

== The ==

West India

Committee.

Circular.

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The West India Committee Circular.

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The present issue is the first number of Volume XXXII, of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Cases for binding Volume XXXI, can be supplied post free for 2/1 each. Members can have their CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 4/6 on sending them, carriage paid, to the Secretary, The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.4. Spring-backed filing cases to hold the issues for the current year as published can be obtained at the same address, post free 2/1 each.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, AND AFTER.

WITH a new and vigorous Ministry in power, under the leadership of MR. LLOYD GEORGE, there are at last good grounds for hoping that effect will soon be given to the far-reaching recommendations of the Economic Conference of the Allies held at Paris in June last. Those of the recommendations which related to the period of the War have, of course, already been adopted, and only the transitory measures for the period of reconstruction after the War, and the permanent measures of mutual assistance and collaboration among the Allies, remain to be dealt with. The pith of these measures lies in the clearly-expressed determination of the Allies "to fix by agreement a period of time during which the commerce of the Enemy Powers shall be submitted to special treatment, and the goods originating in their countries shall be subjected to prohibitions or to a special regime of an effective character." Nothing could be clearer than this, and it would appear that only the penal period has to be determined. With regard to the permanent measures to be adopted, greater latitude was granted to the signatory Powers. They decided to take the necessary steps *without delay* to render themselves independent of enemy countries in so far as regards raw materials and manufactured articles essential to the normal development of their economic activi-

ties, either by subsidising or controlling enterprises, granting financial assistance for the encouragement of scientific or technical research, "to Customs duties or prohibitions of a temporary or permanent character, or to a combination of these different methods." These steps were to be taken "without delay," and yet it is only after the lapse of six weary months that the question is receiving attention. The late Government, when in doubt, was wont to appoint Committees to investigate and report on the question at issue, and the number of such bodies which were in being when MR. ASQUITH retired from office was almost legion. There is no "wait and see" about the present Government, evidences of whose activity are apparent on every side, and it is particularly satisfactory to know that an Imperial Conference is at last to meet, and that the Dominions and Colonies overseas are to have a voice in the War, which is theirs just as much as it is Great Britain's, and the measures for securing and developing trade after the War. As usual, the question of the representation of the Crown Colonies and those Colonies without responsible Government presents features of difficulties, but it is difficult to see who else but the Secretary of State for the Colonies could watch over the interests of His Majesty's far-flung lesser possessions, and we are glad to know that MR. WALTER LONG will take part in the discussions. We referred recently to the folly of the late Government in allowing month after month to elapse without taking practical measures towards rendering the United Kingdom more self-supporting in the matter of food supply, and of developing the resources of the Empire. Month after month slipped by, and nothing was done. With the advent of MR. LLOYD GEORGE, however, as Prime Minister, a change has come over the scene. Speaking on behalf of the new Government at a meeting of farmers held at Bedford on January 6th, MR. PROTHERO, the President of the Board of Agriculture, announced that the Government had decided to guarantee a price of 60/- per quarter for wheat—a step which should have been taken long ago, when 45/- would have tempted the British farmer to extend his acreage under wheat, oats, and barley. "For years and years, under the old fiscal system," said MR. PROTHERO, "the nation cared nothing so long as goods were cheap. The foreigner had flourished through the British farmer, and the nation was now feeling the effects. When wheat fell years ago to 23/- it ruined the farmer, but the consumer did not call out. He had come there to say to the farmers that they must forgive the injustice done to them in the past, and he asked them as patriots to grow all the food they possibly could for man and beast." It will at once strike our readers, as it did us, that the same remarks might *mutatis mutandis* be ad-

dressed to the sugar planters of the Empire, many of whom have lost their all through the *laissez-faire* policy of successive British Governments. But we must not rake up past history at this juncture. It is to the future that we must look, and we are glad to learn that the BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION is bringing the case for the development of the economic resources of the British Empire before the attention of the Prime Minister in view of the action which is certain to be taken with regard to the Paris recommendations after the forthcoming Imperial Conference.

INTENSIVE CANE CULTIVATION.

IN his recent brochure, "The High Price of Sugar, and how to reduce it," MR. H. HAMEL SMITH urges the adoption of intensive cultivation as a means of producing a larger supply of sugar from our existing acreage of cane. This subject, like many other agricultural problems, has come to the front as the outcome of the War, and the acreage returns of Java and Hawaii are adduced as illustrations of what can be done in this direction. The matter was also dealt with as regards Cuba in MR. NOEL DEERR's recent report on the Cuban sugar industry. It is more complex than most agricultural problems on account of the manufacturing factor which enters into its consideration. Of course, if a ton of cane can be produced at a less cost, or even at the same cost, by intensive cultivation than it can by ordinary cultivation, the system must necessarily be a paying one, so long as the price received for the cane is in excess of the cost of production. But in the majority of cases the question is not of so elementary a character. There are many descriptions of soil which, if cultivated lightly, give a yield of cane comparatively low in quantity, but cheap in cost, a return which would not be economically increased by a greater expenditure on agricultural work, on account of the deterioration in quality of juice. Then, again, there are comparatively virgin soils which would not give a particularly higher yield with intensive than with ordinary methods. Allowing, however, that the soil does not belong to the above classes, but is of such a character as to yield a notably higher return with intensive cultivation, what are the conditions which would determine whether the cultivation should be intensive or normal? In this case the primary factor is the price the factory receives for its sugar at the factory door—a factor which determines the price it can pay for its canes if these are bought from farmers, or the sum it can afford to devote to their cultivation if grown by the factory. The price the factory receives for its sugar is determined by (1) the world's price of sugar, (2) the extent of the preferential or protective treatment—if any—the sugar receives in its market, (3) the geographical advantage or disadvantage it sustains in respect to its market, and (4) the character of the sugar made, whether white or yellow for direct consumption or grey sugar for refining purposes. Further factors are the extent of output of the factory, as the larger the factory, *ceteris paribus*, the more it can afford to pay for its canes; the dis-

tance of haulage of the canes to the mill, and lastly, but not leastly, the character of the canes to be dealt with as regards their sugar-making qualities. The whole question may be summed up in the question, Will intensive cultivation pay?—and to this no general reply can be given. Each case must be dealt with separately. It seems a big thing to obtain the high return of Hawaii, but would the cost of the enormous irrigation works justify the big return if Hawaiian sugar did not receive £6 per ton protection in the American market? The average yield of land in Hawaii for the three years 1908, 1909, and 1910 was 5.7 tons for the irrigated land and 3.0 tons for the non-irrigated lands. There were in 1910, according to DR. PRINSEN GEERLIGS in "The World's Cane Sugar Industry," 1,500 miles of irrigating canals in the Hawaiian Islands, 70 miles of which were in tunnels; 250 reservoirs containing 8,000,000,000 gallons of water; 428 Artesian wells delivering 500,000,000 gallons daily, besides water from other subterranean sources supplying 100,000,000 gallons daily, pumped up by steam-pumps of 27,000 horse-power to a height of 500 feet, flowing through 70 miles of iron piping, and crossing ravines 650 feet in depth. The acreage of land irrigated by this gigantic system was only 55,973 acres. Would the extra 2.7 tons of sugar per acre obtained justify the cost of this gigantic irrigation system without the heavy protection the sugar enjoys in the United States? This is the style of problem the subject of intensive cultivation presents—a problem which can only be solved on the spot by a consideration of local conditions of price, soil, and labour.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The following have been elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer & Seconder.
Mr. S. L. Vaughan Green (Dominica)	f Mr. W. C. Winston. l Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton.
Mr. A. R. Ling	f Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. l Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. G. R. Gonsalves (Antigua)	f Mr. José Anjo. l Mr. Francis A. Joaquim.
Mr. J. C. Farquharson (Jamaica)	f Mr. A. W. Farquharson. l Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Lieut. L. R. Wheeler, B.Sc., F.C.S. (Trinidad)	f Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. l Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. G. C. Benson	f Mr. S. S. A. Cambridge. l Mr. E. R. Davson.
Corpl. L. C. Jeffrey- Smith (Jamaica)	f Mr. H. A. Trotter. l Mr. R. Rutherford.
Rifleman A. J. Darrell	f Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. l Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mr. R. F. Garraway (Dominica)	f Dr. A. H. Rich. l Mr. G. Moody-Stuart.
Mr. S. W. Fitt (Trinidad)	f Sir T. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. l Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
Corpl. E. N. Richards (Jamaica)	f Mr. H. D. Spooner. l Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Mrs. Violet Lee	f Mr. H. D. Spooner. l Mr. W. M. Campbell.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Sir Douglas Haig's Dispatch.

The Battle of the Somme, which lasted from July 1st to nearly the end of November, may not prove the decisive event of the War, but it was decisive in this sense—that it demonstrated beyond all question the superiority of the Allies to the enemy. The reply of Germany has not been military, but diplomatic. That is to say, she is trying to secure a peace favourable to herself by negotiation instead of by the destruction of the forces of the Allies. Such a reversal of the natural order of things in this connection is so foreign to the German mind that it is clear that the Battle of the Somme is as the writing on the wall to the men who direct the policy of the Central Powers. The objects of the offensive launched on July 1st were threefold: to relieve the almost intolerable pressure on Verdun, to check the movement of troops to the East, and to wear down the military strength of the enemy. They have all been achieved, and in addition, the Austrians, who were rapidly advancing on Venetia, have been thrown back. The old Regular Army was a deciding factor at a critical moment in the War, sacrificing itself to save the national honour. The New Armies have been the deciding factor at another critical moment of the War, showing that they are worthily carrying on the martial traditions of the race. For they and their French Allies have defeated the half of the entire German Army. The Regular Army at Mons and after was hampered by want of numbers, the New Armies by want of sufficient training; but each rose to the occasion by sheer force of spirit. The fallacy of the German contention that success in the field should be estimated by the extent of territory gained, has been exposed both at Verdun and on the Somme. In the one case, entrenched and fortified lines have been held against the utmost the enemy could do; in the other case, lines so reinforced by science and invention that their creators believed them to be impregnable have been destroyed by concentrated artillery fire, and their defenders broken by determined infantry attack. Though at Verdun no ground which was not theirs at the beginning of the assault was won by the French, and in the Somme region relatively little was won by the Anglo-French Armies, in each case a deadly blow was inflicted on the enemy. The aim of the Allies now is what the aim of Germany once was—the destruction of his military forces. And Sir Douglas Haig ends his dispatch by the assurance that the Allies are able to achieve their object. Moreover, once the lines of men confronting hostile attack are destroyed, the territory behind them passes automatically into the possession of the victorious army.

Peace Notes.

When Mr. Wilson issued his Peace Note asking the belligerents to define their terms, and sent it to neutral Governments, it was given out in Washington that there was nothing persuasive about the action. But Spain, which has a better sense of

reality than the United States, has let the cat out of the bag by declining to follow the American lead. From the terms of her Note it is clear that she was invited to lend the weight of her support to the American Note. The Scandinavian countries have been more complaisant, and so has Switzerland. But the Allied reply to the German proposals is an emphatic "No," which is fortified by the recital of several facts overlooked by German peacemongers and their neutral friends. The Allied answer to the American Note, it is said, like that to Germany, will be collective, and will not only recite the causes of the War, but the terms which will be insisted upon as essential to the consideration of peace proposals. They may be summed up in the words Restitution, Reparation, and Security. The Germans, on their side, have promised to inform President Wilson as to the peace terms they are prepared to offer "in secret." So like them! But he will not be surprised if the impression he gives by his extraordinary diplomacy is that he is more afraid of Germany than he is devoted to the cause of humanity.

A Brilliant Stroke.

Since a body of Yeomanry was surprised and roughly handled at Katia in April last, little has been heard of the Sinai Peninsula. The occupation of El Arish, twenty miles from the frontier of Palestine, and the jumping-off place for an invasion of Egypt, was therefore a surprise to many people besides the Turks. General Murray, the resourceful Commander in this theatre of the War, by the aid of the field railway and pipe-line, prepared the attack and carried it to such a swift conclusion that the enemy was not able to bring up reinforcements in time to attempt resistance. Apparently, too, it was not thought that the British could bridge ninety miles of waterless desert, for the strongly entrenched position which had been prepared to protect the town and wells of El Arish was weakly held. The garrison had been depleted to meet calls elsewhere, for it must be remembered that the Turks, in addition to helping the Germans in Galicia and Roumania, and the Bulgarians in Macedonia, and providing garrisons nearer home, are running their own campaigns in Persia, Armenia, and Mesopotamia. The occupation of El Arish, which would not have been captured if it could not be held, must mark the end of Turkey's dream, which was the reunion of Egypt with the Ottoman Empire. To the Allies it is the sign that the Suez Canal, "the neck of the British Empire," is safe.

After taking El Arish, our airmen raided the Turkish communications at Beersheba. Later on a squadron of seaplanes bombed and destroyed Chikaldar Bridge, eighteen miles east of Adana, and the connecting link between Constantinople and Palestine, as well as Mesopotamia. It will be rebuilt, of course, but it will take time, and in the meantime there are the Russians in Armenia and the British before Kut to be considered.

In Roumania.

By capturing Matchin, on the right bank of the Danube, it is clear that General Sakharoff's army has completely evacuated the Dobruscha, which is

part of Bulgaria's reward for joining the Central Powers. Braila, on the left bank of the Danube, will, too, soon fall into the hands of the enemy, but not before its grain stores have been destroyed. The Germans talk of a rapid pursuit of the Russo-Roumanian forces, but, as a matter of fact, they are retreating behind the Sereth in good order, fighting rearguard actions as they go. The main line of defence will be the Trotus and the Sereth, with the Danube on one flank and the Carpathians on the other. As was expected, the Germans have delivered an attack at the point where the Russian and Roumanian armies joined, but the Allies were so well prepared for it that not only was he beaten off, but the Russians extended their front so far as to include the Oitoz Valley. The advantage of this gain is that it provides the most favourable route for turning the positions in the Trotus. North of the Moldavian frontier the Russians have had another success in an attack on the enemy's positions on the heights south of Mount Botosu, which is between Dorna Vatra and the Kirlibaba Pass.

On the Western Front.

The British Army has taken over another piece of the line in France, of which, until lately we held about one-quarter. The move has given great satisfaction to our Allies, who have borne a burden since August, 1914, which would have broken France had she not been spiritually regenerated during the generation preceding the War.

Whilst the enemy is being bombarded on the extended British front, leading him to anticipate a new offensive, he has made an attempt to create a diversion in the region of Mort Homme. An attack in force was made, but was effectually broken by the French without any surrender of ground. In the German reports it was described as a raid, but as several regiments were named as having taken part in it, the fighting was more considerable than in an ordinary trench raid. No serious effort has been made to attack the French on the other side of the Meuse. Consequently they have now consolidated the captured positions.

The Situation in Greece.

The blockade of Greece continues, and another strong step has been taken in the appointment of Earl Granville to act as our agent with the Venizelists. Anarchy prevails in Athens, the chief sufferers being the adherents of the National Party, which is represented by M. Venizelos. The trouble all along has been that Greece herself is rent by divisions, a fact that explains, if it does not justify, the King's actions. But it should have been the aim of our diplomacy to bring home to Greeks, whose only desire was to keep out of the War, that the Allies could make it disagreeable for them if they showed any pro-German sympathies. Instead of that, we allowed the King and his friends to play with us for eighteen months at least. The difficulty is that measures which would have been effective earlier may not be so now. Fortunately there will be no more temporising with the situation, bad as it has grown.

The War at Sea.

The enemy's war on merchantmen without distinction continues. Spain, unlike any other of the neutral Powers, has enough courage to protest vigorously against Germany's piratical method of dealing with freight carriers and of prize ships. In consequence, Berlin is "astonished," and no wonder. After two and a half years of war, it is surprising that a neutral should venture to condemn the mighty German.

The British transport *Ivernia* has been sunk by an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean in bad weather. Unfortunately there was loss of life, 120 men and 33 of the crew having been drowned.

The French have lost an old battleship, the *Gaulois*, which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. All but four on board were saved.

(To be continued.)

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FACTORY.

The illustration facing page 4 in the present issue depicts a Brazilian sugar factory in 1682. It is reproduced from an extremely rare book published in that year, entitled "Curieuse Aennmerkingen der bysonderste Oost en West-Indische Verwonderens-waerdige Dingen," which may be literally interpreted "Curious notes on astonishing East and West Indian things," by S. de Vries.

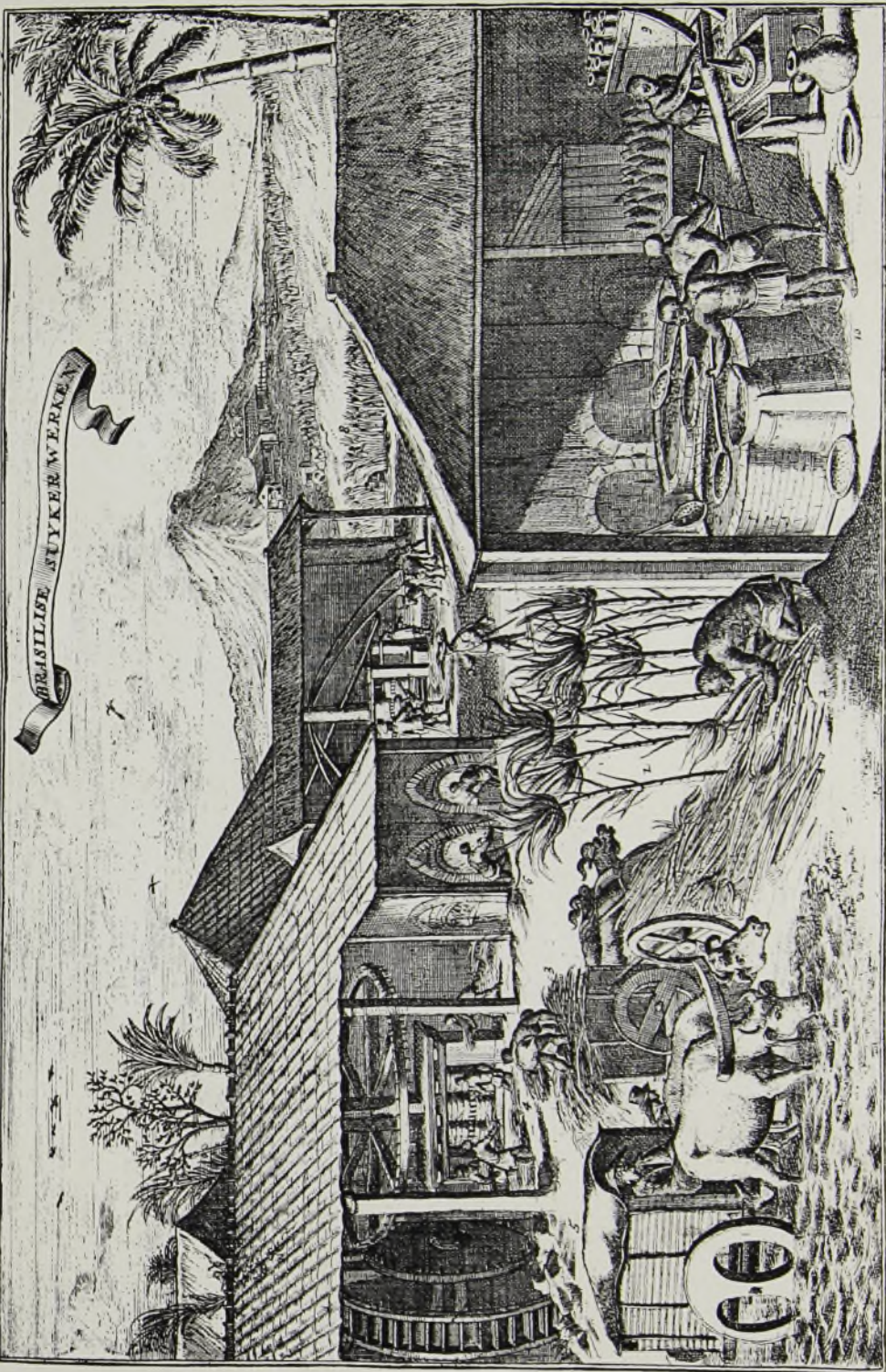
It is of special interest, inasmuch as the system of manufacture depicted still survives up to a point in some parts of the world, and even in some islands in the West Indies. The reader must not, however, go away with the idea that the old-time process here shown is the principal one in vogue. It has long since given place to modern methods involving twelve- and fourteen-roll mills, crushers, vacuum pans, triple effects, *et hoc genus omne*.

Yet, water and oxen are still used in some parts of the sugar world to drive vertical rollers, which are still advertised for sale to peasants in the Jamaica Press! Cattle still draw the canes to the mill, and the process of evaporating the juice in open receptacles, as depicted, is still practised, labourers skimming off the impurities and scum, and ladling the juice as it becomes denser from vessel to vessel. It will be noted that the illustration shows sugar-loaves. These are no longer manufactured on the estate. To make them, the liquor, when on the point of crystallisation, was transferred to conical copper vessels and covered with damp clay. The water percolated through the crystals and out at an orifice at the bottom of the cone, washing the sugar more or less white in transit.

The key notes above the illustration may be translated as under:—

1. Suycker riet.—Sugar-cane.
2. Afsneden en Uytgeleesen.—Cutting and sorting.
3. Afvoering en Samenbinding der rieten op brasiliëse wagens.—Carting away and sheaving on Brazilian carts.
4. Suycker persse.—Pressing the sugar.

Suiker niet a d'afgafuden en d'v'gdelijc 3 d'voering en samenbinding der rietten op broedijle suikers + Suiker perste 5 Watermolen en de perste te den gaen 6 Bodecke Lactels en forncijcn en te
 Dragen 7 Pers met often compande 8 Suiker met op de berg en water linden 9 v'fonde 9 Suivering van de sapper 10 Kookink en v'nder sijveringh .
 Pag. 7 8 9 etc.



A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY SUGAR FACTORY.

Reproduced from a Work on the East and West Indies by S. de Vries, published in 1682.

5. Watermoolen om de persse te doen gaen.—Water-mill to drive the mills.
6. Bedeckte keetels en forneysen om te droogen.—Cauldrons and furnaces for evaporating.
7. Pers met ossen omgaende.—Mill driven by oxen.
8. Suycker riet op de bergen en waterlanden wassende.—Sugar cane growing on the hills and marshland.
9. Suyvering van de sappen.—Refining the juice.
10. Kookink en verder suyveringh.—Boiling and further refining.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND PRICES.

BY SIDNEY BALLOU.

The following "short talk" about sugar is the first of a series appearing in "Facts about Sugar."

In 1319 the Lord Chamberlain of Scotland paid about 40 cents a pound for sugar. In the middle of the eighteenth century Peter Faneuil, the great Boston merchant, was paying about the same price. Four hundred years had made no appreciable difference in the price of this article, which was, of course, only a luxury for the rich. The source of supply was the sugar cane of the tropics, and in its manufacture it enjoyed the advantage of tropical labour, which is, and always has been, the cheapest paid labour in the world.

Theory of Natural Advantages.

There is a great school of economists which insists that every article produced in this world should be produced where its production is cheapest. To this school, tropical sugar would seem to be an ideal example, grown where Nature evidently intended it to grow, extracted from a plant whose sugar content is many times in excess of any other, and manufactured by the cheapest labour obtainable. Obviously any attempt to compete with an arrangement so apparently designed by Nature would be not only unsound economically, but would approach impiety!

Nevertheless, circumstances arose which resulted in a direct challenge to this plausible theory. First a Prussian chemist named Marggraf demonstrated in 1747 that a true sugar could be extracted from the beet of the temperate zone. A pupil of his named Achard made a practical application of the discovery on a small scale. The institute of France took up the matter, and about the year 1800 two small factories were erected near Paris. Despite the fact that sugar was still selling at its century-old price of over 30 cents a pound, these factories were financial failures. Round one ended in the complete discomfiture of those who sought to improve upon the economical decrees of Nature.

Beginnings of Beet Sugar.

It chanced, however, that war is a powerful stimulant to national development, and almost as destructive to theories at it is to life. This was as true a hundred years ago as it is to-day. After Trafalgar, Napoleon found his enemies in undisputed control of the seas, and France cut off from all imported supplies. Among these, sugar was one sadly missed. Napoleon had the advantage of

not having to establish a Department of Agriculture to educate the farmers into doing what he wanted. He issued a decree appropriating one million francs and commanding the farmers to plant 90,000 acres of beets the next year. They might not know a beet from a turnip, but they had to plant them. Over three hundred factories were erected in two years, and France began to manufacture its own sugar.

The project of extracting sugar from beets naturally aroused considerable ridicule. A contemporary cartoon shows a stern nurse holding a beet to the lips of the infant King of Rome, with the admonition, "Suck it, dear, your father says it's sugar!"

Rapid Growth of Beet Production.

Napoleon's overthrow at Waterloo again wrecked the industry, and round two ended as had round one. Only two factories survived the shock, and some years elapsed before there was any increase in that number. Gradually, however, the industry began to revive. By 1836 there were 542 factories in France, and the production had reached 40,000 tons. In that year Germany entered the field with a production of some 1,500 tons. By 1853 both nations were producing over 70,000 tons each, and that year Austria, Russia and Belgium joined the ranks of production.

Here was a challenge to the age-long supremacy of tropical cane sugar. By 1860 beet sugar amounted to 20 per cent. of the world's production of sugar; by 1870 it was 36 per cent., by 1880 it was 47 per cent., by 1890 it had reached 52 per cent., and in 1900 it attained 62 per cent. With the abolition of direct bounties the proportion dropped again to 50 per cent., and from that day to this, cane and beet sugar have been practically equal competitors in the race. In 1913-14, the last crop year before the European War, cane sugar production was 11,000,000 short tons, and beet sugar a trifle under 10,000,000.

The significant fact in connection with this competition is that not a pound of this vast quantity of beet sugar was ever raised, at any time or at any place, except under a system of protection. In the earlier stages of the industry this protection was supplemented by direct bounties, legalised combinations, and every other form of so-called "hothousing" that statesmen could devise. All this was necessary before farmers could be educated, capital invested, factories established, and consumers converted. If at any given time protection had been suspended or abandoned, tropical cane sugar, with its lower cost of production, could have entered the breach, undersold the unprotected product, captured its market, and put it out of business. In spite of the greatly reduced cost of production which the European nations gradually attained, this condition has probably existed to this date. At any rate, no nation producing beet sugar has ever cared to try the experiment.

Steady Decline in Price.

What has been the effect on the consumer of the application of the protective theory on so vast a scale? To ask the question is to answer it. Down, down, steadily down, has the price of sugar

fallen. The fluctuations due to droughts and war all but vanish in the long perspective of a hundred years. In the midst of the greatest catastrophe of modern times we marvel, not at the increase of price, but at the moderation of the advance.

Flour is now selling at a higher price per barrel than it sold during the Civil War, but the Civil War prices of sugar are only a memory of our grandfathers.

There has been, of course, a tremendous development in the production of cane sugar. The earliest available statistics show a little over a million tons produced in 1840. This has multiplied tenfold. But with the present population and demand, what would the price of sugar be if the world—which, before the European War, consumed 21,000,000 tons of sugar a year—were relegated to a cane supply of 11,000,000 tons? The Lord Chamberlain of Scotland would feel at home again when he paid his bills.

Facts Disprove Theory.

Yet there has probably been no country where at any particular time there have not been wise-aces to say: "Your tariff is adding to the cost of the consumer. Are you going to tax him indefinitely for the benefit of a domestic industry? Give up this attempt to make sugar grow in the temperate zone by hothouse methods, and let the consumer enjoy the cheap sugar which would flow in from the tropics, where Nature intended it to grow." The only answer to those people is to take away their microscopes for a while and let them look through telescopes. The very paper upon which this article is printed—if advancing price permits it to be printed at all—is a monument to the shortsightedness of a policy which endeavoured to save a few cents at the cost of discouraging production.

In the case of any article sold at a price based upon supply and demand, it is inevitable that a protection which stimulates production will tend to increase the supply and thereby to lower the basic price. How far this will go in any given case, and to what extent the basic price will be ultimately affected, are matters which cannot be deduced from any amount of *a priori* reasoning, but must be judged by practical results. The case of sugar is a conspicuous example where the application of protection has not only created a vast industry, but has brought the price of what was formerly a luxury within the reach of every consumer.

SALES OF MUSCOVADO SUGAR.

The following letter has been received by the Committee of Brokers regarding the sale of muscovado sugar:—

Scotland House,
Victoria Embankment, S.W.
21st December, 1916.

Sir,—The Commission's attention having been called to the fact that certain sales of British West Indian Muscovado Sugar have recently been made for forward delivery, I am directed to inform you that such a proceeding is likely to cause a very serious disturbance in the Commission's scheme of distribution, and to request that your

Committee will take such steps as may be necessary to bring about a discontinuance of the practice.

The Commission raises no objection to such forward sales being made to what may be called the first importer; it is particularly in connection with sales to wholesale dealers that confusion is likely to arise, resulting in unequitable distribution.

I am to add that the Commission proposes, with a view to regulating as closely as possible the quantity of sugar of all descriptions delivered to each wholesale distributor, that after 1st January, British West Indian sugar shall only be sold to firms who are direct purchasers from the Commission, and that your Committee should furnish every week a list of sales made to such buyers, in order that a record may be taken and the delivery of the Commission's own sugar regulated accordingly.

The Commission would be pleased to hear your Committee's views of this matter as soon as may be convenient.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) C. S. R. REWCASTLE.
Secretary

THE GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH SUGAR.

The CIRCULAR learns that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has cabled to Antigua agreeing in principle to the local Government guaranteeing part of the interest on the capital of a projected sugar factory company.

This decision may be taken as a distinctly hopeful sign for the future of the British sugar industry, for the development and extension of which the West India Committee has been contending for several years.

Readers will remember that not so very long ago the Government of St. Kitts approved of a similar scheme projected for that island, but the proposal was at once vetoed by the Colonial Office on the grounds that such a guarantee would be a contravention of the Brussels Convention, to the principles of which the Government had pledged Great Britain to adhere, although no longer one of the signatories. That the fact of the War caused the Brussels Convention automatically to cease to exist has all along been the view of the West India Committee. The permission now given to the Antigua Government by the Colonial Office shows that our present rulers not only now share this view, but are also prepared to give practical support in the direction of furthering the development of the British sugar industry.

It is understood that the new scheme embraces the estates on the Windward side of Antigua, a Central factory for which has been on the tapis for several years. The Company has been registered under the title of the Windward (Antigua) Sugar Factory Company, Limited, and the subscribers are Sir Gerald Codrington, Capt. J. T. Dew, Mr. John W. A. Maginley, Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin, Mr. F. Goodwin, Mr. John Maginley, and Mr. R. W. Dobson, who are all owners of estates making from 4,000 to 4,500 tons of sugar. The object, among others, of the Company, is "to establish and work a sugar factory or factories in the island of Antigua or in any other British colony." It is proposed to raise money by debentures repayable in from 15 to 20 years, the actual capital being only £300, divided into 6,000 shares of 1/- each, intended to

be issued to planters in accordance with contracts for the supply of cane, to be allocated at the rate of 1/- for each acre of reaping area. Canes will be paid for at the rate of 4½ lbs. of grey crystal sugar f.o.b. Antigua per 100 lbs. of cane delivered to the factory, and the net profits are to be divided among the shareholders in proportion to the supply of cane. No planter can be a shareholder unless he guarantees to remain a grower of cane to the extent of fifty acres for at least twenty years. It is thus seen that the scheme is purely a co-operative one. After the redemption of the debentures the factory will belong to the cane growers.

If this scheme is carried through, great credit will be due to Mr. A. P. Cowley, who has been persistent in his efforts to persuade the Government to agree to a guarantee of interest on capital for sugar production.

WEST INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

The Report of the Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands (Mr. Tempany, D.Sc.) for the years 1914-15 and 1915-16 shows that considerable agricultural development occurred during these years as the result of the stimulating efforts of the officials of the Department. This was notably the case in connection with the corn industry, kiln-drying of maize being experimented with, the granary more fully equipped for work, and the purchase of corn from growers on co-operative lines inaugurated in Antigua.

The Report on the Agricultural Department of Dominica for 1915-16 records, as Dr. Francis Watts remarks, the accomplishment of a large amount of valuable work. The experiments in the manuring of lime trees commenced in 1913 were continued. The results so far show (1) that without the application of manures the yield of lime trees is small, and the trees themselves present the appearance of having scanty foliage, lacking in colour, and the growth of new wood is sparse; (2) that the application of a complete manure containing nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash increases the yield per acre to such an extent that with limes selling at 3/6 per barrel, and the manure costing £5 per acre, an increase of 110 barrels was obtained over the no-manure plot, which at the above valuation yielded a profit of £12 per acre; furthermore, that the appearance of the trees on the complete manure plot was all that could be desired; (3) that the application of a manure containing nitrogen and phosphoric acid, but having no potash, whilst increasing the yield of fruits to a marked degree over the no-manure plot, leaves something to be desired when compared with the complete manure plot; in normal times the additional cost of supplying potash is amply repaid by the increased yield obtained; and (4) that the application of a mulch consisting of 5 tons of grass per acre per annum is producing a steady improvement in the yield of the trees, and in their general appearance.

The cacao manuring experiments were continued. Although the results obtained from the use of concentrated foreign manures are stated to

have been satisfactory, Dr. Watts adds that the main feature brought out by these experiments is the great superiority of the mulching method of manuring over all others. The average yield of the "mulched" plot over the unmanured plots over a long series has been 688 lbs. cured cacao per acre more than the no-manure plot—equal to a percentage increase of 58.8 per cent.

The lime crop of Dominica, expressed in barrels of fruit, in 1915 was 390,000 barrels, as against 284,000 barrels in 1909; 59 per cent. of this crop was shipped in the form of concentrated juice, 26.5 per cent. as raw juice, 10.5 per cent. as fresh limes, and 3.5 per cent. as citrate of lime; and the total value was £174,404.

The exports of cacao increased during 1915, 1,210,720 lbs. being shipped; but part of these exports belonged to the previous year. Dr. Watts speaks of the falling-off of the cacao crop as being a real one. The shipments of coco-nuts have averaged 500,000 for the last four years.

In reporting on the work of the Agricultural Department of St. Lucia for the year 1915-16, Dr. Watts considers that the feature of interest for the year has been the successful beginning that has been made with regard to the Agricultural Credit Societies under the Act of 1915. 4,628 tons of sugar, with 17,000 gallons of molasses and syrup, and 26,054 proof gallons of rum were exported. The exports of cacao amounted to 2,069,400 lbs., an increase of 237,700 lbs. on the figures of the preceding year. Expressed in three-year averages, the yearly average for 1913-15 was 1,765,800 lbs., as against 967,200 lbs. for the period 1891-93. The lime crop was 21,633 barrels of fruit—an increase of 8,598 barrels for the year. 67,206 coco-nuts and 137 cwt. of copra were exported during the year. 29,338 lbs. of honey were exported, as against 81,386 lbs. in 1912.

The principal item of interest in Mr. W. W. Malins-Smith's Report on the Agricultural Department of Grenada for 1915-16 is the note on peasant agriculture. "It cannot be said," Mr. Malins-Smith states, "that the peasants are making any rapid progress along the line of improved methods of cultivating their holdings. There has, however, been some improvement which may be said to be local and not general. The localities where this improvement has been most marked are those in which the Prize Holdings Competition has been well taken up. There are whole districts where no interest has been taken in this competition, and in these there has been no progress whatever. With the revision of the rules of the competition which takes effect during the ensuing year, there should be a marked improvement in the peasants' agriculture throughout the island in the future. It is satisfactory to note that mulching fields of bearing cacao is gradually coming into general practice among the peasants in the upper section of the parish of St. David's; the advice given by the Agricultural Instructor is being carried out on a satisfactory proportion of the holdings visited; the value of tillage and manuring is fully appreciated by the majority of the peasants, and the practice of bedding or burying the dead leaves in cacao fields is surely superseding that of

burning, which was general some years ago. It would appear that of all the operations necessary to good cultivation, the one which the peasants, generally speaking, fail to appreciate in its true value is draining."

The 77-page Report on the sugar experiments conducted in Barbados during the season 1914-16 is evidence of the energy and enterprise of Mr. J. R. Bovell's department in the direction of manurial experiments and seedling canes.

Our readers are referred to the mass of recorded but unsummarised results for details in connection with these interesting subjects.

OUR COTTON SUPPLIES.

Those West Indian planters who decided to maintain their acreage under cotton in spite of the gloomy outlook as to prices at the outbreak of war must now be congratulating themselves.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Manchester Cotton Association at the close of last year, Mr. Charles Rose, the President, said that in July, 1914—immediately before the War—middling American was quoted at 6.66d. per lb., whereas on the day before their meeting it was quoted at 12.51d. per lb. (it is now 11.46d.), whilst users of Egyptian cotton had had to contend with wild, erratic and drastic fluctuations of their raw material at the bidding of bulls and bears. Present high prices were chiefly attributed to the predicted small American cotton crop, the skilful manipulation of sentiment by speculators, and the demand for cotton goods.

On June 1st, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued its first report for the season, and gave the average condition of the crop as being 77.5, indicating a crop of 14,266,000 bales, whereas in their final condition report for the season, issued on October 1st, they gave the condition as being reduced to 56.3 per cent., indicating a crop of only 11,637,000 bales, without linters.

Having regard to the probable small American cotton crop, and of that country's increasing consumption of her own crop, which last season reached 7 million bales, against 5½ million bales two years ago, the supply position is full of the greatest anxiety for us. Lancashire is dependent upon America for over 80 per cent. of the cotton it requires. We had got many new mills in our midst waiting for the time when they could procure machinery and commence to spin yarn. A return to peace conditions would probably cause a greatly increased demand for raw cotton and cotton goods. America would have the first pull at her own crop, and unless we gave more serious attention to growing cotton suited to our requirements within our Empire, the cotton that was left for us would be insufficient to run our mills.

The Indian crop estimates centred round 5½ million bales, roughly an increase of 1½ million bales over the previous season. He took the opportunity to mention that in November, 1915, having in view the necessity of greatly increased supplies of cotton, the Directors requested the India Office to procure from the Indian Government samples of

various growths of improved varieties of cotton grown in India, in order that spinners could inspect them, and be able to judge how far they were suited to, or could be used for, their requirements.

