, and he did not see Rodney till he went on board the *Formidable* next morning.

There are also in the History Gallery three contemporary caricatures—"Rodney triumphant, or Admiral Lee Shore in the dumps," "Rodney introducing de Grasse," and "Rodney invested, or Admiral Pig on cruise," all of which exemplify the chagrin felt by the Whigs at Rodney's success, in-

cluding Keppel (Admiral Lee Shore), who had succeeded Sandwich as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Another interesting relic of the engagement is in the West India Library of the Institute—a copy of "Le Neptune François," which was taken out of de Grasse's cabin by Captain Buckner, of the *Prothée*.

To this not inconsiderable collection of illustrations of this victory of much importance to Jamaica, in the Jamaica History Gallery, have recently been added two original contemporary water-colour drawings in monochrome by Nicholas Pocock, of whom the History Gallery already owns photographic copies of eleven sketches forming part of the log kept on the *Minerva* in 1775, which illustrate parts of the coast of Jamaica, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR of April 6th of this year. Each of the "Battle of the Saints" sketches measures 14 inches by 20 inches, and represents some minor incident on the memorable 12th of April.

As one looks at Rodney, in Pine's picture, gazing at the flag being hauled down on the *Ville de Paris*, one wonders whether in his hour of triumph he remembered that but for the generosity of a Frenchman, Maréchal Biron, he might probably not have had the opportunity of putting his foot on the quarter-deck of the *Formidable*.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The Committee will be grateful to ladies and gentlemen in the West Indies who will help them by organising concerts and entertainments in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund, which is far from being sufficient for all possible calls that may be made upon it.

Gifts of leather or waterproof gloves would be most acceptable, as these are urgently needed for the men of the British West Indies Regiment at the front. It is hoped that readers of the CIRCULAR will endeavour to collect these gloves—large sizes—and forward them as soon as possible to 5, Trevor Square. Fifty knitted helmets are also required urgently.

The work parties at 5, Trevor Square, are being well attended, and a large number of useful garments have already been made. Mrs. J. Bromley is superintending the work, and among those who attend are Lady Davson, Lady Hodgson, Lady Sendall, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Hayes-Sadler, Mrs. Napier, Mrs. Vere Oliver, Mrs. de Rinzi, Mrs. Cathcart Wason, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Edward Dixon, Mrs. Frank Fowler, Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Muller, Mrs. Gordon Leggett, Mrs. Scott, and Mrs. B. Thompson.

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, held on November 3rd, the following letters were read:—

Buckingham Palace,
4th October, 1916.

Dear Sir,
I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, enclosing a specimen of a cap badge from the

West Indian Contingent Committee, which has been laid before the King, and for which I am commanded to express His Majesty's thanks.

His Majesty prefers to have the badge in the form in which you have sent it.

Yours very faithfully,

CLIVE WIGRAM.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq., B.A.

Downing Street, 17th October, 1916.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter numbered 58 of the 6th October, transmitting copies of the Report of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the ten months ended the 30th of June, which he has read with much interest, together with specimens of the bronze and metal gilt badges presented by the Committee to the officers and men respectively of the British West Indies Regiment.

2. I am to request you to inform the members of the Committee, through their Chairman, that Mr. Bonar Law has great pleasure in accepting the Bronze Officers' Badge specially struck as a souvenir of the patriotic part taken in the war by the officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Honorary Secretary,
West Indian Contingent Committee.

* * *



A B. W. I. Brooch

Souvenir brooches of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment have been executed in three different styles by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., the makers of the original badge, who have kindly offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds of their sales to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Post free	£	s.	d.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2	10	0	
Silver and Enamel	3	6		3	9		
Gilt Metal Enamelled	2	0		2	3		

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.

Every reader ordering a replica of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment from Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., will be helping the West Indian Contingent Fund, which is still far below the figure which it must reach if all calls on it are to be met.



Back of Brooch.

* * *

Second Lieutenant L. R. Wheeler has kindly sent us a further letter regarding such doings of the British West Indies Regiment as can be published without fear of offending the Censor. It is dated October 25th, and runs as follows:—

"A large number of the men are very keen on getting letters from their relations and friends and are disappointed if these fail to turn up. They are allowed to put their regimental number when writing home, though not their rank, unit, etc.; a lot of delay would be saved if people would always put the regimental number when writing back to the troops here. It would also lessen the work of the postal service considerably. Will all letter writers please note!

"A small number of the long-looked-for badges have

now arrived, and have been distributed to the officers. We are expecting the remainder very soon, when they will be issued to all ranks. They have given very great satisfaction all round, and are highly appreciated; the current opinion is that the badge is the 'finest in the Army.' They have come just at the right time, when caps are replacing helmets as the winter months come on.

"Everyone here is very pleased at the good name earned by the battalions in France. News about them both in the Press and in private letters is greatly appreciated here. It ought to have a stimulating effect on recruiting in the West Indies—a matter which interests every member of the regiment; we all hope that, as the strain of the war goes on, the fullest use will be made of the man power there, as in other parts of the Empire; and that as many men as possible will come out to join their chums.

"The men have been very interested at coming in contact with so many different kinds of troops. They have got on well with all of them, especially with the Australians, who are particularly quick at getting themselves liked, and who have been very friendly with our lads.

"But sometimes a curious lack of knowledge of the corps is shown, even in quarters where something better might have been expected. In the early days when we were frequently inspected, an amusing example of this occurred. A dear old general, full of vague memories of dusky faces and quaint dialects in various parts of the world, was going round the ranks; in order to get in touch with the men of the new regiment he started conversation with a N.C.O. by enquiring, 'You speakee pidgin English?' The latter, who happened to have been educated at one of the big West Indian colleges and to have taken good certificates in the Cambridge Locals, of course replied that he could speak English, and that it was his natural tongue. Now, however, the regiment is better known."

* * *

We give below a list of officers and men from or connected with the West Indies who are in hospital, and shall be glad to forward their addresses to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be wishful or willing to visit them.

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, London; Lieut.-Corpl. Bruce Maura, Somerset Light Infantry, Dewsbury; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham; Lieut.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilts Regt., France.

BARBADOS.

Pte. C. G. Archer, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, London; Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. C. C. Leach, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Liverpool; Pte. C. L. Burgess, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Manchester; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. T. J. Tite, London; Cpl. C. A. Baker, London; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Lieut.-Cpl. H. E. Palmer, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. G. S. Blackman, Taplow; Pte. G. Spanswick, Oxford; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. C. R. Cannon, Stoke-on-Trent; Pte. R. Wilson, London; Pte. A. R. Marshall, Netley; Corpl. E. V. Virtue, Southampton.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Lieut. C. F. I. Cox, Royal Garrison Artillery, Manchester.

JAMAICA.

Private E. A. Jackson, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. G. W. Brown, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, Brighton; Pte. F. McPherson, London.

ATTACHED TO BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Regtl.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £5,924 15s. 2d., of which amount £1,337 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Government of Antigua (earmarked for Antigua men's Xmas gifts)	31	0	0
J. R. Gaunt & Son (rebate on B.W.I. brooches—to come)	12	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
Per month:—			
Kingstown Club %	1	18	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
Hon. C. F. F. Richards	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	0
V. Hadley, Esq.	8	4	0
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	0
E. Hopley, Esq.	3	0	0
A. L. Gillezean, Esq.	2	0	0
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	0
	4	9	4
Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N.	2	4	0
C.P.R. (Trinidad)	2	0	0
	£39	2	4

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

The chief articles urgently wanted by the West Indian Contingent Committee besides money, warm "comforts," and especially socks and cardigans, are cigarettes, sweets, magazines, etc., for men in hospital. Gifts may be sent to Miss Moseley, the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged. The Committee acknowledge with thanks the following gifts:—

Lady Sendall: 2 prs. socks.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: 2 prs. socks, books and magazines.
 Miss Denny: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. A. Johnson: several lots magazines.
 Mrs. Vere Oliver: 2 doz. prs. socks.
 Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.: magazines.
 Lady Sendall: 6 prs. socks.
 Glenfarg Branch of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies: 12 prs. socks.
 Mrs. G. Alleyne: 4 handkerchiefs, 7 prs. socks, 1 pr. slippers, 4 mufflers, 6 prs. mittens.
 Miss Etridge: 2 handkerchiefs, and magazines.
 Mrs. Richmond: £2 for socks.
 Mrs. Muller: 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Peetner: 1 pr. socks.
 Lady Sendall: 4 prs. socks, 3 mufflers.
 Miss Cowie: 3 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens, magazines.
 Miss Etridge: 2 mufflers, 2 prs. socks, handkerchiefs.
 Mrs. MacAdam and Miss Bovell: 2 mufflers.
 Mrs. A. Johnson: magazines and books.
 Mrs. E. R. Beckles (Barbados): 1 box guava marmalade.
 Mrs. Haynes (Barbados): 1 box guava marmalade.
 Mrs. I. W. Russell: 1 pr. socks.

TEN miles of ships passed through the Panama Canal in July, which was a record month as far as traffic is concerned.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

A deputation from the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute and Societies representing Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible Government, waited on Mr. Bonar Law on November 3rd at the Colonial Office.

The object of the deputation, which was private, was to urge the necessity of a special committee "to inquire into the conditions of trade, the development of natural resources, and the improvement of labour supply, transportation, and intercommunication services of such Colonies with a view to making the Empire more self-supporting."

Sir O. Philipps, M.P., introduced the deputation, and the speakers were:—Mr. Ben H. Morgan (Chairman of the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute), Sir Ernest Birch (Straits Settlement), Mr. E. R. Dawson (West India Committee), Sir Ernest Rosling (Mauritius), Sir Stanley Bois (Ceylon), Mr. C. Sandbach Parker (British Empire Producers' Organisation), Mr. Joseph Rippon (Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company), and Mr. J. Gardiner (Nigerian Chamber of Mines).

Other members of the deputation were:—Sir Bevan Edwards, Mr. A. F. Dunn, Mr. E. Wrench, the Hon. J. G. Jenkins, Dr. G. R. Parkin, Sir H. F. Wilson, Mr. H. Brittain, Mr. F. Miller, Lieut.-General Sir Edward Hutton, Mr. J. R. Boose, Mr. E. Walker, Mr. W. J. Eales, Mr. W. C. Shettle, Mr. R. Littlejohn, Colonel Duncan Pitcher, Mr. C. Harley Moseley, Mr. A. Bull, and Mr. A. R. Canning.

Mr. Bonar Law, who was accompanied by Mr. H. J. Reid and Mr. G. Grindle (Under-Secretaries), made a sympathetic reply, but he wished the deputation to understand that there might be other means than those which had been laid before him of arriving at the result desired.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rhodes Estate Bill has been approved by the Unopposed Bills Committee of the House of Commons.

Mr. C. E. C. Brown, for the Trustees, explained that in accordance with Mr. Rhodes's will, the Trustees established a number of scholarships at Oxford, including fifteen of £250 a year tenable by German students to be nominated by the German Emperor. The Trustees, following what they believed would have been Mr. Rhodes's wish, now proposed to abolish the German scholarships, and to establish instead twelve scholarships of £300 a year tenable by students from Colonies, Dependencies, or places within the Empire. The House adopted a suggestion made by Lord Hugh Cecil in the debate on second reading that the new scholarships should be available to persons within or without the British Empire, but the Trustees felt that the British Empire had the first claim. There had been some changes in the British Empire since the death of Mr. Rhodes, and some of the new scholarships would be available for students from new parts of the Empire.

Lord Milner, one of the Trustees, said he hoped the new scholarships would be a going concern by next autumn. As to their allocation, he was influenced by his knowledge of the views of Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes had often discussed educational schemes with him, and his first thought was for ample provision for the British Empire.

Lord Hugh Cecil suggested that it would be well not to tie the hands of the Trustees by confining all the scholarships to the British Empire. He thought it would be a pity if all Mr. Rhodes's aspirations as to securing the peace of the world by educational union should come to an end.

Lord Milner replied that the Trustees had already 50 applications from educational bodies. It would only give rise to disappointment if all the world were invited to apply.

EAST INDIAN EMIGRATION.

In the CIRCULAR of September 21st last a summary of Lord Chelmsford's reference to emigration in his speech to the Indian Legislative Council was published. It is now possible to give a fuller report of the Viceroy's remarks. His Excellency said :—

"One of the most important questions which is now occupying the attention of my Government and of the Provincial Governments whom we have addressed on the subject is that of a scheme to be substituted for indentured emigration, as it is sometimes described. This is perhaps hardly a correct way of putting it, as it implies that we are trying to work out a scheme for the purpose of supplying labour to the colonies, whereas the scheme we are contemplating relates to a very different matter, viz., the control of the operations of persons so engaged. Labourers have a right to emigrate if they wish, and it would be very unwise and very undesirable on our part to prevent them, and we are therefore trying to devise arrangements which will secure that recruitment in this country is conducted under decent conditions, that a proper sex ratio will be maintained, and that on arrival in the country of their destination they will be properly treated and allowed to engage themselves on terms at least as free as those obtaining at present in the Malay Peninsula, where a labourer can leave his employer by giving a month's notice. These are the conditions which in our letter to the local Governments we explained are regarded by the Government of India as necessary for a satisfactory system of emigration.

"I think it will be clear to all who have studied the question that the Government of India would be departing gravely from its duty if it allowed emigrant labour to leave this country without proper protection and safeguards. There are a certain number of labourers, I believe a very small number—who emigrate as genuine free labourers; that is to say, unassisted by pecuniary help and uninvited by any interested agency. But if we confine ourselves to the abolition of our existing indentured emigration, a position will arise in which the parties interested in procuring Indian labour will be free to induce labour to emigrate by pecuniary help under any conditions they like so long as the labourer does not go under indenture. The abuses likely to arise out of such a state of things would be very serious. I need only refer to the state of affairs which existed before the amendment of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in connection with the so-called free labour.

"The consequence of this system was, as Sir Charles Rivaz put it in his speech before the Legislative Council in 1901, that a horde of unlicensed and uncontrolled labour purveyors and recruiters sprang into existence who, under the guise of assisting free emigration, made large illicit gains by inducing, under false pretences, ignorant men and women to allow themselves to be conveyed to Assam.

These emigrants were, it is true, placed under labour contracts on arrival in that province, but the abuses complained of arose in connection with the recruitment, and not with the contract. Similarly, when the system of indentured emigration first arose in India, the only precaution required was that intending emigrants should appear before a magistrate and satisfy him as to their freedom of choice and their knowledge of the conditions they were accepting.

"It was shown in a report submitted in 1840 that abuses undoubtedly did exist in connection with recruitment in India, abuses which the constantly increased safeguards provided by successive Acts of the Legislature were designed to correct. Uncontrolled recruitment cannot, it is clear, be permitted under any circumstances. Lord Hardinge pronounced, and I associate myself with him, to deal with certain points raised by my hon. friend Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya during the last session of the Legislative Council. These points were the better supervision of colonial recruiting in India, the insertion of information regarding the penal conditions attaching to labour contracts in the indenture signed by intending emigrants, and the undesirability of labourers in the colonies being compelled to do work repellant to their caste ideas and religious beliefs. Regarding the first matter, we have already consulted the local Governments very fully when asking their views as to the precautions which will be required after the abolition of indentured emigration. As to the second point, you are no doubt aware that Fiji has now abolished imprisonment for labour offences. Other colonies are arranging to follow suit. But there will be still certain provisions remaining which, we think, should be brought to the notice of intending emigrants. We have arranged to do this as soon as the various colonial legislatures concerned have passed the amendments to which I have alluded.

"We have also asked the Secretary of State to press the third point on the attention of the Colonial Governments concerned. I should like to say just one more word about the reference we are making to the Local Governments. The conditions under which we are to allow labour to be recruited in India, and under which it should be employed in the colonies, are peculiarly matters on which Indian popular opinion has every right to be heard, and on which we desire its full expression as an aid to us in formulating our proposals. We have therefore asked the Local Governments to consult private persons and associations who are specially interested in, or have special knowledge of, this important question; and we hope that the case which we shall be able to put forward for the discussion which will shortly take place on this subject in London will represent not only the result of our own experience and judgment, but the views of the most intelligent sections of the Indian community."

The Intercolonial Conference.

We publish below the report of the delegates appointed by the Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica, who met in Port of Spain in June last to consider the question of immigration in view of the decision of the Indian Government to abolish the indenture system :—

We have the honour to report as follows :—

Opening of Conference. 1. His Excellency the Governor opened the Conference with a short address dealing with certain features of the question and then withdrew, after which we proceeded to give consideration to the correspondence which has passed between the India Office and the Colonial Office on the subject of the acceptance by the Secretary of State for India of the conclusion that indentured Indian Emigration must be abolished.

Meetings. 2. We held meetings at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on the 24th, 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th June, 1916.

Preliminary Observations. 3. We desire first, on behalf of the Colonies which we represent, to express our great regret that the emigration of indentured Indians should have evoked the feeling amongst Indian politicians of implied stigma against the race which is referred to in the 14th paragraph of the despatch from the Government

of India of the 15th October, 1915. About 44 per cent. of the population of British Guiana, one-third of that of Trinidad, and a much smaller though most useful proportion of that of Jamaica is East Indian. In this East Indian section of the population there are lawyers, doctors, merchants, land-owners and others held in esteem, while generally the Indian population is so well considered that the different Colonial Governments are desirous of increasing the numbers of so industrious, thrifty and law-abiding a people, and to that end are anxious to remove by all practical means any condition which may be repugnant to Indian opinion and to afford to the immigrants, present and prospective, the freest scope for development, believing that in the contentment and prosperity of so large a number of industrious inhabitants security can be found for the welfare of the Colonies.

Necessity for continued immigration. 4. We have fully discussed the question of the necessity for adding to the present labour supply by immigration and are unanimous in the opinion that the continuance of immigration from India is of vital importance to the Colonies represented by us, not merely from the point of view of their development but for the maintenance of their existing industries, and is "for the benefit not only of the immediate interests affected, but of the Empire as a whole," as expressed in the India Office despatch of 10th February, 1916.

Necessity for continued immigration. 5. We would point out that the Colonies are at present very partially developed and that it is to the interest of British trade that the present output of sugar, cocoa, coffee and other tropical products should be maintained and as greatly added to as the supply of labour will permit, in order to increase business with the Mother Country, Canada, and other parts of the Empire.

Kangani system. 6. We have considered various methods of maintaining and adding to the supply of labour necessary for this purpose, and plans for its introduction into the Colonies. With reference to the Kangani system referred to in Paragraph 17 of the despatch of the Government of India of the 15th October, 1915, we have been unable with the information at our disposal to devise any such modifications of that system as would render it applicable to the West Indies. The following appear to be the chief difficulties:—

- (a.) It would be necessary to draw Kanganis from the present Sirdars on estates, and it would be impossible for the work to be satisfactorily carried on in the absence of these Sirdars.
- (b.) Even if the Sirdars could be spared and were sent to India, it would be unlikely (having in view the localities whence they originally emigrated, i.e. the North-Western and Central Provinces) that they would be well received in their villages on their return, and they would therefore be unable to obtain people from those villages. In order not to return empty-handed, they might be tempted to employ methods which would revive some of the evils attendant on the existing system of recruitment.
- (c.) At present more than 500 recruiters, residents of India, cannot secure a sufficient number of emigrants, and this being so, no reasonable number of Kanganis, new to the work, would be likely to attain success under the altered conditions.
- (d.) The expense of sending Kanganis from the West Indies to India would be too great, and generally the distance of the West Indies from India militates strongly against the success of such a system.

Collection and despatch of labourers. 7. As regards the collection and despatch of labourers, a system of principal Agents and Depôts should be retained, and only persons of good standing in the communities where Immigrants may be obtained should be employed as Sub-agents. No one should be employed unless and until approved of by the Indian Government, and remuneration should be by monthly salary, so as to do away with the objectionable *per caput* system of payment.

Cost. 8. The question of whether the financial obligations involved by any scheme of immigration can be accepted, must, of course, be a matter for decision in each Colony, but presuming a willingness to undertake the necessary financial responsibilities, the following schemes recommend themselves to us.

System of Contract with Government. 9. We would in the first place recommend a scheme similar to that proposed by the Hon. F. C. Lyon, in a memorandum which forms an enclosure to the despatch from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal (Financial Department), to the Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Commerce and Industry), dated Darjeeling, the 2nd November, 1915. That scheme in its essentials would be as follows:—

The labourers would contract, for a period not exceeding two years, to serve the Government of the Colony as agricultural labourers. Distribution of the immigrants would be in the hands of the Government. The right would be secured to the immigrant to select, within limitations, the plantation upon which he would labour, and to modify that choice from time to time.

Alternative proposal. 10. The only alternative, consistent with the views of the Indian Government, would appear to be that monthly contracts should, during the first two years, be entered into by the immigrants on their arrival in the Colony with owners of approved estates where hospital and house accommodation are available and sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Acclimatization. 11. Whatever system is adopted in lieu of indenture, it seems clear that special care should be exercised in selecting for the new Immigrants estates on which conditions are favourable for unacclimatized labourers. The immigrant should go direct to some place where he can be certain of work and of medical care, and where he would be given an opportunity of learning the conditions of life in the Colony and generally afforded an opportunity of fitting himself to become a useful colonist.

Inspection. 12. We are in entire accord with the opinion of the Indian Government that the present system of inspection, shipping, and sanitary regulations should be maintained.

Transport. 13. We are of opinion that efforts should be made to inaugurate a monthly service of steamers between India and the West Indies for the free transport of emigrants to the Colonies and for their return to India on the conditions hereinafter mentioned. This would not only ensure proper means of transport, but would tend to foster trade between India and the Colonies. These steamers might leave India with immigrants and travel *via* the Cape of Good Hope to the West Indies, whence they could return, when not required for the direct voyage to India, with a cargo for England, and from England *via* the Suez Canal with a Cargo for India, thus avoiding the necessity for returning in ballast and thereby reducing cost.

Tasks, Hours and Wages. 14. For the purpose of equalizing the hours of work in each Colony as suggested at p. 206 Part II. of the report of Messrs McNeil and Chimman Lal, we recommend that the task work should be such as would enable an adult male to earn a shilling a day and an adult female ninepence per day with only ordinary exertion, and that the task to be fixed be the amount of work which a labourer of average physique can perform in seven hours without extraordinary exertion. Day workers should be paid not less than 1/- in the case of adult males and not less than ninepence in the case of minors and females, the day to be a day of 9 hours, with intervals for rest and food aggregating not less than one hour. Work is usually performed by task and able-bodied and acclimatized labourers can, if they so desire, accomplish a task and a half or two tasks of this description in a day.

Married Quarters. 15. We are of opinion that the recommendations of Messrs. McNeil and Chimman Lal with respect to detached quarters for married people should be gradually brought into operation.

Sex ratio. 16. We recommend for the adoption the suggestion of Messrs. McNeil and Chimman Lal that the minimum ratio of females to males be raised to 60 per centum irrespective of age, and are of opinion that whenever it is possible to find a sufficient number of females willing to emigrate this ratio should be increased, but we consider that the attention of the Indian Government should be called to the actual present ratio of sexes

among the Indian population of the three Colonies represented:—

British Guiana between 80 and 83 females to 100 males
Trinidad between 75 and 77 females to 100 males.
Jamaica 14 females to 100 males (in 1911).

We are further of opinion that unmarried females are not desirable if under 15 years of age, unless they emigrate under the charge of their parents, relations or guardians.

Marriage. 17. As regards marriages, requirements would, we think, be met by the appointment of a number of Hindu Priests and Mohammedan Kazis and Imams or Meahs as Marriage Officers of a special kind. These Marriage Officers should be required under a penalty to supply the necessary information as to the marriages performed by them to the persons appointed as Marriage Registrars. This would, of course, be in addition to any existing provisions for marriages by ordinary Marriage Officers.

Ways and Means. 18. We are of the view that the ways and means of financing immigration are a matter which each of the Colonies concerned must be left to settle for itself, but that it should be arranged that the cost of immigration *per caput* including passage charges should, as far as practicable, be the same in each of the Colonies; and that it is most desirable that there should be no competition between the Colonies as to the terms to be offered to Indian Immigrants, and that the same agents should be employed by all the Colonies concerned, with a *pro rata* division of their salaries and pensions.

Repatriation. 19. We are of opinion that, regard being had to the altered conditions proposed for the conduct of emigration, a Colony should not be called upon to pay any part of the cost of the return passage of the immigrant. If, however, an assisted return passage is considered to be necessary in order to obtain a sufficient number of immigrants, the assistance given should not exceed the following scale:—

An immigrant wishing to return within five years of his arrival in the Colony should repay a proportionate share of the cost of his introduction and pay the whole cost of his return passage; at the end of the sixth year he might be assisted to the extent of 1-10th of his return passage; at the end of the seventh year, 2-10ths; at the end of the eighth year, 3-10ths; at the end of the ninth year, 4-10ths; and at the end of the tenth or any subsequent year to the extent of one-half.

Education. 20. We consider that the teaching of Indian subjects should be a recognised part of the curriculum of the schools attended by East Indian children, with a view of their being able to keep touch with India, and we advise that provision to that effect be made in each Colony's Code of Education.

Alternative Immigration. 21. The question of alternative sources of supply was considered but we came to the conclusion that it was desirable, if possible, to increase the Indian population rather than introduce new elements and we had not sufficient information in our possession to make a definite recommendation as regards labourers of other nationalities. We consider, however, that enquiries should be made by the Colonies concerned with regard to the possibilities of immigration from other sources.

Views of East Indian National Congress of Trinidad. 22. We availed ourselves of an opportunity afforded us of hearing the views of a deputation from the East Indian National Congress of Trinidad. The deputation was unanimous in its support of a continuance of immigration under an improved system, and there appeared to be a consensus of opinion that the immigrant should not on his arrival be left to his own devices.

Appendices. 23. In Appendix A* will be found Memoranda giving particulars as to climate, land settlement, and other subjects likely to be of use to intending immigrants.

24. Appendix B* contains observations which throw some further light on certain matters alluded to in the despatch from the Government of India of the 15th October, 1915.

Appreciation of Efforts of Secretaries of State for Colonies and India. 25. We beg leave to express, on behalf of the Colonies represented by us, our deep appreciation of the anxiety evinced by the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and India to safeguard the interests of the West Indian Colonies concerned in the matter of immigration.

Secretary's Services. 26. We desire to place on record our appreciation of the services rendered during the sittings of the Conference by the Secretary, Mr. T. B. Jackson, who was kindly placed at our disposal by the Government of Trinidad.

P. C. CORK (Chairman),
E. ST. JOHN BRANCH,
Delegates of Jamaica.
J. HAMPDEN KING,
H. E. MURRAY,
Delegates of British Guiana.
A. DE BOISSIERE,
WILLIAM G. KAY,
Delegates of Trinidad and Tobago.

TRINIDAD, B.W.I.
30th June, 1916.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. W. MORRIS FLETCHER, proprietor of Harris-Saltoun in Dominica, returns to the island on the 17th.

* * *

MR. P. W. D. ARMERISTER, who has been appointed provisionally Receiver-General and Treasurer of the Bahamas in succession to the Hon. T. V. Matthews, I.S.O., entered the service of that colony in 1887, and has held various appointments, notably in the Out Islands as Commissioner.

MR. ROBERT ELWORTHY, of Linstead, Jamaica, who won from the late Sir Alfred Jones a voyage to England and back by the Imperial Direct Line some years ago, has just been married to Miss Maria Posenacr, of Antwerp, and is spending his honeymoon at Torquay.

* * *

WILL those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, or to the Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments?

THE Rev. F. H. Barnett, late Vicar of St. Matthias, Barbados, whose son is in the London Regiment, has two daughters employed on Red Cross work. The elder, Nurse Freda Barnett, V.A.D., has been Assistant Superintendent of the Kitchens at the Faversham Hospital since the beginning of the War. Her sister, Miss Dorothy L. P. Barnett, has also been working at the same hospital since August, 1914.

* * *

MR. F. N. MARTINEZ, who was recently in Jamaica, is the originator of a proposal to open a Shilling Fund for establishing a Memorial to Jamaicans falling in the War. To this end a Committee has been formed, including His Worship the Mayor of Kingston; Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. W. Morrison, Mr. T. N. Aguilar, Mr. Lewis

Ashenheim, Mr. H. M. Brandon, Mr. W. Durie, Mr. Michael deCordova, Mr. F. Martincz, Mr. Leonard deCordova, Mr. H. I. C. Brown, Mr. A. E. DaCosta, Mr. Horace V. Myers, Mr. S. L. Williamson, Mr. C. T. Isaacs, Mr. Percy Lindo, and Mr. W. Baggett Gray.

* * *

The West India Committee have received and forwarded to the proper quarters: £65 from the school-children of Turks and Caicos Islands, collected by Mr. H. H. Hutchings and forwarded by Mr. C. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O., (the Commissioner, towards the Belgian Children's Fund; £32 16s. 2d. collected by Mr. T. R. N. Laughlin, of the *Port of Spain Gazette*, towards the Pervyse Ambulance Fund (bringing the total collected by him towards this object to £326 5s. 10d.); and £10, being the proceeds of a concert given by the Trinidad Volunteers' Sergeants' Mess, per Colour-Serjt. Thomas H. St. Hill; and 9/4 collected by the inmates of the Leper Asylum of Trinidad, forwarded by Captain Randolph Rust towards the Kitchener Memorial Fund.

* * *

The people of Dominica, who were the first to start sending over fruit for the wounded, have resumed shipments, which have been interrupted for some time owing to lack of shipping facilities. Following the example of Trinidad, the Agricultural Society is now putting up the fruit in special wrappers, the imprint on one of which is reproduced on this page. Without being too critical, we

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—A Strange Rumour about Bread-fruit.

There has been no lack of rain, and, as a result, the cane crops are in splendid condition everywhere. Local provisions are somewhat cheaper, especially sweet potatoes. From the *Advocate* we learn that there has been a very heavy bearing of the bread-fruit trees, which are for the most part owned by the peasantry. A very curious and alarming report was assiduously spread up and down the country that the Governor had ordered the destruction of breadfruit trees on the ground that they encouraged the prevalence of the hookworm, yellow fever, and all sorts of diseases. The bread-fruit tree owners were much excited by these reports, and the Governor thought it advisable to issue an official denial of the rumour, the origin of which has not been discovered.

Mr. Marwood, of Trinidad, has not yet presented his report on the railway. The Rev. A. H. Anstey, Principal of Codrington College, has returned to the island. The Hon. C. P. Clarke has received many expressions of sympathy on the death of his gallant second son, Lieut. Vincent Clarke of the Durham Light Infantry; so, too, have Mr. and Mrs. Batson, of Harmony Hall, on the death of their equally gallant son, Lieut. Robert E. Batson.

BRITISH GUIANA—The General Elections.

When the last homeward mail left Georgetown, the General Elections for the Court of Policy were in progress. Mr. Nelson Cannon and Mr. P. N. Browne had defeated Mr. A. P. Sherlock, and Mr. C. F. Wieling had been returned Financial Representative for the City, defeating Mr. Marchant and Mr. Ashrafali. Mr. E. G. Woolford had been elected for Berbice, Mr. R. E. Brassington for N.W. Essequibo, Mr. A. B. Brown for West Demerara, and Mr. J. P. Santos for the County of Berbice—all unopposed. In South Essequibo Hon. F. Dims had defeated Mr. H. E. Murray. In East Demerara Mr. McArthur defeated Mr. Flood, and in New Amsterdam Mr. Nascimento defeated Mr. Luckhoo at the poll for Financial Representative, and Mr. E. A. V. Abraham was elected Financial Representative for N.W. Essequibo.

GRENADA—Lady Haddon Smith's Return

OCTOBER 25th.—On the 5th inst. a very successful "Red Cross Fete" was held at the Citadel, St. George's. A very amusing revue formed part of the programme, entitled, "A Visit to the Kaiser," composed by Mr. Geo. De Freitas. Dr. John Whitman particularly distinguished himself. It was repeated at the Court House on the 20th to a full house. Judging from the attendance at both entertainments, the Red Cross Fund will receive substantial help, especially when the funds realised by the other parishes are added. St. Patrick's will hold theirs on the 9th November, and St. David's on the 26th October.

The trial of the murderer of Mr. Ayling, of Waltham Estate, came to a close on the 20th inst. with a verdict of guilty. Great credit is due to the police in bringing this case to a successful issue, and it ought to be productive of good results—several cases of late being undetected.

Lady Haddon Smith, accompanied by Mrs. D. Hodson and her daughter, arrived in the *Sargasso* from England on the 24th. Mrs. Hodson is the widow of Brigadier-General Hodson, who died some months ago from wounds whilst with the Mediterranean forces.

A Gymkhana and Pony Races are to be held at Queen's Park on the 23rd November. The cacao crop closed on 30th September with a record of 80,030 bags. The coming crop promises to be good; some 2,000 bags already have been shipped. The cable ship *Henry Holmes* has been here for a few days, taking in new cable from the *Sargasso*.

ST. VINCENT—Crops Generally Show Promise.

MR. W. N. SANDS, OCTOBER 17th.—Fortunately the recent hurricane which damaged the Danish West Indies and the Virgin Islands severely was not felt to any considerable extent locally, it having passed so far north of us. There were one or two wind squalls, which blew over cotton plants in some places and limbs off trees, but that was all.



A DOMINICA WRAPPER.

may perhaps be pardoned for suggesting that it is rather a pity that the badge of the colony was not used instead of the crown, which has rather an alien appearance. The last two homeward Direct Line steamers brought 86 cases of limes, admirably packed, which have been distributed among the hospitals.

The sea, however, was very rough on the 7th and 8th, and heavy swells came in from the south and west, with the result that one schooner, two sloops and three lighters were driven ashore and damaged.

We had the pleasure of a brief visit from our late Administrator, the Hon. Gideon Murray, who was on his way back to St. Lucia from Trinidad where he had been enjoying a short holiday. The Hon. Conrad J. Simmons and Mrs. Simmons, with their daughters, returned to the colony from Canada in the last Royal Mail Canadian steamer.

Crops generally continue to show fair promise.

TRINIDAD—Sir John Chancellor's Activities.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, OCTOBER 9th.—The resolution on Trade after the War (published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR) passed at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the 5th inst., is strong and to the point, and suits one's taste better than the somewhat nerveless one that the Legislative Council, with some hesitation, committed itself to the other day. Of course we cannot expect the Legislature, as at present constituted, to speak in matters of high policy otherwise than in accordance with the views of those whom Sir Henry Jackson dubbed as "Our Masters in Downing Street," but there is no reason why independent and powerful bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce should not give voice to the feeling which actuates us all, and has been so eloquently and plainly announced on behalf of the self-governing Dominions by Sir George Foster, Mr. Hughes and others. We have had enough of Germans in this colony, both as men and as merchants. We know them, and that when the war is over they will be ready to crawl back, cringing for small mercies till they find their feet again, but we don't want them, and won't have them, if we can help it.

The famous war films are now being shown here at the Electric Theatre, where there was a gala night on the 6th, the first representation, when every seat in the house was booked at one price, and the Governor delivered an opening address.

The sad news has come through this morning of the death, in action, of Mr. W. Robertson, Junr., only son and child of Mr. W. Robertson, of the firm of Smith, Robertson and Co. Every sympathy is extended to the bereaved parents.

Mr. Tripp, in concluding his letter, referred to certain remarks recently made by Mr. Hatt. He challenged the statement that the Tobago tobacco industry was being disregarded by the officials. Mr. Tripp said, "Some foolish proposal . . . emanating from a political economist who saw greater benefit in collecting duty on imported products than in growing them at home was quickly relegated to oblivion by the higher authorities." Another statement complained of was that the doctor for the Northern District had resigned. This, he said, was not the case, adding that the doctor had no intention of resigning.

OCTOBER 23rd.—Our new Governor Sir John Chancellor's energy and keen interest in everything are quite phenomenal. He has already visited nearly every part of the island, and he has made himself master of all questions pending that required solution. Take the Health Department for instance. Necessary measures that had been shelved or kept in abeyance for years have been dealt with, e.g., the police to be treated in a separate ward at the hospital, and the present police hospital—a useless luxury—to be made available for the urgently required "Mothers' and Infants' Clinic." The following to be undertaken: Erection of new wards at the Colonial Hospital for tuberculosis patients on the site recommended by the Surgeon-General; the erection of a new dispensary for the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis, for which the Government give a free site. Arrangements for the appointment of a tuberculosis officer have been made. An Ordinance providing for the notification of births will also be introduced at an early date, and the new and much required Public Health Ordinance passed some time ago and shelved will be proclaimed to come in force on January 1st.

Then there is the railway, complaints regarding which have fallen on deaf ears for so long. The Governor has taken this in hand literally. He was asked to appoint a Commission of Enquiry. He appointed himself, and

brought his own practical experience with the aid of his professional engineering knowledge to account, with the result that an exhaustive report was presented to Council last Friday, which sums up the position admirably, and describes what is lacking and what must be supplied to put the concern on a proper footing. The report meets universal approval. Incidentally I am pleased to find that His Excellency corroborates, and will take steps to correct, the errors due to parsimony, and the assumption of too much detail by the head of the Department, whilst rendering the credit that is due to Mr. Marwood, facts which I ventured to put forward in my letter published by you on September 7th.

Again, His Excellency has intimated his grave doubt as to whether the multiplication of Agricultural Departments and Boards is desirable, a feeling which is generally shared, and he proposes shortly to submit definite views in the matter.

We are all more than sorry to hear of the death in action of Major Harry Wilson, another Trinidadian, who was most popular in his boyhood days here, when his father, Sir David, was Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands—subsequently Governor of Honduras. And it is specially hard not only on the father, but on the sister, Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon, who thus loses a second brother in so short a time, the first having gone down in the Jutland fight.

The first Agricultural Credit Society under the new Agricultural Banks Ordinance has been established at Diego Martin, and the Governor was present and spoke at an opening ceremony. Mr. Freeman also delivered an address on Co-operative Banks. He acted as Chairman of the Agricultural Society, to the persistent efforts of which body are due the fact that the long-talked-of banks are past the debating stage, and very much is due, in this as in other matters, to his untiring energy and ability.

"Our Day," thanks to Mrs. Edgar Agostini and a group of ladies who never tire in good work, was a glorious success, which culminated with the holding of some military sports at the Queen's Park Cricket Ground in the afternoon. All of Trinidad, that is Trinidad in Port of Spain, was there. Weather and everything else was favourable. The exhibition of musical physical drill by the Trinidad Contingent, showing what splendid work Major Hoffmeister has done out of our island material, was the event, but all else was good, and everyone had a good time, and contributed according to means to the Red Cross Fund.

TOBAGO—An Influx of East Indians.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, OCTOBER 18th.—Since my last letter very heavy rains have fallen all over the island, with strong S. and S.W. winds. The North Windward Coast got the first of it, and from 7th to 10th October over ten inches of rain was registered. On the following days the Leeward got its full share, and floods and land slips prevailed all over the island. Public roads were greatly cut up and travelling by the Goldesborough and Military Roads was risky until the Public Works Department cleared the way, which was accomplished without much delay. On the hillside roads considerable damage was done, and the new District Officer, shortly expected, will have his work cut out for him. The mail motor car from Roxburgh was held up for about four hours at Pembroke River on 13th inst., and the unfortunate passengers (self included) wished that the iron girders lying on the bank had been converted into a bridge before the rains set in. The old bridge was carried away in November, and the girders were delayed by war conditions in England. It is hoped that the weather will be more favourable next week when His Excellency the Governor is to pay a visit to our little island.

Cacao picking has been going on freely for the last few weeks, and the crop, which is very promising, will shortly be in full swing. It is very encouraging to see cacao drying houses, large and small, being constructed in the cacao districts, and the island exports must steadily increase. Coco-nuts are being collected as fast as drying space can deal with them for the manufacture of copra. As the natives are busy with their own gardens, labour is not so plentiful as planters would like this crop season. The difficulty is in some measure overcome by the East Indian labourers who now come over freely to Tobago, attracted by the abundant water supply, and it is hoped

that many of them will ultimately settle in the island. At first the natives were suspicious of the East Indians, but they are accustomed to them now and quite friendly, and even attempt to pick up Hindi words in order to talk to them. As a rule, however, the men from the East more readily acquire English sufficiently well to make themselves understood.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

The Directors, in their third annual report, while submitting the accounts for the year ending June 30th last, state that the Company had a very successful year, the output of sugar showing again a large increase on the previous year and the prices showing a further rise. The rainfall was 56 inches, or 8 inches below the average, but it was well distributed, and the Company's cane lands were for the most part in good tilth and able to derive the full benefit from it. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with the previous years:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
Canes grown ...	97,174 tons	135,230 tons	133,871 tons
... purchased	60,491	58,763	82,375
	<u>157,665</u>	<u>195,493</u>	<u>216,246</u>
Sugar made	15,711	17,067	20,890
Sucrose in Cane	11.37 %	10.66 %	11.21 %
... Mergass	4.35	3.88	3.40
Purity of Juice	78.9	76.13	77.5
Recovery of Sucrose	79.67	78.18	82.55
Yield of Sugar 96 deg.	9.97	8.73	9.86
Estates Cane per acre	20.69 tons	24.60 tons	24.72 tons
... Sugar	2.06	2.14	2.38

"It is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the large increase in the crop, the factory work has not suffered, but has shown a marked improvement on former years, also that no canes were left unripe either on the Company's own estates or on farmers' lands. A loss of £1,404 17s. 5d. was incurred on the resale of the sugar bought to meet the Trinidad Government's embargo regulations mentioned in last report, a considerable portion of this sugar having had to be shipped to London, as there was not sufficient local demand. Sales of land, etc., have been made during the year realising the sum of £2,027 8s. 11d., which has been placed to Reserve Account.

"The Board of Referees have not yet decided the basis on which Excess Profit is to be charged on Sugar Plantations, and as the amount in question (which applies to two years) is large, it is thought best to give the figures as they stand subject to deduction later for Excess Profit. The Profit and Loss Account shows a surplus of £121,870 17s. 9d., which with £38,579 13s. 6d. brought forward from 1915 makes a total of £160,450 11s. 2d. The Directors recommend placing £25,000 to the reserve for factory renewals and that the following dividend distribution be made:—

- (1) 6 per cent. on the paid up Capital in accordance with Article 156, and
- (2) 2/- per share on the nominal amount of the shares issued.

These dividend payments will absorb £21,111 6s. 9d., and there will remain £114,339 4s. 5d. to be carried forward, subject to Excess Profit Duty as above stated, and also Income Tax.

"The Company has undertaken the handling of the farmers' canes on the adjoining estate of Malgretoute, renting the factory on that estate meantime for the grinding of them, but as soon as a new West set of mills at the Usine can be substituted for the present old set, the Malgretoute canes will be brought to the Usine. The reports of the growing crop are satisfactory."

The balance sheet shows liabilities of £44,654 3s. 11d. to sundry creditors, bills payable £53,000, and issued share capital £102,550, comprising 65,100 fully paid £1 shares and 84,900 10/- per share paid; reserve accounts, including proceeds of town premises and sales of land £35,815 8d., and £160,450 11s. 2d. to credit of the profit and loss account, made up of £38,579 13s. 6d. balance forward from last account, and £121,870 17s. 9d., being the profit for the year, subject to excess profits duty.

On the assets side are cash £40,628 10s. 4d.; investments (at cost) £49,231 9s. 6d.; sundry debtors £36,060 7s. 7d.; stores and materials £18,473 16s. 6d.; properties purchased £55,000, and stocks of sugar and molasses (mostly at prices since realised) £197,075 19s. 10d.

Coming to the profit and loss account, sugar and by-products £414,162 1s. 7d., whilst estates expenditures was £182,426 3s. 4d., factory charges £69,796 4s. 6d., railway charges £16,383 14s. 9d., and administrative charges £2,085 18s. 8d.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

The Directors, in their report for the six months ended June 30th last, state that the amount to credit of revenue is £45,230 0s. 7d., as compared with £36,454 3s. 9d. in the corresponding half-year of 1915, and the expenses have been £33,651 15s., against £27,225 0s. 8d. The result is, therefore, a balance of £11,578 5s. 7d., to which is added £1,799 8s. interest on investments, and £2,880 6s. 5d. brought forward from last Account, making a total available of £16,258. They propose the payment of the following dividends for the half year—6s. per share on the First Preference Shares (£10,368 18s.); 6/- per share on the Second Preference Shares (£1,400 14s.); and 6/- per share (free of income tax), against 9d. per share free of income tax at the corresponding period last year, on the Ordinary shares (£2,208 0s. 6d.), leaving a balance of £2,280 7s. 6d. to be carried to current half-year's account.

The traffic receipts for the half-year show an increase as compared with those of the corresponding period, business in the West Indies having been active at prices remunerative to the planters. Similar conditions have so far ruled during the current half-year. The cost of maintenance of cables was unusually heavy, being £7,633 in excess of the outlay in the same period of last year. The repairs effected were more numerous and expensive, as regards both the mileage of cable used and the time occupied by the ship on the work. There was, moreover, no set-off from the hire of the ship to other companies, such as occurred in the period under comparison.

Following what is now the general practice of Telegraph Companies, it is suggested that after May of next year the report and accounts should be presented annually. The financial year would, in that case, be from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, and the annual meeting would be held in May. This arrangement would not preclude the payment of interim dividends in November of each year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Electricity in the Sugar Factory.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—The electrification of sugar house auxiliaries is attracting at the present moment a great deal of attention, and would appear to offer, to some of those less well informed, a solution to their high fuel bills, and promises of reductions in administration expenses, maintenance costs and renewals to such an extent, that a little ventilation of the subject through your columns may be of interest to many.

Various literature is being circulated as to these advantages and the manner in which they can be realised, but due warning should be taken, and it is good to see that your contemporaries are also looking upon this literature with a weather eye open.

The electrification of an existing factory, the basis of these few remarks, presents a most difficult problem, and requires most careful and intelligent consideration not only from the contractor's point of view, who is able to show on paper in almost any proposal, numerous accruing advantages; but the alternative of laying out the capital involved in another direction, i.e., that of bringing up the steam plant into a more modern state of efficiency, still retaining the steam-driven units, must also be given due consideration in collaboration with those responsible for the administration.

Generally there are two classes of factory equipments that come up for consideration under these electrifying schemes, and can be designated by the letters "A" and "B."

Class "A" factories would represent those of a size

quite suitable for economical conversion, but comprising old and worn out plant. Class "B" factories would represent those of a size suitable, but of more modern equipment.

There are a few factories in the British West Indies of a size sufficiently large for very economical electrical conversion, yet consisting of such old and worn out machinery as to be impossible to convert, completely new plant being necessary to such an extent as to turn one's thoughts to an entire abandonment of possible alteration in any form whatever.

Such factories would come under Class "A," and would mean at once the installing of a barometric condensing plant in place of the wet systems, new piping for same, probably replacement of pans and triple, innumerable pumps and driving engines, the existing lay out presenting much difficulty in an economical distribution, on account of the factories invariably having been brought up to their present capacity by indiscriminate additions, placed wherever space permitted.

It will, therefore, in many cases be a much more feasible proposition for Class "A" factories to look around and seriously consider how they can improve their present conditions with probably half or quarter the amount of capital expenditure, but not to be in improvements as hitherto practised; those suggested by a glance over the place, such as the conversion of some four wet pumps to one on the dry system.

What is necessary for these factories is a careful, well studied, and fully developed campaign of action; one to last over a number of crops so that there will be no indiscriminate placing of units just because it may happen to be absolutely necessary for the next crop, a later crop taking care of itself, and thus the aggravating circumstances become more and more acute each year.

Factories under Class "B" would probably have a central condenser, a considerably less number of pumps, fewer engines, the cost of renewal of old plant for modern pattern would be less, and the lay out more adapted to take the change.

It must be borne in mind that no qualifications have been given to the inference of the general cost being less, and it is here that the consideration to outside sources of influence must be given. The advantages gained must not be worked out from the electrical contractors' statements, but from the alterations brought about in improving existing conditions of working, re-education, and running costs.

Complete electrical drive to all the auxiliaries will reduce the consumption for fuel, and give a reduction in renewal and maintenance charges, but should there be no necessity for an increase in steam supply or reduction in fuel consumption and there is an impossibility of using extra or any maceration water, then electric conversions can find no case whatever.

It is here, however, that the mistake is made, for in a few crops the eight-roll plant suddenly becomes the centre of thought around which a scheme of fourteen rolls is weaved. Pre-evaporators, at one time thought utterly superfluous, are on the carpet; more pan power is necessary, and the extraction is now decided as extremely poor. It is in the oversight of not taking these precautions of planning ahead, the necessity for future scheming to be laid on paper at once, and as to what will be done in the future towards an ultimate goal, that the greatest errors arise.