The India Office kindly forwarded samples of eleven varieties of improved cottons grown in India, and those grown from American seed showed that India could produce cotton of an improved quality which could be largely used by the Lancashire spinner, and in our own interests we should do all in our power to encourage the Indian Government to put forth every effort to increase the growth of these cottons.

The Egyptian crop, which early this season gave promise of a normal yield, suffered considerably, mainly owing to the ravages of the pink worm. The Alexandria General Produce Association early in November estimated the crop as 5,850,000 cantars. Last year the crop was 4,605,000 cantars, and 6,347,000 in the previous year.

Considering the necessity of an increased supply of the better qualities of cotton for Lancashire, it was a matter of regret that the Egyptian Government should have used its power whereby a smaller acreage was planted in 1915. The stock in Alexandria at the end of last season was 109,000 cantars, against 1,100,000 the previous year, and 766,000 cantars in 1914.

Enemy Firms in Egypt.

Whilst referring to Egyptian cotton, he would mention the circumstance that the Directors had been criticised by Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, on account of having expressed the opinion that the present firms established in Egypt were capable of dealing with the Egyptian cotton crop.

Lord Edward stated that openings existed for several new firms to commence business as Egyptian cotton shippers, in consequence of the liquidation of enemy firms, one of whom had risen in 1914 to the position of premier exporter of Egyptian cotton.

The question was considered at a meeting of Egyptian Cotton Merchants and Spinners, and also by the Directors, and whilst they preferred that British merchants should replace enemy firms, they did not see how business would be more advantageously conducted by the addition of a number of small firms.

Instances were cited of several British firms who had lost considerable sums of money in attempting to establish themselves as shippers of Egyptian cotton, and further, that it was understood that the German firm who for one season—1914—held the premier position among Egyptian shippers, was subsidised by its Government against losses for a very large sum of money.

The Directors recognised the great intricacy of the business, and the special knowledge of customs and languages required to succeed, and realised that persons most qualified to take advantage of the opportunity presented were members of established firms or offshoots of enemy firms. The Egyptian Government should, however, adopt measures to prevent enemy firms from entering the Egyptian cotton market.

This season we had witnessed the highest price of cotton since the American War. On November 20th, Futures were quoted 12.58d., whilst middling American was officially valued at 12.59d. per lb.

CACAO SHELLS AS FODDER.

The following article, dealing with the interesting subject of the value of cacao shells as cattle food, is taken from a recent issue of our live contemporary *Tropical Life*. The writer is Mr. Arthur W. Knapp, B.Sc., F.I.C., who says:—

I was surprised when I read in the abstracts of the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture* of the poisonous effects of cacao shells, and yet more surprised when the Editor of *Tropical Life* said he had always heard them denounced as a cattle food. All the authorities that I have seen, from Professor Maerker to van Hall, have commended their use. The latter, on page 504 of his book on "Cocoa," tells us that they (the shells or cuticles) contain, generally speaking, the same constituents as the kernels, and, mixed with straw, form a valuable food for cattle and sheep. Again, in a recent standard work (R. Whympers' "Cocoa and Chocolate," 1912), we read: "The introduction of cheap oil-cakes has somewhat limited the possibilities of using cacao husk for cattle food. Some excellent results have been obtained, however, with this (cacao husk) cake on experimental farms. The feeding of cattle, milch-cows, etc., on cacao husk, made up in a similar way to the modern oil-cakes, has shown that the animals thrive on the diet and put on weight. The amount of cream yielded by the milk of cows fed on cacao cake was found to be larger than from grass-fed animals, and after a prolonged treatment the quantity of milk per cow was noted to sensibly increase also." On reading again, I note that it was people in the Tropics who denounced it. Whence came their cacao shells? We are, of course, talking of the shells or husks from the beans, and not the shells of the pod. I suppose some shell is swept up from the drying-platforms from accidentally broken beans. If this is *raw shell* the quantity is, I hope, for the planter's sake, very small in amount, as broken cacao is of little value. When the manufacturer in Europe has roasted his beans, he removes the greater part of the shell, and this is the *roasted shell*, of which there must be a great quantity (over 10,000 tons) produced in Europe every year. (Of course, there are a few manufacturers who remove very little of the shell, and leave much of it in the cacao for human consumption.) It would be roasted shells which the Danish horses ate, and these are the kind that have been most experimented with as fodder, for the matter has received considerable attention from chemists and others. First let us consider *its composition*. It varies considerably, according to the completeness with which the manufacturer has succeeded in separating the kernels from it; it always, however, contains some cacao. The following are typical analyses, and each of these was done with a view to ascertaining the food value of shell:—

	Analyst—Paris.	Schott.	Smetham
Water	12.57	5.12	9.80
Fat	3.30	12.92	3.83
Ash	7.35	6.92	8.26
Nitrogen	—	2.63	3.00
Proteid	14.69	16.44	18.81
Fibre	18.33	13.17	13.85
Theobromine	0.79	—	—

In an article by Smetham in the *Journal of the Lancashire Royal Agricultural Society*, 1914, he gives the above analysis, and calculates the following "food units":—

	Food units
Linseed cake	183
Oatmeal	117
Bran	109
English wheat	106
Cacao shells	102
Maize (new crop)	99
Meadow hay	68
Rice husks	43
Wheat straw	41

Here, then, is the answer to the question, "Has it any nourishment at all in it?"—for we see that on analysis then even a poor cacao shell comes out well. There remains, however, the question of digestibility, which is best established by practical experiments. Zipperer says: "Feeding experiments which were carried out in certain agricultural institutes showed that cacao husk stands in nutritive value between good meadow hay and wheat bran, and is not only a fattening fodder for oxen, but also a valuable feeding material for cows and deer." He adds: "These results have been confirmed by Professor Ferruccio Faelli in Turin," who found that cacao husks keep better than bran. "Cattle not only readily get accustomed to the fodder, but subsequently take to it with eagerness. The best results were obtained with Dutch, Swiss, and Parmesan milch cows. After ten days' feeding, the butter and milk-sugar had increased, as well as the daily average yield of milk from 44 to 49.5 kilogrammes. As soon as the feeding with cacao husk was discontinued the yield of milk decreased."

In view of these authoritative statements, the recent experiments in Denmark, which appear to contradict them, require careful consideration. We are told that "cacao cake" was used in these feeding experiments, but, save that this is a by-product from the manufacture of cacao, its nature is not revealed. This is to be regretted, for the experiments were carried out over long periods with evident care. However, in the case of the poisoning of horses in Germany, cacao shells are definitely mentioned. The quantity fed was excessive—2½ lbs. at a meal, probably over one-third of the total ration. In small quantities theobromine is recognised as a valuable stimulant and diuretic, but like all stimulants, its effects are bad if taken in excess. In the shell it exists in a form which is very difficultly soluble, and it is unlikely that all of it is absorbed by the animal. One wonders why no case of poisoning had occurred in previous feeding experiments if theobromine is the cause. What was the proof that it was the theobromine? Is it not possible that the shells were mouldy?

Cacao shells contain much less fibre than wheat straw and rather more than bran, and on account

of this fibre it is the kind of food that is better for cows and other ruminants than for horses. After this German report it will hardly be given as a high percentage of a diet, but its use in compound cakes and as an appetiser is likely to continue. The writer of the article in *Tropical Life* suggested that it should be boiled; this seems of doubtful value if the shell be otherwise good, for the supposed objectionable theobromine will not thereby be destroyed, and it has been shown that bran, etc., soaked in water is not more readily digested by cattle than the dry material.

It is curious to find us discussing whether cacao shell is suitable for food for animals when it is used unfortunately in cacao powder for human consumption, and cacao powder containing as much as 18 per cent. of shell has been permitted to pass as genuine cacao.

SEA DEFENCES IN BRITISH GUIANA.

We regret to learn that about 300 feet of the new reinforced concrete sea wall now in course of construction at Pin. Lusignan, on the East Coast of Demerara, have been destroyed through the action of exceptionally high and rough spring tides on November 12th and 13th. Owing to the deep erosion of the foreshore in front of this particular section of the sea wall, waves some 20 feet in height washed over the top of the new wall and damaged the public road immediately at the back, forming the foundation of the wall, crossing at that point an old disused drainage outlet. No blame seems to be attached to the contractors for the work, nor fault found with the design of the wall itself, which, as a matter of fact, formed only part of the general scheme of sea defence proposed by Mr. G. O. Case, the engineering expert employed by the Government, who in his report made it clear that a system of training groynes in front of the sea wall itself was absolutely necessary in order to protect the wall by encouraging the making-up of the foreshore, and thereby diminishing the height and force of the waves in front of the wall. For some reason the construction of these protective groynes had not been commenced up to the time of the unfortunate accident.

Repairs to the sea wall are now being proceeded with, and are estimated to cost under \$10,000, which sum is more than provided for under the head of "Contingencies" in Mr. Case's original estimate. In the meantime temporary protective timber "paal-offs" are being constructed in front of the wall pending the provision of training groynes as originally recommended.

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, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

ROOT DISEASE IN THE LEEWARDS.

Mr. W. Nowell, Mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, has completed a searching investigation into root diseases in the Lesser Antilles. The results of his enquiry have now been published in the *Bulletin* of the Department, and may be briefly summarised as under:—

Several species of the genus *Rosellinia* give rise to a well-defined type of root disease in numerous countries of the world, temperate and tropical. The fungus kills out cultivated trees or shrubs in patches, and often infests the soil and destroys practically all vegetation with which it comes into contact. In the Lesser Antilles, *Rosellinia* diseases occur in Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenada; they are unknown in the remaining islands, which have drier climates. The range of hosts is an exceedingly wide one, embracing practically all the important cultivated and semi-cultivated plants, but the cultivations most affected are those of cacao (in all the islands), coffee (in Guadeloupe and Martinique), limes (on new clearings in Dominica), and arrow-root (in the interior districts of St. Vincent).

The disease on cacao is usually caused by the species *Rosellinia Pepo*, and in most cases at the present time, the fields being well established, is communicated from the roots of dead or dying shade trees, especially breadfruit, avocado pear, and pois-doux. Another species, as yet unidentified, is believed to attack cacao in certain localities.

The disease on limes and coffee is caused by *R. Pepo* or *R. bunodes*, indifferently. The first cases in new clearings are usually associated with forest stumps left to decay, especially those of certain special trees. Subsequent cases arise from the spread of the fungus from tree to tree along the roots, or by infection from surface soil rich in decaying vegetable matter, which readily becomes infested in damp and shaded situations.

An infested tree may be killed gradually by the progressive investment of the roots, or rather quickly by the destruction of the bark around the collar. The fungus penetrates both bark and wood. Conidia are produced with great readiness wherever the mycelium emerges into the open; perithecia occur later, and especially in the case of *R. Pepo* their formation may be long delayed.

Much can be done to prevent outbreaks of the disease by measures directed towards exposing to wind and sun the soil, the bases of the trees, and any logs or other dead material lying about. Cases which arise may be restricted by these measures and by the provision of a close system of trenches to prevent root contact. Treatment by excision and exposure is successful in the early stages of infection, but in practice these are hardly ever detected. Periodical surveys would save many trees. Infested trees should be flamed and then promptly removed, all roots dug out and burnt, the soil limed, and the situation exposed as much as possible. All adjacent trees should be isolated from each other by trenches.

MANATEES IN GUIANA.

A short time ago it became necessary to transfer the four manatees, which have been in one of the upper lakes at the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, for some years past, to the lower lake. The moving of such huge, unwieldy beasts from one water to the other was no easy task, but it was accomplished successfully by care and patience on the part of the Gardens staff; and it was determined, if possible, to take advantage of the opportunity to ascertain the dimensions and weight of the animals, as a matter of considerable interest to naturalists, the available knowledge about these strange-looking aquatic mammals being rather limited.

The largest of the four manatees was found to measure 9 feet in length and 6 feet in girth, and weighed a quarter of a ton. Two of the others were somewhat smaller, being some inches less in length and girth, and a few pounds lighter in weight; but the fourth, which it is understood was born at the Botanic Gardens, was only 6 feet in length, 4½ feet in girth, and weighed 2½ cwt.

These animals closely resemble the dugong of the Eastern seas, and inhabit the coastal reaches of the rivers and creeks of Guiana, feeding on the moca-moca and other aquatic weeds growing along the margins of the waterways.

IMMIGRATION INTO TRINIDAD.

Preventive Measures against the Hookworm.

Mr. A. de Boissière, Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago, in his report for the nine months ended December 31st last, says: "Taking all things into consideration, I have no reason to think that the general lot of the immigrants is otherwise than happy."

In the course of his remarks he refers to the measures taken to check ankylostomiasis. "The general health of the immigrants," he states, "has been good; every endeavour has been made, and I am glad to say successfully, to induce the immigrants to use latrines erected on estates for them. This will no doubt, in the course of time, substantially cause a decrease in that baneful disease, ankylostomiasis, which has been so prevalent among East Indians. Some contract the disease here, but many bring it with them."

"The treatment of East Indian immigrants for ankylostomiasis, either in the Agency's Depot before embarkation, or afterwards during the voyage out to the West Indies and British Guiana, has hitherto been considered impracticable for various reasons. I have always thought otherwise. With the purpose of proving my views on the subject, I strongly recommended the appointment of Dr. Masson as Surgeon-Superintendent of one of the immigrant ships, and induced him to undertake the experiment because I was confident that he would take every possible means to make it successful. I am glad to be able to report that my conjecture was right. After treatment with thymol on the

'intensive system' on board ship, 93.5 per centum of the immigrants were landed here free from the disease. These results are highly satisfactory, when it is estimated that 90 per centum of the immigrants who arrive here are infected. The cost in connection with these results has been infinitesimal.

"In the initial stages of the treatment, a certain amount of difficulty was experienced by Dr. Masson in getting the immigrants, especially the women, to consent to take their medicines; but the Surgeon-Superintendent seems to have handled the situation with such tact that they subsequently offered no objection. The following is an extract from his journal on the subject:—

"Visited hospitals 5.15 a.m. and attended to the sick, toured the ship afterwards and commenced the administration of thymol to 88 emigrants, Calcutta lot, who had been dosed with sulphate of magnesia the day before. The men, generally speaking, took their capsules well. Many of them, however, were unable at first to do so, and a great deal of time was lost in teaching and encouraging them to swallow the capsules. The women were very much worse in this respect than the men. Many of them positively refused to make any attempt to take the capsules, and these had to be coaxed for a long time before they would do so. Some of them started to shed tears and wail. They were all gently handled, and I succeeded finally in getting them all—41 in number—to take their capsules, but the job is a tedious one, and requires patience, loads of time, and a very amiable temper."

"I strongly recommend that the treatment for ankylostomiasis, as carried out by Dr. Masson, be made compulsory on all immigrant ships."

Many "time-expired" East Indians are well-to-do merchants, while others still retain their affection for the soil, being either cane-farmers or landed proprietors. The following table shows the amount of lands owned by East Indian proprietors, and the nature of the cultivation. In this connection Mr. de Boissière feels that the rice industry should be extended, as there is no doubt that this product can be more generally grown with advantage to cultivators and consumers alike:

Acres.							
56,414	—	—	—	—	—	—	Cacao
9,488	—	—	—	—	—	—	Rice
9,368	—	—	—	—	—	—	Sugar Cane
9,698	—	—	—	—	—	—	Provisions
3,081	—	—	—	—	—	—	Corn, etc.
1,740	—	—	—	—	—	—	Coco-nut
408	—	—	—	—	—	—	Coffee.
117	—	—	—	—	—	—	Fruits
90,314							



A B. W. I. Brooch

The West Indian Contingent Fund has already benefited to the extent of £14 8s. 6d. 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
Silver and Enamel	5	8	5
Gift Metal Enamelled	3	0	2

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.

E. G. FORBES, of the Canadian Infantry, who was killed in action on October 1st last, was son of the late Mr. William Pantin Forbes, of Yardley Chase, Jamaica.

PRIVATE STANLEY FORTE, of the Gloucester Regiment, who was an overseer on Pln. Canegrove, British Guiana, has, we regret to state, been killed in action.

LIEUT. VINCENT GARLAND, of the Army Service Corps, who was killed in action on September 15th, was the younger son of the late Captain Garland, of the Leinster Regiment, and grandson of the late Hon. S. C. Burke, Assistant Attorney-General of Jamaica.

SECOND-LIEUT. FRANK R. JONES, of the Highland Light Infantry, who was killed in action on November 18th, was the fifth son of the late Mr. S. Salters Jones, of British Guiana.

PRIVATE CECIL SADLER, of the Gloucester Regiment, who was killed in action on July 22nd at the age of 18, was the son of Mr. W. T. Sadler, of Messrs. Sproston's, of British Guiana.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SECOND-LIEUT. DENNIS JOHN FREELAND BRADBURY, York and Lancaster Regiment, who has died of wounds, was eldest son of Mr. P. J. O'Leary Bradbury, M.A., Cantab., Examiner of the Education Department, Jamaica, and a nephew of Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin, of Collins, Antigua. He was born at Parham in that island at the residence of his grandfather, the late Dr. Freeland, and was only 19 years of age.

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 December 14th last:—

BRITISH HONDURAS.

SEACOMBE, PTE. G.

JAMAICA.

ALLEN, PTE. N.

BELL, PTE. H.

FOWLING, PTE. WALTER.

HARRIS, PTE. EDWARD.

MCINTOSH, PTE. S.

MARTIN, PTE. JOHN.

MULLINS, PTE. CLEMENT.

NICHOLLS, PTE. J.

RILEY, PTE. J.

TYNE, PTE. EDWIN J.

WASHINGTON, PTE. G. S.

WILLIAMS, PTE. SHIRLEY.

GRENADA.

FRANCOIS, PTE. L. E. L.

ST. LUCIA.

ROCQUE, PTE. FELIX.

TRINIDAD.

WOOD, A/SGT. E. W.

ROYLANCE, C.Q.M.S.A. (Died of wounds.)

WOUNDED.

SECOND-LIEUT. E. W. DUNN (son of the late Mr. Charles Dunn, of Kingston, Jamaica), Northumberland Fusiliers. Wounded, and now on leave in Jamaica.

PRIVATE E. D. FORTE, Gloucester Regiment. Overseer of Pln. Canegrove, British Guiana.

SERGEANT V. A. MILLAR (son of David G. Millar, Trinidad), Highland Light Infantry, has been wounded at the front.

MISSING.

SECOND LIEUT. E. R. GARNETT, of the Wiltshire Regiment, only son of Mr. G. Russell Garnett, of British Guiana, has been missing since October 18th.

HONOURS.

MAJOR SYDNEY ALEXANDER BODDAM-WHETNAM, M.C., Royal Artillery, who was A.D.C. and Private Secretary to Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Bahamas from 1904 to 1912, has been awarded the D.S.O., and has been "mentioned in despatches" by Sir Douglas Haig.

LIEUT.-COMMANDER T. S. DORMAN, R.N., second son of the late Mr. J. W. Dorman, of British Guiana, and of Mrs. Dorman, of Kinsale, has been awarded the D.S.O. for his gallant conduct at Bushire on September 9th, 1915, when he volunteered and endeavoured to bring a machine gun into action while exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy at 300 yards range. A signaller accompanying Commander Dorman, on that occasion, was mortally wounded.

LIEUT. DE RINZY, son of the late Inspector-General of Police in British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross.

LIEUT. A. J. GAMBLER, Adjutant of the British West Indies Regiment, has been mentioned in despatches.

SECOND-LIEUT. C. G. HAYNES, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action. He led bombing attacks with great courage and determination, and finally, after bombing for one and a half hours, was able to capture two officers and fifty men.

CAPTAIN DARRELL HILL, of the Headquarters Staff, son of Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill, of British Guiana, has been awarded the D.S.O.

LIEUT. H. W. HUMPHRYS, R.P.A. son of Mr. H. L. Humphrys, of Pln. Nonpareil, British Guiana has been awarded the Military Cross.

LANCE-CORPORAL L. R. HUTCHINSON, of the Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, and a member of the 1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field and has been promoted to be Lance-Corporal.

CAPTAIN STANLEY LAING, of the Indian Army, son of the Hon. J. B. Laing, of British Guiana, has been awarded the D.S.O.

CAPTAIN J. SCOTT LORIMER, Norfolk Regiment, grandson of Mr. Robert Lorimer, of Pln. Wales, British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross.

LIEUT. MACARTHUR, formerly overseer on Pln. Skeldon, Berbice, British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross.

LANCE-CORPORAL K. F. PILGRIM, of the Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, and a member of the 1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field and has been promoted to be Lance-Corporal.

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.

Bryson, Private Robert (a member of the Antigua Defence Force), 3rd Battalion Sussex Volunteer Regiment.

Crawford, 2nd Lieut. J. N. (partner in H. B. Philipps and Co., Port of Spain, Trinidad), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Francis, 2nd Lieut. J. H. (formerly of the Secondary School, Montego Bay, Jamaica), the Welsh Regiment.

Goodwin, Edmund (son of the Rev. W. A. Goodwin, of Krugersdorp, Transvaal, nephew of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. D. Goodwin, grandson of the late William Goodwin, Esq., of Collins, Antigua), South African Forces.

Grant, Lieut. J. F. H. (of Barbados, late Second Class Supervisor of Customs, the Gold Coast), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Haggart, Edmond Charles Crawford (son of Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, and grandson of the late Colonel Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., of Jamaica), the Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps.

Jeffrey-Smith, Corpl. Signaller L. C. (son of late Mr. Jeffrey-Smith, Superintendent Public Works, St. Catharine, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.
 Martin, Private I. (of Mandeville, Jamaica), the Royal Fusiliers.
 Proudfoot, 2nd Lieut. Cyril Dallas (son of Mr. W. J. C. D. Proudfoot, of Kingstown, St. Vincent).
 Tittley, Corpl. F. L. (son of Mr. Sylvester Coyle Tittley, J.P., Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery. (Invalided home with frost-bite, going back to France.)

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Deane, Lieut. Edgar (son of Major F. G. W. Deane, R.A.M.C., of Barbados, of the North Staffordshire Regiment, has been promoted Captain.
 Deane, Major P. G. W. (of Barbados), R.A.M.C., has been appointed Officer Commanding, Leith War Hospital, Seafield, near Edinburgh, and took up his duties there on December 31st.
 Lister, Sub-Lieut. Ernest A., R.N., (of Trinidad), has been promoted Lieutenant.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies and Bermuda who are sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

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; Pte. C. C. Bynoc, 15th London Regt., Denmark Hill; Pte. P. E. Reid, Gordon Highlanders, Epsom.

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. R. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. K. 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; P. J. Boorman, West Didsbury; H. Whitecross, London; J. B. Dickenson, London; C. E. Fisher, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Pte. S. J. Van Sertima, Cheltenham.

JAMAICA

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London.

TRINIDAD.

Rfn. J. H. Llanos, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Sheerness; Pte. H. Leutsud, Royal Fusiliers, Edmonton; Trooper O. Hamel-Smith, London; Trooper R. Hale, Household Battalion, East Dulwich; Trooper N. O. Warner, Household Battalion, London; Gunner F. Pegasus, R.F.A., Knutsford; Pte. R. P. Dean, Machine Gun Corps, Birmingham.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Regtl.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Lieut.-Colonel Barchard wrote on December 31st:—"The West Indian Contingent Committee's gift of chocolate boxes was issued this afternoon, New Year's Eve—an appropriate occasion. On behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of this Battalion I wish to thank the Committee for their generosity and kind wishes to all of us."

* * *

While chocolate boxes were sent to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who came over from the West Indies independently were not forgotten, a gun-metal cigarette case being sent to each officer and man whose address was known. The extracts from some of the letters of acknowledgment received which are given below show how much the gift was appreciated.

"I shall take great care of the case, as I hope to be able to show it to my friends in Demerara when I return. (I hope it will be soon.)"

A Colonel wrote: "I was more than touched by its being remembered in such kindly fashion that I came from the West Indies."

"Just a line to thank you very, very much for the cigarette case . . . it is exceedingly useful. The other W.I. fellows very much appreciate theirs, too. Needless to say, we could have sold them many times over if we wished, as the other chaps all liked them, and wanted to buy them off us."

"Many thanks for the fine and useful souvenir . . . which I will keep in memory of your kindness."

"It is indeed very thoughtful of you all to be sending us West Indians a Christmas present: it does help to cheer us up a whole lot."

"It is just the very thing for the trenches, being so large and serviceable."

A Major writes: "It is these little remembrances that tend so much to help one on after two and a half years of fairly arduous work."

"The kindness of your Committee will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated by all West Indians."

"It is most cheering to know that one is not forgotten by one's fellow West Indians."

"I highly appreciate your gift, and I shall treasure it to take back to the West Indies as a souvenir from the Committee."

"It was certainly a great surprise, and I am sending it home to keep as a treasured memento."

"This present is one of the most useful that any man could have on this side, and one that I thoroughly appreciate."

"I do so much appreciate the kind thought which prompted you to send it. I also think the card inside is beautifully worded."

"I shall always look on it as a mark of appreciation from our Colonial brethren of the good work that we are all engaged in."

"I'll always prize it in time to come, and shall always say it was from the good West India Committee, whose work will be ever esteemed by all West Indians at present fighting for the Motherland."

"I don't think silver cases will ever come in again. These are so much lighter and more serviceable."

"Your kindly greetings are as heartily reciprocated, and form an interesting link with our overseas home."

The Committee will be glad to receive the names and addresses of any officers, non-commissioned officers, or men who have not yet received one of these gifts.

* * *

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £6,647 7s. 3d. Since the last list was pub-

lished, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Ladies of St. Ann's, Jamaica	24	0	0
H.M. Prisons, Trinidad (Christmas gift)	4	12	0
Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N.R. (6th donation)	2	0	0
C. Guy Wyatt, Esq.	1	1	0
Luke M. Hill, Esq., M.I.C.E.	1	1	0
"Anon."			14
Miss M. P. Berkeley			10
F. A. Foster, Esq. (Calabar)			10
S. W. Hart, Esq. (Calabar)			10

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:—

Miss Richardson : 2 prs. socks.
 Lady Hayes Sadler : 3 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
 Mrs. Cathcart Wason : 9 prs. socks, 2 waistcoats.
 Lady Sendall : 2 prs. socks.
 Lady Hayes Sadler : 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. Carew : 1 muffler.
 Mr. F. J. and Miss Morris : 3 mufflers, 2 muffler caps,
 3 prs. mittens, 2 handkerchiefs.
 Dundee Women's War Relief Fund Committee : 200 prs. socks, 100 mufflers, 100 prs. mittens.

JAUNDICE IN BARBADOS.

A Fever Theory Discredited.

Dr. Juan Guiteras, the eminent authority on yellow fever, has definitely expressed the view that that disease has not existed lately in Barbados. He was invited to visit some suspected patients in hospital, and subsequently addressed the following letter to Sir William Chandler, the President of the General Board of Health of the island, which has, not unnaturally, caused much satisfaction:—

Bridgetown, Barbados,
 December 12, 1916.

Sir,—Complying with your request, I have studied the form of jaundice that has been prevailing in Barbados.

Whatever the opinion of my esteemed colleagues may have been, they have all given their best help in my investigation and I wish to thank them. They have been confronted with a very difficult problem in their decisions regarding the situation here.

I wish also to thank His Excellency the Governor and yourself for many kindnesses received.

I have not met with a case of yellow fever here, and I believe that the facts militate against the supposition that such disease now exists or has existed during the present season.

I regret to have to add that the weight of all opinions

in epidemic matters concerning this island is seriously weakened by the lack of the proper registration of deaths.

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd.) JUAN GUITERAS.

It will be noted that Dr. Guiteras regards the complaint, which has been slightly epidemic lately, as a form of jaundice, and in this connection it may be noted that the medical correspondent of the *Times*, in the issue of that paper for January 9th, says:—

"Some interesting investigations in regard to the newly-discovered germ of epidemic jaundice have been carried out recently, but so far no agent has been discovered which when administered will destroy the parasite. Efforts in this direction have not, however, been abandoned.

"The parasite is an exceedingly active, mobile organism which lashes about under the microscope like a miniature snake. It appears to be composed of small dots strung together, but this is due probably to the method employed in examining it.

"The spirochaete, it is now established, is an inhabitant of the body of the rat, in which animal it may cause little disturbance. It has, however, the power of passing through the human skin, and it is probable that it makes its entry to the soldier's body in this way in rat-contaminated trenches. The patient once infected becomes ill after a few days.

"The Japanese have prepared a serum against the disease which is favourably reported on. This serum will, it may be expected, be used in our own cases. Menntime efforts to kill rats should furnish the best way of keeping the disease under control. Mice also carry the spirochaete in their blood."

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

The purchase of the Danish West Indian Islands by the United States may now be regarded practically as a *fait accompli*. The various steps leading to the sale may be summarised as follows:—On August 5th last a Treaty between the United States and Denmark for the disposal of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix to America for \$20,000,000 was signed by Mr. Lansing and the Danish Minister, Constantin Brun. On September 7th this Treaty was ratified by the United States Senate. The Folkething on August 14th voted for the sale provided it was recommended by a plebiscite of the Danish people, and on September 12th a Bill was introduced into the Landsting to decide for the settlement of the question by a plebiscite. This duly passed both Houses on September 30th, and the plebiscite was accordingly taken on December 14th, when 283,000 votes were recorded in favour of the sale, and 157,000 against it. This was followed by the adoption of a Bill by the Folkething ratifying the Treaty and amendments suggested, negotiations for the sale of one island only being defeated by 90 votes to 14. On December 21st the Landsting voted in favour of the sale by 40 votes to 19.

As already stated, the people of the islands are warmly in favour of the sale. They have, however, passed a Resolution recording that they do not wish to be governed by Porto Rico, but to manage their own affairs under the Federal Government. They desire to be accorded American citizenship immediately after the transfer, and they urge that Charlotte Amalia shall be a free port, and that natives should be given the preference when appointments are made to Government positions.

THE R. M. S. P. Co. AND GRENADA.

Coastal Service run at a Loss.

At the request of the Secretary of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, we publish the following correspondence which has passed between their Chairman, Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., and the Governor of the Windward Islands on the subject of the Grenada coastal steamer service:—

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company,
18, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

20th October, 1916.

Sir,—My attention has been called to the correspondence published in the West Indian Press between the representative of this Company in Trinidad and the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, respecting the rates of freight proposed to be put into force by this Company on their Grenada Coastal Service.

On referring to the letter written by the Colonial Secretary under date 14th August, 1916, it would appear that the facts of the position in regard to this small service are not correctly realised and I send you these lines to put right any misapprehension on the point.

The proposed increase on foodstuffs was one-half, subsequently reduced to 25 per cent., neither of which increases would have offset the increased expenses caused by the war, and neither of which is anything like the increase that has taken place in freights generally, owing to the increased cost of operating steamers during the War.

The response has been to agree to a 10 per cent. increase, accompanied, however, by the publication in the Press of the view of the Governor in Council, that, "having regard to the large profits made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., as announced by Sir Owen Philipps at the last annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the labouring classes in this Colony should not be called upon to bear any greater increase in the cost of their foodstuffs."

Considering that the total revenue from a 25 per cent. increase in the rate on foodstuffs is estimated at £270 per annum, and from a 10 per cent. increase £108 per annum, it seems to me misleading to suggest that such amount would make any appreciable increase in the cost of foodstuffs to the population of Grenada.

Probably it is not intended to impute that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. are disposed to charge higher rates of freight than the circumstances justify, but to satisfy you that such is not the case, I beg to subjoin, for your information, the results of running the Grenada Coastal Service during the last ten years, which are as follows:—

	Profit £.	Loss £
1906	—	1,437
1907	—	1,375
1908	—	1,134
1909	50	—
1910	—	956
1911	—	1,210
1912	—	2,677
1913	—	107
1914	—	3,391
1915	—	1,358
	£13,643	

Total deficit during ten years, £13,593,

from which you will see that this Company has been steadily losing over £1,300 a year on this small service during the period in question, and, secondly, that the proposed increase in freight charged is nothing like adequate to offset this loss, apart altogether from the increased cost of coal and other charges in connection with the war.

I may also mention that during these ten years the ordinary shareholders of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. have received an average dividend on ordinary stock of 3½ per cent. I do not think that, on consideration, you will be inclined to suggest that the shareholders of this

Company have been receiving an unreasonable return on their capital, nor to press the suggestion which appears to underlie the observation quoted in the Colonial Secretary's letter, that this Company should be expected to lose money in one section of their business because it is able to make up the loss in operating steamers in other parts of the world.

It must be borne in mind that this Company is a commercial enterprise. With every desire to serve the West Indian Islands, the Company would not be justified in permanently maintaining services on an unremunerative basis. The financial results of these small Islands Services are giving me some concern, and unless better results can be secured, it may not be possible to maintain them, terminable as they are, as no doubt you know, at short notice.

To put the Grenada Service on a basis that would provide the most meagre return on the capital employed, much more additional revenue is required than the small amount of extra freight proposed by us, and to which exception seems to have been taken.

Yours faithfully,

OWEN PHILIPPS,
Chairman.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Grenada.

30th November, 1916.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th October setting forth the position of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company with respect to the increase of the freight on foodstuffs, and to inform you that as the correspondence you refer to was sent to the press, His Excellency thinks it only fair to you that your letter should also be published.

2. A copy of your letter has accordingly been sent to the local papers

I have the honour to be, etc.,
(Sgd.) H. FERGUSON,
Colonial Secretary.

Sir Owen Philipps,
Chairman of
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

OBITUARY.

MR. CECIL MORRIS.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, Mr. Cecil Morris died in British Guiana on November 30th.

Mr. Cecil Morris, who only recently gave up the position of manager of Pln. Albion in Berbice, British Guiana, was taken suddenly ill through cerebral hemorrhage at the residence of Mr. J. C. Gibson, the manager of Port Mourant, and never recovered consciousness. Born in 1863, he went to the colony in 1883 as overseer on Albion, then the property of the Colonial Company, of which his uncle was a director. Four years later he was appointed manager of Pln. Friends, only to return to his first estate as manager in the following year. When the property changed hands after failure of the New Colonial Company—the successor of the Colonial Company—Mr. Morris continued his labours for Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co., its new proprietors, and only relinquished the management last year after being a manager for 29 years. During his regime the estate was brought up from 800 to 4,800 acres of cane, and the fact that there was never a strike or labour trouble on the estate redounded greatly to his credit. Mr. Morris was a keen sportsman, and his colours were frequently first past the post at local race meetings. He sat for a while in the Combined Court as Financial Representative for Berbice.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/—

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. EDWARD R. DAVSON leaves for the West Indies shortly to attend the inaugural meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies, fixed for February 27th.

THROUGH the kindness of the British American Tobacco Co., Ltd., the West Indian Contingent Committee have been able to send 30,000 cigarettes to the British West Indies Regiment.

MR. S. W. KNAGGS, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, who has been spending the winter at Cheltenham, returns to the West Indies at the end of the present month.

MR. ALEXANDER DUFF, the late Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana, who re-visited the colony last year with the intention of visiting the Kaieteur Fall, which he did in the company of Mr. R. P. Stewart, Immigration Agent, and his brother-in-law, Mr. J. C. Menzies, was taken seriously ill on his return through influenza. We are glad to learn, however, that Mr. Duff is now much better and out and about again.

A series of popular lectures on "The Tropical Products and Industries 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 January, February, March, and April, at the Imperial Institute, at 3 o'clock, commencing on Wednesday, January 17th. 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.

SECOND LIEUT. RICHARD C. EARL, who is recovering from an acute attack of appendicitis, in a letter to the West Indian Contingent Committee, writes:—

I am writing to thank you for kindnesses shown to members of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifles Corps whilst in hospital. Some of the men have written and told me of the visits to them by members of the Committee, and if, perhaps, some have not been able to write, I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the Contingent.

Wishing you success in your good work.

MR. W. A. M. GOODE informs us that the British West Indies have now contributed £7,481 in response to the Children's Day appeal issued by the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, of which he is Hon. Secretary. Among the latest amounts received are £34 from the Primary Schools, £21 from the Private Schools, and £45 from other sources in British Guiana. £6 15s. 1d. was received as the proceeds of a garden sale organised in Barbados by five children, Evelyn and Alleyne Alder, Eileen Grant, and Bob and Allie Parkinson, whose ages ranged from seven to eight years.

SIR EDWARD CAMERON, Governor of the Gambia, and Lady Cameron, who were stationed in the Virgin Islands in 1887, have sent to the West India

Committee a donation of £10 in response to their appeal for the relief of distress in those islands resulting from the recent hurricane. Other amounts received have been: Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co, £25; A. C. Westnorland, Esq., £5; Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., £5; E. Luxmoore Marshall, Esq., £5; and "Sympathiser," £5. Further donations, which may be sent to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., will be gratefully acknowledged in these columns.

ACCORDING to the *India Rubber World*, the shipment of rubber from the United States to Germany in the *Deutschland* on her first homeward voyage amounted to about 100 tons. It was sold, states our contemporary, by one who had signed an individual guaranty not to dispose of it to Germany, and thereafter violated its terms. According to the same authority, the second cargo shipped to Germany amounted to a little over 100 tons, but it was rubber that was bought in the Dutch East Indies, by parties not connected with the American rubber trade, either as importers or manufacturers, and was a transaction which involved no guaranty, and for which the American rubber trade or the Rubber Club of America, Inc., were therefore in no way responsible.

MR. H. E. MURRAY, who has gained wide experience of East Indian immigration in British Guiana and Trinidad, in a letter to the Editor, makes what appears to be on the face of it an admirable suggestion. He writes: "I think it would be a very wise thing to advertise and let people here (in British Guiana) know that if they would like any relations brought over, the Government would either bring them over free or pay a portion of the cost of bringing them over." Mr. Murray has already placed the suggestion before the Government, but so far nothing appears to have been done. He goes on to say: "I know many men have told me that they have left wives in India; others have families that they would like to send for, but the cost is too great. My idea is to put an advertisement in the papers saying that if any well-to-do East Indians in the colony would like their relations brought over, the Government would be prepared to assist in bringing them. Of course, these people would come under no indenture, and would not be entitled to any back passages. We have crowds of well-to-do East Indians that could satisfy the Government that such people would be well looked after."

During the year 1916, 109 new members were 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	27
Bahamas	1		

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

DOMINICA—Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls' return.

Dr. Nicholls received a cordial welcome in Dominica on his return from America, where he went in July last to undergo an operation. To quote the *Voice*, "It is common knowledge that the doctor is only too eager at all times to seize the opportunity as it presents itself to further the interests and welfare of its inhabitants, both by his pen and voice. Hence the anxiety which was exhibited all round during his absence, for the success of the very critical operation which he went to undergo, surprised nobody."

"We are glad to be able to state that the doctor is looking very well indeed, in spite of the fact that he has not quite regained his full strength yet. We are also glad to have the subject of this article amongst us once more, and we trust that his complete recovery will be rapid, and that he will long be spared to continue in his efforts for the advancement of the land of his adoption and its people."

The *Circular* joins with the *Voice* in congratulating Dr. Nicholls upon his recovery.

JAMAICA—The Local Sugar Committee Active.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPPS, DECEMBER 11th, 1916.—Our period of incessant rains has passed, and we are having splendid weather. Sugar estates are all looking forward to very fine crops. Bananas have not been cultivated to any extent, there being a great uncertainty as to whether the fruit companies will operate next year. Mr. J. H. Allwood, the member of the Legislative Council for the parish of St. Ann, has resigned, and undoubtedly his absence from the Council will be a great loss to the island—a loss that we shall not probably begin to feel until two or three years hence.

The agitation for the erection of sugar factories still continues, and the Sugar Committees have made their report and submitted it to the Governor, when it is to be hoped that some means will be devised for the erection of two or three central factories in Jamaica, and which would do great good to our island. There is no reason whatever why this achievement should not be put through, as it need not entail any cash outlay from the Government.

TRINIDAD—Mr. Tripp's trip down the Islands.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 12th.—My silence for the past month is due to absence on a short tour through the islands, as far as St. Kitts and back, which proved most enjoyable. It is strange that more people here do not avail themselves of the opportunity for comfortable travel through scenes of ideal beauty afforded by the Royal Mail Canadian contract boats which sail from here every fortnight. One finds excellent state-room accommodation, with electric fan in each, a good table and service, long promenade decks, and, what is perhaps more appreciated than the rest, but not always found, popular and courteous officers.

These boats are now practically the only direct means of communication between the islands and Canada, whence, thanks to the reciprocity agreement, and the far-seeing statesmanship of the Ministers of the Dominion, the greater part of our foodstuffs now come. But for these steamer things would be somewhat serious for Trinidad, and more so for some of the northern colonies where they depend literally for their daily bread upon their regular arrival. Two of the islands were actually without flour for a day or so before the last welcome steamer came in. For this splendid service, and for all it means in these days of scarcity of tonnage, we have to thank Sir George Foster, but very few of us, I am afraid, ever think of doing so. And, again, but for these steamers, all our large intercolonial traffic would have been practically suspended. I found also that a good many passengers for England and New York took advantage of the connection to be made at Bermuda, and travelled that way to the islands and Demerara. Among others who did so on the *Caraquet*, by which boat I returned, was our

new American Consul, Mr. Henry Dunstan Baker, a gentleman of world-wide experience, who comes to replace and to set right the strange actions of his tactless predecessor, whose removal the Chamber of Commerce had requested, with such early and palpable effect. In the few days that he has been here, Mr. Baker has managed to regain all the respect and popularity of his Consulate, and he bids fair to become a prominent and much respected resident among us.

I am pleased to report that practically all the colonies have become members of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, and that the first Conference has been definitely fixed to take place between the arrival and departure of the Canadian steamer *23rd* February, 4th March.

As I write the *Quillota* has come to anchor. She had been signalled as another steamer, and is four days before her expected time. A hearty welcome will await Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon. Personally, I am specially glad to know the former has safely arrived, as there will be much to do and think of in the preparations for our first Commercial Congress.

A very successful rag-time revue, entitled "Topsy-Turvydom," was "presented" to welcome Lady Chancellor, on December 2nd. Booking of seats commenced on 1st November, and by the 16th (an unheard of thing for Trinidad) every reserved seat in the house was taken, so they had to reserve pit and gallery, and for the first time in history, Trinidad's dainty ladies found themselves perched in all their finery in the gods. But the performance was worth it. All the cream of Trinidad's youth and beauty was on the stage, and the best available of the musical and dramatic talent for which the island has made a name. Two repeat performances, with overflowing houses, have already been held. The proceeds will go to the Trinidad and Tobago Aeroplane Fund, and it is expected will be sufficient to make the balance required for the other Plane the colony is sending. Strangers present expressed themselves as equally pleased and amazed that anything could have been so beautifully presented and staged in a small colony. An enthusiastic American who has not missed a performance swears that if it could be taken to New York, it would take the town by storm, and command at least a four months' run, if only for one thing, apart from the the acting and singing, that there never were so many pretty and attractive girls gathered together on one stage. You must be tired of my constant eulogiums of Trinidad's stage talent, so I am glad of the chance of saying how it strikes the stranger.

I need not say who was the organizer of the whole show. We have only one Mrs. Perez. What we should do without her wonderful gift of "go," of conquering obstacles, and coming out triumphant, it is dreadful to think. The colony and the patriotic funds are again deeply in her debt.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of November, 1916, were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs
United States of America	931,200
United Kingdom	320,280
France	860,600
Other Countries	22,000
British North America	66,128
Italy	89,200
Total for November	2,239,408
Shipped previously	50,636,017
Total from 1st January	52,875,425
To same date 1915	45,869,353
" " 1914	61,638,496
" " 1913	46,431,247
" " 1912	40,472,755
" " 1911	43,496,702
" " 1910	53,684,899
" " 1909	45,480,098
" " 1908	39,790,647
" " 1907	35,062,616

DEATH.

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.

Carter, George S. B., eldest son of Mrs. W. B. Carter, of Polsloe Road, Exeter, late Captain, Royal Mail Company, killed at sea 8th December, 1916.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone: 6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams "Carib," London. LONDON, E.C.
January 10th, 1917.

BANK RATE stands at 6 per cent. as from the 13th July, 1916. New War Loan (4½ per cent.) is quoted at 98½; Old War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 85½; and Consols at 84½. The increased value of New War Loan Stock is due to anticipation of conversion reports in connection with the Giant War Loan, the issue of which is announced for to-morrow.

SUGAR. The year 1916 showed important features in connection with sugar. It witnessed an increase in the production of cane sugar for the sugar year, ending the 1st September, as compared with the previous year, to the extent of nearly 400,000 tons, materially due to the large Cuban output, and a diminution in beet sugar output of 2,240,000 tons, the loss of 2,370,000 tons of Continental beet being only compensated for to the extent of 135,000 tons by the increased beet crop of the United States of America.

As might be expected, the stringency in sugar conditions all over world was greater in 1916 than in 1915. The pinch was especially felt in Europe, and this led to Russia, towards the end of the year, opening her ports to the introduction of 360,000 tons of free sugar, spread over a period of twelve months, and to large purchases of Western and Java sugar for the United Kingdom and France.

In the United Kingdom the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply continued to control the importation and distribution of sugar.

The Board of Trade figures show that 1,537,242 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom in 1916, as against 1,482,351 tons in 1915 and 1,969,401 tons in 1913. The imports for the year were, therefore, 21.9 per cent. less than those of the pre-war year, 1913. Although the total imports for the year were in slight excess of last year, the quantity taken out of bond for purposes of consumption was considerably less, being only 1,397,856 tons, as against 1,651,081 tons in 1915. This was partly due to the facts that only 410,764 tons of white sugar were imported in 1916, as against 505,481 tons in 1915, and that only 731,146 tons were liberated from bond last year, as against 784,331 tons in 1915. British refiners only turned out 714,399 tons in 1916, as compared with 774,931 tons in 1915.

The stocks in the United Kingdom on the 31st December amounted to 118,800 tons, of which 32,000 tons only consisted of white sugar, the balance, 86,800 tons being "unrefined." On the 31st of December of the previous year, the stock figures showed 72,600 tons of white sugar as being on hand, with 64,850 tons of raws, making 137,450 tons in all. The consumption for the year, based on imports, was thus 1,555,892 tons, as against 1,809,203 tons in 1915; based on bond liberations, 1,397,856 tons in 1916, as against 1,651,081 tons in 1915.

As regards the countries of import, the sources of supply were much the same as in 1915. Holland, however, from shortage, sent in only 4,276 tons, as against 92,870 tons in 1915, and the Argentine supplied only 250 tons, as against 29,056 tons in 1915. The other sources of white sugar supply were Java, 94,277 tons; the

United States, 267,680 tons; Mauritius, 27,930 tons, and "other countries" not in Europe, 16,213 tons. Of the 1,128,473 tons of raw sugar imported Java supplied 289,460 tons; the Philippines, 68,198 tons; Cuba, 253,565 tons; Peru, 50,602 tons; Mauritius, 80,862 tons; and the British West Indies and British Guiana, 69,527 tons. It is interesting to note that the duty paid on sugar during the year amounted to £16,770,481.

In 1913, our sugar supplies consisted of 1,604,598 tons of beet sugar and 364,661 tons of cane sugar. In 1916, the imports of beet were only 4,370 tons, while those of cane amounted to 1,532,872 tons. *Sic itur ad astra.*

The duty on sugar, which, at the beginning of the year, stood at £9 6s. 8d. per ton for 98° sugars and upwards, with a sliding scale down to £4 10s. per ton for 76° sugars, was in April advanced to £14 per ton for 98° upward sugar, the duties on the other part of the scale being increased pro rata. At the same time the Excise duties on home-made sugar were raised so as to maintain the protection at the former figure of £2 7s. 6d. per ton. In February the Commission decided that the importation of sugar should be reduced, and warned the public to this effect. This had at once the result of causing a sharp rise in West Indian sugars imported under license and sold independently of the Sugar Commission. This soon attracted the attention of the Commission, and sales of these were forbidden pending arrangements being made as to price. As the result of negotiations with the West India Committee, it was decided that West Indian crystallized should be sold at the same price as American granulated for average qualities, with limits above and below, for superior and inferior qualities, of 1/6 per cwt. The prices of muscovado and syrup sugars were fixed at 1/- per cwt. and 2/- per cwt. respectively for average quality, with limits of 1/6 above and below, and grading Committees of brokers appointed in London and Liverpool to carry out this arrangement. The effect of this arrangement was to abolish the auction sales of sugar. Early in March the Commission raised the price of their sugar by 2/- per cwt.

In October, the Sugar Commission decided to make further alteration in the matter of syrup sugars imported under license. Up to then this class of sugar for brewers' purposes had been imported by license from any country, and from British colonies for grocery purposes, and the Commission now stipulated that this kind of sugar should only be allowed to be imported under license when the polarisation was not above 89°, and then only for brewers' purposes. This decision was subsequently modified by permission being given for 5,000 tons of grocery West Indian syrups to be imported for one year from the 5th October.

Although the imports for 1916 were slightly in excess of those of 1915, the difficulty in obtaining sugar by the public became greatly intensified. There was no attempt at economy of consumption on the part of those who could obtain supplies, while the large circulation of money in the hands of munition and other workers manifested itself in an increased demand for confectionery of all descriptions. In November, however, the Sugar Commission decided to make a big reduction in the quantity of sugar up to then allowed to the Sugar Using Trades, with the view of a larger quantity of "straight" sugar being available for the general public, and the subsequent appointment of a Food Controller left the close of the year with the certain prospect of sugar rations in the near future.

The New York market opened in January with 96° duty paid sugar at \$4.65 for Cubans and with granulated at \$5.95. Prices strengthened considerably as the year progressed, the Cuban holders maintaining a firm attitude towards buyers, and reached the highest price of the year in May, when 96° duty paid were quoted at \$6.52, with granulated at \$7.55. Although this high point was not maintained a range of strong prices prevailed for the balance of the year up to December, when prices declined, the close of the year seeing 96°'s at \$5.27, with granulated at \$6.75.

In May Congress passed a Bill repealing the Free Sugar Clause of the Underwood Tariff.

At no time in the history of the United Kingdom has the question of sugar, loomed so largely in the perspective of the consumers, as in the latter end of 1916. The force of circumstances has brought the fact of its food value to the front, and the prospects to the producer are.

in consequence, extremely good. It is true that as regards production the 1916-17 estimates show an excess of 1,000,000 tons over the 1915-16 crops, but the call for sugar is so great that the extra yield will be sure to be absorbed without satisfaction of demand, and a continuance of profitable prices is practically assured for the coming year.

The subject of an All-British supply of sugar for the United Kingdom was taken up actively during the year. In March, the West India Committee addressed a memorandum to His Majesty's Government pointing out the causes which had led to the comparatively small amount of sugar grown in British possessions, and to the possibilities of the Empire in the direction of sugar producing, and at the same time forwarded a resolution of its Executive to the effect that a supply of British sugar could be obtained for the United Kingdom by preferential treatment, for a term of years, in the Customs' tariff of the Mother Country. This was reproduced in pamphlet form, together with the official replies of the respective colonies as to the power of sugar extension and production under preferential treatment. The matter was also actively taken up by the newly-formed British Empire Producers' Association, a Sugar Section being formed for the purpose.

The crops of cane sugar were, on the whole, good throughout the world. The Cuban crop reached 3,007,915 tons, a record for that island, and over 400,000 tons in excess of the crop of the previous year. The Java crop, recently concluded, reached 1,600,000 tons, 300,000 tons in excess of that for 1915. This Mauritius crop ended at 215,528 tons, some 50,000 tons short of the previous bumper crop. All the "vesou" sugar of this, say 200,000 tons, was handed over to the French Government. The West Indian Islands crops were good, especially that of Barbados, which reached 65,000 tons. No beet sugar was made in England, the Cantley Factory having been closed for want of beet, no seed being obtainable for planting from Holland, the previous source of supply.

The year closed with the following prices obtaining in the home market. Tate's cubes, 47/1½ per cwt.; standard granulated, 41/7½; West Indian crystallised, 41/7½ basis; White Java, 41/7½; muscovado, 40/7½ basis; West Indian syrups, 39/7½ basis.

The New York market has been fairly strong since the date of the last Summary, with a rising tendency for 96°. On the 28th ult., the market for them rose to \$5.14, on the 30th to \$5.27, on the 4th inst. to \$5.33, on the 5th to \$5.39, at which figure it now stands. The value of granulated is \$6.65.

The Report of the Cuban-American Sugar Company has been published for 1915-16. The crop of the seven estates realized 268,210 tons of raw sugar, and the net profit to the Company was \$8,235,112, after deducting \$729,328 for depreciation on buildings, machinery and equipment, or \$26.35 per ton of sugar made. The capital stock is \$17,883,640.

The West Indian sugar statistics from January 1st to December 30th, 1916, were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Imports ...	55,148	53,781	31,196	39,585	27,151 Tons.
Deliveries ...	58,238	48,690	38,139	29,476	29,720 ..
Stock (Dec. 30)	8,015	11,100	7,257	21,178	22,636 ..

RUM. The year 1916 as regards price has been an excellent one for rum. Opening with 3/4 for proof varieties per proof gallon, and 4/6 per proof gallon for ordinary Jamaica, the value for the former variety rose at the end of September to 4/-, and for the latter to 5/6, the year closing with values of 3/7 and 5/- respectively.

The great trouble with the rum market for a considerable portion of the year was the uncertainty as to the position of rum less than three years of age under the Immature Spirits Act, which led to a reluctant attitude on the part of buyers. Under the Act, which came into operation on May 19th, 1915, no spirit was allowed to go into consumption which had not been warehoused for three years. Owing to the shortage of stocks of rum, official permission was given in the case of this spirit to importers to take rum out of bond which had

been warehoused for nine months, the privilege to last for one year. At the close of this period considerable uncertainty existed as to whether the privilege would be extended or not, and this materially affected the market. The matter came before the House of Commons under the Finance Bill, and in accordance with Section 23 of that Act, on August 18th an Order-in-Council was issued extending the concession to rum until May 19th, 1917, subject to the modification that the period of compulsory warehousing be increased to twelve months, three months being credited for voyage, etc., as before.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 9,873,080 proof gallons of rum were imported during the year, as against 10,484,228 gallons in 1915. The stocks on the 31st of December, 1915, were 12,731,000 gallons; on the 31st December, 1916, 8,858,000 gallons. The amount of the exports was 372,653 gallons. The consumption was, therefore, 5,987,417 proof gallons, a considerable falling off from the 6,990,738 gallons consumption of the previous year.

During the fortnight there has been little or no change to report. Jamaicas are steady for all parcels available for clearing before middle of May; Demeraras are steady at 3/6 to 3/7 per proof gallon.

The stocks in London on December 30th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Jamaica ...	10,298	6,268	6,504	6,459	7,260 Puns.
Demerara ...	10,518	3,641	5,344	6,826	5,638 ..
Total, all kinds ...	36,110	20,540	17,684	20,626	21,178 ..

CACAO. The year 1915 closed with a firm market for West Indian varieties, the price of Trinidad being 94/- to 95/- per cwt., and of Grenada 94/- to 91/-. During the earlier part of the year fair prices were maintained, but towards its close the market became flat, auction sales became few, and at these demand became slack and values declined, the closing prices for the year being in the neighbourhood of 76/- to 77/- for Trinidad, and 60/- to 64/-.

In April the import duty, which stood during the previous part of the year at 1½d., was raised to 4½d.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 200,953,792 lbs. of cacao were imported into the United Kingdom during the year, of which 85,539,592 lbs. were withdrawn from bond for home consumption during the year. These figures compare with 187,104,678 lbs. and 104,326,432 lbs. respectively for 1915. The British suppliers of cacao were British West Africa, 105,049,536 lbs.; Ceylon, 4,322,976 lbs.; and the British West India Islands, 24,590,608 lbs.

The exports for the year amounted to 53,829,552 lbs., of which Holland received 19,989,760 lbs. The stock of cacao in the United Kingdom on the 31st December, 1916, was 96,320,000 lbs., as against 34,608,000 lbs. on the 31st December, 1915.

The market during the fortnight has been very quiet. At auction sales yesterday, 5,887 bags were offered, which met with small demand. Only 153 bags of Trinidad were put up, which were bought in. Of the 874 bags of Grenada a few sold at 62/- to 68/-; 19 bags of British Honduras sold at 65/6. The Jamaica, Dominica, and St. Lucia lots were all bought in.

The stocks in London on December 30th were:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912
Trinidad ...	17,595	6,910	5,220	8,919	3,695 Bags
Grenada ...	12,841	1,477	3,804	4,407	1,695 ..
Total, all kinds ...	209,921	98,163	47,377	72,238	68,012 ..

COTTON. The quantity of raw cotton imported during the year was 2,171,002,300 lbs., as against 2,647,619,100 lbs. during the preceding year. Of this, above 453,690,700 lbs. came from British Possessions in 1916, with 2,847,618,100 lbs. in 1915. The British West Indies contributed 1,586,300 lbs. in 1916, as against 2,014,300 lbs. in 1915. The exports, mainly to the United States, were 237,472,800 lbs. for the year, comparing with 343,638,000 in 1915.

As regards prices, the value of West Indian Sea Island cotton steadily advanced during the year, with scanty stocks. In January, 1916, St. Kitts sold at 15½d. to 17d.,

and Nevis at 15d. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland now report, under date the 6th of January, that the earlier arrivals of new crop West Indian have commanded excellent prices, the best Nevis and Montserrat selling at 34d. to 35d., and St. Kitts at 36d.

COFFEE. The imports of coffee for the year 1916 were 184,480,848 lbs., of which 30,681,952 lbs. were liberated for home consumption. These figures compare with 190,346,175 lbs., and 34,259,120 lbs., respectively, in 1915. Of the imports 11,435,872 lbs. came from British Possessions. The West India imports only amounted to 1,094,576 lbs., as against 3,777,376 lbs. in 1915. Prices during the year remained steady, the value of Santos, c.i.f., at the beginning being 53/-; at the end, 54/-.

The exports for the year were 54,410,832 lbs., as against 69,629,504 lbs. in 1915. Stocks on the 31st December, 1916, were 153,440,000 lbs., as against 85,456,000 lbs. on the 31st December, 1915.

The market remains steady and quiet.

COPRA. The market closes strong. Sales of fine West India are reported at £45 10s., usual terms.

ARROWROOT. Small sales are reported at steady rates. Quotations are unchanged at 3d. to 4d.

SPICES. Ginger. There has been no business reported in Jamaica since our last. Pimento. Market quiet. The spot value of fair is 3/0½ per lb. Nutmegs and Mace unchanged.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There is no demand for distilled. A nominal quotation is 9/- per lb. Hand-pressed is scarce, as small business being done at 13/- per lb. Lime Juice. Raw is steady but quiet with values unchanged. Concentrated, steady at £22. Buyers' price of Citrate is £28 10s.

HONEY. Market firm and unchanged. The next auction will take place to-morrow.

FRUIT. Bananas. The quantity of bananas imported during 1916 was 6,095,015 bunches, as against 8,143,092 bunches in 1915. The present value of West Indian is £17 per truck load. No Canary bananas are in stock. Jamaica Coco-nuts are being sold at 25/- per bag (100's). Grape Fruit is valued at 10/- to 14/- per case (mixed counts). Oranges. 5,875,611 cwt. were imported in 1916, comparing with 6,006,062 cwt. in 1915.

RUBBER. The values which obtained at the beginning of 1916 were higher than those of its close. Early in January fine Plantation sold at 4/- spot; while fine hard Para fetched 3/11. At its close fine Plantation was sold at 3/-; fine hard Para at 3/3.

The quantity of rubber imported during the year was 168,559,500 lbs., almost the same as 1915 provided, viz., 176,045,600 lbs. Of the 1916 imports, British Possessions supplied 115,506,600 lbs., distributed as follows: British India, 3,789,800 lbs.; Straits Settlements, and Dependencies, 44,531,100 lbs.; Federated Malay States, 44,649,700 lbs.; and Ceylon and its Dependencies, 22,518,000 lbs. The exports in 1916 were 108,548,200 lbs., as against 142,283,400 lbs. in 1915. Most of the former quantity went to the United States, which received 57,454,700 lbs.

The market is very quiet. Fine Plantation is quoted at 3/-; with smoked sheet at 3/4; fine hard Para is quoted at 3/3½.

The West India Committee's Map of the West Indies should be in every West Indian businessman's office. It is indispensable.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 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.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

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Mrs. Burdon	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. Alfred Mendes
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STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

For very obvious reasons, it is no longer desirable to publish the dates of steamer sailings to and from the West Indies. Intending passengers must therefore be referred to the various shipping companies, and correspondents can only be advised to post their letters as soon as they are ready. They will then be forwarded by first opportunity.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.		Prices Jan 10
4 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1910-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	70 1/2
4 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1935	85 1/2
4 %	British Guiana	3 % Redeemable 1921-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1934	82 1/2
3 1/2 %	Jamaica	3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	69 1/2
4 %	Jamaica	3 % Redeemable 1922-44	72 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	63 1/2
3 1/2 %	The Colonial Bank		5 31/32
6 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	...	113 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	...	82 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	...	82 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	...	84 1/2
4 1/2 %	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	...	103 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	...	111 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	...	103
—	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	...	5/9
—	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	...	13/9
—	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	...	20-25 1/2
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 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	...	20 3/4
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 1/2 % Cum. 1st Pref.	...	7 1/2
6 1/2 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd	...	6
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures	...	96 1/2

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 ls. or \$5 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.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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LONDON, E.C.1.
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January 24th, 1917.

THE EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

THE advantages of co-operation have again been demonstrated by the success which has attended the application made on behalf of the sugar proprietors resident in this country by the West India Committee and the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool for an increase in the percentage standard under the Excess Profits Duty clauses of the Finance No. 2 Act, 1915, in the case of the West Indian sugar industry. By those clauses it was provided that one-half of all profits over £200 in excess of those made before the war should be payable to the Treasury. To arrive at the pre-war standard of profit proprietors could either take the average of two out of three years before the war or adopt a percentage standard, fixed by the Government at 6 per cent. for companies and 7 per cent. for individuals. Companies and individuals which even did moderately well before the war naturally adopted the average basis; but those less fortunate, which had suffered from droughts and insect pests or had only come into existence immediately prior to the War, had, naturally, to fall back on the Government percentage basis standard. Now, it being perfectly clear that no one would dream of embarking on the business of sugar manufacture with a prospect of a return of 6 per cent. only, and the Finance Act giving a right of an appeal for a higher percentage standard for industries as a class, the three above-named bodies took the matter up and duly lodged an application for relief with the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. In support of a claim for an increase in the percentage standard the various economic vicissitudes to which the sugar industry has unfortunately been heir were duly set out, and the risks to which agriculture in the tropics is subject were reviewed. The Commissioners, being satisfied that the application was not "frivolous or vexa-

tionous," referred it in due course to the Board of Referees, who granted an interlocutory hearing to the appellants on January 12th. Instructed by MESSRS. GUSH, PHILLIPS, WALTERS & WILLIAMS (whose partner, MR. C. HUDSON LYALL, son of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, has an intimate knowledge of the sugar industry), MR. A. M. LATTER laid the case of the British West Indian sugar industry ably before the Board, and the proprietors are to be congratulated on the result. After due deliberation, the Board decided to increase the percentage standard in the case of the industry to 11 per cent. in regard to Companies, and 12 per cent. in that of individuals. Proprietors might reasonably have hoped for a higher percentage; but on the whole they will, we think, be well satisfied with this concession, which will enable them to devote more money to extensions and improvements, which they could not have done if they had been mulcted of half their profits in excess of those of the comparatively lean years which preceded the War. That the excess profits duty is a sound one is generally agreed, provided that its incidence is adjusted so as to prevent its application to apparently increased profits due to the operations of past unfavourable seasons, and provided also—and this is important—steps are taken to protect those industries subject to it from unequal competition with foreign industries which pay no similar tax, such industries being able to devote the immense profits which they are reaping to development work, which will put them in a most favourable position to compete with British industries after the War. This applies not only to sugar, but to a hundred-and-one industries, and particularly that of shipping, and, given an assurance that their interests will be safeguarded after the War, Companies and individuals will disburse their excess profits with the knowledge that their future prosperity is assured.

THE IMPERIAL AIRCRAFT FLOTILLA.

IT is with great pleasure that we insert in the present CIRCULAR, at the request of MR. EVELYN WRENCH, of the Overseas Club, an appeal for further contributions towards the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla which that organisation has raised since the outbreak of the War. We need hardly remind our readers that it was Dominica which first presented an aeroplane to the Imperial Government. In 1914 the Legislature of that island voted £4,000 for the purchase of two aircraft, one for the Royal Flying Corps and one for the Royal Naval Air Service, which, when the official veil is lifted, will no doubt prove to have been doing admirable work. The example of Dominica was followed by British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad, and at the time of writing, the West Indian units in the Imperial Aircraft Fleet number

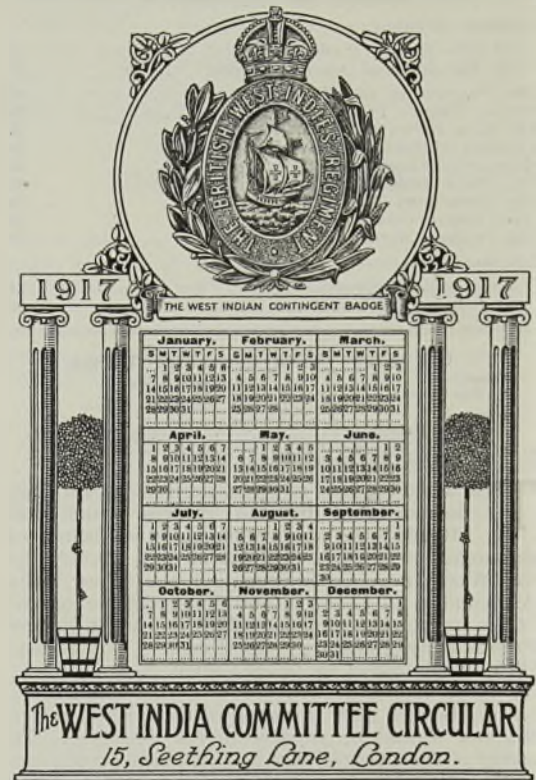
no fewer than seven. To complete the flotilla, 12 more aeroplanes are needed, and thanks to the kind help of that indefatigable War worker MRS. PEREZ, of Trinidad, another should shortly be paid for, while advices from British Guiana report the gift of a second aeroplane from the people of that colony. Altogether the inhabitants of His Majesty's Overseas Dominions, together with British communities in foreign countries, have subscribed for and presented no fewer than 100 aeroplanes to the Royal Flying Corps. Probably in no branch of the War Service is the wastage of material so great as in that connected with aerial warfare. Expensive machines, built with an infinity of care, and manned by the pick of our manhood, are shot down daily. Air observation is an essential part of our military operations, and a well-conducted reconnaissance may mean not only military success, but also the saving of many valuable lives. To secure the success of such a reconnaissance, fighting aeroplanes have to protect the operations of the observer and his pilot, a work demanding pluck, skill, and an unsparing use of the machine. As regards our home defence also, the value of aircraft has been strikingly illustrated in the destruction of Zeppelins. That the work of the Overseas Club in forming the Imperial Aircraft Flotilla, is appreciated by those in authority, from the King downwards, is well seen by reference to the pages of the inset which appears in this issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. The aeroplanes already presented represent almost every section of the Empire—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, India, Hong-Kong, Ceylon, Gibraltar, the British West Indies, Rhodesia, Nigeria, and the Gold Coast; while machines have been contributed from British residents in China, the United States, South America, and other foreign countries. The aeroplanes are constructed under the direct supervision of the Royal Flying Corps, and can bear the name of the district from which the gift comes. It has also been arranged that in the event of any machines being lost, their names shall be perpetuated in the flotilla. The Overseas Club has already collected £120,000 for this magnificent purpose, and we trust—indeed, know—that our West Indian Colonies will continue to manifest their loyalty to the Empire and their appreciation of the special object for which the Imperial Aircraft Fund is being raised, by liberal contributions.

IN spite of the great rise in the cost of labour and materials due to the War, no increase in the price of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR has been made, and it is hoped that none may be necessary if members continue to support the Committee as loyally as they have done in the past. Members can materially assist the work of the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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 Is. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

A Timely Reminder.

We give below a miniature reproduction of the Calendar for 1917 which has been sent to every member of the West India Committee, with the



THE ANNUAL CALENDAR.

following gentle reminder regarding Subscriptions:—

1st January, 1917.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

I beg to send for your acceptance a Calendar for 1917, and take the opportunity of reminding you that Subscriptions for the current year become due to-day.

It will greatly facilitate the work of the Hon. Treasurers if, in the event of your not having sent a remittance already, you will kindly forward your Subscription at your earliest convenience.

Subscriptions can either be sent direct or paid into any Branch of the Colonial Bank.

Many members finding it convenient to have their Subscriptions paid regularly by their Bankers or Agents, I enclose a Bankers' Order Form for use if desired.

I am,

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to the Secretary, The West India Committee, and crossed "The Colonial Bank."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Imperial War Council.

The mantle of Chamberlain has evidently fallen upon Mr. Lloyd George. Except for fugitive discussions with visiting Dominion Premiers, the idea of the Coalition Government was to postpone the Session of the Imperial Conference due in 1915 till "after the War"—which was in continuance of the idea that Great Britain could not treat her children oversea differently from strangers. But Mr. Lloyd George, having vision and imagination, has perceived that now is the time to call the Dominions into Council, and has invited them to send representatives to the small body, of which he is the head, formed to conduct the War. It is rather a pity that the Constitutional organ evolved by the Empire itself is not to be the medium of the momentous discussions on the mighty issues of war and peace which are to take place next month; but that is a comparatively small matter. The great thing is to get the statesmen of this country and the Dominions into personal consultation with a view to common action and sacrifices, which are themselves the result of common responsibilities. Moreover, behind the representatives from oversea is the force of a million men they have put into the field, besides financial and material aid in proportion.

The mistake made at the end of the French War, in which the Plantations participated, and at the end of the Boer War, in which the Dominions participated, is not to be repeated.

The Note War.

The despatch of Notes continues. With regard to peace Germany began the series, but, as usual with the traps she lays for the Allies, she has fallen into this one herself. Instead of standing up to the world as a magnanimous foe, eager only to end the strife of nations, as she intended, for the first time neutrals have begun to realise the justice of the Allied cause, and, consequently, her criminal aggressions and perfidy. The Note in which the Entente Powers defined the terms on which they would consider peace, in response to President Wilson's request, asks for nothing that is not in harmony with equity, humanity, and international law, and is crystallised in the British Premier's phrase, "Restitution, reparation, and guarantees for security." The Note is the new charter of the freedom of Europe.

The New War Loan.

This is a stupendous triumph of national credit and able finance. It is at once a symbol of the enormous wealth of the country and of the determination of our people to use it in the support of our fighting men in the continuance of the War, and in the repudiation of any unworthy peace which might stultify their magnificent efforts. The rush to contribute is unprecedented, and is general all over the Empire. What men feel is that not only will the money be well spent, but that the new

Government understands the intimate connection between our productive and industrial resources and our financial power. This was not the case when previous loans were launched.

On the Western Front.

New methods are being adopted against the enemy with excellent effect. Night raids by small, lightly-equipped forces of men, carried out locally, are a familiar device for enlivening the dulness of trench warfare in winter. But raids now take place by day. They require comparatively little preliminary preparation, entail small losses, and keep the Germans constantly on the alert, as they never know where the next attack is to be delivered. By this method 1,000 yards of enemy positions were captured near Beaumont Hamel on the Ancre, and all along the front, notably in the region recently taken over from our Ally at Lesbœufs, near Peronne, similar raids have taken place with marked success. Near Arras, after the wire had been cut by slow, steady bombardment, spread over ten days, Canadian infantry advanced in a snowstorm and in an hour cleared two lines of German trenches, destroying all the dug-outs and capturing 100 prisoners. There is no intention of retaining this last gain, as that would require forces in support and in reserve.

On the Riga Front.

The Russians, who have been clinging to the edge of the marsh in this region, while the Germans have had the advantage of the high ground, recently delivered a surprise attack in the snow near Mitau. It was entirely successful. That the appreciable advances made around the River Aa have made the Germans nervous is clear from the vigour of their counter-attacks, for here is the pivot of their system of defences in the Riga sector. Not only was large booty taken, including whole batteries of guns, heavy and light, but 500 prisoners. Apparently the Wallachian adventure has so denuded the northern front of men that the main defence was left to the artillery, which is an arm, but can never be used as a substitute for an army.

The Roumanian Rally.

Since the occupation of Braila and Focsani, the progress of Mackensen has been relatively slow, due "to the weather." But the true reason may be that the Russo-Roumanian forces are holding him on the right bank of the Sereth, while they are receiving reinforcements and fresh supplies of guns and ammunition. That they have reorganised their defence to some purpose is clear from the storming of the village of Vadeni on the railway between Braila and Galatz. The counter-attack of the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. The flanking movement from the Transylvanian frontier is making no progress, and though the belt of mountain country to be traversed is only from ten to twenty miles in width, the enemy have not succeeded in forcing their way across it to the Trotus Valley. The heights change hands in the stubborn fighting in this sector, the latest news reporting successes by the Roumanians south-east of Monastir-Casin, and by the combined Allied forces south of Pralea.

The Grecian Situation.

In spite of wild rumours to the contrary, it appears that the anarchy in Athens is being got under control. Only for the delay of the Germans in heavily reinforcing the Macedonian front, it is more than likely that an attempt would have been made by a Greek force to cut the Allied communications between Salonika and Monastir. For what people forget in under-estimating King Constantine is that he is a good soldier. But, without strong German support on the spot, he is compelled to take note of the Allied blockade, which is an inducement to reason whose pressure is immediate and constant.

On the Tigris.

General Maude continues his encircling movement on Kut-el-Amara. Every day now fresh progress is reported. Most of the trenches north-east of the town have been captured, the Turks fighting with such tenacity that in one communication trench, 300 yards long, 200 of their dead were found. At Hai, in the Shatt-al-Hai, considerable booty was taken, and small batches of prisoners are captured at every advance. With the exception of a small strip of ground in the bend of the Tigris north-east of Kut, in which the enemy are still holding out in desperation, the whole of the right bank east of the Shatt-al-Hai is now clear of hostile troops. Turkey, which has received notice to quit Europe—though to carry it out will not be so easy as some people seem to think—is hard-pressed in Mesopotamia.

British Advance in Syria.

The Desert Column, consisting of Australians, New Zealanders, the Imperial Camel Corps, Yeomanry, and Territorial Horse Batteries, has followed up its triumph at El Arish with another notable achievement. By a rapid thirty-miles night march the mounted troops got within striking distance of Rafa, on the frontier, while the enemy still slept. With extraordinary daring and dash they attacked the elaborate system of defences, the Turks and Germans stubbornly resisting all day in the hope that their large reinforcements, only sixteen miles distant, would arrive to succour them. But these were cut up within four miles of Rafa, and as darkness set in, our forces, by a supreme effort, occupied the trenches, and the enemy was compelled to surrender. The severity of his defeat may be gathered from the fact that of a garrison 2,300 strong, 1,600 unwounded prisoners were taken, and 600 killed and wounded accounted for.

The War at Sea.

The Zeebrugge Flotilla, which intended to repeat the Channel raid of November last, was surprised by British ships, which drove part of it back to Heligoland and part against the Flemish coast. The amount of damage sustained by the enemy is not yet known, but our loss was slight. At least one of the German destroyers was sunk. During the night, which was very dark, there was a stubbornly-contested fight between enemy destroyers and our own about 30 miles to the north of Zeebrugge. The details should be exciting.

A rival of the submarine raider *Moewe* has sunk eight British merchant vessels in the Atlantic. Not only have 50,000 tons of shipping gone to the bottom, but only a small number of the crews have been brought to port.

The battleship *Cornwallis* was torpedoed. All but thirteen of her ship's company were saved. The Italians have also lost a battleship, the *Reina Margherita*, with a loss of 600 lives. Against this disaster has to be set the fact that our Ally has captured two enemy submarines, one a German-built mine-layer, UC12, and the other an Austrian-built vessel, the V12.

At intervals the Italian seaplanes continue to raid Pola, the Austrian naval base.

East Africa.

Since the opening of the year, operations on the Mgeta front have caused the enemy to retire across the Rufiji River, on which the British have established themselves on both banks. The Germans are being hemmed in at their only remaining fort at Mahenge, which seems to be their present headquarters. Light armoured cars are being employed with excellent results.

Enemy Prisoners in 1916.