The advancement of sugar manufacturing, technically, has been so great within the last five years that it would have been almost impossible to have planned out campaigns of action previous to this and arrived at an ultimate arrangement, that would have been likely to compete with present day equipments in efficiency.

Electrical driving is held out as a panacea for all ills in the working of a factory; but it will solve none until the administration of each estate is in a position to grasp thoroughly, and at one time, all its future possibilities, its present incapacity and inefficiency, and to know just what is going on in the manufacture of sugar, technically, in all parts of the world.

Such propositions can only be gone into on the site, or with those familiar to all the main sources of inefficiency, the former, however, is the only satisfactory method of solution, for it is very difficult to find anyone alive to the potentialities in inefficiency where alterations

are made without consideration of those made to another unit.

In conclusion, it can be said that the economies of electric driving for complete new factory propositions are accomplished facts, and this can also be said of the conversion of existing plants, but there are many qualifications to it, and it is advised, where these electrical installations are being seriously considered that sugar factory builders be consulted as well as the electrical contractors, the latter working much more advantageously to the owner, as a sub-contractor.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK COXON.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams "Carib." London LONDON, E.C.

November 15th, 1916.

BANK RATE remains at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. Consols stand at 56½. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 96½, and the Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 84½. The improvement in the quotation of the New War Loan is attributed to the prospects of a comparatively early issue of a fresh loan which are being canvassed.

SUGAR.—There has been no change in the United Kingdom markets. Tate's cubes (No. 1) remain at 47/1½; standard granulated at 41/7½; West Indian crystallised remains at 41/7½ for average quality, and White Java at 41/1½ to 41/6.

To-day, in the House of Commons, Mr. Runciman, in announcing a Government control of food prices, stated that it was proposed to restrict the excessive consumption of sweets, which, in the face of the shortage of sugar, has been becoming little short of a public scandal.

The New York market has been steady. The \$5.46 quotation for 96% of the date of the last Summary went up to \$5.58 on the 3rd inst., but receded to \$5.52 on the following day, and now stands at \$5.39, with granulated at \$7.65.

One of the causes of the recent rise in the prices in the United States was the late beginning of the western beet campaign. As this should now be in full swing, a further drop in prices may be expected in the New York market.

American sugar men are already beginning to consider the after war conditions as regards sugar. It is felt that if German and Austrian sugar is shut out of Great Britain it will go to the United States. On this subject *Facts About Sugar* considers that Congress should promptly provide for a countervailing duty to deal with the possibility of the renewal of German and Austrian bounties. In this connection it will be remembered that the present Underwood Tariff did away with countervailing duties.

The Board of Trade Returns for October show that the total imports of sugar into the United Kingdom amounted to 110,836 tons, as against 150,102 tons for last month. This brings the total amount of imports for the year to 1,298,424 tons, as against 1,246,036 tons for the same period of last year. The imports of refined sugar amounted to 13,426 tons for the month, as against 63,447 tons for October last year. The total imports of refined for the year to the 31st of October amount to 349,832 tons, as against 396,914 tons for the ten months of 1915. The imports of raw for the month were 97,410 tons, as against 86,655 tons for October last year, making 948,952 tons for the ten months, as against 849,716 tons from January to October last year.

The imports of white sugar for the month were almost entirely from Java, which sent in 12,126 tons, the United States only contributing 1,275 tons. For the year to the 31st October, the principal white sugar suppliers were the United States, 268,464 tons; Java, 34,912 tons; Mauritius, 26,751 tons; and Holland, 4,278 tons. Last year the latter country supplied 80,460 tons in the same period. As regards unrefined sugars, Java contributed 77,188 tons for the month, making 155,920 tons for the year; Cuba, 5,707 tons, making 542,399 tons for the year; Mauritius, 177 tons, making 80,082 tons for the year; the Philippines, 1,480 tons, or 65,492 tons for the year; the British

West Indies and British Guiana, 3,364 tons, or 64,228 tons for the year; and Peru, 9,355 tons, or 33,754 tons for the year.

The stocks of sugar on the 31st of October in the United Kingdom were 191,000 tons, as against 136,250 tons on the 30th of September. The consumption, based on imports, refined and unrefined, was thus 116,086 tons, while the quantity released from bond, customs' and refiners', during the month is given in the Returns as 109,910 tons. This brings the consumption for the year, based on imports to 1,305,133 tons, or on bond liberations to 1,173,614 tons.

The quantity of home grown sugar which paid excise duty during the nine months ending 30th of September was 1,630 tons. During the same period the amount of sugar used for brewing in Great Britain was 88,042 tons, as against 100,185 tons and 121,276 tons for the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914 respectively.

Messrs. Willett and Gray have now published their estimates of the world's sugar crops for 1916-17. These give the total cane sugar crops as 11,425,000 tons, as against 10,514,687 tons for 1915-16, and 10,216,654 tons for 1914-15. The corresponding beet sugar crops for 1916-17 are estimated at 6,095,000 tons, as against an actual 6,006,630 tons in 1915-16, and 8,233,451 tons in 1914-15.

As regards the cane sugar crops, the points of note are that the Cuba crop, as mentioned in last Summary, is estimated at 3,400,000 tons, an increase on the last crop of 400,000 tons in round numbers; that the Java crop, now finishing, is credited with 1,560,000 tons; that the Formosa and Japan estimate has raised the output of those islands from 390,000 tons to 430,000 tons. European beet crops are estimated at 5,178,000 tons, as against 5,209,234 tons, the output of last crop; the United States beet crop is estimated at 846,000 tons, as against 779,756 tons, and the Canadian at 14,000 tons, as against 17,641 tons, the crop of 1915-16.

Considerable dissatisfaction is felt and expressed by the Queensland planters as to their treatment by the Australian Government. The sugar, 96%, has been purchased compulsorily by the Government at £18 per ton. The import duty is £6 per ton, giving £12 only as the ex-tariff value. As the ex-tariff value of 96% domestic and territorial sugar in the United States of America is well over £21 per ton, there seems reasonable ground for complaint. The situation is aggravated by the recent legal decision that field and factory labour has to receive a minimum wage of £3 18s. and £3 15s. for a 48-hour week, for districts north and south of the Mackay respectively. The Queensland crop also is not sufficient for the demands of Australia, and sugar has to be imported to make up the supply. This cannot be procured and sold at the local sugar price fixed by the Government save at a considerable loss, of which the planters will have to pay their share. Taking one consideration with another, therefore, the Queensland planter's lot is not, at present, a happy one.

The Mauritius planters, also, are labouring under a grievance. The "vesou" (first sugar) crop of that colony was purchased by the British Government under embargo at £18 per ton, f.o.b. It is understood that this sugar is being sent direct to France by our Government. The crop in question, including the usual proportions of second sugars is expected to yield 217,000 tons. As the sugar from the neighbouring French colony of Bourbon, of admittedly inferior quality, on which no embargo has been laid by the French Government, is selling at 56 frs. per kilo f.o.b., or about £20 per ton at the present rate of exchange, there is naturally dissatisfaction in Mauritius.

In our Summary, in connection with the decision of the Sugar Commission as regards the licensing of molasses sugars, the word "molasses" was omitted by the printers. The context, will, however, have enabled our readers to judge of the class of sugar to which the paragraph referred.

In this connection we are pleased to be able to state that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has made an important concession after having the facts of the case submitted to them. Their objection to the importation, for other than brewing purposes, of grocery syrups of West Indian origin, is withdrawn subject to the condition that there shall be no material increase in such importation, as a consequence of the concession. In order to put this condition into a definite shape, a limit of 5,000

tons in a year is to be fixed for such importations from the West Indies, the year to run from 5th October, 1916 (the date at which the new regulations were first laid down). The Commission has also agreed to the abolition of a minimum price for such syrups.

The West India sugar statistics from 1st January to 4th November are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	50,085	48,252	28,095	35,420	24,450 Tons.
Deliveries	52,274	42,141	33,799	25,658	27,000 ..
Stock (Nov. 4)	8,616	12,120	7,248	11,602	1,940 ..

RUM. Importers being willing to reduce prices, the Government have operated on a fairly large scale, and some 5,000 to 6,000 puncheons have been sold during the last few days at prices which mark a considerable decline in values. Demerara has been sold on the spot and for arrival at prices in the neighbourhood of 3/2 per proof gallon. Trinidad has fetched 3/., while Natal has been sold at a price fractionally below these figures. The transactions in question have been very large, and it is possible that the trade generally may be able to pay rather higher figures for smaller quantities.

The uncertainty as to the future in connection with the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act still hangs like a pall over the market. Buyers will not bid for rum imported after August 19th last, the period of compulsory warehousing of which is in doubt, and the West India Committee and Wine and Spirit Trade Association are pressing the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a decision in respect of the year 1917-18.

The quantity of rum (including imitation rum) imported into this country during October was, according to the Board of Trade Returns, 876,777 proof gallons, making 8,388,044 gallons for the year, as against 8,196,678 proof gallons for the corresponding months of last year. The quantity withdrawn from bond for the month was 233,746 gallons, and for the ten months 2,545,079 gallons, as compared with 3,492,905 gallons for the same period last year. The decrease in consumption is thus very marked.

Stocks on the 31st of October amounted to 12,639,000 proof gallons, as against 8,526,000 gallons at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on November 4th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	10,592	5,774	7,989	6,948	8,415 Puns.
Demerara	11,838	5,367	6,598	6,366	5,633 ..
Total, all kinds	26,748	22,528	21,078	20,955	22,414 ..

CACAO. The market has been in a very quiet state. The only auction sale for the fortnight took place on the 14th inst., when 15,000 bags, including 4,343 bags West Indian were offered. There was little or no demand, and a very small quantity was sold at prices ranging 2/- to 4/- lower. Some Grenada sold at 68/- to 73/-, with Jamaica at 66/-; 144 bags of Trinidad sold at 80/-. The small Dominica and Demerara lots were bought in.

The Board of Trade Returns for October show that 5,559,120 lbs. of cacao were imported for the month, making 174,778,240 lbs. for the year. Of these quantities Brazil supplied, for the month, 2,505,776 lbs., making 10,952,368 lbs. for the year; British West Africa, 2,505,776 lbs., with 94,589,152 for the year; the British West India Islands, 393,680 lbs. for the month, and 22,060,416 lbs. for the year; Ecuador, 12,993 lbs., with 19,045,488 lbs. for the year; and Ceylon, 9,184 lbs., and 4,177,464 lbs. respectively.

The exports for the month amounted to 6,854,400 lbs., making 49,490,896 lbs. for the year. Of the latter quantity, 10,203,312 lbs. went to Russia, 11,876,134 lbs. to Holland, and 9,368,240 lbs. to the United States.

The stocks of cacao in the United Kingdom on the 31st October amounted to 92,736,000 lbs., as compared with 45,360,000 lbs. at the same date last year.

The quantity taken out of bond for the ten months for home consumption was 61,091,696 lbs., as against 88,896,864 lbs. for the same period last year.

The stocks in London on November 4th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	20,264	11,141	8,153	11,752	7,005 Bags
Grenada	12,109	1,672	4,784	2,813	713 ..
Total, all kinds	202,565	117,223	76,330	75,181	92,783 ..

COFFEE.—At auction to-day the small quantity offered was part disposed of at steady rates. Santos c.i.f. for shipment may be quoted at 58/-

The Board of Trade Returns for October show that 9,966,928 lbs. of coffee were imported for the month, making 158,200,292 lbs. for the year. Out of these quantities the British West India Islands contributed 18,256 lbs., and 1,075,424 lbs. respectively. The exports amounted to 3,682,448 lbs. for the month and 51,129,568 for the year. The stocks in the United Kingdom were 146,160,000 lbs., as against 95,200,000 lbs. at the same date last year.

COTTON. In the absence of stock of West Indian Sea Island, Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report no business as having been done.

The imports of cotton into the United Kingdom amounted to 177,821,400 lbs. for October, of which 28,209,000 lbs. came from British possessions, including 38,200 lbs. from the British West Indies. For the ten months 1,704,853,100 lbs. were imported, 385,575,000 coming from British possessions.

The exports for the ten months reached 224,768,400 lbs., as again 312,751,300 lbs. for January to October last year. The principal country of export was the United States, which took 132,767,300 lbs. during the ten months of 1916.

RUBBER. The market for Plantation is quietly steady. Fine is quoted at 2/8; smoked sheet at 2/7½. Para is easier. Fine hard is quoted at 3/4, with soft at 3/2.

The amount of rubber imported into the United Kingdom during October was 11,829,600 lbs., as against 15,959,000 lbs. for October, 1915. For the year up to the 31st October, 135,636,600 lbs. have been imported, including 3,262,400 lbs. from British India, 38,511,000 from the Straits Settlements, 33,401,100 from the Federated Malay States, 18,204,700 lbs. from Ceylon, and 1,298,300 from the Gold Coast.

The quantity of rubber exported during October was 6,747,400 lbs., making for the ten months 88,079,700, as against 120,206,300 lbs. exported for the corresponding period of last year. Russia took 9,596,100 lbs., France 17,973,100 lbs., and the United States 14,268,600 lbs.

BALATA. Market steady. Venezuelan block, sellers 2/9½ c.i.f.; buyers 2/9½. West Indian sheet, spot 3/5 to 3/6 nom.; forward, 3/3.

HONEY. There is little actual business passing, and prices are unchanged; but there are some signs of a better demand for home consumption, which may help the market later.

SPICES. Ginger. There is nothing doing except in small retail parcels. In the absence of business, quotations were unaltered. 480 cwts. of ginger were imported into the United Kingdom for October. Piments. No business is reported during the last week or two. Importers are holding for 3½d. to 3¼d. per lb., but there are some second hand sellers still at 8½d. per lb. Nutmegs. At auction to-day 1,500 packages sold readily at steady to dearer rates. Mace met with good competition and sold at full rates.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There is no business to report in distilled. Nominal price 9/-. Handpressed is scarce, and a higher price is expected. Lime Juice. There is no change in raw and concentrated. Citrate is unchanged.

FRUIT. The market for all descriptions is firm. Bananas, West Indian, may be quoted at £17 per ton (truck loads), with Canary at 7/- to 14/6 per crate or drum, the Hoya Special brand fetching 12/- to 18/-. The Board of Trade Returns show that 500,682 bunches were imported for October, as against 542,000 bunches for the same month last year. For the ten months of the present year 5,344,987 bunches have been imported, as against 7,305,549 for the corresponding month of last year. Oranges. Jamaica are quoted at 16/- to 17/- per case (mixed counts). The importation for October into the United Kingdom was 44,269 cwt., as against 30,746 cwt. for the same month of last year. The total imports for the year up to the 31st October amounted to 4,916,165 cwt., as against 4,685,016 cwt. for January to October last year. Coco-nuts. Jamaica are fetching 23/- per bag (100s).

OPRA. Market strong and prices continue to advance. West Indian may be quoted at £39 to £39 10s. c.i.f. usual terms.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. J. R. Bancroft	Mr. Edgar Garuett	Mr. Hugh McLelland
Mr. G. S. Browne	Mr. W. Gordon Gordon	Mr. Albert Mendes
Mr. R. Bryson	Mr. John T. Greig	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G.	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. John T. Moir
Mrs. Burdon	Mr. Albert T. Haumond	Dr. Frank Olliphant
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Prof. J. P. D. Albuquerque	Hon. K. Haynes	Mr. T. Orde
Hon. P. J. Dean	Mr. H. A. Hinkson	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. D. S. De Freitas	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. T. G. Rose
Mr. W. de Gale	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. J. S. de la Mothe	Mr. A. H. Kirby	Mr. G. S. Selon-Browne
Sir Walter Egerton.	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. J. C. Shaw
K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. Morsden	Mr. R. B. Shurt
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Sir Frederic Maxwell	and
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. A. L. McGill	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.		
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 38, Compton Road, Winchmore Hall, N.		
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.		
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.		
Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.		

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The table below gives the advertised dates of sailings to the West Indies from ports of the United Kingdom, Holland and Canada for the next few weeks.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Nov. 24	"Direct"	Soffiana	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N.
" 24	Elders & Fyffes	Covina	Bristol	D.
" 25	R.M.S.P.	Quillota	London	A, E, D.
" 25	Leyland	Nicostran	Liverpool	A, E
Dec. 8	Elders & Fyffes	Garmist	Bristol	D.

FROM CANADA.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 1	R.M.S.P.Co	Chateau	Halifax, N.S.	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N.

FROM HOLLAND.				
Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 1	Royal Dutch	Prinses	Amsterdam	B, E.
" 29	"	Prins Willem 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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices Nov. 16
Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
Barbados	3½ % Redeemable 1923-42	70½
British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1925	74½
British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74½
Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	82½
Jamaica	3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	71½
Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63½
St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82½
Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81½
Trinidad	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62½
3½ %	The Colonial Bank	51½
6 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	110
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures	88
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	88½
4½ %	Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures	103½
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	—
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 5 % Debentures	102½
—	Trinidad Culfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	4½
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	15½
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	20-25
6 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	97-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Fx. Pref.	67-70
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
1/8	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	25½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	7½
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd "	6
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	96

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SERRING LANE, LONDON, E.C.,
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON
November 29th, 1916.

OUR POTASH SUPPLY.

THE position of potash in agriculture is one of the greatest consequence. Potash is an important constituent in vegetation; indeed, its very name, derived from the ashes of the wood-fire over which the "pot" was boiled, is indicative of this. In good agriculture every endeavour is made to restore the potash taken out of the soil by the plant, by incorporating with the soil not only those portions of the crop which have not been utilised for other purposes, but also other crops grown especially with this and kindred objects. Although existing to varying degrees in almost all soils, soil potash is not always available for assimilation by the plant, and consequently potash in an available condition enters largely into the composition of fertilisers, and the question of a ready and copious source of supply looms largely in agricultural economies. But if a common constituent of soils, as mentioned above, and of many minerals, especially silicates, potash does not as a rule exist in nature in a form which admits of economic extraction. Consequently, deposits in which the potash occurs in an available or in a readily extractable form are of the greatest value. Such a deposit occurs in the Strassfurt potash fields of North Germany, which in 1913 exported potash to the value of £96,000,000. It is the cutting off of this supply of potash by the War that has brought about a potash famine in fertilising circles throughout the world, and drawn attention to the necessity for finding other sources of supply of this valuable manurial agent.

A great deal has been said of late as to the development of potash deposits in Spain, and recently

letters have appeared in the *Times*, which are reproduced elsewhere in this issue, dealing with this important subject. SIR THOMAS MACKENZIE points out that New Zealand possesses a large store of potash in her schist rocks, which contain 3 per cent. of potash, and claims that if these supplies were developed, the "Strassfurt mines would be reduced to the importance relatively of a bottle of potash on a druggist's shelf." But, as DR. VOELCKER points out, the potash in mica schist is not only not in a form for immediate plant use, but also cannot be made economically available by any process. Much was said at one time about extensive potash deposits occurring in California, which would take the place of the Strassfurt deposits. But now, after two years, nothing further has been heard of them, and we are constrained to regard them in the same light as the New Zealand deposits to which SIR T. MACKENZIE refers in such glowing language, and to place them outside the plane of practical politics. It is curious, when the whole world is searching for a supply of potash, that the "caliche" fields of Peru have not attracted attention. Extremely large areas of these deposits occur, in which potash, in the readily available form of nitrate, admitting of easy extraction, exists to the extent of 3 to 4 per cent.; and there would appear to be no reason why Peru, as regards potash, should not rival Chili as regards nitrate of soda. DR. VOELCKER thinks that the Spanish deposits should be at once realised, and urges that our Government should do its utmost to induce the Spanish Government to set their supplies free. It is curious that, if Spain possesses such an asset, no steps have been taken in that country itself to supply the place of the Strassfurt mines by developing their own potash fields. That this is not being done throws a doubt on the existence of these deposits, at any rate to an extent sufficient to provide a substantial supply for the world's use. No doubt, somewhere or other, a substitute for the Strassfurt mines will be discovered. In the meantime, agriculturists will have to practise potash economy by utilising the stores of potash existing in most soils by the practise of known methods of agriculture indicated above.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

PLANTERS in those West Indian Islands subject—or, perhaps we should say, liable—to occasional hurricanes will breathe a sigh of relief at the close of the recent season for such visitations, which has proved quite exceptionally disastrous. On three separate occasions during the present year certain of the islands have been in the path of storms of hurricane violence. It will be recalled that on August 15th Jamaica was swept from end to end by a

cyclone which laid the banana trees low, and that on August 28th Dominica, which, until the preliminary blow of last year, had been immune for nearly a century, was ravaged by a hurricane which destroyed the prospects of a bumper lime crop. Now in October—the month in which, according to the old negro adage beginning "June too soon," the hurricane season should be "all over"—the Virgin Islands have had more than their share of trouble. On the 9th of that month the group, which forms a Presidency of the Leeward Islands, experienced the full force of a hurricane which caused loss of life and widespread destruction. Some idea of the extent of the damage is conveyed by the extracts from a report by the REV. B. A. QUEELKY, the Wesleyan minister at Tortola, which are published in another column. From these it is clear that, for their size and relative importance, the Virgin Islands have suffered more acutely than Jamaica and Dominica did in August last. The local community is composed almost entirely of the peasant class of cultivator. There are no large estates and no wealthy proprietors, and consequently the problem before the local Government will be more serious than that which is being successfully faced in the larger and prosperous islands. On hearing the news of the disaster, the Acting-Governor of the Leeward Islands, MR. T. A. V. BEST, with commendable promptitude stopped the Royal Mail steamer *Chaleur* at Antigua, and proceeded in her to Tortola with supplies of foodstuffs and clothing, of which the stricken inhabitants were in great need; and realising that, until new crops came into bearing, financial assistance would be required, His Excellency immediately opened a local "Virgin Islands Relief Fund," to which donations are being received by the Colonial Bank. Towards this the French colony of Guadeloupe, again illustrating in a practical manner the strength of the *entente cordiale* in the West Indies, has contributed 5,000 francs. The crew of the *Chaleur*, whose commander, CAPTAIN HILL, rendered efficient help in many ways, generously requested that the extra pay which they would have received for landing goods, might be devoted to a sum collected on board, and the relief fund has thus made a good start. It is hoped that the need for an appeal to the British public may be obviated; but it occurs to us that there must be many wealthier and more fortunate West Indian proprietors who may wish to help the deserving peasantry, and we need hardly say that we shall be glad to receive and forward to the proper quarter any donations which may be sent to us towards this object. Thanks to the development of the Sea Island cotton industry, the Virgin Islands, after years of adversity, had turned the corner, and were quite prosperous in their small way when war broke out. In the year 1913-14 their revenue was £7,335, compared with £2,166 ten years before, whilst the value of exports had risen from £5,602 in 1903-4 to well over £7,000. Then followed a period of anxiety due to the difficulty of shipping and marketing the cotton crops, coupled with a falling off in the demand for provisions in St. Thomas consequent upon enforced absence of calls

by German steamers. The cotton crop has now been destroyed, and as St. Thomas, with the neighbouring island of St. Croix, has also suffered severely from the hurricane, that market for produce will be still further restricted for some little time. Having regard to the remarkable resilience of the West Indian Islands, to which we have so often called attention, we have no doubt that the Virgin Islands will soon recover their position; meanwhile, however, we hope that our generously disposed readers will help the peasant proprietors to tide over their present temporary misfortune.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

READERS in and connected with Barbados will no doubt have been surprised at the absence of any reference to that island from the article on the Rhodes Scholarships in last issue. The omission was due to an oversight on the part of the proof-reader, which is the more regrettable as Barbados, with its University and admirable scholastic institutions, such as Harrison College, Combermere School, and the Lodge, should be in an exceptionally favourable position to select suitable Rhodes scholars. It is most improbable that Barbados will secure the grant of a scholarship for itself alone, but if a further allotment is made to the West Indies, it might ride in tie with the Windward and Leeward Islands; and we are not without hope that arrangements may be made whereby all the more important British West Indian Colonies will periodically have the opportunity of nominating a scholar. It is on these lines that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is working on their behalf.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Only last week Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial Staff, referred to the people of this country as "not yet fully awake," and we are well into the third year of the War. As Napoleon once said, the English "like to wage war in small parcels"—a habit that allows us to appoint a Food Controller while doing nothing to encourage home production, though hundreds of thousands of good acres are going out of cultivation; to appoint a Man-Power Board, while one part of the United Kingdom is outside the limits of the Compulsory Service Bill; to act as if the Navy, Mercantile Marine, and trade were separate, instead of associated, problems. When are we going to have that co-ordination of national policy which the Allies have, to a large extent, achieved in the domain of military policy? The efforts and sacrifices of the living as well as of the dead in France demand that our establishments and reserves shall be filled up by the spring. If not, the offensive which has been so splendidly begun must relax, thereby enabling Germany the better to reorganise her remaining resources and to augment them by the aid of science and invention. We were too late in 1915. Surely those dread words are not to be true of us in 1916. Nevertheless, the necessary

measures have yet to be taken if 1917 is to mark a decisive stage in the War. That public opinion is restive may be gathered from the pressure on the Government with regard to strengthening the Admiralty, which leaves room for the anxious inquirer where meeting the enemy's new submarine campaign is concerned. Germany, it should be remembered, requires no stimulus in carrying through war measures, even if every law of God and man is broken in the process.

The Enemy's Man-Power.

It would be a mistake to assume that the slave-drives in Belgium and the clumsy trick by which Poles of military age are to be drafted into the German army are signs that the man-power of the enemy is waning to such an extent as to permit us to relax our efforts. He looks a long way ahead—at least a year or more. It is, however, clear that he cannot pursue an offensive on a great scale in 1916 as he did in 1915 without weakening other fronts. He was able to hold his ground East and West during the invasion of Serbia. His adventure in the Carpathians to reduce Roumania has contributed to the successes of the Allies on the Ancre, on the Carso, and at Monastir.

Neither must it be assumed that because the Poles, Belgians, and French who are to work and fight for Germany will do so unwillingly, their aid will have little value. The prisoners in the hands of the Huns are equally unwilling to be employed by Germans in any capacity. But their labour is by no means a negligible quantity in German industrial organisation, and on the Poles and Belgians pressure can be exerted by their savage enemy through their families, farms, and property generally.

The Battle of the Ancre.

The victory on the Ancre was a surprise to pessimists at home, and to the enemy, who believed that our offensive on the Somme had spent itself. But Sir Douglas Haig has, like the Russians in Armenia, shown that winter is not necessarily a close time for big military operations. In throwing his troops beyond Thiépval and across the Ancre, he has not only straightened out the British line by removing a salient, which invited a German outflanking movement, but he holds both sides of the river, the valley, and the villages on both banks, which were positions of concentrated strength in the German line, protected by a whole system of subterranean dug-outs, trenches, and redoubts, including the "V" ravine. This formidable obstacle to the capture of Beaumont Hamel was a great fissure in the earth with precipitous sides, a quarry at one end, a cemetery at the other, every yard of which was utilised by German engineers for resistance. Its capture was a triumph for the individual soldier as the occupation of Beaumont was for the Naval men. How admirably British officers and men have learned the lessons of war by practice in the field may be gathered from the fact that the recent advance was made in a fog, and that the preliminary bombardment only lasted a day and a night. The French advance in

Champagne in 1915 was preceded by a five-days bombardment.

When the British were attacking on the Ancre, the Germans were making a counter-attack on the French to recover Ablaincourt and Pressoir. Except for a slight temporary success, their efforts were fruitless.

In Roumania.

The news from this front is mainly from enemy sources. Falkenhayn has reached the rich Roumanian plain and captured Craiova and Orsova. The Roumanian army operating between these points has not been cut off, the resistance to the German advance in the passes having been prolonged enough to give time for the orderly evacuation of Orsova and its vicinity. The Germans are, however, in possession of the valuable Temesar-Orsova-Craiova railway, which will serve as a means of supply to their left wing. Apparently the Roumanians are still remaining firm in the central passes. If they can hold their ground in the centre and north until Russian help materialises, the situation is by no means desperate.

In the Dobrudja the Russo-Roumanians are within eighteen miles of Constanza.

On the Russian Front.

There is little news from this front, though there has been stern fighting round Tarnopol and in the Halicz sector, but it has been of a purely local character. The bridgehead at Halicz has been converted by the Germans into a defence as formidable as any in the West, Lemberg, which it protects, being a position of first-rate military, political, and commercial importance. The veil of mystery on the Eastern front may conceal General Brussiloff's preparations for another thrust in Galicia, or it may conceal his preparations for a counter-stroke against Falkenhayn's left wing.

The Fall of Monastir.

A notable success has been won by the Allies through the occupation of Monastir on the anniversary of the capture of the town by the Serbians from the Turks in 1912. The victory was unexpected, though the pressure upon the Bulgarian positions has been steady for forty days. But they were so strong by nature, and so strongly reinforced by German science to a depth of four miles, that had they held out longer it would have caused no surprise. The Serbians were, however, fighting for their native soil, continuing their advance in the loop of the Cerna without intermission, undeterred by the desperate character of the struggle. Supported by the French in the south, their movement was an outflanking one, which, as village after village was wrested from the Bulgar-German forces, rendered their main line trenches untenable. They fell back on a weaker line within a few miles of Monastir, from which they were speedily ejected. The Serbians are to be congratulated on their success, and the possession of a capital in their own territory, particularly as the Germans sent a regiment from the Dobrusha to prevent either happening. The political effect,

too, cannot fail to be considerable, for Serbian Macedonia was the principal bribe which induced the Bulgarians to throw in their lot with the Central Powers by falling on the rear of the Serbian armies during the German invasion of last year. The loss of Monastir is, therefore, a heavy blow to the Bulgarians.

The Serbians, French, and Italians are proceeding, in spite of stubborn resistance.

Greece and the Allies.

The coercion of Greece is a lengthy process. The demand for the deportation of enemy Ministers and their suites has, however, been complied with, thereby reducing the centres of intrigue against the Allies in Athens appreciably. In spite of the King, a neutral zone has been created to safeguard Salonika, roughly corresponding with the territory which Greece gained by the Balkan War. But he refuses to surrender the war material demanded by the Entente Powers so as to reduce the armament of the Greek forces to a peace level. His reasons sound well, but they impress no one who understands the situation, because it is known that guns, rifles, and ammunition have been handed over to Bulgaria without demur.

The War at Sea.

Enemy submarines continue their depredations at sea in defiance of law, precedent, and the "word" given by the United States after the torpedoing of the *Sussex* that warning should be given and hapless passengers saved from exposure in open boats on the high seas. These conditions were disregarded in the case of the P. & O. liner *Arabia*. In the Baltic the tonnage sent to the bottom is seriously decreasing the maritime effectiveness of Sweden and Norway, and even the Dutch, owing to the dangers lurking off the coast of Holland, are withdrawing their ships from the trade route to England.

The hospital ship *Britannic*, which was sunk in the Aegean Sea, is not the first of her kind to fall a victim to German piracy, nor will she be the last. Whether or not a mine or a submarine was the cause, the guilt incurred by Germany is the same. Fortunately there were no sick and wounded on board, and of the crew and hospital staff, all but fifty were saved. Something more than "consideration of the matter" is required from the Government in face of this cut-throat form of the German trade war. A declaration with regard to the tonnage proposal is being insistently urged.

Another hospital ship, the *Braemar Castle*, was sunk a few days later, carrying sick, all of whom were saved. The Admiralty announces that she, too, was "mined or torpedoed." But one can hardly suppose that German mines are so endowed by their creators with intelligence as to drift of themselves in the way of large British merchantmen temporarily acting as auxiliary ships for the Navy.

There has been another raid in the Channel, German destroyers having attempted to bombard the Kentish coast at midnight. They fired a dozen rounds, and then, finding themselves in danger of pursuit, dashed off at once. These excursions are of no consequence in themselves, but, taken in conjunction with German depredations off coasts

which we should protect, and our reluctance to take the offensive, will have a bad effect on neutrals.

A flotilla of German destroyers, creeping up in the fog, endeavoured to destroy the land defences in the Gulf of Finland, but were beaten back with heavy loss. Of the craft engaged, nearly all seemed to be of the newest type, and the Russians report that at least five were sunk.

A new Russian "Dreadnought," the *Imperatitsa Maria*, has been sunk in shallow water by an internal explosion, with, it is feared, a loss of 200 lives. It is hoped that she will be refloated.

A Wonderful Air Flight.

Captain Beauchamp, of the French Aviation Service, has accomplished a remarkable feat by bombing Munich railway stations in reprisal for a series of attacks on the undefended city of Amiens. Having done his job, he flew eastwards towards the Austrian Tyrol, where he turned south, and, crossing the Alps, landed in Italy after a non-stop flight of 400 miles over enemy territory and the formidable barriers presented by the Austrian and Italian Alps.

Our Supremacy in the Air.

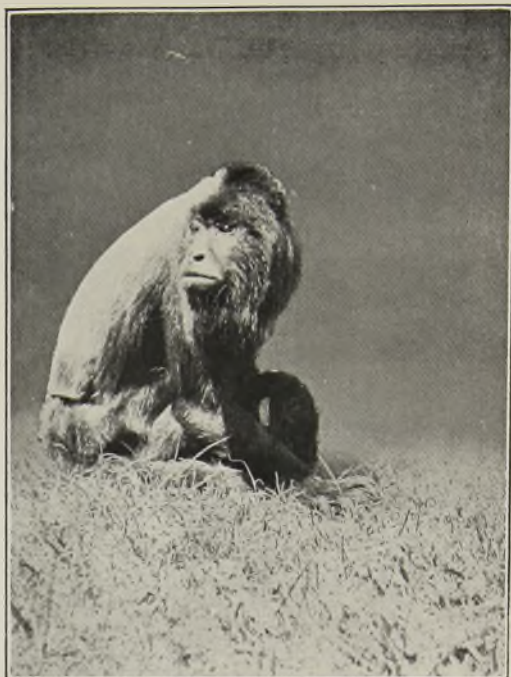
Our bag of Zeppelins has been increased by two which were brought down during a raid on the night of November 27-28. One was brought down by an airman of the R.F.C. off the coast of Durham, and the other, after receiving a good peppering from anti-aircraft guns, was attacked by airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service and brought down in flames. The crews of both raiders, which had dropped 100 bombs, killing one woman, but otherwise causing insignificant damage, were killed.

On November 28th an enemy aviator, eluding our defences, passed over London in an aeroplane at about noon and dropped a few bombs. Little damage was caused, and there was a complete absence of panic. The aeroplane was travelling at such a height that it was invisible to the naked eye, and few people were aware of the origin of the explosions which were heard. On the following morning the good news was published that the French had brought down an aeroplane carrying two naval lieutenants with a large-scale map of London on board. As this occurred at 2.15 p.m. on the day of the raid, the news is significant.

(To be continued.)

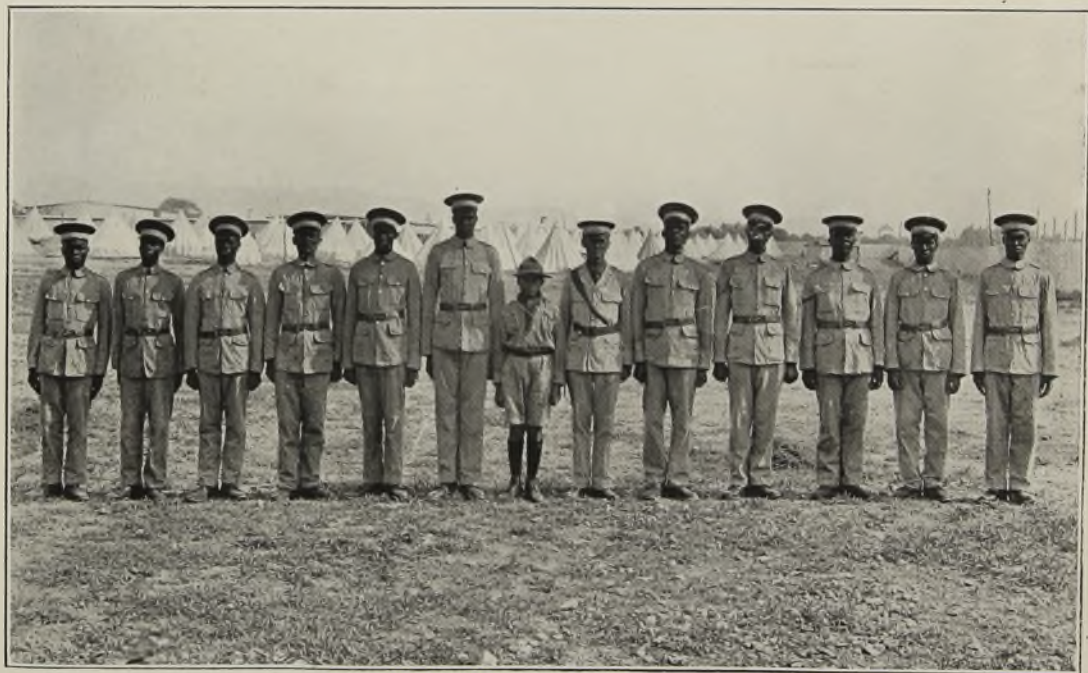
SOME STALWART BAHAMIANS.

On our "art page" in the present issue a group of stalwart Bahamians is depicted. The men form a draft from the British West Indies Regiment, and it is noteworthy that every one of them is over 6 ft. in height. Captain Cole, who stands on the left-hand side of the Jamaica boy scout—who was introduced for sake of comparison—is himself over 6 ft. high, and it will be seen that each of the men is taller than he is. The man on the right of the boy scout stands 6 ft. 7 ins. in his bare feet!



THE "HOWLING BABOON" OF BRITISH GUIANA.

(*Myocetes seniculus.*)



SOME STALWART BAHAMIANS.

Each of these men is over 6 feet in height.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

The following names of men of the West Indian Contingent who have given their lives to their King and Empire must now be added to the list which was published in the CIRCULAR of October 19th last:—

GRENADA.

TAIT, JULIEN A.

JAMAICA.

BENWALL, J.
BIRKE, PRIVATE.
CLARKE, CORPORAL.
DELL, PRIVATE.
DOUGLAS, J.
Dwyer, STANFORD.
FRANCIS, PRIVATE W.
(Died of wounds.)
FRANCIS, PRIVATE.
GARBY, CORPORAL.

ILIND, SERGEANT.
JOHNSON, PRIVATE FELIX.
OAKLEY, PRIVATE.
SMITH, PRIVATE.
STEWART, PRIVATE.
THOMPSON, PRIVATE.
TRACY, PRIVATE.
WHITE, PRIVATE JAMES.
WILLIAMS, PRIVATE.

Since last list was published the names of the following officers from or connected with the British West Indies have appeared in the Roll of Honour:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUTENANT E. L. STUART ASTWOOD, of the Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on September 15th, aged 23, was the eldest son of Mr. E. W. Astwood, of Kingston, Jamaica.

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN CHANDLER, M.C., who has been killed in action was son of the Rev. J. T. H. Chandler, of Jamaica. He arrived in England in June, 1915, and joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. In the following November he received a Commission in the County of London Regiment. Early in February this year he went to France and joined a battalion of his regiment. He took part in the fight at High Wood on 15th September, and was awarded the Military Cross. The following is quoted from the *London Gazette*: "When the senior company officers had become casualties, he organised and led a flank attack which drove the enemy out of a wood." A brother officer wrote saying, "Chandler heard on 1st October that he had been awarded the Military Cross. He went along the trenches to tell his senior officers, and on his way back a shell burst near and killed him instantaneously."

PRIVATE RUSTACE LAWTON, who has been killed in action was son of Mrs. Lawton, of Kingston, Jamaica.

Major HARRY WILSON, of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action on September 9th, was a son of Sir David Wilson, late Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands in Trinidad, and subsequently Governor of British Honduras, and brother of Mrs. William Gordon Gordon. It will be recalled that Major Wilson's brother, Lieutenant Commander J. S. Wilson, R.N., went down with H.M.S. *Indefatigable* in the Battle of Jutland.

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

CAPTAIN LAWRENCE HOPE KING-HARMAN, R.I.A., who was killed through an accident whilst flying on October 28th, was the elder son of Sir Charles King-Harman, Administrator of St. Lucia from 1897 to 1900, and of Lady King-Harman, and grandson of General Sir Robert Bidolph. He was born in 1889, and educated at Bradford College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He obtained his commission in the R.F.A. in July, 1909, and joined his battery in India. In June, 1915, he was selected for the R.I.A., and took part in the Mohmand Expedition on the North-West Frontier, for gallant conduct in which he was mentioned in despatches. Early in this year he responded to a call for volunteers for training as observers in the Royal Flying Corps in India, and proceeded to the front in June last, attached to that branch of the service. On arrival at the front he was placed in temporary command of a field battery, and rejoined the R.F.C. shortly before his death.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

PRIVATE CECIL VERE BYNOE, who has died of wounds

received at the front, was employed by Messrs. Bankart & Co., of Georgetown, Demerara, before the war. In August, 1914, he was attached to the British Guiana Artillery, and in May in the following year he came to England, and enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment, with which he was serving when he was fatally wounded.

LIEUTENANT VINCENT C. CLARKE, who died of wounds on October 12th, was the second son of the Hon. C. P. Clarke, K.C., Attorney-General of Barbados, and Mrs. Clarke. Born 22 years ago, he was educated at Harrison College. He left the island for Canada in July, 1914, just before the war broke out, but in the following December he came to England to offer his services to his King and Empire, and joined the Artists' Rifle Corps. Early in 1915 he obtained a Commission as Lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry, and proceeded to France in December the same year. In March last he was wounded and he had only been back at the front four weeks when he received his fatal wound.

PRIVATE WILLIAM BUCHANAN ROBERTSON, who died of wounds on September 16th, was the only son of Mr. William Robertson, partner in the firm of Smith, Robertson and Co., of Trinidad, and of Mrs. Robertson, of Dundonald Street, Port of Spain. Educated at Queen's Royal College, Trinidad, he showed a taste for engineering, and after leaving school he worked for a while at the East India Foundry. In July, 1915, he left for Scotland with the object of studying engineering at Glasgow University. On arrival in this country, however, he at once responded to the call to the Colours, and joined the Highland Light Infantry. He rapidly became efficient, and showed such prowess at musketry securing 90 marks out of 100—that he was made sniper of the battalion, and at the end of August he left for the front. At the time of his death he was only 21 years of age.

WOUNDED.

SERGEANT ERNEST S. D. SHAW (of Jamaica), British West Indies Regiment. Gun-shot wound.

SECOND LIEUTENANT DOUGLAS A. WRIGHT (fourth son of the late Inspector-General R. F. Wright, C.M.G., of Jamaica, and of Mrs. Wright, and grandson of the late Hon. A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana), Gordon Highlanders, was wounded in the thump at the front, but has now recovered and rejoined the reserve battalion of his regiment.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below. A record for the West Indies is established by the Armstrong family, six members of which are serving their King and Empire.

Armstrong, 2nd Lieut. Edgar L. (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Royal Field Artillery, Adjutant 10th Division Ammunition Column, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Armstrong, Lieut. P. C. (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Westmount Rifles, Canadian Infantry.

Armstrong, Pte. R. R. (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Ouse's Own Rifles, Canadian Infantry (Home Defence).

Armstrong, Cpl. E. Lindsay (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Armstrong, Cadet F. C. (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Canadian Infantry (Cadet Battalion).

Armstrong, 2nd Air Mechanic Telegraphist R. B. (son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados), Royal Naval Air Service.

Arrindell, Capt. W. May (son of Mr. C. May Arrindell, and grandson of the late Rev. Arrindell, of Barbados and Trinidad), Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Arrindell, Lieut. D. May (son of Mr. C. May Arrindell, and grandson of the late Rev. Arrindell, of Barbados and Trinidad), Reserve Cavalry.

Barnett, Private J. E. B. (son of Rev. F. H. Barnett, formerly Vicar of St. Matthias, Hastings, Barbados), was in the O.T.C. at Hereford Cathedral School. Joined Lord Goschen's Bankers' Battalion of the Buffs, but was transferred, with his company (selected), to the London Regiment (The Queen's), for active service, and is now at the front.

- Koyce, Private H. B. H. (son of Mr. J. H. Boyce, of Barbados), The Queen's Own Rifles, Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Burnham, Rev. A. G. (of Dominica), Army Service Corps.
- Butler, Gunner Henderson (son of Mr. Henderson Butler, Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
- Curry, Gunner Ormond H. (son of the late Mr. B. H. Curry, Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
- Elliott, Rev. G. A. (of Dominica), Army Service Corps.
- Govia, F. T. (Trinidad), The Canadian Expeditionary Force.
- Mansfield, Lance-Cpl. A. L. (British Guiana), Machine Gun Corps.
- McMillan, J. (of Dominica), Black Watch.
- Miller, Private W. J. (son of the late Mr. William Schoener, Trinidad), London Regiment.
- Mellado, D. I. (son of Mr. R. E. Mellado, of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Horse Artillery, Officers' Cadet Unit.
- Moir, Private S. E. (of St. Kitts), 2nd Artists' Rifles.
- Moseley, Captain R. A. D. (son of Mr. C. H. Harley Moseley, C.M.G., Bahamas), Royal Munster Fusiliers. Prisoner of War in Germany.
- Moseley, 2nd Lieut. Francis A. (son of Mr. F. A. Moseley, Bahamas), Australian Imperial Force.
- Moseley, Corporal Henry Doyle (son of Mr. F. A. Moseley, Bahamas), Australian O.T.C.
- Moseley, 2nd Lieut. Eric R. (son of Mr. F. A. Moseley, Bahamas), Australian Flying Corps.
- Murray, F. A. (of British Guiana), New Zealand Rifle Brigade.
- Rees Williams, Capt. D. R. (of Dominica), Indian Medical Service.
- Sands, Bombardier Arthur H. (son of Hon. Jas. P. Sands, President of the Legislative Council, Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
- Sands, Gunner Neville (son of Hon. Jas. P. Sands, President of the Legislative Council, Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery.
- Shaw, Private J. C. (of Indian Point, Tobago), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.
- Storr, Captain L. P. (of Dominica), King's Liverpool Regiment.
- Fisher, Cadet A. Norman (of British Honduras), Officers' Cadet Battalion.

ALTERATIONS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

- Chamberlain, Capt. R. H. (of Dominica), Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps.
- Cunningham, Lieut. R. D. S. (of Dominica), Scots Guards.
- Davson, Major Ivan R. (of the Executive of the West India Committee) has been appointed General Staff Officer in the Directorate of Military Aeronautics at the War Office.
- Gibson, 2nd Lieut. T. R. (formerly of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica), has been gazetted to the 8rd Yorkshire Regiment, after passing out of the Inns of Court O.T.C. Cadet School.
- Moseley, Captain Oswald H. G. K. (elder son of Mr. C. H. Harley Moseley, C.M.G.), Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport).
- Nicholls, 2nd Lieut. W. A. (son of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Royal Fusiliers.
- Peebles, Major H. W. (late Private Secretary to Administrator of Dominica), D.A.D.S. Headquarters, 3rd Army.
- Randell, Lieut. A. S. (of Dominica), South Wales Borderers.
- Sills, Dr. C. H. (of Dominica), Surgeon on Ambulance Ship.
- Simon, Capt. K. (of Dominica), Royal Army Medical Corps.
- Trigg, H. W. (of Dominica), Royal Field Artillery.

Will those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS kindly post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, or to the Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English regiments?

A list of publications for sale is obtainable from the West India Committee Rooms, post free on application.

HURRICANE IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The Virgin Islands were visited, on October 9th, by a hurricane of exceptional severity, and from information at present to hand it would seem that the resulting damage has been more severe than that experienced by Jamaica on August 15th, and Dominica on August 28th.

According to an account of the disaster furnished by the Rev. B. A. Queeley, and published in the *Antigua Sun*, Tortola experienced the full force of the storm. The reverend gentleman writes:—

"The whole island is desolate, the hills are swept bare as though a fire had passed over the land. The fruit trees and provision grounds of the people are all destroyed. The cotton cultivation, which was in a most promising condition, is all swept away. Every village has suffered greatly. Road Town is practically ruined. More than 40 houses have been demolished; not only have the small houses of the poor been destroyed, but the large dwelling houses such as Government House, the Anglican Rectory, and Britannic Hall. The gaol, the buildings of the Experiment Station, especially the Curator's residence, have all been greatly damaged. The Anglican Church has been ruined and the schoolroom roof stripped. The fine large Wesleyan Church has part of the roof stripped and a good many shutters thrown away. All the out-houses of the Wesleyan Mission House are demolished. Many of the small shops were flooded by the rushing in of the sea, and an extensive quantity of goods destroyed. The wharf, practically new, being rebuilt not more than a month ago, is completely washed away, and only a few broken piles left to mark the site. The out-rooms of Mrs. Abbott's working house were carried several hundred yards away by the storm wave."