A careful return has just been prepared showing that during the past year the enemy has lost 600,000 of his effectives as prisoners. Of these, three-fourths are Austrians, though of late the proportion of Germans captured has increased. On the Western front, the Anglo-French armies have taken well over 120,000 prisoners, mainly at Verdun and on the Somme.

(To be continued.)

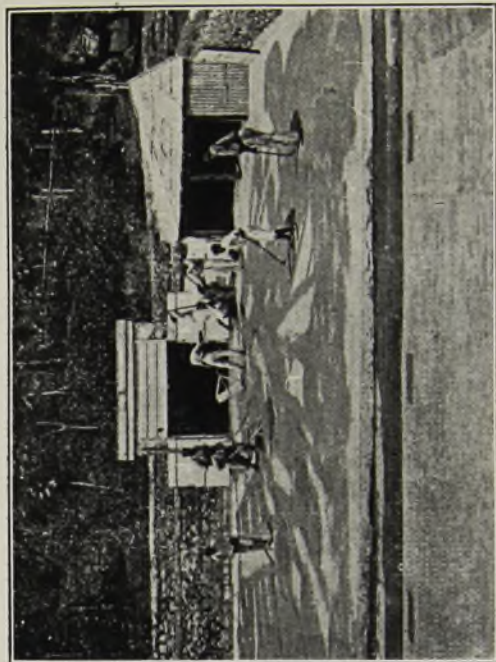
BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The fifth monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation—which has just moved to commodious premises in Kingsway House, Kingsway—records that at a meeting of the Executive of the Sugar Section on December 22nd it was resolved that the British Empire Sugar Machinery Manufacturers' Association be invited to formulate their views as to the preferential treatment in the Colonies of British-made machinery.

A Workers' Conference was held at the Trades Hall in Glasgow on December 14th, under the auspices of the Clyde Workers' Committee, at which the Rev. A. J. Forson, Chairman of the Committee, presided. Some important speeches were delivered, Mr. O. C. Beale, Delegate of the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia, giving a striking address on German influence in trade throughout the Empire, and on the need for organisation. The Hon. F. M. B. Fisher, ex-Minister of Marine of New Zealand, in an eloquent speech emphasised the need for an Imperial Parliament or Council, on which the Overseas Dominions and Colonies should be adequately represented.



TRASHING YOUNG SUGAR CANES.



DRYING COFFEE ON A BARB CUE.



SORTING COFFEE BEANS.



MAKING JIPPA JAPPA HATS.

WEST INDIAN INDUSTRIES ON THE FILM.

From Photographs by Mr. C. Weddurf, of Kineto, Ltd.

BRITISH BEET SUGAR.

A meeting of the Executive of the Agricultural Section was held on December 7th, when Viscount Milner presided, and the following were also present: Sir Howard Frank, Messrs. Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., Dunstan, Seddon, C. Sandbach Parker, Fisher, Malcolmson, Anker Simmons, Bellwood, Sir Herbert Matthews (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. Edwin Savill and W. H. D. Williams (Hon. Secretaries). The question of a minimum wage was further discussed. A resolution was also carried urging that in view of the grave risk of a shortage of the food supply in the country, the Government should guarantee to growers a minimum price of 60/- a quarter for all marketable wheat harvested in 1917-18 and subsequent years of the War. It will be noted that this measure has since been adopted by the new Government.

On December 14th the Executive Committee of this Section held a meeting at No. 6 Committee Room, House of Commons, when a letter was read by Sir Herbert Matthews (Hon. Secretary) from Lord Milner, resigning the Chairmanship of the Committee on the occasion of his accepting a seat in the Cabinet, and saying that he would always be prepared to assist the Committee in any way in his power. Mr. Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting in the absence of Lord Milner. The Honorary Secretary announced that owing to his appointment as Secretary to Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary of the Food Control Department), he would be unable to continue to act as Honorary Secretary to the Agricultural Section of the British Empire Producers' Organisation. The Committee thanked Sir Herbert Matthews for his valuable services, and expressed their keen regret at his resignation.

On December 13th the Fertiliser Manufacturers' Association resolved to affiliate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation, and to nominate Mr. Bamford (Past President) and Mr. J. King-Stewart (Secretary) to represent the Association. This was duly confirmed by the Executive Committee of the British Empire Producers' Organisation at their meeting on December 22nd.

THE IMPERIAL AIRCRAFT FLOTILLA.

The Overseas Club, of which His Majesty the King is Patron, inaugurated, in 1915, with the consent of the War Office, an Imperial Aircraft Flotilla, to be provided by private subscriptions from all parts of His Majesty's Dominions overseas and British communities in foreign countries. Already fully 100 aeroplanes have been presented to the Royal Flying Corps by the organisation, and subscriptions to further the meritorious object are urgently required. These should be made payable to the "Imperial Aircraft Fund," and cheques should be crossed "Messrs. Coutts & Co." and marked "Not negotiable."

SIR MAX ATKEN, the Chairman of the Colonial Bank, on his elevation to the Peerage, is to take the title of Lord Beaverbrook.

Following the public meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel, reported in the CIRCULAR of December 28th, a deputation waited on Mr. R. E. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture on January 16th on the subject of the growing of beet and the manufacture of sugar in this country. The deputation consisted of the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Dr. Russell Taylor and other gentlemen from Liverpool (representing the Imperial Sugar-Beet Pioneer Association), and Mr. Edmund Kimber and Mr. L. L. Fleming, who were chosen by a public meeting held recently at the Cannon Street Hotel.

Mr. Prothero said that the Board was entirely in favour of growing beet and manufacturing sugar in this country. He was of opinion that it could be easily done, but unfortunately the present state of the law prevented any assistance being given by the Government to any association which carried on such manufacture for profit.

Mr. Kimber inquired if the Government were in a position to give guarantees of interest on capital necessary for the manufacture, to which the President gave a negative reply.

Mr. Kimber further asked whether, if the deputation's friends in the House of Commons brought forward a motion for the granting of a guarantee of interest upon such capital he would support or oppose it. Mr. Prothero replied that by all means he would support it.

THE ROYAL SUGAR COMMISSION.

The following Memorandum regarding the distribution of sugar was issued by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on January 1st:—

1. It has been decided to continue, until further notice, the present scheme of wholesale distribution based on the distribution of 1915, and that for this purpose the first day of January shall be considered to be the commencement of a fresh Period, no adjustment being made in this Period as the result of any irregularity in the preceding Period.

2. In all calculations the basis is the quantity supplied during the *whole* of 1915 and not during any particular portion of that year.

3. *British Refiners* will continue to issue sugar only to their 1915 customers. The quantities to be issued will be proportioned to those of 1915, but the proportion will vary from time to time in accordance with the general proportion which all available supplies bear to the total quantity used or distributed in 1915.

4. *The Sugar Commission* will continue to distribute its imported sugar (and such quantities of British Refined sugar as it may have at its disposal) to its 1915 buyers according to the index number of each. This will give each buyer as his share of available supplies, the amount proportional to his total use or distribution in 1915 of all sugar other than British Refined.

5. *British West Indian Sugar*—The sale of this and other sugar imported under licence will continue to be regulated by the West India Brokers' Committee, which will report all sales to the Sugar Commission. These will be taken into account when determining the quantities of Royal Commission sugar which should be allotted to the buyers. There will thus be no "free" sugar in 1917.

6. All Wholesale Dealers are instructed to distribute to their customers on the same principle; that is to say, to let each of their customers of the year 1915 have his

equivalent proportion of the supplies of all descriptions and from all sources, which they have at their disposal.

7. Experience has shown during the past six months that for a Wholesale Dealer who has some thousands of customers, a distribution on the basis of a fixed percentage of each customer's purchases in 1915 would be the most satisfactory method of procedure.

It will be readily understood that it is quite impossible under present circumstances to determine in advance the exact percentage of 1915 supplies which will be available, and the Commission accordingly recommends to all Wholesale Dealers who experience a difficulty in carrying out the instructions contained in this Memorandum:

- (a) forthwith to agree with their 1915 customers as to the quantity delivered to each in 1915, which is the quantity upon which the distribution for 1917 should be based. This basic quantity should be the total of all descriptions obtained from all sources.
- (b) to distribute during January on a fixed low basis of, say, 50 per cent.
- (c) to distribute during February on the fixed percentage of all supplies actually received during January, and so on from month to month.

This method will tend to obviate the difficulties arising from the adoption of too high a basis at the commencement, and the consequent inconvenience caused by subsequent adjustments.

8. The Commission must impress upon all those engaged in carrying out the distribution the extreme importance of adhering rigidly to the rules laid down. Haphazard distribution by the Wholesalers leads to innumerable complications and hardships for others. Any departure from these rules will render the offending Wholesaler liable to be excluded from obtaining further supplies.

9. Copies of this Memorandum may be obtained through the same sources as those through which sugar is supplied.

THE WEST INDIES AND "OUR DAY."

The British West Indies have made a splendid response to the special "Our Day" appeal on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Through the courtesy of Sir Robert A. Hudson, Chairman of the Joint Finance Committee of those two bodies, we are able to set out below the amounts received in 1915 and 1916 respectively:—

	1915			1916		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bahamas ...	2,755	14	9	1,850	0	0
Jamaica ...	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0
Barbados ...	780	18	0			
Trinidad & Tobago ...	780	15	0	974	12	0
Grenada ...	785	0	0	1,000	0	0
St. Lucia ...	686	12	8	965	0	0
St. Kitts ...	226	6	5	111	16	8
Antigua ...	179	0	1	215	7	7
Dominica ...	113	17	9	142	4	4
Montserrat ...	34	17	8	190	0	0
St. Vincent ...				132	0	0
British Guiana ...	3,650	0	0	2,800	0	0

The above must not be regarded as a final list, for experience has shown that for a full six months after October 20th subscriptions will continue to be received from outlying parts of the Empire.

At a meeting of the two Societies held at the Royal Automobile Club on January 17th, the Duke of Connaught presiding, it was announced that for the "Our Day" collection of last year £1,098,000 had been raised, or £50,000 more than in 1915.

Towards this the most notable contribution was £300,000 from Ontario.

The Duke of Connaught moved the following resolution:—

"That the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John tender to the subscribers at home and overseas their deep and sincere thanks for the magnificent response to the appeal of the joint Societies in connection with 'Our Day.'"

Lord Lansdowne, seconding the motion, said that the greatest Dominions down to the smallest Crown Colonies had come forward and ungrudgingly given in abundance the contributions for which we asked them. We had all been proud of an Empire over which the sun never sets, but the sun henceforth would shine upon an Empire very different from the Old Empire, as we had known it in the past. The air was full of rumours of great political changes which were likely to follow when the War was over, but whatever they might be, of this we might rest assured, that the feelings of the people of the different communities of which the Empire was formed would be from this time forth different from what they had been in the past. The recollection of these events would be an ineffaceable one. In thanking the workers in connection with the effort, he thought he might tell them that they, by their efforts, had borne an honourable part in strengthening the Imperial edifice which we all desired to see constructed in the future. (Cheers.)

TRINIDAD OILFIELDS.

By A. BEEBY THOMPSON.

Mr. Beeby Thompson, who has been closely associated with the Trinidad oil industry from its inception, has just returned from an extended visit to Trinidad. This special report on the condition and prospects of the industry which he has kindly contributed to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is distinctly encouraging.

Trinidad as an Oil Country.

Trinidad is slowly but surely assuming the appearance of an oil country, and substantial and costly works of considerable magnitude bear eloquent testimony to the faith of operators in the permanence and importance of the island's oil deposits. Large areas of felled forest land are now covered by a new forest of derricks, the blackened colour of which shows that the oil sands did not fail to respond when tapped by wells. The chief development is centred around Brighton and Guapo, where several companies have operated on a fairly large scale.

Within a few feet of the Pitch Lake at Brighton, wells are being pumped and a large park of 50,000 barrel tanks and a refinery create an imposing spectacle on a site covered but a few years ago by dense jungle. Besides the Point Fortin area, where the original Trinidad Oilfields' developments were initiated, there are large clearings in the Forest Reserve where exceedingly satisfactory progress is reported. On Lots 1 and 2 the Asphalt Co. have

drilled up a block of medium deep territory which has proved very prolific, and on what are known as the Parry lands an eruptive well of exceptional force was recently struck. Unfortunately the force of the flow prevented the use of control arrangements, and as the dams were quite inadequate to deal with the great volumes, most of the oil was lost by flowing down streams to the Gulf. The well is variously estimated to have yielded from 150,000 to 300,000 barrels in a few days. One observer said the yield was certainly in excess of 40,000 barrels a day.

Many Gushers at Guapo.

The above gusher is only one of a number that have been struck in the Guapo-area, and such results cannot but be regarded as an indication of exceptional richness. Both in the Vessigny field of the Asphalt Co., and in the Fyzabad field of the Leaseholds, great flows of oil have been struck, necessitating for a time the use of a large body of men to control the flow and prevent its loss. The Stollmeyer Well on the Perseverance Estate has not been followed up by the activity that one would have anticipated from such encouragement. Further north, oil has been struck in several isolated wells located on anticlines that cross the island in a general E.W. direction. Thus on Boodo Sing, Silverstream Estate, and Aripere productive wells have been struck, and at Barrackpore a field of more than usual interest has been developed. One well here is said to have given over 100,000 barrels of oil and still flows strongly on the control valve being opened. Great quantities of sand have been expelled with the oil.

The only Northern field so far developed is that of the Trinidad Central Oilfields at Tabaquite, where extremely satisfactory results have been achieved.

The Island's Pipe-line System.

At all of the above fields storage installations have been erected, and pipe lines are being laid to central points and to sea-board. Pipe lines connect up Guapo fields with Point Fortin; Vessigny and Forest Reserve lands are connected by pipe line with Brighton and Point-a-Pierre, as also is Barrackpore. A pipe line is also under construction from the Tabaquite oilfield to Claxton's Bay. Shipping facilities have been completed by the Leaseholds at Point-a-Pierre where an 8 in. submarine pipe line extends to deep water, and considerable storage facilities have been constructed. At Claxton's Bay an oil storage installation has been erected and a 6 in. submarine pipe line laid to deep water. Excellent shipping facilities exist at Brighton, where the lake asphalt is shipped, and deep water occurs near the shore.

Refineries are in operation at Brighton, Point Fortin, Tabaquite, and Barrackpore, and a large topping plant is approaching completion at Point-a-Pierre. Local petrol of excellent quality is being regularly sold in the island, almost entirely replacing the imported product, whilst there is fair amount of lamp oil and lubricants produced.

Notwithstanding the comparatively confined area

in which the oil indications occur a remarkable diversity of grades of oil have been divulged. The densest asphaltic type oils in the pitch lake area somewhat resemble certain Mexican and Californian oils that have limited commercial uses on account of high viscosity and low contents of distillates suitable for internal combustion engines or illuminants. They produce excellent fluxes for asphalt and produce good road oils. The less dense dark asphaltic oils of the Guapo district yield a fair percentage of distillates that can be refined into saleable products, whilst the residue constitutes an excellent fuel oil fulfilling ordinary commercial and Admiralty requirements.

On anticlines further north are found a wide range of light-density and light-coloured crude oils that scarcely stain the hand, and yield under distillation high grade distillates. Some of these oils are especially rich in lubricants, the absence or scarcity of solid paraffin giving them a very low set point, saving thereby much expense in plant for the extraction of solid paraffins. The Barrackpore oil is an oil of exceptional quality that would yield fine products under scientific treatment.

Oils of High Quality.

By far the most remarkable oil of Trinidad is that derived from the Tabaquite field, where sustained productions of oil of a density below .800 have been abstracted. This oil yields over 40 per cent. of exceptional quality petrol, as well as a high grade illuminant oil, whilst the reduced but untreated residue is a lubricant of great value. Very similar oil exists in the Guayaguayare area at Lizard Spring, where large natural seepages are to be observed.

Amidst other works the health and comfort of employees have not been neglected. Sanitary, screened bungalows are the rule, recreation is provided by tennis courts, and motor cars have removed the initial difficulties of travel to and from the various properties.

From the above there appears no occasion for the pessimism publicly expressed by the chairman of one of the leading companies operating on the island. That there are difficulties cannot be denied but that they are surmountable has been proved by the success that has attended the persistence of several concerns. The Government should be encouraged to support the industry as much as possible by providing export facilities at a moment when it is so essential to husband our resources and reduce purchases in foreign countries.

The West India Committee's Map of the West Indies should be in every West Indian businessman's office. It is indispensable.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 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.

MONTSERRAT LIMES.

The causes of the decline of the lime industry of Montserrat have been the subject of investigations by Mr. H. A. Ballou and Mr. W. Nowell, the Entomologist and Mycologist respectively of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

The former has arrived at the conclusion that the conditions of the lime cultivations in Montserrat are only partly due to the effects of scale insect attacks. It is highly desirable, however, to learn what would be the result of the complete control of these pests, and to do this it is necessary to make applications of insecticides as often as the scale insects appear, regardless of the relative cost of the applications to the value of the trees. A few young trees kept free from scales from the beginning and a few old trees in fields where the characteristic dying rot has commenced treated in the same way, would, he believes, give valuable indications of the part played by scale insects. The improvement of wind-breaks and shelter-belts and trials in the use of shade and mulch might also be carried out. The effect of better methods of raising plants and transplanting in the field might also help in solving the problems presented by the Montserrat conditions.

Mr. Nowell finds grounds for the suggestion that the affections on the roots and those on the branches would be serious only to trees which were previously affected by conditions unfavourable to vigorous growth.

From general considerations it seems clear, he states, that Montserrat lies near to the border-line between those islands like Dominica and St. Lucia, where the conditions are in most situations highly favourable to lime cultivation, and such an island as Barbados, in which they are quite unfavourable in any but exceptional situations. The principal factors determining this distribution appear to be (1) the amount of water available, (2) the degree of exposure to wind. As regards the factor of water-supply, the limits are very wide, the difference between the lower and upper ranges being reflected in the rate of growth and the consequent vigour of the reaction against insect pests and certain diseases. While a low rainfall may, by stunting the trees, prevent them from bearing a sufficient crop to make their cultivation worth while, it does not of itself, unless it falls below the limits of ordinary West Indian agriculture, appear to prevent the tree from existing.

A second factor, exposure to wind, in Mr. Nowell's opinion, imposes a stricter limit. It is significant of its great importance that even under favourable conditions of water-supply, exposure is held to be quite sufficient in itself to prevent successful cultivation. This is the opinion, most definitely and uncompromisingly expressed, of all the agricultural officers in Dominica and St. Lucia, and is supported by his own observations on estates with a high rainfall in the former island. When the effects of exposure and of a relatively low rainfall are combined, the result, according to the degree of both, may be any condition, of unthriftness down to actual inability of the plants to survive. This is well illustrated in Barbados. On the dry lower levels of that island lime trees will

not grow in the open; in the more rainy uplands they grow with difficulty in the open; but in some very well sheltered places in both areas they attain to respectable dimensions.

Mr. Nowell does not, however, commit himself to the view that the whole of the trouble in Montserrat has had its origin in exposure. He believes, however, that improvement of the conditions in this respect of exposure is certain to enable the trees more successfully to resist such troubles as he found evidence of, and that the amount of improvement is likely to be very considerable, and he advocates careful note being made of the extent to which the failure of the trees can be attributed to the effects of exposure.

Sugar-canes between Lime Trees.

Mr. Robson, in his report on the Agricultural Department of Montserrat for 1915-16, to which the above remarks are appended, calls attention to an innovation introduced during recent years in Montserrat, in the shape of the cultivation of sugar-canes between young limes. This system was under trial in 1915, and good results seem to have attended the experiment. The lime fields in which the canes were grown were not recent plantings, the limes having been established some years previously; they had suffered severely from scale insect attacks and had made indifferent growth. The point of particular interest in connection with the lime plants after the reaping of the canes in 1916, was the marked freedom from scale insect attack on the new growth made, and this gives support to the idea that shelter is necessary for the natural control of scale insects, and in connection with the lime tree, the purple scale in particular.

The actual exports of lime products from Montserrat, for the calendar year 1915, are as follows:—

	Quantity.	Value, £
Raw lime juice	44,331 galls.	7,159
Concentrated lime juice	574 ..	131
Citrate of Lime	8½ tons.	239
Lime oil (hand pressed)	58 galls.	60
Lime essence	—	43

The above figures reduced to raw juice, represent a total of 57,777 gallons exported, compared with an average of 156,736 gallons, the average for the two previous years. As however the shipping of a large portion of the crop produced in 1915 could not be undertaken until early in 1916, the actual exports are not a true indication of the crop yield, but it is found that the total shipments for the crop produced in 1915 are still 20,000 gallons short of the average for the two previous years.

We are reminded by the *Daily Chronicle* that Robert Burns nearly emigrated to the West Indies. Alluding to his distressful circumstances when he published the first and Kilmarnock edition of his "Poems," he said: "I was pretty confident my poems would meet with some applause; but at the worst, the roar of the Atlantic would deafen the voice of censure, and the novelty of West Indian scenes make me forget neglect." He had booked steerage passage to Jamaica, and taken farewell of his cronies, when a letter from Dr. Blacklock, the blind poet, inviting him to Edinburgh "overthrew," he said, "all my schemes by opening new prospects to my poetic ambition."

CACAO MANURING.

In our last issue we referred briefly to the report of the Agricultural Department of Dominica for 1915-16, under the heading of "West Indian Agriculture." We now give in greater detail that part of it referring to the important subject of the manuring of cacao.

These experiments have been going on for some years, and the manures dealt with in the several plots are basic slag and sulphate of potash; dried blood, basic slag and sulphate of potash; grass and leaf mulch in varying quantities, with and without lime; cotton-seed meal; and nitrolim (calcium cyanamide).

The average annual yield for fourteen years in the case of the first five plots, and for nine years in the case of plots 6 to 9, has been as follows:—

Plot No.	Manure.	Cacao yield per acre, lbs.		Increase over no-manure plot per cent
		Wet.	Cured.	
1	No manure...	2,782	1,168	—
2	Phosphate and potash ...	3,424	1,437	23.0
3	Dried blood ...	3,380	1,419	25.5
4	Dried blood, phosphate and potash ...	3,905	1,640	40.4
5	Mulched with grass and leaves ...	4,271	1,794	53.6
6	Do. do. ...	4,940	2,075	77.6
7	Cotton-seed manure ...	4,772	1,752	50.0
8	No manure...	2,169	911	—
9	Mulched with grass and leaves ...	4,049	1,700	86.0

The Report, after entering on various details of the history of the plots during the period of the experiments, goes on to say:—

"Satisfactory as the results obtained with the use of concentrated foreign manures are, the main feature brought out by these experiments is the great superiority of the mulching method of manuring over all others. Plots 5, 6, and 9 are treated in this way, and the mean results from these three plots show what it is possible to do by this system of manuring. The mean yield from these three plots for the year under review was 1,868 lb. of cured cacao per acre, or 795 lb. more cacao than was obtained from the no-manure plot. The average yield from these three plots for a long series of years is 1,856 lb. of cured cacao per acre, or 688 lb. cured cacao more than the no-manure plot, equal to a percentage increase of 58.8.

"It is now universally acknowledged that the application of coarse organic matter to the soil is the most satisfactory method of improving the soil and of producing large crops, especially under tropical conditions. This has been demonstrated with annual crops such as sugar-cane, and these experiments confirm in an unmistakable manner that the same principle holds good in orchard cultivation. Not only does the application of organic matter improve the texture of the soil, but it is essential to the biological life of the soil and the subsequent production of plant food material. The care with which organic matter is conserved and manure is made in many of the colonies producing sugar-cane is quite sufficient to show that

its value is appreciated by experienced agriculturists, but when it comes to orchard cultivation, many argue that it is too expensive a method of manuring.

"It is customary to apply, and it has been shown by experiment that profitable results follow, an application of 20 tons of pen manure per acre to plant canes, and as canes are often only allowed to ratoon two or three times, this application is equivalent to an annual application of manure of five tons per acre per annum. If an application of a similar amount is made to orchard soils annually, then the conditions represented on the mulched plots of these experiments are reproduced. If orchard cultivators were prepared to manure as liberally as sugar-cane growers by an annual expenditure of about 80/- per acre on the production of good pen, sheep, or stable manure, made in well-constructed pens, or by the application of bush and grass, excellent yields would be obtained and the capital value of their orchards would be considerably enhanced."

BRITISH GUIANA AND CANADIAN TRADE.

The following particulars dealing with the trade of British Guiana in 1915 are taken from the Report of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. As regards imports, the Report says:

During the year 1915 the imports into British Guiana (excluding transit trade) amounted to \$8,796,247, as compared with an import in 1914 of \$7,665,530, showing an increase during the year of \$1,130,717. From 1914 to 1915 the imports from the United Kingdom increased from \$3,993,382 to \$4,237,733; from the United States from \$1,817,558 to \$2,201,470; from Canada from \$947,050 to \$1,329,057; from British East Indies from \$286,924 to \$379,644; from British West Indies from \$96,764 to \$218,646; whilst the imports from the Netherlands decreased from \$100,473 to \$95,304; from France from \$74,488 to \$72,162; from French Guiana from \$109,562 to \$65,717; from Dutch Guiana from \$52,612 to \$50,955; and from Germany from \$38,260 to \$205.

The increase in the imports in 1915 of \$1,130,717 was due principally to increased imports of cotton goods, \$723,372 to \$926,481; flour, \$813,347 to \$942,736; machinery, \$229,145 to \$502,021; manures, \$590,402 to \$775,187; pulse, \$125,159 to \$189,274; and staves, \$133,039 to \$264,010. The principal imports into British Guiana in 1915 were: Bags and sacks, \$230,945; beef and pork, salted, \$256,783; boots and shoes, \$132,991; butter, \$119,364; carriages, \$119,813 (principally bicycles \$27,273 and motor cars \$61,055); cement, \$46,276; cheese, \$38,096; clothing, \$118,258; coal, coke, and patent fuel, \$190,410; cordage and twine, \$57,972; chemicals, drugs, and medicines, \$195,025; fish, \$303,048 (principally smoked or dried, \$235,125); flour, \$942,736; grain, n.e.s., \$132,766; haberdashery and millinery, \$111,270; hardware and cutlery, \$90,194; hats and caps, \$61,525; lard, \$28,280; linen, cotton, and woollen

goods, \$1,049,438; machinery, \$501,021; malt liquors, \$120,741; manures, \$775,187; milk, preserved, \$48,034; oils, \$293,059; paints and colours, \$38,827; paper, \$102,038; pulse, \$189,274; soap, \$98,224; tobacco, \$145,903; vegetables, \$221,918; whiskey, \$46,136; wines, \$32,729; and wood, \$476,639 (made up chiefly of lumber \$110,950, and staves \$264,010).

The imports from the United Kingdom consist largely of manufactured goods, and those from the United States of foodstuffs and raw materials. The imports from Canada also consist chiefly of foodstuffs and raw materials. The imports from Canada in 1915 of butter, cheese, cordage and twine, fish, flour, grain, nails and spikes, lumber, paints and colours, and vegetables were greater in value than similar imports from the United States. The principal imports from Canada were as follows: Boots and shoes, \$2,573; butter, \$6,158; brooms and brushes, \$5,158; cheese, \$23,036; cordage and twine, \$6,202; drugs, chemicals, and medicines, \$6,935; fish, \$185,247 (chiefly smoked or dried \$161,039); flour, \$761,707; fruits, \$3,210; hardware, \$3,204; hay and chaff, \$4,464; manures, \$8,813; nails and spikes, \$11,840; oilcake, \$2,798; paints and colours, \$6,092; paper, \$2,079; vegetables, \$80,725; and wood, \$89,580 (principally lumber \$83,109).

The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, which went into force on June 2nd, 1913, has had the effect of stimulating trade between Canada and British Guiana. In 1912 Canada's proportion of the import trade of British Guiana was about 7.0 per cent., whereas in 1915 it had risen to 15.0 per cent. During the same period the proportion of the import trade from the United States decreased from 26.0 per cent. to 25.0 per cent.; while that from the United Kingdom decreased from 55.0 per cent. to 48.0 per cent. The imports into British Guiana in 1915 of articles covered by the trade agreement amounted to \$3,538,910, or 41.4 per cent. of the total imports of merchandise. From 1912 to 1915 the proportion of preferential articles imported from Canada increased from 15.38 per cent. to 34.42 per cent.; whilst the imports of the same class of goods from the United States decreased from 45.51 per cent. to 34.93 per cent., and from the United Kingdom from 27.15 per cent. to 20.24 per cent. The total imports from Canada from 1912 to 1915 increased from \$539,171 to \$1,329,057, an increase in three years of \$789,886, or about 147.0 per cent.; whilst the imports from the United States during the same period increased from \$2,035,912 to \$2,201,470, an increase of only \$165,558, or 8.0 per cent. In 1912 the imports of Canadian flour amounted to 29.0 per cent. of the total importations, but in 1915 they had increased to 80.0 per cent.; whilst the imports of American flour, which formed 68.0 per cent. of the imports in 1912, have steadily receded, and in 1915 were only 20.0 per cent. of the total imports. That the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement has had the effect of stimulating imports from Canada is indicated by the following table showing imports into British Guiana from Canada and the United States in 1912 and 1915 of certain articles specified in the preferential trade agreement,

	From Canada.		From United States.	
	1912	1915.	1912	1915.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Boots and shoes	463	2,573	34,402	46,240
Brooms and brushes	3,828	5,158	30	458
Butter	1,859	6,158	965	4,758
Cheese	7,020	23,036	1,328	2,186
Cordage and twine	3,323	6,202	1,611	4,738
Fish	94,671	185,247	33,245	39,168
Flour	273,214	761,707	669,327	180,226
Fruits and vegetables, fresh	49,524	83,168	17,773	35,263
Grain and pulse	37,862	96,444	52,446	43,354
Hardware	358	3,204	15,905	14,400
Hay and chaff	3,140	4,464	1,751	1,300
Lumber	32,351	83,109	86,295	27,384
Nails and spikes	4,205	11,840	1,766	1,818
Oilmeal and oilcake	1,222	2,798	12,055	11,904
Paints and colours	3,226	6,092	1,213	2,326
Paper	892	2,079	515	7,741

During the year 1915 the exports of British Guiana produce were valued at \$14,835,331, as against a valuation in 1914 of \$11,313,082, showing an increase during the year of \$3,522,249, or about 31 per cent. From 1914 to 1915 the exports to Canada increased from \$3,207,481 to \$5,477,239; to France from \$1,319 to \$1,754,157; to the British West Indies from \$573,819 to \$708,081; and to the United States from \$260,156 to \$380,672; whilst the exports to the United Kingdom decreased from \$7,102,560 to \$6,376,418; to Dutch Guiana from \$57,488 to \$56,726; to French Guiana from \$38,767 to \$38,313; to Newfoundland from \$20,148 to \$7,619; and to the Netherlands from \$24,193 to \$819. The increase in the exports of \$3,522,249 was chiefly due to increased shipments of balata gum, rice, rum, and sugar. From 1914 to 1915 the exports of balata gum increased from \$507,369 to \$766,089; of rice from \$513,216 to \$647,843; of rum from \$1,112,826 to \$2,192,279; and of sugar from \$7,559,152 to \$9,882,972.

The principal articles exported from British Guiana in 1915 in order of importance, with portions sent to the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, were as follows:—

	Total Exports.	To United Kingdom.	To United States.	To Canada.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sugar	9,882,972	2,525,807	181,610	5,419,904
Rum	2,192,279	2,094,658	—	53,641
Bullion, gold	835,788	856,479	79,309	—
Balata gum	766,089	677,087	89,002	—
Rice	647,843	16,043	—	11
Molascuit and other cattle food	54,506	49,907	40	—
Diamonds	51,369	51,369	—	—
Logs - Greenheart	48,891	39,547	159	33
Charcoal	35,98	—	—	—
Coconuts	31,280	—	21,711	2,9

Not long ago we had the pleasure of chronicling the promotion of Mr. F. A. Stockdale, the Director of Agriculture of Mauritius, to a similar appointment in Ceylon. It is a subject of further congratulation that the agricultural science of the West Indies has been called upon to fill Mr. Stockdale's place in Mauritius in the person of Mr. H. A. Tempany, D.Sc., Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, who has been doing excellent work in both of his departments.

THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

The newspaper *Politiken*, published at Copenhagen, stated on January 14th that ratifications of the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States would be exchanged with Washington in the very near future. The latest date for the payment of the purchase price, \$25,000,000 (£5,000,000) in gold was 90 days after the ratification of the sale. Immediately after the payment the Danish representative will formally transfer the islands to the United States' representative. The matter was therefore likely to be finally arranged by the middle of April at latest.

Judging by the comments in *Lightbeacon's Mail Notes*, issued at Charlotte Amalia, the pending change has caused no excitement in St. Thomas. Says our contemporary, under date December 23rd: "The die has been cast; there is no more doubt nor anxiety for those who were anxious; the Landsting, by a two-to-one vote, has settled the transfer of the Danish West Indian possessions, and it only remains now for the Dannebrog to be lowered and the Stars and Stripes to take its place. We are an American dependency henceforth, and our destiny will be united with that of the great Republic—for weal or for woe.

"The result of the vote of the Landsting was received yesterday without any demonstration; so much time and manœuvring had been expended these months in the settlement of the matter that the population had ceased to be moved to any extent by the news of the end when it did come. To some it may have had the appearance of indifference, but that was not so; the people are not indifferent to their future, they are anxious—no doubt about it—both as to their political status as individuals and commercial or industrial position as an island."

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place—provided the gallant officer is enabled temporarily to give up his duties and obtain leave—between Lieut.-Colonel George Vaughan Hart, who commands a battalion of the B.W.I. Regiment, and May, daughter of the late Ven. Archdeacon Garstin, of Letter Kenny, County Donegal. Colonel Hart, who is the eldest son of Mr. W. E. Hart, of Kilderry, was gazetted to the West India Regiment in 1899. He has seen fighting with the West African frontier force, and was employed on the Anglo-Liberian Boundary Commission. Most of his service has been in West Africa. Coupled with the qualities of a good soldier he possesses those of a keen sportsman, and he is a good big game shot, as many fine heads in his ancestral home in Ireland demonstrate.

Mr. L. R. Wheeler writes from Egypt that the weather in December was comparatively wintry, at nights the temperature was often down to 48 deg. F. which was "fairly nippy," though the days

were generally warm and sunny. One or two showers of rain had actually fallen and were worth recording as they were the first for at least six months.

Christmas was kept up in good old style. In camp there were special dinners, with all sorts of good things, sports, in which a Yeomanry unit joined, and various shooting competitions, with prizes. All of these were thoroughly enjoyed, and everything went off splendidly. The little break in the routine was greatly appreciated, as all are pretty busy in the usual course of events.

In addition to the systematic training which goes on as steadily as circumstances will permit, a lot of work is done in repairing field fortifications, and maintaining guards, patrols, etc., over a considerable area. Although they have not yet had their chance in action, they are more fortunate than some units in being well within the active service zone. A considerable amount of attention is being given to shooting by means of various practices, and also by competitions.

The health of the men of the last contingent has undergone a marked improvement, and the manner in which the regiment has developed is remarkable. At the Sports a fine runner was discovered in Evans, a nephew of the Hon. F. S. Evans, Member of the Legislative Council of Jamaica for Westmoreland. This athlete easily won the 100, 220, and 440 yards races.

The Ladies' Committee work party at 5, Trevor Square, have made a considerable number of garments and comforts since they reassembled for the winter. Up to date they have completed 124 flannel undervests, 29 pairs carbolised pants, 57 pairs socks, 51 helmets, 35 mufflers, and 2 cardigans. Recent gifts, which are acknowledged with thanks, have been received from the following:—

Lady Davson: 2 prs. socks, 1 knitted cap, 1 pr. bed-socks.

Mrs. Wright: 1 pr. mittens.

Miss G. K. Philipps: 7 mufflers, 2 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens.

Mrs. J. Bromley: 3 prs. mittens, 1 helmet, 1 khaki shirt, 1 flannel shirt, 1 scarf helmet, 1 collar.

Mr. F. J. and Miss Norris: 3 mufflers, 2 muffler caps, 3 prs. mittens, 2 handkerchiefs (for Trinidad and Demerara men).

Lady Cameron: magazines.

Miss Bstridge: 1 muffler, 1 helmet, 2 magazines.

Miss Hollings: 4 prs. socks.

Mrs. Cathcart Wason: 13 prs. socks, 3 helmets, 2 mufflers, 6 mittens, 6 handkerchiefs.

Mrs. Spooner: 4 prs. socks.

Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas: 6 mufflers, 4 prs. socks, 4 chest protectors.

Lady Hayes Sadler: 2 prs. socks.

Mrs. A. Johnson: magazines.

Mrs. Charles Leslie: magazines.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £6,659 15s. 7d. Since the last list was pub-

lished, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. A. Hamilton Wood	5	0	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
Per month:—			
Kingstown Club	1	13	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	
H. M. Hayward, Esq.	4	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
E. Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
A. J. Gillezeau, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	4	8	4
J. R. Gaunt and Son (further rebate on sales of B.W.I. brochures)—to come	5	9	0
Miss Bstridge	1	1	0
T. W. O'Neal, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Sellier	10	0	
"R. G."	10	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.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies and Bermuda who are sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Col. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Col. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

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.)

Cpl. C. A. Baker, Croydon; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Pte. K. 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; P. J. Boorman, West Didsbury; H. Whitecross, London; J. B. Dickenson, London; C. E. Fisher, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Pte. Geo. W. Hayley, Brighton.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London.

TRINIDAD.

Trooper O. Hamel-Smith, London; Trooper R. Hale, Household Battalion, East Dulwich; Trooper N. O. Warner, Household Battalion, London; Gunner F. Pegus, R.F.A., Knutsford; Pte. R. P. Dean, Machine Gun Corps, Birmingham; Trooper Wm. Howard, Household Battalion, Tooting; Trooper N. Edgill, Household Battalion, Tooting; Rifleman B. Knowles, Epsom.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Regt.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.

OBITUARY.

MR. FRANK FOWLER.

We regret to say that news has been received by cable of the death of Mr. Frank Fowler, the Commissioner of Lands and Mines in British Guiana. Mr. Fowler, who was born in 1864, joined the Public Works Department of that colony in 1878, and attained to his recent post in 1903. Mr. Fowler's death was unexpected, as up to six months ago, when he suffered from a severe attack of influenza, his record of good health had been unbroken.