The loss of life was heavy for a small island like Tortola, over twenty deaths having already been reported, whilst 100 cases of injuries were treated at the Wesleyan School, which was hastily turned into a hospital. Dr. T. L. E. Clarke did all in his power to cope with the situation, and with Mr. W. C. Fishlock has received warm praise for his efforts.

At West End the wharf was washed away, the Government Office blown off its foundation, and the Wesleyan Church demolished. At Long Bay and Carot Bay scarcely a house remains standing. To continue Mr. Queeley's narrative:—

"A house on Johnny Hill containing 19 persons was lifted in the air and dashed to pieces, but none of the occupants sustained any serious injury. Soldiers' Hill, a fairly populous district, has one house standing. Brewer's Bay, Anderson, only two houses are left. The house of Mr. Samuel Sealiffe was blown away and the walls fell on himself and wife, killing them on the spot; one son died a couple of days after; a daughter has sustained injuries which may cripple her for life. At Todman, Chalkwell, and Maxris not a house is left. At Freebottom two houses are left. Belview, one left. At Long Look many houses are blown away. The little Wesleyan Chapel has the roof stripped. Other houses that remain standing are more or less badly damaged. East End has escaped without much damage. With few exceptions all the deaths and most of the wounded are from the country district.

"From the smaller islands or quays equally sad and distressing reports have come in. At Anegada a good many houses have been destroyed and many more badly damaged. The Wesleyan Chapel and teacher's cottage are badly damaged. Virgin Gorda escaped with very slight damage to property, but the cotton crop is ruined. Salt Island is swept. At Peter Islands one house only remains. Forty-nine houses are totally destroyed at Jost Von Dykes and the Wesleyan Chapel badly damaged."

His Excellency Mr. T. A. V. Best, Governor of the Leeward Islands, proceeded to Tortola by the

R.M.S.P. *Chaleur* on receiving the news of the disaster, taking with him food and clothing. Captain Hill opened a subscription list on board, and collected from the passengers and crew the sum of £20 towards the local relief fund which His Excellency promptly opened.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The third monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation (to November 1st) records a notable accretion of strength to that body through the affiliation with it of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association. The ideals of the "Beama," as it is popularly called, and which employs 120,000 men and represents capital to the extent of £25,000,000, are set out in the following lines:—

"The 'regulation' of industry is, indeed, the root of industrial problems, and the members of this Association can claim that they have brought into being a kind of co-operation which is new in the history of industry and which gives hope for a future of better industrial conditions in general, as individual enterprise and co-operative action become joined in essential matters relating to industrial production. When this is fully accomplished, no one interest of the community will be antagonistic to any other; Government, carriers, scientific and commercial institutions, different classes of workers and organisers, will all move in their orbits and maintain a balance of interests that will be the interest of each and of all. Such a consummation, devoutly though it may be desired, waits on men who can accomplish it"

The following resolution, adopted at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua is published:—

"That this meeting pledges itself to support and co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation in its efforts to secure preferential treatment for Empire-grown produce, especially sugar, and to contribute to the funds of the Organisation as far as lies in their power."

With regard to the recommendations of the Sugar Conference, it is stated that in reply to enquiries addressed to the Colonial Office, a letter was received from the Under-Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, dated the 24th October, to the effect that the whole question was still engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government.

During the month, the Chairman had been in correspondence with the Chairman of the Government Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy. This matter is being energetically followed up, and it is hoped that the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy will at no distant date be able to report.

On October 13th, Mr. O. C. Beale attended a meeting of the Executive and fully discussed with them the possibilities of co-operation between the manufacturers of Australia and the Organisation. As a result, communications were opened up both with his Association and with similar associations in Canada and South Africa.

During the month negotiations with representatives of the fertilisers manufacturers were continued, and considerable progress was made in the direction of arranging a Conference between this section of industry and representatives of the Agricultural Section of the Organisation. Import-

tant meetings took place with representatives of the leather and tanning trades, and Mr. E. Saunders was empowered to negotiate on his return to South Africa with the representatives of the wattle bark industry. Preliminary communications with several important industrial associations in the United Kingdom were opened up during the month, the results of which will be reported in due course. Negotiations with the representatives of a number of industries were continued and are still proceeding.

THE SUGAR COMMISSION.

A Memorandum as to Sugar Supply.

The full text of a memorandum just issued by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply regarding the distribution of sugar is given below:—

The decision of the Government to restrict the use of sugar throws upon the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply the duty of seeing that whatever quantity is available shall be distributed as fairly and as equitably as is possible. During 1915 purchasers of sugar drew their supplies from three sources:—

(a) The British refiners.

(b) The Royal Commission on the sugar supply.

(c) Sugar imported under licence through channels other than the Royal Commission and now usually referred to as "Free Sugar."

This year, to all intents and purposes, there are only two sources of supply, namely:—

(1) British refiners' products.

(2) Sugar imported by the Royal Commission itself, or under its supervision.

DISTRIBUTION OF BRITISH REFINED.—Of the output of the refineries the Royal Commission retains a certain proportion (at present about one quarter) under its control to supply the requirements of the War Office and for other purposes. As regards the remainder the refiners have been instructed to issue it only to their customers of 1915; to each customer the same proportion of the quantity available each week or each month as that customer's total purchases during 1915 bore to the refiner's total sales for that year.

As the melt of a refinery, from various causes, varies from week to week, and from year to year, the refiners' clients should not reckon upon getting a fixed quantity per week or per month. What the Royal Commission is endeavouring to secure is that each will get his fair share.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION SUGAR.—All the direct buyers of Royal Commission sugar have been asked to make a return, under three headings (a), (b), and (c), of all the sugar used or distributed by them in 1915. The returns that have been received have been tabulated, and the proportion that the figures of the Royal Commission sugar under heading (b) and "free sugar" under heading (c) (after correction of certain obvious errors) together bear to the total distribution of these two classes is, in the case of each buyer, used as a basis for the distribution of whatever supplies are available.

All wholesale dealers, whether they buy direct from the refiners or the Royal Commission or otherwise, are instructed to distribute to their clients on the same principle. That is to say, they are to let each of their clients of the year 1915 have his proper proportion of the sugar they have at their disposal.

Retailers are also expected to distribute their supplies to their customers as fairly as is possible.

Movements of the population consequent upon the establishment of camps, munition factories, etc., may make it difficult, in some cases, for wholesalers and retailers to act in rigid conformity with the foregoing instructions. When this happens the Royal Commission is prepared

to allow some latitude to the individual, trusting that he will do his best to follow the "spirit" of the regulations.

An impression seems to have got abroad, perhaps not without some reason, that each buyer of sugar is entitled to claim 75 per centum of the quantity he purchased during 1915. That is not so. The Royal Commission cannot say definitely what proportion of 1915 supplies will henceforward be available. It may approximate to 75 per cent.; it may be less. All that can be said is that every endeavour is being made to distribute whatever quantity there may be in the most equitable manner possible. All connected with the sugar trade and also the public at large are asked to assist by exercising the greatest possible care in handling the article and economy in its use. They are further asked to be content with whatever type of sugar is available, as it will not always be possible to let them have the particular kind they have been accustomed to sell or to consume.

THE INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY.

A Decreased Area under Cultivation.

Contrary to public expectation, the area under sugar-cane in India is slightly less than at the corresponding date last year, the latest estimates being 2,354,000 acres in 1916 as against 2,508,000 acres in 1915. The figures, according to the Provinces which yield collectively 99 per cent. of the total crop, are as under:—

Provinces.	1916-17 acres.	1915-16 acres.	Increase + or Decrease -
United Provinces	1,220,000	1,390,000	- 170,000
Punjab	358,000	354,000	+ 4,000
Bihar and Orissa	270,000	268,000	+ 2,000
Bengal	223,000	234,000	- 11,000
Madras	99,000	85,000	+ 14,000
Bombay & Sind (including Native States)	95,000	89,000	+ 6,000
Assam	35,000	36,000	- 1,000
North-West Frontier Province	32,000	32,000	—
Central Provinces and Berar	22,000	20,000	+ 2,000
Total	2,354,000	2,508,000	-154,000

The bulk of the sugar is produced by primitive methods, and the average return does not exceed a ton of sugar per acre—a glaring contrast to the yields in other parts of the world. There is no reason why the sugar output of India should not be doubled without a single additional acre being put in cultivation, by the adoption of modern methods of cane sugar production.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Lord Mayor, a number of sick and wounded West Indians were enabled to witness the Lord Mayor's Show on November 9th from the Mansion House. They included Private Lambert Fraser, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, who has had the misfortune to lose both feet through frostbite, and was specially fetched from Brighton by Mr. G. P. Osmond, of the West India Committee; and Privates G. W. Brown (Jamaica), F. Macpherson (Jamaica), G. A. Roberts (Trinidad), E. A. Jackson (Jamaica). The men were regaled with sweets and cigarettes, and took tea in the Egyptian Hall. Barbados was represented by Private Cecil Archer, of the Citizens' Contingent, and Trinidad by Privates J. H. Llanos and Joseph Maingot.

GERMANY'S CACAO SUPPLIES.

At the hearing of a case in the Prize Court on November 20th, in which the Crown asked for the condemnation as contraband of 3,200 bags of cacao shipped in a Danish vessel at Lisbon for Gothenburg, Mr. Ernest Pollock, K.C., submitted the following affidavit made by Mr. William Fuller Smith, of the War Trade Department, to show the enormous increase in the imports of cacao into Scandinavian countries.

The world's production of cocoa beans for the five years 1908-12 was as follows:—

METRIC TONS.				
1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
193,753	206,337	243,819	243,819	230,000

The world's consumption of cocoa beans for the same period was:—

METRIC TONS.				
1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
165,141	194,838	201,166	229,988	240,000

During that period Germany's consumption increased from 34,852 metric tons in 1908 to 55,100 metric tons in 1912. The cocoa imports of Scandinavian countries for 1911-13 showed a yearly average of:—

Norway	1,236	metric tons
Sweden	1,692	" "
Denmark	2,304	" "
	5,232	" "

The cocoa imports of the above countries for 1915 were:—

NORWAY.		
From United Kingdom	...	835 tons
From Overseas	...	1,065 "
		1,900 "
SWEDEN.		
From United Kingdom	...	5,992 tons
From Overseas	...	9,888 "
		15,880 "

DENMARK.		
From United Kingdom	...	4,719 tons
From Overseas	...	18,668 "
		23,387 "

The cocoa export from Scandinavian countries during 1911-13 showed a yearly average of:—

	Total tons.	To Twenty Countries.
Norway	18	Nil.
Sweden	48	Nil.
Denmark	108	Nil.

The destination of the above exports has not been traced, as the amounts are relatively so small as to be negligible. During the first 11 months of 1915 Sweden exported to Russia 136 tons of cocoa. I am informed, and verily believe, that the 12th month was in the same proportion, so that upon that basis the total export of cocoa by Sweden to Russia in 1915 was 148 tons. Deducting this amount from Sweden's total cocoa imports for 1915—15,880 tons—leaves 15,732 tons.

Germany's normal sources of cocoa supply were:—	
	1911-13. TONS.
Scandinavian Countries	Nil.
Holland	9,000
Other sources	44,386
	52,386

The effect of the present war was, therefore, to cut Germany off from 44,386 tons, out of a normal supply of 52,386 tons—that is, nearly 85 per cent.

The German Government has realised the value of cocoa as a foodstuff and has attached great importance to the distribution and supply of this commodity, as will appear from the facts set out in this paragraph:—

"Before the War, Germany was the second largest consumer of cocoa, taking one-fifth of the world's produce. In December, 1914, the German Government ordered the strictest economy in the consumption of cocoa and its products. On November 26, 1915, the German Government ordered a report of all stocks of cocoa and chocolate to be taken. On January 3, 1916, the German Government ordered an inventory of cocoa and its products to be taken. On February 11, 1916, a German War Cocoa Company was formed, with headquarters at Hamburg, and a capital of Marks 2,000,000. This company was joined by all the leading cocoa and chocolate manufacturers in Germany. On March 5, 1916, the above company was invested with a monopoly of cocoa. Importers were to inform the company as to quantity purchased, price paid, place of storage, and were to place the cocoa at the company's disposal and deliver it where indicated. If the company decided to buy the cocoa an offer would be made at a certain price, and if the seller did not agree to such price, a committee of five persons was to decide the matter. On May 5, 1916, by an order of the German Chancellor the monopoly of German War Cocoa Company was extended to all kinds of chocolate. In June, 1916, a further stocktaking of German cocoa and chocolate supplies was ordered."

Notwithstanding the steps taken by the German Government to effect economy and to regulate the distribution of the cocoa supply, the following facts establish that their efforts in those directions were not entirely successful:—

"During January, 1916, a serious shortage of cocoa and its products was reported. During March, 1916, the price of cocoa in Germany was eight or nine times the London prices. In April, 1916, it was reported that the stocks were nearly exhausted."

The importance attached by the German Government to cocoa as a foodstuff, and the efforts made to secure a regular supply, coupled with the shortage which developed and the rapid rise in price, created great inducements to neutrals to transport this commodity into Germany. That these inducements had an effect upon neutrals is shown by the following facts:—

"In December, 1915, the smuggling of cocoa butter from Holland to Belgium was being actively carried on. A recognised tariff appeared to be in existence. The Customs officer was to get Francs 1,000 per wagon of 20 tons which got across the frontier, and further stated payments were to be made to the Station Chief and the man who could bribe the Customs official to let the goods through. In the case mentioned the purchase price of the cocoa butter was 0.80 guilders per kilo in Holland, and the selling price in Belgium Francs 7 per kilo. From August 1, 1914, to July 31, 1915, 1,255,687 kilos of cocoa beans and 76,711 kilos of cocoa shells had been exported from Sweden to Germany. During 1915 a single German merchant in Sweden had exported cocoa beans and cocoa butter from Sweden to a firm at Cologne to the value of Kroner 2,000,000. During 1915 the following Swedish firms imported cocoa to the amount stated, although prior to 1915 they had not engaged in the cocoa trade at all:—

	Kilos-	Tons-
	(about)	
Blidberg, Metcalfe & Co.	652,055	640½
A. B. Alfd Nilsson	11,287	11
G. O. E. Nordholm	31,004	30½
Broderna Hammarstrom	139,268	137
A. Christensson	30,470	30
Fallenus and Leffer	29,656	29½
I. D. Ericsson & Co.	13,173	13
Gust. Holm & Co.	85,155	83½
Korn and Kjellberg	42,789	42
Lidstrom & Co.	31,919	31
Peder Mellin & Co.	457,672	449½
Nya A. R. Birger Olsson	21,287	21
Tycho Roberg	32,343	31½
J. K. R. Svensson	34,185	33½
F. B. Wahlqvist	45,380	44½
Georg Wickstedt	58,468	57½

"And the following firms imported during 1915 in excess of the previous year:—

	Kilos	Tons.
Broderna Kanold	462,486	454
Albin Ekuer	239,562	235

"Since the beginning of the War a constant traffic has taken place between Denmark and Sweden of cocoa and its products for immediate transshipment to Germany. This traffic gradually increased, until in January, 1916, it became the practice to ship cocoa beans on regular Danish steamers to Gothenburg and to re-ship from there to Germany."

"In April, 1916, the Swedish War Trade Law was passed. This forbade the giving of guarantees in the form then in use. The new form of guarantee permitted by the Swedish Government was less stringent than that hitherto required by His Majesty's Government, inasmuch as it precluded only the re-export of the imported merchandise and not that of goods manufactured or resulting from such merchandise."

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The British Empire Pre-eminent as to Finer Grades.

In the course of a lecture on "The Empire's Cotton Supply," which he delivered at Manchester University on November 20th, Professor Todd, of Nottingham, referred to the extremely difficult position in which the cotton industry periodically found itself in consequence of an almost entire dependence upon American for staple of middling grades. Apart from troubles incidental to the War, there was the more permanent trouble arising from the fact that the increase of the American crop did not keep pace with the increasing demand. Discussing the possibilities of the other cotton fields of the world, and particularly those of the British Empire, Professor Todd said that of Sea Island cotton the American islands produced annually 10,000 bales and the West Indies 5,000 bales. Of the second-grade Sea Island, Florida and Georgia produced 70,000 bales and Egypt 430,000 bales, and of ordinary Egyptian, America produced from 200,000 to 500,000 bales (according to the standard taken) and Egypt 1,000,000, whilst East Africa was growing cotton nearly up to this standard. In the production of the finer grades, therefore, the British Empire stood well, producing over a million out of 1,700,000 bales. But of the ordinary grades—"bread-and-butter grades," Professor Todd termed them—the United States produced 15,000,000 bales, Mexico 150,000 bales, Brazil 300,000 bales, and Russia 1,000,000 bales; and all the British Empire produced was from 15,000 to 20,000 bales. India produced almost 500,000 bales of cotton of nearly lin. staple, and an uncertain quantity was grown in China. Of the lowest grade of cotton, India produced 4½ million bales.

The American Boll-weevil Menace.

Considering possible developments of supply, Professor Todd spoke of the menace of the boll-weevil to American Sea Island cotton, and said that this gave a glorious opportunity to Egypt to develop its production of the finer grades, but unfortunately in recent years Egypt had not been doing wisely in regard to cotton production. He sometimes wondered how long people in Lancashire

would be content to see the Egyptian crop deteriorated by causes that were preventable. In the Sudan the prospects were exceedingly bright, but in the Sudan, as also in Uganda and Nyasaland, the development of the crop would take time because of the need for irrigation, labour, and means of communication. The only part of the Empire from which we could expect a large and immediate increase of the supply of cotton was India. With improved methods India should yield a cumulative increase of a million bales a year, but he thought that in order to achieve this result, compulsory schemes of reform would be necessary. The Indian Government, which had successfully produced cotton on an experimental scale, should proceed to produce it on a commercial scale, and he sincerely hoped that something would come of the offer to the British Cotton Growing Association of 7,500 acres in the Punjab. The development of Indian cotton cultivation held out the promise of the quickest results, but the cotton fields of the whole Empire should be developed, especially those in Africa, where there were unlimited possibilities.

OUR POTASH SUPPLY.

Two interesting letters have been published in the *Times* on the subject of a supply of potash to take the place of that coming from the celebrated Strassfurt deposits of North Germany. Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner of New Zealand, in a letter dated November 22nd, wrote:—

"I have read correspondence and listened to many discussions in connexion with the shortage of this valuable fertilizer and the loss which is likely to ensue to our crops, especially potatoes, if supplies are not forthcoming. By this week's mail from New Zealand a copy of the *Alexandra Herald* reached me containing a valuable article on the subject of potash by Mr. A. D. Bell, a chemist of no mean order, and a son of a former occupant of my office. Mr. Bell points out that New Zealand possesses a vast store of potash in her schist rocks, and he treats of the subject so well that I cannot do better than quote his remarks which are as follows:—

"In the mica-schist formations in the South Island it has been determined by Mr. Aston, F.I.C., Chemist to the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, that we have a rock containing an average of 3 per cent. of potash. That is only another way of saying that over vast areas of Otago alone there are literally millions of tons of pure potash to the square mile. The rock which contains it is probably the easiest mineral to mine in the whole world. It lies over huge areas on the surface, for the picking up. A blast of powder shatters tons of it at once, and every piece splits easily as small as may be desired. Over almost equally extensive areas, it lies far above the general surface, either in great isolated blocks like castles or icebergs, or along scores of streams, in miles of towering bare cliffs of the solid stuff. It is comparatively soft to crush when the blocks are brought down to the mill, and, in fact, besides this, Mr. Aston says he knows of vast deposits actually already in a state of powder.

"Mr. Bell compares the Strassfurt supplies of potash with the mica-schist of Otago and rightly says that the latter contains that which might reduce the whole of the Strassfurt Mines to the importance relatively of a bottle of potash on a druggist's shelf."

Dr. J. Augustus Voelcker, in a letter which appeared subsequently, wrote:—

"It is well known, as indicated in the letter which appears in your issue of the 23rd inst., that there exist, not only in New Zealand, but in Canada and many other parts of the globe, practically unlimited supplies of rocks containing potash in their composition. The difficulty is that the potash is present in the form of very insoluble compounds, which decompose but slowly, so that the potash becomes only very gradually available for plant

use. Moreover, there has not so far been found any process by which the potash contained in these refractory materials can be economically extracted. Since the year 1911 I have been experimenting at the Royal Agricultural Society's experimental farm at Woburn on felspars, granites, phonolite, &c., in order to see whether, when very finely ground, they would, either alone or in combination with other materials such as lime, salt, &c., yield up their potash for the benefit of plants. But so far there has been no indication of success (see *Journal R.A.S.E.*, Vol. 76, 1915, pp. 362-3). A much more hopeful source of potash supply is at hand, I think, in the recently discovered deposits of potash salts in the north of Spain, to which reference was recently made by Mr. R. E. Prothero at the meeting of the Lawes Agricultural Trust Society. As Mr. Prothero indicated, what is necessary is for our Government to urge upon the Spanish Government the pressing need for setting these supplies free."

THE MOSQUITO—AS IT IS NOT.

Mr. Charles C. Adams, vice-president of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, New York, was some time ago appointed the head of a commission to exterminate the mosquitoes on Long Island. This prompted some telephone men, says the *Telegraph and Telephone Age*, to send him the following report:—

"The mosquito has been classed by most scientists as an insect, while those of my friends who have had a summer's acquaintance with them claim they are 'birds.' That they have a bill is not to be denied and it is well known that they coo in musical tones. The mosquito family has many branches—the sedate and conservative, usually the female—the enthusiastically active and ambitious, which is the pioneer and home builder, and the gluttonous 'Playboy.' The latter is the Long Island variety, and it is with him we want to deal. He is familiarly known to all excursionists and commuters passing through or alighting at these points of Long Island lying east of the Rockaways. The 'Playboy' is so named for his insatiable thirst, his frolicsome disposition and his 44-calibre penetrator. He is trampish by instinct, having no selected abode; in fact, he eats, drinks, and sleeps upon the person of the victim selected, and without a formal invitation. The 'Playboy' species are very musical, and are sometimes referred to as 'Crescendo Bill.' They are always in tune and being ever playful approach you usually with a song. The morning song is quick and robusto, which changes in the afternoon to a droning hum, but it is in the evening song or chant that the 'Playboy' excels. It awakes the most somnolent into activity, it lifts the drowsy to excessive agility, and stirs the indifferent to zealousness and vivacity.

"One afternoon, a few summers ago, in company with a few friends, I started from Woodhaven for an auto ride to Baysshore. Somewhere around Jamaica* a 'Playboy' joined the party, and for a time devoted his attention to me, introducing himself by singing 'I'll be True to My Honey Boy,' and he remained true to me until we reached Georges near Hewlett for a 'Brushoff.' Something in or about Georges attracted him from my coat collar, and the rest of the outward journey was free from the singer and the song. What evil genius caused us to turn in at Georges on the return trip I cannot tell, but shortly after leaving there I discovered the 'Playboy' had again joined our party, and after giving us the 'O O,' selected me again as his prey. During the rest of the trip things were made exceedingly lively for me. He sang the old songs and the new. We turned into the roadway of the garage at Woodhaven, and there he left me singing as he went, 'This is the End of a Perfect Day.'

"Professor O'Mara, a lineal descendent of the famous Omar, has this to say:

"The word mosquito was handed down from early Arabia. Originally the insect was a grey, singing gnat—without a sting. It was cultivated by the Mohammedans who placed large hives in the dome of the mosques.

*Not Jamaica in the West Indies.

The singing or chanting of the original mosquito kept the faithful awake during prayers. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the spotted Hejhar made its appearance in Egypt, and the plague lasted five years, causing the death of 75,000 of the natives, during which time the faithful thronged the mosques. Tradition has it that the moans and imprecations of the afflicted so affected the insects lodged in the domes of the mosques that they became crazed, and while in this condition, through some freak of nature, the penetrator of the mosquito was developed, and thus the innocent guat became the biting, stinging mosquito. Strange as it may seem the poison injected into the penetrator acted as a counter-irritant on the stricken people and the plague was averted."

THE HOWLING BABOON.

By G. E. BODKIN, B.A., F.Z.S., F.E.S.

No account of travels in the "bush" of British Guiana would be complete without an allusion to the so-called "howling baboons" (*Myocetes seniculus*), and to the fact that scientifically they are not baboons at all, but rather a low type of monkey, and also that they are more frequently heard than seen.

Perhaps there is no more characteristic night sound in the "bush" than the mournful ululations of these creatures. Owing to the still night air, they can be heard at great distances, and should they approach near to the camp or settlement, the uproar is deafening.

The photographs reproduced on another page (which are of peculiar interest owing to the extreme difficulty of procuring living specimens) were taken in Georgetown. The specimen had been presented to the British Guiana Museum by a well-meaning individual with, alas! a desire for a pecuniary reward.

The arrival had already been in captivity for some weeks, and was slowly pining away according to their custom, for no one has ever yet succeeded in persuading a howling baboon to live in a state of durance vile.

The specimen was a well-developed male with a splendid golden brown silky coat. It was eventually put out of its misery, and its mounted skeleton will shortly adorn the museum. I am indebted to Mr. M. A. de Freitas, of the British Guiana Museum, for the chance of procuring the photos.

LORD HARRIS, presiding over the annual general meeting of the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa on November 21st, referred to the future of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., in which the Company is the largest shareholder, as being very encouraging. Trinidad was, he said, one of the few spots in the British territory west of the Suez Canal where oil was being produced, and the oil was of specially good quality. Lord Harris is a son of the second Baron, who was Governor of Trinidad in 1853-4. His mother was a daughter of the Venerable George Cummins, Archdeacon of the island.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

We give below a list of officers and men from or connected with the West Indies who are in hospital, and shall be glad to forward their addresses to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be wishful or willing to visit them.

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Corpl. Bruce Maura, Somerset Light Infantry, Dewsbury; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham; Lieut.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilts Regt., France.

BARBADOS.

Pte. C. G. Archer, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, London; Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. C. C. Leach, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Liverpool; Pte. C. L. Burgess, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Manchester; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. T. J. Tite, London; Cpl. C. A. Baker, London; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Lieut.-Cpl. H. E. Palmer, Balham; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. G. S. Blackman, Taplow; Pte. G. Spanswick, Oxford; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. C. R. Cannon, Stoke-on-Trent; Pte. R. Wilson; Pte. A. B. Marshall, Warrington; Corpl. E. V. Virtue, Southampton; F. J. Boorman, West Didsbury; H. Whitecross, London; G. Atcheson, Edmonton.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Lieut. C. E. L. Cox, Royal Garrison Artillery, Manchester; Pte. S. J. Van Serfima, Cheltenham.

JAMAICA.

Private E. A. Jackson, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. G. W. Brown, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. F. McPherson, London.

TRINIDAD.

Rfn. J. H. Llanos, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Sheerness.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Regt.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.; Pte. A. Drakes, Pte. F. A. Graves, Plymouth.

* * *

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £6,226 6s. 2d., of which amount £1,337 15s. 4d. has been subscribed for special purposes. The approximate total expenditure to date has been £2,586. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
The Patriotic Committee of Trinidad (earmarked for Trinidad men)	250	0	0
The Antigua War Fund (earmarked for Antigua men)	50	0	0
J. R. Gaunt & Son (further rebate on sales of B.W.I. brooches—to come)	1	19	6
John T. Haynes, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Berkeley	10	0	0
	£303	10	6

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

The Ladies' Committee have decided to hold their work parties at 5, Trevor Square, twice a week, and in addition to Thursday mornings they will meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 to 6. Socks are in great demand, as well as knitted cardigans, helmets, gloves, etc.; and magazines and cigarettes are always useful. Gifts should be sent to Miss Moseley, the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, S.W. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks—

Lady Dawson: 18 prs. socks.
 Lady Llewelyn: 1 pr. socks.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: 2 helmets, 2 prs. socks, books and magazines.
 Mrs. Muller: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. J. W. Russell: 2 prs. socks.
 Miss Goffe: 5 prs. socks, 2 magazines.
 Miss Cowie: 3 magazines.
 Messrs. Mackie & Co.: 2 doz. packs of "White Horse" playing cards.

THE ST. VINCENT CARIB COUNTRY.

BY W. N. SANDS, F.L.S.

The "Carib Country" in St. Vincent is a tract of land in the north-east of the island which formed part of the lands reserved to the Caribs by a Treaty of 1773. After the suppression of the rising known as the "Brigands' War" by Sir Ralph Abercromby in 1796, and the deportation of the Caribs to Ruanan, their lands were vested in the Crown, and much subsequently passing into private ownership. They were rightly considered the most fertile in the island when in 1812 they were devastated by the eruption of the Soufrière. A similar visitation ruined them again in 1902, when the canal on which the estates depended for their water supply was dried up. In connection with the discussion now proceeding as to the suitability of the country in France and Flanders, ploughed up and devastated by shell fire, the following article should be of interest as showing how nature can overcome all obstacles.

The broad triangular plain situated on the Windward side of the northern part of St. Vincent and backed by the Soufrière volcano is known as the Carib Country. It extends from Grand Sable Estate to Sandy Bay. The land which is the most fertile and easily worked in the Colony is divided for the most part among the following estates: Grand Sable; Mt. Bentinck and Langley Park, Rabacca, Waterloo, Lot 14, Orange Hill, Tourama and Sandy Bay. The town of Georgetown and several villages are also located in the district. The total area of the estates is given as 6,351 acres.

Although the markets for muscovado sugar and arrowroot, the chief crops, were depressed, and the disastrous effects of the hurricane of September, 1898, were still felt, yet the estates were being fairly well worked when on May 7th, 1902, the Soufrière broke out in violent eruption and continued in a very active state until March, 1903.

The results of the eruptions, which occurred at intervals during the period, were far-reaching, and have been fully described in various scientific and other publications. Briefly it may be stated that the whole of the area was devastated in a varying degree; hundreds of lives were lost; crops were burnt; live stock was killed; houses and estates' buildings were destroyed; and the land covered with a thick deposit of ejecta. The estates which suffered particularly severely were Langley Park, Lot 14, Orange Hill, Waterloo and

Tourama, and the fine canal, four miles long, and the only source of water for power, manufacturing and drinking purposes available was almost completely obliterated. All vegetation was burnt down to the surface of the soil, and only the limbless trunks of a few trees in situations sheltered from the hot blast, or incandescent avalanche, remained standing. The plight planters found themselves in can readily be imagined; however, so soon as the volcano reverted to a quiescent condition they started the work of resuscitation, and in this they were encouraged by reports which had been handed down of the excellent crops reaped after former eruptions of the volcano.

In the West Indian Bulletin* an account was given by the writer of the return of vegetation and the revival of agriculture in the devastated area. This paper was written in 1911, or eight years after the last eruption, which occurred in March, 1903. At that time the fairly level estate lands had been in a large measure reclaimed, and it may be useful and of interest to give here extracts from that story before dealing with later developments.

"If holes are dug through the ash to the old soil in parts of the fairly level lower lands as yet untouched, it is seen that the average depth of the ejecta is 13 inches, and that these are made up of three definite layers each possessing distinct characteristics. The three eruptions, during which the bulk of the ejecta was deposited, occurred in May and October, 1902, and March, 1903. From records made at the time in the district, it was estimated that the deposit in May was from one to three feet thick, in October six to eight inches, and in March two to three inches, or an average of two feet.

"The heavy rains and floods since the eruptions have, of course, washed away immense quantities of it, and besides it has become very compact; the result is that, as is mentioned above, the deposit now averages 13 inches only. The first layer put down is known as the 'May dust', and was chiefly composed of a very fine grey dust which quickly consolidated and formed a hard concrete-like part. The October and March layers were composed of much coarser particles, largely of a sandy and cindery nature, free and easily worked. Analysis of the ash made soon after the eruptions showed that it possessed little fertilizing value; it was however stated locally that, after the 1812 eruption, the ash which fell had a beneficial effect on the crops of the following years: at any rate, it is on record that the amount of sugar and rum made in 1813 was equal to that of 1812; still it must be noted that the covering of ash on this occasion was only from six to ten inches deep. In June, 1904, when this district was first visited, it was an agreeable surprise to find, in nearly all the fields which had growing sugar-cane at the time of the May eruption, that quite a large number of plants had been able to send up shoots through the deep covering of ash, and were growing well.

"In order to ascertain by definite experiment if the ejecta of 1902-3 really had any agricultural value, the Imperial Department of Agriculture, in January, 1903, started a small experiment station, near Georgetown, and made tests in one-tenth acre plots with sugar-cane, arrowroot, sweet potatoes, and groundnuts. The experiments were carried out in four series:—

- (a) in the old soil alone,
- (b) in the old soil mixed with the May ash,
- (c) in the old soil mixed with the May and October ash,
- (d) in the May and October ash alone.

"After the experiments were started, the March eruption which deposited a light layer of cindery ash, occurred. This deposit could not be taken into account.

* The West Indian Bulletin, Vol. 12, pp. 22-31 (1912).

"The result of the first year's trials gave abundant evidence of the fact that the ash alone could not support the higher types of plant life. For instance, sugar-cane grew fairly well in series (a), (b), and (c), but in (d) scarcely any growth was made. The best results were obtained from (e)—old soil and May and October ash mixed. Arrowroot did fairly well in the old soil, and in old soil mixed with ash, but very poorly in the ash. Practically the same results were obtained with sweet potatoes; and the groundnut, although it is a leguminous plant, could not produce a crop except there was some admixture of the old soil.

"At the time these trials were in progress, extensive experiments were being conducted on the neighbouring estates. The results were in every case in accord with those obtained at the experiment station.

"The conclusions arrived at were:—

"(1) That, provided the soil is mixed with the ash, fair crops of estate produce can be successfully grown.

"(2) That the ash alone does not in itself contain sufficient food constituents to support plant life.

"(3) That on land covered with a thick layer of ash, only a system of deep cultivation through to the old soil will enable crops to be grown with any chance of success.

"Bearing these facts in mind it was then found necessary to devise means for dealing with the ash-covered lands so as to make them produce paying crops. The methods which were at length found to answer well were as follows:—

"For sugar-cane, the land was banked much higher than usual, and then cross-holed until the bottom of each hole exposed the old soil; the canes were then planted in this. Lands for arrowroot, cotton, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, and cassava were deeply trenched through to the old soil. This was, of course, a slow and laborious process, but it was cheerfully undertaken by the peasantry, who were glad to obtain portions of the lands for a year or two as provision grounds. The depth of the trenching was often from 18 inches to two feet. The ash removed in the process of trenching was placed in the bottom of the trench and covered with three or four inches of the old soil. Pigeon peas were, as a rule, planted on small mounds ten feet by ten feet apart, composed of a mixture of ash and old soil. The space between the mounds was not trenched. Whatever method was adopted, care was taken to break up the hard pan in contact with the old soil.

"The resulting crops of sugar-cane were quite up to the average of those obtained before the eruptions, and in some cases better.

"It will be noted that it has been found possible, by carrying out a definite system of cultivation, to obtain average crops of estate produce; but there are still features of much interest in connection with the effect of the ash on the nature and fertility of the soil which might be discussed.

"The chief feature, as already seen, was that the ash in itself could not support plant life—not a single crop could be successfully grown in it—but no sooner was a certain proportion of old soil mixed with it, or the plants were placed in the old soil, than crops, in some cases above the average of those produced before the eruptions, were obtained without the addition of manure; but only for one, and sometimes two years, after the lands were put into cultivation. That this temporary increase in fertility was not entirely due to deep cultivation is evident by the fact that only the upper three or four inches of the old soil were touched in the process, and that it is now necessary to apply organic manures to obtain average crops. The question arises as to the cause of this temporary increase in fertility after the eruptions. An endeavour has been made to show that it was not due to the presence of any available food materials in the ash, or any improvement in the physical condition of the soil, so that a search must be made elsewhere for a possible solution of the problem, and that, it is believed, will be found by applying the results of recent discoveries in connection with soil bacteria, and the effect of certain of these, and other micro-organisms on the fertility of the soil.

"The following extracts have been taken from an article published in the *Agricultural News*, Vol. IX., pp. 93, 94. In this article the results of experiments, more particularly those of Russell and Hutchinson, at Rorhamsted, on the effects of sterilisation on the balance of life in the soil, are discussed. After giving details of the manner in which the experiments were conducted, it is stated:—

"The first result obtained in the experiments was that the increased productiveness of partially sterilised soil is due to an increase in the amount of ammonia present. Considering the partially sterilised soils, it was found that at the end of twenty-four days the soil that had been heated to 98° C. showed the greatest increase in the amount of ammonia present. Other effects of partial sterilisation were found to be an increase in the rate of production of unstable nitrogen compounds and the destruction of nitrifying organisms. The conclusions arrived at by the investigators are thus summarised:—It would appear that the number of bacteria in the soil is limited by the presence of comparatively large, competing and destructive organisms, and that the increased fertility of soils that have been partially sterilised is due to the killing of these, and the consequent increase in the rate of production of bacteria, with the concomitant increase in the rate of formation of ammonia.

"How, then, can these results be made to apply? The old soil, as is previously noted, was covered with about two feet of hot, sterile ash. The effect of this would be to bring about a partial sterilization of the soil, and interfere with the balance between the different forms of living matter in the upper layer of it, and lead to an increase in the available nitrogen compounds. These valuable plant foods would in their turn stimulate the vegetative growth of any plants whose roots could obtain access to it, and this is actually what happened.

"Another interesting feature was the abundance of nodules on the roots of leguminous plants when planted in a mixture of ash and old soil, and the luxuriant growth made. This would tend to show that the nitrogen-collecting bacteria causing the formation of these nodules were not destroyed in the old soil; or were reintroduced with the planting material that was used, and finding partially sterilised soil, and therefore an absence of enemies, were given the best chance of increasing in numbers. It has been largely due to this fact that planters have been able to obtain such excellent crops, particularly of the pigeon pea, and also to utilize the heavy growth made by this plant as valuable green dressing material."

So far, it has not been necessary to use to any considerable extent the many wild types of plants which covered areas not brought under cultivation, but these are performing a most useful service in converting the ash into soil under the influence of the moist tropical climate.

It was quickly seen, therefore, that crops could be successfully grown, and the rebuilding of estate works and buildings, the formation of villages for labourers, the re-stocking of the estates, and the restoration of the canal were put in hand. By 1909, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. had completely restored the water supply by means of a practically new canal $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, and had centralised the manufacture of sugar at Orange Hill, and arrowroot and cassava at Waterloo. They had also replanted large areas of land from Mount Bentinck to Tourama in different crops. At Grand Sable, Messrs. J. H. Hazell, Sons & Co. made rapid progress, and their estate was quickly put in good order. Messrs. Porter sold their estates in this year (1909), and the work so energetically and resourcefully started was continued effectively by Mr. Walter Barnard and the late Mr. G. J. Simmons.

The Government undertook several important public works for the benefit of that part of the island, and among these were the rebuilding of the Georgetown wharf, which enabled sailing vessels

to load and unload cargoes there, and the bridging of the Mount Bentinck River.

A visitor to the district, on reaching the top of a hill about a mile to the south of Georgetown, would obtain a good view of nearly the whole of the Carib Country. From this vantage point he would now observe little to indicate to him that in the early part of 1903 the whole plain had the appearance of a waste of ashes and cinders. He would see large areas of sugar-cane, arrowroot, cotton, peas, and coco-nuts, as well as numerous estates buildings and villages, and the nicely laid-out town of Georgetown with its long wharf stretching out into the Atlantic. At the back of this pleasing picture he would be impressed by the grandeur of the now sleeping volcano, whose slopes are clothed with luxuriant vegetation reaching almost to the rim of the crater. Looking at the district to-day, with its well-cultivated estates and diversified and remunerative crops, one cannot but admire the energy and enterprise of those who have been responsible for its speedy resuscitation. Progress continues to be made, and both at Orange Hill and Mount Bentinck extensive improvements in the muscovado sugar works are being undertaken. Mr. Barnard, at Tourama and other places, is still pushing ahead with the planting of coco-nuts. Already 1,050 acres have been established, and the plants are thriving well. Some of the groves planted 4½ years ago are coming into bearing, and it is hoped to make the first shipment of nuts or copra during the coming year.

Taken altogether, the outlook for the Carib Country is full of promise.

THE West Indian Produce Association, now well known as the "W.I.P.A.," has issued an attractive Christmas catalogue of the good things which it purveys. It contains also an illustrated historical account of the grocery firm of Davison, Newman & Co., established 260 and odd years ago, and still flourishing at 14, Creechurch Lane, E.C., under the ancient sign of "The Crown and Three Sugar Loaves."

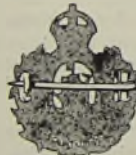


A B. W. I. Brooch

Everyone purchasing a souvenir brooch of the badge of the British West Indies Regiment issued by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., the makers of the original badge, will be benefiting the West Indian Contingent Fund, to which a portion of the proceeds will be devoted. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Post free.	£	s.	d.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2	10	0	
Silver and Enamel	3	6		3	9		
Gold Metal Enamelled	2	0		2	3		

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.



Back of Brooch.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR WALTER EGERTON, Governor of British Guiana, had an audience of the King on November 21st.

THE Danish plebiscite on the question of the sale of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John to the United States is to be taken on December 14th next.

MR. R. BRYSON, of Antigua, has resumed his duties with the Munitions Department, and is actively engaged on making material of War for five hours every day.

IT is understood that negotiations for the sale of the Barbados Railway to the local Government have taken a very favourable turn, and that the undertaking has been sold for £20,000.

THE name of the London and Hanseatic Bank, Ltd., has, with official sanction, been changed to "The London Merchant Bank, Ltd.," the enemy shareholding having been eliminated.

IN the absence of official representation of the Colonies, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company made a very creditable display of West Indian produce at the recent Toronto National Exhibition.

LT.-COLONEL W. C. ANDERSON, formerly of the XV., the King's, Hussars, who has been appointed the Deputy-Inspector-General of Constabulary in Trinidad and Tobago, is a brother of the late Captain Abdy F. Anderson of Dominica.

BALGOBIN PERSAUD, a young East Indian of Golden Grove, has won the Guiana Scholarship for 1916. A branch of the Baby Saving League, which already has nurses working at Ruimveld, Bagotville, La Grange, and elsewhere, has been inaugurated on the West Coast, Demerara.

PROFESSOR J. P. D'ALBUQUERQUE leaves for Barbados via New York on December 2nd. His son, who holds a commission in the Shropshire Light Infantry, was severely wounded in the shoulder and arm, but is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, at present Director of Agriculture in Mauritius, has been appointed to a similar post in Ceylon at a salary of £1,200 per annum. It will be remembered that Mr. Stockdale, before being appointed to Mauritius, was Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana.

MR. EDWARD R. DAVSON is to deliver a lecture on "The Sugar Industry of the West Indies," under the auspices of the British Women's Patriotic League, at Notting Hill High School on December 13th at 3 p.m., Lady Emmott presiding. Tickets (free) can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

MESSRS. JOSEPH SALVATORI AND DOMINIQUE TERRAMI intimate that their cacao and produce business will in future be carried on by them and Mr. Charles William Scott as partners at 51, Marine Square, in conjunction with their existing dry goods business (The Trinidad Stores), of Marine Square and Frederick Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, under the title "Salvatori, Terrami & Co."

OUR summer visitors are returning home. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon and family left for Trinidad on November 25th by Royal Mail steamer, among whose passengers were also Mr. H. B. C. Austin and Mr. James Miller. Sir Frederic Maxwell, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, has returned to Antigua via New York, and the Hon. P. J. and Mrs. Dean left for Grenada by the same route this week.

THE death-rate in the Panama Canal Zone in 1915 was only 12.5 per 1,000, as compared with 14.6 per 1,000 in New York. The healthiness of the population of the Zone is attributable in great measure to the fact that the Gold employees of the Canal and the men of the military garrisons have to pass a rigid physical examination before their appointment. Forty-three per cent. of the population is now American.

TIME was when only the sugar producers requisitioned East Indian immigrants, cacao planters finding it more economical to employ the free labourers after the termination of their indenture. Now, however, cacao and coco-nut planters receive immigrants on their arrival in the colony. Thus for the season 1917-18, sixteen firms and individuals in Trinidad interested in cacao and coco-nut cultivation have applied for 620 East Indians. The sugar estates proprietors have asked to be allotted 1,473 for the same period.

MR. ROBERT HARVEY, Chairman of the well-known firm of sugar engineers, the Harvey Engineering Company, Ltd., of Glasgow, has been a recent and welcome visitor to the West India Committee Rooms. Mr. Robert Harvey, who is the inventor of the Harvey Evaporator, has just recovered from a serious illness extending over four years. This is a subject for congratulation to the Company, to which Mr. Harvey's life-long experience of sugar and sugar machinery must be particularly valuable.

THE death is announced at Osborne, Western Australia, at the advanced age of 82, of Lady Doyle, widow of the late Sir William H. Doyle, who spent most of his official life in the West Indies, having been Chief Justice of the Bahamas and also of the Leeward Islands before he held the same office in Gibraltar. A Bahamian by birth, Sir William Doyle distinguished himself at the Bar and on the Bench of that colony during the American Civil War in Vice-Admiralty cases, and had the distinction of being the first Bahamian to receive the honour of knighthood. After his death in the

early 'eighties, Lady Doyle, with her daughter, now Mrs. C. D. Kidson, went to Western Australia to take up her residence near her nephew, Mr. F. A. Moseley, who held a legal appointment there, and had remained there ever since.

THE HON. T. V. MATTHEWS, I.S.O., who has recently retired from the Civil Service of the Bahamas, holds a record unique in that colony, and probably in the West Indies, having served for forty-two years in the same department. Entering the service in October, 1874, Mr. Matthews rose by one promotion after another to the position of Receiver-General and Treasurer, to which office he was appointed in June, 1914. His intimate knowledge of all matters connected with revenue and shipping was of the greatest value to the local Government, while his uniformly good record in each office that he held won for him the entire confidence and respect of the community. His faithful services were recognised in 1903, when the Imperial Service Order was conferred upon him by the late King Edward VII., and he now enters upon his well-earned retirement with the best wishes of his fellow Bahamians.

DR. GEORGE HARGREAVES, District Medical Officer of Western St. Ann, Jamaica, for nearly twenty years, has been the recipient of a handsome presentation from his friends and patients in the neighbourhood, on the occasion of his leaving the island to give his services to the country. The gift, which was purchased by the West India Committee on behalf of a local Committee, of which the Hon. J. H. Levy and Hon. J. H. Allwood are members, consists of a silver salver and two pairs of silver candlesticks in a handsome case. The salver is inscribed:—

PRESENTED TO
GEORGE HARGREAVES, Esq., M.D., C.M.,
In token of the esteem and regard
in which he is held by his friends and patients in
WESTERN SAINT ANN, JAMAICA.
On the occasion of his leaving the island
to offer his services to his
King and Country in the Great War.
JULY 22nd, 1916.

Dr. Tempay is also to be the recipient of a testimonial on relinquishing the position of Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands to assume that of Director of Agriculture in Mauritius in succession to Mr. F. A. Stockdale. It will take the form of a silver salver inscribed:—

PRESENTED TO
HAROLD AUGUSTINE TEMPAY, B.Sc. (Lond.),
F.I.C., F.C.S.,
Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture
for the Leeward Islands,
On the occasion of his leaving Antigua,
BY THE
MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL & COMMERCIAL SOCIETY.
As a mark of their appreciation of his services to the
Society and the Community.
DECEMBER, 1916.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms Price 1/-.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

NEVIS—The Backwash of a Storm.

MR. R. WILLIAMS, OCTOBER.—Symptoms of an atmospheric disturbance manifested themselves between the 7th and 10th; but the island escaped the hurricane which caused much damage in Tortola and the other Virgin Islands. High seas were experienced, and every vessel at Charlestown was driven ashore and smashed to pieces, thus cutting us off from St. Kitts. Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. and Co.'s attorney, however, came to the rescue by placing the lighter *Nellie* at the disposal of mails and passengers. The S.S. *Serrana* has taken away 45 bales (or, say, 23 tons) of Sea Island cotton, 30 casks of lime juice, 47 barrels of tamarinds, 1,460 bags of muscovado sugar, and 12 tons of coco-nuts.