HON. JAMES SPENCER HOLLINGS.

We regret to state that news was received by cable on the 20th inst. of the death, at Nevis, of the Hon. James Spencer Hollings. An account of this gentleman's career as a Colonist will be given in our next issue.

LADY WILLIAMS.

We regret to state that Lady Williams, wife of Sir Ralph Williams, late Governor of Newfoundland and the Windward Islands respectively, died in London on Saturday, January 6th.

Lady Williams succumbed to an attack of appendicitis. A daughter of Mr. Samuel Dean, she was married in 1875 to Mr. (now Sir) Ralph Champeys Williams, explorer and Colonial official. She accompanied her husband on all his expeditions, and was with him in Barbados (1897-1901) and Grenada when Sir Ralph was Governor of the Windward Islands. She was the second white woman to visit the Victoria Falls, having travelled from Grahamstown to the Falls in 1893 by waggon, returning in 1884; the whole journey occupied sixteen months. In 1914 she went with her husband on a tour in German East Africa, leaving that country only a few weeks before the outbreak of the War.

HON. T. LESLIE H. JARVIS.

We regret to state that the Hon. T. Leslie H. Jarvis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands and Acting Commissioner of Montserrat, died in the last-named island on December 22nd.

Mr. Leslie Jarvis entered the Colonial Civil Service in 1890 as Deputy Registrar. After acting as Clerk to the Board of Health in Dominica in 1896, he was appointed Private Secretary to the Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands in 1904. In 1909 his services were rewarded by his appointment to be Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, which position he was ably filling at the time of the outbreak of war. When Colonel Davidson Houston's temporary successor, Captain Elgee, left Government House at Plymouth, Montserrat, Mr. Leslie Jarvis took his place. He received a cordial welcome on his return to the

island, whose government he had already administered for nearly a year in 1913-14. It will be recalled that in 1915 Mr. Jarvis underwent the disagreeable experience of being adrift in the Caribbean Sea in a dismantled stoop—the *Southern Cross*—for no less than 52 hours whilst on a voyage from Montserrat to Antigua. On that occasion he and the crew of the vessel would undoubtedly have lost their lives but for the timely arrival on the scene of Commodore E. C. Benedict in his yacht *Oneida*, which put to sea from St. Kitts on receipt of a timely message flashed by heliograph from Montserrat to Antigua, and thence by cable. Mr. Leslie Jarvis was a sterling good fellow who will be greatly missed.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Musson Wainwright, widow of the late Mayor of Hamilton, Bermuda, died on January 11th.

We have pleasure in announcing the marriage of Lieut. Evan Roland Campbell, the youngest son of Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Chairman of the West India Committee, which took place at Cairo on the 9th ult. The bride was Antoinette Priscilla Vulliamy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Devonshire, of Maadi, Cairo.

LORD ELGIN, whose death has been announced, succeeded Mr. Alfred Lyttelton as Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1905, and was followed in that office by Lord Crewe. It was whilst he was Viceroy of India that, on the insistence of Manchester, a countervailing excise duty was placed on cotton goods produced in India to protect Lancashire against competition when a Customs duty was imposed on cotton goods entering India.

WHEN, some years later, the stricken West Indian planters asked for a countervailing duty to protect them against foreign and unfair competition, Lancashire protested, and declared that it would be contrary to "Free" Trade. Still, the fault was not Lord Elgin's, who proved himself a strong administrator at the Colonial Office.

MANY readers will no doubt remember the late Captain George S. B. Carter, who was successively Commander of the *Yare* and *Kennett* in West Indian waters. From particulars of his death, which was briefly recorded in last CIRCULAR, it seems that on December 7th his ship (a large oil-tanker) was torpedoed without warning. When the torpedo struck the ship, there was a terrific explosion, and Captain Carter, being on the bridge, must have been killed instantaneously. Aged 41, he leaves a large circle of friends in the West Indies who will sympathise with his family, to whom his sad and tragic death has been a hard blow.

AN official Board of Enquiry of the Queensland Government, appointed to look into and report upon matters in connection with the Queensland sugar industry, reports that "the mills now in operation, with the assistance of South Johnstone, are capable of producing 355,000 tons of sugar in

a season, and the Commonwealth consumption is 260,000 tons, with a yearly increase of some 5,000 tons, so long as the population maintains its present rate of progression." The last three factories erected—Inkerman, Babinda, and South Johnstone—are by Messrs. G. Fletcher & Co., Ltd., of Derby, the two latter being entirely, with the exception of the mills, run by electricity. There is no American mill in Queensland.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada has decided to place two State-owned steamers on a service between British Columbia and Canadian Atlantic ports. The vessels will call at the principal British West Indian ports, and will carry fruit in both directions. According to the *Syren*, it has been decided to build the new ships on the specifications of a number which are being built at the shipping yards of Coughlan & Co., Vancouver and Victoria, for Norwegian account. The cost is placed in the neighbourhood of \$160,000 each. These are not large vessels, but are good trading steamers, and are a beginning. If the experiment is a success, others will be at once put on the line. One of the steel vessels, it is understood, will be built in Victoria by the Victoria Machinery Depot under an arrangement with Coughlan & Co., who operate an immense steel fabricating plant on the Mainland. The prospects of marketing more West Indian produce on the Western seaboard of Canada will no doubt be enhanced by this new service. It must, however, be remembered that Canada, without insisting on reciprocal advantages, is giving precisely the same fiscal advantages to Fiji and all other British Colonies as she is giving to the British West Indies under the trade agreement of 1912.

NATURE NOTES.

IF green manures are ploughed into the soil, and cotton seed planted immediately, a decrease in germination takes place, while if the planting is done three weeks later, germination is perfectly normal. The *Monthly Bulletin* now reports further experiments in this direction which confirm the injurious action of green manures on seed germination. The cause appears to be some parasitic fungus (*Rhizoctonia* sp.).

It is stated that during the first period of decomposition of the green manures, many fungi develop, some of which have a destructive action on germs. Oil seeds appear to be susceptible to injury, while starchy seeds, on the other hand, are highly resistant. Cotton and soya seeds are said to be extremely sensitive to green manure, while the germination of flax, pea-nuts, and hemp is likewise reduced, although to a less extent, by the presence of decomposing vegetable fibre.

The same authority gives figures dealing with the quantity of potash in banana stalks and skins. This is an extremely interesting subject at the present time, when potash is so scarce, and it is inter-

esting to see that no less than 1 per cent. of potash exists in the undried stalk and skins. This means that in the ash of these products 45 to 59 per cent. of potash exists—as much, indeed, as is found in the mineral deposit, kainite.

In the province of Piacenza, in Italy, for the last three years the motive power driving the tillage implements has been electricity. The 1915 work, which was carried out over big areas, is stated to be satisfactorily solving the problems involved, the results being distinctly good. It is stated that with two plough-shares working a strip rather over two feet wide to a depth of rather over one foot, 7.41 acres can be ploughed in an eleven-hour day, the usual consumption of power being 60 to 70 horse power. The staff required is three men—one at the driving winch, one at the plough, and the third at the transmission carriage, by which the reciprocating movement of the plough is produced. The current used was 3,600 volts.

D. C. TRACY, in the *Farmers' Bulletin* of the United States Department of Agriculture, strongly advocates the growing of "Natal Grass" (*Tricholæna rosea*) for forage in the Tropics. The soils most suited to it, he says, are those which are sandy and well drained. In compact soils it does not spread itself out well. The chief value of Natal Grass is for hay, as it is not adapted to pasture purpose, not being of much account as a grazing grass. But its hay is excellent, drying easily and being highly nutritious.

ACCORDING to Mr. P. Van der Bijl, who writes on the subject in the *Science Bulletin* of the South African Department of Agriculture, the disease known as "dry rot" in maize is produced by the fungus *Diplodra Zea*. One of its most conspicuous symptoms is the appearance of a damp growth of whitish mycelium, which develops in the furrows between the caryopses, subsequently forming a large dry envelope round the ear. The means of control are (1) the destruction by fire of vegetable debris, (2) the discontinuance of maize-growing for several years.

THE production of rubber of uniform colour, says the *India Rubber World*, has been specially studied by Clayton Beadle and Stevens, and their results published in a paper presented at the Congress of Batavia. In brief, they find that such rubber can be produced only by the exercise of special precautions in the coagulation of the latex. It is possible to obtain uniformly pale rubber if the latex is rapidly coagulated by an excess of acetic acid, the coagulum rapidly washed in a machine, followed by rapid drying in warm air or in a vacuum chamber.

THE reason for this is that rubber latex contains an enzyme, an oxydase which causes rapid absorption of oxygen from the air by the fresh coagulum. This oxygen reacts rapidly on certain organic substances contained in the latex, producing black colouring matters. Colour is not an indication of quality, but manufacturers and dealers regard

variations of colour with suspicion. For this reason large dealers sort their cargoes and repack for external appearances, with no regard to the sources or origin of the rubber.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Departure of Dr. Tempany.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, DECEMBER 29th, 1916.—Weather conditions are continuing dry. A few showers for young crops would be acceptable. I regret to report the death of Mr. Geo. Gordon, the owner of Big Queen estate, who died and was buried at sea on the 22nd inst. The deceased had gone to Canada, and was returning to Antigua. The news was received on Christmas Day just when the family were preparing to meet him on his return home, instead of which a cable announced his death and funeral. The whole community were shocked at the news, and the greatest sympathy is felt for his wife and children. A presentation will be made to-day to Dr. Tempany, who is leaving us to take up the position of Superintendent of Agriculture in the Mauritius. Dr. Tempany will be a real loss to the community. He has lived with us for 13 to 14 years, and has identified himself thoroughly with anything that has tended for the good of the Presidency. His many activities have not been confined to the routine work of his post as Superintendent of Agriculture. The writer has been closely associated with him as Chairman of the Agricultural Society for a number of years, and it is largely owing to the close interest and hard work of Dr. Tempany that the Agricultural Society is the success that it is. The offshoots of the Society, viz., the Onion Growers' Association, the Lime Association, the Cotton Association, and the Central Corn for Co-operative Organization all owe their success to the untiring efforts of Dr. Tempany. We felt that Dr. Tempany should not leave the island without some public acknowledgment of our indebtedness to him, and so the members of the Agricultural Society have subscribed for the presentation of a Silver Salver, suitably inscribed, to Dr. Tempany, as a token of our esteem and respect. The presentation will be made by His Excellency the Governor.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sea Defence Loan to be Issued.

MR. J. C. MCCOWAN, DECEMBER 12th, 1916.—The Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Special Sea Defence Loan" has been published in the Official Gazette. It provides for a levy of \$5 per acre on all lands under cane cultivation. The proprietors of the sugar estates are to receive in return Treasury Bonds of a loan for Sea Defence purposes to be issued later. The Combined Court sanctioned a grant of \$5,000 to the Kitchener Memorial Fund, and the inhabitants of the Colony have presented another aeroplane to the Home Government. Heavy rains have fallen, and it is now showery, with good sunshine.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Bright Prospects for 1917.

HON. G. E. GRAHAM, DECEMBER 28th.—The Christmas season has passed off very favourably. We have had a spell of delightful weather. All the stores have been crowded with purchasers, and on the whole I think the colony has much to be thankful for in the way it has passed through 1916. The logwood boom in the first half of the year provided work at remunerative rates for practically every available man in the colony. The only unfortunate event was the hurricane in October, which did a great deal of damage to the coco-nut and banana plantations, especially in the northern parts. 1917 will open with very bright prospects, due to the revived demand for mahogany, and we can all look forward to a busy year.

The hiring season has been fairly satisfactory. There has been a substantial advance in wages, which will help to mitigate any hardships from the ever-increasing prices which, in common with the rest of the world, we are suffering from. We have to congratulate Mr. Grant on his appointment to the Legislative Council. His interest in the colony is great, and he brings with him an intimate knowledge and long experience of its needs.

GRENADEA—Splendid Contributions to Red Cross Fund.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, DECEMBER 30th, 1916.—It is gratifying to note that the sum of over £900 has been raised in the parish of St. George's alone on the second appeal for the Red Cross Fund. St. Andrew's will be responsible for considerably over £500, and St. Patrick's is out to beat the St. Andrew's figure this year. Sums amounting to "three figures" are also expected from the remaining parishes. And it is understood that the Governor will contribute £100 as promised. That the response to the new appeal has met with such success, we feel added pride in the generosity of this colony. Mr. T. R. Harford, of L'Esterre, St. Andrew's, has handed in to His Excellency the Governor the sum of £33 16s. 3d., which was collected at the Fete at Boulogne lately, in aid of the Belgian Children's Fund. Three invalided members of the B.W.I. Regt.—Sergeant Gresham, Privates Russal George, and Nathaniel Prosper returned to Grenada on December 26th. On landing they received a hearty ovation from the crowd awaiting them on the wharf. On behalf of the Governor they were met on board ship by Major G. W. Smith.

Mr. P. J. Gun-Munro, with his wife and three daughters, arrived from England, via New York on the 15th. Mr. Gun-Munro is a popular proprietor in St. Patrick's. Mr. C. H. Hewett, Joint-General Manager of the Colonial Bank, passed through Trinidad on his way from Grenada to Demerara. Mr. Hewett expressed himself as being most impressed with affairs in Grenada. He said the prospects of that island are certainly bright.

JAMAICA—An Old Dry Lake Reappears.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during November was very rainy, and the humidity far above the average. Rain prevailed on 17 days, thunderstorms on 8, and 3 days were squally. The total rainfall was 11.27 inches, or 8.27 inches above the average for 40 years. It was not until the end of the month that there was any really fine weather. As a result of the unusually rainy weather, the roads in many parts of the island were severely damaged, and on account of the flooded rivers, were in places quite impassable. Railway communication was also maintained with difficulty, and serious delays occurred.

A lake, for many years dry, and regarded more or less as past history, on the lands of Walton, Rio He, and Unity Valley, near Moneague, St. Ann's, has once more sprung into being, and now stretches for well over a mile in length and in places half a mile in width, and to a depth of sometimes 40 feet over the pastures, burying one of the main roads many feet below its surface.

Recruiting for the 5th Jamaica Contingent for the British West Indies Regiment is now in progress, and men are coming in fairly well.

A meeting was held in the Ward Theatre on the 29th, under the auspices of the Merchants' Exchange, with the object of obtaining suggestions for the re-modelling of the Government Savings Bank, with the primary idea of popularising it and of keeping the country's money in the island instead of investing it abroad. The meeting was fairly well attended, and various suggestions were discussed.

The sugar question has been well before the public again this month with the holding of meetings in St. Catherine and St. James. The first of these, which took place in Spanish Town, was mainly to support a scheme put forward by the Hon. A. A. Fleming, and a resolution approving the starting of a co-operative company for growing canes to be supplied to a co-operative factory was carried unanimously. The other meeting, which was held in Montego Bay, made the request for three State-aided factories, and discussed the labour problem at some length. A suggestion has been made in the local Press that prison labour might be made use of in the sugar factories, and it is possible that this question may come before the Legislative Council next year.

His Excellency the Governor paid an official visit to Turks Island, and during his absence, from the 22nd till the 28th, the Hon. Robert Johnstone, I.S.O., acted as Deputy-Governor. Mr. J. F. Milholland, Crown Solicitor, returned from England on the 13th. Lieut. E. S. Rennie, son of Mr. R. P. Rennie, of Montego Bay, has been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service in

the field. Mr. V. M. Cutter, Tropical Manager of the United Fruit Company, returned from a trip to Central America and the United States on the 13th.

The Committee of the Central War Relief Fund (Jamaica) have sent a donation to the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for the provision there of a room to be inscribed as from the people of Jamaica. £559 19s. 1d. has been subscribed to date to the fund to provide a suitable memorial to the late Archbishop Nuttall.

The active war funds now stand locally as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	6,149	1	10
Polish Jews Fund	1,874	7	1
Blue Cross Fund (No. 2)	172	18	9
Contingent Comforts Fund	316	0	43
"OUR DAY" (Returns still incomplete)	1,390	12	2
British Prisoners of War	236	4	0
Re-opened Aeroplane Fund	300	0	0
French Red Cross Fund	219	6	6

The other funds remain as last reported.

TOBAGO—Heavy Cacao Crops Expected.

MR. ROBERT REID, DECEMBER 20th, 1916.—At last we seem to have reached the end of the heavy rains, and the trades winds now make the air delightfully cool. The occasional showers are useful, and with these and the heavily soaked earth, it is hoped that there will be abundant crops in the coming year. Cacao pickings are exceptionally heavy, and the solitary coastal steamer is finding it difficult to take on the produce at the numerous bays in Trinidad and Tobago, especially as there are two new calling ports on the East Coast of Trinidad. The development of cultivation in Tobago is also a contributing factor and increases the cargoes both ways in spite of war prices. Workers are now looking forward to the Christmas holidays, and as the war (thanks to the Fleet) is to them a very distant affair, doubtless they will have a happy time. Red Cross work comes rather by fits and starts. The little village of Speyside had its first war concert a few weeks ago, inspired by Mrs. Thomas, of Merchiston, and over \$40 was cleared for the Red Cross Society. Recruiting placards do not attract much notice in this district where almost every man is a landed proprietor, but the awakening to larger interests will doubtless come in due time.

TRINIDAD—Practical Demonstration of Loyalty.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 28th, 1916.—The thoughtful article by Mr. P. Evans Lewin on Canada and the West Indies in the "Colonial Institute Journal" for November, has attracted the attention it deserves. In other directions also the question of closer commercial and political union with the Dominion have been discussed, but without, so far as I am aware, any general or special interest being evinced. In Trinidad, I think there will be very few even among the former strenuous opponents of the Preferential Agreement with Canada who will deny the great mutual advantage which has resulted therefrom, but the broader policy of a political union which would transfer to Ottawa the control of these colonies now exercised for better or for worse by Downing Street has never come within the serious range of practical political consideration, in Trinidad at any rate, and it is probably correct to say, in any other of the islands. Apart from distance, there are obvious difficulties which would seem, for the present, at any rate, almost impossible of adjustment in the way of these islands securing their fair share of representation on the basis of the franchise obtaining in Canada. Personally, I am of opinion that these obstacles would prove insuperable, and I believe this to be the view of most of those who have given thought to the subject. The desire for even closer commercial union than now exists on the preferential basis has naturally been strengthened by the experience of the war but beyond this I think it will be found that the trend of solid opinion will not extend, so far as federation is concerned, beyond the closer union among the British West Indies, political or otherwise, which, sooner or later, must come about.

On the invitation by circular of Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, a very representative and influential meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce Rooms yesterday for the purpose of considering what further Trinidad could do in the direction of helping on the war. After full discussion, the following resolution was unanimously car-

ried, "That this meeting, representative of the Professions, Commerce, Agriculture, and Trades of Trinidad, is of opinion that the contributions hitherto made by the Colony as a whole towards the great cause to which the resources of the Mother Country and the Self-Governing Dominions have been and are being so abundantly devoted, are not commensurate with its financial ability or sufficiently expressive of the recognition and gratitude due for the blessings of protection and immunity from the personal suffering and horrors of warfare which it has enjoyed. Be it therefore resolved:—That it be respectfully intimated to His Excellency the Governor that we are prepared willingly and gladly to acquiesce in any special measures of taxation which may be devised and imposed during the period of the war, as a practical proof of our loyal and earnest desire to share in full proportion to our means in the life struggle engaged in by the Empire and its Allies, for the victory which alone can secure the future of Civilization and Humanity." A committee was appointed to consider and recommend in what direction further taxation for the purpose should extend. In the course of the debate, the rather significant fact was noted, viz., that the duties on our exports, all of which are now meeting favourable markets, were about £50,000 less than last year. This would indicate that, notwithstanding the large contributions hitherto made to the different war funds, the whole colony has a capacity which is far from being utilized. In connection with war subscriptions, it is interesting to find that the Orange and Lime Committee, which owes its inception and most of its success to Mr. L. M. Hobson, of Sanfernando, has already sent 7,006 crates of oranges and limes, 8,488 gallons of lime juice, and 10,000 lbs. of preserves, of a value of, say, £10,000.

637 Indian immigrants lately arrived, 405 male and 182 female. They seem a good, strong, healthy lot. One birth and two deaths occurred on the voyage.

A very satisfactory happening in the Legislative Council is recorded. Some time ago an extraordinary proposal was made to reduce the fee for naturalization from £10 to £5. The unofficials and the community were naturally astounded that such a thing should be thought of at such a time. When the second reading of the Bill to amend the Naturalization Ordinance for the purpose came on the unofficials unanimously voted against it, and it was only carried by the official vote. In these circumstances the Acting Governor, Mr. Knaggs, in the exercise of the tactful discretion he is noted for, withheld his consent to the Bill pending its further reference to the Secretary of State. Mr. Bonar Law has now written not only suspending legislation in the matter, but conveying his "approval of the action of the Officer Administering the Government." This is instructive as showing how far we may really share in our own administration by united effort, especially when statesmen of the quality of Mr. Bonar Law happen to hold the reins of the Crown Colonies.

The unfortunate railway is again a sufferer, this time by a fire at the Port of Spain Station, which did considerable damage. An employee has been arrested in the matter. A more serious conflagration occurred on the 21st at the foundry of the Trinidad Floating Dock and Foundry shop, a goodly portion of which, with stores, now so hard to replace, were destroyed. The loss is estimated at about £7,000, luckily covered by insurance. For once the Government has not been caught napping in this respect, for which I fancy we have to thank Mr. Bell, the Manager, Director of Public Works.

MARRIAGES.

Campbell - Devonshire.— On the 9th inst., at Cairo, Egypt, Evan Roland Campbell, Lieut. Royal Sussex Regiment, youngest son of W. Middleton Campbell, of Colgrain, Dumbartonshire, and Fen Place, Sussex, to Antoinette Priscilla Vulliamy, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Devonshire, of Maadi, Cairo.

Bryson - Wise.— On 20th January, at St. Mark's Church, Brighton, by the Rev. Canon Flynn, of St. John's, Hove, assisted by the Rev. B. M. Browne, Vicar of St. Mark's, Robert Bryson, of Antigua, West Indies, son of the late James M. Bryson, of Edinburgh, to Fanny, daughter of the late Edmund Wise, of Croydon, Surrey.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Venezuela's 30 per cent. Embargo.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Consequent to various causes, I have only just seen Mr. Taurel's reply to my letter reproduced in the CIRCULAR of June 29th. I shall therefore be excused for not replying before.

Mr. Taurel, I note, largely approves of the 30 per cent. tariff embargo, says it was introduced by Gasman Blanco for the purpose of securing capital to open up the country's railroads, etc., and that as a policy it was successful; that the 30 per cent. is not an embargo, but "simply" a differential tariff; that it applies as much against other nations' colonies, including Porto Rico and Cuba, as against Trinidad; that I over-estimate German influence in the country, etc., etc. But through it all I fear that Mr. Taurel fails to realise the British Empire's side of the question as represented mainly by Trinidad, and the feelings and aspirations of the colonists there thereon—the whole *raison d'être* of my letter.

It is the favoured geographical position which Trinidad occupies in regard to Venezuelan trade that has to be realised—and, shall I say, recognised. Placed as it were by Providence right at the mouth of one of the world's greatest rivers, and a river that is more the highway and byway to every part of Venezuela than is any other river to any other country in the world, yet Trinidad merchants find all their unrivalled natural advantages, and all their efforts to build up a commensurate trade, upset by the imposition of the 30 per cent. embargo. Mr. Taurel corrects me when I call it an embargo. Let the tariff manipulators call it what they may, but let us use plain terms. Most of us have yet to learn that a 30 per cent. addition to a Customs duty is anything less than an embargo; and an embargo it is in effect and intention, as is seen from its results on Trinidad's trade. I used the right word.

Similarly, we have to realise that the embargo affects Trinidad far more than any other place. Mr. Taurel points out that it applies not only to Trinidad, but to all West Indian Colonies, including Cuba and Porto Rico, which is, of course, well known. But I fail to see why, because Holland—as represented by Curacao, the other place affected (though in far less degree than Trinidad, it should be noted)—sees fit to submit to it, we should do so too. Such an argument places the British Empire in the rear rank—in a follow-my-leader position—and to me is on a par with the idea that because Mrs. Brown has to take in other people's washing, Mrs. Bill must too. Moreover, by being so far away, in natural advantages and consequent losses caused by the embargo, Curacao's and Trinidad's positions in regard to the Orinoco trade—the fundamental point of my letter—are utterly different. Again we must deal with facts—that is, with facts as they are. As for Porto Rico and Cuba, as distributing points both are too far out of the way geographically, and out of the path of established shipping lines, to be in the running at all. Thus it is the British Empire, as represented by Trinidad, that is the main nation affected by the Venezuelan embargo.

As for the embargo being devised to aid Venezuela by introducing capital from the outside world for building railways, etc., that may possibly have been the view of some of its supporters. But of the real reason a good deal of doubt exists even among Venezuelan officials. Probably one of the chief reasons was a belief that by some means or other Trinidad and Curacao merchants enjoyed advantages over those of Venezuela. May I quote here from a letter sent me by a prominent Venezuelan official when I was taking up this question some years ago?—

"You must keep in mind the reason for the measure being instituted. It was instituted for the purpose of preventing the merchants at Trinidad and Curacao from enjoying an unfair competition with products of European and American origin. As Port of Spain and Willemstad are free ports, merchants of these places could introduce articles into Venezuela at cheaper rates, and so heat the European importers and the Venezuelan merchants. . . . The prevention of smuggling was also an object of the measure."

How Trinidad merchants could beat the Venezuelan

merchants—lest by superior banking and credit facilities then existing—by introducing goods at cheaper rates, since all would obviously have to pay the same duties, it is difficult to see; but such a view, coming from a prominent official, does show the good purpose that would come from a full discussion of this question with Venezuela, as I advocated before.

All the better purpose would be served, too, by this full discussion if we consider Venezuela's present-day position. Mr. Taurel's contention that from a development standpoint the policy has been highly successful, would not appear to be borne out by the facts. With a rich territory of 394,000 square miles, the country has only some 540 miles of railroad—less even than the mileage of the Montreal City tramway system. Even her overseas trade (by which alone can we judge the material progress of an agricultural country like Venezuela) totals but £3,500,000—scarcely more than that of Trinidad itself, despite the latter's area of but 1,700 odd miles. This record does not look much like success for any policy. However, while these, strictly speaking, are matters for Venezuela herself, no harm could come of our pointing out in a friendly spirit the greater good that could be expected from a freer and fuller use of the great waterway of the country. After that it should need no argument to show how Trinidad merchants, with their record for enterprise, could assist in the work of development, given these better facilities.

As for the Canadian view, Mr. Taurel, in telling us we have the same advantages as the United States, appreciates our difficulties and aspirations little better than he does those of Trinidad, I fear. For Canada, let it be said that at the moment her main interest in the question is one of sympathy for a sister British colony—a sympathy backed up by a strong determination gained from the lessons of this War, that if we of the Empire are to benefit to the full in future, we must—simply MUST, that every part must—take advantage of every facility it possesses. In a more strictly trade sense, our steamers run to Trinidad, while there are the merchants with whom we have been accustomed to deal, and who, given the opportunity, have all the facilities through which we could readily build up a valuable trade with Venezuela. In a word, we have in this sister-colony a gateway already constructed through which we could at once transact successful business; but the lock on what we regard as our front door into the country forces upon us the necessity of going round by the long and devious route of the side entrance. Why, it would take years!

As for German influence in Venezuela, which Mr. Taurel thinks I over-estimate, I can but regret that Mr. Taurel, by making reference to the great quantity of British goods handled by German firms, should seemingly extol German firms as being a boon to British trade. That German firms do handle British goods is undisputed. It is in this way, usually, that they have obtained their start, gradually working in their own country's lines as opportunity permitted, and thus displacing British trade. And German trade influence means political influence exerted in the interests of their own country, as two and a half years of woeful experience in many directions has, or should have, taught us. But coming more immediately to Venezuela, the British Empire's and Germany's trade with that country before the war ran about the same—about 38,000,000 bolivars annually in both cases. As pretty well all German cargo will, in customary fashion, be handled by German firms, and Mr. Taurel tells us that these handle immense quantities of British goods, too, we get from Mr. Taurel himself an idea of the extent of German influence in Venezuela, without any further argument being required of me. That influence has, as stated before, been persistently exerted in favour of the retention of the tariff embargo.

But we do not need to go to foreign countries to see how German influence is exerted against the British Empire. When, some years ago, I was sent to the West Indies to overcome foreign opposition to our reciprocity treaty with those Colonies, it was no less a person than the regular German Consul who was my principal opponent in Trinidad. Two somewhat stormy interviews did not put a stop to his activities. It speaks of the extent of German designs, even in peace time, that one of our leading Ministers later said that, had Trinidad not come

in, Canada would have been forced to have "entirely reconsidered" the question of West India reciprocity; intimating clearly thereby that had Trinidad not come in, there would to-day be no Canadian-West Indian reciprocity agreement. In this event the Empire would be without what is, up to now, its widest and most complete preferential arrangement, and all the influence this has exerted, and will exert in the near future, on inter-Imperial relations. Happily the Trinidad people acted with the loyalty that was to have been expected; but we have no reason to thank the Germans for that, nor to whitewash them, whether they live in Venezuela or anywhere else.

Yours faithfully,
ELWYN P. MOUSIR.

Montreal, December 25th, 1916.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Antigua Sugar Factory Ltd.

The Directors, in their Twelfth Annual Report, state that the Company has had a very successful year in all respects. The island had the best growing season since 1891, which was said to have been the very best ever seen. The crops on the original contracting estates have been 50 per cent. heavier than their average throughout the previous eleven years of the factory's history, and this probably represents the position over the island generally. The sucrose in the cane, as might be expected in such an abnormal year, was very considerably below the average. There has been a striking improvement in the recovery of the sugar from the canes, begun last year and carried further this year, the result of improved manufacturing methods and alterations in plant. In the three years 1912-14, the factory's work was probably equal to any in the British West Indies, but the gain from improved work this year, as compared with these years, amounts to a sum that would cover the year's expenditure on salaries, wages, repairs, and maintenance. Dr. Watts, in a review of the factory's work for the season, states that it is "of a very high order, closely approaching to what is economically possible." The price of sugar has again ruled at a high level.

The crop season was protracted up to the 16th September, to the prejudice of all concerned—delaying the field work on estates and shortening the time for growth of ratoons; also increasing the running expenses of the factory and entailing loss of sucrose in the canes as the season advanced. The factory plant is capable of dealing with even a "bumper" crop like the present by the end of July. The chief cause of the prolongation was that many estates had not sufficient labour to reap the unusually heavy crop within the usual time. But the trouble would have been less if the reaping had been carried out on Mondays and Tuesdays as on the other days of the week. The Directors would urge the proprietors and managers of the estates to give this their earnest attention. To cut extra canes on Fridays and Saturdays and save them up till Mondays only does harm owing to the deterioration of the juice. The following figures give the result of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
Canes	39,371	70,349	83,030	81,520	112,356* tons
Sugar	6,235	7,415	9,150	6,390	12,371
Sucrose in Cane ..	14.22	12.92	13.50	12.00	12.52 p.c.
Sucrose in Megasse ..	4.91	3.08	3.60	3.05	3.01 ..
Purity of Juice ..	83.88	83.01	84.67	83.07	83.95 ..
Recovery of Sucrose ..	70.76	78.18	79.09	82.60	84.48 ..
Yield of Sugar 36 deg.	30.50	30.54	31.03	30.25	31.01 ..
Price of Sugar per ton	£13/5/3	£9/6/7	£9/1/6	£16/7/9	£17/13/6

After charging Revenue with £9,500 for Debenture and Addition Sinking Funds, there remains a surplus of £69,967 9s. 10d. to be allocated as follows, in terms of the Agreements:—To new contractors (£23,829 7s. 5d., equal to 6 6.81d. per ton of canes (making total price 24 11½ per ton); to original contractors (£23,069 1s. 3d., equal to 13/6.99d. per ton of canes (making total price

* The difference between this figure and the quantity given in the Accounts arises from a deduction made on Uba canes which had not been adjusted in the Accounts at time of rendering.

30/11 per ton); to "A" Shareholders £23,069 1s. 2d., making a total at their credit (after crediting interest on the undistributed balance) of £38,189 17s. 5d. It is proposed to distribute 10/- per share, or £6,250, carrying forward the balance of £31,939 17s. 5d., subject to liability for Excess Profit Duty.

The balance sheet shows that the share capital is £1,250, and debentures outstanding £17,500, while amortisations, including debentures paid off and cancelled, reserve fund (£3,000), and sinking fund for debentures and additions (£22,500) account for £68,000. The assets include cash in hand £1,053 0s. 8d., debtors £1,685 14s. 3d., stocks of sugar and molasses (since mostly realised) £99,145 7s. 2d., and stores, etc., £14,717 9s. 7d. Factory and railways stand in the books at £102,961 4s. 5d., including £57,602 9s. 8d. for additions to September 30th last.

The profit and loss account shows that 112,464 tons of cane were purchased at the average price of 17/10½ per ton. Factory charges amounted to £32,118 11s., or £2 11s. 11d. per ton of sugar; railway transport £6,384 18s. 10d., or 10/3½ per ton; and administrative charges £1,159 10s. 2d., or 1/10½ per ton. The sugar and molasses sold realised £218,771 9s. 4d. and £9,291 19s. 11d. respectively.

OUR LIBRARY.

Tropical Agriculture: The Climate, Soils, Cultural Methods, Crops, Live Stock, Commercial Importance and Opportunities of the Tropics. By Earley Vernon Wilcox, A.M., Ph.D. London: Appleton, 10s. 6d. net.

Primarily written for American readers, this little volume will, nevertheless, prove very useful to the tropical planter the world over. Dr. Wilcox is an official of the United States Department of Agriculture, and to those who know the keen and intelligent interest which that Department has recently taken in the development of the tropical dependencies of the States, any work by one of its chiefs, must command respect. It may be

said at once, that much of the advice which Mr. Wilcox has to give to the prospective planter does not apply to our Crown Colonies, where cheap native labour is an essential element in agriculture. It might, of course, be useful to those contemplating residence in Queensland, where the white man is expected to perform manual work. In all other respects, however, the book makes a general appeal; and should be in the library of every planter.

The scheme of the work is excellent. Dr. Wilcox deals briefly with practically all the plants of economic value which are amenable to cultivation. He does not perhaps tell the experienced planter of any of the cultures described, much that is new; but the usefulness of the volume lies not so much in the novelty as in the comprehensiveness of its contents. We well know the evil of putting all one's eggs in one basket, and if the perusal of the book before us induces planters to take up, what we may call secondary crops, it will have done good. The value of this or that tropical product varies from time to time, but, on the whole and speaking broadly, values generally are rising, and are not likely to fall again, and there are many crops which planters in the West Indies and elsewhere might cultivate with advantage as additions to their main interest.

In this regard Dr. Wilcox should prove a valuable guide, for he gives just the hints that are required. The particular crop under discussion is described, and its rate of growth, fruitfulness, profit per acre, supply, demand, and the soil and climate required are all given; and as the range is as wide as the world at the equator, there is a suggestion for everyone. Fruits, gums, oils, spices, fibres, perfumes, are all dealt with, and in many cases the descriptions are accompanied by photographic illustrations.

Apart from the main theme of the work, Dr. Wilcox has much to say with regard to tropical conditions, and his advice to the white emigrant in the matter of hygiene is thoroughly sound. To most of our readers this will be a thrice-told tale, but it is a tale which always bears re-telling, for even the oldest inhabitant needs reminding

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures, published below, showing the export of produce from the British West Indies during last year to December 15th (except where otherwise specified), have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Antigua (a)	Bar- bados (b)	British Guiana.	British Honduras	Domi- nica.	Grenada.	Jamaica (c)	Mont- serrat (e)	St. Lucia (e)	St. Kitts- Nevis (e)	St. Vincent (e)	Trinidad
Arrowroot Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,711,360	—
Asphalt Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89,948
Palata Lbs.	—	—	1,217,111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,100
Bananas Bchs.	—	—	—	850,830	—	—	3,460,641	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65,204
Cacao Lbs.	—	—	46,619	11,379	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54,039,928
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	11,968,037	49,315	3,274	1,557,421	—	—	—
Coco-nuts No.	—	—	1,368,227	5,279,324	—	—	18,012,815	—	65,522	—	—	17,107,906
Coffee Lbs.	—	—	499,098	—	—	—	46,459	—	—	—	—	2,401
Cocoa Lbs.	—	—	325,925	164,854	—	—	—	—	7,332	—	—	2,934,880
Colton, M. Galante Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	349,032	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	77,700	143,024	—	—	—	—	77,350	370,683	—	307,624	219,315	7,921
Cotton Seed ... Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	184	—	699	—	—
Diamonds Carats	—	—	11,407	—	—	301	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyewoods Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	64,339	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,856	—	—	—	—	—
Gold Ozs.	—	—	33,778	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs. & hrls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	182	4,486	—
Honey Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	124,909	—	29,050	—	—	1,405
Lime juice, raw Galls.	118	—	—	—	—	150,525	—	105,999	1,895	—	—	20,306
... .. contd. "	—	—	—	—	—	750	—	2,788	14,907	—	—	—
... .. Oil "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	658	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) Lbs.	—	—	51,402	—	—	—	—	12,880	—	—	—	—
Logwood Tons	—	—	—	7,128	—	—	—	—	607	—	—	—
Lumber Feet	—	—	350,928	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100
Mahogany "	—	—	—	4,740,840	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak Tons	—	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	163
Molasses Galls.	406,200	8,736,860	—	—	—	—	—	12,638	3,000	339,650	12,982	526,626
Oranges No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,782,300	—	—	—	—	511,741
Oils, Essential Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	151	—	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33,313,569
Pimento Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,478,050	—	—	—	—	—
Rice Lbs.	—	—	38,059,487	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber Lbs.	—	—	14,604	2,617	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42,476
Rum Galls.	—	91,647	3,991,802	1,949	—	—	1,471,197	—	14,247	728	8,733	554,175
Shingles No.	—	—	2,122,750	—	—	1,028	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar Tons	14,588	51,568	91,494	305	—	—	34,209	392	4,599	15,639	494	56,607
Timber Feet	—	—	123,835	351,351	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80,572

a To August 31st. b To Nov. 25th. c To Sept. 30th. d To Oct. 31st. e To Nov. 30th.