TOBAGO—Sir John Chancellor's Visit.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, NOVEMBER 1st.—Last week Tobago was favoured with a visit from His Excellency Sir John R. Chancellor, our Governor, who came over with the K.M.S. *Beltze*, and returned with the Customs schooner *Proemian*. Sir John had a busy time of it in his evident desire to see things, places and people for himself, and thus be able to form his own opinion when questions concerning Tobago are submitted to him. Not only did he inspect all the Government Institutions in and near Scarborough, but schools, police stations, rest houses, etc., both Leeward and Windward. He was able to motor to Roxburgh (17 miles) where he spent two hours inspecting and receiving addresses, then motored to King's Bay and by horse back to Charlotteville, Man-o-War Bay (28 miles) and back same afternoon to Scarborough a trip which the most "seasoned" of us would regard as a jolly hard day's work. Flags, speeches, etc., were the order of the day, but humble Tobago attempted little in the way of entertainment, but the Governor got an enthusiastic welcome and everyone was delighted with his keen enquiries and approachable manner. My East Indian labourers were pleased beyond measure when he talked to them in Hindi, and was able to tell them that he had been in the Northern India districts where some of them were born. They gave him a hearty cheer when the motor left for Scarborough. Sir John admired the scenery very much, and promises soon to return, as Government House, near Scarborough, seemed to him an ideal spot for a short holiday. I am told that not many grievances were ventilated or requests put forward in the various addresses, but no doubt His Excellency in his brief visit would see that Tobago needs labour and capital to develop its exceptionally fertile soil.

October, 1916, will long be remembered for the excessive rainfall, the 16 inches registered being double the average since 1907. Landships were serious both on public roads and fields, rivers in flood not only damaged bridges, roads and cultivation, but Greaves, a young Grenada lad, overseer at "Cameron," near Roxburgh, lost his life while attempting to ride across the Louis D'or River. He was a bright young fellow and his loss is sincerely regretted in the district. It is feared that the cacao crop has suffered by the heavy and continuous rains, pods of all sizes having weathered, apart from damage caused by fallen trees and floods. Planters grudge the labour and expense in repairing damage while every worker is needed at present to gather the crops and keep the fields clean.

TRINIDAD- Cacao Statistics for October.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 3rd.—His Excellency has paid his first visit to Tobago, where he stayed about a week, which was occupied in the usual strenuous manner. A meeting of the Legislative Council was held yesterday, when Sir Norman Lamont, who has been the most important of the critics of the Government Railway, moved: "That this Council, having considered your Excellency's report upon the organization and administration of the railway, cordially approves of the reforms proposed therein, urges their speedy adoption, and expresses its readiness to concur in increasing the remuneration of the railway staff." In moving this, Sir Norman aptly remarked that it was an unusual position to be able to eat one's cake and to have it. A year ago it was estimated that it would cost £500 to get a report on the rail-

way from an expert in England. His Excellency had put them in the satisfactory position of having their report while he was sure the Receiver-General was congratulating himself that he still had the £500 in the Treasury. The report had met with entire and unanimous approval throughout the colony. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Cacao and oil receipts have been up to expectations and the future outlook continues satisfactory. Shipments amounted to 917,453 lbs., against about 700,000 lbs., the average of the past three years. Notwithstanding steadily declining offers from the United States, prices have ruled firm, closing at \$14.75 for Ordinary, and \$14.25 to \$14.50 for 1states. This position is accounted for by the fact of Red Ordinary being the quality in demand in France and Spain and of the announcement by the shipping companies of an extra 50 per cent. war tax on freight to those countries from 1st December, holders of contracts being naturally anxious to fill same before that date.

Arrivals from Venezuela have been small, being placed at or around \$15.00 per faega.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	50,555
B.N. America	148,708
France	411,350
United States America	306,840
Total for October	917,453
Shipped previously	49,718,564
Total from 1st January	50,636,017
To same date, 1915	44,258,054
" " 1914	60,745,517
" " 1913	45,780,272
" " 1912	40,143,025
" " 1911	42,127,478
" " 1910	49,392,789
" " 1909	41,367,387
" " 1908	37,020,821
" " 1907	35,052,616

Exports of oil continue on the upward grade. Official returns are 27,254,396 gallons, as against only 8,325,634 gallons to October 31st, 1915.

TURKS ISLANDS The Prospects of Cotton.

THE DIRECT WEST INDY CABLE CO.—The weather in September, as in the preceding month, was very oppressive, and crops that had started, encouraged by the rain, were soon dried up. Reports from the Caicos Islands state they have had more frequent rains, and the crops are coming along favourably.

On the 17th inst., while one of the local pilots was endeavouring to board an incoming steamer, his boat was run into by the steamer and sunk off the town of Grand Turk. All the occupants of the boat were rescued. On the 20th inst. His Honour the Commissioner returned from his trip to Jamaica on the S.S. *Troquois*, via New York.

The month has been a quiet one, and, outside the shipping of salt, most of which has been shipped from East Harbour and Salt Cay, there has been nothing stirring. Small quantities of conch shells have been shipped, also a small quantity of fibre, during the month to New York. The East Caicos Co., Jacksonville, and at Grand Turk, are extracting, but holding for future shipment. His Honour the Commissioner is ginning more cotton for shipment. The small portion of land which he planted with cotton as an experimental patch, despite the prolonged drought, after the recent rains looks very promising. The Commissioner is very enthusiastic with his cotton growing, and if he can only get the people to exert enough energy to plant their land with cotton, it would be a good thing for the Dependency, especially the Caicos Islands.

A few bales of cotton are ready for shipment to England, and at East Harbour about an acre is placed under cotton as an experiment. It should be realised in Turks Island that a good regular staple and big quantities are the two main things to be kept in view. Owing to the rise of price in the New York market large quantities of hand-

cleaned sisal fibre is being shipped there, the last shipment having made nine cents per pound.

Owing to the recent rains and the springing of many of the salt ponds, further raking for this season has been abandoned. There is a large quantity of salt on hand in the Dependency. From reports to hand a large quantity of salt has been sold for future shipment, much at a very low price. Owing to the merchants being unable to agree they are unable to combine to protect their interests, and are forever under-quoting one another in prices, regardless of the cost of production. The buyers in New York have openly stated that they would give 6 cents per bushel, if the merchants would not undersell, and they could be relied upon.

Just what the new arrangement will be this year regarding the return of a percentage of the royalty, is not yet decided; it will, in all probability be settled when the Legislative Board meets on the return of Messrs. B. C. Frith and W. S. Jones, or during the visit of His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, who, His Honour the Commissioner tells me, may come during the latter part of October.

Lighting Turks Island, the discussion of which has been so protracted, is assuming a useful shape. A powerful signalling lamp for the Lighthouse at Grand Turk is being established, and a revolving light is to be placed on the Sand Cay similar to those in use on the Manchester Ship Canal.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

BIRTH.

Parraudan. On the 17th inst., the wife of G. Henry Parraudan (late of British Guiana), of 41, Wind-or Road, Ealing, W., a daughter. *Denerara papers please copy.*

DEATH.

Swaby.—On the 16th November, at Bishopscourt, Barbados, William Procter Swaby, Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands. (By cable.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Landlocked Harbour of Montego Bay.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—I was much interested in your account of the landlocked harbour at Montego Bay, Jamaica, which appeared in your last issue.

Several years ago my attention was drawn to this harbour by the captain of the *Port Kingston*, of the Elder Dempster Line, who took me into his cabin and showed me a rough survey of it which one of his young officers had made, and I remember his getting quite excited over the stupidity of—well, everybody—but perhaps chiefly of the merchants of Montego Bay, who could not see the value to themselves of such a harbour, as compared with their present arrangements, whereby the ships visiting have to lay off a couple of miles or so—loading and unloading by what he called, I think, "droghers," i.e., lighters of sorts, and, in confirmation of his views, he called my attention to the value to the island of Jamaica of such a harbour as Port Antonio. I was very much interested, and during my stay in the island I visited both Port Antonio and Montego Bay. Seeing how money was pouring into the island through the shipment at Port Antonio of bananas—the enormous cultivation of which fruit was a sight for sore eyes—Montego Bay seemed a hundred years or so behind the times. Although there are immense stretches of land due south and to the west and east quite as capable of bearing bananas and other crops as the land which feeds Port Antonio. I went with a friend in a small boat through a narrow channel into your land-locked harbour, and was astonished at the size of it. The chart shown me by the *Port Kingston's* skipper had not at all prepared me for the sight. It is

some years since I saw the harbour, but my impression is that it must be at least a mile wide, and perhaps two miles long, and the skipper told me that over the whole of it there is, or was then, a pretty even depth of 18 ft. of water, under which lay a bed of soft mud something like six feet thick. There was also a channel from the entrance right away to the east end of at least 21 ft. He seemed to me to be of the opinion that if only the old boat channel, which is, I think, 15 ft. deep were deepened and perhaps widened a bit, that vessels would do by their screws almost all that was necessary, but perhaps in that he might have had the harbour too much on his mind. Nevertheless, diving in such still water, and working down to such depths as would be wanted is perfectly easy, and just now the removal of the mud could probably be done easily, by the loan of a dredger or two from the Panama Canal. To me it seems like contempt of Providence to neglect such possibilities as exist near Montego Bay.

I am, etc.,
AN OCCASIONAL VISITOR TO JAMAICA.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

Presiding at the 3rd Annual Meeting of this Company on November 16th, Mr. George Moody Stuart, Chairman, said, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the declaration of the dividends, that in its first season, 1914, the Company made 15,711 tons of sugar, which was very little short of the highest quantity ever touched in the history of the Usine. He remembered the strain on every man and on all the plant. It was work up to the highest pitch all round and right through from the first day of grinding to the last. It was a big order to put 33 per cent, on to the top of such work as that, to rise from an output of 15,711 tons of sugar to 20,890 tons. But it had been done, and done successfully, and done without any big change in the plant. It spoke well for the staff, one and all, and all the more when the quality of the factory work had not suffered, but, on the contrary, had shown a marked improvement on the first year. It would be further improved later on when they got everything right, but it was excellent work now for a factory where part, perhaps half, of the milling plant was over 30 years old and for canes with juice of such low purity as Trinidad. Turning to the field work, it would be noticed that the Company's own estate canes had increased by 37 per cent. over the first year. More than half of this was from heavier crops per acre, and the balance from an increase in planting. The Company now got from its own lands on average 2½ tons of sugar per acre. He hoped to see some further increase when all the fields had been brought into good condition, but the present figure was a quarter of a ton of sugar per acre above the average in Cuba.

The arrangements made with the Malgretoute estate should prove an additional source of strength to the Company. They were bound, in any case, for the sake of the present supply of canes, to give Ste. Madeleine a new West set of mills as soon as possible, to replace the very old set now there, and when they were about it it was good business when they could get 40,000 tons extra of farmers' canes, to have the new mills of a large enough size to grind those also, for in sugar-making the more work under one roof the better and cheaper it was. As they could not get the new mills at present, they proposed to grind the 1917 Malgretoute canes in the Malgretoute factory, probably the 1918 too, and, if necessary, even later crops. They would not venture on such business in times of normal prices, for the difficulties of making sugar pay in a moderate-sized factory were becoming too great, and they would be greater as time went on. But there was a fair chance of prices ruling above the normal until the time came when they could bring the canes to the Ste. Madeleine. With regard to the amount carried forward—namely, £114,339. This meant practically nil, or rather it meant that the Company had enough to pay taxes and nothing more. It included two years' taxes. Even so the amount would stagger those who had the

impression that the excess profits duty was a levy of 50 per cent. or 60. per cent. of the extra amount made owing to war conditions. The Act made it very different. It was true it left 40 per cent. of the extra the Company had made through high prices, but it took 60 per cent. of the very large sum made through improving work in the field and in the factory. If profits had been increased through an increase of capital an allowance would have been made for that in assessing the tax, but when profits were increased through what the Act called "personal qualifications" no consideration was given except to lawyers and other professional men. There was a clause providing that the extra they made through "personal qualifications" should not be taxed—not sugar planters. Again, if the Company had started two years earlier, and so had had two years of improved work before the war, it would not have been called on to pay any such sum. It was the peculiar position of the Company in these two points—namely, the absence of a pre-war record and the fact that it had made so large a part of its profit by better work without increasing the capital that had brought it in for an incredibly large assessment.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

Sir Alexander Freeman King, moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividends at the 79th General Meeting on November 15th, called special attention to the cost of repairs to cables, which was £7,633 in excess of that of the half-year to June, 1915. Over £2,300 of this increase was due to new cable being used in repairs, which was not, in itself, a matter for much regret, because the system was, of course, thereby strengthened to that extent. Now and again there was a set-off to the cost of repairs in an opportunity to let out the repairing ship to connecting companies, but during last half-year such an event did not happen. In the result the profit for the half-year was £11,578, as against £9,229 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

an increase of £2,349, and the Company was able to resume paying a dividend on the ordinary shares.

The traffic receipts, so far, during the current half-year compared favourably with those for the corresponding period of last year.

The hurricane season in the West Indies, which commenced usually in the month of August, had been specially severe. In August Jamaica suffered seriously. The land-lines were blown down in many places, but, owing to the exertions of the local staff, communications were restored in two or three days. In Dominica there was considerable loss of life and much damage, and telegraphic communication was cut off for several hours. The most disastrous of the hurricanes for the Company struck St. Thomas and the adjacent island of St. Croix on October 9th, causing great damage in both islands. The small house and sheds at the Company's depot at Krum Bay, St. Thomas, were totally destroyed, and its wharf was damaged. They were, however, covered by insurance.

The mortgage debentures, issued 25 years ago, would fall due for payment on December 31st next. The issue was only a small one—namely, £80,000, the share capital being £1,275,000. It was proposed to issue a circular inviting the present holders to renew them for a period of 10 years. The debentures were a first charge as a floating security upon the whole of the Company's property. They would be renewed at the same rate of interest—namely, 5 per cent. per annum—but, in view of the state of the money market, it was felt that the present holders might not be eager to renew them at par, at which price they were issued, and that some inducement in the form of a cash payment must be offered for their renewal. Coupons for a half-year's interest payable on June 30th and December 31st in each year would be attached to each bond, and the bonds would be redeemable at the Company's option upon six months' notice at £105 per bond. Should all the bonds not be renewed, some would be available not only for any present holders who might wish to increase their holdings, but also for shareholders.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures, published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies during the current year to October 15th (except where otherwise specified), have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados.*	British Guiana.†	British Honduras.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Jamaica.**	Montserrat.	St. Lucia.	St. Kitts-Nevis.	St. Vincent.	Trinidad.
Arrowroot Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,283 524	—
Asphalt Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79 123
Balata Lbs.	—	—	823 558	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,100 1
Bananas Bches.	—	—	—	693 228	—	3 433 450	—	—	—	—	—	—
Biters Gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	550 5124
Cacao Lbs.	—	—	31 619	14 379	—	0 893 980	5 124 376	3 274	1 199 425	—	—	97 914
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	760	—	50 139 772
Coco-nuts No.	—	—	1 220 066	3 463 85	—	—	15 318 461	—	26 128	—	—	—
Coffee Lbs.	—	—	475 539	—	—	—	4 833 568	—	—	—	—	1 751
Copra Lbs.	—	—	210 324	101 469	—	—	—	—	5 931	—	—	2 436 072
Cotton, M. Galanté Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	317 352	—	—	—	—	—	32 218
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	77 700	121 610	—	—	—	—	45 450	254 619	—	255 676	216 335	7 943
Cotton Seed Tons	—	—	—	—	—	100	—	184	—	619	—	—
Diamonds Carats	—	—	8 652	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dreawoods Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	59 261	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 767 930	—	—	—	—	—
Gold Ozs.	—	—	29 613	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs. & brls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honey Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime Juice raw Galls.	118	—	—	—	—	—	121 443 gts	—	45 588	—	—	1 108
... comed.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 120	—	—	5 686
... Oil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 316	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) ... Lbs.	—	—	45 340	—	—	—	—	—	3009	—	—	—
Logwood Tons	—	—	—	7 128	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lumber Feet	—	—	292 046	—	—	—	—	—	590	—	—	—
Mahogany	—	—	—	4 630 092	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak Tons	—	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	117 4
Molasses galls.	207 500	3 421 760	—	—	—	—	—	12 639	77 205	199 400	11 833	405 087
Oranges No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 782 300	—	—	—	—	—
Oils, Essential ... Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum ... Oails.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	496	—	—	—
Pimento Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 478 050	—	—	—	—	—
Rice Lbs.	—	—	3 218 937	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber Lbs.	—	—	12 378	2 617	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39 975
Rum Galls.	—	75 611	5 218 937	1 794	—	—	—	—	17 499	—	7 045	504 955
Shingles No.	—	—	1 790 150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar Tons	14 055	47 553	56 611	305	—	10 283	1 471 197	—	—	—	—	55 872 4
Timber Feet	—	—	120 792	321 785	—	—	24 209	380	—	14 898	435	41 152

*** To Aug. 31 * To Sept. 30th. † To Oct. 15th. ** To Sept. 2nd.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams: "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.

November 29th, 1916.

BANK RATE stands at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. Old War Loan ($3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) stands at 83 $\frac{1}{2}$, New War Loan ($4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) at 95 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Consols at 55 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SUGAR. The question of the 1916-17 world's supply of sugar in relation to the demand is coming prominently forward. According to Messrs. Willett and Gray, the excess of production over that of 1915-16 will be 938,683 tons, with the exception of a few thousand tons, all cane sugar. This surplus will, therefore, be entirely available for the world's supply. The 1915-1916 supply began with stocks low, but slightly higher than the stocks which obtained on the 1st September, 1916. The increase of consumption due to increase of population is in normal times 4 per cent., representing 660,000 tons, and allowing the balance of the excess of production as providing for the difference in the amount of initial stocks, the world's supply of sugar should bear the same relation to the demand in 1916-17 as it did in 1915-16. And as high prices have had no effect in reducing per caput consumption in any part of the world—indeed, the effect of the War has led to increased demand—there is no reason to anticipate a lower average price for 1916-17, than has been obtained in 1915-16. There will, of course, be the usual fluctuations consequent on inequality of supply owing to the periods of reaping the larger crops. On the other hand, should there be any failure of moment in the larger crops, such as the approaching Cuba crop, which however, is almost assured, the position will become critical.

The 1914-15 crop was 2,000,000 tons in excess of the 1915-16, and slightly over 1,000,000 tons in excess of the estimated 1916-17 crop. But of this nearly 2,000,000 consisted of the export trade of Germany and Austria, of which the war deprived the outside world. As regards available production, therefore, the 1915-16 crop was practically equal to that of 1914-15. But the latter year had the advantage of the excessively high stocks of the immediate pre-war period, and was thus in a better position as to supply than 1915-16. Although, therefore, the available 1916-17 crop promises to be nearly 1,000,000 in excess of the 1915-16 crop, there is no evidence that the demand of the world outside the enemy countries is being overtaken by the supply.

There is not the slightest doubt that the war has stimulated consumption. It has reduced the consumption of alcohol, which leads to increased sugar consumption; it has brought about an increased circulation of money among the working classes of almost all countries, who are not only placed in a better position to procure sugar in the form of luxuries, but also to satisfy their craving for sugar as a source of energy. Some time ago it was recognised that Russia's consumption of sugar was increasing enormously; now Dr. Prinsen Geerligs says in the *Louisiana Planter*, that the scarcity of sugar in Holland immediately prior to the beginning of the present crop of that country, was due to the unexpected higher consumption of sugar. The Dutch crop is in excess of the Dutch consumption, and the Government had fixed the amount of the export for the year 1915-16 on the usual consumption figures; but the consumption increased 10 per cent., with the result that stocks fell to almost vanishing point.

The production in France for the year ending September 1st was only 185,899 tons, as against 302,961 tons for the preceding year. Imports amounted to 532,721 tons, as against 366,861 tons. The exports were 137,008 tons, as against 96,987 tons. The consumption was 565,014 tons, as against 638,674 tons last year. It will be noticed that exports were to the consumption in the proportion of 1 to 4.8, which is high, considering the times. Indeed, although we do not grudge our Allies sugar for their personal needs, it seems an anomalous thing that our Government should have supplied largely-exporting France with our Mauritius crop, when the consumers in this country are clamouring for sugar.

News from Cuba is not in the direction of the ripening season setting in. Rains still continued, and the crop, in consequence, like that of 1915, promises to be a late one, although manufacturers are keen to start sugar-making as early as possible. Mr. Himely anticipates a scarcity of labour for the crop reaping, as, although mechanical preparation has been made for dealing with the large quantity of canes anticipated, little has been done in the direction of encouraging immigration.

Messrs. Willett & Gray state that preparations are being made in Russia for the importation of American and Java sugars. The imports will be made by the Ministry of Trade in conjunction with the Petrograd Bourse Committee on a systematised basis. Prisoners of war will also be utilised for work in sugar factories and refineries. The factories last crop turned out 1,883,766 tons of crude and 239,963 tons of refined, as against 1,523,983 tons of crude and 108,786 tons of refined in 1914-15.

Referring to the United States beet crop, *Facts about Sugar* mentions the difficulty of distribution owing to transport troubles. There appears to be a serious want of freight cars on the railways, not only for sugar, but also for other commodities. To such an extent does this prevail that our contemporary considers that, but for the beet crop, consumers in the central and western territories would have had to go without sugar altogether. Here is another far-reaching effect of the War.

The same organ also brings out the point that, as the Underwood Tariff contains a clause providing for countervailing duties in the case of dutiable articles, the United States Customs can countervail direct or indirect bounties on sugar imported so long as sugar is a dutiable article in the Tariff.

Complaints on the part of the public as to the retail trade in sugar continue with unabated force, and with a great deal of justification. A greengrocer at Leeds created a purchasing crowd, which had to be controlled by the police, by advertising sugar at 8d. per lb. He was soon sold out; but the incident shows how keen the public is to obtain sugar at any cost. It also shows that there is something wrong in the system of distribution. It is a main feature of the regulations of the Sugar Commission that sugar shall only be supplied to those wholesale and retail dealers that sold sugar during 1915, and in the proportion of their customary dealings. It is difficult, therefore, to understand how a greengrocer, whose shop is normally innocent of sugar, would be in a position to sell a considerable quantity of it. In the meantime Mr. Ruicman is conferring with the Sugar Using Trades as to the reduction of output of confectionery.

No changes have been made in sugar prices by the Royal Commission, except in the case of white Javas, which have been brought to a fixed price of 41/7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cubes stand at 47/1 $\frac{1}{2}$, standard granulated at 41/7 $\frac{1}{2}$, white Java at 41/7 $\frac{1}{2}$, West Indian crystallised at 41/7 $\frac{1}{2}$ for average qualities, with molasses grocery sugars at 1/- below this figure.

The total importations of sugar into the United Kingdom for the current year up to November 18th were 1,382,609 tons, of which 1,013,074 tons were raw and 369,735 tons refined. These figures compare with 1,359,407 tons to the nearest date in 1915, of which 912,977 tons were raw and 446,430 tons refined.

The West Indian statistics from January 1st to November 18th are:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports	52,196	50,822	28,577	35,991	23,310
Deliveries	53,680	44,243	35,196	26,729	27,501
Stock (Nov. 18)	9,621	12,588	6,333	11,102	2,000

The New York market, as we pointed out in the last Summary might be expected, has shown weakness. Our last quotation for 96° duty paid was \$6.39, but on the 21st the price fell to \$6.27, on the 23rd to \$6.02, and continued to decline until \$5.64 was reached on the 29th. To-day the value is \$5.64. Granulated has remained firm at \$7.65.

RUM. Proof varieties landed before August 19th are in good demand at steady rates, and sales of good Jamaica under the same conditions have been made at rather easier rates.

The extent to which the high prices have attracted foreign rums to this country is demonstrated by the con-

parative figures for the last five years. These show that from 533,000 proof gallons in 1911, our imports of Cubas rose to 2,834,000 proof gallons in 1915. Stocks of rum must be built up to meet the future requirements of the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act; but it is a question whether it would not be a wise move to close the door temporarily at any rate, on foreign spirits, and so release tonnage for foodstuffs.

In our last Summary the price at which sales of spot Demerara had been effected should have been 4/-, the 3/2 only referring to rum sold to arrive.

The stocks in London on November 18th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica	10,702	6,171	7,695	6,857	8,051 Puns.
Demerara	11,346	4,835	6,077	5,872	5,574 ..
Total, all kinds ...	36,742	22,572	20,394	20,175	22,440 ..

CACAO. The market remains very quiet. At auction yesterday, 5,461 bags were offered, but there was little bidding, the bulk of the supply being bought in. Two bags Trinidad sold at 81/- to 83/-, two bags of Grenada at 70/6, one bag of Dominica at 64/-, and 26 bags of Jamaica at 67/- to 70/-.

The probable curtailing by the Sugar Commission of the supply of sugar to chocolate and cacao manufacturers, as the result of the outcry on the part of the public against the lavish manufacture and sale of this type of confectionery whilst sugar as such is often unobtainable, is sure to have a further weakening effect on the cacao market.

The stocks in London on November 18th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad	19,999	9,555	8,140	11,218	6,540 Bags
Grenada	12,254	1,706	3,742	2,316	1,187 ..
Total, all kinds ...	209,471	106,988	77,309	73,652	76,691 ..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland have no business to report in West Indian Sea Island, but quotations are raised 2d. per lb. in sympathy with other growths.

The imports of West Indian up to 24th inst. amounted to 4,554 bales.

COFFEE. Market quiet, but steady, with fair demand. Good ordinary palish Jamaica may be quoted at 63/- to 64/- per cwt.

RUBBER. The whole market is firmer, with few sellers, and a very good enquiry for all positions. Fine plantation is quoted at 2/9/-, smoked sheet at 2/9/-, fine hard Para at 3/4, and soft at 3/1.

BALATA. Venezuelan block is slightly lower at 2/9½ c.i.f. Pauama block is quoted at 2/3½ nominal. West India sheet at 3/5 to 3/6 spot; forward nominal at 3/3.

COPRA. Market firm. Sales have been recently made at £40 to £40 5s. less 2s. per cent. discount. Present value £41.

HONEY. There has been an improved demand, with auction sales showing 1/- to 3/- per cwt. advance. 350 puncheons Jamaica sold at 37/- to 50/-, and 200 cases St. Lucia at 37/- to 37/6. Further improvement in values may be expected.

FRUIT. There has been no change in bananas or oranges, which remain in good demand. Jamaica bananas may be quoted at £17 per ton (truck loads), and Jamaica oranges at 16/- to 17/- per case (mixed counts). Jamaica coco-nuts are quoted at 25/- per bag (100's).

SPICES. **Ginger.** Jamaica is in rather better demand, and small sales have been effected at 85/- to 105/- for small middling to bold bright. **Pimento.** The firmer tendency of the market has been maintained, with sales at 3½d. to 3½d. per lb. Importers are holding for higher prices. **Mace and Nutmegs:** Steady at last rates.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Distilled quiet, with sellers at 9/-, but with very little enquiry. Handpressed firm, with higher prices asked on the small available supplies. **Lime Juice.** Raw lower. With heavy arrivals, Jamaica and Dominica are offering at 2/6 for good quality. No change in concentrated. **Citrate** Buyers at £27.

ARROWROOT. There has been rather more enquiry for lower descriptions, owing to the increasing cost of kindred commodities. Sales are reported of about 800 barrels (in first hands) at 2½d. to 3½d. The market is now very bare of low-priced quality.

PETROLEUM OIL American 1/1½; water white 1/2½.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

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Mr. J. R. Bancroft	Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. Hugh McLelland
Mr. G. S. Browne	Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. Albert Mendes
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 Mr. F. Driver, 41, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
 Captain I. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.
 Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 8	Elders & Fyffes	Camilo	Bristol	D.
.. 9	Harrison	Discoverer	Liverpool	A, E.
.. 13	" Direct "	Crown of Granada	Glasgow	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N.
.. 13	" Direct "	Savan	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N.
.. 14	Booker	Arakaka	Liverpool	D.
.. 22	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	B.

FROM HOLLAND.

Date.	Line.	Steamer	Port of Dep.	Destination
Dec. 29	Royal Dutch	Prins Willem I.	Amsterdam	B, E.

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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices Nov 30
4 %	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3½ %	Barbados 3½ % Redeemable 1925-42	70½
4 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	85½
3 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74½
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1914	82½
3½ %	Jamaica 3½ % Redeemable 1919-49	71½
3 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63½
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82½
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81½
3 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62½
3½ %	The Colonial Bank	58
6 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	119½
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82
4½ %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures	88½
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	88½
4½ %	Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures	103½
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	102½
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co 6 % Debentures	46
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd (£1 shares)	149
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	—
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	20-25½
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	97-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	67-70
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
2½ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	20½
6½ %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6½ % Cum. 1st Pref.	74
6 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	6
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	95

The . . .

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December 13th, 1916.

THE WEST INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have been informed by cable that the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies is to be held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, between February 23rd and March 4th next. The circumstances under which this organisation came into being need only be recapitulated very briefly, for they will already be familiar to most readers of the CIRCULAR. Following the eighth Agricultural Conference, which he attended as delegate of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, MR. E. R. DAVSON, in his report, advocated the formation of a central Chamber of Commerce on the grounds that the commercial interests of the British West Indies called for just as much united action as agriculture did. The matter was taken up by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and a definite scheme was submitted to the various Colonies, which were not slow to express their interest in it. In the winter prior to the outbreak of war, MR. DAVSON made a tour of the islands and expounded the details of the proposals, with the result that they were in principle generally accepted. The War delayed matters for some time; but in June last a meeting was held in Trinidad, and the necessary machinery was set up. MR. EDGAR TRIPP was appointed Secretary of the Associated Chamber. With characteristic energy this gentleman recently visited all the islands interested, and as the outcome the fixture for early next year has been settled by common agreement, St. Vincent alone finding it impossible to be represented at that date. It is a matter for great regret that

Jamaica has not as yet seen its way to participate in the new movement, and, as far as we know, the Bahamas—some of whose residents still consider that they are outside the West Indies—have not been approached in the matter. The War, however, has brought many changes. Every day makes it more and more apparent that the old ideas of insularity which were so painfully prominent in this country must be scrapped, and we trust and believe that it will be the same in the West Indies. In consolidating these Colonies the War will, we are convinced, prove an important factor. Each unit has contributed its quota of men to the British West Indies Regiment, and where the people are thus united by a common bond—that of protecting our King and Empire—it would be deplorable if the agricultural and commercial communities were to continue to maintain the attitude of aloofness and suspicion of their neighbours which has, in many cases, characterised them in the past. Those who have attended the Conferences organised by the Imperial Department of Agriculture will admit that the interchange of views on agricultural matters have proved of immense value, and it is probable that the meetings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce for the West Indies will be no less productive of good results from a commercial standpoint. Questions of tariffs, trade after the War, steamship communications, etc., can be discussed, and the British West Indies, when the adhesion of Jamaica and the Bahamas has been secured, will thenceforward be able to speak with an absolutely united voice at the meetings of the Imperial Chambers of Commerce. Union is strength, and we are not without hope that the Associated Chambers will go far towards making the Colonies in which we are interested a really United West Indies.

THE BARBADOS RAILWAY.

THE British West Indies have not hitherto been very fortunate in respect of railway enterprise, and Jamaica—whose line dates from 1843, the first year of the "railway mania" in this country—and Barbados, whose railway was first opened in 1882, in particular have suffered from blunders of design and management in the past, involving expenditure of capital out of all proportion to the benefits conferred on the communities. Of the railways of the British West Indies, those of Jamaica, British Honduras, and Trinidad have been under Government control, and to these has now to be added the Barbados line, whose vicissitudes are dealt with on another page. As we were able to announce in last issue, the entire undertaking of the Barbados Light Railway has been purchased by the Barbados Government for a sum of £20,000. In the light of the capital sunk in the enterprise, Barbados must con-

gratulate itself upon having secured a good bargain; but it must, on the other hand, be recalled that the line was recently condemned as unsafe for passenger traffic, and it is certain that large sums will have to be spent upon it to bring it into anything like a sound state, and further, that to make it a business proposition an extension will undoubtedly be necessary. At present the line, of which the total length is only 24 miles, crosses the island from Bridgetown to the east, passing through some of the finest sugar estates in the island. Then, however, it turns to the north along the unprofitable—except from a tourist and picturesque point of view—windward coast, reaching a dead end in St. Andrew's Parish. The recent owners contemplated an extension up the west coast for about eight miles, and then, after turning inland for a short distance, passing by Speightstown, and eventually reaching a terminus in St. Lucy's Parish. Financial considerations, however, prevented the Directors from carrying out the scheme, and it must be admitted that every year since the advent of the motor-car, for which the coral roads of Barbados are ideally suited, has made the prospect of its fruition more remote. In a tropical island it is infinitely more pleasant to travel by car than in a railway train, and in spite of the redundant population of the island, it is unlikely that the Barbados Railway will ever become a paying proposition through its passenger traffic—though the popular moonlight excursions, if revived, will no doubt be deservedly well patronised. It is to the goods and produce traffic that it will have to look, and the closing of the line would have been a misfortune for those large sugar estates in Christ Church and St. Philip which depend upon it for getting their produce to town. But these estates are favourably situated. The roads of the island, as we have said, are admirable, and in the sugar-cane world motor-lorries are being increasingly used. There need therefore be no fear of those unduly heavy rates of carriage which have been a cause for complaint by those estates that are compelled to send their produce by the railway in Demerara.

By virtue of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, only British subjects and British firms are eligible for membership of the West India Committee. Any member may propose or second candidates for election, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. During the year to date, 94 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	17	Antigua	2
British Guiana	7	Bahamas	1
Grenada	6	Bermuda	1
Jamaica	6	British Honduras	1
St. Kitts	6	Natal	1
Dominica	5	New York	1
Tobago	5	Nigeria	1
Barbados	4	London	11
Canada	4	Country	15

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

A New Director for the War.

The outside world is unable to understand why the fallen Prime Minister has been in power so long. But the people of this country were wiser than their mentors. True, Mr. Asquith and his colleagues were so blind that they allowed us to drift into war unprepared, and were, therefore, plainly unfitted to conduct a war unprecedented for magnitude. But, after all, they represented England up to August, 1914, and the transformation of the nation was such a gradual process that well into 1915 our determination to win the war was tempered by the determination to run "business as usual." Then the shock of the munition scandal and Russia's defeat on the Dunaiec aroused enough of our people to demand a National Government. Instead, we got the Coalition Government, which perpetuated all the faults of the Asquith Ministry without any compensating advantages. For large sections of the community still believed that we could play our part in the War under the limited liability system. Germany was to be starved into surrender by the lack of men, munitions, food, or money—or all four. But eighteen months have passed, and, while Germany stands up to us as strong and as defiant as ever, our hopes of victory have receded as disillusionment has followed disillusionment. England, as a whole, has awakened. There are not now two Englands, between which the Asquith Ministry was a bridge; but one England, purified by the fires of suffering and sacrifice. Having served its purpose, the bridge has been broken.

To have put strong men at the head of affairs earlier would have produced greater evils than those which troubled us by the nervelessness of the Coalition. For the country would not have been united in the measures such men would have introduced, and, in the meantime, it felt able to drag a moribund Parliament and a timid Government along with it as far as it felt it could go. With Germany applying compulsion to the civilian population, and pushing her schemes on land and sea, there is general recognition that it is only by creating a stronger machine than the enemy machine in process of construction to destroy us, we shall break it. To do that, we must have leaders who represent the new England disciplined and regenerated by being beaten on the anvil of destiny by the German hammer; men swift in decision, resolute in action, and wise in judgment; men united by a common purpose, a common inspiration and a common strength of will. That is the meaning of the recent Cabinet crisis.

The Fall of Bucharest.

Hindenburg has not been long in making himself in the East. Roumania has been invaded and overrun in 1916 as Serbia was in 1915. Mackensen crossed the Danube in co-operation with Falkenhayn, advancing from the Passes, and they have carried out the drive in Wallachia as rapidly and successfully as all the other German drives in

the War. The thing is, will this brilliant achievement end no more decisively for the enemy than the march on Paris, on Calais, on the Dunajec, and the Yser? History says, No. That is not to suggest that the loss of an Allied capital is of no great significance. But there are redeeming features in the situation. Unhappily, they will not relieve the tragic circumstances of Roumania immediately. Her fairest and richest territories, together with the oilfields, are occupied by the invader, who is safe to commandeer all her food supplies within his reach, and to enslave the population. But Roumania is not isolated or abandoned, as Serbia was, since behind her is the Russian Army. That it did not save her is mainly due to the enormous distances on the Eastern front and the poverty of good railway communications for facilitating the appearance of the Russian reserves at the critical moment. Evidently the Roumanians counted on effective help from their powerful Ally, or they would not have made a stand on the Argesu to save Bucharest, but would have retreated in the same good order as that which has distinguished their retreat in the West. But such Russian reinforcements as did arrive were too late to avert defeat and losses in prisoners and material. As a whole, the retirement of the Roumanians has been less costly than any other in the War, so that, while the enemy has shortened his line by 300 miles, he has not destroyed any considerable part of the Roumanian Army.

A Stand on the Heights.

In the Southern Carpathians the stubborn fighting which forced Falkenhayn to choose the most circuitous line of operations through the Passes, and saved the forces in Western Wallachia from being lost, gained further time for the Russians to develop their strength on the Moldavian front, which remains of high importance. By holding it, not only do they secure the communications of the retiring armies in Wallachia, but a means of operating against Mackensen's armies, which cannot hope to make a rapid advance towards Moldavia as long as the Russian left wing maintains an effective resistance against enemy flanking attacks. Owing to the extraordinary difficulty of proceeding further into Roumania, it is possible that the Germans may entrench on the Buzen line, where the latest news reports a check to their advance, and once more turn their attention to the Balkans. For the Bulgarians have been heavily reinforced in the Monastir region east of the Cerna. Of late, activity in Macedonia has been more in the nature of consolidation of ground gained, and of aerial attacks, than of heavy fighting. But violent assaults on the Serbian positions twenty miles north-east of Monastir, which are repulsed by our Allies, now figure in official communiqués. But this new vigour on the part of the Bulgarians may be the preliminary to a big offensive led by one of the German Generals whose strategy has enabled them to converge so swiftly on Bucharest. It should be noted that Falkenhayn has left the Roumanian front.

In Greece.

Allied diplomacy in Athens has twice involved

this country in humiliation: (1) When Greece was offered the island of Cyprus if she joined the Grand Alliance in the War; (2) when the French and British Marines were marched out of the city under a Greek guard. Apparently the rabble, encouraged by the King's party, set upon the troops of the Entente and the supporters of M. Venizelos, committing horrible excesses on individuals, the aged Mayor of Athens particularly. But if the Royal Marines had not been restrained by orders, they would soon have cut their way through, and saved themselves from unnecessary ignominy. But this crowning outrage stiffened the back of Allied diplomacy, which has at last struck at Greece where she is most vulnerable by proclaiming a blockade. But, like so many other moves of the Allies, it comes too late. Nothing can save the situation now but the elimination of King Constantine, when the Government of Greece can be put into commission. As Sir Edward Carson said a year ago, that slippery person would only yield to force. Not only should it have been applied by the Navy, which would soon have starved Greece into submission, but by 300,000 troops in Salonika instead of 30,000. If drastic measures are not soon taken, the Salonika army will have Greek forces in its rear, and the Germans, flushed with victory, in front of it.

Air Raids.

On November 22nd a number of German airships raided the Northern Counties and Midlands, but did little damage and caused few casualties. The enemy, in relating imaginary stories of the ruin he had wrought on munition factories, admitted that our air defences were highly efficient. This was rather obvious, seeing that two of the invading Zeppelins were brought down—one off the Durham coast and one off Norfolk. Later on the same day London was visited by a German aeroplane, which dropped bombs on a part where there are few "military factories," with the usual insignificant results. In the afternoon the raider was brought down by the French near Dunkirk.

Since July last there have been eleven raids, causing the death of about 100 people. During the same period the enemy has lost six modern airships and all the crews of five. The facts speak for themselves.

East Africa.

Whilst the rainy season has prevented extended operations in this theatre of the War, our troops have succeeded in rounding up large detachments of the enemy. German officers as well as native levies are showing some readiness to surrender. There is, then, some prospect that when the weather improves it may be unnecessary to carry out the final drive.

(To be continued.)

"The Cane Sugar Factory" may be obtained of the West India Committee at the nominal price of 1/-, or 1/3 post free.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT.

As already recorded in these columns, a deputation organised by the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute waited on Mr. Bonar Law at the Colonial Office on November 3rd to urge the appointment of a Committee or Commission to inquire into the conditions of trade, the development of natural resources, and the improvement of labour supply, transportation, and intercommunication services of such Colonies, with a view to making the Empire more self-supporting.

Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., introduced the deputation, which comprised representatives of all the societies or associations closely connected with the British Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible government, including the West India Committee, the Ceylon Association, the Nigerian Chamber of Mines, the Rubber Growers' Association, the Malay States Development Agency, and representatives of the Straits Settlements and the Royal Colonial Institute. The deputation had, he said, its origin in a series of resolutions passed at a meeting in British Guiana, and he urged that what was being done by the Dominions Royal Commission in investigating the resources of the self-governing Dominions should also be done for the smaller colonies.

Mr. Ben Morgan, Chairman of the Trade and Industry Committee, who followed, referred to the extent to which the Germans had secured the control of trade in the Colonies.

Germany had realised fully what we apparently had not, that the more industrial development took place in the countries lying in the temperate zones, the more valuable would become the exchange of commodities with tropical countries, the one offering raw materials and products in exchange for manufactured articles. In 1893 enemy countries bought and sold in the West Indies to the extent of £202,000, and this increased to £701,000 in 1913. The trade of those Colonies was largely dominated by the United States. Enemy trade with Ceylon grew from £197,000 in 1893 to £2,081,000 in 1913; Straits Settlements, £977,000 in 1893 to £3,786,000 in 1913; West African Colonies, £550,000 in 1893 and £6,394,000 in 1913; East Africa, £76,000 in 1903 and £975,000 in 1913.

Again, in 1903 foreign shipping entering Ceylon totalled 3,208,717 tons, and increased in 1913 to 5,829,709 tons. This increase in carrying trade was principally to the Far East, and not Australia. In the East African and South African trades foreign countries increased their tonnage from 2,465,853 to 3,961,868 tons. In West Africa the increase was very striking—1,634,007 tons in 1903 to 3,091,861 tons in 1913. Foreign shipping with the West Indies grew from 3,385,305 to 6,853,460 tons, or nearly double in ten years. Excepting the West Indies, these figures mostly related to German and Austrian progress.

Mr. E. R. Davson said that although several Committees and Commissions had investigated the conditions of trade, etc., in the West Indies in recent years, there were, nevertheless, problems of great importance which were filling the minds of West Indians at the present time, and which would fill them even to a greater extent at the conclusion of the War. First, in regard to trade, the minds of the West Indian Colonies were, he thought, fully made up. They felt that the time had come when they should receive some reciprocity for the preferential treatment which they had now given for some years to the Mother Country. Then, again, there was the question of trading with enemy countries. In the past a portion of the products of the West Indies had gone to the Central Powers, and through them to the neutral and also to the allied nations. And although the West Indies in the

future had to wish to deal with our present enemies, it would be a very serious thing for them, if they were cut off from supplying neutral markets and allied markets, such as Russia. Then there was the question of steamship intercommunication and transport. As they probably knew, the Royal Mail Co. had to give up its contract with the West Indies because of the War, and it was hoped when the War ended more normal conditions would return. But with the opening of the Panama Canal, and also with the desire of the West Indians that they should not admit enemy shipping into their ports on the same terms as British shipping, it was thought the present was a very good time to consider the whole question of shipping within the West Indies, in which there was much overlapping at present.

Then there was the question of population and labour. The question of Indian emigration was being considered by the Colonial Office, and also by the India Office, and they were content to leave it there; but in addition to that there was the question of settling population on the undeveloped lands of the West Indies, and also the possibility of exchange of population between those islands which had a surplus and those which had a deficiency, and also the attempt to prevent the exodus of labourers from the West Indies, which in some parts was taking place to an unnecessary extent.

With regard to the resources of the West Indies, the first of those to which they looked was that of sugar, regarding which Mr. Sandbach Parker would, no doubt, speak. There was also the question of oil, which we knew by this War was one of great importance. A Committee could with advantage enquire into the oil resources of the Empire. If we were less dependent in the future on supplies from foreign countries it would be of vast benefit. Finally, there was the question of the development of British Guiana, which had been a problem for many years past, and which seemed to be no nearer to solution than it was at the beginning. One could hardly expect the Committee to go into this in detail and produce estimates of building railways and so forth; but it might view the development of the hinterland of British Guiana in a broad sense, and compare that with the development of other Colonies which had the same problem before them.

Mr. Sandbach Parker then said that as he had been asked to speak as the Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation it would be unnecessary for him to enter at length into the question of sugar, as he had the privilege recently of laying before Mr. Bonar Law, in a deputation led by Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, the proposals of the Organisation for development of the industry within the Empire. He would, however, like to emphasise the fact that before the War we imported 90 per cent. of our requirements in this country from foreign countries, 66 per cent. of which, or 1,300,000 tons, came from enemy countries. They desired to see that produced in the British Empire, and if a Commission such as was proposed were appointed to consider the development of the resources of the Crown Colonies, naturally a question of this kind would be one of the most important questions that they would have to consider, because of the large proportion of sugar which can be produced in the Colonies not possessing responsible Government.

One of the functions of a Commission of this kind should be not only to enquire into the resources and the development of the resources of the Crown Colonies, so as to bring about some co-ordinated policy among them, but also to exercise a wise discretion as to the development of those resources, and to recommend prudent and wise procedure in that respect. Because whenever a great change, such as would come about after this War, took place, there was a natural proclivity to branch out very much into fresh enterprises and possibly without sufficient consideration. Therefore if a strong Commission of this kind could be appointed which could deal with the requirements and with the available resources, and the resources which there were to be developed in the Crown Colonies, he ventured to think that it would very materially assist the interests not only of the Crown Colonies in co-ordinating their policy, but also the Empire.

Mr. Joseph Rippon, in dealing with telegraph communications, stated briefly on behalf of the Committee



THE HOUSE OF FLETCHER
MEMBERS OF THE PRE-WAR DERBY STAFF.

Mr. Howard Marsh,
Chairman and London Director.

The late Mr. George Fletcher, Sr.,
Founder.

The late Mr. George Fletcher, Jr.

Mr. R. G. Fletcher Finney,
Managing Director, Derby.



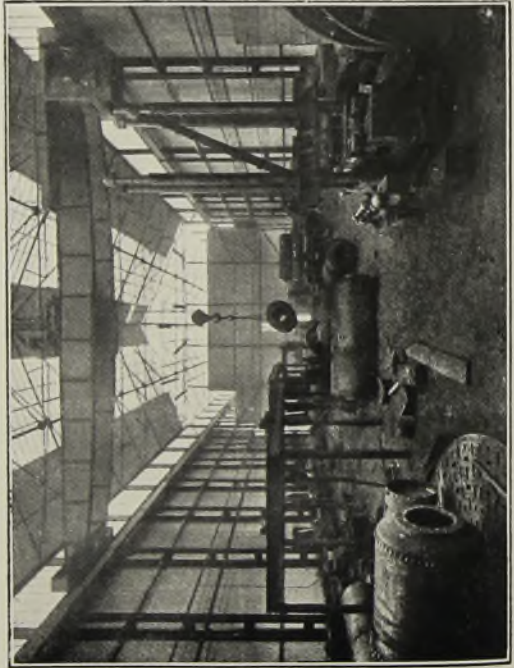
DRAWING OFFICE No. 2.



CANTEEN.



DRAWING OFFICE, No. 1.



ERECTING SHOP.

that since recommendations had been made for the creation of lines of communications over British territory some defects in the chain had been repaired, by the reduction of rates to the West Indies, as a result of the Conference at Ottawa in 1912, and in various other ways. There were, however two or three deficiencies which, if steps were taken to overcome them, would prove of great utility and make the chain fairly complete.

Mr. Bonar Law's Reply.

Mr. Bonar Law, in reply, said:

I know there has been the view held in Government Departments, that, if they are not favourable to any proposal that is put before them on the face of it, that is in itself a sufficient reason for not receiving a deputation such as I have now the pleasure of seeing before me. Well, I do not take that view. I am always glad, so far as it is possible for me from the point of view of time, to see any people who represent such large interests as you do, and at all events to have the knowledge of what your views are, whatever action I may afterwards think it right to take.

Now, gentlemen, I have listened to-day to all these speeches with great interest, but there are two distinct points of view in them all. One is, how are these Colonies to be best developed in the interests not only of the Colonies but of the British Empire—that is a point on which we all agree—and the other is recommending a Commission, something, I presume, in the nature of the Dominions Royal Commission, with the hope that that would further the objects we have in view.