NOTE.—In the last Export Table the Barbados export of molasses was inadvertently credited to British Guiana.

at times, that exercise is even more necessary in the tropics than in so-called temperate climates. Dr. Wilcox maintains that the climate of the tropics is the only true temperate climate; the really intemperate zones being those which exhibit the two extremes of hot and cold. On the effect which forests and de-forestation have upon tropical lands, particularly islands, Dr. Wilson has much to say that is both arresting and convincing. His notes on tropical soils are also of value, and we have much pleasure in commending the book to the attention of our readers.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.

January 24th, 1917.

BANK RATE, which has been 6 per cent. as from July 13, 1916, was reduced to 5½ per cent. on the 18th inst. The first War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 85½, the second War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 99½, and Consols at 53½.

The new War Loan was opened to the public for subscriptions on the 12th inst. It is divided into two classes, the one bearing interest at 5 per cent., and repayable 1929-1947, issued at 95; and the other bearing interest at 4, free from Income Tax, issued at 100, and redeemable 1929-1942. Both classes will be redeemed at par. Holders of Second (4½ per cent.) War Loan and £5 per cent. and £6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds may convert their holdings in whole or in part into stock in the new loan on the basis of £105 5s. 3d. of the 5 per cent. War Loan for every £100 converted, or of £100 4 per cent. War Loan for each £100 converted. The loan is being readily subscribed, and subscriptions will be further stimulated by addresses in various parts of the country by Cabinet Ministers prior to February 16th, when the subscription lists will be closed.

SUGAR. The sugar position of the United Kingdom as regards the consumer continues acute, and his struggle against the inevitable in the shape of the determination of the Government to reduce consumption continues. Low grade molasses sugars, black in colour, are still sold by grocers at the same price as white Javas or refiners' granulated. These, with a wealth of imagery, are described in the shops as "Fine Barbados"—a tribute to the reputation that island has for the quality of its sugar, but hardly pleasing to the Barbados planter. Lord Devonport, the Food Controller, has not yet indicated the means by which he proposes to equalise the distribution of the available sugar, but in the face of the announcement by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply that the January distribution to the trade would only be to the extent of one-half of the consumption of January, 1915, the publication of a rationing scheme may take place at any moment. The amount liberated from bond in that month was 132,000 tons. The distribution will, therefore, only be 66,000 tons, about equal to the output of our own refineries. Of this, quite 15,000 tons will go to confectioners and brewers.

Lord Devonport has made an attempt to stop extravagance in confectionery consumption by fixing the maximum rate payable for chocolates at 4/- per lb. and for "sweets" 2/8 per lb. As the excessive consumption of this class of goods has been in grades below these maxima, the demand is not likely to be much affected thereby.

The question of excess profits as regards sugar producing proprietors in this country has been decided by the Board of Referees. As regards the West Indies and British Guiana, the decision is as follows:—

FINANCE (No. 2) Act, 1915. PART III. EXCESS PROFITS.

Algernon Edward Aspinall, of 15, Seething Lane, in the City of London, Robert Wilson Tomlinson, of 134, Wellington Street, Glasgow; and William Speed, of 3, Cook Street, Liverpool, having, as the Secretaries of the West India Committee, the West India Association of Glasgow, and the West India Association of Liverpool, respectively, made application under this Act to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for an increase of the Statutory per-

centage as respects the class of trade or business herein-after defined, that is to say:—

"The business of growing sugar-canes, or growing and manufacturing cane sugar, in the British West Indies and in British Guiana";

AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF INLAND REVENUE having referred the case to the Board of Referees appointed for the purpose of Part III. of this Act by the Treasury;

AND THE BOARD having heard the applicants and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue by their duly appointed representatives upon the merits of the said applications, and having dealt with the case,

THE BOARD DOETH ORDER that as from the commencement of this Act the Statutory percentage as respects the business hereinbefore defined shall be increased to eleven per cent. In the case of a business carried on or owned by a Company or body Corporate, and to twelve per cent. in the case of any other trade or business.

(Signed)

C. BONE RENSILAW,

Chairman.

J. K. F. CLEAVLY,

D. DU B. DAVIDSON,

Joint Registrars.

The 14th day of January, 1917.

In the case of Mauritius proprietors, the sanctioned percentage has been fixed at 11½ for companies and 12½ for private individuals. The rate being higher than for the West Indies is due to the larger field capital required in Mauritius than in those Colonies.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply is to be reconstructed. As a preliminary step, Lord Devonport has been appointed Chairman.

Messrs. Willett and Gray have published some interesting details as to sugar in the United States for the year which has just passed. The consumption was 3,658,607 tons, a decrease of 142,921 tons or 3.759 per cent. on the 1915 consumption. The American sugar included in the consumption was: Louisiana, Texas, and Arizona cane sugar, 221,978 tons; United States beet sugar, 700,256 tons; Hawaiian cane sugar, 533,960 tons; Porto Rican cane sugar, 392,733 tons; Philippine Islands cane sugar, 111,182 tons; coupled with various sugars from foreign molasses, United States maple, etc., 14,000 tons; bringing the total United States sugar consumed to 1,977,118 tons, as against 1,939,200 in 1915. The amount of the preferential Cuban sugar consumed was 1,666,548 tons, against 1,841,602 tons in 1915; while there were only 14,941 tons of full-duty sugar represented in the consumption. Only 132,257 tons were consumed in the raw or plantation state.

The above figures show that there will be quite 1,750,000 tons of Cuban sugar free for the world's general purposes from the present crop.

The exports of refined sugar amounted to 694,369 tons during the year. Of this, 415,611 tons went to Great Britain and France, 9,772 tons to Switzerland, 60,921 tons to Norway, 3,267 tons to Denmark, 23,398 tons to Greece, 8,440 tons to Holland, 11,570 tons to Belgium, 2,178 tons to Gibraltar, 12,050 tons to Spain, 1,350 tons to Portugal, and 19,576 tons to Italy.

The balance sheet of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation shows that on a capital of \$52,500,000, a net profit, after deducting \$1,250,000 for depreciation, of \$12,179,075 was made. \$2,327,508 was devoted to dividends, the balance being carried to surplus account. The production of the Company for last crop was 452,035 tons. It is proposed to increase the output to 750,000 tons in 1919.

The trouble of the Queensland sugar producers in connection with the Dickson labour award, to which reference has already been made in the Summary, continues, according to last advices. The Australian Sugar Producers' Association applied for a writ of prohibition against the award, the case coming before the Queensland Full Court. The five judges disagreed, and the case is now being carried before the High Court of Australia. The whole future of Australian sugar depends upon the decision.

The European beet crops are turning out much less than was estimated. Willett and Gray, in their last estimate, put the output as 5,039,000 tons. The "Deutsche Zuckerindustrie" not long ago estimated it at 4,856,000 tons, but there is every reason to believe that even this lower figure will not be reached, and 100,000 tons at least may be taken off the latter estimate. This means a drop

in the European production of nearly 2,750,000 tons in two years. The want of fertilizers is stated to have much to do with this.

Mr. Prothero, the new Minister of Agriculture, has pronounced strongly in favour of a home beet sugar industry, and indicated that the Government policy would be in the direction of a guarantee on the interest on capital required for new factories.

Prices in the home market remain as before, viz., 47/1½ for Tate's cubes, 41/7½ for standard granulated, white Java, and average quality West Indian crystallised. Average quality muscovado is worth 40/7½, and average syrups 38/7½.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from 1st to 13th January are:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	469	2,957	3,572 tons.
Deliveries	1,557	2,321	1,920 ..
Stocks (Jan. 13) ...	6,927	11,636	7,661 ..

The American market has remained steady, with a downward tendency, since the date of the last Summary. On the 16th the value of 96° duty paid Cubans fell to \$5.27, subsequently dropping to \$5.21, and later on to \$5.02, at which figure they stand to-day. Granulated remains steady at \$6.65.

The Cuban crop is not progressing so favourably as it did last year. The juice is poor, and there is considerable delay from late machinery arrivals and railway trouble. On the 13th inst. 148 factories were working as against 155 at the same time last year and a total of 200. At the same date this crop's deliveries were 155,719 tons, as against 325,772 tons to the corresponding date last year.

RUM. The tone of the market since our last has been quite steady, with business passing in Jamaica spot parcels of ordinary quality at 4/6 to 4/7 (recent distillation). Demeraras are quoted at 3/6 to 3/6½ proof.

The stocks in London on January 18th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	11,182	6,247	6,130 puns.
Demerata	9,892	3,955	5,857 ..
Total of all kinds ...	35,558	20,227	17,392 ..

CAOAO. The market has improved, and the loss of a 3,000 ton cargo gave some strength. At auction on the 16th 6,936 bags were offered, of which 2,500 were disposed of. Of the West Indian descriptions put up for sale, 19 bags of Trinidad out of 99 changed hands at 78/- for fine plantation; 1,336 bags of Grenada sold at from 60/- to 69/-, an advance of 1/-. Some St. Lucia sold at 68/- to 69/-. The Dominica, Jamaica and St. Vincent lots were bought in. At auction on the 23rd, 11,234 bags were offered, and met with good demand. Grenada was represented by 2,328 bags, and these sold at an advance of 2/- per cwt. Trinidad was bought in. Grenada mostly sold at 62/- to 71/6. Dominica was disposed of at 60/- to 68/-; 937 bags St. Lucia was mostly sold at 60/- to 71/-; Jamaica fetched 62/-.

The stocks in London on January 13th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,237	7,054	5,792 bags.
Grenada	11,305	6,607	5,153 ..
Total of all kinds ...	207,491	99,116	54,616 ..

FRUIT. Bananas. West Indian £17 per ton (truck loads); Jamaica Coco-nuts 25/- per bag (100's). Demand good in all lines.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice. Raw remains quiet with no business reported. Concentrated: Small sales at £22. Lime Oil. Handpressed. Small sales up to 14/- per lb. Nothing doing in distilled. Citrate. Buyers' £28 10s.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that all descriptions of Sea Island cotton have remained very firm since the last Summary, and some sales have been made at 34d. to 36d.

COPRA. The market has been inactive, with scarcely any demand. Prices are nominal at £43 10s. to £44, usual c.i.f. terms.

HONEY was 2/6 to 5/- dearer at last auctions, when Jamaica sold at 49/- to 63/- for dark liquid to white set. Cuban sold at 42/- to 55/6; and San Domingo at 48/- to 54/- per cwt.

SPOICES. There is still very little demand for Jamaica Ginger, only small transactions being reported at unchanged rates. Pimento. Only a small business doing at 3½d. per lb. for spot parcels. No business is reported on c.i.f. terms. Owing to a printer's error the value was given in last Summary at 3/0½ instead of 3½d. Nutmegs are steady at last rates. Mace. Blood red may be quoted at 1d. to 2d. per lb. advance.

RUBBER. The market is steady and a fair daily business is doing at about 2/11 to 3/- for best grades of plantation rubber. Owing to the submarine danger and the sinking of so many ships the freight question from the East both to London and New York is becoming more acute and lower prices than the above are not looked for. The demand for rubber for war purposes is still very large, and in spite of the large stock—about 10,000 tons—in London, new arrivals are selling readily.

BALATA Venezuela block is firm. Buyers' price 2/10½ c.i.f.; Panama block may be quoted at 2/5½ c.i.f. nominal. West Indian sheet is dearer at 3/8 to 3/9 London landed terms.

ARROWROOT. Fair sales are reported, chiefly at 3½d. to 3½½d., with a few at 2½d. to 2½d.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Major, the Hon. J. G. Burdon, C.M.G. | Mr. John T. Greg | Hon. D. McDonald |
| Mrs. Burdon | Mr. Wm. Greig | Mr. Albert Mendes |
| Mr. Paul Cressall | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Mr. Alfred Mendes |
| Mr. H. J. Crowe | Mrs. E. Haynes | Mr. John T. Moir |
| Mr. W. de Gale | Dr. M. H. C. Irving | Miss Moseley |
| Sir Walter Egerton | Mr. E. C. Jackman | Dr. Frank Olliphant |
| K.C.M.G. | Hon. E. LaBorde | Mr. T. W. O'Neal |
| Mr. C. V. A. Espeut | Mr. E. K. Lane | Mr. T. Ord |
| Mr. Edgar Garnett | Hon. A. Don. Lockhart | Miss E. Robinson |
| Mr. Robert Gill | Mr. A. Marsden | Mr. R. B. Short |
| Mr. Frank Goodwin | Mr. T. M. Marshall | and |
| | Mr. A. L. McColl | 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, 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.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend	Latest Quotations.	Prices Jan 24.
Antigua ... 4 %	Redeemable 1919-44	77
Barbados ... 3½ %	Redeemable 1925-42	76½
British Guiana ... 4 %	Redeemable 1935	85½
British Guiana ... 3 %	Redeemable 1923-45	74½
Grenada ... 4 %	Redeemable 1917-42	81
Jamaica ... 4 %	Redeemable 1934	69
Jamaica ... 3½ %	Redeemable 1919-49	79½
Jamaica ... 3 %	Redeemable 1922-44	63½
St. Lucia ... 4 %	Redeemable 1919-44	82½
Trinidad ... 4 %	Redeemable 1917-42	80½
Trinidad ... 3 %	Redeemable 1922-44	63½
The Colonial Bank		6
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		111
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		82½
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4½ % Debentures		88
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures		87½
Imperial Direct Line 4½ % Debentures		103½
Angostura Bitters Part. Preference		78-1½
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures		103
Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)		6½
Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)		13½
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 3
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6 % Cum. 1st Pref.		61
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 2nd		6
W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures		96

West India Committee Circular.

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February 7th, 1917.

VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD.

THE time has, we venture to think, come when a definite statement should be made by the Foreign Office as to the question of the differential surtax of 30 per cent. imposed by the Government of Venezuela on imports into that country from the West Indian island. Owing to the favourable position which Trinidad occupies near the mouths of the Orinoco, that island is the natural port of transhipment for goods for Ciudad Bolivar and ports on that mighty river; but its geographical advantages have been neutralised by this practically prohibitive surtax. On this subject an interesting correspondence has recently been proceeding in these columns, in which MR. M. J. TAUREL and MR. ELWYN MOUSIR have taken part. MR. TAUREL, who is a gentleman whose business takes him frequently to Venezuela, and whose views must therefore carry weight, repudiates the suggestion made by MR. MOUSIR that the surtax owes its origin and maintenance to German influence. He holds that it was imposed with the object of developing Venezuela by encouraging direct trade. This, on the face of it, is not an unreasonable suggestion, but what MR. TAUREL overlooks is that the surtax—which, by the way, has been in force for less than thirty-five years, and not nearly fifty years, as he states—forms a direct contravention of existing treaties. Let us recall the facts. The decree imposing the extra duty was promulgated by PRESIDENT GUZMAN BLANCO on June 4th, 1881, and came into operation on May 3rd, 1882. The British Government at once protested against the surtax, LORD GRANVILLE, the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, describing it in a dispatch to the British Minister at Caracas as a grave infraction of the Treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Colombia, which was formally confirmed by

Great Britain and Venezuela in 1834, after that State had declared its independence. The surtax has since been the subject of repeated protests on the part of the British Government, and of constant diplomatic negotiations; but after thirty-five years it is still a thorn in the side of Trinidad. Reference to any recent Blue-book of the colony will show how the export trade to Venezuela is crippled by it. Thus, in 1915-16, whilst the imports into Trinidad from that country were valued at £261,629, the exports to it figured at £69,495 only. Setting on one side the question as to who was responsible for the impost, we are glad to learn from MR. TAUREL that, in his opinion, it would not now be difficult to come to an agreement with the Government of Venezuela for the abolition of the surtax. The present Ministry in that country is a great improvement in every respect on many of its predecessors, and is essentially more businesslike. In the circumstances, though one does not like making what is the West Indies' right, established by treaties, a matter of arrangement, it would seem to be well worth a further effort to secure an agreement for the withdrawal of the differential duty, even if it were to involve concessions on our part.

THE SCHOOL OF SUGAR MANUFACTURE.

AT the last meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee it was decided to support the School of Sugar Manufacture of the Royal Technical College of Glasgow, and MESSRS. CURTIS, CAMPBELL & Co. have headed the list of subscriptions with a contribution of £500, to be spread over five years. The College, of which MR. H. F. STOCKDALE, brother of MR. F. A. STOCKDALE, formerly Assistant Director of Agriculture in British Guiana, and now of Ceylon, is Director, was established in 1886, as the Glasgow and West Scotland Technical College, by an Order in Council of QUEEN VICTORIA, to incorporate several well-known institutions, namely, Anderson's College, the "Young" Chair of Technical Chemistry, the College of Science and Arts, and Allan Glen's Institution, the first-named of which dated from 1796. In February, 1912, KING GEORGE V. honoured the College by directing that in future it should be known by its present name, "The Royal Technical College." The Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of Glasgow, as well as the local University, are represented on the Board of Governors, and, generally speaking, the organisation of the College leaves nothing to be desired. Owing largely to the efforts of MR. W. SCOTT HEKTOU, who called attention to the claims of the British sugar industry to attention in this respect, the Board in 1910 definitely decided to include the manufacture and chemistry of sugar in their curriculum. Subscriptions to this end were

solicited, and in 1911 a lecturer was appointed, and the work was commenced in the winter session. The scheme was to some extent tentative; but at the end of the first five years it proved to be so successful that it has been decided to extend it for a further period of five years pending the permanent endowment of the sugar school which it is hoped eventually to effect. As a centre for a school of this kind, it is obvious that Glasgow is exceptionally well situated, being as it is closely identified with the cane sugar industry of the world, and having sent its engineers, its mechanics, and its agriculturists to every part of the tropics. It has, moreover, the advantages of being the hub of a large sugar machinery and refining industry, besides possessing a University, a thoroughly equipped Technical College, and a College of Agriculture. In a word, the claims of Glasgow to be the centre of sugar study are unimpeachable. Now that the active development of the British sugar industry has at last entered the region of practical politics, it is more important than ever that young men should be trained in the rudiments of chemistry and manufacture. Even with the preference for British sugar in British markets which is their birthright, producers in the tropics will be left behind in the competition to be anticipated after the War if they do not keep abreast of the times, and we hope in the circumstances that MESSRS. CURTIS, CAMPBELL & Co.'s generous example will be followed by British sugar proprietors generally, and that the Glasgow Sugar School will be placed in a position to carry on the good work which it has been doing with redoubled energy.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Is Germany Starving?

Why does Germany allow the most harrowing accounts of the sufferings endured by her people, due to the shortage of food, to issue in a stream to the outside world? She may either be in the desperate straits of which we hear so much, and desire to enlist neutral opinion on her behalf in neutral countries with a view to a speedy peace, or she may be merely pulling the strings so as to produce a feeling of optimism in Allied countries, which she hopes may tend to a relaxation of their efforts in the War. That there is genuine distress, if not semi-starvation, in Germany is certain, but one doubts that it is widespread enough to so weaken the population as to induce their rulers to think of surrender. What these are playing for is a cessation of hostilities before the Spring, because then Germany would hold most of the cards. The hunger cry is one of them. That is why it is just as well the Allied Governments are discounting it, at any rate where preparation for the vigorous continuance of the War is concerned.

Allied War Council in Petrograd.

In continuance of the policy for securing unity of direction and co-ordination in breaking down the enemy's resistance, the Entente Powers are holding War Councils in the different capitals.

The latest is sitting in Petrograd, with Lord Milner as the chief British representative, than whom there could not be a better choice. It is not possible to say yet that these meetings have had a marked effect on operations either on land or sea. If they had, the course of events both in Roumania and Greece would be more favourable than it is, though the situation in Greece is improving. At sea, on the confession of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the blockade is not yet perfect, while other people call it half-hearted—an echo of their complaint having been the interpellation in the French Chamber recently when some frank criticism was made on the want of vigour in our naval pressure upon Germany. The fact that we are only taking steps now to tighten up the blockade which should have been taken two years ago, is the measure of our statesmen's want of grip. Again, why should the Foreign Office be in control of such a vital matter at all? Where is the Admiralty?

The Swiss Frontier.

For some time past there have been authenticated reports of German troops massing on the Swiss frontier. On such a scale has it been, indeed, that it has aroused the misgivings of the Swiss, who have taken the necessary military precautions to enforce their neutrality in the event of Germany attempting to use their country as she used Belgium. Speculation is rife as to the likelihood of the enemy violating Swiss territory in order to gain access to the flank of the French, avoiding the gap at Belfort. Here is the only practical road to France which he has not tried, but what the gain would be as the result of such a hazardous adventure it is difficult to see. The conquests of Serbia and Roumania were as child's-play to what the conquest of Switzerland would be. It is more than possible that Germany contemplates an advance through Lorraine, whose railway system has been designed and organised for War. If so, she will be resuming a plan which was interrupted when the time-table on the Western front went wrong, and her most strenuous efforts were vainly directed towards outflanking the Allies in Flanders.

In the Riga Sector.

The Russian success around Mitau spurred the enemy to launch counter-attacks, preceded by a violent bombardment, which partially attained their object, since our Allies fell back again over a mile. But they have renewed the struggle, the fighting ebbing and flowing, in spite of the deep snow and intense cold. Evidently the Germans have brought up reinforcements from other sectors to hold a position which is essential to their system of defences in this region.

In the Danube Delta.

The danger of throwing a detachment across a river has just been demonstrated at the expense of the Bulgarians, 1,000 of whom forced the passage of the St. George, one of the mouths of the Danube, and reached the northern bank. Two days later, without any artillery practice, the Russians delivered a surprise attack on these advan-

turous Bulgarians and annihilated them, capturing one-third of their number. A few days later the Russians took the offensive in the Bukovina with such success that they broke the enemy's front and advanced so as to carry their positions within two miles of Jakobeny, an important road centre. Not only were 1,000 prisoners captured, but many guns. The success was followed up by a determined attack on the heights near Jakobeny, two of which were taken, and an additional 1,000 prisoners. The importance of Russian activity here is that it may be the preliminary to a drive towards Halicz, the key to Lemberg, which is so tightly held by Bothmer.

The Western Front.

The Germans have made another heavy attack on Verdun, this time in the region of Hill 304, but, as usual, were repulsed. Like all the present operations on both sides, it had no special military significance, but was preparatory to greater happenings in the near future.

The British, owing to the fact that the ground has been hardened by frost, have been making a series of successful raids on enemy positions. The most notable of them was carried out on the Kaiser's birthday, January 27th, when a thrust was made in the vicinity of Le Transloy. By this raid not only was a commanding portion of the enemy's position gained and consolidated, but 350 prisoners were captured. This success was followed up by another two days later in the neighbourhood of the Butte de Warlencourt, a strong enemy position guarding Bapaume. As a result, the pressure on that place has been increased, the British now being within two miles of it.

Greece.

A full apology for the outrage on Anglo-French forces on December 1st has been tendered and accepted. In public token of it, the flags of the Allies have been saluted in Athens in a picturesque and impressive ceremony. In the meantime, steps are being taken to disarm and concentrate in the Peloponnesus the troops who have remained loyal to the King. Whether or not his acquiescence in Allied demands can be depended upon, many people doubt, particularly as the released Venizelists are being subjected to petty persecutions. As the Germans may not be in a position to fortify his courage by a fresh campaign in Macedonia, however, his power for mischief may be at an end.

Mr. Wilson on Peace.

In a speech to the Senate, the President went over pacifist arguments with reference to the War. He said there "must" be a peace without victory, because victory would leave a sense of humiliation behind it, which would beget bad feeling in the vanquished. This is entirely falsified by history, particularly in the United States; for, though Confederacy was beaten to a finish, so far from leaving a sting in the South, the Union was never more united. Nor did the Republic practice this strange doctrine in concluding her war with Spain, the two countries being on at least as good terms with one another as with other Powers. What Mr.

Wilson means by "the freedom of the seas," he cannot make practical people understand, though what Germany means by the phrase he is now learning to the cost of himself and his country. Up to the present the only guarantee for the freedom of the seas has been the British Navy. What does Mr. Wilson propose to substitute for it?

The New German Note.

Germany has hoisted the black flag, announcing through the United States to the world that, with minor reservations, all merchantmen as well as hospital ships are to be sunk at sight. She graciously permits America, under strict regulations, to send one vessel a week to a British port. Her reasons for making this desperate move are a strange mixture of hypocrisy and expediency, originating in her perception that the sea is the decisive factor in this as in other great wars. The Imperial Chancellor says that, as German submarines have largely increased in number since last Spring, and the Allied countries are on the verge of starvation, it is not only in the military interest of the Central Powers, but in the interest of humanity that the War should be concluded as speedily as possible. This he believes can be best attained by a virtual siege of all maritime countries. Two years ago Germany initiated the policy by declaring British waters a war zone, since when she has, step by step, gone further on the road to a piratical world war at sea, until she has now ranged neutrals and belligerents alike against her.

The United States and Germany.

The insolent challenge flung in the face of the United States, in common with other neutrals, has been promptly taken up by the President, who has severed diplomatic relations with Germany by the recall of the American Ambassador in Berlin and the handing to Count Bernstorff his passports. These and other steps taken by Mr. Wilson are preliminaries to war. But before it can be declared, the consent of Congress must be obtained. In the meantime, the lead for which the lesser neutral nations have been waiting so long has been given by the only great Power which has hitherto stood out of the War, and the whole world thrills in sympathy with America's vindication of her honour as a Sovereign State. Is Germany manoeuvring to involve the whole world in war for dynastic purposes? Only a desperate situation could seek such a desperate remedy as unlimited piracy.

The War at Sea.

The auxiliary cruiser *Laurentic*, which was once a White Star liner sailing to and from Montreal, has been sunk by a mine off the Irish coast. Of her ship's company of 471, there were 121 survivors, who suffered cruelly from the bitter weather that prevailed at the time.

The new *Mocwe*, which is a cruiser or merchantman at will, is rivalling the exploits of her namesake last year in sinking freight-carriers at sight. As for enemy submarines, they continue their war against commerce with unabated vigour. In the process, the hardships borne by seamen are as near akin to torture as are the outrages on peaceful civilians in Belgium or Poland.

A Raid on Suffolk.

On the night of January 25th, in piercing cold and Plutonian darkness, a small German warship approached the Suffolk coast, and, after sending up two star shells, opened fire on a certain town. Most of the shells fell wide in open fields, and others, short in the sea. There were no casualties, and the damage done was slight. The object of the raid was, apparently, to remind the Germans that they have a fleet.

(To be continued.)

THE SCHOOL OF SUGAR MANUFACTURE.

An Institution deserving Support.

Subscriptions are being invited to secure the maintenance of the School of Sugar Manufacture established by the Royal Technical College of Glasgow five years ago, and readers interested are invited to communicate with the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., who will be glad to furnish full particulars regarding the movement.

Meanwhile it may be briefly stated that the objects of the School, which was established five years ago, are (1) to give a course of training in theory and practice of sugar production and manufacture, including the principles of the machinery used, and to provide students with facilities for acquiring a practical knowledge of machinery and processes of manufacture by visits to refineries and sugar machinery works; (2) to offer to students who intend to take up the manufacture of sugar as a profession the opportunity of obtaining the degree of B.Sc. after following a course of study specially designed to meet their needs, "Sugar Manufacture" being one of the official subjects of study and examination.

The aim of the School is to provide for the sugar industry of the Empire a centre of training at least equal to those of Germany, Holland, France, and the United States of America; to render the industry less dependent upon men trained in foreign schools, and, with this intention, to give our men in our own country opportunity of acquiring a liberal education, with a knowledge of the agriculture, chemistry, and engineering of sugar manufacture, fitting them for responsible positions as managers, superintendents, chemists, and engineers. The School also aims at undertaking research work in association with the Government Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. As a centre for a school of this kind, Glasgow is exceptionally favourably situated in possessing a University, a thoroughly equipped Technical College, a College of Agriculture, large sugar machinery works and sugar refineries.

A typical syllabus of the lectures is given below—

Raw Material.—Structure and composition of the cane; cultivation; harvesting; transport.

Extraction of Juice.—Design and construction of mills and accessories. Efficiency of mills. Diffusion processes.

Composition of Juice.—Properties of sugars and non-sugars present.

Clarification of Juice.—Effect of heat and alkali. Use of lime.

Treatment of scums and sediments by filtration. "Carbonatation."
Concentration of Juice to Syrup.—Multiple effect evaporators, their efficiency and method of operating.

Concentration to Massecurite.—The vacuum pan and its fittings. Different systems of boiling.

Crystallisation.—Crystallisation at rest and in motion. Types of crystallisers.

Cuting the Sugar.—Centrifugals and their motors. Washing, steaming and discharging. Deterioration during transport and storage. Composition of commercial sugars.

Clarification and boiling of molasses. Composition of exhausted molasses.

Chemical Control of Manufacture.—The polariscope. Methods of sampling and analysis. Stocktaking. Profit and loss account.

Types of Boilers and Furnaces.—Valuation of fuels. Efficiency. By-products.—Manufacture of rum, Molasses, and molassine cattle foods.

Refining of Sugar.—Outline of operations. Composition of refined sugars. Losses in refining.

THE ST. LUCIA LIME FACTORY.

The following financial statement of the newly-established Lime Juice Factory in St. Lucia for the crop commencing May 19th, 1914, and ending February 27th, 1915, the second crop of the factory—the particulars of construction and working of which have already been given in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR (page 478, vol. XXX.)—are taken from the 1915-16 Report of the Agricultural Department of that colony.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Net proceeds from sale of 44 casks concentrated lime juice		1,102	7	7
Net proceeds from sale of 9 carboys distilled lime oil		115	3	6
Total receipts		1,217	11	1
EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
Paid for produce		298	18	6
Deferred payment, bringing produce to rate of 4s. 8d. per barrel limes and 6d. per gallon of juice		174	18	6
Factory working expenses, including labour, coal, oil, packages, repairs, etc.		54	18	9
Total expenses		528	15	9
GOVERNMENT REFUND.		£	s.	d.
Ten per cent. interest and sinking fund on capital account of £550 for ten years from April 1, 1914		55	0	0
Six per cent. on purchase of produce advances—£300		18	0	0
Supervision		50	0	0
Value of lime oil on hand and paid to vendors in last crop		3	12	0
Value of concentrated juice on hand, etc.		2	2	0
Total Government refund		128	14	0
Total receipts		1,217	11	1
Total working expenses		528	15	9
Government refund		128	14	0
Total expenditure		657	9	9
Profits for distribution		560	1	4
Profits now due to vendors at the rate of:				
5s. 3d. per barrel limes, bringing the total price to				
9s. 11d. per barrel,				
7½d. per gallon juice, bringing the total price to				
1s. 1¼d. per gallon.				

The factory opened for its third annual crop on May 29th, 1915, and closed on March 11th, 1916.



Photograph by

TOM CRINGLE'S COTTON TREE

On the Spanish Town Road, Jamaica.

A. Dupré & Son.

The crop came in with a rush, and although the factory was kept working during several nights to relieve the pressure, it was not possible to handle the whole of the produce offered. This strain upon the capacity of the factory is stated to have been not so much due to the increase of the peasant-grown produce as to the large quantities of juice sent in by planters, several of whom would, had it not been for the high prices of machinery created by the War, have been in possession of factories of their own. Arrangements have been made for increasing the capacity of the factory to enable it to deal with the produce of the peasant and of the small planter whose output does not justify the immediate erection of his own works.

The produce dealt with during the year was 22,120 barrels of fruit and 11,973 gallons of juice, which represents a total crop of 3,450 barrels, this being an increase of 1,644 barrels on the previous crop. The number of persons having business dealings with the factory increased from 728 to 903—an increase of 175.

An average juice extraction of 9 gallons per barrel of limes was obtained throughout the year; this was an increase of 1 gallon per barrel on the previous year's working. The juice was, however, of a slightly lower acidity, averaging 12.2 oz. per gallon. The still, which is constructed of wallaba staves and greenheart bottom, gave entire satisfaction throughout all three crops, and small stills of such construction can, says the report be confidently recommended. Whether a wooden still of double the capacity will answer equally well is a matter of some importance, now that the market price of copper is almost prohibitive. A wooden still of 300 gallons capacity has been ordered to replace the small one now in use, so that in the near future the question of wooden *versus* copper stills will be decided. The yield of essential oil obtained was equal to 6.6 oz. per barrel of limes, or .73 oz. per gallon of juice.

The average degree of concentration was approximately 9 to 1, and the average test of prepared juice was 108 oz. citric acid per gallon. The quality of the juice was slightly improved upon, and the average sediment was 2.5 units.

The price obtained for the concentrated lime juice is stated to have been exceedingly satisfactory, every shipment of juice from the factory having realised a much higher price than the London quotations at the time of sale. The average difference between the two rates for the year 1914 was £10 2s. 6d. per standard pipe of 108 gallons of 64 oz. test, in favour of the factory juice, the maximum difference being reached in November, when an advance of £22 10s. over market quotations was obtained.

During 1915 the prices were not so high as in the previous year. Nevertheless, a satisfactory difference in favour of the factory juice was maintained throughout. The average gain on market price during the year was £10 1s. 8d. per pipe, with a maximum difference of £16, and a minimum difference of £6.

As regards the future, provision is stated to have been made for a 20 h.p. nominal locomotive boiler, a Crossley oil-engine, and evaporating vats of 500

gallons capacity. This will double the 1915 working capacity of the factory, and meet the present requirements of the industry.

THE CASHEW-NUT.

The cashew-nut tree (*Anacardium occidentale*), originally introduced from South America, is established in the coast forests of India, especially in sandy places. In South India it is important in coast-dune reclamation. A report by the United States Consul at Madras states that until twelve or fifteen years ago cashew was a jungle product, and the nuts gathered were mainly intended for consumption in the country and the gulf ports, where a considerable demand exists among the Arabs. The total output, however, under such conditions never exceeded 1,500 to 2,000 cwt. The advent of European firms in the business gave an impetus to the trade, and to meet the increased demands the produce began to be regularly cultivated. According to the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, South and North Canara, on the Western coast of the Indian Peninsula, is the home of the cashew tree in India, and of late years large tracts in Malabar and Travancore have also been planted with it. The fruit yielded by the tree is commonly known as cashew apple; it is eaten only by the lowest classes, and quantities of it are wasted. The crop season is between the end of March and the beginning of May. The nut, which is, in fact, the seed of the tree, is attached to the top of the cashew apple. After being detached, the nuts are dried, and afterwards roasted over an ordinary charcoal fire.

The nuts are removed while still hot, and the outer shell is broken by means of stones, the kernels then being removed and sent to the market for sale. As they are generally very damp when they reach the South Indian buyers, and are liable to spoil, the buyers' representatives, upon receipt of the supplies from the natives, usually cause the nuts to be spread out in the sun for two days. The brown and rancid nuts are thrown out, and the article is then ready for export. Something like 15,000 cwt. of these nuts are now exported in an average season to England, France, and America, the principal port of shipment being Mangalore. Cashew nuts are prepared for table use in much the same manner as roasted almonds, the flavour of which they are said to resemble slightly. They are not unlike almonds in shape, though thinner and more elongated. The exported nuts are no doubt bought chiefly by East Indians residing in foreign countries, or by persons who have acquired a taste for them by residence in India. They are sometimes made into confectionery with sugar.

The exports of cashew-nuts from the West Indies have never reached any large dimensions, but small quantities can generally be obtained at the West Indian Produce Association, 14, Creechurch Lane, London, E.C.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/-.

DR. GUIERAS IN TRINIDAD.

A Lecture on Hygiene.

After visiting Barbados, where he pronounced an epidemic prevailing there to be a form of jaundice, and *not* yellow fever, Dr. Guiteras, the eminent yellow fever expert, proceeded to Trinidad, where he addressed a meeting of members of the medical profession.

In the course of his remarks he said that there had been engaged during the last six or seven months in work connected with yellow fever, a Commission appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation. They had been visiting all the countries of South America, and the West Indian islands. The object of their excursion was to find out where yellow fever was present in order to inform the Foundation of the extent and distribution of the disease, and also to examine the surroundings of the disease, in such places as might effect the feasibility of the final problem of the complete eradication of yellow fever. It was a very curious thing that they had been travelling throughout South America and had found yellow fever in one place only, Guayaquil. In starting such an investigation they took up a very careful study of the most recent work done in connection with the disease, and he wished to call attention to a certain tendency that had prevailed of late—a new departure as it were in connection with yellow fever, which had made them think considerably before starting, as well as during their travels. In speaking of that tendency or innovation, he did not refer to the sweeping changes of the new knowledge which the transmission of the mosquito had brought about. That was already admitted and settled, but he meant the more recent innovation, which rather pretended to break down some of the work done in Havana in the demonstration of the transmission of the disease by the mosquito. He referred especially to the tendency to admit the existence of a form of yellow fever, which really did not belong to the history of that disease as studied in medical pathology—an extraordinary mild type, so mild that it was not yellow fever at all, and a form of the disease supposed by scientific authorities to be indistinguishable from other disease of which it had the same symptoms. Those authorities said it might exist anywhere and keep on (for how long, he did not know), without giving rise to any true cases of yellow fever.

DR. BLAIR'S RESEARCHES.

When he spoke of that mild form of yellow fever he did not mean mild cases in the midst of several cases. He was one of the first to call attention to, and insist on the importance of mild cases as maintainers of yellow fever conditions. It was not far from Trinidad that that was first proclaimed by a man generally forgotten, Dr. Blair of Demerara, who was the first to insist upon yellow fever attacking everybody, when the opinion was that creoles who were not white, could not get yellow fever. Dr. Blair was the first to say that was all wrong, and to insist upon it very strongly. The last two cases of yellow fever they saw in Havana, were extremely mild, and it was strange to him that one was a Chinaman (rather unusual) and the other an Englishman, the captain of a ship from Manaos, Brazil. It was strange that that ship sailed from Manaos, and every time she stopped on the way to discharge cargo, a yellow fever case would be produced. A problem of the Commission, was mild cases. When they arrived at Trinidad, it was his object to stop there in order to look up the old record of mortality in Trinidad; as a means of detecting the presence of yellow fever, was by observing the increase of deaths among the white children during an epidemic of yellow fever. He arrived there at a time when there were fatal cases of "yellow fever" in Barbados, where all the deaths occurred amongst the blacks. This was entirely a different proposition from that of which they had thought. He, therefore, decided at once to go to Barbados and examine the situation there. He did not know exactly how many cases had been reported as yellow fever, though the number of deaths was ten.