Now, as regards the first, I listened, for instance, to the speech of Mr. Morgan with interest and with agreement; it was very similar to the kind of speech which, if I had the ability and the knowledge of the facts which he has, I should myself have made at the time to which he referred when a controversy, that we all know about, was taking place.

Gentlemen, you all know that I am a member of a Government which contains people of very different views on that subject before the War broke out. I certainly have not changed my views on any of these questions; on the contrary, I think the lesson of the War has confirmed my opinions very much, and has strengthened the arguments which I used then. But I never forget for a moment that we are a very long way from the end of the struggle in which we are engaged, and to me the first consideration is not even the development of the British Empire; it is the preservation of the British Empire. And while that is so, I have no doubt whatever that it is my duty—and I hope that you, who evidently all share the views which I expressed, will agree with me—our first duty is to consider the effect of anything we do or say upon the object which we have in view, which is winning the war, and keeping the Empire for ourselves in future.

Now, having said that, I wish to say, about the general subject which has been put before me, that my hope is that the lessons of the War have made a great difference in the views of those who held different opinions from me before the War took place; and it is my sincere hope that there is a strong feeling throughout the whole of Great Britain on two subjects, first that our German enemies will never be allowed to use our resources against ourselves in the future in the way that they have done in the past; and, secondly, a feeling that the help we have got from the Empire has changed the whole aspect of the question of preference, and has made everybody in this country ready to consider it not merely from the purely paying point of view, not merely from the profit and loss point of view, but from the higher consideration of what the different parts of the Empire owe to each other, and how much its strength may be increased.

Too Many Committees.

But the real point which we are considering to-day is whether or not such a Commission as you suggest will effect these objects. Well, I have listened to what you have said, and I can only say now to you that I will carefully consider the suggestions you have made. But

I would like to say this. While I was still in Opposition and before I joined this Government, I remember on more than one occasion saying as a criticism against it, "Whenever you have any difficulty you appoint a Committee," and I was not very much in favour of that course, though I am quite sure that the same thing could be said now just as truly as when I said it when I was in Opposition. I think there is a tendency among all of us, if we want something done, to think the way to get it is to appoint some Commission to inquire into it and tell us how to do it.

Reference has been made to the Royal Dominions Commission, which has done very useful work, the value of which I am sure will be found later. I forget how long it was at work before the War broke out; I think it was either two or three years. Its deliberations are not finished yet, and I venture to say this, that with the particular object which you have in view, that is of getting a trade policy for the Empire as a whole, if we appoint a Commission which is going into every one of these Colonies and examining exhaustively (as obviously they must do if they are to help us in the problem you put before us) the conditions of all these Colonies, then, unless the War lasts until a great many of us are more grey-headed than we hope to be, the Commission will not help us in the problem of how trade relations are to be settled when the War ends. I wish you clearly to have that in view.

I wish also to say that the subject has not been left out of sight till now. I quite realise that, though the War is the first consideration, we have got to prepare as well as we can, as well as the time allows, for the end of the War. I have already sent out enquiries to every one of the Colonies asking them themselves to look into these very questions which you have put before me to-day, in order that we may have their views upon them.

All that I will say to you now is that you must not go away with the idea that I am satisfied that this method which you suggest is the best one for getting what we want done. I see many advantages in it. I see, for instance, that one of the things that the people of this country do not at all realise is the enormous extent and importance of the Colonies other than the self-governing Colonies, and if such a Commission were to issue a report which would be studied by and brought home to the people of this country it would be of immense value. I see that quite well.

All that I can say to you, therefore, is that I will consider your suggestion, but that you may be sure that we have in this Office clearly in view the necessity of some definite policy on all these subjects when the War ends, in order that we may, if possible, run the British Empire as one concern.

Sir Owen Philipps having thanked Mr. Bonar Law, the deputation then withdrew.

BAHAMAS TOMATOES

Largely increased quantities of tomatoes are being raised in the Bahamas and exported. It is expected that by the end of the shipping season the total will reach over 60,000 crates. Unfortunately, the market conditions have again militated against a benefit to growers, prices having been very considerably lower than last year, while freight charges considerably increased. Blizzards and severe cold have also interfered with the market, this article being too delicate to be moved under severe weather conditions. The Board of Development has assisted growers to a very much larger extent than last year with seed and crates as well as shipping facilities. The old complaint against packers as to poor packing and careless and rash handling of the fruit is more than ever apparent, and is the cause that this year Nassau fruit is quoted at less than Florida, whereas last year it ranked above.

THE HOUSE OF FLETCHER.

There are few sugar planters in the cane sugar-producing world who are not cognisant of the House of Fletcher, and few countries, whether British or foreign, where sugar is grown and manufactured, which do not afford examples of the universality of the distribution of its machinery, whether it be the small mill which obtained in the early days of the industry, which the march of centralisation and expansion, and, unfortunately, in some instances hard times, had led to be abandoned, and which now remains a bush-overgrown relic of the past, or the modern Central factory equipped with massive multiple mills and fitted with all the engineering details which the progress of cane sugar manufacture has elaborated and the stern necessities of competition compelled.

At the present time, when the industrial development of this country—and, indeed, of the Empire—is occupying such a prominent place in men's minds, the origin and development of the great engineering firm of George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., possesses especial interest, not only on account of the important part which it has played in the cane sugar industry, but also by reason of the vicissitudes it has passed through, and of the indomitable courage and enterprise which not only brought it into existence, but also tided it over the bad times which, in common with the British sugar industry, with which it has been inseparably connected, it had to undergo as the outcome of the flooding of the markets of the United Kingdom, and, indirectly, those of the world, by bounty-fed dumped sugar of our enemy countries.

In the year 1840, over three-quarters of a century ago, a young engineer, Mr. George Fletcher, who had received his training in the historic works of the Butterley Iron Company in Derbyshire, decided to start mill-making on his own account. He had made considerable acquaintance with cane mills, not only in their manufacture, but also in their erection, having made two trips to Cuba for the purpose of erecting machinery. In those days the mills and the boiler power to drive them were practically all the machinery used in sugar-making, the process of conversion of the juice into sugar being conducted on the primitive lines of boiling down to the necessary consistency in the open "tatches," crystallising being done by cooling, and the molasses being drained from the crystals formed. In other words, the muscovado process was that which was employed, the vacuum pan being then only in a process of evolution—a process with which the founder's brother, Mr. John Fletcher, was closely associated, he having taken out many patents in connection therewith.

Mr. Fletcher's early connection with sugar machinery was thus with mills, and it is interesting to note that the excellence to which he attained in that department has been throughout its existence a characteristic feature of the work of the House of Fletcher.

It was as a result of his second visit to Cuba that Mr. George Fletcher conceived the idea of starting on his own account as a maker of sugar

machinery, and the orders which he obtained during this visit were used as a nucleus round which to form a business of his own. His first works were in the south-east of London, and were quite a small affair. Local railway extensions, however, took place, resulting in the original works being bought out, and Mr. Fletcher then acquired larger premises on the other side of the river in the East-end. Here business was carried on until 1860, when another railway project compelled a second removal of the business. The founder then decided—having presumably by this time had sufficient experience of being turned out by railways—to settle on his own freehold on a main line, and with this in view, a site of some eight acres was purchased in the suburbs of Derby in actual contact with the Midland Railway. In selecting Derby, Mr. George Fletcher gave another example of his business acumen. Not only were there the lines of three railway companies available for distributing purposes to the shipping ports of London, Liverpool, and Southampton, but the country around abounded in coal and iron ore, the latter of a quality which produced a pig-iron which, when suitably blended, is especially suited to the manufacture of the rolls of cane-mills, in which, as sugar-makers know, the character of the roll surface is an important factor in producing good or bad work.

Under the new conditions, the business continued to grow at a great pace, until at the death of the proprietor in 1874 the works already covered several acres. The business then passed into the hands of the founder's son, Mr. George Fletcher, Jun., who, pursuing the progressive policy of his father, still further added to the works, thus not only enabling ordinary business expansion, but also placing the factory in a position to undertake orders for sugar machinery of any magnitude required. It is interesting to note that some of the first power travelling cranes ever made in this country were designed by this firm for the equipment of the Derby Works, and they were so successful that the Midland Railway Company ordered a considerable number, which, indeed, are still in use, modified by adaptation to electric driving.

For twenty-three years Mr. George Fletcher carried on the business, until, indeed, his death in 1897. Although for the greater part of this period the British Colonial sugar industry—and, in fact, the whole of the world's cane sugar industry—was under the cloud of depression resulting from the Continental bounty and protection system especially directed towards the destruction of our Colonial sugar industry by Germany and Austria, he kept the house-flag flying by extending the works and maintaining the old high reputation for the quality of the work turned out. He acquired the neighbouring Atlas Works, on which he built a successful foundry for supplying his wants in the direction of castings. A further venture in the year 1887 in the direction of the manufacture of steel, which was then beginning to take the place of cast-iron previously used for the gearing of sugar mills, was not, however, a success, and had to be abandoned; but the trouble was got over by an alliance with a firm of steel manufacturers—an association which still exists—by means of which

Messrs. Fletcher & Company are able to maintain their reputation for high quality of mill work.

The death of Mr. George Fletcher the younger brought about a position of things which was far from being in the best interests of the concern. On account of some of the beneficiaries under his will being minors, it became necessary for the estate to be placed in the hands of the Court of Chancery. Here the business remained until 1909, and it can be readily understood, without casting any slur on that admirable if somewhat archaic institution, that it was not possible to do anything else but keep the business going as well as the position would allow.

The year 1909, however, marked the commencement of a new era in the history of the House of Fletcher. Arrangements were made whereby the concern was formed into a Limited Liability Company under the name of George Fletcher & Company, Ltd., the shares of which were held by descendants of the original proprietor, and removed from the shadow of the Court of Chancery. The active Directors of the Company are Mr. Howard Marsh, who had married a daughter of Mr. George Fletcher, Jun., who is also Chairman of the Company, and Mr. R. G. Fletcher Finney, a grandson of the founder. Mr. Marsh, who is well known at home and abroad for his courtly kindness and business insight, has for his immediate objective the London office of the firm, while to Mr. Finney, who is emphatically a Fletcher, and a worthy descendant of the masterly founder, was entrusted the direction of the works.

Much had to be done. The progress of engineering, especially in the direction of machine tools, had made enormous strides during the recent years, and it was necessary to bring the factory up-to-date and in line with the old traditions of the firm, although from the continual pressure of the gigantic Continental sugar production the outlook for cane sugar was not a particularly rosy one. But Mr. Finney, acting with foresight and courage, obtained the consent of the Board to an active progressive policy. As the result of this, an almost complete internal reconstruction took place in the workshops. Old machines were thrown out and replaced by the best modern equipment, with a view to the most speedy and accurate production it was possible to attain.

But the improvements did not stop at the restoration of the efficiency of the existing shops. Further extensions were made, and a large new erecting shop covering an area of 18,000 square feet was erected and equipped with the best modern travelling crane plant. Here the largest multiple mill plant can be erected—and not only erected, but put under steam, boiler power being provided for the purpose. A further important extension has been the construction, during the last two years, of a large foundry for the production of malleable cast iron, the value of which for many purposes where ordinary grey iron has been customarily used is very great, and becoming universally recognised.

In connection with the driving power of the works, a drastic change was introduced by Mr. Finney. The Corporation of Derby being in a posi-

tion to supply electric power, all steam-driven and gas-engines of every description were done away with, and electric motors substituted—an enormous advantage when the complexity of the calls for power and the distances of travel are considered. So great is this demand for power in Messrs. Fletcher's works that of all the manufacturers in and around Derby drawing their supply of power from the Corporation, only the Rolls-Royce Company, the very large and well-known motor-car manufacturers, make a larger call upon the Corporation in this respect.

While the machinery part of the works has thus been thoroughly brought up-to-date, the drawing and other offices have also been remodelled and systematised on modern lines.

The occupation of the Board with the work of an extension did not cause them to overlook the interests of the firm's employees and its traditions in this respect. Commodious mess-rooms have been built and equipped with every facility for meals, the running cost being defrayed entirely by the Company. In these it is possible for an excellent dinner to be obtained for the small charge of 6d. per head.

Acting upon their well-known traditions, Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., leave no stone unturned to keep themselves in touch with the cane sugar world. One of the Directors is constantly travelling in sugar-producing countries, not only for the purpose of obtaining orders, but also with the object of keeping in touch with the manufacturing progress of the industry—a function also carried out by Mr. James Peet, the well-known West Indian engineer, who also occupies an important position in the Derby works. In addition, the Company have resident representatives in all the principal sugar-producing countries.

In the illustrations attached to this article, the likenesses of the two George Fletchers—the founder and his son—are seen as insets, together with those of Mr. Howard Marsh and Mr. R. G. Fletcher Finney. The group represents the pre-war staff of the Company in Derby, of whom many have gone to the Front. Some have lost their lives fighting for their King and Country.

In common with other large engineering firms, Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., have been doing their full share of munition work. This has included large quantities of hydraulic presses for shell-making, glycerine recovery and kindred plants, and shells, but this has not prevented them from attending in some degree to the interests of their many sugar-machinery-wanting clients whenever the exigencies of the Government permitted.

Contemplating the energy and enterprise and dogged courage which is the dominant note in the history of the House of Fletcher, and the power of industrial production which lies in the concern, the natural thought arises, Is all this to become an asset of a consolidated British Empire through the adoption of an Imperial policy of the protection of British industrial interests as against the aggressive methods of enemy countries? or is it to be all wasted after the War by a return to the non-Imperial policy of the past? It is impossible to contemplate the continuance of such a suicidal

policy as the latter, instead of the adoption of one which, *inter alia*, would bring about the long-delayed development of a British Colonial Sugar Industry. To such development Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., will be in a splendid position to contribute their share by the thoroughness of their organisation and the efficiency of their manufacturing plant.

CACAO ON THE GOLD COAST.

Is the Quality Deteriorating?

The phenomenal expansion of the Gold Coast cacao industry continued last year, exports of the "golden bean" amounting to 77,278 tons, an increase of 24,390 tons, or 46 per cent., over those of 1914. The declared value per cwt. also steadily recovered from an average of 34/- at the beginning of the year to 60/- at its close. The great increase in production is again due to the large number of farms coming into bearing for the first time. The quality is badly reported on, inattention to trees and neglectful preparation being responsible.

In this connection, Mr. C. W. Welman, Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Colony, sounds a warning note in his report on the Blue-book of the Colony for 1915. The fortunes of the majority of the inhabitants of the Colony proper and of a large and increasing number of those in Ashanti are bound up with the prosperity of the cacao industry. Were this, he states, more fully realised, more interest would be taken by the producer in the cleanliness and cultivation of his farm, and much anxiety as to the future of the industry would be spared to the Government of the Colony and its agricultural advisers. Both entomologist and mycologist are emphatic as to the widespread destruction wrought by insect and fungoid parasites due to neglect of the simplest sanitation and cultural work, and advocate the adoption of coercive measures such as are in vogue in towns for the regulation of building and the preservation of health. Generally speaking, the only work done in the cacao gardens of the Gold Coast is that of cleaning the bush in order to harvest the crop. Advice falls upon deaf ears so long as diseased farms can be freely abandoned and new ones planted. The carelessness of the native farmer is encouraged by the want of discrimination shown by the local buyer, who still makes little or no difference in the price he pays for cacao, whatever the quality.

THE St. Andrew's Race Club of Grenada has set an admirable example to other sporting institutions in the West Indies by devoting a proportion of its takings to the various War funds. Out of the proceeds of recent sweepstakes, the West Indian Contingent Fund has benefited to the tune of £91 1s. 6d., and the Red Cross Fund to that of £42 16s. The Club has also contributed locally £30 2s. 6d., making £164 in all. Mr. H. Astley Berkeley is to be congratulated upon the successful result of his patriotic efforts.

THE BARBADOS RAILWAY.

In connection with the recent purchase of the local railway by the Government of Barbados, the account of the undertaking which is given in "The British West Indies: Their History, Resources, and Progress" (London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd.) may be of interest.

From this it appears that the undertaking belonged in the first instance to the Barbados Railway Company, which was incorporated by an Act of the local Legislature in 1873. Work was not, however, begun for several years, the provisions with regard to guarantee, etc., being extended by Ordinances in the succeeding years. Meanwhile the Barbados Railway Company was registered under the Companies Act in the United Kingdom, the Barbados Government agreeing to give a guarantee of 6 per cent. upon the moneys expended on and during the period of the construction of the line, and an annual subsidy of £6,000 per annum thereafter for twenty years. The line was to be divided into three sections, one from Bridgetown to Carrington, a second from Carrington to Bath, and a third from Bath to the terminus, and for the purpose of the subsidy it was agreed that each should be considered to represent an expenditure of £50,000 and entitle the Company to a proportion of the subsidy.

In 1882 the first section of the line was opened, and the second section was almost ready for opening when unforeseen difficulties arose owing to the necessity of bridging the College River and to a landslip in the same locality. The Company, finding that it would be impossible to open the second section before the third was completed, petitioned the Legislature, which then agreed to divide the line into two sections instead of three, and to incorporate the completed part of the new section with the first, giving on the completed section the guarantee of £3,000.

The subsidy was not free from conditions, for the Company had to undertake to repay it whenever the receipts exceeded a sum which would, after deducting the ordinary working and current expenses, yield a net income of £6,000. These conditions hampered the Company, and a further appeal was made to the Legislature, which resulted in the grant of an annual subsidy of £6,000 for ten years, the only condition being that they should spend in each of the ten years 40 per cent. of the gross traffic earnings on the general upkeep and maintenance of the rolling-stock and line.

In spite of this assistance, the Company found it difficult to pay its way, and in 1896 powers were sought to raise new capital by mortgaging the undertaking. The Legislature granted the necessary permission, subject to an inspector certifying that the line and rolling-stock were in proper order, and to any repairs, etc., recommended by him being carried out within a reasonable time. These conditions were not complied with, and the subsidy therefore lapsed. On July 15th, 1898, the railway, which had cost £195,284 to construct, was sold for £50,000 by the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Company and the Foreign,

American and General Investments Trust Company. The line was then reconstructed at an additional cost of £39,011, and worked as the Bridgetown and St. Andrew Railway, Ltd. In 1903 the new owners applied to the Legislature for arrears of subsidy, but they were unsuccessful, and the working of the railway resulted in an annual loss. Hearing of this, Mr. G. F. Burn, the engineer who had reconstructed the line in 1899-1900, and was satisfied that if properly managed and suitably extended the line could be made to pay, opened negotiations for the purchase of the railway, and at the same time petitioned the Legislature for a subsidy.

A subsidy of £2,000 a year for ten years was conceded, and in 1905 the purchase of the line at a greatly reduced figure was arranged, the present vendors, "The Barbados Light Railway, Ltd.," being duly registered to operate it.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

Having regard to the pessimistic views held in some quarters regarding the "submarine menace," it is particularly reassuring to learn that of all the ships which passed through the Panama Canal in September, no fewer than one-half were British.

The cargo carried through the Canal during the month amounted to 662,170 tons, and was the greatest that has passed through since the re-opening of the Canal. Indeed, the figure has only once been exceeded since the opening of the Canal in 1914.

The number of ships passing through the Canal in seagoing or commercial service was 154. This number has been exceeded only twice, in July and August of 1915, when the numbers were 170 and 161 respectively.

The number of British ships using the Canal was more than twice that of the American ships, and almost eight times as much as that of the Norwegian ships, the next in order. The number of ships of the several nations, with their aggregate net tonnage and the aggregate of cargo carried by them, is given in the official *Panama Canal Record* as follows:—

Nationality.	No. of ships.	Canal net tonnage.	Tonnage of cargo.
British	77	274,320	383,587
United States	37	125,041	160,124
Norwegian	10	28,444	31,160
Peruvian	7	18,424	16,306
Chilean	6	17,120	8,527
Japanese	5	21,484	26,945
Dutch	4	10,079	9,219
Spanish	2	4,282	7,642
Costa Rican	2	166	213
Swedish	1	5,002	8,533
Danish	1	4,128	6,364
Italian	1	3,125	—
Russian	1	2,273	3,550
Total	154	513,978	662,170

The tolls earned in September amounted to \$493,603.34, of which \$200,671.89 was for ships passing from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and \$292,931.45 for ships from the Pacific to the Atlantic. The United States submarines C2, C3, and

C5, and the cruiser *Charleston* made the passage from Balboa to Cristobal. Included among the goods and produce shipped through the Canal during the month were 500,091 tons of sugar, of which 7,200 tons were in transit from Peru to the United Kingdom.

THE FIJI IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE.

Recently we published the report of the West Indian Intercolonial Conference on Immigration. We now supplement this with the text of the report of the Committee which sat in Fiji to discuss the same question. The report, which is addressed to Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, the Governor, runs:—
Your Excellency,

In accordance with our letter of appointment dated the 7th of June, 1916, we have the honour to submit the following report on the result of our inquiry and deliberations, and to offer the following recommendations as to the scheme which may be adopted in substitution of the present system of Indian immigration to this Colony.

2. Your Committee met for the first time on the 18th of June last. We met also on the following dates: 20th and 24th July, 11th, 14th, 25th, 28th, and 29th August, 1916.

3. In advising Your Excellency as to the scheme which should be adopted to replace the existing system of Indian immigration under indenture your Committee have considered it expedient to confine their recommendations to outlining the main principles which we consider should be followed, leaving it to Your Excellency to embody some of our recommendations, should they meet with approval, in a new Labour Ordinance which it will be obviously necessary to enact. These main principles which we put forward are explained in the following Resolutions which have been adopted by the Committee:

Resolutions.

- (1) That having in view the distance of Fiji from India, the cost of transport (i.e., introduction of labourers) and above all the fact that owing to the entire absence of native agricultural labourers the agricultural industries of the Colony established by the investment of a large amount of capital are wholly dependent on introduced labour; and in order that, in the terms of the despatch from the Under Secretary of State for India to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 10th of February, 1916, the inevitable change in the conditions of recruitment and engagement should be brought about with as little disturbance as possible of the economic interests of the Colony, and to enable the Colony which welcomes the immigration of labourers from India to carry on for the benefit not only of the immediate interests affected, but of the Empire as a whole the industries which have depended upon imported labour, His Majesty's Government be requested to secure liberal treatment to the Colony.
- (2) We advise that at the outset the position should be dealt with tentatively, in order to provide a workable scheme for the next few years, so that the experience then gained may be gradually adapted to permanently meet the requirements both in India and in Fiji.
- (3) We advise that the system may be described as one of "assisted and protected emigration."
- (4) To meet the opposition to the present system of recruiting, it is recommended that the proportion of female to male emigrants be gradually increased, and that a proportion of families secured by sirdars, on fixed pay, be gradually substituted for the individual emigrants hitherto obtained by recruiters paid on a per capita basis.
- (5) As sirdars, it is proposed to send to India each year selected Indians who have families settled in Fiji.

- While in India, these Indians should be attached to the Emigration Agents' staff and be paid fixed monthly wages from the date they leave Fiji until they return with emigrants. Their work should be to assist the Emigration Agents in obtaining recruits by families or otherwise, and to explain to intending emigrants the conditions of work in Fiji and the facilities for settlement in the Colony.
- (6) Should experience in the next few years tend to show that the paid recruiters, as at present employed, can be entirely dispensed with, the change could be made gradually and without endangering continuity of the labour supply which is vital to the Colony's interests.
- (7) To meet the question of transport and as arrangements for regular transport cannot possibly be made until shipping conditions become normal after the termination of the war, it is recommended as a temporary measure, that provision be made, each year, for the requisite number of sailings from India to Fiji, but with every alternate vessel returning from Fiji to India.
- (8) In order to provide the means of more frequent and direct communication between India and Fiji, we recommend that the Government of Fiji endeavour to make arrangements, after the conclusion of the war, for a steam service under contract, to provide for not less than four round trips between India and Fiji in each year, the said service to be run under such conditions as may be fixed by the Government of India; provided that the contract should provide for passages of labourers at the lowest cost possible.
- (9) It is recommended that in consideration of free passages to Fiji, all adult emigrants be required to agree to serve the Government of Fiji, or its nominees, for a period commensurate with the cost of introduction (subject to the right of commutation and transfer) under conditions to be prescribed by Ordinance for industrial service which shall leave the immigrants free of liability to imprisonment for purely labour offences; provided that women who are the mothers of three or more living children, shall be exempted from liability to work—if such women, however, desire to work, work shall be provided for them at the usual rates of wages; provided further, that any married woman may be exempted from liability to work, either by payment of the amount of commutation fixed, or by the extension of the husband's period of industrial service, sufficient to cover the unexpired period of her liability to work.
- (10) The Ordinance to be enacted should provide, inter alia, as follows:—
- That on arrival in the Colony the immigrants shall be registered as labourers. A person desiring to employ a labourer must become a registered employer. The power to register employers shall be vested in the Agent-General of Immigration; subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by Ordinance. (The legal provisions referred to may possibly be on the lines of the Malay States Labour Code 1912, Part VI., so far as it relates to registration.)
 - That the immigrants shall have the right of commutation upon six months' notice or if good cause be shown to the satisfaction of the Agent-General of Immigration without such notice.
 - That the immigrants shall have the right of transfer to another employer at any time on good cause being shown to the satisfaction of the Agent-General of Immigration.
 - That applications for commutation or transfer should be made through the Agent-General of Immigration.
- (11) That if an immigrant on arrival in the Colony, or at any time during the period of his industrial service, refuse or neglect to act in pursuance of his promise to work as a labourer he shall, on proceeding to be taken by the Agent-General of Immigration, be liable to be proceeded against for breach of civil contract, and that a Court of Summary Jurisdiction be empowered to make an order for fulfilment of service. Should such immigrant in the opinion of the Agent-General of Immigration prove to be incorrigible, he should be committed to a depot, not being a gaol, there to be detained, at the expense of the Immigration Fund, until he can be repatriated to India at the expense of the Immigration Fund.
- (12) It is considered that in view of the proposed substantial improvement in the conditions offered, there is no necessity for disturbing the present conditions respecting work and wages, except that during the first three months of industrial service, all immigrants—men and women—working shall receive full wages, half in cash and half in rations irrespective of the work performed.
- (13) It is also advised—
- That during the first twelve months after arrival in the Colony children under eleven years of age shall be entitled to rations to be determined by Regulation to be made by the Governor in Council, and that children under five years of age shall be given milk rations during the whole period of the industrial service of their parents.
 - That immigrants introduced under the proposed new system be not entitled to a free return passage to India, but that in any contract to be made for transport, provision be inserted limiting the charge, in the cases of those returning after completing their period of industrial service, to as small an amount as possible.
 - That immediate steps be taken to require the issue of rations to pregnant and nursing women for a period not less than six months; also to require employers to provide suitable plots of garden land for each male labourer, and facilities for labourers keeping cows. The extent of the area of garden land to be fixed by Regulations of the Governor in Council.
 - That on the adoption of any new code of legislation to govern the new system of immigration, such code be translated in appropriate Indian dialect or dialects, and that copies of such translations be made available to the immigrants free of charge.
- (14) That a Committee to be called the Indian Immigration Committee be established and also an Indian Immigration Fund. The general functions of the Committee, subject to control by the Governor, shall be to regulate the introduction of labourers, and their disposal after arrival in the Colony, assisted by the Agent-General of Immigration. In addition to any grants which may be made from time to time to the Immigration Fund from General Revenue, the Committee shall be empowered to borrow from time to time, at such rates of interest as the Governor may approve, such moneys as are deemed necessary for the purpose of making the payments authorised by law.
- The Committee shall also be empowered to assess a rate to be paid by every employer in respect of every Indian labourer employed or working on the registered place of employment during each quarter of the year.
- All payments made by employers, whether by capitation rates or otherwise, shall be paid into the Indian Immigration Fund.
- The Indian Immigration Fund shall be charged with the expenses named in section 7 of Ordinance No. 1. of 1891, and shall in addition bear the expenses necessary to provide—
- Free passages to labourers to the Colony, and for the maintenance of a home for decrepit labourers;
- The payment of interest of money borrowed by the Indian Immigration Committee;
- The cost of clerical work in preparation of registers prescribed by law, and the expenses of the Indian Immigration Committee including the cost of travelling.
5. We offer the following remarks in regard to some of the foregoing Resolutions:—

Resolutions (4) and (5).—In suggesting the use of sirdars, or selected men from Fiji, to be paid fixed wages and to assist in recruiting, your Committee has followed the recommendations put forward by Mr. J. McNeill and Mr. Chimman Lal (see paragraph 59 of their report). We realise that this proposal will not meet all objections to the present recruiting system, and that the Government of India will probably enforce reforms which it may consider necessary. We do not desire that undue weight should be given to this recommendation which, even if adopted, can only be an experiment, the value of which will require to be tested.

Resolution 9.—This Resolution embodies the important proposal that immigrants should, under the suggested new system, be introduced into the Colony by the Government, under an agreement of industrial service. Your Committee consider that the words "commensurate with the cost of introduction" would necessarily imply a term of not less than 42 months. A suggestion was made that the period may be such as would require an able bodied immigrant to earn a fixed aggregate amount before he could claim to have completed his promise to labour; also that the system may properly be a combination of both proposals, so that while an immigrant may expect to have to work regularly, subject to his right of commutation, for a definite period, he could by his own industry shorten that period by registering a given sum of wages earned. Opinions as to that amount were divided, owing to the undetermined probable cost of introduction and of other increased expenses proposed to be placed on the planters. We desire, however, to emphasize our opinion that it is essential, in view of the heavy cost to be borne by the planting interests, that the period should not be less than three and a half years, or 42 calendar months. We suggest that it will be necessary, whatever period be approved, that provision be made, if possible, that the periods of industrial service for those introduced during the first two years by the new system shall not be completed before the engagements of those previously introduced. This is important in assisting the change from the old to the new system.

In regard to the proposed exemption of women to the liability to work, we desire to record our concurrence in the recommendation made in Mr. J. McNeill and Mr. Chimman Lal's report (page 314), viz. —That during advanced pregnancy and after child-birth a woman should be entitled both to remain idle and to receive free rations or diet ordered by a Medical Officer; and that the whole period should not be less than four months and probably six months. This question is referred to specifically in Resolution 13 (c) so far as issue of rations is concerned.

Resolution 10 (b).—The recommendation requiring an immigrant to give six months notice of his desire to commute his agreement of industrial service is put forward as much in the interest of the immigrant as in that of the employer. We realise that it is during the first few months of residence that the Indian immigrant is likely to be dissatisfied with his new surroundings and life, and provided he is given adequate protection during that period he is likely to tide over the first six months of his industrial service and become a useful wage earner and to gain experience in local agricultural methods which are likely to be of benefit to him as an eventual settler.

Resolution 11.—This resolution is intended to provide means for restraining immigrants from wilfully evading their promise to labour, and from preventing them from becoming vagrants if they prove to be incorrigible; and to protect the Immigration Fund from a heavy drain in loss of labourers, such incorrigible persons should be removed to an Immigration Depot and there detained pending repatriation. It would, of course, be necessary to make Regulations to govern their detention and treatment while in the depot.

6. Your Excellency has been pleased to communicate to us a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch No. 182 of the 29th of June last, and your Committee has been informed that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited and the Planters' Association intend to nominate representatives to proceed to England to attend the preliminary conference which it is proposed will take place at the Colonial Office in the early Autumn. Your Committee welcome this decision because we realise that these representatives will be able to place before the conference many details covering matters affecting the proposed scheme, particularly as regards the anticipated cost of the various proposals, which your Committee find it impracticable to submit in this report without unduly delaying its submission to your Excellency.

7. Your Committee in submitting the foregoing proposals have not lost sight of the recommendations made by the Special Committee who reported in November last, and whose report is contained in Council Paper No. 12 of 1915. Your Committee consider that the recommendations made in that report should be adopted, so far as possible; but having regard to the very heavy additional cost which it may be found necessary to impose on the planting interests of the Colony under the new system of immigration, we realise that it may be extremely difficult to enforce the adoption of those recommendations in their entirety.

8. The Honourable J. M. Borron, as representing certain copra planters, did not attend the last two meetings of the Committee, and although he was present when the Resolutions were adopted, having left Suva, he has been unable to sign the report.

EYRE HUTSON, Chairman,

Colonial Secretary.

R. RANKINE,
Receiver-General.

G. W. A. LYNCH,
Chief Medical Officer.

R. M. BOOTH,
Agent-General of Immigration.

J. M. HEDSTROM,
Elected Member of Legislative Council, Eastern Division.

HENRY M. SCOTT,
Elected Member of Legislative Council for Suva, and President Chamber of Commerce.

ROBERT CROMPTON,
Elected Member of Legislative Council, Southern Division.

E. DUNCAN,

Elected Member of Legislative Council, Vamalevu and Fijiani Division.

H. L. KENNEDY,
Elected Member of Legislative Council, Northern Division.

J. L. HUNT,
President Planters' Association.

H. J. THOMAS,
Representative of the Ba Branch of the Planters' Association.

R. A. HARRICKS,
Representative of the Nadi Branch of the Planters' Association.

E. F. POWELL,
Representative of Rubber Planters.

Suva, 29th August, 1916.

MINORITY REPORT.

Following the adoption of Resolution 8 which refers to the proposal to provide, after the conclusion of the war, for more regular steamship communication between the Colony and India, I proposed the following Resolution:—

"That in order to meet the cost of the suggested improved steamship service with India, the subsidy required for such service may be provided by a tax on Indian labour-produced exports, and that one-quarter of the subsidy necessary may be met from General Revenue apart from that derived from the export tax referred to."

This motion was not seconded. The general feeling was that the reference to the Committee did not require us to submit proposals to meet any public expenditure or for raising revenue necessitated by any scheme which may be adopted. The majority of the Committee were of opinion that those questions should more properly be dealt with by the Legislative Council, when the time arrived to make provisions for the expenditure that was considered necessary.

I consider that the Committee in adopting Resolution No. 8 has not gone far enough; and that it should have either indicated, by a suggestion or recommendation, the means that may be adopted to provide the funds necessary to subsidise the proposed service should it be considered absolutely essential, or the Committee should have indicated that the planting community was pre-

pared, if necessary, to make large sacrifices towards that end.

Considering, as I do, that one of the main requirements that is likely to be insisted on by the Indian Government in connection with any new system of immigration to the Colony will be on condition that the new system should be supported by a very substantial improvement of the steamship communication between India and the Colony, I feel that I cannot refrain from recording my dissent to the decision of the Committee to which I have referred.

EYRE HUTSON,
Chairman.

29th August, 1916.

THE RT. HON. WALTER LONG, M.P.

The departure of Mr. Bonar Law from the Colonial Office will be the subject of general regret in Colonial circles; but he takes up the important duties of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and we may feel sure that he will still have Colonial interests closely at heart. His successor as Secretary of State, the Right Honourable Walter Long, is regarded as essentially a strong man. Born in 1854, he was educated at Harrow, and Christ Church, Oxford, and first entered Parliament as a Conservative Member for North Wilts in 1880. From 1886 to 1892 he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, from 1895 to 1900 President of the Board of Agriculture, and for the succeeding five years President of the Local Government Board. He is what may be described as a country gentleman, and he owns 15,500 acres of land. It is satisfactory to know that he will receive the assistance of Mr. A. D. Steel Maitland, who remains Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Steel Maitland, during his short tenure of office, has shown already a keen grasp of Colonial affairs and of the obligation of the Mother Country to her Colonies.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS' CYCLONE.

The official reports received regarding the recent hurricane in the Virgin Islands confirm Mr. Queeley's statements as to the extent of the disaster. We shall be glad to receive and to forward to the proper quarter donations towards the local Virgin Islands' Relief Fund opened by Mr. T. V. Best, C.M.G., Governor of the Leeward Islands. Towards this object we have to acknowledge with thanks £25 from Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., £5 from Mr. A. C. Westmorland, and £5 from Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd.

The cacao-growing area in Ceylon ranges from 500 to 1,800 feet above sea-level. There are approximately 22,000 acres under cacao, mostly in the hands of European planters, but there is also a fair acreage in native gardens, where it is grown in a very neglected state. Very few new plantations are being opened, as there remains little suitable available land. Pod fungus and bark canker, the two most serious diseases of cacao in Ceylon, are still very prevalent during wet seasons.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The *outgoings* from the West Indian Contingent Fund to date amount approximately to £2,818, and when the report and accounts for the half-year to December 31st are published, it will be found that the money has been well spent. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
British Honduras Contingent Fund—			
For British Honduras men	100	0	0
For general purposes	50	0	0
British Honduras Contingent Society (for Xmas gifts)	62	15	3
Per H. Astley Berkeley, Esq., St. Andrew's Race Club, Cambridgeshire Sweepstake	51	17	6
Montserrat War Fund Society (for Xmas gifts)	10	0	0
J. R. Gaunt & Son (further rebate on sales of B.W.I. brooches—to come)	1	12	6
Commander W. H. Combs, R.N. (4th donation)	1	0	0
" " " (5th donation)	1	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

The Christmas present season has set in with the usual severity, and the work of selecting, packing, and despatching gifts to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment abroad is proceeding apace. This year the Colonies have wisely forwarded money to the West Indian Contingent Committee for the purchase of presents, instead of sending specific gifts, thus economising freight space and avoiding much trouble resulting from congestion at the docks, etc. The Colonies which have so far invoked the aid of the Committee in this connection are British Guiana, British Honduras, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In some instances presents are being made in cash, but in others hamperers are being prepared. A typical "hamper" is one which will be received by the men from St. Kitts-Nevis, each man being presented with 2 pairs of socks, 3 handkerchiefs, 1 tin of lime tablets, 1 tin of molasses candy, 2 slabs of chocolate, 1 writing pad, and a Christmas card, besides plenty of tobacco and cigarettes (sent out of bond) and a pipe. The West Indian Contingent Committee is also sending a gift on its own account to each officer, N.C.O., and man of the British West Indies Regiment, and to every man from the British West Indies in His Majesty's Forces whose addresses can be traced. Will relatives and friends kindly note, and send in addresses?

As we go to press the news of a tragedy reaches us. The vessel which was carrying nearly 3,500 of these special chocolate boxes, which have been nearly two months in the making, has been mined. Luckily she was beached, and there is good hope of saving the cargo. There may, however, be

some little delay before our friends in Egypt receive this particular gift, which is disappointing. The goods were, of course, fully insured.

The work parties held at 5, Trevor Square, on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings are supplying many articles of warm clothing and other comforts for which there is so great a demand at present. Socks are urgently required, but all knitted comforts are useful, and gifts of every description will be most gratefully received. Gloves and helmets are in great demand. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Mrs. Herbert Teague: 2 mullers.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: 2 helmets, 1 pr. gloves.
 Miss M. A. Bratt: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Lynch Thomas: 12 prs. mittens.
 Lady Sendall: 3 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. A. Johnson: magazines.
 Mrs. Vere Oliver: 2 prs. socks, 2 mullers.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

The following names of men of the West Indian Contingent who have given their lives to their King and Empire must now be added to the list which was published in the CIRCULAR of October 19th last:—

BAHAMAS.

NEWMAN, H. T.

BRITISH GUIANA.

PARKER, GEORGE.

JAMAICA.

BROWN, PATRICK A. MALLARD, CHARLES WOOD-
 DWYER, STANFORD. BOURNE.

THOMAS, F.

TRINIDAD.

SONGSTER, SAMUEL.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUTENANT HENRY PERCY WEBER, of the Royal Lancaster Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the younger son of the late Mr. Arthur Weber, of Georgetown, British Guiana, and of Mrs. Weber. He was educated at Lancing College, and in 1909 was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn. On the outbreak of war he relinquished the appointment of Acting Resident Magistrate at Essequibo, British Guiana, and came to England in charge of the Demerara section of the first British West Indian contingent. On December 28th, 1915, he obtained a commission with the Royal Lancaster Regiment.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SECOND LIEUTENANT FRANK PERCIVAL STUBBS, of the Sherwood Foresters, only son of the late Mr. F. H. Stubbs, M.A., of Georgetown, Demerara, has died of wounds, aged 38 years.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

LIEUTENANT CYRIL FITZROY MORGAN, of the British West Indies Regiment, who died from enteric on November 14th, came over with the Jamaica contingent.

WOUNDED.

PRIVATE R. C. BENNETT (of Trinidad), Hampshire Regiment.

LANCE-CORPORAL C. P. BETHELL (of the Bahamas), Wiltshire Regiment.

PRIVATE H. DONALDSON (of Grenada), Grenadier Guards.
 SECOND LIEUTENANT V. L. FERGUSON (of Jamaica), Gordon Highlanders, has been wounded, and has returned to Jamaica on leave of absence.

PRIVATE SYDNEY JACOBS VAN SERTIMA (British Guiana Classical Scholar of 1914), Middlesex Regiment, is in

hospital at Cheltenham, suffering from rheumatism and trench foot.

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN W. MAY ARRIWELL (grandson of the late Rev. Mr. Arriwells, of Barbados and Trinidad, and son of Mr. C. May Arriwells) has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry.

SECOND LIEUTENANT (since promoted to be Captain) REGINALD CHEYNE BERKELEY, of the Rifle Brigade, son of the late Mr. Humphrey Berkeley, who left St. Kitts in the early 'nineties for Fiji, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry. When his company commander was wounded he led his company with great dash to its final objective, and later displayed great determination in consolidating the captured line.

THE WEST INDIES AND THE WAR.

Some further names of men connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Empire are given below. In last issue we gave the names of six sons of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong, of Barbados, all of whom are serving. In the present list we publish the names of five sons of Mr. Honychurch, of Barbados, who are now in His Majesty's Forces. This is a notable record, of which Mr. Honychurch might well be proud. It will be recalled in this connection that Inspector H. T. Thomas, of Jamaica, and Mr. Edmund Eckel, of Trinidad, each have four sons serving.

Eaden, 2nd Lieut. John (of Dominica), Royal Field Artillery, Special Reserve.

Frith, 2nd Lieut. Geoffrey (son of Mr. Frith, of Turks' Islands), has been granted a commission in the British West Indies Regiment.

Goodwin, Air Mechanic Arthur (of St. Lucia), R.N.A.S.
 Honychurch, Geo. Avon (son of Mr. Mitchell Graham Honychurch, of Barbados), Royal Navy.

Honychurch, Aubrey Walter (son of Mr. Mitchell Graham Honychurch, of Barbados), Signallers' Division, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Honychurch, Horace Aremar (son of Mr. Mitchell Graham Honychurch, of Barbados), Signaller, East African Expeditionary Force.

Honychurch, Percy Graham (son of Mr. Mitchell Graham Honychurch, of Barbados), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.

Honychurch, C. R. (son of Mr. Mitchell Graham Honychurch, of Barbados), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.

Maingot, 2nd Lieut. J. L. P. (of Trinidad), has been transferred from the Suffolk Regiment to the British West Indies Regiment.

McConney, Gunner Joseph Arnold (of Bathsheba, Barbados, son of the late Mr. John McConney), Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. *At the front.*

OBITUARY.

THE RIGHT REV. WALTER FARRAR, D.D.

The death is announced of the Right Rev. Walter Farrar, D.D.

Bishop Farrar, who had been in ill-health for several months, was the son of Archdeacon Thomas Farrar, Vicar-General of Guiana. Born in British Guiana, 51 years ago, he was educated at Queen's College, Guiana, and at Keble College, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1887, being placed in the third class in the Theological School. He was ordained in the following year and began work at once in British Guiana as incumbent of St. Mary's, East Coast, and after a period as chaplain of the Penal Settlement at Mazaruni, he became rector of Holy Trinity, Essequibo, in 1896. Two years later he was appointed to the rectory of Hawkechurch, Dorset, which he held till 1905, when he was consecrated Bishop of Antigua. Afterwards, from 1910, he was successively

Assistant Bishop of Quebec and Assistant Bishop of the West Indies, and he was appointed Bishop of Honduras in 1913. Just a year ago he resigned the Bishopric and became Vicar of Bognor. He married in 1889 the elder daughter of Mr. W. F. Bridges, Administrator-General of British Guiana, who, with two sons and two daughters, survives him. The elder son has just received a commission from the O.T.C., and the other is already serving in Mesopotamia.

CAPTAIN PEPLOE FORWOOD.

The death is announced of Captain Peploe Forwood.

Captain Forwood, who was related to the steamship owners of the same name, was for many years Agent in Jamaica of the Atlas Line of steamers. In the social life of Kingston he will leave a niche empty which it will be hard to fill. Under a rugged exterior he possessed a heart of gold, and he was without doubt the most popular member of the Jamaica Club.

BISHOP SWABY.

News has been received of the death of the Right Rev. William Proctor Swaby, D.D., Bishop of Barbados.

Dr. Swaby, who was born in 1844, was educated at Durham University, where he was an Exhibitioner and a Barry Scholar. From 1874 to 1884 he was Vicar of Castle-town, Durham, and for the next nine years he was Vicar of St. Mark, Millfield, in Durham. In 1893 he was appointed Bishop of Guiana in succession to Archbishop Austin. He filled that position until 1900, when he was transferred to the Diocese of Barbados, of which he was Bishop at the time of his death.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

The engagement is announced of Donal Scott McGrath, Lieutenant Royal Navy, third son of Hon. George McGrath, of Charlemont, Jamaica, to Marie Josephine Kieley, youngest daughter of Mrs. G. W. Kieley, of Toronto, Canada.

MR. M. D. HARREL, before leaving Jamaica—where he served in the Constabulary for twenty years—to take up the position of Inspector-General of Police in Barbados, was presented with an address by his colleagues at Sutton Street Police Station.

At a bazaar held at the Albert Hall on November 29th in aid of "Our Dumb Friends' League," Mrs. Bonthron had the honour of selling to Queen Alexandra several specimens of Antigua seed-work. Mrs. Bonthron, who is a sister of Mr. R. Bryson, has done much to encourage this minor industry in Antigua, and it will be gratifying to the native workers to learn that Her Majesty has purchased some of their work.

BISHOP HERBERT BURY, who was recently permitted to visit Ruhlleben Camp, where he spent several days among the prisoners of war, was Bishop of Honduras from 1908 to 1911. Some of his experiences in the West are recorded in his entertaining book, "A Bishop among Bananas." On leaving Honduras, Bishop Bury was appointed Bishop for North and Central Europe, and it was in that capacity that he visited Germany. On his return he was received by the King at Buckingham Palace.

CAPTAIN LIONEL HALSEY, who has just been appointed Fourth Sea Lord of the Admiralty, has many friends in the West Indies, whose acquaintance he made when in command of H.M.S. *New Zealand* during the Empire cruise of that vessel. It will be recalled that on her return voyage the *New Zealand* was bunkered with Trinidad oil. Captain Halsey was married in 1905 to a daughter of the late Major Bevil Granville, a lineal descendant of Sir Bevil Granville, Governor of Barbados from 1703 to 1707. It was this Governor, by the way, who first adopted Pilgrim as the official residence, which it has remained ever since.



A B. W. I. Brooch.

Souvenir brooches of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment have been executed in three different styles by Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., the makers of the original badge, who have kindly offered to contribute a portion of the proceeds of their sales to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The prices of the brooches are as follows:—

	£	s	d	Post free		
	£	s	d	£	s	d
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0	2	10	0
Silver and Enamel	3	6		3	9	
Gilt Metal Enamelled	2	0		2	5	

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.

THE principal supplies of fresh pine-apples reaching this country come from the Azores, where they are grown under glass, while tinned pine-apple is mainly British, coming chiefly from the Straits Settlements and Dependencies, smaller quantities being supplied by the United States, Hawaii, and Siam. In Singapore the tinning is mostly done by Chinese, who transfer the finished product to Europeans for export. The leaves of the pine-apple plant furnish a fibre of fine quality and great strength, suitable for textile purposes; but the time and labour involved in extracting the fibre have hitherto restricted its use to a few countries, and prevented it becoming one of the important fibres of commerce. It is, however, produced in fairly large quantities in the island of Hainan, South China, and on a smaller scale in Formosa, Hawaii, and the Philippines. An interesting article is devoted to this subject in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute.

WE understand that a contract is about to be made by the Bahamas Government for the establishment of a steamship service between Nassau (Bahamas) and Jacksonville (Florida) during the months of January to April, 1917. This is an experimental service, designed to afford facilities for visitors to these sunny islands who desire to enjoy the unrivalled bathing and fishing season, and also to stimulate the exchange of commodities, particularly, in the first instance, the export of tomatoes and green truck from the Colony. As at present arranged, the steamer will leave Jacksonville every Tuesday and Friday, beginning January 9th, 1917.

the journey occupying about 30 hours. It is much to be hoped that the enterprise may prove a success, and that it may lead to a more permanent arrangement, as there is no doubt that the opening up of a connection with the flourishing port of Jacksonville, which is in direct touch with leading centres of industry, and has a fast train service to New York, will do much for the development of the Colony, both from the trade and the tourist point of view.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Bahamas Steamer Services.

In spite of several adverse circumstances the number of tourists who visited Nassau (it is due to the capital of New Providence to state that its name is of Dutch and not of German origin) during the season exceeded the number arriving in the preceding year. Most came direct from New York by the fast passenger steamers of the New York and Cuba Mail S.S. Co. Increased accommodation was provided by the reopening of the Royal Victoria Hotel, formerly the property of the colony, by the Florida East Coast Hotel Company.

Mr. T. E. D. Bruce, Acting Colonial Secretary, in his report in the Blue-book for 1915-16 states that the Development Board were, owing to the war, unable to take any further steps for establishing a steamer service between Jacksonville and Nassau. The service with the port of Miami did not come up to expectations owing to the grounding of the vessel of the same name, which led to the abandonment of several scheduled trips. A temporary service with Mayville was established late in the season to take its place, but it was not satisfactory.

During the year the colony hardly felt the effect of the war at all. The exports of sponge and sisal were high and prices good; the cultivation of tomatoes for export was far beyond the average, and the general condition of the people cannot be said to be unsatisfactory. Only in Inagua and Long Cay has there been hardship, due to the cessation of the stevedore traffic, which used to be carried on by the German steamers. Imports have been larger than was anticipated.

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

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1911-12	85,592	82,676	308,726	209,251
1912-13	97,574	88,077	357,808	276,115
1913-14	100,753	96,496	388,224	263,954
1914-15	76,911	102,203	367,524	223,491
1915-16	86,251	90,925	363,410	243,431

* Calendar years 1911-15.

Exports of sisal in 1915 amounted to 7,735,605 lbs., valued at £72,601; 27,063 bushels of tomatoes, valued at £3,666, were shipped, lower prices being realised owing to careless packing. The exports of grape fruit and oranges were 521,020, value £1,209, and 49,110, value £70, respectively; 21,756 cases of tinned pineapples, valued at £5,550, were also shipped. The American Company at Abaco milled 10,179,000 feet of pine, of which 6,533,185 feet went to Cuba.

Sponge Culture in the Turks Islands.

Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, in his report for 1915, pays tribute to the perspicacity of Mr. Hutchings, the Assistant Commissioner, who soon after the outbreak of war influenced the peasantry of the Caicos Islands to plant increased areas of ground provisions and thus relieved a situation arising from the salt-raking industry of 1915 being among the worst ever experienced.

Except sponging, which showed a falling off of £1,280 (from £2,410 to £1,129), local industries have not been affected to any extent by the war, although the question of how to obtain tonnage to convey the salt produce of

the Dependency to northern markets during the coming year is causing grave concern. It is with the greatest difficulty that even an occasional vessel can now be obtained for the purpose at an advance of four hundred per cent. on the usual rate of freight.

The artificial culture of sponges continues to make satisfactory progress. Mr. George Silly, the lessee of Chalk Sound (Blue Hills, Caicos Islands), was able to report that at the close of the year 1915 his work in this direction extended to upwards of 250,000 cuttings, chiefly of the "reed" variety. The take of "wool" sponges has almost reached vanishing point, a condition of affairs for which no one seems able to ascribe a reason; it would be both interesting and valuable, did funds permit, to have this matter investigated scientifically.

An advance of 34 cents per pound in the American market for sisal stimulated reaping operations in connection with the sisal industry, and resulted in an increase of £1,580, in the exports under this head, as compared with 1914.

Not the least interesting among the subsidiary marine products of the Caicos Islands is the export of conches to the neighbouring republic of Haiti. This trade, which for some years had wavered between £500 and £700 per annum in value, reached its maximum during the year under review, when over one million conches, valued at £1,217, were shipped from the Dependency. The lobster-canning industry shows a slight falling-off in the value of produce exported, but on the other hand "sea shells," hitherto a waste product of the conch industry, for the fourth time finds a place among exports from the Dependency.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports during the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
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	9,051	9,391	28,192	28,348
1915	8,036	9,133	27,620	30,487

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Whitfield Smith states: "Although but a small unit of the British Empire, the full significance of the War now being waged in Europe is thoroughly appreciated by every class of the community, who manifest the keenest interest in every phase of the struggle. The limited resources of this small Dependency debar the inhabitants from taking a more active part in the struggle, but by many acts of personal effort and generosity they have given ample proof that the same spirit of loyalty and devotion which characterises other and larger portions of His Majesty's Empire is not lacking among dwellers in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Progress of Trinidad's Oil Industry.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago having decided to revert to the practice which prevailed until 1901 of making their fiscal year correspond with calendar year, the latest Blue-book of the colony covers nine months only, namely April to December, 1915. It is to be hoped that the other West Indian colonies will fall into line for otherwise the lack of uniformity which at present characterises their affairs will be still further aggravated.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the colony for the previous five years, to which have been added, for the purpose of comparison, the figures of revenue and expenditure for the periods 1st April to 31st December, 1914, and 1st April to 31st December, 1915

Year.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.	
		Recurrent.	Extraordinary. Total.
1910-11	948,383	843,050	83,984 927,034
1911-12	950,744	901,018	58,533 959,551
1912-13	932,513	893,499	53,722 947,221
1913-14	970,789	888,888	63,094 951,982
1914-15	934,524	923,284	67,432 990,716
1914 9 mos.	679,158	646,438	37,418 683,916
1915 9 mos.	782,437	703,203	45,386 748,590

The value of the total aggregate trade of the colony in 1915, including transit goods, was £9,808,386 as against £8,426,750 for 1914, an increase of £1,381,636. The imports, including bullion and specie, totalled £4,429,813,

and the exports £5,378,573. The figures for the last five years are as under:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1911	5,018,848	4,769,486	9,788,334
1912	4,686,913	4,472,577	9,169,490
1913	5,019,728	5,205,673	10,225,401
1914	4,225,409	4,201,341	8,426,750
1915	4,429,813	5,378,573	9,808,386

Of the total imports, goods to the value of £3,068,697 were entered for home consumption.

According to a statement published with the report which shows the classified value of the imports of goods on which preferential rates of duty in favour of Canada and the United Kingdom are imposed, indicates that out of the total value of such goods, which was £1,108,772, the United Kingdom furnished only £213,357 and Canada £412,681, the balance £482,734 being imported from other countries, chiefly the United States. The preference on the goods referred to amounted to £12,653 on the Canadian goods and £1,981 on those from the United Kingdom, or a total of £14,634 during the year 1915.

Canadian trade relations with the colony continue to improve, the increase in 1915 over the preceding year being £93,640, while the advance during the quinquennial period has been £228,728 (from £190,287 in 1911 to £419,014 in 1915).

The following statement shows the quantities and values of the principal products of the colony in 1915:—

Asphalt (Crude, dried and	Value £
Manjak)...	123,923
Asphalt, Rpure	15,048
Bitters	27,746
Cocoa	1,865,266
Coconuts	60,576
Copra	3,986,731
Fruit	1,794
Molasses	8,629
Rum	88,114
Sugar	1,070,423
Petroleum, Crude	72,437
.. Spirit (Gasolene)	6,626

With the exception of asphalt, which showed a further decrease of 12,807 tons, almost every item of export was largely in excess of former years.

Of the sugar no fewer than 44,872 tons went to the United Kingdom, whilst 5,042 tons only went to Canada. Of 14,537,318 coco-nuts and 3,986,731 lbs. of copra, 12,488,724 nuts and 2,735,296 lbs. of copra went to the United States.

With regard to forestry, it is interesting to note that since 1913, 10,000 trees of East Indian teak wood have been established in the Forest Reserves, and have already attained a height of 25 to 30 feet.

On December 31st there were ten companies engaged in winning oil in the colony. The amount of drilling done during the nine months ended 31st December, 1915, amounted to 40,053 feet, of which 21,324 feet were drilled in private lands and 18,729 feet in Crown Lands. The number of wells drilled during the nine months was 88, and oil was struck in 23 of them. The total number of wells drilled in the colony to the 31st December, 1915, is 277, of which 133 are in Crown Lands. The quantity of oil produced during the nine months amounted to 23,489,362 Imperial gallons, as against 36,753,931 for the 12 months ended 31st March, 1915, and 22,523,060 for the 12 months ended 31st March, 1914. The royalty earned on the oil won from Crown Lands amounted to £4,430 7s. 5d.

A fairly large quantity of petrol, as well as some kerosene, has been produced at two of the oilfield refineries, and the greater portion of this production has been sold and consumed locally. One of the largest companies operating in the colony has erected a large refinery for the production of oil fuel according to Admiralty specification, as well as oil fuel for bunkering purposes and for the use of sugar factories. Another important company has now on order a large refinery for the production of oil fuel, etc.

The agricultural development of Tobago continues steadily to progress. The total exports for the year were valued at £80,453, as compared with £60,482 for 1914.

The principal increases are in cacao, which has risen from £30,844 in 1914 to £42,755 in 1915; coco-nut products from £10,659 in 1914 to £13,150 in 1915; and vegetables from £3,271 in 1914 to £8,379 in 1915.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Rains hinder cultivation.

MR. A. P. COWLEY.—The weather in October was very unsettled. Hurricane after hurricane has passed us by. The Acting Governor left at short notice in the *Chateau* for the Virgin islands, which suffered severely. The rain has been so heavy—16 in. for the month—that on some estates work has been at a standstill, and cultivation for the 1918 crop at a standstill.

News has been received that another son of Dean Shepherd is missing. Like his brother Malcolm, Arthur Shepherd was in the Royal Flying Corps, having relinquished a Government position in Fiji to join the army.

Mr. Dalgleish, local Manager of the Royal Bank, has left for Trinidad on promotion. He and his wife will be much missed in Antigua, where he will be succeeded by Mr. R. Hart from St. Kitts.

"Our Day" was spoilt by the rain, which necessitated the postponement of a fete at the Denney. A concert in the evening was, however, very successful.

The house and store of Mr. Pawcett in St. John's has been destroyed by fire. All members of the community will be sorry to lose Dr. Tempany, who is leaving for Mauritius.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Mahogany Exports.

HON. G. E. GRABHAM, NOVEMBER 13th.—We had an exceedingly bad storm here on the 13th and 14th of last month, which is said to be quite the worst the colony has known. The Banana plantations suffered great damage, also coco-nuts. Several thousand trees were blown down, and these, with all the immature nuts that have fallen, means, I fear, a very heavy loss to many. The northern part of the colony suffered most, with the adjoining Mexican territory. Payo Obispo is said to have been nearly half destroyed. The loss, too, is going to be very heavy on the chicle people, particularly those operating in Mexico. The export of mahogany has been prohibited except under special licence from Government, and this is causing considerable anxiety, particularly just now, as this is the time the programme for the ensuing year's operations have to be considered and arranged, and it is to be hoped Government will soon be in a position to issue fuller information than we have received at present.

The year has been a favourable one as regards weather conditions (with the exception of the storm referred to above), and there are no complaints about wool being hung up. Just now we are enjoying torrents of rain, and will be pleased to have a spell of fine weather to dry things up a bit. We continue to receive excellent news of our Contingent and their doings, but the colony has to lament the loss of a few promising lives. I think the causes and reasons of the war, though, are more clearly understood than ever, and there is not likely to be any want of sympathy and support as far as it lies in the people's power.

JAMAICA—Mr. A. H. Miles Decorated.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, OCTOBER.—The weather during the month was consistently wet, and there were only two really fine days in Kingston. The rain, however, fell in heavy showers, and there were sunny intervals, so that the total rainfall scarcely exceeded the high average for October. The maximum temperature was 91 deg. Fahr., the minimum 70.6 deg. Fahr., and the mean 78.6 deg. Fahr. The total rainfall was 8.17 inches in Kingston. Heavy rains also fell on the north side of the island, and the roads suffered considerably. The train service to Port Antonio was interrupted from the same cause on the 26th.

Hon. A. H. Miles, Collector-General, was invested with the insignia of the Order of St. Michael and St. George at King's House by His Excellency the Governor on the 27th. Mr. R. W. Bryant was elected Mayor of Kingston

on the 9th, vice Mr. H. A. L. Simpson, resigned. Mr. A. J. Bandy, United States Vice-Consul in Kingston, sailed for New York, after recovering from a serious illness, on the 28th, whence it is understood he will proceed to Europe to take up another appointment. Mr. I. M. Brockbank, Division Accountant to the United Fruit Company, has been succeeded in Jamaica by Mr. J. C. Sharp, and left for the United States late in the month.

The sad death occurred under tragic circumstances on the 5th of Mr. Colin Liddell, Surveyor-General. Mr. Liddell was believed to have been suffering from a severe nervous strain, and the circumstances attending the finding of his body in the Wareika hills district point to death by poison. Mr. A. W. Baker is acting as Surveyor-General pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Liddell.

The Jamaica interests of the Hamilton Coupon Co. of America have been acquired by a local Company with a share capital of £3,000, who will take over the operation of the business on November 1st. News has been received in the island that Messrs. Pickford & Black have chartered an extra ship, the *Banan*, for their Halifax-Jamaica service. With the *Escondido* already on the route, the service will now probably become a fortnightly one. The rising price of flour has compelled the bakeries to reduce the size of their loaves this month, and it is feared that further reductions will follow, as even now the bakers are feeling the stress of War prices severely. In other lines also War conditions are proving a serious handicap, and at least two large firms in Kingston have decided to close their businesses, and are now disposing of their stocks.

Deep regret was expressed when the news reached Jamaica that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had decided to cancel their proposed sailings between New York and Central America, *via* Jamaica, for the coming season; but there is hope that this decision will be modified later on, and the service started. Generally speaking, the outlook for the tourist season is fairly bright.

"Our Day" was celebrated in Kingston and several of the outlying districts on the 19th. The weather was fortunately propitious, although, on account of the prevailing rains, the date had been postponed in several other parts of the colony, and the results, although still incomplete, indicate that a fair sum has been collected for the Red Cross. Badges were on sale in the streets. Various entertainments were arranged, and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides lent their valuable assistance in aid of the cause.

The Imperial authorities have decided to pay a pension of 17/6 per week to disabled privates of the B.W.I. Regiment. The Jamaican members will also receive local assistance, and will be given employment whenever possible. A movement has been inaugurated and an influential committee formed to erect a memorial to Jamaicans who have died on active service. Subscription lists have been opened and substantial donations received. Mr. M. D. Harrel sailed for Barbados *via* Colon on the 30th to take up his new appointment as Inspector-General of that island.

The Legislative Council, which met in special session on September 26th, concluded its work and adjourned *sine die* on the 4th. The proposals named in our September report were carried through all stages and passed, and in addition a resolution was adopted by virtue of which no alien of a nationality now hostile will be allowed to form business connections here for a period of twenty years after the War.

The revenue collections to the end of September were considerably in excess of the estimate, and indications are that the remaining half of the financial year will bring in a sufficient sum to bring the total up to or above the estimate for the year.

The first shipments of citrus fruits for the Army and Navy went forward this month, and will be followed by others at an early date.

The active War funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	5,012	11	5
Jamaica Blue Cross No. 2 Fund	167	10	6
Jamaica Polish Jews' Fund	1,872	19	7
Jamaica Contingent Sufferers' Fund	685	14	11
Jamaica Contingent Comforts Fund	289	13	0
Jamaica "Our Day" Red Cross Fund (incomplete returns)	326	9	8
Jamaica British Prisoners of War Fund	108	8	0
Jamaica Re-opened Aeroplane Fund	100	0	0
Other funds as last reported.			

GRENADA—Mr. Ayling's murderer hanged.

NOVEMBER 16th.—The weather for the past two weeks has been very wet, and the heavy rains have caused much damage to the roads by landslips. The Red Cross Fete in St. Patrick's on the 9th inst. was well supported in spite of the rain, and a dance at Mt. Rich afterwards was much enjoyed.

Amongst the recent arrivals are the new Vicar-General, Fr. Raphael Moss, O.P., and our new Chief Justice, His Honour Thomas Wagstaffe Hayercraft, B.A., and Mrs. Slinger, the wife of the late Major D. L. Slinger. Motor cars continue to arrive.

Our second contingent is expected to leave shortly. A display given by a squad under Major Smith at the St. George's Red Cross Fete shows they have been well trained. The murderer of Mr. Ayling, of Waltham Estate, was hanged on the 6th inst.

ST. KITTS—The Fringe of the Cyclone.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, NOVEMBER 6th.—We have much cause for thankfulness that we in this island have escaped the full force of at least four or five cyclonic disturbances which have either had their beginning, or have traversed, these localities during this hurricane season. The hurricane of the 9th ult., which swept with devastating force over the Northern Danish West Indies and the English Virgin Islands passed us by with strong southerly winds and an exceptionally high sea running for two days. The owners of small craft have had a very anxious time lately, and, unfortunately, during the last storm several lighters were lost both here and in Nevis. It falls hardly on the owners of these frail craft that in these days much of our produce has to be shipped during the hurricane season.

The island has experienced an exceptionally heavy rainfall for October, the Basseterre Valley averaging 15 inches and the north side 17 to 19 inches for the month; and there is every prospect of a good crop in 1917.

Under war conditions the cost of living is mounting up and becoming inconvenient to all classes; but more especially the laborers and poor of the community.

The men of the second local Contingent B.W.I. Regiment are still rusticated here, awaiting transport—which means deterioration.

TORAGO—Coco-nut 'huskers' difficulties.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, NOVEMBER 9th.—Rainy weather has continued since my last report, about two inches being twice registered, and with daily showers in between. The roads are thus in need of constant attention, while the fields are so saturated that the young cacao pods have nearly all been weathered. The bigger pods have mostly escaped, and there ought to be good pickings in January-February, and another good crop later on if the young flowers on the trees are not blighted. October and November are coco-nut picking months, and planters and workers have had a trying time of it. The climbers will not tackle wet trees, nor would it be safe to do so, as a slip would probably mean serious injury, while the "huskers" cannot get a sure hold of a wet coco-nut. As usual during this season there is a deal of fever and other mild complaints, but fortunately there has been nothing serious or epidemic this year. Our Commissioner, Mr. Strange, is confined to the house, but I hope will soon be at office again. Captain Henderson, of Hermitage Estate, Man-of-War Bay, who was invalided home in 1914 has just died at Aberdeen, Scotland, his native city. He was a keen planter and a great favourite with all classes during his six years' residence in Tobago, and his death is sincerely regretted. As an officer in the Gordon Highlanders he was over a year in service in the South African War, and bitterly regretted that health prevented him joining his old regiment in August, 1914.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Bowring—At Chislehurst, Sefton Park, Liverpool, on November 23rd, the wife of Lieut. Wm. Bowring, Scottish Rifles, of a daughter.

WANT.

Solicitor (aged 35, exempt from military service), who served his articles with Messrs. Corinaldi & Ashenheim, Jamaica, and has practised for over eight years, seeks engagement with a business house as manager or responsible clerk. Excellent references. Reply "C.V.E.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Bees and Beet Sugar.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—The other day, conversing with a chance acquaintance, a civil servant in one of the driest and most fact-producing departments of the Government, the conversation turned on the great question of the sugar supply of this country. Incidentally, my acquaintance mentioned that his hobby was bee-keeping. "Is it a fact," said I, "that bees will not eat beet sugar?" "No," said he, "they will eat it if they can get no other sugar, but good-bye to the bees!"

I am, etc.,

A NEUTRAL

A NEW SUGAR BOOK.

Sulphitation in White Sugar Manufacture. Francis Maxwell, Ph.D., A.M.I.Mech.E., F.C.S. Norman Rodger, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C. Demy 8vo., 72 pp., 8 figs., 3 plates. 7/6 net.

At the present time, when the attention of the cane sugar making world is directed to the production of plantation white sugar, any practical information on the subject is eagerly sought after by the planter. As regards the application of sulphur to the clarification of cane juice in connection with this make of sugar, Dr. Maxwell's work supplies much useful information. Chemists may disagree with him on some of the details of his explanation of the action of sulphurous acid on cane juice, but at the same time, those in search of knowledge will welcome his contribution to the practical side of the question. The matter of the subject dealt with is summed up in a useful form in the shape of a catechism.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone 6642 Central 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.

December 13th, 1916

BANK RATE stands at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 95½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 84½; and Consols at 54½.

SUGAR. The Board of Trade Returns for November show that 151,419 tons of sugar were imported during the month, making 1,448,544 tons for the eleven months of the year, as against 1,378,370 tons imported for the corresponding period of last year. The month's imports included 36,992 tons of "refined," under which heading plantation white sugar is entered, of which 36,077 tons came from Java, and only 4 cwts from the United States. For the eleven months, 386,824 tons of refined were imported, of which 4,279 tons came from Holland, 70,989 tons from Java, 268,464 tons from the United States, and 26,756 tons from Mauritius. Of "unrefined" sugar, the imports for the month amounted to 114,427 tons, of which 89,914 tons came from Java, making 245,844 tons for the eleven months, 7,807 tons from Cuba, making 550,206 tons for the eleven months, 10,930 tons from Peru, making 41,684 tons for the eleven months, 11 cwts. from Mauritius, making 80,062 tons for the eleven months, and 3,486 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana, bringing up the supply from those colonies for the eleven months to 67,715 tons.

The stocks of sugar on the 30th November amounted to 155,450 tons, as against 131,000 tons on the 31st October. The consumption for November, based on imports, was, therefore, 126,969 tons, as against 116,086 tons in October. The amount liberated from Customs' and refiners' bond for November was 114,551 tons, as against 109,910 tons in October. The consumption for the year, up to November 30th, based on imports, has been 1,455,102 tons. The amount liberated from bond for the eleven months has been 1,288,216 tons, as against 1,538,500 tons for the corresponding period of last year. Although the stocks on hand on the 30th of November of this year are practically the same in amount that they were last year at the same date, there is a considerable difference in the proportions of refined and unrefined. Thus, on the 30th of November, 1915, there were 72,350 tons of refined on hand and 86,000 tons of raw, while on the 30th of November this year, there were 42,200 tons of refined on hand, and 113,250 tons of raws. For the eleven months of 1915, 727,530 tons were released from the refiners' bond; this year, up to the same date, the liberations have been 676,834 tons, pointing to rather less output on the part of the refiners.

The outcry as to the deficiency of the supply of sugar to the general public continues. The imports for the year are only 16 per cent. less than for the eleven months of 1914, and seeing the extent of the compulsory abstention from sugar as such which the want of sugar in the retailers' hands has occasioned, coupled with the big display of confectionery which obtains everywhere, the only conclusion to arrive at is that the sugar using trades have had their full allowance and more, instead of participating in the general reduction of supply. In this connection Mr. Runciman has been conferring with the confectioners and other trades using sugar, and it is reported on good authority that the allowance to them is to be reduced to one-third of their recent supply. The matter, however, is not so simple as it looks. The sugar using trades have been supplied with sugar which is not of a quality in ordinary circumstances to go into direct consumption. The large firms have, therefore, been compelled to erect their own refineries in order to convert their supplies into a quality of syrup or sugar, as the case may be, suitable for their requirements. If sugar hitherto supplied to them is diverted to the wants of the direct sugar consuming public, the latter will have to be contented with a class of sugar hitherto regarded by them as being objectionable, as our refineries are quite inadequate to turn out more than they are now doing, at any rate until the Sugar Commission has adjusted matters by the purchase of sugars of a character calculated to meet the requirements of the altered conditions. In this connection it may be mentioned that the purchase of 200,000 tons new crop Cubans for delivery January-March at 17-10.6 has been made by the Sugar Commission.

The hearing by the Board of Referees of the appeal of the West India Committee and the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool for an increase in the statutory percentage under the Excess Profits provisions of the Finance (No. 2) Act has been fixed for January 12th. Meanwhile, in the case of the manufacture of explosives the Board has raised the statutory percentage for companies to 8 per cent., that of the New Zealand tramways to 7½ per cent., and as regards sheep farming in Chili and Patagonia to 11 per cent. For private individuals the rate is one per cent. more in each instance.

The Canadian figures for the fiscal year 1915-16 show that the consumption of sugar in the Dominion for that year was 267,389 tons, as against 302,450 tons for the preceding year. The amount entered under the British Preferential Tariff was 139,567 tons, of which 20 tons came from the United Kingdom, and 18,000 tons from Fiji. The British West India Islands contributed 52,971 tons in 1915-16, and British Guiana 68,893 tons.

The imports of sugar into India amounted, for the six months ending September, 1916, to 180,729 tons, as against 237,207 tons for the corresponding period of 1915. This is only about 50 per cent. of the pre-war imports. Java contributed 152,743 tons, and Mauritius 9,514 tons to the 1916 supplies.

The future of the coming Cuban crop is still uncertain as to time of beginning of reaping and the quality of the juice. The facts are that a heavy crop of canes exists, that the weather has not been, and is not, of such a

character as to ripen the canes, that there is much delay as regards the erection of new, and the making good of existing, machinery, and that the labour question promises to be a serious one. Guma estimates the coming crop at 8,574,000 tons.

An American company has been formed to develop the sugar industry of Haiti. According to *Facts about Sugar*, the president of the company and a party of the company's officials recently sailed for Haiti with the view of arranging for the construction and other works. 16,000 acres of land have been acquired by the company, and the erection of the first factory, to be erected near Port-au-Prince, will be started early in 1917, to be completed in time to take off the 1917-1918 crop. 35,000 tons are expected to be turned out for the first crop, with the aid of additional canes from neighbouring estates.

The next Hawaiian crop is estimated at 641,000 tons. In Louisiana it is expected that there will be an increase of one-third in the acreage planted.

In Sweden the population are allowed sugar by ticket at the rate of 2.2 lbs. per head per month.

The prices of sugar in the United Kingdom remain unchanged. First quality cubes are quoted at 47/11/4; standard granulated at 41/7/4; West Indian crystallised at 41/7/4, average of values, and White Javas 41/7/4 without grading.

The West India sugar statistics from January 1st to December 2nd are as follows:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	53,482	51,694	30,301	37,362	25,886 Tons.
Deliveries ...	56,027	45,824	36,698	28,171	28,659 ..
Stock (Dec 2)	8,560	11,879	6,555	11,031	1,697 ..

The New York market has been fairly steady. At the date of last summary 96's duty paid were quoted at \$5.64. On the 6th inst the value rose to \$5.69, but declined the following day to \$5.62. Yesterday the value declined to \$5.53, with a sudden drop in granulated to \$7.10.

RUM. The tendency of the market for Jamaica has been rather easier. Sales of proof rum have been made at firm prices. Demerara newly landed was sold on the 1st at 3/8.

The Board of Trade Returns for November show that 1,013,989 proof gallons were imported, making 9,353,663 gallons for the eleven months. This compares with 1,024,972 and 9,125,490 galls. for the corresponding periods of 1915, and includes imitation rum. The stocks in the United Kingdom on the 30th November amounted to 12,961,000 galls., as against 8,680,000 galls. on the same date last year. The quantity liberated from bond for home consumption was 360,718 proof gallons, as against 503,210 gallons in November, 1915, and the total amount for the eleven months 2,905,797 galls., as against 3,996,115 galls. for the same period last year. The returns show therefore a considerable decrease in consumption, in common with other spirits.

The increase in the number of troops at the front and of our Navy at sea, has thrown increased work on the vatting, reducing and "bottling" work which the Port of London Authority has undertaken for the War Office. The rum of the Army is packed in gallon jars, two of which go to a case, and for the Navy in casks.

The stocks in London on December 2nd were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	10,748	6,000	7,422	6,807	7,701 Puns
Demerara ...	11,242	4,356	3,887	5,895	5,464 ..
Total, all kinds ...	36,915	22,249	19,311	20,045	21,778 ..

CACAO. Market has been very flat. At auction sales yesterday 14,210 bags were offered, but there was little or no demand; of 879 bags Trinidad part sold at 70/- to 79/-; of 2,728 bags Grenada, part sold at 60/- to 64/6; 8 bags Demerara sold at 60/-; 257 bags Jamaica and 6 bags Dominica were bought in. Out of 64 bags St. Lucia, 3 bags were sold at 68/6, and 28 bags Montserrat fetched 63/-.

The Board of Trade Returns report 9,466,912 lbs. as having been imported into the United Kingdom during the month, making 183,739,924 lbs. for the eleven months of the year, as against 176,030,176 lbs. for the corresponding months of last year. For the month British West Africa supplied 4,149,264 lbs., making 98,551,936 lbs. for the

eleven months; Ceylon, 13,552 lbs. for the month, making 4,419,152 lbs. for the eleven months; and the British West India Islands, 937,664 lbs., making 22,998,080 lbs. for the eleven months.

The exports amounted to 1,587,040 lbs. for the month, making 51,077,936 lbs., principally to the United States and Holland.

The stocks in London on December 2nd were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	18,875	8,845	6,999	10,660	5,189 Bags
Grenada ...	11,231	2,644	2,838	2,966	2,659 ..
Total, all kinds	212,290	104,098	63,653	70,232	74,766 ..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland state that there is nothing to add to the last report with regard to West Indian Sea Island cotton, but that they expect that when the new crop comes in quantity on the market it will command good prices.

According to the Board of Trade Returns, the quantity of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during November was 275,779,000 lbs., of which 42,710,800 lbs. came from British Possessions, including 183,500 from the British Colonies in the Caribbean Sea. For the eleven months of the year 1,930,634,100 lbs. were imported, of which 428,285,800 lbs. came from British Possessions, with 158,400 lbs. from the British West Indies. The exports amounted to 7,788,600 lbs. for the month, making 232,557,000 lbs. for the eleven months. Of the latter, the United States received the largest quantity, 132,767,300 lbs. being shipped to that country. Holland received 25,845,300 lbs., as against 6,851,000 lbs. only in 1914.

The amount of West Indian cotton imported for the year up to the 8th of December was 4,673 bales.

COFFEE. The market continues quiet. Santos may be quoted at 53/- c.i.f. sellers' price.

The imports of coffee for the month of November amounted to 4,608,016 lbs., making 162,415,120 lbs. for the eleven months of the year. To the latter British India contributed 4,848,136 lbs., the British West Indies 1,060,864 lbs., and other British Possessions 5,338,928 lbs. The amount taken out of bond for home consumption was 28,445,088 lbs. for the eleven months, as against 31,908,412 lbs. for the corresponding period of last year. Exports for the month were 2,041,648 lbs., and for the eleven months 163,161,216 lbs.

The stocks of coffee on the 30th of November were 137,424,000 lbs., as against 93,856,000 lbs. at the same date last year.

FRUIT. There is a firm trade in all lines. Bananas. Owing to an interruption in the Canary Island Service, arrivals of bananas from that source will be erratic, and the market is likely at times to be bare. The value of West Indian is £17 per ton (truck loads); of Canary, 7/- to 14/6 per crate or drum, with 12/- to 20/- per crate for Hoya Special.

The number of bunches imported for November was 450,172, making 5,795,129 bunches for the eleven months. These figures compare with 426,558 bunches and 7,732,107 bunches for the respective periods of last year. Exports for the eleven months amounted to 102,967 bunches as against 276,934 bunches for the same period last year.

Oranges. Shipments of Jamaica are now finished, but a few from the last arrival are still obtainable. Quotation for Jamaica 17/- per case, mixed counts. The imports for the month amounted to 270,409 cwt., making 5,186,573 cwt. for the eleven months. The November imports of last year were 403,897 cwt., making for the eleven months 5,088,913 cwt. Exports for the eleven months amounted to 167,221 cwt., as against 341,384 cwt. for the corresponding period of last year. Jamaica Grape Fruit is quoted at 16/- per case, mixed counts, Jamaica Coco-nut at 25/- per bag (100's).

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Distilled. Small sales at 9/-. Handpressed, no business reported. Lime Juice. Raw—fair sales of Jamaica up to 2/9 for good quality. There is no change to report in concentrated or in Citrate of Lime.

HONEY. Moderate supplies offered at auction since last mail met with a good demand at about 2/6 per cwt., and the market is rather firmer since. Jamaica may be quoted at 40/- to 52/6.

SPICES. Ginger. Quotations for Jamaica are nominally unchanged, but the demand is still very slow. The imports for November were 75,264 lbs., making 3,276,448 lbs. for the eleven months of last year, the imports were 4,986,312 lbs. The exports for the year up to the 30th November were 1,565,760 lbs., as against 2,011,634 lbs. for the same period last year. **Pimento.** Some business in spot parcels has been done at 31/2, and to arrive at 30/- c.i.f. Dec.-Jan. shipment. Holders are firm. **Nutmegs,** 68s. to 68s. 1/5 to 2/-, 75s. 1/4 to 1/5, 80s. 1/- to 1/2, 95s. 10d. to 11d., 110s. 10d. to 11d. **Mace.** Unchanged.

COPRA. Market steady to firm, with little offering. Value £40.

ARROWROOT. More enquiry. About 2,000 barrels sold at 3/6d. to 3/3d. Quotations are nominal at 3d. to 4/3d.

RUBBER. The market is quiet, and slightly easier, after having been very strong. Fine plantation may be quoted at 3/4; smoked sheet at 3/4; fine hard Para at 3/6; and soft at 2/11.

The Board of Trade Returns for November show that 17,378,400 lbs. were imported for the month, of which 183,400 lbs. came from British India, 2,963,400 lbs. from the Straits Settlements, 6,729,600 lbs. from the Federated Malay States, and 2,015,800 lbs. from Ceylon. For the eleven months the imports have amounted to 158,015,000 lbs., including 3,445,500 lbs. from British India, 41,474,400 lbs. from the Straits Settlements, and 40,130,700 lbs. from the Federated Malay States, and 20,220,600 lbs. from Ceylon. The total amount imported for the eleven months of last year was 163,923,800 lbs. The exports for the eleven months of this year have been 101,844,800 lbs., as against 132,150,300 lbs. for the corresponding period of last year. The principal country of export is the United States, which has taken 52,962,300 lbs. this year.

BALATA. Supplies small, market quiet but steady. Venezuela block nominal at 2/9 1/2 c.i.f. Panama block, spot sold at 2/5 1/2 landed terms. West India sheet nominal 3/5 to 3/6 spot, forward 3/3 1/2.

THE NEW MINISTRY

We give below, for purpose of reference, the names and offices of the members of Mr. Lloyd George's first Ministry:—

The War Cabinet.

MR. D. LLOYD GEORGE	Prime Minister.
LORD CURZON	Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords.
MR. HENDERSON	Without Portfolio.
LORD MILNER	Without Portfolio.
MR. BONAR LAW	Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Other Ministers.

Lord Chancellor	SIR ROBERT FINLAY, K.C., who, in accepting the office, has stipulated that his rights to a pension should be waived.
Home Secretary	SIR GEORGE CAVE.
Foreign Secretary	MR. BALFOUR.
Colonial Secretary	MR. WALTER LONG.
Secretary for War	LORD DERBY.
Secretary for India	MR. CHAMBERLAIN.
President of the Local Government Board	LORD RHONDDA.
President of the Board of Trade	SIR ALBERT STANLEY.
Minister of Labour	MR. HODGE.
First Lord of the Admiralty	SIR EDWARD CARSON.
Minister of Munitions	DR. ADDISON.
Minister of Blockade	LORD ROBERT CECIL.
Food Controller	LORD DEVONPORT.
Shipping Controller	SIR JOSEPH MACLAY.
President of the Board of Agriculture	MR. R. E. PROTHERO.
President of the Board of Education	DR. H. A. L. FISHER.
First Commissioner of Works	SIR ALFRED MOND.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	SIR FREDERICK CAWLEY.
Postmaster-General	MR. ALBERT ILLINGWORTH.
Pensions Minister	MR. GEORGE BARNES.
Attorney-General	SIR F. E. SMITH, K.C.
Solicitor-General	MR. GORDON HEWART, K.C.
Secretary for Scotland	MR. MUNRO.
Lord Advocate	MR. J. A. CLYDE, K.C.
Solicitor-General for Scotland	MR. T. B. MORISON, K.C.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	LORD WIMBORNE.
Chief Secretary for Ireland	MR. H. E. DUKE.
Lord Chancellor of Ireland	SIR IGNATIUS O'BRIEN, K.C.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. G. S. Browne	Mr. John T. Greg	Hon. D. McDonald
Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G.	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. Hugh McLelland
Mrs. Burdon	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. Albert Mendes
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Prof. J. P. D'Albuquerque	Hon. R. Haynes	Mr. John T. Moir
Hon. P. J. Dean	Mr. E. A. Hinkson	Dr. Frank Oliphant
Mr. W. de Gale	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Sir Walter Egerton,	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. T. Orde
K.C.M.G.	Hon. A. Don, Lockhart	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Mr. A. Marsden	Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. W. Morris Fletcher	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Mr. R. B. Short,
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. L. McColl	and
Mr. Frank Goodwin		Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.		
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove.		
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.		
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Devonport Lane, Beeston, Notts		
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.		
Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.		

STEAMER SAILINGS.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 19	Booker	Arakaha	Liverpool	B.
" 20	" Direct "	Savan	London	A. B. E. F. G.
" 22	Elders & Fyffes	Camilo	Bristol	K. L. M. N.
" 23	Leyland	Belgian	Liverpool	D.
" 27	" Direct "	Crown of Galicia	Glasgow	A. B. E. F. G.
" 29	Leyland	Median	Liverpool	K. L. M. N.
Jan. 3	" Direct "	Sargasso	London	D.
" 5	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	A. B. E. F. G.
				K. L. M. N.
				D.

FROM HOLLAND.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Dec. 29	Royal Dutch.	Prins Willem I.	Amsterdam	B. E.
				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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices Dec. 13
4 %	Antigua Redeemable 1919-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados Redeemable 1923-42	70 1/2
4 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1935	70 1/2
3 %	British Guiana Redeemable 1923-45	71 1/2
4 %	Grenada Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1934	82 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1919-49	71 1/2
3 %	Jamaica Redeemable 1922-44	63 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia Redeemable 1919-44	82 1/2
4 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1917-42	80 1/2
3 %	Trinidad Redeemable 1923-44	62 1/2
3 1/2 %	The Colonial Bank	5 31/32
6 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	113
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	86 1/2
3 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	85
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	105 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	10 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	102 1/2
4 %	Trinidad Cifields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	4/10
4 %	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	14/-
7 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	20-25
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	97-100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	67-70
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	20 6/32
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	78 3/32
6/-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	85
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	96

The . . .

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December 27th, 1916.

This number completes Volume XXXI. of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the index to which will be published with next issue. Special cases for binding Volume XXXI. can be obtained at the publishing office, price 2/6 each, or 3/1 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 DANISH WEST INDIES.

FOLLOWING an overwhelming vote by the inhabitants of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix for transfer to the United States, a plebiscite taken in Denmark on December 14th has resulted in a substantial majority in favour of the sale of the islands. Unless, therefore, a hitch occurs at the eleventh hour, the Danish West Indies should pass under the Stars and Stripes before many moons are set. It will be recalled that the Senate of the United States has ratified the Treaty for the transfer of the islands, and in view of the result of the recent plebiscite in Denmark, it may be assumed that the Danish Landsting will now take similar action. The chief asset of the islands is, as was pointed out recently in these columns, their strategic position and the superb harbour at Charlotte Amalia, in St. Thomas. A glance at the map will show how very favourably situated the island is in relation to the Panama Canal, and the fact that it was for many years the first port of call of the transatlantic steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company tells its own tale. In the circumstances, it cannot be a matter of surprise that the United States should desire to acquire the islands, and should be prepared to offer more for them now than they did in 1867 and 1901, when negotiations for their purchase were last conducted. The total area of the islands is 127 square miles, the population only 30,000, and the industries, other than that of coal-

ing, are few and unimportant. Indeed, in 1912—an average year—the exports of the Danish colony were valued at \$482,192 only, against imports to the tune of \$1,394,760. In St. Thomas indeed, there are practically no agricultural industries. Sugar was once produced there, but bay rum, distilled from the leaves of the bay tree (*pimenta acris*), imported from the neighbouring island of St. John, is the only article of export. The island does not even grow sufficient ground provisions to meet the requirements of the people and ships which put into its port. In St. Croix, sugar cultivation has survived, and there are still about a hundred small sugar estates in the island. But we do not for a moment believe that if the present deal is consummated, the United States will allow their new islands to lie fallow, and we may be quite certain that the resourceful Americans will do for St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix what they have already done for Cuba, Porto Rico, and that fruit-planters' and pleasure-seekers' Paradise, the Isle of Pines. Plantations will be established, and palatial hotels will spring up which will put to shame the wretched boarding-houses which furnish the only accommodation in most of the lesser British islands in the West Indies. No doubt many of the American tourists who will visit St. Thomas will be tempted to explore the British West Indian Islands, which should also profit by the example of American enterprise and push that is certain to be afforded to them at their doors. On the other hand, it is to be feared that the new American islands will attract labour from the Leeward Islands as Cuba is doing from Jamaica, Venezuela from Trinidad, and Santo Domingo from Turks Islands, as we show elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. While we must regret that St. Thomas and the neighbouring islands, which were British from 1807 to 1815, are not to pass once more under the Union Jack—though it must be admitted that Great Britain has shewn herself quite incapable of developing those Caribbean islands already under her wing—we are glad that the group is to fall into the hands of the United States rather than remain under their present ownership—for several reasons. To begin with, this change will not fail to stimulate by force of example what MR. GIDEON MURRAY called the Eastern West Indies; it will also help to solve the shipping problem, for we may be certain that several lines of steamers will, on their way to and from Colon, at the mouth of the Panama Canal, make St. Thomas a port of call, where Government-controlled British intercolonial steamers might meet them. Finally, the change of ownership will be the last nail in the coffin of German ambitions in the Lesser Antilles—for which we must be truly thankful. It is an open secret that Germany has for many years cast longing eyes on

the Danish islands. St. Thomas was the headquarters of the Hamburg-America Line, whose vessels made over two hundred entries into the port of Charlotte Amalia in the course of a year, and it will not be forgotten that German influence was behind the comprehensive scheme of port development elaborated some years ago.

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH SUGAR.

THE question of preferential trade within the Empire is brought perceptibly nearer settlement by Mr. LLOYD GEORGE'S great speech in the House of Commons on the 19th inst. In the course of his remarks he referred to the greater share in the Empire's policy which the self-governing Colonies would have in the future, and announced the summoning of Imperial Conferences at frequent dates, the first of which will meet in February next. The pooling of the political interests of the Empire which must result cannot but be followed by the consolidation of the commercial interests, and one of the forms which this will take seems inevitably to be the adoption of a system of mutual preferential tariff treatment—a system which was inaugurated by the Dominion of Canada in 1898. The ideal of Free Trade within an Empire surrounded by a tariff wall is impracticable. The economic conditions of our Colonies vary so much from those of the Mother Country—and, indeed, among themselves—that it would not only be impossible, but actually against the interests of the Empire, to adopt a system of general Imperial Free Trade. On the other hand, the adoption of a system of preferential treatment in the tariffs of each unit of the Empire of the produce of the other units is undoubtedly the way, not only to forward the interests of the industries affected, but also those of the Empire as a whole. The case of sugar has been a striking instance of the injury done to the Empire by the Little Englander commercial policy pursued in the past as regards our Colonies. This policy, which admitted the dumping of German and Austrian sugar, produced under a system of protection which, with the aid of the large proportion of the sugar crops consumed in those countries, enabled the manufacturers to form Cartels or trusts by means of which their surplus sugar could be sold under its natural price in the markets of outside countries, was fatal to Colonial sugar development. In 1913, out of nearly 2,000,000 tons of sugar imported into this country, no less than 95 per cent. came from foreign sources, including 65 per cent. from enemy countries. The output of our exporting Colonies was under 600,000 tons, out of which, on account of the unsympathetic policy of the rulers of this country towards our Colonies, only 72,000 tons came to this country, most of the balance going to India in the case of Mauritius, and to Canada—where preferential treatment is accorded to British-produced sugar generally—in the case of the West Indies. It was the shutting-up of the 2,000,000 tons or so of German and Austrian sugar generally available for the world's use which caused the sugar stringency at the commencement of the War. This state of things would

never have occurred if our Governments had grasped the true idea of Imperial policy instead of bowing down to the fetish of cheapness—at any cost. It may be deemed impolitic, or even unpatriotic, to press the subject of preferential treatment for Colonial sugar on the attention of the Government when its whole energy, and that of the country, is concentrating on the conduct of the War. But peace may come when least expected by us, and even as the War found us unprepared for war, so may peace find us unprepared for peace from the want of a definite Imperial trade policy. It is time, therefore, that the question of the future of Colonial sugar should be settled. Is the United Kingdom to be supplied with imperially-produced sugar in the future, or is it to remain at the mercy of foreign countries in this respect? Are the great sugar-producing capabilities of our Colonies to remain undeveloped, and their resources untapped? In the tropical Colonies of the Empire, sugar can be produced as cheaply as in any part of the world. It can be produced, as the official replies to the enquiries of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, recently given to the public in "The British Sugar Industry," showed, in quantities a long way above the requirements of the United Kingdom for many years to come. But capitalists cannot be expected to invest money in a sugar industry the product of which has to meet with competition, in the only market of any size fiscally open to it, with artificially cheapened sugar, without protection, such as would be afforded by adequate preferential tariff treatment. In the case of home-grown beet, the late Government, by imposing an excise tax—which in the case of sugar polarising 98° and over is £2 6s. 8d. per ton—below the amount of the Customs duty, definitely established the principle of protection for home industries. By preferential treatment to the same degree in the Customs tariff as regards Colonial sugar for, say, twenty years, the foundation would be laid not only for a complete supply of Colonial sugar for the United Kingdom, but also for the establishment of a Colonial sugar industry on a firm basis, and of a size calculated to enhance materially Colonial prosperity. In this connection, we trust that the exertions of the British Empire Producers' Organisation in bringing the subject to the notice of the Government will bear fruit.

No immediate change in the subscription rates to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is contemplated. It should be pointed out, however, that the cost of materials and labour has been steadily mounting up. In the circumstances we confidently appeal to members of the West India Committee who have not already sent in their subscriptions for the current year to do so without delay. For the convenience of members, arrangements have been made whereby subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank. It is hoped that the coming year will be marked by a large increase of membership, and members are invited to introduce eligible candidates for election. Annual subscriptions of individuals can be commuted by the payment of the sum of ten guineas for life membership.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

At a meeting of the Executive on December 14th the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer & Seconder.
Mr. H. J. Meagher (Martinique)	{ Mr. E. G. Bennett, K.C. { Hon. Gregor Peter.
Mr. P. G. Greaves (Nevis)	{ Mr. J. Spencer Hollings. { Mr. E. Williams.
Messrs. H. I. Ellis & Co. (St. Vincent)	{ Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Rev. John L. Brack, B.A.	{ Mr. Peter Abel. { Mr. F. I. Searl, F.I.C.
Captain Michael S. Grace (Jamaica)	{ Captain J. Hamilton. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. Geo. E. Laughlin (Trinidad)	{ Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. { Mr. Harcourt Hamel Smith.
Mr. David Findlay (Trinidad)	{ Mr. James Black. { Mr. Jas. Knox.
Dr. Arthur H. McShine, M.D. (Trinidad)	{ Mr. J. W. McCarthy? { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mrs. De Rinzy	{ Sir F. Hodgson, K.C.M.G. { Mrs. Bromley.
Rev. Richard W. Charlesworth	{ Mr. D. Foster Ross. { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Rev. Arthur L. Bodfish (Jamaica)	{ Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mr. R. F. Leavitt (Dominica)	{ Mr. L. Lambert Bell. { Mr. E. Henderson.
Capt. W. C. Anderson, D.S.O. (Trinidad)	{ Mr. W. M. Campbell. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. James Scott (Grenada)	{ Mr. H. A. Trotter. { Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. F. E. J. Bower	{ Mr. Bernard Bonyun. { Mr. R. Rutherford.

By virtue of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, only British subjects and British firms are eligible for membership of the West India Committee. Any member may propose or second candidates for election, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 Is. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. During the year 1916, 109 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	21	Bermuda	1
Jamaica	8	British Honduras	1
British Guiana	7	Nevis	1
Grenada	7	St. Vincent	1
St. Kitts	6	Natal	1
Dominica	6	Martinique	1
Tobago	5	New York	1
Barbados	4	Nigeria	1
Canada	4	London	13
Antigua	2	Country	17
Bahamas	1		

SIR FREDERICK EVE, the distinguished surgeon, who succumbed to an attack of influenza on December 15th, was married to a daughter of the late Hon. H. E. Cox, of Claremont, Jamaica, who, with a son and daughter, survives him. Mr. Cox, who was Custos of St. Ann, was the pioneer of tea-planting in Jamaica.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The German Peace Kite.