They all had intense jaundice, and the mortality was extremely high, as it was recorded that 50 or 60 per cent had died. But that was not so. He had been able to find a large number of cases of jaundice (his own observation referred to 45 cases), and out of that there were ten deaths. He would say that the mortality of that epidemic of jaundice in Barbados was 8 or 10 per cent. All the fatal cases in Barbados had been blacks. Now that was a very strange thing. He had for many years been maintaining that coloured people may have yellow fever, but he had never seen yellow fever affecting only the blacks and producing quite a mortality amongst them. That was entirely new. There was no record similar to that in the whole history and literature of yellow fever disease, going all over the island and singling out that particular race and killing quite a number. That certainly worked strongly against the disease being yellow fever, not to find a single white death! In 1905 in Barbados there was a similar tendency, and the idea was that it was not the same thing. He had serious doubt as to whether it was yellow fever, because of the large number of cases amongst the blacks—although he had not seen the disease there in 1908. In different yellow fever countries they considered a certain portion of the people as immune; and if it only picked out the black population, at least it should pick out the younger of the population. In the present epidemic at Barbados, it was curious that the first two cases were 41 and 60 years respectively. That was a strong presumption against yellow fever, especially as they were both black men, born in the colony, and who had been through the epidemics of 1881 and 1908; and yet they were picked out to be the first cases of yellow fever! That had never been seen in the literature of yellow fever. Then, again, the fatal cases were too long, which was another argument in making him come to the conclusion of the non-existence of yellow fever in Barbados. The average duration of true yellow fever was 6.5 days, and in Barbados it was 8.6 days. The autopsy findings were the best ground on which they could maintain the diagnosis of yellow fever, and even those were defective. There was not a single case that presented all the features of the autopsy of yellow fever. He was told that in the earlier cases the liver presented the appearance of yellow, but that was the opinion of men who had never seen it before. One could not diagnose yellow fever from autopsy, and he depended more upon clinical evidence.

NO YELLOW FEVER IN BARBADOS.

Histologically, he found proofs of the absence of yellow fever in the Barbados epidemic. The mistake was also made in Barbados, that the characteristic pulse of yellow fever was a slow pulse. Vomiting was absent in quite a number of the cases, and there was no black vomit in a single case. Some of them had a hæmorrhage from the stomach and vomited only once, whereas the black vomit of yellow fever was persistent. Then, again, the mental condition differed from that of yellow fever. There was not that alertness which was found in yellow fever cases. In Barbados it was just the opposite, there being a tendency of mild depression, more resembling the appearance of typhoid fever. So that upon those clinical grounds, he was led to say the cases at Barbados were not yellow fever. It was the first time he was confronted with epidemic jaundice in the yellow fever zone. A new development having presented itself, made one go into all the points so very carefully. But was there such a thing as epidemic jaundice? There was, and there seemed to be a tendency at the present time for it to develop extensively. They saw it in Egypt, and in Africa where it affected the Italian troops, and recently cases had occurred in the Dardanelles on the Gallipoli peninsula amongst the troops of all kinds. And the cases in Barbados suggested to him from their history, the same epidemic. It had occurred in Japan, and most recent of all, in Flanders. Years ago one never found that a diagnosis of yellow fever turned out not to be. The usual thing was to conceal yellow fever, and one had to go and find it out (laughter). All countries had to own up for having done the same thing hoping that it would pass without saying anything about it. He had been to communities where yellow fever was known to have occurred, and it was necessary to diag-

nose without seeing the cases, and without finding on the death records any cases of the disease. Having been confronted with that, he looked up the mortality records, which were extremely useful. They had no idea what an extraordinary change one found in the mortality of children, and the picture was most striking between white and coloured children—the mortality rising considerably higher among the whites. But it was interesting to find what it was recorded as being due to. It was usually put down as malaria, but what was strange, it had not increased among adults, but children only. Some of them were put down as pernicious fever—which, by the way, was a general cure for ignorance, as when a man did not know what a disease was, he usually recorded it as "pernicious" fever (laughter). He had even seen record of mortality cases from gastro-hæmorrhagic fever. He thought, however, that in some instances the diagnosis of yellow fever was too loosely applied. In Venezuela, for instance, they took it for granted that yellow fever existed in certain places without going through and studying it. Whatever a disease was, by what right could they call it yellow fever if it did not show the symptoms of it? Why should variations from yellow fever occur in Martinique and Maracaibo only?

YELLOW FEVER ERADICATED.

There were 500 average deaths per year from yellow fever in Havana, and if there was to be a variant, surely it should have occurred in Havana—the great centre of yellow fever. But yellow fever was dying out in the world, and the Rockefeller Foundation had undertaken to extinguish it. It had been eradicated completely in centres that distributed it throughout the world, and a great feature was the spontaneous termination of the disease. Yellow fever was similar to other epidemic diseases, and all epidemics showed a tendency to extinguish themselves. A great factor in keeping up the endemicity of the disease was the arrival of immigrants, especially troops, whereas it was just the opposite with the natives. A study of the mortality among children showed that when there was no fresh importation of raw material from Europe the disease became extinguished; and a great factor in the cessation of the disease was the non-importation of large bodies of troops by which yellow fever had received its death blow in Cuba in recent years. (Applause.)

THE "HIDDEN PLAGUE."

The new scheme for the treatment of venereal diseases in the County of London has now come into operation. It is based on arrangements with the County Councils of Berks, Essex, Herts, Middlesex, Surrey and Kent, and the County Boroughs of Croydon, East Ham and West Ham for common utilisation of facilities in 21 hospitals in the area.

The scheme is entirely voluntary. It aims at affording to every person the advantages of exact diagnosis and thorough treatment, and it aims also at preventing the spread of the disease by means of increased knowledge and better facilities for handling cases.

The need for this scheme, in which the whole country is participating is, says the *Times*, beyond dispute, and we may welcome it whole-heartedly. Syphilis especially is a dreadful scourge, destroying not only the guilty but the innocent, and, as the bacteriologist to the City of Liverpool has recently shown, accounting for a "very large proportion" of the still births examined by him. Another great authority has pointed out that in the bodies of the children which die before birth from the disease "the parasites are present in enormous numbers, more especially on the mucous surfaces and in the liver and suprarenal glands."

We may hope that throughout the country great care will be taken to secure that the carrying out of Wassermann reactions is entrusted to capable hands. This is no field for "economy." Only men of proved competence should be employed, as otherwise contradictory and unsatisfactory results are likely to be encountered.

FAULKNER THE UNDAUNTED.

A Chapter of West Indian History.

By ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

The writer of a biographical memoir of the subject of this article, which appeared in that entertaining magazine the *Naval Chronicle* for 1806, expressed the hope that whenever the Board of Admiralty were pleased "to abandon the blasphemous deities and monsters of Pagan history, and the names of brutes, for some titles more in character with the patriotism and heroic valour of the British Navy," they would "select other names, besides that of our ever to be lamented Hero, Admiral Lord Nelson, wherewith to denominate the wooden bulwarks of our country."

Since that was written, the Lords Commissioners have resorted to new sources of inspiration in selecting names for our ships of war. A glance through the pages of the last Navy List which furnished information regarding the units of the Navy will show that the heathen deities and brutes still do service. It will be found, however, that they have been supplemented by cities, countries, and Dominions, while only recently the name of a brave and distinguished General who was fighting against us less than fifteen years ago, and has since won laurels leading the British forces against the Germans in South-West Africa, was deservedly included.

The suggestion of the writer of the memoir quoted above passed unheeded, as far as Faulkner was concerned, until 1914, when the name of that hero with which England had been ringing a hundred and twenty years before, was given to a flotilla leader, while the title of *Undaunted*, with which the gallant Captain will always be inseparably associated, was revived.

From among all the naval heroes who made their reputation in the West Indies in the stormy days of the eighteenth century, few stand out so conspicuously as Robert Faulkner, who contributed largely to the success of British arms in the expedition against the French West India Islands of 1794-5 undertaken by Admiral Sir John Jervis, afterwards Lord St. Vincent, and General Sir Charles Grey.

Faulkner came of a distinguished naval family and of good fighting stock. His great-grandfather fought in the wars of William III. and Anne, and, after filling the post of Master Attendant at Woolwich Dockyard in 1722, died Lieutenant-Governor of Greenwich Hospital in 1724-5, and his grandfather, Captain Samuel Faulkner, was in command of the *Victory* when she was wrecked on the Casquet Rocks, off the Channel Islands, in

1744, a disaster which is commemorated by Scheemaker's monument to Admiral Sir John Balchen in Westminster Abbey. Two of his uncles were scarcely less distinguished, and his father, Captain Robert Faulknor, was present at the siege of Cartagena in 1741, and had a brilliant career before his death in 1761.

Of the resource and courage of Faulknor *per se*, some characteristic anecdotes are told in the *Naval Chronicle*. In that magazine it is recorded how, on one occasion, when in action, while he was quite a boy, all the wadding of the guns by which he was stationed had been exhausted. Nothing daunted, the plucky youngster seized the wig of a seaman who stood next him, and rammed it into the gun, to the immense amusement of his comrades, whose flagging spirits were revived by the episode. The humour of the situation no doubt went far towards compensating the able seaman for the rape of his locks!

During 1761, when in command of the 74-gun ship *Bellona*, this Captain Faulknor greatly distinguished himself in an engagement with the French off Vigo. In company with the *Brilliant*, he had sailed from the Tagus with a considerable sum of money on board belonging to the merchants trading at Lisbon. Off Cape Finisterre, he sighted three French vessels, the *Courageux* (74 guns), the *Malicieuse* (36), and the *Ermine* (36), which were returning "full of wealth and full of pride,"—to quote Commodore Johnstone, who sent a private account of the action to Lord Howe—from a successful voyage round the French West India Islands. The French fled, and the British chased throughout a perfect moonlight night. At sunrise the French Captain gave his frigate the signal to close and engage the *Brilliant*, while he himself stood in for the *Bellona*. Faulknor kept his powder dry and allowed the enemy to loose off a second broadside before he replied, and it was not until the yards of the two vessels were locked that he gave orders to fire. Then, as may be imagined, the execution was terrible. Eventually, "taken in all directions, beat and buffeted on every quarter, her Captain killed, her mizzen-mast gone, her main-mast wagging, her tiller-ropes cut, her quarters laid open, 240 of her crew carnaged, 130 wounded, courage submitted to superior power, the main-mast" of the Frenchman "fell with the flag."

It is related that during the action Captain Faulknor, hearing a landsman who was on board cry out, "Oh, Lord, we have lost our mizzen," shouted out, "Damn your liver, you rascal, what has a two-decked ship to do with a mizzen? See you knock away *his* mizzen-mast." Again, when the French Captain came aboard the *Bellona* and remarked that she had taken a rich prize, Faulknor replied, to the chagrin of his unwilling guest, "By Jove, I gave you a chance of taking a better, for there is £100,000 in the hold, which you might have divided."

Throughout the engagement Faulknor was in his shirt-sleeves, and when he was urged to put on his coat, because he was affording such a good mark to the enemy, he said, "Never mind such thoughts, I must take chance for that."

These few anecdotes will show the kind of stuff

the father of the hero of this article was made of.

Shortly after his return to England, Captain Robert Faulknor, who was naturally welcomed with enthusiasm, won the hand of Miss Elizabeth Ashe, and by her he had five children, of whom the eldest won undying glory.

Robert Faulknor the younger first went to sea in the *Isis*, a 50-gun ship, in 1777, with Captain Cornwallis, a jovial sailor who, on account of his rubicund complexion—which, it is only fair to say, was not due to intemperance, for he was a most abstemious man—rejoiced in the nickname of "Billy-go-tight" or "Blue Billy." Faulknor followed his Captain to the *Lion* and took part in her in the engagement between Admiral Byron and Count d'Estaing off Grenada in 1779, narrowly escaping with his life, for the *Lion* was cut off from the fleet, and was only saved from capture by the presence of mind of Admiral Barrington, who, in the *Prince of Wales*, ran in between the *Lion's* stern and the enemy and took the Frenchman's broadside himself. The *Lion* was, indeed, far more crippled than her successor was in the action off the Dogger Bank in 1915, her masts having gone by the board, when the Admiral, by creating this diversion, enabled her to escape total loss.

As Lieutenant, Faulknor sailed in the *Princess Royal*, *Britannia*, *Daphne*, and other vessels, rapidly establishing a reputation as an intrepid sailor, and his first command was in 1793, when he was appointed to the 16-gun sloop *Zebra*.

After the beheading of King Louis XVI. and the subsequent outbreak of war with France, the British Government decided to attempt to subdue the French West Indian Islands, then Martinique, Guadeloupe, and the Saintes—which were destined to give their name to the glorious victory won by Rodney over de Grasse on April 12th, 1782—and St. Lucia.

In each of these islands revolutionary doctrines had fallen on fertile soil. The guillotine had been set up in the market-places, and many Royalist settlers were paying for their devotion to their Sovereign with their lives. Some, on the other hand, sought refuge in Barbados, Trinidad—where, it will be remembered, they "bossed" the island, to the discomfort of Chacon, the peace-loving Spanish Governor—and other islands.

Following their usual custom, which only recently proved our undoing in Gallipoli, the British under-estimated the strength of their adversaries, while over-estimating the support which they expected to receive from their friends.

It was believed that seven ships of the line and eleven hundred men from Barbados would easily reduce Martinique, and Admiral Gardner sailed for the French island with that quite inadequate force early in 1793. As, however, he failed to receive the support of the timorous Royalists, he was compelled to return to Bridgetown without having accomplished his purpose. Incidentally it may be mentioned that he brought with him many refugees, for whose support liberal sums of money were subscribed by the sympathetic populace.

Later in the year, when the French had had time to perfect their defensive arrangements, a com-

bined force under Admiral Sir John Jervis, K.B., and Lieut.-General Sir Charles Grey, C.B., was despatched to the West Indies to accomplish what Gardner had failed to do.

The Fleet, which comprised twenty vessels, among them being the *Zebra*, of which Robert Faulknor was now in command, weighed anchor on November 26th and sailed for Barbados. Carlisle Bay, the sheltered roadstead of the island, was reached on January 6th, and on the following day Sir Charles Grey landed and took up his quarters as the guest of President Bishop who had been administering the Government of the island since the illness and death of Major David Parry at Pilgrim, a building standing just outside Bridgetown on Constitution Hill, which has been the official residence of the Governor since 1703, when it was erected for Sir Bevil Granville. Sir John Jervis, on the other hand, as was his custom, preferred to remain aboard his flagship.

During the next few days, Bridgetown must have been in a turmoil. The troops, comprising Light Dragoons, Grenadiers, Light Infantry, ten regiments of the line, and detachments from three others, in three brigades, under Lieut.-General Prescott, General Thomas Dundas, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir Charles Gordon, were disembarked, and one can imagine the enthusiasm which must have been caused by the arrival of so many red-coated soldiers, and by their march, with colours flying, through the congested streets of the capital. For days the Carriacou, or harbour, was a scene of unparalleled activity, while the transports were prepared for the second stage of their journey, and the store-ships which accompanied them were unloaded.

(To be continued.)

TOM CRINGLE'S COTTON TREE.

The subject of our full-page illustration in the present issue is Tom Cringle's Cotton Tree, which still flourishes not far from the historic Ferry Inn on the Kingston-Spanish Town high road in Jamaica.

In that immortal work, "Tom Cringle's Log," Michael Scott puts into the hero's mouth the following description of this mighty silk cotton tree:—

"We clambered up into one of them, a large umbrageous wild cotton-tree, which cast a shadow on the ground—the sun being, as already mentioned, right overhead—of thirty paces in diameter" [this was the tree at Up Park Camp]; "but still it was but a dwarfish plant of its kind, for I have measured others whose gigantic shadows, at the same hour, were upwards of one hundred and fifty feet in diameter, and their trunks, one in particular that overhangs the Spanish Town road, twenty feet through of solid timber; that is, not including the enormous spurs that shoot out like buttresses, and end in strong twisted roots, that strike deep into the earth, and form stays, as it were, to the tree in all directions."

THE FUTURE OF BRITISH GUIANA.

In his address at the annual general meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, an account of which is to hand by a recent opportunity Mr. J. Cunningham, the retiring President, touched upon some important matters.

There was, he said, a movement on foot to have the whole of the British West Indies incorporated with the Canadian Dominion, which would enable the Canadians to look after the welfare of the colony and to help its improvement more than they did at the present time. There were grave questions to arise in connection with that project. If British Guiana were to be incorporated with Canada it might be the means of interesting large concerns like the C.P.R., and the colony would then be able to hustle on.

After referring to the deputation to Mr. Bonar Law organised by the Royal Colonial Institute on the subject of the development of the Crown Colonies, he said that the Society had appointed two delegates, Mr. Sherlock and Mr. Martin Sperry, to meet the representatives of other bodies, like the Chamber of Commerce and the Planters' Association, with a view to joint action in behalf of the colony in support of the Empire Producers' Organisation, a body recently formed in Great Britain which had received the powerful and eloquent support of Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier, and whose essential aim it was to place the Empire on a self-supporting basis by giving practical encouragement through the agency of a tariff to the produce of the Dominions and the Crown Colonies. This was a phase of Empire reconstruction after the War which deserved the earnest support of all colonists. Had a policy of the kind been adopted, say, ten years ago, the British people would not to-day have to complain of a sugar famine, despite the efforts of the Commission to control prices, and would be less dependent on neutral countries for the necessities. Happily there was a growing consciousness with the Mother Country that cheapness was not wholly a virtue, and a radical change in fiscal policy based on Imperial preference might be regarded as a certainty of the future.

Dealing with the progress of the Society, which he congratulated upon having Mr. Nunan for its new President, he said that the year, from the standpoint of membership and finance, had been a highly satisfactory one. Consequent chiefly upon the number of Associates who went home with the First Contingent, there had been a falling off in membership last year of 103, an abnormally high figure, the average in recent years being approximately 80. Allowing for 63 new members added, there had been a net decline in membership for the past year of 41, the roll being 426 at the end of 1915, compared with 467 at the close of the previous year.

An export tax of 1d. per lb. has been imposed on cacao on the Gold Coast.

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

An Interview with Dr. Tempany.

Dr. H. A. Tempany has just relinquished the position of Superintendent of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands to fill that of Director of Agriculture in Mauritius, in succession to Mr. Stockdale, another ex-West Indian official.

Button-holed by a representative of the CIRCULAR on his way through London, Dr. Tempany spoke with enthusiasm of the kindly "send-off" he had received in Antigua, an island he had left with very great regret.

With the revival of the sugar industry, the prospects of the island were, he said, greatly enhanced. What gratified him particularly was the enthusiasm with which the planters had adapted themselves to co-operative principles in agriculture, and he instanced the success of the Onion Growers' Association, which had led to the formation of smaller affiliated associations in Montserrat, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands, and also to the initiation of small associations for handling the produce of other crops.

A significant development was the very recent formation of a Board in Antigua for the especial purpose of fostering the development of co-operative effort of all descriptions. This Board had made a good start with its work in tackling, in association with the Government and the Agricultural Department, the question of producing larger supplies of locally-grown food crops, the object sought being simultaneously to stimulate production and to provide adequate means for disposing of produce when ready for handling.

He referred to the very important decision on the part of the Colonial Office whereby the principle of Government guarantees on the capital for the erection of additional sugar factories had been admitted. This had been sought for years, and it was exceedingly satisfactory that it had been allowed. Such an admission augured well for the future stability of the industry. He spoke of the particularly cordial and pleasant relations which had for many years existed between himself and the planting body. Such a result had helped to make his work easy and pleasant. On the existence of such a condition of affairs the successful working of an Agricultural Department was in a considerable measure dependent. He could not hope anything better than that in his new sphere of work he could succeed in establishing equally cordial relationship between himself and planters.

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, E.C. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

THE INDUSTRIES OF THE EMPIRE.

Mr. Octavius C. Beale, Past President of the Australian Associated Chambers of Manufacture, read a paper before the Royal Society of Arts on January 30th, in the course of which he said that Great Britain, once more at the parting of the ways, must make a decision either to protect or to neglect her industries.

It remained to us to indicate in what ways we could assist, by forming a column of mutual strength and support, the British family of nations and our glorious Allies. All that we owed to neutrals must be paid for in cash, for beyond humanity and friendship there was no obligation to any of them. It was the traditional policy of America to take all they could, as a Government, and give nothing—a policy that was quite defensible and much defended. Our case was altogether different. We had been fighting rapacious enemies by co-operating with true and tried friends, who, with us, had risked all for the common life and hope. But immediate help and strength would be found in the development by each member of the Alliance of its productive powers, especially in what were loosely called raw materials, such as sugar, meat, wool, jute, cacao, rubber, leather, coco-nut oil, and metals.

THE EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

Of these the most important and illustrative was sugar. The United Kingdom required at least 2,000,000 tons per annum, and much more if her sugar-using industries were to be developed as they ought to be. Of this total, 1,300,000 tons had previously come from Germany and Austria. Yet the British Empire was well able to produce the sugar it required. Australia had already faced this problem, and had fought not only the question of protected local production but also that of the employment of white labour in the industry, with the result that whereas with coloured labour the plantations were able to turn out only 80,000 tons a year, the yield had risen to 250,000 tons with white labour, while the Australian consumer was able to get for threepence per lb. what cost the *laissez-faire* Englishman sixpence. (Cheers.) On the other hand, in this country, so said "the trade," contracts were now being offered in Mincing Lane for German sugar to be delivered when peace was declared. As for wool, the demand was stronger than ever, and must for a long time remain unsupplied. The statistics of the world's production was sufficient to demonstrate the necessity for preferential treatment of the exportable yield of the Empire in favour of ourselves and our Allies.

FOREIGN INDUSTRIAL DOMINATION.

Not the least important of the results to be achieved by concentration of energy within the Empire and in co-operation with our Allies was the measure of resistance it would enable us to offer against foreign industrial domination. America controlled five-sixths of the entire tobacco-selling trade of the British Empire, while one man, resident in Long Island New York, possessed nineteen-twentieths of the sewing machine manufacture and sales of the British Empire, owning not fewer than 60,000 branch establishments throughout the world. That was the apotheosis of capitalism and *laissez-faire*. (Cheers.) Unfortunately we could not get the help we desired from the British Board of Trade, as was shown by an experience of his own. In 1914 a request was sent to the Board by the Associated Chambers of Manufacture of Australia desiring the formation of an Association in Britain representative of the manufacturing industry similar to that in existence in Canada and the United States, but the answer returned by the Board was that it did not consider such a movement would serve any useful purpose. It was, of course, a severe rebuff, and was certainly undeserved. (Cheers.)

Sir Joseph Ward, Finance Minister of New Zealand, who occupied the chair, in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, said Mr. Beale had voiced the opinions of the people of the Dominions, and of at least a large proportion of the people of this country, in so far as he

had expressed dissatisfaction with the pre-war conditions under which our enemy had been making tremendous advances at the expense of this country and of the Dominions. (Hear, hear.) In New Zealand he had been instrumental in passing an Act which provided that the moment peace had been declared an extra 50 per cent. tax was automatically placed on everything imported from an enemy country. (Cheers.)

TRINIDAD—NEW ORLEANS.

A New Steamship Route.

Information reaches the CIRCULAR from Washington to the effect that direct steamship service has been established by the Mexican Fruit and Steamship Co. between New Orleans and Venezuelan ports, with a fleet of three vessels of 1,400, 1,600, and 1,700 tons carrying capacity. The first vessel of the new service sailed on December 24th with a full cargo, and the Company expects to follow this with a sailing every 15 days. The vessels will call *en route* at Trinidad, and will accept cargo for that island. Heretofore the only connection between New Orleans and Panama has involved transshipment at Panama, while shipments from New Orleans to Trinidad have had to be shipped via Mobile or New York.

TRINIDAD'S VITAL STATISTICS.

Mr. Thomas Potter's annual reports on the vital statistics of Trinidad and Tobago and his latest contribution to the series which covers the nine months to December 31st, 1915, is no exception to the rule.

The total population of the colony at the end of the period was 364,585, of which 121,967, or practically one-third was East Indian. Thanks, no doubt, to its great and growing prosperity there was an excess of 2,551 arrivals over departures during the period, whilst the natural increase of the population was responsible for an addition of 2,796 souls. The birth rate was 31.52 per 1,000 as against a death rate of 21.26.

Illegitimacy is still lamentably prevalent, 5,945 infants having been born out of wedlock as compared with 2,646 in it. In this connection Mr. Potter states with regret that, as regards the "general" population—that is to say, apart from the East Indian—the figures once more indicate the need of greater activity on the part of the clergy of all denominations, and of the people also, to remove this blot on the morals of the population. He adds that the number of illegitimate births in the East Indian division of the population is largely due to neglect of the law relating to their marriages by the East Indians themselves, and, therefore, is reducible by proper legislation.

Infantile mortality is less pronounced than in many neighbouring islands, but during the nine months 1,334 lives were sacrificed through this cause, or 155 per 1,000. On the other hand, the colony has long possessed a good name for longevity, and it is noteworthy that the number of

deaths of persons who were 100 years of age and over was 11 during the nine months—ten females and one male.

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.

CAPTAIN LEONARD TINNE BERTHON, Royal Warwick Regiment, who was killed on January 25th, aged 41, was the youngest son of the late Captain C. H. Berthon, late Indian Navy, and brother of Mr. Claude T. Berthon, consulting engineer. He saw active service in the Matabele Campaign of 1896 with Giffard's Horse, for which he received the Matabele medal, and in the early part of the South African Campaign (Queen's medal). On the outbreak of the present war he enlisted in the 2nd King Edward's Horse, received his commission as lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in February, 1915, and was wounded in Gallipoli in August, 1915, and mentioned in despatches in January, 1916. He was gazetted captain last April. He married in 1900 Anna Ethel, eldest daughter of the late Marmaduke Darell Jeffreys, of the Admiralty, and leaves two children.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

MR. THOMAS W. HUNTE, who died of wounds on November 19th, was son of Mr. J. Hunte, Assistant Master at Queen's College, Demerara. He was educated at the College, after leaving which he entered the local Civil Service, being attached to the Customs Department. After the outbreak of war he left with the first British Guiana Contingent, from which he was transferred to the Royal Irish Rifles. He helped to quell the Irish rebellion, and later left for the front, where, after being in the trenches for over a month, he received his fatal wounds.

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 lists already published in the CIRCULAR.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

SEACOMBE, PTE. G.

JAMAICA.

BLACKSTOCK, PTE. B. A. M. MORGAN, CPL. LEONARD. FORBES, PTE. STEPHEN BENJAMIN. MURPHY, PTE. JOHN.

Enlisted in England.

LEE, PTE. ISRAEL.

HONOURS.

MAJOR (temp. Lt.-Col.) J. E. B. ALLARDYCE, R.F.A., brother of Sir William L. Allardyce, Governor of the Bahamas, has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O.

MAJOR S. A. BODDAM-WHETHAM, M.C., R.A., formerly A.D.C. to Sir William Grey-Wilson, Governor of the Bahamas, has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O.

CAPTAIN F. R. BURNSIDE, Hussars, son of the late Sir Bruce Burnside, Kt., of the Bahamas, and late Chief Justice of Ceylon, has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O.

LIEUT. EDWARD COULTHURST GIBBENS CHAMBERS, Canadian Engineers, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action. He displayed great courage and determination when in charge of a working party under heavy fire, successfully taping out and completing a sap.

LIEUT. W. C. HOLDEN, R.G.A., younger son of Mr. F. W. Holden, Imperial Light Horse Service, Bahamas, has been awarded the Military Cross.

TEMP. CAPTAIN J. W. WILSON, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, who had already been "mentioned in despatches," for his services in Gallipoli, has been awarded the Military Cross. Captain Wilson is an Inspector of the Police of Trinidad and Tobago.

MISSING.

CAPTAIN VERNON ECCLES (son of Mr. John Eccles, of Orange Grove, Trinidad), Canadian Battalion.

PRIVATE HILTON ECCLES (son of Mr. John Eccles, of Orange Grove, Trinidad), Canadian Battalion.

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.

Batson, R. B., Surgeon Probationer (son of Mr. H. S. Batson, of Dayrell's Road, Christ Church, Barbados), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Bradshaw, Lieut. T. V. (son of Canon S. Bradshaw, of Barbados), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

de Castro, 2nd Lieut. L. S. (son of Mr. James Solomon, St. Joseph, Trinidad), Royal Field Artillery.

Gaskin, Pte. A. (son of the Hon. C. P. Gaskin, of British Guiana), Honourable Artillery Company.

Roden, 2nd Lieut. Harcourt (son of Mr. J. J. Roden, of Antigua), King's Royal Rifle Corps.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Branch, Reginald (son of Archdeacon Branch, of Antigua), late of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, has been granted a commission in the Durham Light Infantry, and is now at the front.

Crawford, Midshipman, R. H. C. (son of Mr. R. H. C. Crawford, Commandant of Police, Bahamas), has been promoted Sub-Lieutenant, R.N.R.

LIEUT. VINCENT GARLAND, of the Army Service Corps, is, we are glad to learn, well, and the inclusion of his name in a recent casualty list was due to a misunderstanding; it was his brother, we much regret to state, who was killed.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Four officers of the British West Indies Regiment, namely, Major F. A. Liston, Captain E. H. Quin, Captain E. H. Beresford, and Captain A. J. Allan, were included in the Imperial Escort which accompanied the King on the occasion of the opening of Parliament yesterday morning.

The 69 cases of gift chocolate boxes which were in a steamer that was mined and beached have, we are glad to be able to state, been salvaged, and will soon be on their way to Egypt again. Though there may yet be many a slip 'twixt the chocolate and the lips of our friends, this will be good news for the men of the British West Indies Regiment.

We receive nothing but favourable reports of the members of the West Indian Contingent who are in France. The health of the men has been much better than could have been expected, having regard to the atrocious weather recently prevailing;

and the work that they have been doing has given great satisfaction to the military authorities.

From Egypt the news is equally satisfactory, and from every quarter one learns that the Battalions of the B.W.I. Regiment have reached a high stage of efficiency. The General recently visited the camp, and was quite impressed with the intelligence of the men and the excellence of their work.

Major G. W. R. Jenkins and Major C. S. Sanguinetti, of the British West Indies Regiment, were both in hospital in London when the CIRCULAR went to press, the former at 27, Berkeley Square, and the latter at 7, Mandeville Place. It is possible that Major Sanguinetti may have to return to Jamaica before he can resume his duties. Both are, however, progressing favourably.

The Ladies' Committee are despatching parcels of socks and comforts daily to the men in France and elsewhere. The work parties have completed a large number of winter garments, and will soon turn their attention to anti-vermin underclothing, for which many requests have been already received in anticipation of the summer. The Countess of Stamford, who is in town again, was present at the work party last Thursday, among the other ladies working being Lady Hodgson, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Hayes Sadler, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. John Bromley, Mrs. Cathcart Wason, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Mullin, and Miss Moseley.

The Countess of Stamford, President of the Ladies' Committee, has kindly invited the members of the work party to meet at her house, 5, Aldford Street, Park Lane, on Tuesday afternoons, so that the Tuesday meetings will take place there instead of at 5, Trevor Square, except when Lady Stamford is away from town.

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Lady Cameron: 4 prs. socks, 2 mufflers, 2 helmets, 2 prs. mittens, and 6 handkerchiefs.

Mrs. G. Alleyne: 3 sweaters, 5 prs. socks, 7 prs. mittens, 2 comforters, 3 sandbags.

Mrs. Wright: 1 pr. mittens.

Mrs. Wade: 2 prs. socks.

Mrs. Arthur McConnell: 9 dressing gowns.

Lady Sendall: 3 prs. socks.

Captain Peilden: 3 prs. socks.

Per Mrs. Montague White and Miss Hutson, Barbados: 8 mufflers, 2 prs. socks, 4 prs. mittens, 1 pr. gloves, 1 sleeping cap.

Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 2 mufflers, 7 prs. mittens, 4 prs. socks.

Mr. F. J. and Miss Morris: 3 mufflers, 2 muffler caps, 3 prs. mittens, 2 handkerchiefs.

Lady Hayes Sadler: 1 muffler, 1 helmet, 1 pr. gloves, magazines.

Mrs. J. Bromley: magazines.

Miss Hollings: 1 pr. socks.

Mrs. A. Johnson: magazines.

Mrs. Seton Brown: 2 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.

The total of the West Indian Contingent Fund is now £6,674 10s. 7d. Since the last list was pub-

lished, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. J. R. Gaunt and Son (rebate on sales of B.W.I. brooches to Dec. 31st, 1916) ...	14	5	6
Do. do. rebate on sales of B.W.I. brooches (to come) ...	1	0	0
Daniel Radcliffe, Esq. ...	5	5	0
Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., and Lady Blake ...	5	0	0
Chas. W. Doorly, Esq. (quarterly) ...	2	2	0
Commander W. H. Coombs, R.N. ...	2	0	0
Countess of Stamford ...	2	0	0
Edward L. Agar, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Mrs. F. M. Poe ...	1	1	0
Rev. and Mrs. C. Image ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Knox ...	5	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, 45, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

* * *

Following are some further extracts from letters of acknowledgment which have been received from West Indians on active service who were presented with the Contingent Committee's Christmas cigarette cases:—

"It is nice to feel that one is remembered, and I very much appreciate the kind thought."

"Many thanks for you good wishes and most useful souvenir. Although not one of the West Indian Contingent I am still of the West Indies, and appreciate very much your thinking of me."

"The case is just lovely, and several of the fellows in this hut would like to be West Indians."

"I thank you most sincerely for the very nice and useful souvenir, and would ask you to be good enough to convey to the West India Committee my grateful thanks and heartiest appreciation for all their good wishes. At a time like this, when one feels that he has done his duty to the Empire to which it is our pride to belong, it is gratifying to know that there exists such a Committee as the West India Committee, who have always shown how interested they are in the welfare and happiness of the boys of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent."

"The case is a ripping one. One does not have to be continually going back to the base for supplies."

"The cigarettes and case were a very welcome souvenir."

"I was very pleased to receive the cigarette case. It is very useful, and will just about go in a tunic pocket."

"I shall always prize the case, though I am afraid I shall not be able to do the same to the cigarettes, as they have a bad habit of vanishing."

"Will you please convey to the members of the Committee my grateful thanks for such a useful present."

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies and Bermuda who are sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles,

Newcastle; Pte. C. C. Leach, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Liverpool; Pte. C. J. Burgess, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Manchester; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle; Pte. R. A. North, Thirsk, Yorks.; Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Chichester.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Cpl. C. A. Baker, Croydon; Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. C. R. Cannon, Stoke-on-Trent; Pte. R. Wilson, Pte. A. B. Marshall, Warrington; J. B. Dickenson, London; Sgt. W. H. T. Williams, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Pte. Geo. W. Hayley, Brighton.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. G. W. Bourke, R.F., Glossop.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. P. Ryan, Royal Fusiliers, Hammersmith.

TRINIDAD.

Trooper O. Hamel-Smith, London; Trooper R. Hale, Household Battalion, East Dulwich; Trooper N. O. Warner, Household Battalion, London; Trooper Wm. Howard, Household Battalion, Tooting; Rifleman E. Knowles, Bpston; Rifleman J. H. Llanos, Sheerness.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Major C. S. Sanguinetti, 27, Berkeley Square, London; Major G. W. R. Jenkins, 7, Mandeville Place, London; Regtl.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith, W.

OBITUARY.

HON. JAMES SPENCER HOLLINGS.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR, the Hon. James Spencer Hollings died suddenly in Nevis on January 19th.

The death of Mr. Hollings deprives the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis of a unique and striking personality. It is just 57 years ago since Mr. Hollings—a boy of 16—left England for St. Kitts, to be trained as a planter by his kinsman, the late Mr. T. B. H. Berkeley. So apt a pupil did he prove, that some years later he was offered and accepted an important position with the Montserrat Co., ultimately becoming Messrs. Sturge's manager and business representative in the island. For thirty years Mr. Hollings was closely associated with Montserrat, taking an active part in the social and political life of the colony. In 1895 Mr. Hollings returned to England, settling in business at Birmingham, where he remained ten years, when he was offered and accepted the attorneyship and management of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. and Co.'s estates in Nevis. During the last twelve years of his life, Mr. Hollings' activities were more than ever varied and numerous.

The island of Nevis owes him an everlasting debt of gratitude for the many improvements and reforms he effected during his sojourn there. The complete restoration of the Bath House—universally acknowledged to be the most comfortable, well run hotel in the Leeward Islands—was his work. He also planned and built the New Government House, which took the place of Queen's House now the hospital. He built the reservoir, whereby the town was supplied, for the first time for many years, with a constant supply of pure water. He also constructed, with the aid of the late Mr. Lewis Hollings, his son, the *Windrush*, a motor boat, which for several seasons ran daily between Nevis and St. Kitts, conveying the mails under Government contract (the *Windrush*, at the present time, is doing similar coastal service round Dominica); nor must we omit to mention the fact that some years ago Mr. Hollings designed and built the present beautiful Government House in Montserrat. Mr. Hollings was a fully qualified Civil Engineer, besides being a musician of considerable ability. He was for many years a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Leeward Islands, and the services he

rendered his adopted country cannot be too highly estimated, neither can there be any doubt as to his singleness of purpose, his unerring devotion to duty, his fearlessness and utter disregard of public opinion.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing him intimately can truthfully aver that he was the sincerest of friends, the soul of hospitality, and a just and good man, whose loss to one and all will be keenly felt and deplored for many a long day. Mr. Hollings married in 1868 Edith Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sturge, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire, by whom he had seven children, five of whom survive him.

NATURE NOTES.

It is a common experience that vegetables of temperate climate degenerate quickly when cultivated in the tropics. The November *Bulletin* of the Porto Rico Experimental Station deals with this subject, and as the result of experiment it is stated that this is due to the fact that seed loses its vitality quickly when exposed to warm, moist air.

To retain the vitality of the seed, it is recommended that it be stored in air-tight jars, in the bottom of which is placed a small quantity of calcium chloride. The results obtained in Porto Rico with northern lettuce and tomatoes were quite satisfactory. In the latter, no degeneration was noticed as the result of growing an imported variety for several generations.