One of the signs of the enemy's grim determination in the conduct of the War is her elimination of incompetents, including the Hohenzollerns. The virtual ruler of Germany is Hindenburg, a bluff old soldier of strong character, who acts in harmonious co-operation with Ludendorff, his Chief of Staff—a man of extraordinary intellect. The Chancellor was their puppet in making a move towards peace, as in all else—and a cunning one it was in its appeal to neutrals, though not to belligerents, whose psychology baffles even the subtle Ludendorff. For what was proposed was nothing less than a cessation of hostilities, the Germans knowing very well that, under modern conditions, once arms are laid down, they would not likely be resumed. To have agreed to it would have been a betrayal of civilisation, as well as a military surrender of unparalleled magnitude. Germany's object, now that there are no more contiguous territories to overrun, and she can destroy neither the fleets nor the armies of the Allies, was to preserve what is left of her own before another offensive in the West so increases the demoralisation of her troops as to involve her in disaster. By consenting to a truce, the Allies would have tacitly admitted her claim to victory; by agreeing to a Conference they would have placed her in a position at it to dictate terms. Much as they desire peace, they are prepared to suffer all that the continuation of the War involves rather than agree to Germany's proposals. She chose to pick up the sword, and will not be allowed to exchange it for an olive-branch until it suits them. Great Britain, Russia, France, Italy, and Serbia have each, through the head of its Government, spoken to this effect. Once more in a vital matter the enemy should learn that want of unity amongst the Allies is an illusion.

Political Changes.

Mr. Lloyd George was not long in forming a Cabinet, which, in the main, inspires confidence, besides breaking the mischievous spell woven by the late Government that it was "indispensable." The new blood is drawn from business circles and from the professional classes—the law excepted—and the aim seems to have been to fill offices with men who understand their job. Moreover, in new posts, such as that occupied by the Food Controller and Man-Power organiser, the paralysing Committee is done away with in favour of the personal responsibility of one man. The conduct of the War is to be concentrated in a War Council of five, all of them free from departmental cares. They are the Prime Minister, Lord Milner, Lord Curzon, Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Henderson, who represents Labour. None of these distinguished persons, with the exception of Lord Milner, has ever shown that he possesses a military mind, and one is left to wonder where the soldiers and sailors come in. No doubt they will be invited to attend

the meetings of this august Council when they are asked. Only events can demonstrate the wisdom or foolishness of a system so illogical.

Naval Changes.

Admiral Jellicoe, who has brought his incomparable experience of sea warfare under modern conditions to the Admiralty, is succeeded in the command of the Grand Fleet by Admiral Beatty, who has in a remarkable degree the essential qualities of a fighting Admiral, and as such is regarded with confidence by the men under him. It is probable that Admiral Jellicoe has himself chosen two out of the three Sea Lords who are to share with him the tremendous responsibilities of the Admiralty. They are Sir Cecil Burney, who in Whitehall occupies the same position with regard to his Chief as he did in the North Sea, and Captain Halsey, who is well known in all the Dominions of the Crown, including the West Indies, which he visited in the course of the Empire tour of the *New Zealand* in 1914. It is, however, to the organising ability he showed in the North Sea that he owes his present position. The advantage of the close association of these three men at the Admiralty is obvious. They have all been trained in the school of war, have the same knowledge and experience, and are accustomed to work together. Moreover, in the new First Lord, Sir Edward Carson, the Board has a man of judgment, of action, and of decision for the first time since the War began.

Military Changes in France.

Like ourselves, the French have concentrated the control of the War in a small War Committee, with General Joffre as chief military adviser. General Nivelle, who succeeds him as Commander-in-Chief of the French armies, will probably be to him as Sir William Robertson is to Sir Douglas Haig. Whether or not the new arrangement will make for greater individual freedom as regards the General in the field and greater co-operation between the principal military adviser of the British Government and of the French Government respectively, remains to be seen. But it is an end eminently desirable. General Nivelle has rapidly advanced since the outbreak of the War by his brilliant and daring manoeuvring in Alsace, on the Ourcq, on the Aisne, before Soissons, and in his culminating achievement, the victory of Verdun. He is of English military stock on his mother's side, and to this he owes some of his most characteristic qualities.

Verdun Again.

General Mangin has inaugurated his command with a brilliant victory. He advanced his centre up to, and in places beyond, the front from which the French were obliged to fall back last February, winning back all the dominating positions in the original second line of defence north of Verdun. That the wings did not keep pace with the centre was due to the fact that the enemy's front beyond the Meuse and in the Woivre is more favourable to him now than it was ten months ago. The attack was launched after a preliminary bombard-

ment of seventy hours. In the course of a few hours the German front was broken to a depth of nearly two miles over an area of nearly six miles on the east bank of the Meuse by four divisions as against five enemy divisions. Over 11,000 prisoners have surrendered, and the guns and material captured are very considerable. Besides being the most effective of all answers to the German peace overtures, the victory at Verdun brings the French perceptibly nearer to the Briey mines, whose rich deposits are the main source of Germany's enormous supply of munitions. The delay in launching the counter-attack is indicative of the state of the enemy's reserves in this sector. Evidently they were all used up in the battle, so that the necessary forces had to be brought from a distance.

Mesopotamia.

The troops on the Tigris, who for seven months have been grilling in one of the hottest regions in the world, and suffering all the torments thereof, will be glad of the move which has brought them within three-quarters of a mile of Kut. It was made after the first rain fell since April, laying the dust that would otherwise have given notice of the attack, which was carried out at night without serious opposition. General Maude by the operation has thus incidentally carried through a task so often vainly attempted before the fall of Kut—the turning of the Sanna-i-Yat position. But between us and the town still intervenes the Tigris. Apparently our unfortunate experience in the past has led to a new policy with regard to transport, light railways having been constructed to supplement the uncertain communications by water.

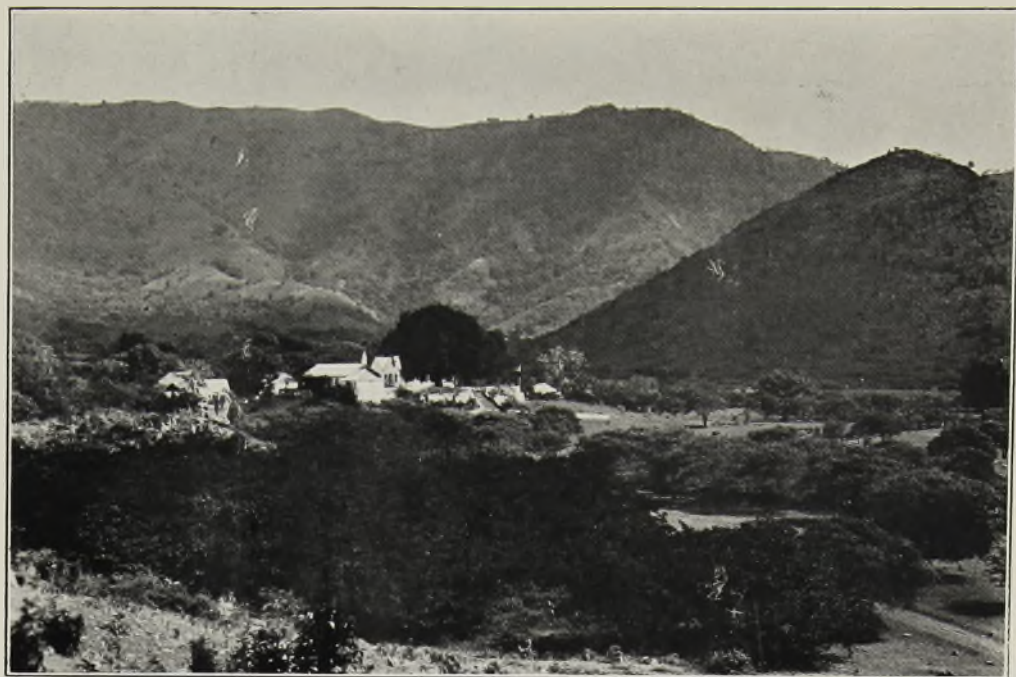
The British Forces in Egypt have occupied El Arish, an important Turkish base on the Syrian coast. This notable success was due to the perfect co-operation between our airmen, infantry, and cavalry.

On the Eastern Front.

Heavy fighting is reported from the Dobrudja, where the Russo-Roumanian forces are retiring in conformation with the general plan east of the Carpathians, and in Moldavia, where the Roumanians are slowly retreating to join up with the Russians, while fighting strong rearguard actions to meet the strategic requirements of the situation caused by the fact that the southern wing has to travel by a longer route than the northern. The point of their operations is the chain of mountains on the Moldavian frontier. They are evidently withdrawing to the line of the Sereth, a strong defensive position, which should ensure their retention of the Moldavian Province. The question will probably be decided by a battle in front of the Danube and the Sereth. The alternative to the Germans is to concentrate in Wallachia with the idea of breaking through to the Czernowitz-Buzau railway, which constitutes the Russian line of communication.

In Greece.

Admiral Gauchet, who is a man of initiative and resolution, has replaced Admiral du Fournet, whose tact was essential to the policy of persuasion as conceived by Lord Grey. The new kind of



CADE'S BAY, ANTIGUA.



"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
A West Indian Character Study.

persuasion—by blockade—is, as predicted, bringing Athens to its senses. Disorder has sensibly diminished with the prospect of starvation in sight, and the Court seems more willing to listen to the demands of the Entente Powers, not only with regard to military matters, but with regard to reparation for the outrages on Allied troops and on Venizelists.

The American Note.

The Government at Washington seem to live on the same Olympian heights as the late head of our Foreign Office—only higher. They do not yet know what the War is about, and write as if the spirit and practice of both sides were equally noble. All the same, they are afraid that America will be drawn into the struggle, and want the Allies to consider peace. If Mr. Wilson will consider squarely how and why his country is coming to the perilous position he dreads, perhaps he will understand the cause of the War and the reason for its continuance. He disclaims any intention of supporting Germany's peace proposals, though that will be the result of his action. These pacifists are so innocent!

(To be continued.)

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The fourth monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation records vigorous progress with the work in hand.

The following gentlemen were elected an Executive of the Sugar Section:—Mr. A. D. Jackson (India), alternatively Mr. A. J. Vorne (India); Mr. F. F. Kemp (United Kingdom), alternatively Mr. V. A. Malcolmson (United Kingdom); Mr. Chas. McNeil (Australia), alternatively Mr. H. C. A. Young (Australia); Mr. W. Martineau (Refiners), Mr. R. Rutherford (West Indies), Mr. Edward Snell (South Africa), Mr. L. Souchon (Mauritius), alternatively Mr. J. Paterson (Mauritius). The report goes on to mention that Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall has been invited and has consented to act as Hon. Secretary of this section.

On October 31st a Sub-Committee of the Executive, consisting of the Chairman, Mr. E. Saunders, and Mr. Horace E. B. Young, met Lord Balfour of Burleigh (Chairman of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy). They were asked by Lord Balfour to state a case on behalf of the Organisation which he could put before his Committee at an early date. A draft was accordingly prepared by the Chairman in consultation with other members of the Executive, which was discussed at the meeting of the Sugar Section on November 17th, and after approving the general lines of the draft, the following members were unanimously appointed as a Sub-Committee to settle the final wording:—The Chairman, Mr. Martineau, Mr. Robert Rutherford, and Mr. L. Souchon. The letter was sent to Lord Balfour of Burleigh on November 22nd.

The Executive of the British Empire Sugar Machinery Manufacturers' Association had con-

sidered and approved a suggestion made by Mr. Robertson for a pamphlet on German competition in the engineering trade, and a book illustrating the competition by German advertisements. These were submitted to, and approved by, the Executive on November 20th.

During the month a leaflet approved by the Executive was printed for circulation amongst the workers on the Clyde at the suggestion of the Clyde Labour Committee.

The Labour Committee also invited Mr. O. C. Beale, Mr. T. C. Elder, and the General Secretary to go down to Glasgow to address a small meeting in December.

At a meeting of the Council of the Organisation on November 24th, Mr. Sandbach Parker presiding, Clause 3, Sub section C, of the Constitution was amended to read:—

"To insure that each Industry shall formulate its own fiscal policy, subject to the following condition, that wherever the introduction of Import or Export Duties is demanded by any particular Industry, such Duties shall embrace the principles laid down at the Paris Conference, and shall secure Empire Preference, differentiating further between Allied, Neutral, and Enemy Countries.

A Publicity and Propaganda Sub-Committee has been appointed, and to the imposing list of Vice-Presidents the names of Sir E. Montague Nelson, K.C.M.G.; H. Derwent Simpson, Esq.; F. W. Sumner, Esq.; Major-General S. S. Long, C.B.; Sir C. Kinloch Cooke, M.P., and Sir J. D. Rees, K.C.I.E., M.P., have been added.

In January the B.E.P.O. will move to larger offices at Kingsway House, Kingsway, W.C.—an address which should be noted.

BRITISH-PRODUCED SUGAR.

At the annual meeting of the North-Eastern Council of the Grocers' Association, held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 29th, Professor Douglas A. Gilchrist, of the Agricultural Department of Armstrong College, delivered an interesting address on "Our Food Supplies." In the course of his remarks he said:—

In the year before the outbreak of the war this country imported nearly two million tons of sugar, of which over 1½ million tons came from Germany and Austria, and only about 72,000 tons from British sources. In the same year, over half a million tons available for export were produced within the Empire. The sugar we obtained from Germany and Austria was all beet sugar. The Government has had a marked success in obtaining supplies of sugar without serious hardship to the country. Before the war about 8½ million tons of beet sugar were produced annually, mainly in Europe, and about 4½ million tons of cane sugar in North and South America. Asia produced nearly 4 million tons of cane sugar, of which the Indian share was over 2½ million tons. Africa produced nearly half a million tons of cane sugar, and Australasia just over one quarter million tons of the same. Cuba was the largest producer of cane sugar (2½ million tons). As in 1913 nearly 2 million tons of sugar were imported into the British Isles, Cuba alone could more than supply the sugar wants of this country. The present cane sugar crops of British possessions average nearly 900,000 tons annually, and in a report on the British sugar industry issued by the West India Committee, from which I have obtained much of the foregoing information, it is estimated that the sugar crops from British dominions could be increased to 43 million tons. I venture to forecast that cane sugar

will form a large part of our sugar consumption in the future, and that much of this will be obtained from our West Indian possessions. It is possible that the production of beet sugar may become a fairly important industry in the southern counties of England, where sugar beet can be grown in quite a satisfactory way, although this is probably not so in the north. At the same time there are other agricultural products which it is probably advisable to increase in this country, rather than to develop the sugar beet industry on a large scale. A large sugar importer in London has sent me samples of the following kinds of sugar, which are here for your inspection to-night: (1) Manilla sugar: A low type of sugar from the Philippines, used in brewing beer. (2) Mauritius syrups sugar: A cane sugar obtained after the white of yellow crystals. A brewer's sugar. (3) Crystallised sugar: usually known as Demerara, but produced also in Trinidad, Jamaica and Barbados. (4) White Mauritius crystals. (5) White Java. (6) White American granulated sugar. (7) Barbados Muscovado sugar, noted for its pleasing flavour in the mouth. (8) White German beetroot sugar. All but the last are cane sugars. The last has a strong odour, having been kept in London for 2½ years. Cane sugar will keep for several years, even though not refined. A strong effort is now being made by the British Empire Producers' Organisation to adopt a policy so that the production of Empire sugar will be developed to the fullest extent.

HOME-GROWN SUGAR BEET.

An important public meeting was held in the Cannon Street Hotel, London, recently, to consider the question of the growing of beet and the manufacture of beet sugar. Mr. Edmund Kimber, who presided, referred to the associations which had made more or less satisfactory experiments in the growth of beet and had held meetings and passed resolutions strongly in favour of the industry. None of them however, had, he said, obtained what they all deemed most necessary—namely, a Government guarantee of interest on the capital required for its development. The German and Austrian Governments some years ago so fostered the sugar industry in their countries that in the year before the War they were able to supply this country with £15,000,000 worth of sugar out of a total consumption of £25,000,000.

Their supply had gone for ever. Now is the time for action. The land, if prepared now, could grow a crop of some size in the coming year, and by the time it was ready for the factory, some machinery could be got ready. It would by degrees and in a few years supply the whole of the deficiency. During the last 25 years 4,000,000 acres went out of cultivation in Great Britain, but 500,000 acres would supply the deficiency and bring in from arable land five times the revenue now derived from pasture.

Guarantees of interest on capital were no new things in the British Empire. In 1882 the Indian Government refused to give any more guarantees for railways, but was later obliged to reverse their decision, and to-day the Government was receiving as its share of the profits, in consideration of such guarantees, £4,000,000 a year. The same thing would happen here, though with greater advantage in the case of beet. By degrees the Government would receive an enormous profit, amounting probably to £6,000,000 a year, without in any way injuring the West Indian cane sugar trade.

Mr. Fleuning moved three resolutions, which were carried unanimously, condemning the bondage this country was in to foreign countries for sugar, requesting the Government to give the requisite guarantees of interest on the capital necessary for the establishment of the industry, and appointing a Committee, to be called the Committee of Public Safety, and a deputation to wait on the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Agriculture, and press on them the urgent necessity of granting the guarantees at once, so that land could be immediately prepared.

AMERICAN SUGAR MILLS.

The *Louisiana Planter* is very irate on the subject of a pamphlet issued by the United States Department of Commerce, dated October 11th, 1916, in which the following occurs:—

"American mills are not regarded with the same favor accorded those of English make. It is complained that the American mills do not 'stand up under the work' as do the British machines. Most of the owners use equipment very roughly, leaving it exposed to torrential rain and tropical sunlight from one season to another. As a rule, the cane mill operatives, through ignorance, do everything that ought not to be done, from overfeeding the rollers (by jamming in too many stalks at once) to all other conceivable and inconceivable ways of abusing machinery and exercising lack of judgment or care.

"Only apparatus of the utmost solidity and simplicity can stand such treatment and remain efficient. This the cane mills by a firm in Derby, England, are claimed to do. This make of mill appears to be generally the standard of excellence in the West Indies and it is preferred to any other. Various makes of cane mills have been tried, but the conclusion regarding the Derby mills remains. Nor is this preference confined to the West Indies. In several countries of Central America I have heard these same mills alluded to as being the best to be had in wearing qualities and general serviceability.

"Some mills of American make are undoubtedly being sold in the West Indies now, but the main argument for their sale is the difficulty of procuring English mills. As between the two makes of cane mills, ordinarily, there would be no argument. The buyer would take the English mill. If he has used it before, he found it satisfactory and durable; if he is making his first venture in the use of a cane mill, he has heard of it from his neighbors. The West Indian is a conservative and prefers to follow the beaten path in the expenditure of his money."

The writer of the report is a Mr. Gerard Harris, and our contemporary considers that it exhibits "stultifying ignorance," which does not reflect credit "upon the Government whose stamp of approval it bears."

LABOUR IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

In 1915, 95,735 unindentured Chinese immigrants reached the Straits Settlements—a decrease of 34.09 per cent. as compared with the figure for 1914, and of 64.5 per cent. as compared with that for 1911, the highest yet recorded. Immigration was prohibited till the end of March, when partial immigration was allowed, limited at first to one-third and afterwards to one-half the complement of a steamer. At the beginning of July all restrictions

were removed. During the same year, 75,323 East Indians from Southern India reached Penang, of whom 54,881 were "assisted." These "assisted immigrants" are of two classes:—(1) The independent labourer who gets a free ticket from the Emigration Agent in India upon proof that he is a *bona fide* labourer, and who is free to work where he pleases; (2) the Kanganai labourer, who is recruited in India by a licensed Kanganai, and who goes to a particular place of employment, though he is free, upon arrival there, to give a month's notice of his intention to leave. There is no indentured Tamil labour in the Colony.

IMMIGRATION INTO FIJI.

During 1915, 2,508 Indian immigrants were introduced into Fiji, as against 1,572 during the previous year. The indentures of 3,343 immigrants expired during the year. The total population of East Indians serving under indenture, including children of these immigrants, on the last day of 1915 was 14,362 (8,799 male adults, 3,121 female adults, and 2,440 children), and of time-expired indentured immigrants remaining or settling in the Colony there were 42,491. The proportion of females to males of the Indian population was 56.44 of the total population, and 61.74 in the case of the unindentured.

In the course of the year the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, which owns huge estates in the colony, intimated that it would be prepared to advance funds at a low rate of interest for the purpose of establishing Indian settlements. This proposal was referred to a Committee, which reported in August, and which recommended the formation of an "Indian Settlement Trust" to acquire and develop lands for Indian settlement. The report of the Committee was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for consideration, and the proposal has now been approved.

Returns show that the number of acres under sugar cane in 1915 was 62,308, as against 62,852 in 1914, and the number of tons of cane produced was 833,883 in 1915, as against 874,164 in 1914. The export of manufactured sugar decreased from 92,112 tons in 1914 to 85,563 tons in 1915. The value, however, of the sugar exported rose from £1,005,643 in 1914 to £1,065,463 in 1915.

The area under coco-nuts cultivated by Europeans was estimated at 45,102 acres in 1915, as against 42,492 acres in 1914, the respective values of copra exported being £233,959 and £148,372. The cultivation of coco-nuts continues to grow, notwithstanding extraordinary conditions which, during the year, have unsettled and restricted the copra market. The banana industry has not yet reached dimensions of any great consequence, 1,013,135 bunches only having been exported during the year.

The new Lord Kitchener, who is well known in Jamaica as Colonel Kitchener, has been given a command on the lines of communication in France.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS CYCLONE.

In the CIRCULAR of November 30th last a leading article was devoted to the plight of the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands consequent upon the hurricane of October 9th. Mention was made of the fact that a local relief fund had been opened by His Excellency the Hon. T. V. Best, C.M.G., Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands, and that the CIRCULAR would be glad to receive subscriptions towards it. We have now to acknowledge with thanks the following donations towards the Virgin Islands Relief Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.	25	0	0
A. C. Westmorland, Esq.	5	0	0
Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co.	5	0	0
E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq.	5	0	0
"Sympathiser"	5	0	0

Through the courtesy of the Colonial Bank, these amounts have been cabled to Mr. Best.

The Acting Governor (who, as stated in the last CIRCULAR, visited the islands in the R.M.S.P. *Chaleur*), in a report to the Colonial Office on the disaster, dated October 25th, wrote:—

We arrived in Drake Channel soon after dawn on the 16th October, and were able to judge the severity of the hurricane by the condition of the vegetation on the smaller islands and the hills of Tortola. Only a little grass in sheltered hollows was left of the thick bush and forest which I had seen covering the mountains a few months ago. Of the village on Peter Island some scattered stones remain.

In order that the *Chaleur* might arrive in Montserrat to resume her itinerary by Tuesday morning, I was only able to spend a few hours in Road Town, while the supplies we had brought with us were being landed. This was sufficient to make a cursory inspection of the damage and to consult with Dr. Clarke and others as to what should be done. His report, which I enclose, gives the information collected up to the 14th October. It has since been ascertained that Anguilla suffered very little damage, but that the 400 inhabitants of Jost Van Dyke are practically without food or shelter.

One of the most distressing results of the storm is the condition of the wounded from the out-islands and the country districts of Tortola. A number of these poor people arrived in the only available boat from Jost Van Dyke, who had been without medical aid for over a week. They are now being treated in the temporary hospital in Road Town.

All crops above ground having been destroyed, the inhabitants are subsisting on what remains of their sweet potatoes and on the food landed from the *Chaleur*, supplemented by what had been imported by local shops before the hurricane. This will suffice until further relief measures can be organised.

Regarding the measures of relief which are being adopted, Mr. Best added:—

Up to the present the following is being done:—

The Acting Commissioner and Colonel Bell are investigating the actual loss suffered by each individual. A Committee, consisting of the Curator, the Anglican and Wesleyan Clergymen, and Mr. F. Pickering, Member of the Executive Council, is distributing food and clothing. The able-bodied are being employed on clearing the roads. A schooner has been detailed for communication between the Islands until the Government cutter can be repaired. Materials for the most urgent repairs to Government Buildings have been sent to Tortola, together with seeds of quick-growing food plants.

It will be necessary to continue relief to a large proportion of the inhabitants until the new crops come into bearing. For this I propose to provide as far as possible

by works of permanent value, such as repairs to roads and jetties and replanting the Botanical Station, where all cultivation has been destroyed. It will be also imperative to assist the peasants to replace their houses by loans of materials or money.

From the above it will be gathered that the effects of the storm—which destroyed 48 houses in Road Town alone—have been far more serious than was at first anticipated, and we shall be glad to receive further donations towards Mr. Best's fund for the relief of the peasantry, most of whom have lost their all.

Donations may be sent to the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

MAIZE-DRYING PLANT.

Reference has been made from time to time in these columns to the progress of the maize industry in Antigua, and to the experiments made at the instance of Sir Hesketh Bell, when Governor of the Leeward Islands, in maize-drying on a co-operative basis. At present, literally millions of pounds weight of maize and corn meal are imported into the British West Indies, and though it is too much to hope that those Colonies will ever become self-supporting in respect of that foodstuff—owing to labour conditions—it is certain that much more might be done than is at present being done in the direction of producing maize.

Accounts of the maize-drying plant now in use in Antigua have already appeared in these columns, and at the request of a correspondent we now give some particulars regarding the cost of the apparatus. Dr. Tempny informs us that the plant in use near St. John's is known as the "No. 1 Hess Drier and Cooler." It was manufactured by the Hess Warming and Ventilating Company of Chicago, and its first cost was £105 in America. To work in connection with it an engine is also required to drive the fan, a boiler to heat the coils, a corn-sheller, and an elevator, besides storage bins and elevator, together with necessary shafting and pulleys. The fan takes about 4h.p. to run, the sheller and elevator about the same, while the elevator to the grain-bins takes another 1 to 2h.p. To run the whole plant, about 12h.p. is required.

The total cost of the machinery, not including the building, but including freight and erection at pre-war and early war prices, would be about £700 to £750. Nowadays at least 25 per cent. would have to be added.

UNDER the auspices of the Libraries Committee of the Fulham Public Libraries, Mr. E. R. Davson is delivering a lecture on "The West Indies and its Industries," on January 11th, at 8 p.m., at the Central Library, 598, Fulham Road, S.W., admission being free.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/-.

GIFTS FROM JAMAICA.

To the great delight of the inmates of the various naval and military hospitals, the Jamaica Agricultural Society resumed shipments of fruit for the wounded in November last. Since then 503 cases of oranges and grape-fruit have been received and distributed by the West India Committee on behalf of the Army Council.

The fruit was collected by Mr. John Barclay, the indefatigable Secretary of the Society, and the thanks of all concerned are due to him and to Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, who have not only carried over 6,000 cases of fruit from Jamaica freight free, but have attended to the dispatching at the port of arrival on the instructions of the West India Committee.

Scotch Kirk Working Party, per Mrs. Graham: Old linen, hospital bags, and garments.
 Anotto Bay Ladies' Guild, per Miss C. G. Braham: Articles of hospital comfort, and hospital bags.
 Mr. F. Barrett-Brown: Books and magazines.
 Children of Beampton School, per Miss I. L. Morrison: Clothing and mufflers.
 St. James' Women's War Committee, per Mrs. D. Mills: Clothing.
 Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne: Garments, cushions, etc.
 Mrs. McPhail: Clothing.
 Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. H. C. Pearce: Pillows, pillow cases, garments, kit-bags, and hospital bags.
 Girls of Wolmers' High School, per Miss K. J. Howson, B.A.: Garments.
 Spanish Town Branch, Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. F. E. Taylor: Garments.
 St. Michael's Girls' Club, per Miss H. Ritchie: Hospital comforts.
 Mr. C. Costa: Lime juice.
 Mrs. A. A. Lewis: Guava jelly.
 Miss R. Hicks: Honey.
 Mrs. Negus: Magazines.
 Inspector T. Alexander: Cigarettes and magazines.
 Mr. John Barclay: Magazines.
 Miss L. B. Mendon Hall: Cigarettes.
 The Girls of Shortwood College, per Miss R. S. Gamble: Garments.
 Mrs. Briscoe: Gloves.
 Mr. R. Craig continues to send fruit to the Grand Fleet.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

We give below a list of officers and men from or connected with the West Indies who are in hospital, and shall be glad to forward their addresses to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be wishful or willing to visit them.

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Corpl. Bruce Maura, Somerset Light Infantry, Dewsbury; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham; Lieut.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilt's Regt., France.

BARBADOS.

Pte. C. G. Archer, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, London; Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. C. C. Leach, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Liverpool; Pte. C. L. Burgess, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Manchester; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle; Pte. R. Johnson, London Scottish, Newcastle; Pte. R. A. North, Thirsk, Yorks.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. T. J. Tite, London; Cpl. C. A. Baker, Croydon; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. G. S. Blackman, Taplow; Pte. G. Spanswick, Oxford; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. C. R. Cannon, Stoke-on-Trent; Pte. R. Wilson; Pte. A. B. Marshall, Warrington; Corpl. R. V. Virtue, Southampton; P. J. Boorman, West Didsbury; H. Whitecross, London; J. B. Dickenson, London; C. E. Fisher, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Lieut. C. E. L. Cox, Royal Garrison Artillery, Manchester; Pte. S. J. Van Sertima, Cheltenham.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London; Lce.-Corpl. W. E. McCulloch, att. 17th Royal Fusiliers, Glasgow.

TRINIDAD.

Rfn. J. H. Llanos, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Sheerness; Pte. H. Leotand, Royal Fusiliers, Edmonton; Trooper O. Hamel-Smith, London.

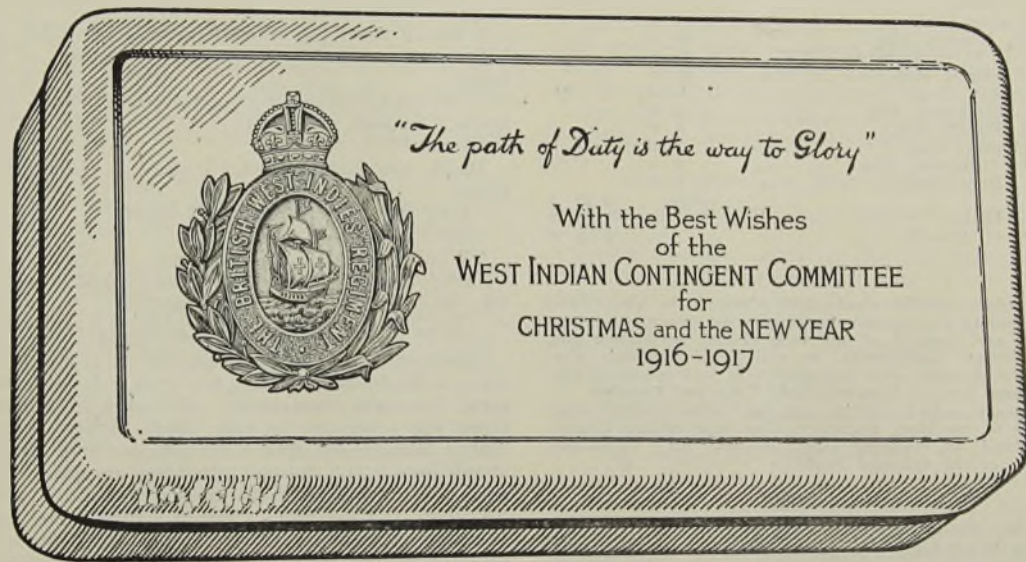
BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Regtl.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Some disappointment has been expressed in some quarters that the men of the British West Indies Regiment have not been actually in the firing-line; but it must be remembered that in carrying out the garrison and other duties which they are now performing, they are assisting very materially in bringing the War to a successful conclusion, and the most useful soldier is he who is ready to go anywhere and do anything without a grumble. We mention this as we believe that when it is known that the work of the British West Indies Regiment is greatly valued and appreciated, recruiting throughout the West Indies will be stimulated.

Subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund will be gratified to know of the satisfaction which their gift of musical instruments to the various Battalions has given to all ranks. Thus the Colonel commanding a Battalion writes:—



THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE'S GIFT CHOCOLATE BOX.

Above is given an illustration of one of the gift chocolate-boxes which the West Indian Contingent Committee is presenting to each officer, N.C.O., and man of the British West Indies Regiment. It should be explained that the boxes, specimens of which have been sent to the Press in the West Indies, are khaki-coloured, with the now popular badge of the Regiment executed upon it in gold and colours. It is to be regretted that, as stated in the last issue, the boxes for Egypt were in a ship which had to be beached; but if they are not salvaged they will most certainly be replaced, though it is to be feared that considerable time must elapse before the gift is delivered.

"On behalf of all ranks of this Battalion, I have to request that you will be so good as to convey to your Committee, at the earliest opportunity, our sincere thanks for this very handsome set of drums and instruments which they have presented to us, and to inform you that this gift is very highly appreciated, and much admired; the painting on the drums especially is excellent. We have been able to obtain, temporarily, the services of a European N.C.O. who was formerly employed in his regimental band, and is giving as much of his time as possible to the instruction of the drummers. We hope later to obtain the permanent services of a trained sergeant drummer, and in that case to have

before long a drum and fife band which would do credit to the Battalion. Again thanking you and your Committee very much for this very handsome and much appreciated present."

The *outgoings* from the West Indian Contingent Fund to date amount approximately to £3,050, and when the report and accounts for the half-year to December 31st are published, it will be found that the money has been well spent. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Christmas Gifts for Grenada men, per Mr. C. F. P. Renwick	90	0	0
Christmas Gifts for Dominica men	54	0	0
Christmas Gifts for St. Kitts-Nevis men, from the Presidency	50	0	0
Christmas Gifts for 2nd Trinidad Merchants, per Mrs. Irma Gordon	8	0	0
H.E. Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., for British Guiana men	5	5	0
Christmas Gifts for British Honduras men, per Lt.-Col. Cran	3	13	6
J. R. Gamit & Son (further rebate on sales of B.W.I. brooches—to come)	2	16	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
Per month:—			
Kingstown Club	19	0	
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
V. Hadley, Esq.	8	4	
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
E. Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
A. L. Gillezan, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	3	10	4
Captain Hicks	1	1	0
Mrs. S. G. Russell	1	0	0

The object of the Contingent Fund is to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to provide for the welfare and comfort 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.

* * *

Socks are urgently required for men of the British West Indies Regiment, but *all* knitted comforts are useful, and gifts of every description will be most gratefully received. Gloves and helmets are in great demand. Such gifts should be sent to Miss Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Ladies' Committee, 5, Trevor Square, London, S.W. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

The Jamaica Contingents Comforts Fund: 450 anti-vermin shirts.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: 3 helmets, 1 pr. gloves.
 Mrs. Carew: 3 mufflers.
 Miss Sydney: 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. gloves, 1 pr. mittens.
 Lady Egerton: 1 muffler, 1 pr. socks, 1 cap.
 Mr. B. B. Arthur and Miss Marjorie Arthur: 4 helmets, 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Gordon Turner: 2 mufflers for Demerara men.
 Mrs. I. W. Russell: 2 mufflers, 3 waistcoats, 3 handkerchiefs.

Mrs. Howell Jones: 6 prs. socks, 6 prs. mittens, 6 mufflers, for British Guiana men.
 Miss M. R. Berkeley: 2 prs. socks.

BISHOP MATHER writes: "One of the frequent devastating hurricanes passed over the Diocese of Antigua on October 9th, and has left a sad area of wreck and ruin behind it. The worst havoc occurred in the northern part, especially in the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and Tortola. It is estimated that £1,200 will be required to replace and repair all the ruined Church property." Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurers of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 15, Tufton Street, Westminster, and transmitted to the Bishop of Antigua.

"WHA' MAKE."

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK.

Daddy Quashie—whose name I should spell *Kwasi* nowadays, I suppose—tore off a bit of leaf tobacco, and judgmatically filled his pipe. His brow was puckered; evidently it was some business, filling a pipe. Then he brought a match from behind his ear and lit up. Daddy Quashie was at peace with all the world.

I waited until the warmth of this execrable tobacco had penetrated the innermost recesses of his being.

"Carrion Crow was a great farmer first-time, you know," he said, suddenly.

"Indeed!"

Daddy Quashie smoked. I was not playing the game.

"Why did he give it up?" I asked.

"Sah?"

"Wha' make Carrion Crow give up farming?"

"Oh! Ah da! Me s'a tell you." And straight-way he began the true, true tale:—

WHY CARRION CROW GAVE UP FARMING.

"Carrion Crow was a great farmer. He work farm a Bush—he cut am, he burn am, he plant corn, he make yam heap. *Fo' farm!* Carrion Crow was a big-able farmer. Well, Hungry come. Turtle hungry fo' true. If you see how Turtle stand—*m-a-a-ger*, maager (meagre, meagre)—you s'a sorry for am. You s'a say, 'A turtle dis yah?' So, now, Turtle go a Carrion Crow. He say, 'Buddy! Hungry a kill me. 'Do! Sorry fo' me! Gi'e me bittle (victual).' Carrion Crow say, 'Ow! Poor fellow! Hungry a do you so? Me heart a feel fo' you. Climb 'pon me back.' So Turtle climb 'pon Carrion Crow back. Carrion Crow fly, he fly, he fly *t-e-h* meet inside a Bush. A dey Carrion Crow been work a farm. Carrion Crow say, 'Trokle (Turtle), me buddy. A me farm dis. Y'eat. Bill you' belly. Po' fellow.' Turtle say, 'Tenky.' He a y'eat, he y'eat, he y'eat, teh doue he satisfy. He wipe he mou' a grass, he say 'Tenky, me friend, tenky.' Then Carrion Crow fly right back, out da deep, deep Bush, wi' Turtle, so put am down a dam."

His pipe had gone out. A little ash had to be knocked out of it. Daddy Quashie scratched a match deliberately, and took a few quiet puffs.

"When man got bad mind, *a-h, a-h*" Daddy

Quashie shook his head gravely. "Turtle, he mind bad. Covetelous (covetousness) a fill he mind. Turtle say, 'Eh-eh! Wha' make Carrion Crow got farm, an' me no got?' 'Farm no mo' fo' Carrion Crow?' So Turtle study, he a study, he a study. An' mo' he a study, mo' he a cravin' Carrion Crow. Turtle say, 'Me gwine take da farm from Carrion Crow.' So, now, Turtle make pa' (path) to Carrion Crow farm. He burn da Bush, he burn am, he lebble (level) da pa', he mash am (trod it), he mash am, sotay, time come, a pa' meet Carrion Crow farm, teh, *teh*, inside a Bush. Very well. Then Turtle go a King House. If you want fo' see King you got fo' go King House, you know. If you want nut you got fo' crack shell; nut no goin' come out to you! King ax am, 'Wha's matter?' Turtle say, 'Sah, Carrion Crow a thief me farm.' King say, 'Wha'!' Turtle say, 'Yessa. Me burn one farm, me plant am, me make one pa' to r'am, and now, sah, Carrion Crow go go t'ief am 'way, sah.' King say, 'Well, if pa' dey, da farm no Carrion Crow own, 'cause Carrion Crow no wan' pa'; he a fly.' Turtle begin cry-cry; he say 'Yessa.'"

Here Daddy Quashie spoke in a tearful voice, and affected to shed tears.

"King say, 'Leh me see dis pa'.' So Turtle a show am. King say, 'Eh! Dis pa' one old pa'. Look how he stand. Plenty people a walk dis pa'.' Turtle say, 'Yessa. A mese'f a mash am, da long time me walk a pa', fo' go work a farm.'"

"So King yak (drive) da Carrion Crow, gi'e farm to Turtle."

Daddy Quashie stopped so long here—so did his old progenitors in the African Bush make their effective pause when telling a tale—that I said:

"Yes?"

"Carrion Crow and Bee, now—dem two was compay (friends). Carrion Crow tell Bee, 'You see wha' Turtle do me? Me a gi'e Turtle nyam (food), and now—lookoo!—King yak me from da farm, so gi'e Turtle!' Bee say, 'Never mind, buddy. Heart heart! Me s'a see wha' me able do fo' you.' Bee fly, he fly, he fly, teh he meet Turtle. Turtle dey a sm, he sleep. Bee gett'n inside da Turtle nose. Turtle wake, he rub he nose, he say, 'Eh-eh! Wha' dis yah?' Bee say, 'A me.' Turtle say, 'Man, come out. Wha' you do gett'n inside man nose so?' Bee say, 'A dey me rest.' Turtle say, 'No, man. Me know you a spo'tman very well, but dis t'ing no spo't. Come out, man.' Bee no answer. So Bee sit down inside Turtle nose whole week—*wh-o-le week* da Bee sit down inside da Turtle nose!"

"And what did Turtle do?"

"Do! Wha' Bee do Turtle, rather! Li' mo' da Turtle go a mad-house. An' no fo' say Bee 'tan' easy inside a Turtle nose! He a keep noise, he a tu'n round, he a buzz, he a sing! An' da expression wha' he use 'pon Turtle! High-high daytime O!—middle-night O!—fore-day ma'ning O!—he a cuss Turtle. 'Tiefin fellow, you!' 'Farmer, eh? A yah me s'a make farm!' Sah, li' mo' Turtle go a mad-house. So Turtle go King, he say"—(here Daddy Quashie spoke through his nose with difficulty, and affected to be in pain)—"Me—no-wan'—da-farm-no-mo'." King say, 'Wha'

make?' Turtle say—dis time he a cry-cry—'Da-farm-no-fo'-me-own, sah.' King say, 'No? Is who-own?' Turtle say, 'Is Carrion-Crow-own. Me-a-t'ief-am-'way-from-Carrion-Crow, sah.' King say, 'So, eh? Me mind a gi'e me you t'ief am from Carrion Crow—but da lie," interpolated Daddy Quashie, "only King, you know, no business fo' make mistake, da make he say so. So King call Carrion Crow, tell am say, 'Take back you' farm. Dis Turtle a talk lie—a talk-lie fellow you see am deli—make me take am 'way from you.' Carrion Crow say, 'Me no want farm no mo'.' King say, 'Wha' make?' Carrion Crow shake he head, say, 'No. Me done farm. No one Turtle a de world. (There is not one scoundrel only in the world.) Same way one Turtle a t'ief me farm, tarra Turtle can t'ief me farm.' King say, 'How you gwine live?' Carrion Crow say, 'Never mind! Tatta Padda s'a gi'e me nyam.'"

High in the blue there was a black speck, apparently motionless. It was a Carrion Crow, waiting for what would be provided for him by "Tatta Father" without farming.

"You see am!" said Daddy Quashie. "A old, old farmer! But he no farm dis time. 'A Turtle make so!"

The Old Guard are not averse to taking a little rum upon occasion, so I now produced "one half-bottle," and bade Daddy Quashie help himself. He threw a little out of doors—for the "Jumbies"—and, his being an old body whose blood wanted warning, drank a somewhat larger proportion himself.

WHY TIGER AND DOG DON'T AGREE.

"Tiger and Dog no 'gree, you know, sah."

"No?"

Daddy Quashie looked at me reproachfully.

"You'se 'f too! *Tiger an' Dawg!* 'Gree! Sah, Tiger will come in dis ya'd, see you, me, sheep, cow, eat and rat—fo' ketch Dog. 'Gree! Sah, dem two will never 'gree—now—so long sun shine!"

"Did they agree before-time?"

"Oh, sah, befo' time—*cha, cha*—the two a dem was compay (friends)."

"Wha' make they quarrel?"

"Well, sah, one day Dog an' Goat go Tiger house. They say, 'Papa, we come fo' tell you Howdye.' Tiger say, 'Ah, me bwoy. Ayon come fo' tell me Howdye? Ayon so love me, eh?' (Aside: '*One do fo' breakfast and one fo' dinner!*)"

"Dog, now, look a tiger eye. He no like am. Tiger eye shine like candle-fly a grass-piece. He tell Goat, say, 'Who no able run leh he go before.'"

"Dog start fo' run, Goat too a try best. Befo' Tiger ketch hese'f, all two gone. Tiger make has'e follow. Dey run, dey run, dey run, dey run. Dog meet one creek, he a jump inside water—*bay-ay-ay-ay!*—swim over. Goat, too, meet 'a creek. Poor Goat! Wha' Goat fo' do? He no able swim. Goat turn man-grass a creek corner. Tiger, too, meet 'a creek. He no see Goat. He see Dog tarra side 'a creek. Tiger 'kin a hu't am; he no want gett'n inside 'a water to-day. He no mo' a look Dog. Dog say, 'Wha' make you look me so, Buru Tiger? You no know me? Ma name Dog.' 'Tiger, mad wi' de bex (with vexation). Dog say, 'If you

want knock me, pull up da piece man-grass, so knock me wid am.' Tiger look Dog. *Box!* Sah, if you look da Tiger eye you s'a swear one lanternly shine a Bush a dark-night! Dog say 'Tiger no able fo' ketch Dog! Tiger no able hit am self wid a man-grass.' And Dog a make figure (cut a caper). Tiger turn turn one-time, so pull up da man-grass, 'Gow am over da creek at Dog. As da man-grass meet 'a creek over, he turn Goat! He make 'Bah-ah-ah!' Tiger look! Here Daddie Quashie put his hand before an open mouth. "He say, 'A-a-h. Goat me a help 'cross da creek so. A-a-h. Goat da! Well—lookoo 'tory!' Dog say, 'Tenky, sah. Me friend dis—Goat—no able fo' swim, you help am over creek. Tenky. Good-bye.' Tiger say, 'H-ya! Good-bye, my friend. To-day fo' you, to-morrow fo' me. A never, never, never forget Dog so long me name Tiger!"

"Da make you see," concluded Daddie Quashie, "Tiger never pass Dog. Labba O!—Water-haas O!—Accourie O!—a-h! meat Tiger pass. But he never pass Dog. *Tiger pass Dog!* Eh-eh!"

"That is a good story."

"You like am? A got one other sweet one too. You know Carpenter Bird?"

I know it. The Woodpecker.

"Oku (Yoruba) call am Akoko. He a keep noise—*Ako-ko-ko-ko-ko!*"

This, said rapidly, is exactly the sound made by the Woodpecker as he taps the bark of a tree. It is an apt example of the onomatopœic word.

"Wha' make he does knock tree so? You know?" Daddy Quashie looked very mysterious.

"No."

"You want hearie?"

"Rather! Wha' make?"

"Me s'a tell you."

WHY DOES THE WOODPECKER PECK?

"First-first time Carpenter Bird love one gal very much. He like am bad too bad. He want take am fo' wife. But King say, 'No, no, no. Da body wha' want dis gal he got fo' make one hundred yam-heap, an' da body wha' make one hundred yam-heap first, he can take am.' So, now, all dem Bird begin fo' make yam-heap. Chicken Hawk, Carrion Crow, Old Witch, Owl, Yellow Plantain Bird, Mocking Bird—all a dem. Carpenter Bird no come; he gone fo' hide da gal inside tree, so nobody can p'ief am 'way da time he a make yam-heap. As he hide am, he fly go a yam field. Half dem Bird finish half dem heap, done, a'ready. As he fly he meet one Granny. Carpenter Bird say, 'Lookoo. Me lated. How me gwine finish me hundred heap?' Granny say, 'Gi'e me you' hoe-'tick.' He gi'e am. Da Granny 'pit 'pon am, rub am up, down, up, down—so!—gi'e am back. Da Granny say, 'You s'a win.' Carpenter Bird fly a yam field. He make yam-heap, he make yam-heap, he make yam-heap. He wo'k fo' true. He win all dem tarra Bird. He go a King, say, 'Me finish, done.' King say, 'You do well. Da gal fo' you-own.' Carpenter Bird say, 'Tenky.' He fly 'a tree fo' fin' da gal."

Daddy Quashie scratched his head; he looked puzzled.

"Eh-eh! Lookoo 'tory! Carpenter Bird no able fo' 'member which side he a put da gal!"

"He had forgotten the tree!"

"Yessa. Ten 'ousand tree been dey. He 'member which tree he hide da gal. Ow! Poor Carpenter Bird! He look dis tree, he look tarra tree, he look tarra tree. He fly yah, he fly dah, he fly yanda. No n'use! No n'use! He never fin' da gal from dat day to dis."

"He never find her at all, till now?"

"Teh now. You no see how Carpenter Bird a knock all dem tree:—*Ako-ko-ko-ko-ko!*—*Ako-ko-ko-ko-ko!* He wife lie a s'arch fo'."

"Not ants?"

"Ants! You t'ink man s'a constant, constant knock tree so fo' ants!"

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Trade of British Guiana.

The local Government having adopted the calendar year for its accounts, a Blue-book for 1915 has been issued. Owing to this change the financial period under review embraces a period of nine months only (April-December), and a comparison of the revenue and expenditure with those of preceding years is, therefore, impracticable.

The revenue from 1st April to 31st December, 1915, was £480,213, and the expenditure £447,655, the surplus of revenue over expenditure being thus £32,558.

The total value of the imports for the year (including transit trade) amounted to £1,968,214, being £202,120 more than the aggregate value of the imports of 1914. The items cotton manufactures, haberdashery and machinery are mainly accountable for the increase. The total value of the exports for the year was £3,336,338. This amount includes British and foreign goods re-exported and transhipped during the year, valued at £245,645. The value of the export trade was greater than the previous year's transactions to the value of £713,274, or an increase of 27.19 per cent.

The sugar crop of the colony was greater than the average. The returns submitted by sugar estates in the colony show that in 1915 more than four-fifths of the total area 75,744 acres—under sugar cane was planted in varieties other than the Bourbon.

The area under rice amounted to 50,737 acres, yielding 65,700 tons of paddy last year. The rice grown was of excellent quality. Very large areas of the front lands of the colony undoubtedly are pre-eminently suitable for the cultivation of rice, and the proportion of them planted in paddy increases year by year.

The acreage under cacao remains stationary at about 2,400 acres. A very large proportion of the cacao produced is used locally, either in the preparation of chocolate or of confectionery. There is an extensive belt of land in the colony well suited for cacao, and it is to be regretted that its cultivation is not extending as it ought to do.

The planting of Para rubber continues slowly to increase. It is estimated that nearly 5,000 acres are now planted with Para rubber in the colony. There was little demand during the year for Para rubber plants, but 23,000 were sold to planters by the Department of Science and Agriculture.

It has now been proved that the Para rubber tree grows well on suitable lands in the colony.

The area reported to be under coffee was 4,468 acres. The export of coffee during the year amounted to 1,538 cwts., as compared with 2,131 cwts. in 1914, a decrease due to seasonal changes.

Coco-nuts are now planted on 17,920 acres of land, whilst the acreage last year was 15,094. The export of nuts increased from 1,890,000 to 2,090,000, whilst in addition 1,619 cwts. of copra were exported. By far the greater number of the nuts grown are used locally for the manufacture of oil. There is a very wide area of land suitable for the planting of coco-nuts, on parts of which extension

of such planting is being actively carried on. Under proper cultivation and drainage the yearly crop will be very largely increased in the near future.

The cultivation of limes is increasing; about 970 acres are now occupied by this product. The erection of machinery at Plantation Providence, Berbice, and at Plantation Agatash, Essequibo, for the production of concentrated juice and of citrate of lime is giving this promising industry a much-desired impetus. A small factory for the preparation of concentrated lime-juice is in course of erection by the Government at Oudemanning, Essequibo. Over 19,000 lbs. of citrate of lime were exported.

The output of gold decreased, owing to the villagers preferring agriculture round their own homes to winning the precious metal. In his report on the Blue-book Mr. E. W. Ball Greene states that the colony's sea defences, more particularly on the East Coast of Demerara, has given cause for much anxiety during the year. Since 1908 a sum of £55,625 has been spent on a section of 3½ mile on the East Coast, and at the close of the year the condition of the defences over this section was unsatisfactory. Several schemes of sea defence have been put forward from time to time, but the expenditure has mainly consisted in the construction of timber and stone groynes, sheet piling, earthen dams, and fascine works. These remedies are only of a temporary nature and require constant maintenance. As the outcome of a resolution moved in Combined Court at its last annual session, His Excellency the Governor appointed an influential Commission to consider the question. At the time of writing the Commission has sent in its report and many of the valuable recommendations made are now being acted upon.

Artesian well sinking has been continued with successful results. Three wells have been drilled for private parties and more applications have been received. For village lands, domestic use in the villages, and the irrigation of small estates, artesian water is admirably adapted and should do much to reduce the mortality in those districts where trench water is extensively used for drinking purposes. Several of the most important proprietors who are always ready to adopt any sanitary and economic schemes have had artesian wells sunk on their estates, and there is little doubt that a large number will follow suit. The great benefits derived from a supply of pure water are extremely noticeable in those districts where there is no supply from a large conservancy to fall back upon in times of drought.

In order to give effect to a generally expressed wish that the colony should assist in the war with men as well as with money, His Excellency the Governor summoned a special meeting of the Combined Court on the 4th June to consider the matter, and it was then unanimously decided to offer the Imperial Government a British Guiana Contingent. The offer having been accepted, four detachments were sent from the colony between August and November."

Grenada's Bumper Year.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and in spite of the War—one might almost say owing to the War—Grenada enjoyed a bumper year in 1915-16 in respect of exports, which were valued at no less than £466,318. Of this total, cacao was responsible for £402,394, which shows the overwhelming and really dangerous dependence of the colony on a single industry. In this connection it is of interest to note that the cultivation of limes is forging ahead, 850 acres being now under this crop, while coco-nuts and cotton are also receiving attention. The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the colony for the last five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure	Imports.*	Exports.*
	£	£	£	£
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
1915-16	96,420	103,992	260,495	466,318

* Calendar years 1911-1915.

The expenditure included £6,000, being the cost of a gift of cacao to the Imperial Forces, and £5,534, the expenses of the Grenada War Contingent.

The great quantity of muscovado sugar imported is a somewhat extraordinary feature in the trade returns. In value this item amounted last year to £14,342, and, placed according to value, ranks third in the list of principal imports. The tendency to convert every available acre of fertile land into cacao or other permanent cultivation accounts to a great extent for this peculiarity in a sugar-producing colony.

Mr. H. Ferguson, in his report on the Blue-book of the colony for 1915-16, rightly points out that the prosperity of the colony has not suffered by the disturbance of general trade caused by the War. On the contrary, the general wealth of the main section of the people—the planting community—has increased on account of a long continued period of high prices for cacao and spices. A record crop of the former was produced. The colony's good fortune extended even to adequate freight facilities, and the prolific crop of cacao was safely brought to market in London and New York in time for disposal at the prevailing high quotations.

Mr. Ferguson concludes by saying:—"The past year will not only be notable for the fortuitous combination of circumstances so favourable to the island's prosperity, but will ever be memorable to the inhabitants of the colony from the recruiting of a native contingent for service in the War. This is an event in the colony's history of which Grenadians have every reason to be proud. A draft for the British West Indies Regiment was raised and dispatched to England in the autumn, and a further draft was recruited early this year. In men and in financial aid to the War expenses the colony has done well in proportion to her population, trade, and revenue. There is abundant evidence in the colony of loyalty to the Throne and pride in the Empire."

Jamaica's Growing Exports.

Jamaica passed through an exceptionally trying period during 1915-16, according to Brigadier-General Sir William Manning's report on the Blue-book. The trade conditions of the island have been abnormal since the outbreak of the great War, but signs were not wanting that prospects were improving early in this year. Very seasonable weather had greatly advanced agricultural conditions; the sugar and rum industries had benefited greatly by increased prices; the advance in the value of dyewoods had stimulated that industry; and better prices generally for most of the island's products were being realised. The banana industry, however, had suffered from shortage of shipping and indifferent markets. The hurricane of August, 1915, brought about a serious situation; the complete destruction of the banana crop, considerable damage to coco-nuts and to agriculture generally, very serious damage to the railways, roads, wharves, and buildings on the north side of the island, and to roads generally throughout the island. Torrential rains later in the year also did serious harm to bridges and roads throughout the colony. The results of the hurricane were practically to close down the export of bananas, with heavy losses to all engaged in that industry, and consequently to suspend that circulation of money for which this, the staple crop of the island, is responsible, and to cause the natural restriction in trade which followed these conditions.

There was, however, an exceptionally good sugar crop, which gave ample employment and brought prosperity to the proprietors.

The shortage of tonnage brought about by the European War was probably the most direct cause of the decrease in imports, but the hurricane of 1915 and its interference with the output of the banana-producing centres, undoubtedly restricted the spending power of the people in those areas. In the case of the exports, the relative importance of these factors is probably reversed. To the scarcity of fruit is to be attributed the greater portion of the decline in the value of the exports, comparison with 1914 showing a falling-off on this item alone of £708,982. Against this falling-off, however, there was an increase in the output of the products of the sugar cane of £220,362; in dyewood and extract of £131,758; in cacao of £77,058; lime juice of £12,690; and annatto of £6,851. And, generally speaking, there was active demand for all agricultural products, and had

tonnage been adequate, and the banana crop normal, there would have been little to complain of.

By way of gauging the growth of the colony's business over a longer period than is comprised in the foregoing abstract, the imports and exports at ten years intervals since 1875 is here given:—

	Imports £	Exports £
1875	1,700,253	1,410,484
1885	1,325,602	1,413,722
1895	2,228,945	1,921,421
1905	1,941,937	1,843,180
1915	2,327,458	2,228,664

In the forty years, the total trade to and from the United Kingdom has declined from 69.3 per cent to 35.6 per cent.; the United States has increased from 19.6 per cent. to 50.4 per cent.; Canada has increased from 6.0 per cent. to 8.3 per cent.; and other countries have increased from 5.1 per cent. to 5.7 per cent.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A STEAMER recently passed through the Panama Canal in the record time of 6 hours and 25 minutes.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Henry Shield, Director of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd.

By the addition of an art-paper cover, our contemporary the *Clarion* of British Honduras is now able to present to its readers half-tone illustrations. These recently have formed quite a feature of the paper.

THE plebiscite regarding the question of the sale of the Danish West Indian Islands to the United States resulted in a majority of 126,098 in favour of the deal; 283,694 votes were recorded in favour of the sale, and 157,596 against it.

MR. W. MITCHELL-THOMPSON, M.P., who has for some years been a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been appointed Director of the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department.

OUR sympathy is extended to the Rev. C. D. and Mrs. Lalla, of Claxton's Bay, Trinidad, upon the loss which they have sustained through the death of their eldest son, Alfred Thomson Lalla, of Naparima College, who died recently after a severe illness.

THE SS. *Sargasso*, which arrived recently, brought 51 cases of limes for wounded soldiers and sailors in hospital from the planters of Dominica. The fruit was packed under the supervision of Mr. Joseph Jones, with the assistance of Mr. R. E. A. Nicholls.

ON the 23rd December, Miss Ellen Leicester Atkinson, daughter of Mr. E. L. Atkinson, late of Trinidad, was married to 2nd Lieut. Stanley S. Stone, R.F.C. It will be recalled that the bride's brother accompanied Captain Scott on his Arctic Expedition.

It is disappointing to learn that Mr. C. Wilgress Anderson, Forestry Officer of British Guiana, has found the proposal to construct a road or trace from the Potaro-Conawaruk Road to the Kaieteur Plateau, which would enable tourists to reach the world's greatest waterfall by motor-car, impracticable. In making his survey, Mr. Anderson and party crossed several mountains, but communication with the plateau was cut off by deep gorges, one of which was almost precipitous.

MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, who has been appointed Director-General of National Service, is the son of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain by his second marriage. From 1890 to 1897 he was engaged upon sisal cultivation in the Bahamas, a venture which did not prove a success. It was doubtless this connection of the family with the West Indies which led the shrewd "Free Traders" to suggest that his father was financially interested in West Indian sugar estates when he made his famous stand against the foreign bounty system.



A B. W. I. Brooch.

The West Indian Contingent Fund has already benefited to the extent of £11 9s. by rebates on the sale of brooches of the B.W.I. Badge allowed by the makers, Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd. These little brooches, which are beautifully executed in three different styles, are offered at the following prices:—

	£	s.	d.	Post free	£	s.	d.
18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2	10	0		2	10	0
Silver and Enamel		5	6			5	9
Gift Metal Enamelled	2	0			2	3	

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd., 53, Conduit Street, London, W.

At the annual general meeting of the Credit Foncier of Mauritius, on December 29th, Mr. John Cross said that it seemed incredible that England would allow the Central Powers to flood this country again with their beet produce when the Colonies, with some slight assistance, were capable of providing their requirements. In the year 1912-13 this country imported about 2,000,000 tons of sugar, of which 900,000 tons came from Germany and about 325,600 from Austria-Hungary. If our Government gave encouragement to our cane-growing Colonies and placed a tariff on German imported sugar, there was no reason why this Empire should not provide its own sugar requirements. It was devoutly to be hoped that this and similar matters would receive due consideration at the hands of the Imperial Conference about to be held in London. If this came about, cane sugar-growing would receive a great impetus and regain the substantial position it held prior to the introduction of bounty-fed beet, and such a result would undoubtedly reflect favourably on a company such as this.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The homeward mails continue to arrive in a most erratic manner, some letters taking weeks in transit. On the other hand, a record has been established for Dominica in the matter of mail communication. Thanks to the service of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, replies to letters sent from Roseau were received in 26 days. The obituary includes Mr. Julian Godfrey Rust, of Trinidad, who died on November 23rd at Stanmore Avenue, Port of Spain, after many months' suffering, and Mr. Cecil Morris, who recently relinquished the management of Albion Estate in Berbice, British Guiana. Mr. Morris held the unique position of having been a manager for 29 years without ever having had a strike on his estate, a record of which he was justly proud. He brought Albion Estate—formerly the property of the New Colonial Company—up from 900 to 4,300 acres of canes.

BARBADOS—The "Christmas Winds" set in.

The death of the Most Rev. William Proctor Swaby, which occurred on November 16th, was the subject of widespread regret. Bishop of Barbados since 1900, he had only just been elected Archbishop of the West Indies in succession to the late Archbishop Nuttall. The obituary also includes Percy Drayton Cave, eldest son of Mr. R. T. Cave, M.C.P.; Mr. Frank Thorne, eldest son of the late Mr. W. H. Thorne, and a nephew of the late Mr. H. R. Thorne; and Mr. T. H. Stokes, a former merchant of Bridgetown.

Regarding climatic conditions the *Agricultural Reporter* reported continuous heavy rains early in November which brought every kind of work to a standstill except the getting of fodder for the animals and the carting in of litter to keep the stock pens in a habitable condition. There was a welcome change in the weather on the 13th instant, and others besides planters have been rejoicing in the pleasant breezes and very welcome sunshine. There has been a taste of the invigorating breezes known as "Christmas winds" and the temperature has been bracing.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Election Results.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, NOVEMBER 18th.—The General elections resulted in the following members being returned:—

	M.C.P.	F.R.
Georgetown.	N. Cannon. P. N. Browne	C. F. Wisting.
E. Demerara.	J. J. McArthur.	A. McLean Ogle
W. Demerara.	A. B. Brown.	
N. W. Essequibo.	R. E. Brassington.	H. A. V. Abraham
S. E. Essequibo.	F. Dias	J. A. Luckhoo
Berbice	J. P. Santos.	M. Nascimento.
New Amsterdam.	E. G. Woolforl.	A. A. Thorne

The meetings of the several candidates seeking political honours were reported in the Mail Edition of the *Argosy*, 28th October. The Berbice races were held on the 16th October.

The Report of the Director of Public Works, Mr. Buck, on Artesian Wells has been published. Borings have been made in various parts of the colony with not altogether successful results, those in the North West District being failures. No irrigation schemes have yet been commenced, but three have been sanctioned, viz., the Craig Irrigation and Drainage Scheme, the Bush Lot Irrigation Scheme, and the Gibraltar-Fyrish Drainage Scheme.

A very successful entertainment in aid of the French Red Cross had been held at the Georgetown Football and Cricket Club Grounds. As regards the English Red Cross Fund, the subscriptions amounted to \$10,000 on the 2nd of November. Plantation Springlands in Berbice has been sold to a local syndicate for the sum of \$170,000. The new concrete wall recently put down at Pln. Lusignan by

the Cane Corporation Company has been severely hindered by the sea during the recent rough weather, some 275 feet being torn away and the concrete stalls being deposited on the dam.

The Annual Meeting of the Combined Court took place on the 3rd November. His Excellency announced that the financial position of the colony was satisfactory. The estimated revenue for the coming year, including the special war taxation is \$3,136,200, and the expenditure is estimated at \$3,135,945. Sir Charles Major considered that the great problem which confronted the colony was that of labour, and considered that the position was a grave indictment of the colony's immigration methods.

The weather had been showery and favourable to cultivation.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, DECEMBER 2nd, reports heavy rains with every prospect of a wet December. In the Ways and Means Committee of the Combined Court, a motion was brought forward by Mr. Cannon to increase the export tax on sugar and rum, the surtax to be ear-marked for the purpose of assisting sugar estates if required later on. An amendment by Mr. Wisting to substitute for this the taxation of all land in cane at \$5 per acre, the amount to be invested in Government Bonds at 5 per cent., was carried.

The unexpected death of Mr. Cecil Morris, the well-known planter, had been announced, as well as the death from wounds of Mr. Frank Stubbs, the son of Mrs. Carl Wisting.

The debate on the Sea Defence question was being continued in the Combined Court.

DOMINICA'S New Mail Service.

The gift from Martinique of £400 and ten tons of sugar is going a long way towards meeting the distress caused by the hurricane. The call of the mail steamer of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique at Roseau is proving a great success and an inestimable benefit to the island. An answer to a letter posted by French mail was received recently in 26 days, a record never reached in the Royal Mail days.

JAMAICA—Agricultural Prospects.

MR. J. BARCLAY, DECEMBER 6th.—After three months continuous wet weather, almost day and night, and in all parts, a spell of bright sunshine set in with December, and the weather is cool and pleasant. Permanent crops, such as bananas, cane, cacao, coco-nuts, have not suffered to any extent through the wet weather, except that no estate operations, like weeding, could be done to any extent. Coffee suffered a good deal, because—except in the high mountains—it was ready to be picked and could hardly be picked, or when picked, cured. There will be considerable loss in this direction, but in spite of the hurricane there was a fine crop, and probably the whole crop will not turn out very badly. The high mountain coffee is later. The cacao which was fit to be picked during the wet weather could not be properly cured except where growers had dryers, and this does not apply to the smaller growers. Unless we get too long a spell of dry weather now, crops should benefit from the sunshine, more especially with regard to sugar cane. All sugar planters were anxious for dry weather in order that their cane could sweeten up. Generally speaking, there will be fine crops of cane, and, with dry weather, the sugar content should be consistent with the tonnage of cane. Bananas to a small extent will come in for shipment in May, a considerable quantity in June, and we should be in full swing again in July, so far as the fruit is concerned, if we have ships to take it away.

NEVIS—Good Cane Crop Promised.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, NOVEMBER 12th.—The weather has remained quite unsettled, and even though the hurricane period may be presumed to have passed, the conditions are not at all satisfactory, sudden squalls, high winds and seas being frequent with abnormal rains, the estates to the north of the island giving the highest records: Round Hill, extreme north, rainfall, January to October 31st, 1916, 65.25 inches; Spring Hill, close by, higher altitude, for month of October last, 21 inches, including a three-hour precipitation of seven inches. The cane crop of the

whole island promises to be very good, though the same cannot be said of the cotton crop, the moisture being too much, and a record crop is unlikely. This brings me to prices of the latter, for the first time in the history of Sea Island cotton in these islands growers are in a position to rule prices, spot cash, on the island, a buyer having "come amongst us" with (reputed) power to buy the Leeward Islands' crop, with headquarters at Nevis. Sales have been made here at 1/8½ per lb., which equals 1/9 f.o.b. Nevis, the export on cotton now being ¼d. per lb. Muscovado sugar in the Canadian market seems still neglected and shipments in August last have not yet been accounted for, which is deplorable, and hard on the planters, who, to say the least of it, expected better news from their brokers on that side. Charlestown, Nevis, quotation Sea Island cotton, spot cash, 2/1.

DECEMBER 1st.—After a series of planters' meetings at the Court House, Charlestown, the planters of Nevis decided to make an immediate and determined effort to obtain a Central Sugar Factory for the island. The success of the scheme depends much on the attitude of the Government, and, as conclusive proof to the effect that 17 to 20 tons of cane are required by the best machinery in Nevis to-day for one ton muscovado sugar, and the export duty on sugar being 8/- per ton, a factory turning out crystals with 8 tons cane to ton of crystals would give over 100 per cent. more dues on export alone, and from the lands that are now being used exclusively for cane, say 5,000 acres and a conservation estimate of 12 tons cane to acre—60,000 tons, a minimum return of 7,500 tons sugar must be obtained. This increase in export dues ought to be an inducement for the Government to give a guarantee on the interest on capital for the financing of the scheme.

ST. VINCENT Rainfall Statistics.

MR. W. N. SANDS, NOVEMBER 14th.—The phenomenal rainfall of the twenty-three days—October 21st to November 12th—both dates inclusive, has been the cause of a great deal of damage to lands and crops throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The prolonged and heavy rains were probably unequalled in magnitude in the history of the colony. The total rainfall measured at the Botanic Gardens was 36.17 inches. Of this, 10.57 inches were recorded for the last eleven days of October, and 25.60 inches for the first twelve days of November. The daily rainfall was as follows:—

October 21st	1.28 ins.	November 1st	2.54 ins.
22nd	.62	2nd	1.83
23rd	1.38	3rd	7.59
24th	1.25	4th	.50
25th	1.71	5th	.13
26th	.13	6th	.80
27th	.65	7th	.65
28th	2.43	8th	.86
29th	.20	9th	3.19
30th	.78	10th	4.88
31st	.41	11th	1.38
		12th	1.15
	10.57		

The rainfall in other parts of the island was almost as heavy as this, judging by the nature of the reports of loss and damage which have been received. The effect of this exceptional rainfall on the hilly lands with light soil, which, for the most part, slope steeply to the sea, or flank the narrow valleys, was to cause numerous landslides. Some of these slides were fairly extensive, and from one to three acres in area, but the greater number were of smaller dimensions, still in the aggregate quite a large acreage of good land with the crops growing on it was lost. On most of the cultivated areas the overflowing of rivers and drains caused much damage because the valuable surface soil was washed away, as well as crops of all descriptions in the tracks of the newly-formed water courses. Estates and other roads were also badly cut up everywhere. It is not easy to compute the extent of the damage to growing crops, apart from that done by flooding surface water, but it is undoubtedly very considerable in the case of certain of them. The valuable cotton crop from which so much was hoped for this season was partially ruined. The plants were just coming into bearing—only a very small quantity of cotton had been picked—now a high percentage of the bolls have become blackened by disease, water-soaked, and rotten. To-day I should put the loss of crop due

to abnormal weather at upwards of 50 per cent. Both large and small growers have suffered equally, and I foresee heavy financial losses in some instances, and a serious set-back to the industry in general.

The arrowroot crop has also suffered, and fields which were ready for reaping will give smaller returns than were expected because the incessant rain will cause the rhizomes (roots) to sprout and the starch will become disorganised. Fields recently prepared for planting have been, in certain cases, badly washed.

Sugar cane was probably affected least of all, and it is a fortunate circumstance that sugar cultivation had been extended up to the manufacturing capacity of the small muscovado mills that are in working order.

The ground-nut crop has suffered seriously. The fields were situated chiefly in districts with very light soil. As flat cultivation has to be practised, and the roots of the plants do not bind the soil together, the rains have washed away large areas of the crop. Your readers will not be surprised to hear, after reading the above account of damage, to learn that the public roads of the island are in a very bad state, and that the Government will have to incur an expenditure of probably £1,000 in effecting repairs to them. This is a serious matter, considering the low state of the colony's finances.

Ground provision crops, which are chiefly grown by the peasantry, have suffered but not seriously except in places where there were landslides or heavy washes.

TRINIDAD—The Result of the Municipal Elections.

Writing from Barbados on November 15th, during his tour of the islands, Mr. EDGAR TRIPP said: There was not much to report from Trinidad beyond the Municipal Election. At Port of Spain His Worship the Hon. Dr. Rurique Prada was elected to serve his third term as Mayor, the highest honour his brother councillors can pay, and one thoroughly endorsed by the burgesses. Dr. Prada has time and talent, and these he gives with untiring energy to the work of the borough, and no end of good work has been done under his direction.

At San Fernando they have shown their appreciation of an equally good chief, by re-electing the Hon. J. D. Hobson for the ninth time.

At Arima, a worthy son of the soil, Mr. Beckles, who has presided over the destinies of that borough for ten consecutive years, at last insisted on resigning.

At Port of Spain there were three vacancies for councillors. Two candidates were elected unopposed. There was a somewhat spirited contest for the third place, resulting in the popular election of Mr. O'Reilly, a brilliant young barrister who came here from St. Lucia two or three years ago, and by reason of considerable ability, and, perhaps more, by unflinching tact and courtesy, has made unusual strides towards a leading practice at the local Bar.

The rice crop is coming to the reaping stage, and is expected to be our largest to date. Meanwhile quantities are being imported from Demerara.

Weather continues favourable, and all looks hopeful for cane and cacao in 1917.

TURKS ISLANDS—Labourers leave for Dominica.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during October has been for the most part damp and oppressive, with very light winds. The maximum temperature for the month was 90 deg. and the minimum 72 deg. FAH. The total rainfall for the month as registered by the United States Weather Bureau, was 6.18 inches, 1.83 of which was registered on the 9th inst. Of this amount 1.07 was registered between 2.15 and 3.20 p.m., 1.82 inches on the 13th, and during one squall at 5 a.m. on the 25th, which lasted about an hour, 72 of an inch was registered.

On the 2nd, Mr. Edmund Harriott and his son left on the SS. *Iroquois* for New York, en route for Jamaica. On the 18th inst., Rev. Edmunds returned from New York. On the 19th inst., the Commissioner sailed for East Harbour on the schooner *Augusta W. Snow*, returning on the 20th inst. on the schooner *Hathaway*.

The month has been an exceptionally quiet one. The outlook for salt on hand is much brighter, and from appearances many will regret not raking more when they

had the opportunity, as large quantities have been sold for future shipment. A recent rain has tended to liven up vegetation, and the various plantations are looking very good. Many are extracting sisal by hand and quantities are being shipped to New York. Sponge is also being enquired after from the New York markets, and shipments are being prepared. The conch shell industry is dormant and apparently was overdone at the start. Some of the shippers have large quantities of shells on hand, but these do not improve by storage, fading out very soon and losing their lustre.

Steamers of the Donald Line are expected shortly to take one hundred labourers, who have been engaged here to work on contract on the sugar plantations at La Romana, Santo Domingo. This, together with brighter prospects for the salt industry, will tend to keep the labouring classes employed. The telephone system is working well and giving satisfaction. One pole on the Lighthouse-Town section had to be renewed during the month. Many are looking somewhat shaky.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines, and 6d. for every additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated, may be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Stone-Atkinson.—On December 23rd, at St. Philip's Church, Earl's Court Road, by the Rev. Ernest Marling-Roberts, 2nd Lt. Stanley S. Stone to Ellen Leicester, daughter of E. L. Atkinson, late of Trinidad.

WANT.

Wanted.—Copies of CIRCULAR, No. 474, November 30 6d. per copy paid for copies returned to the Manager, WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

The House of Fletcher.

Sir,—In the interesting article which appeared in your last issue concerning the firm of George Fletcher & Son, Ltd., no mention is made of the only son of George Fletcher, Junr. If I remember rightly, this gentleman died of fever in Essequibo in the very early eighties, while visiting British Guiana on engineering business.

Yours etc,
FREDERIC I. SCARD.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Trinidad Oil and Transport Co.

At a meeting of the South Naporima (Trinidad) Oil Company, held on December 13th, resolutions were passed providing for the voluntary liquidation of the Company and for the distribution of its assets in accordance with the contract entered into with the Oilfields Finance Corporation, the Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Company, and the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company. Mr. J. S. Smith-Winby, who presided, said that the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company had a nominal capital of £300,000 in 1/1 Ordinary Shares, of which 155,224 had been issued. Of these the South Naporima Company received 71,000, the Venezuelan Oilfields Exploration Company 42,167, and, in consideration of the cancellation of a cash debt of £35,622 and the surrender of its call on the unissued share capital of the Trinidad Company, the Oilfields Finance Corporation received 40,000 shares. The Venezuelan Company was also entitled to a 5 per cent. royalty on the product of Wells Nos. 1 to 7, which the Trinidad Company had the option of redeeming by the issue of 4,000 shares of the company, and if this option were exercised the total issued capital of the Trinidad Company

would be just under 160,000 shares. The Trinidad Company had taken power to create and issue £50,000 Five per cent. Debentures. The Oilfields Finance Corporation undertook the subscription at the price of 80 per cent. of such amount of these debentures as the Trinidad Company might require to issue up to £25,000 Debentures, and had, in fact, already subscribed £5,000 of these Debentures at 80 per cent. Other indebtedness of the Trinidad Company had been settled by the issue of £4,300 Debentures. It was hoped that only a very small further amount, if any, of the remaining Debentures need be issued.

Proceeding, Mr. Smith-Winby said: "Several wells have been drilled, but so far comparatively little oil has been taken from them by reason of the lack of storage and transport facilities. The production is therefore by no means indicative of the productivity of these wells. Within the last two months local contracts for the supply of 6,000 to 7,000 tons of fuel-oil during 1917 have been obtained. An agreement has also been made with Trinidad Leaseholds (Limited), and not only is the Trinidad Company selling them a considerable quantity of oil at remunerative prices, deliverable during the current year, but it is hoped that the Trinidad Company will be able to dispose, also at reasonable prices, of a large proportion of its output during the next and succeeding years. The production and sale of fuel oil indicated will yield the Trinidad Company considerable stocks of petrol, arrangements for the disposal of which are under negotiation. We attach considerable importance to this latter contract because Trinidad Leaseholds (Limited), the largest proprietor of oil lands in Trinidad, is controlled by influential Corporations, and by means of its pipe-line and jetty has facilities for shipping on a large scale. The Trinidad Oil and Transport Company has arranged for meeting the developments expected. In spite of difficulties the Trinidad Oil and Transport Co. made a substantial revenue profit in 1915; it is beyond reasonable doubt that this will be increased in 1916, and thereafter there is much reason to hope it should be such as to admit of a gradually increasing dividend, assuming, of course, that our anticipations in regard to production are duly realized. The Trinidad Oil and Transport Company is now in complete possession of all the properties. In these circumstances nothing remains but to distribute the assets amongst the shareholders of the South Naporima Company, and with this object it is necessary to put the company into voluntary liquidation."

The Royal Bank of Canada.

The annual report and accounts of the Royal Bank of Canada for the twelve months ended November 30th last show that that institution enjoyed a most prosperous year. Its increase in assets during the year amounted to \$55,000,000 (£11,000,000) a figure larger than the total assets which the bank had ten years ago. The total assets now stand at \$253,261,427, as against \$198,299,123. Of this amount liquid assets total \$121,127,663, equivalent to 52.24 per cent. of the total liabilities to the public, as compared with \$84,894,462. For the year deposits bearing interest having risen from \$117,519,530 to \$140,862,159; and deposits not bearing interest from \$37,456,997 to \$59,365,396. The much larger accommodation the bank has provided, notwithstanding the general tendency in Canada to pay off loans, is shown by a gain in current loans and discounts to \$124,864,658, which compares with \$106,552,634. Owing to the larger business profits amounting to \$2,111,307, equivalent to 17.87 per cent. on the paid up capital, as compared with \$1,505,576, or 16.48 per cent., the balance carried forward is \$852,346, compared with \$676,472.

Angostura Bitters.

The report of Angostura Bitters (Dr. J. C. B. Siegert and Sons), Ltd., states that the accounts show a net trading profit of £20,167. After applying to advertising, legal expenses, and trade marks registration the sum of £2,978, and payment of London expenses, there remains a net profit of £15,541. Of this amount the directors will place the sum of £1,551 to reserve in accordance with the articles of association. This leaves a sum of £13,987, which, with the addition of £362 brought forward from last year, makes a total of £14,349 available for distribu-

tion. An interim dividend on Preference and Ordinary shares to March 31st last at the rate of 3 per cent for the half-year has already been distributed, leaving a balance of £9,243, out of which the board recommend the payment of a final dividend 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.) leaving a balance of £4,149. The directors propose placing £2,000 to the credit of the contingency reserve fund, leaving a balance of £2,148 to be carried forward.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. Ltd.

The Directors in their fifth annual report for the year ending 30th September last state that the rainfall during 1915 was more than ample, ranging from 60 to 107 inches. The result was that the factory at length, in its fifth year, had for the first time an ample supply of canes. The promise for the next crop is equal to that of this year, and there is reason to hope that we may now see a fairly regular continuance of such crops, for short crops like those of the previous four years are unusual in St. Kitts. On the basis of the present crop, the total capital cost of the company's property works out at £15 8s. 10d. per ton of sugar, a moderate figure for a factory fitted out with such excellent plant and with its own railway, pier, and sugar store. The estates maintained their deliveries of sugar well throughout the season, and the canes were better cleaned and trimmed than previously. The sucrose in the cane and the purity of the juice were both decidedly poor for St. Kitts. The factory work shows a marked improvement on previous years, and is now at a high standard of efficiency. The price of sugar has again ruled at a high level. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Canes	37,800	54,338	52,912	58,967	101,248 tons.
Sugar	3,891	6,228	5,870	6,128	11,591
Sucrose in cane ...	14.60	13.02	13.49	12.02	12.84 p.c.
Sucrose in Megass ...	5.47	3.83	3.55	3.18	2.96
Purity of Juice ...	86.14	87.14	86.86	84.40	84.30
Recovery of Sucrose ...	10.38	10.64	79.01	88.09	185.57
Yield of sugar 36 deg. ...	10.38	11.46	11.09	10.39	11.44
Price of sugar per ton £	3 2 0	9 10 1	9 3 10	16 6 5	17 18 10

After charging Revenue with £18,000 for Debenture Interest and Sinking Fund, Additions Sinking Fund and Railway Extension Loan, there remains a surplus of £66,641 7s. to be allocated as follows: To original contractors £33,320 13s. 6d., giving a supplementary payment of 7/3^d per ton on canes, making at total of 24/3^d per ton; and to "A" Shareholders £33,320 13s. 6d., bringing the total at their credit to £39,352 10s. 8d., subject to liability for Excess Profit Duty.

Mr. R. Luxmoore Marshall has been elected by the planters as their representative on the Board in succession to the late Major Montgomerie. The report and accounts were adopted at the annual meeting on December 21st, and Mr. Thomas Du Buisson, who retired from the Board by rotation, and the auditors were re-elected.

A dividend of 1/- per share was recommended, making with the debenture interest a total payment of 10 per cent. on the capital.

The Profit and Loss Account shows that 101,248 tons, 3 cwts., and 3 qrs. of canes were purchased at the average price of 17/8.29, or a total cost of £89,559 6s. 7d. The export duty amounted to £6,568 4s. 8d., factory charges to £25,587 17s. 4d. (£2 4s. 11d. per ton of sugar); railway transport to £4,982 2s. 3d. (8/7^d per ton of sugar); and administrative charges to £1,779 4s. 7d. (3/3^d per ton of sugar). The net proceeds of sugar were £207,980 5s. 7d. According to the Balance Sheet, the issued capital is £3,250, but there are debentures outstanding to the value of £100,700.

Those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS are requested to post them to the reading room of one of the Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment, or to the Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English Regiments.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SKETHING LANE,
Telegrams "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.

December 27th, 1916.

BANK RATE stands at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. New War Loan (4¹/₂ per cent.) is quoted at 96¹/₂; Old War Loan (3¹/₂ per cent.) at 85¹/₂; and Consols at 55¹/₂.

SUGAR. The Sugar Commission has made no change in sale prices since last Summary. The position, however, as regards retail distribution in the United Kingdom remains unsatisfactory; but Lord Devonport, the Food Controller, will, no doubt, in the near future, take definite steps in the direction of adjusting matters, so that workers and the poor, who are unable to amass stocks of sugar by repeated buying of other groceries, or by favouritism, may have their due share. As to this it may be remarked that the confectioners attribute the fault entirely to the grocers, who, they say, see that their good customers get full pre-war supplies. In respect of confectionery, it is a subject for thought that the importation has increased during the war. During the twelve months ending November 30th, 1914, 2,794 tons of confectionery, other than chocolate, of the value of £108,980 were imported. For the corresponding months of the year just concluding 3,152 tons were imported, of the value of £272,293. In the same way, the importation of prepared cocoa and chocolate amounts to 11,952 tons for the eleven months of 1916, as against 8,840 tons for the same period in 1914, the values being relatively £2,075,587 and £1,339,817. The value of the cocoa and chocolate coming from Switzerland for the eleven months of 1916 has been no less than £1,520,830. This is, no doubt, prepared with enemy sugar, although last year about 9,000 tons of American granulated were shipped to Switzerland, and probably the sweets and other confectionery coming from the same source is similarly tainted. It would appear that our own chocolate and cocoa makers, who have just had a large reduction made in their sugar supply, and must consequently reduce their output, have a just cause of complaint in these importations being allowed.

The advocates of a home-grown sugar industry are seizing the psychological moment for pressing their claims upon the Government for assistance. At a meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel recently it was resolved that the Government should be requested to give the necessary guarantee of interest for the capital necessary for the establishment of the industry, and appointed a Committee to be called the Committee of Public Safety (?), and nominated a deputation to wait upon various members of the Government in this connection. Our farmers are also exhorted to grow more wheat, more potatoes, and to produce more dairy produce. Which crop will they select?

The Cuban crop has started, better weather having prevailed, but the future of the yield is still uncertain. As regards the rest of the West Indies the heavy rains which have obtained are expected to have had a bad effect upon the coming crop. The quality of the juice is expected to be low, at least as regards the canes cut early in the crop.

The war has brought about many reversals of supply and demand. Formerly Russian sugar was largely imported into Afghanistan, selling at a price far in excess of that at which Indian sugar could be procured at Peshawar. Now, for the first time, the *Indian Trade Journal* states, sugar is being exported from Kalut and other parts of Afghanistan into Russian territory. In this connection it is interesting to note that Russia has temporarily suspended her existing sugar duties, and will permit the importation of sugar free of duty until September 1st, 1917, to the extent of 360,000 tons. It is not so long ago when British sugar producers were deploring the markets of the United Kingdom being flooded with Russian sugar!

Recent advices from Queensland point to a most unsatisfactory relationship between the Government and the sugar planter. The Dickson labour award, to which reference has been already made in this Summary (whereby

the price of labour is fixed at a high protective figure against the factory, while, on the other hand, the price at which the factory has to sell its sugar to the Government is fixed at a non-protective figure as regards the manufacturer, has brought about a very disagreeable state of affairs, which may lead to a considerably reduced acreage for next crop. This trouble is a good illustration of the danger of attempting to cheapen an article of food by legislation without providing for a corresponding cost of the items which form the cost of production.

The Board of Trade figures might be expected to show an increased consumption of artificial glucose, which the Board of Agriculture so strongly recommended for jam-making as a substitute for sugar. But, as a matter of fact, only 58,417 tons were withdrawn from bond for home consumption during the eleven months of this year, as against 64,365 for the corresponding period last year. Indeed, the stocks of glucose in hand on the 30th of November of the current year, were 3,750 tons as against 2,650 tons at the same date last year, and 350 tons on the 30th November, 1914.

The German current sugar crop is given by Dr. Prinsen Geerligs as 1,700,000 to 1,800,000 tons. That of Austria will be 1,000,000; that of Russia, 1,600,000 tons; that of France, 22,500 tons; and that of Sweden, 140,000 tons.

Messrs. Willett and Gray report unseasonable weather for the Brazil crop, and not more than 225,000 tons are expected to be made.

It is satisfactory to see that only 530,155 ozs., representing in sweetness only 7,500 tons of sugar, of that pernicious substitute for the real article—saccharin—were liberated from bond during the eleven months of 1916. But why saccharin should find a home in among the genuine sugar products in the Board of Trade Returns, when it is nothing more or less than a coal tar product, is inexplicable. Its proper location is in Division III. Section J., with "chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours."

The West India sugar statistics from January 1st to December 16th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	
Imports ...	54,809	52,932	31,060	39,585	Tons.
Deliveries ...	57,400	47,621	37,927	29,476	"
Stock (Dec. 16) ...	8,514	11,320	6,085	11,949	"

The New York market has shown a decline in price since the date of the last Summary, and the price for 96° \$5.52 to \$5.08; granulated, in sympathy stands at \$6.55. With a big Cuban crop in view and commencing this drop was expected.

RUM. The market remains in an undecided state owing to the possibility of prohibition. Buyers are for the most part holding off. New landed Demerara has been sold at 3/7 per proof gallon. Sellers' price for ordinary Jamaica is 5/- per liquid gallon. The French Government have prohibited all imports of spirits.

Temperance cranks are making an organized effort to take advantage of the situation and induce the Government to prohibit the manufacture of beer and spirits, and are spending big sums in advertising in this connection. On the other hand, the brewers are meeting them with striking advertisements showing the great value of brewing to the public. They point out the use in cattle-feeding of the by-products in the form of "culms" and "wet grains," together with poultry food and grinding barley, besides the yeast, which is so important in bread-making.

The stocks in London on 16th December were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Jamaica ...	10,845	6,290	6,954	6,666	7,382	Puns.
Demerara ...	10,666	3,979	5,423	6,399	5,695	"
Total, all kinds ...	36,481	21,099	18,549	20,259	21,359	"

CACAO. There have been no auction sales since the date of the last Summary. The market is quiet, with the value of Trinidad 76/- to 77/- spot.

The stocks in London on 16th December were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	
Trinidad ...	17,541	7,879	5,666	9,496	4,039	Bags
Grenada ...	13,401	1,929	4,191	4,075	2,011	"
Total, all kinds ...	214,874	102,384	58,872	70,351	67,746	"

COFFEE. Market quiet with little doing. Superior Santos to arrive is quoted at 53/6 c. & f.

COTTON. There is no change in Sea Island cotton. The imports of West Indian to the 21st of December for the year were 4,673 bales.

COPRA. The market is very firm and prices have again advanced. To-day's value of fine West Indian is £43 c.i.f. terms, with usual conditions.

FRUIT. Demand good for all lines. Jamaica Grape Fruit may be quoted at 14/- per case, mixed counts. Bananas West Indian, £17 per ton (truck loads); Canary, 7/- to 14/6 per crate or drum.

HONEY. Firmer, with good demand. Jamaica may be valued at 44/- to 57/6 per cwt.

SPICES. Ginger is still slow of sale at unchanged rates. Pimento firmer. Business has been done at 3½d. for fair quality on the spot. There is nothing to report on Nutmegs and Mace, the market having a holiday tendency.

ARROWROOT. Market steady and with small sales. Quotation 3d. to 4½d.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Distilled is very quiet, with a nominal value of 9/- per lb. There have been small sales of handpressed at 13/- per lb. Lime Juice. Small sales of raw have taken place at 2/7½ to 2/9 per gallon. There has been a good business in Concentrated at £22. Citrate is dearer, and there have been sales at £28 10s.

RUBBER. The market is quietly steady, after weakness. Fair plantation may be quoted at 3/-; smoked sheet, 3/-; fine hard Para, 3/3; and soft, 3/0½.

BALATA. Market for Venezuela block quoted at 2/10½ c.i.f.; for Panama block 2/5 c.i.f. nominal. West Indian sheet unchanged at 3/5 to 3/6 spot.

The Agricultural Reporter has unearthed an interesting old document which records the early history of the magnificent old evergreen tree which adorns The Green in Bridgetown. It runs:

This twelfth day of June, 1828, an Evergreen tree, the Gift of the Lady of the Honourable John A. Beckles, was transplanted from the "Bay Plantation" to Trafalgar Place, and is the nearest to the Careenage.

ABEL STEWART,
Aged 32.

Witness
W. JONES.

The tree was uprooted by the hurricane in 1898, but was promptly replanted, and is still flourishing.

JAMES DUNN & Co., of Glasgow, in their *Review of the Sugar Trade for 1916*, say:—"It is clear, from our rapidly accumulating national debt, that something drastic must be done after the War towards the creation of revenue, and for this purpose development in sugar cultivation, and in its manufacture in this country again, call for special attention. Within the Indian Empire, and throughout the West India Colonies, all the conditions needful for such development are available, so that for its extension, and for the completion of the article on a vastly extended scale in the home refineries, energetic Government action and support are all that remain to bring both branches to positions of importance as revenue earners. There is no reason at all why British refined in the shape of fine granulated should not become an important factor in the export business of the country."

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G.	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. Hugh McLelland
Mrs. Burdon	Mr. Albert T. Haunmond	Mr. Albert Mendes
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. W. de Gale	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. John T. Moir
Sir Walter Egerton.	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Dr. Frank Oliphant
K.C.M.G.	Mr. E. K. Lane	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Hon. A. Don Lockhart	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. Marsden	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. A. L. McColl	and
	Hon. D. McDonald	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
 Mr. R. Eryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove.
 Lieut.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
 Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeslion, Notts.
 Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.
 Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Latest Quotations.		Prices Dec. 28
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	70 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	85 1/2
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	83
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-40	70x2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	63 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82 1/2
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	80 1/2
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	62 1/2
3 1/2 %	The Colonial Bank	3 31/32
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	115 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	82 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	89 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	103 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	102 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	47 1/2
	Trinidad Oilfields Ltd. (1 1/2 shares)	13/9
	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	13/9
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	20-25
	Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref.	97-100
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	67-70
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	72-75
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary	20 1/2
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.	7 1/2
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd	5
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5 % Debentures	96

STEAMER SAILINGS.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Date.	Line.	Steamer.	Port of Dep.	Destination.
Jan. 3 ...	Direct	Sargasso	London	A, B, E, F, G, K, L, M, N
.. 5 ...	Elders & Fyffes	Coronado	Bristol	D.
.. 6 ...	Leyland	Antillian	Liverpool	A, E.
.. 17 ...	Compagnie Genl. Transatlantique	Niagara	St. Nazaire	M, E, D.
.. 19 ...	Elders & Fyffes	Cavina	Bristol	D.

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.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures, published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies during the current year to November 15th (except where otherwise specified), have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados.*	British Guiana.	British Honduras.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Jamaica.	Montserrat.	St. Lucia.	St. Kitts Nevis.**	St. Vincent.	Trinidad.
Arrowroot ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,636,836	—
Asphalt ...	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	884,819
Balata ...	Lbs.	—	—	1,049,819	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,100
Bananas ...	Boxes	—	—	—	804,882	—	3,460,641	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters ...	Galls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cacao ...	Lbs.	—	—	30,619	14,379	—	—	—	—	—	—	53,262
Cassava Starch ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	10,225,126	49,315	3,274	1,208,354	—	113,127	51,404,409
Coco-nuts ...	No.	—	—	1,277,409	4,191,918	—	18,012,815	—	80,774	760	139,654	—
Coffee ...	Lbs.	—	—	438,801	—	—	46,459	—	—	—	—	13,696,048
Copra ...	Lbs.	—	—	217,854	164,854	—	—	—	9,183	—	—	1,731
Cotton, M. Galante	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	347,352	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island	Lbs.	77,700	143,024	—	—	—	77,380	370,683	—	286,198	—	34,218
Cotton Seed	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	184	—	699	—	219,315
Diamonds ...	Caraib	—	—	10,494	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,924
Dyewoods ...	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	64,339	—	—	—	—	—
Gold ...	Ozs.	—	—	30,042	—	—	15,856	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs & bris.	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honey ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime juice, raw	Galls.	118	—	—	—	—	124,909	—	45,588	—	—	1,100
Oil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,120	—	—	14,614
Lime (sulfate of)	Lbs.	—	—	51,402	—	—	—	—	12,316	—	—	—
Logwood	Tons	—	—	—	7,128	—	—	—	300	—	—	—
Lumber	Feet	—	—	304,433	—	—	—	—	2,788	—	—	—
Mabogany	Tons	—	—	—	4,630,092	—	—	—	12,880	—	—	—
Nanjak	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses	Galls	406,200	66	8,736,860	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135
Oranges	No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88,293	—	12,332	443,048
Oils, Essential	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	11,782,300	—	—	—	—	472,190
Oil, Petroleum	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	154	376	—	—	—
Pimento	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	5,478,050	—	—	—	—	31,203,763
Rice	Lbs.	—	—	25,210,145	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber	Lbs.	—	—	13,154	2,617	—	—	—	—	—	—	40,776
Rum	Galls.	—	—	91,647	3,953,543	—	—	—	17,719	520	8,733	543,872
Shingles	No.	—	—	2,122,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar	Tons	14,055	54,538	71,705	305	10,283	34,209	—	—	—	—	56,194
Timber	Feet	—	—	121,898	321,795	—	—	—	4,357	15,144	455	52,264

* To Nov. 25th ** To Oct. 31st *** To Sept. 30th **** To August 31st. ***** To Oct. 31st.