THE *Agricultural Bulletin* of the Federated Malay States has recently published the results of experiments made by Mr. B. Bunting on the influence of lime on various crops. As regards rubber, experiments carried out with a soil consisting of fairly rich loam of a peaty nature overlying an alluvial clay subsoil possessing an acidity requiring from four to six tons of lime per acre to neutralise, to which one ton of lime only was added, showed an increase of 25 per cent. of latex in the limed trees as compared with the unlimed.

SPEAKING generally, the author concludes that a decided improvement in crop-production can be obtained by the application of lime in quantities not sufficient entirely to neutralise the acidity of the soil, and that such improvement is not in direct proportion to the reduction in acidity. In determining what quantity of lime it is most profitable to apply, the results appear to show that the application of one ton of burnt lime per acre is the best to adopt, once every four years. If heavier applications are considered necessary, the time between the applications should be shortened rather than the individual applications increased.

MR. G. K. KELHAR has been experimenting recently in the direction of cotton manuring. As the result of six years' experience that, with the use of calcium nitrate and superphosphate, with and without pen manure, the best results were obtained by the continuation of artificial fertilisers without pen manure. The results with pen manure alone, and with pen manure and fertiliser were about equal. The fertilisers were added in the propor-

tion of 80 lbs. of calcium nitrate and 160 lbs. of superphosphate per acre, and the pen manure was applied at the rate of 2 to 4 tons per acre. An application of 8 tons per acre of the latter gave no better result than the lesser quantity.

At Jaffna, in India, tobacco is cured, for chewing purposes only, by means of smoke. According to the *Tropical Agriculturist*, the operation is carried out in a curing hut, which is a circular room of about 10 ft. in diameter, with mud walls of 5 to 7 ft. in height, and a detachable roof of sticks and dry Palmyra leaves. The floor is about 2 to 3 feet above ground-level, and has a small, narrow entrance, which is closed when the tobacco is being smoked. Coco-nut husks and stalks, which generate the largest amount of smoke, are spread on the floor and burnt, while the tobacco leaves, which are cut a day previous to smoking, are hung from the roof. After twelve hours the tobacco is removed and stacked in a heap. The process is repeated in two days' time, and the leaves are then ready for marketing.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

HAVE you subscribed to the Victory War Loan yet?

MAJOR J. A. BURDON, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, whose health has greatly benefited from his stay at Folkestone, and Mrs. Burdon have left for the West Indies.

MR. EDGAR JEPSON, who has just written a novel called "Esther Lawes," the scene of which is laid in the West Indies, was a tutor in Barbados from 1889 to 1893.

THE Post Office of Jamaica is now included in the reply coupon system. That is to say, one can write to correspondents in Jamaica and enclose a coupon to cover the postage of the reply.

BARBADOS readers will be sorry to learn that Mrs. O'Neal, mother of Mr. T. W. O'Neal, Chancellor of the Diocese of Barbados, has had a slight seizure. Though in her eightieth year, Mrs. O'Neal is making fair progress towards recovery.

THE Hon. Donald and Mrs. McDonald, of Antigua, who came over from Antigua in December, have been rather indisposed since their arrival owing to the inclement weather. Both are, however, we are glad to be able to say, much better.

A CALENDAR for 1917, with an appropriate motto for each day, published by Miss Simpson, of Barbados, has already realised \$100. A draft for that amount was received by the West India Committee and forwarded to the British Red Cross Society.

In the *Argosy's Annual* "Christmas Tide" some good photographs taken by Mr. and Mrs. Clementi

on their trip to Roraima are reproduced. One showing the two travellers on the summit of the mountain on January 18th, 1916, will become historically interesting, since Mrs. Clementi was the first lady to ascend Roraima. Other photographs illustrate Mr. Roosevelt's visit to the colony.

A BRITISH GUIANA Gazette Extraordinary calls for recruits to serve with the British Guiana Contingent being raised to join His Majesty's Army. Smart, healthy young men of good character, between the ages of 18 and 41 years, are needed. The rates of pay are—Colour-Sergeants 3/6 per day, Sergeants 2/4, Corporals 1/8, and Privates 1/-, with the usual additions for proficiency, and separation allowances.

The British West Indies are to be represented at the "Empire Fair" to be held at the Savoy Hotel on February 14th and 15th next in aid of Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops and other War activities of the Women's Auxiliary Force. The Fair is to be opened on the first day by Lady French, and on the second day by Lady Perley, at 3 p.m. The Countess of Stamford and a Committee of Ladies are making arrangements for the West Indian stall, of which Her Highness Princess Marie Louise has graciously consented to be Patroness.

WHEN H.M.S. *Cornwallis* was torpedoed in the Mediterranean recently, one of her officers, Commander Stewart, was fortunate enough to have in his cabin one of the boxes of chocolate presented to the Navy and Army in 1915 by the Colonies of Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Lucia, which he was treasuring as a souvenir. Being the only article of food available, he filled his pockets with the chocolate, which sustained him through many trying hours. It is an interesting coincidence that Commander Stewart is connected with the West Indies through his mother, who came from Jamaica.



A B. W. I. Brooch

The West Indian Contingent Fund has already benefited to the extent of £20 8s. 6d. 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	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.

DEMERARIANS will have heard with regret of the death of Mr. J. F. Trotter, late Protector of Im-

migrants in Mauritius, and stepfather of Mr. Russell Garnett and the late Mr. Harry Garnett. The *Planters' and Commercial Gazette* of Mauritius speaks in high terms of the late Mr. Trotter's social and official qualities. "His death," our contemporary observes, "will be widely and sincerely mourned, and he leaves the memory of one who has lived well and uprightly, has made many friends, and not a single enemy."

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, says the same authority, on his arrival at Trinidad wrote a charming letter to one of his friends in Mauritius. In this he



THE DOUCEUR.

The scarcity of sugar has been the subject of many facetious references in the comic press lately. The above sketch by George Morrow is reproduced by the special permission of the proprietors of *Punch*, in which it appeared on January 31st. Another paper gave an amusing picture of the Duchess at the opera "wearing her finest lumps of sugar."

stated that on his way to Trinidad he spent twelve days in America, mostly in New York, and two days at Washington, where he was received at the British Embassy. He talked with many prominent Americans, including Mr. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt, and he wrote that the Americans were simply rolling on gold. Trees in Mauritius, he went on to say, compared very favourably with the trees in Trinidad, and Mauritian sugar factories were far superior to those of Trinidad. The only factory which Sir John had as yet visited used a combination of the diffusion system and cane crushing which did not seem to give good results. Coconut trees were very abundant and very lovely in the island. These were the principal industry of the island when there was no cyclone.

For very obvious reasons, it is no longer desirable to publish the dates of steamer sailings to and from the West Indies. Intending passengers must therefore be referred to the various shipping companies, and correspondents can only be advised to post their letters as soon as they are ready. They will then be forwarded by first opportunity.

THE LONDON LETTER.

THOUGH there may be safety in a multitude of counsellors, one cannot help regarding the multiplication of Committees, etc., to deal with trade after the War as rather overdone. The latest body to come into existence is an influential one called the Empire Resources Development Committee, which aims at conserving the natural resources of the Empire, developing them partly for the benefit of the State, and of eventually securing the appointment of a permanent Board to carry out these objects. The members include Earl Grey, Lord Selborne, Lord Islington, Lord Plymouth, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling, with Sir Starr Jameson as Chairman. Union is strength, and it is to be hoped that many post-war-trade organisations may eventually join hands.

We are beginning to enjoy the delights unknown to residents in the West Indies of the lengthening of the days. Throughout the winter, lights have been practically out at 5 p.m. Now we have been granted a welcome dispensation, and lights need not be dimmed or put out until 6.30. Scarcely a day passes without its toll of accidents due to the darkened streets, and the extra hour and a half of light, both actual and artificial, are particularly welcome. The "lighting down" hours are now as follows:—

During Jan.	from 6.0 p.m.	During June	from 9.30 p.m.
Feb. ..	6.30 ..	July ..	9.0 ..
March ..	7.30 ..	Aug. ..	8.30 ..
April ..	8.30 ..	Sept ..	7.30 ..
May ..	9.0 ..		

MR. W. A. M. GOODE had a sympathetic audience at the Royal Society of Arts on January 24th, when he read a paper on the relief work undertaken in Belgium by the National Committee, of which he is Honorary Secretary. So perfect has the organisation become that the Committee has its own fleet of steamers, sailing under its own neutral flag, to carry supplies of food, clothing, etc., to our stricken Ally. It is relieving ten million people in Belgium and France, who would otherwise be destitute, and has already expended £42,000,000 to this end. The quantity of food distributed by the Committee weighs 30,000,000 tons!

FRESH from his experiences on Elephant Island, where he was marooned with 21 companions, and spent twelve weary weeks, Commander Frank Wild, second in command of the Shackleton Antarctic Expedition, recently favoured the writer with a call. It will be remembered that some members of the West India Committee provided all the sugar required for the expedition, and the contributors will be glad to learn that it was greatly appreciated. When the *Endurance* was crushed in the ice-pack, many of the cases containing this now precious foodstuff were saved by being harpooned and hauled out of the flooded hold. On the ice-bound island, three lumps were issued daily to each of the men, who were reduced to drinking the sailors' Saturday night toast of "Sweethearts and wives" in methylated spirit! No doubt, now that

Sir Ernest has succeeded in relieving the survivors of the Ross Sea party, who were left behind when the *Aurora* was compelled to return to New Zealand, we shall hear more from him as to the merits of cane sugar.

Two circumstances have occurred during the fortnight to recall the Morant Bay rebellion of 1865. In a letter in defence of the Grand Jury system published in the *Times* of January 25th, Sir Harry Poland, who was one of the Counsel for the much persecuted Governor Eyre after the execution of Gordon, pointed out that, but for the Grand Jury, who threw out the Bill, that Governor would have been submitted to the ignominy of standing in the dock in the Old Bailey on a charge of murder. The Grand Jury again threw out the Bill when the "Jamaica Committee" in 1867 prosecuted him under Colonial Governor's Act for oppression.

THE second circumstance is the death on January 29th of Lord Cromer, the eminent statesman and financier who "made" modern Egypt. Early in the 'Sixties, Lord Cromer, then Lieut. Evelyn Baring, was appointed Aide-de-camp to Sir Henry Storks, the last High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. In that capacity he accompanied Sir Henry to Jamaica on his appointment as Chairman of the Commission to enquire into the outbreak, which was for many years the subject of bitter controversy in England.

THE King's message published in the Press on January 31st will no doubt bring many recruits to the Volunteers—already a considerable force. Many well-known members of the West India Committee are already enrolled. They include Mr. G. McC. Frame, Mr. E. A. Haggart, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. T. W. O'Neal, and Mr. R. Bryson, and many others will now no doubt flock to the Colours to defend our hearths and homes. The new movement is very businesslike, and officers and men take their duties very seriously. There is nothing of the old "Brook Green"-ishness of the 'Sixties about it.

THE proprietors of Bloomsbury boarding houses, which, before the War, were so well patronised by West Indian visitors, are reaping a golden harvest in consequence of the commandeering of hotels by the Government, to which there seems to be no limit. The Grand, the Metropole, the Cecil, Horrex's, and St. Ermiu's, among others, have all been taken over, and the clubs are rapidly being assimilated by the insatiable Office of Works. The Constitutional and National Liberal have already been turned into offices, and now that world-know caravanserai, the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, is about to share the same fate, in spite of the protests of some rather unpatriotic members.

DURING the past fortnight a real old-fashioned frost led to a revival of the sport of skating for some days. The ponds at Wimbledon and Regent's Park have been largely patronised by enthusiasts,

but the Serpentine has failed to reach the bearing stage, as an agriculturist might say. Beyond a reservation for the ducks and pelicans, the lake in St. James's Park has been dry since the beginning of the War, and is now covered to a great extent by a new township of temporary Government buildings, in one of which, by the way, Mr. E. C. Jackman, M.C.P., of Barbados, is working.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

We give below some extracts from letters received by various opportunities, and must express our gratitude to those of our friends who continue to furnish us with their interesting letters in spite of the dislocation of correspondence due to the lack of mail facilities.

ANTIGUA—Captain Dew's Marriage.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, DECEMBER 20th, 1916.—Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed here as to the working of the Canadian reciprocity agreement. We do not feel that we in the smaller islands are getting any return for the real preference that we are giving. For weeks our muscovado sugar laid here and in Canada without a bid being made.

We are sending two representatives to the meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce in February. As you know, I have been a staunch advocate of this Chamber and have pointed out that it would be of the greatest use to us after the war. I am looking forward to this Chamber making the West Indies a very actual part of the Empire, and to make our voice heard in the Councils of Europe that are bound to come. I congratulate Mr. Davson on the successful outcome of his effort, and thank the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for bringing the Chamber of Commerce into actual being.

Captain Dew and Miss Hilda Ledatt were married on 6th December. Miss Ledatt is daughter of Mgr. Ledatt, of Betty's Hope Estate. A very successful wedding. Large number of presents. At St. Peter's, Parken, the Dean and the Rector officiating.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Railway Question Revived.

The Hon. Dr. J. J. Nunan has been elected President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society for the year in succession to Mr. J. Cunningham. The constitution of the various committees is published in the Mail Editions of the papers of December 22nd. Interest in the Hinterland Railway question has revived as the result of a meeting of the local branch of the Royal Colonial Institute.

Sir Charles Cox has left for Barbados, where he proposes to spend the winter. The need for effecting harbour improvements at Georgetown has been again emphasised by the grounding of the *Caraquet* on the bar on Dec. 21st. The *Chenab* arrived on the same day bringing 770 immigrants from India, of whom 132 are for this colony, and the remainder for Trinidad. The \$150,000 capital of the syndicate which recently purchased Pln. Hampton Court has been raised locally without any difficulty.

The following resolution was adopted in the Combined Court on December 2nd:—

Be it Resolved.—That the Combined Court places on record its recognition of the great services to the Colony of the Conjoint Committee, more especially its elected Chairman, the Attorney General (Dr. Nunan), formed at Lusignan on Saturday, 25th November, by the Combined Court and Engineers Committees, the East Coast Commissioners and other nominees of the Government, under urgent circumstances of disaster to the newly-erected Sea Wall at Lusignan and is pleased to note that the Government has ratified its action:

And it is further Resolved.—That the Combined Court places on record its deep sense of the services to the Colony, more especially to the East and West Coast Estates, of the Advisory Committee of engineers appointed by the Government and its elected Chairman, the Attorney General, and is pleased to note that the Government has also ratified the action of that Committee. And it is further resolved that His Excellency be requested to forward a copy of the said Resolution to the Secretary of State

for the Colonies and to the Chairman of the West India Committee (himself one of the proprietors of the threatened estates).

MONTSERRAT—The Death of Mr. Leslie Jarvis.

MR. K. P. PENCHORN, DECEMBER 29th.—The season has passed more quietly than I have ever known it. This has been due to a great extent to the death of our Acting Commissioner, Mr. T. Leslie H. Jarvis, which took place on the 15th inst. at Government House, after he had been operated on for appendicitis on the 10th inst. At the time of his illness, on the 6th inst., there was only one doctor in the island, Dr. Heath; as he got worse help was asked for from Antigua, and Dr. McPherson arrived by sloop in the morning of the 15th, accompanied by Mr. M. Jarvis, brother of Mr. B. H. Jarvis, the operation was performed the same day and there was every hope of his recovery, but other complications arose, and after the severe strain of his illness and operation he could not hold out. Mrs. Jarvis, who has been staying here with friends since her husband's death, leaves to-day for Antigua. Dr. McPherson has been acting as Commissioner. Our cotton crop will be a short one, too much rain having fallen, especially in October.

We would welcome Colonel Davidson-Houston back to his post if he could be spared from the War Office.

ST. VINCENT—The Second Island Contingent.

MR. W. N. SANDS, DECEMBER 23rd.—We have had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Edgar Tripp on his tour north and south. He appeared much interested in our co-operative agricultural enterprises. He seemed to have had a very successful trip up the islands in connection with the Associated Chamber of Commerce for the West Indies. The matter of the representation of St. Vincent has not yet been settled, but I trust it will be shortly. All the other islands are being affiliated.

The weather has turned fine and dry, and a most agreeable change after all the rain. Our Second Contingent for Active Service left a short time ago, and the third is being got together.

TRINIDAD—What the Contingent Committee does.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JANUARY 16th.—Corporal G. A. Roberts, of Trinidad, who was wounded in France on 15th July, and is on leave in consequence, landed here last month, full of gratitude for the kind assistance given him by the West Indian Contingent Committee, which enabled him to escape the English winter, and be among his family and friends at Christmas. He begged me to say that he can never forget the kindness of the West India Committee and its Secretary, and of the English people generally. At a huge recruiting meeting held on the Savannah, at which some of our leading men spoke, Roberts also delivered a stirring address, probably the most original and striking of all. His friends, and many of the merchants here, have subscribed to a fund which will enable this most deserving man to return to his regiment in comfort.

The Christmas races of the Trinidad Turf Club came off very successfully, so far as fine weather, a good attendance, including the Governor and party, and close contests are concerned. Whether the financial result will be equally satisfactory is not yet known, but I am glad to say that the dissolution of the Turf Club and the end of Trinidad racing, which seemed imminent a year ago, when you could hardly count the number of rats who left what they thought to be the sinking ship, have been averted by about twenty-five of the real sportsmen of the colony who have agreed to subscribe liberally and regularly to prevent such a disaster. It would indeed have been a shameful thing in a wealthy colony such as this if the principal and most popular sport of the people should have been abandoned for the sake of a few hundred pounds a year. However, there is no fear of that now.

The Revue "Topsey Turveydom" netted \$1,370, which amount was devoted by Mrs. Perez, first towards completing the sum required to purchase Trinidad's second aeroplane, and the balance to other war funds.

All arrangements have been completed for the Congress of Chambers of Commerce to be held here February 23rd to March 4th, and everyone is glad to be informed that the initiator of the movement, Mr. Davson, will attend. The Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of the Agricultural Society will be held during the same week and

will form an additional attraction. Outside the business part of the meeting, we hope to give all visitors an interesting time.

The New Year was opened with a pleasant function at Government House, where the Consular body, twenty in number, waited on the Governor in the morning, and wished His Excellency the compliments of the season and New Year. The Dean, Mons. Serre, Vice-Consul for France, delivered an excellent address, which met with a happy response from the Governor, after which the whole party was photographed in the grounds, with His Excellency and Lady Chancellor in the centre.

TOBAGO—The Dry Season Sets in Earlier.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JANUARY 10th.—The Christmas and New Year holidays were quietly enjoyed as usual by the natives, the chief feature being Church and School "Anniversaries" and Prize Givings. These are always preceded by "marches" of parents and children in their best dresses, and the improvement in the social life of the people could not be better displayed. It is no longer blue "dongerie," head handkerchiefs and bare feet, but the latest out (in a cheap form) in dresses, hats, and boots for the females, and the men wear flannels or tweed suits with straw or felt hats, and all parties make quite a respectable appearance of comfortable prosperity. This is most evident as yet in externals, as it is only here and there that one sees a nice house occupied by natives, but that will come in due time. The moral improvement still lags behind, and dishonesty, while condemned openly, is still rampant, while the neglected fields and gardens, show that the old-time disinclination for steady work has still to be overcome. The two weeks of Christmastide is passing into three, and planters are complaining bitterly that the cacao is rotting on the trees for lack of labour. Fortunately the East Indians are more keen to work, and those who have a nucleus of these "free" labourers, are not so badly off. It is hoped that necessity, if nothing else, will stimulate the natives to resume work, as fields and public roads are waiting to be put in order. The dry season has set in earlier than usual in Tobago, and the Trades winds are making nature forget the floods of October and November. The rough roads and the havoc wrought by rivers and ravines means a big expenditure to the Government as well as private individuals, and many plans for bridges, etc., will have to be adjourned to that nebulous period "after the war." The cacao trees are now dropping their leaves furiously, and in exposed places look very weather beaten. Light drizzles in the evenings, occasionally, may keep the earth cool, but if the present weather continues, the prospects for the April/June cacao crop will be seriously curtailed. The high price of imported goods is compelling the natives to plant more provisions, and the sincere hope is expressed that this enforced industry may develop into a habit, to the benefit of themselves and the community generally. With the change in the weather, health conditions have improved. Our Commissioner Warden, Mr. Strange, is, however, still out of sorts, and goes on health leave, probably to Barbados, this month.

TURKS ISLAND—An Agricultural Society Formed.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The weather during the month of November was very changeable and squally. The maximum temperature was 88.5 deg. and the minimum 72.5 deg. Fah.

On the 2nd inst. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Jones and Mr. E. J. D. Astwood returned in the SS. *Algonquin* from New York. On the 8th inst. a public meeting was held at Grand Turk for the purpose of forming an Agricultural and Industrial Society. The meeting was fairly well attended, the majority of those present being of the feminine sex and not likely to take any lively interest in any such society. On the 25th a further meeting was held, at which officers for the newly-formed society were elected. Such a society, if run on proper lines, and with hard work, should prove of great benefit to the inhabitants of the Caicos group, as their stock of poultry and pigs from their primitive methods of in-breeding have become almost worthless; their methods of gardening also are sadly in need of attention. The Commissioner is very enthusiastic over anything pertaining to agriculture, and deserves every encouragement.

On the 8th inst. the SS. *Covina*, from Jamaica to England put in at Grand Turk and landed twenty-two stowaways which were found on board soon after leaving Jamaica. They were quartered in the gaol and were liberated on the 14th, to be sent back to Jamaica at the first opportunity. On the 11th inst. the SS. *Camelia* passed South at 10 p.m. Owing to her not being signalled she did not call in to take the stowaways back to Jamaica as was expected. On the 16th inst. Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Frith arrived from New York on the SS. *Iroquois*.

On the 23rd His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica arrived on H.M.S. — at 5.30 p.m., the ship sailing north immediately after landing His Excellency and secretary. A reception was held in the Council Chamber soon after His Excellency arrived, after which he journeyed to "Waterloo" and was the guest of His Honour the Commissioner during his stay here. On the 24th inst. His Excellency, his Secretary, the Commissioner, the Assistant Commissioner, and Dr. Auden sailed for Salt Cay on sloop *Blm* at 9.30 a.m., returning at 5 p.m. the same day. On the 25th a public meeting was held in the Legislative Chamber, Grand Turk, His Excellency addressing the meeting. The subject of the meeting was the salt industry and the consideration of the report of the committee, which recently went into the matter at some length. On the 28th inst. His Excellency and party, together with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, had planned to visit East Harbour, being conveyed there and back on H.M.S. — but, owing to unforeseen circumstances, on arrival of this ship, the visit to East Harbour was cancelled, and on His Excellency getting aboard she sailed south. His Excellency seemed pleased with his visit, and, from conversation with him, apparently had formed a good idea of things generally, and if the people will only put their shoulders to the wheel, I feel sure that his visit will have proven beneficial, as he knows for himself what is wanted and has promised to look into matters thoroughly.

Business generally during the month has been particularly bright, especially in the shipping of salt, large quantities being shipped and a large quantity has been sold for future shipment. The labouring classes have been kept employed, and at one time during the month there were 210 labourers on the Clyde steamers around Santo Domingo, a greater number of these being from the Caicos Islands.

Consignments of fibre, sponge, and canned lobster have been shipped to the United States during the month. A shipment of two bales of cotton, as a sample, has also been made by the Commissioner to England, via New York. Many have spoken of planting out areas of cotton, but so far that seems to be the limit of their exertions. It is a great pity the people do not exert themselves in this direction, having a Commissioner with a practical experience extending over a number of years. He certainly deserves every encouragement in this direction. Efforts are now being made to supply a long-felt want in the shape of a Government-aided School for Secondary Education, and it is hoped that the scheme will materialize very shortly.

The question of co-operation is one that is occupying a great deal of attention at the present time, and one that should be encouraged, as the present method of working against one another is not to the benefit of the Dependency. It is hoped that after the good advice given by His Excellency on the subject, something will be done along the lines of co-operation.

Contributions from the Dependency towards the various war funds—these subscriptions amount to over £2,000.

We take the following announcement from the *Times*:

O'Hara — Murray-Blendel. — On the 1st February, at Baling, James O'Hara Murray, of Barbados, West Indies, to Hylda Constance Blendel, of 15, Ladbroke-road, Baling. (West Indian and Ruhlben papers, please copy.)

A LIVE snake, 30 ins. long, has been discovered at Derby in a consignment of bananas from Jamaica.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.

February 7th, 1917.

WAR LOAN. The new War Loan has absorbed attention of all classes during the fortnight. It is hoped to establish a record in new money subscribed; but to secure this a still greater effort will be needed, and every reader should "take his bit," if he has not done so already.

BANK RATE remains at 5½ per cent. as from the 18th of January. Consols are quoted at 5½; First War Loan (3½ per cent.) at 8½; and Second War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 89½.

SUGAR. The home market remains unchanged, no further alterations in price having been made by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. As already announced Lord Devonport, the Food Controller, is now Chairman of the Commission in place of Mr. McKenna, and the places vacated by Mr. Runciman and Mr. Montagu have been taken by Mr. Austin Taylor, a retired shipowner, and Mr. May, Secretary of the Prudential Insurance Company. The sugar business will be an absolutely fresh field to these gentlemen. There is nothing new as to methods of distribution of sugar, but an important announcement on the subject is expected daily. In the meanwhile, the Food Controller has issued a notice urging householders to reduce their sugar consumption to ½ lb. per head per week—perhaps, one might add, from our experience of the futility of voluntary effort in this connection. Lord Devonport has decided the manufacture of beer shall be reduced 50 per cent. This will mean a lessened importation for the brewer to the extent of about 50,000 tons; but as sugar for brewing is imported privately under license and its use prohibited for any other purpose, this decision will have no effect upon the amount of sugar available for the general public.

The subject of the raising of revenue is likely to become an important question in the United States in the near future; in fact the Committee of Ways and Means of that country are now considering it. The Government of that country is faced with a deficit in the year's accounts of something like \$300,000,000, if the naval extension policy is to be pursued, apart from having to provide for a War Budget in the event of the United States declaring war against Germany, which appears imminent. The raising of revenue has always been, in the United States, a Customs' matter, with the exception of the microscopic income tax introduced with the advent of President Wilson, which has recently been doubled, and the general opinion, according to *Facts about Sugar*, in interested circles in that country inclines to an addition to the present import tax on sugar as one of the means that will be adopted to raise more revenue. But if it be merely a question of raising revenue, it would be in accordance with the non-protective policy of the Democratic party to place an Excise tax on domestic and territorial sugar, and thus reduce or wipe out the protection to American sugar producers afforded by the present Customs' tariff, and at the same time raise revenue. American sugar forms about 54 per cent. of American consumption, and an Excise tax equal to import duty would give more revenue than the doubling of the latter would.

If, however, the Customs' duty is increased, it will be a serious matter for British producers. Already the preferential treatment of Cuban sugar has had the effect of bringing about an enormous development of sugar production in Cuba. The super-normal price obtained for the million and three quarter tons of Cuban sugar going into the United States naturally enables the Cuban sugar producers to place his surplus sugar on other markets on terms disadvantageous to the sugar producers of countries not possessing similar benefits. The surplus sugar of Cuba this year will amount, in all probability, to 1,800,000 tons, which will go westward. The fiscal system of the west threatens, therefore, to be as dangerous in its effects to the British producers as that of Continental Europe has been in the past, and the only way to avert the coming evil is for Great Britain to give British producers their own by means of a preferential treatment in the Customs' Tariff of the Mother Country.

The acquisition of St. Croix—or Santa Cruz, as it is more generally termed—will provide the United States with another source of free sugar for home consumption. The sugar industry of the island is at present about 12,000 tons, and as the gross area is 74 square miles, no doubt there will be considerable extension under the American rule.

The Bureau of Crop Estimates of Washington give the following figures as regards the Hawaiian sugar industry. The total area in canes in 1916 was 246,332 tons, as against 239,800 tons in 1915. The areas reaped in these years were 115,419 and 113,200 tons respectively. The average yield of canes per acre in 1916 was 37.5 tons, and in 1915 41 tons. The crop of sugar in 1916 was 829,252 tons, as against 576,785 tons in 1915. The canes yielded 12.2 per cent. of sugar in 1916, and 12.45 per cent. in 1915.

The shipments of Mauritius sugar between the 1st of August and the 1st of December last year were: to Great Britain, 800 tons; to France, 85,562 tons; to India, 3,955 tons; to Hong Kong, 166 tons; to the Seychelles, etc., 249 tons. Practically the whole of the crop has been going to France, only the syrup sugars being shipped elsewhere.

For some time, Chili has been served by two refineries with opposing interests. These, however, have now amalgamated.

The Cuban crop does not march with the pace anticipated. Not only have there been machinery delays, but also labour trouble in connection with cane cutting has kept back some of the factories. The juice, also, still remains immature, a position of things anticipated from the unusually long prevalence of the rains. A spell of favourable weather will do much to improve the position in this respect, but it is the experience of all cane-producing countries that the continuance of climatic conditions favourable to growth after the proper ripening period is not favourable to ultimate good juice.

Up to the 27th ult. the receipts of this current crop's sugar amounted to 328,562 tons, as against 503,478 tons last year to corresponding date. The number of factories working had only increased to 167, leaving 34 still to start operations.

The price of raw 88° sugar (o.b. Magdeburg for crop 1917-18 has been fixed by the German Government at 18 marks per 50 kilos, equal to 218 per ton with the mark at par.

10,000 tons of granulated have been shipped from New York for Switzerland. Messrs. Willett and Gray report that the total export of last crop's Java sugar, up to December 31st, had been 1,234,000 tons, of which 676,000 tons had been shipped to Europe.

The sugar crop of Porto Rico just beginning is estimated at 520,000 tons. This is against a production of 450,000 tons last year and 430,000 tons the year before.

The prohibition of exports of sulphate of ammonia is likely, if adhered to, to be a serious matter to sugar estates in British Guiana and the British West Indies, which depend largely upon it for manurial purposes. The West India Committee is taking the matter up with the Government, and it is hoped that export under license for sugar estate purposes will be allowed.

The price of sugar in the United Kingdom remains at 47/1½ for Tate's cubes, 41/7½ for standard granulated, Java white sugars and basic West Indian crystallized, 40/7½ for basic muscovados, and 39/7½ for basic West Indian grocery syrups.

The West India sugar statistics in London from 1st to 27th January are as follows:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	1,827	2,857	3,983 tons.
Deliveries	3,532	4,676	3,240 "
Stocks (Jan. 27)	6,310	9,281	6,752 "

In the New York market the decline in price evidenced in our last Summary continued, 86° duty paid sugars sinking to \$4.89 on the 25th ult., and to \$4.77 on the following day. On the 2nd there was a recovery to \$4.83.

CACAO The supply offered at auction sales on the 30th ult. was small, only 2,770 bags in all. Of these, however, 1,213 bags were West Indian, which met with rather improved demand. The small parcel of 7 bags Trinidad was disposed of at 79/-; out of 765 bags of Grenada offered, 646 met with purchasers at from 60/- to 71/6. The whole of the Dominica lot, 38 bags, were parted with at 70/-; and 246 bags of the 303 bags St.

Lucia lot changed hands at 62/- to 71/-; 100 bags Demerara sold at 70/-.

The shipments of cacao from Trinidad for the year 1916 amounted to 54,884,482 lbs., as against 54,061,452 lbs. in 1915, and 63,447,876 lbs. in 1914. The lowest price obtained was 76/- in December, and the highest 94/- in January. St. Lucia has shipped 1,576,764 lbs. for the year, as against 1,641,661 lbs. in 1915.

The stocks in London on 27th January were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	18,005	6,591	6,061 bags.
Grenada	14,656	8,715	3,313
Total of all kinds	227,967	99,652	52,302

RUM. The market remains steady, though quiet. Jamaica is valued at 4/4 to 4/9 for coloured rums of recent distillation, but parcels of old distillation command a considerable premium. Demerara 3/6 to 3/7 proof.

COTTON. Owing to the absence of stock no business has been reported by Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland in West Indian Sea Island cotton since the date of last Summary; but the market for Sea Island cotton is stated by them to be firm at previous prices.

OOPRA. Firm. Value finest West India to 46s. 45 10s. less 2s. per cent. discount.

ARROWROOT. The market has been cleared of spot parcels in first hands owing to instructions from St. Vincent to raise the price 3d. per lb. on all arrowroot afloat and to be shipped. The consequent demand from dealers added to the larger requirements of manufacturers has had the above result. Quotations are nominal, the sales ranging from 23d to 43d.

FRUIT. West Indian Bananas. £17 per ton (truckloads); Canary Bananas. None to offer. Jamaica Oranges. Season finished. Jamaica Grapefruit. None to offer.

HONEY. Dearer. We quote 62/6 to 72/6 for ordinary to fine Jamaica.

GINGER. Quiet at unchanged rates.

PIMENTO. A fair business has been done on the spot at 33d; and small sales to arrive have taken place at 32/6 to 33/- c.i.f. London.

SPICES. Nutmegs. Large nuts are neglected. Small sound, steady; defective, of which a large portion were offered, 3d. to 1d. lower; 65s. 1/4 to 1/6; 75s. 1/3 to 1/4; 80s. 1/-; 95s. 10d. to 11d.; 100s. 10d.; broken 6d. to 7d. Mace. Medium to good pale, steady; good pale 2/2 to 2/6; fair pale 1/10 to 2/1; middling red 1/5 to 1/8; broken 11d. to 1/4.

RUBBER. The market has been firm with a good demand for plantation grades. Crepe 3/12; sheet 3/12; Para is firm but quiet, 3/3; medium is very slow of sale.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuela block quoted nominal forward shipment 3/- to 3/0, c.i.f.; spot parcel done at 3/3; landed terms. Panama block nominal 2/6 c.i.f.; spot 2/7 to 2/8. West Indian sheet, firm, spot quotations 3/9 landed terms.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Distilled, 9s. nominal. Market very quiet. Handpressed, 14/6. Market very firm.

WOODS. First hand stocks of Jamaica Mahogany are exhausted, value 8d. to 10d. Trinidad Cedar is much wanted. In absence of stocks, value may be quoted at 9s. to 12d. There is a ready market for Jamaica Satinwood at £8 to £10 per ton. Jamaica Lignum Vitæ wanted, price £7 to £10 per ton.

A special correspondent, who evidently knows British Guiana well, and whose identity we can guess, contributes an interesting article to the *Dundee Advertiser* of February 6th, under the caption "Curare Devilry." The potent poison Curare, which has come into prominence in connection with the conspiracy to murder the Prime Minister, is identified as Urali, the recipe for making which is handed down from father to son.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. C. H. Chambers	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. John T. Moir
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss Moseley
Mr. W. de Gale	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Dr. Frank Olliphant
Sir Walter Egerton	Mr. E. C. Jackson	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
K.C.M.G.	Hon. E. Laborde	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. C. V. A. Espout	Mr. E. K. Lane	Miss E. Robinson
Mr. G. Farmer	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. Marsden	Dr. H. A. Tompany
Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. T. M. Marshall	and
Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. A. L. McCall	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. Albert Mendes	
Mr. Geoffrey Brooks, 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, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.		
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Cliswick, W.		
Captain J. R. Saunders, de Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.		
Mr. W. C. Shuttle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.		

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

Dividend.	Latest Quotations.	Prices, Feb. 6.
4 %	Antigua ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	77
3 1/2 %	Barbados ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1923-42	70 1/2
4 %	British Guiana ... 4 % Redeemable 1935	82 1/2
3 %	British Guiana ... 3 % Redeemable 1923-45	74 1/2
4 %	Grenada ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	81
4 %	Jamaica ... 4 % Redeemable 1934	78
3 1/2 %	Jamaica ... 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	78 1/2
3 %	Jamaica ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	78 1/2
4 %	St. Lucia ... 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	82 1/2
4 %	Trinidad ... 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	77
3 %	Trinidad ... 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	61 1/2
	The Colonial Bank	6
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	110 1/2
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ..	80 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 % Debentures	86
	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures	84
	Imperial Direct Line 4 1/2 % Debentures	103 1/2
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	7 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures	103
	Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd. (£1 shares)	6/6
	Trinidad Leaseholds (£1)	13/-
	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	15-20
	Demerara Railway Company 2 % Perp. Pref.	95-100
	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	67-70
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	70-75
1/6	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary	18/9
6/-	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	96

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.

In spite of the great rise in the cost of labour and materials due to the War, no increase in the price of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR has been made, and it is hoped that none may be necessary if members continue to support the Committee as loyally as they have done in the past. Members can materially assist the work of the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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, 35, Seething Lane, London, E.C. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee.

West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXXII.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SRETRING LANE,
6542 CENTRAL. LONDON, E.C.1.
Telegrams: CARIW, LONDON

February 21st, 1917.

The Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee trust that those members who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st last, without delay. In view of the depletion of the staff and the increased cost of production of the CIRCULAR due to the war, prompt payment is more desirable than ever. Subscriptions may either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

EMIGRATION AFTER THE WAR.

IN Colonial circles, the personnel of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to deal with the question of the settlement of ex-soldiers within the Empire after the War, is not regarded with unqualified approval. To begin with, it is considered much too large and unwieldy, comprising, as it does, no fewer than twenty-five members, or two more than were in the "Wait and See" Cabinet. Then, again, the overwhelming representation of Australia and New Zealand, which have seven members on the Committee besides the Chairman, LORD TENNYSON, a former Governor-General "down under," against Canada's one, is the subject of adverse comment. The Crown Colonies, too, have, as usual, been given a back seat, though we must be grateful for the inclusion in the Committee of SIR OWEN PHILLIPS, M.P., a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who may be relied upon to watch the interest of those Colonies with whose welfare we are particularly concerned, if he is permitted to do so by the terms of reference. SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, who will sit as Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, will also, we may feel sure, keep a weather eye open for the West Indies, with the conditions of which, from the the Bahamas to Guiana, he gained practical knowledge as Secretary of the Royal Commission of 1897. The Committee is to collect and

distribute to intending ex-soldier emigrants information showing clearly the nature of any facilities afforded by the Governments "of the Dominions and States." It is further to make recommendations as to the steps which should be taken by the Government, in concert with "the Governments of the States and Dominions," for the constitution of a central authority to supervise and assist such emigration. Does this mean the supersession of the existing Emigrants' Information Office? It will be noted that not a word is said about the lesser Colonies. This is much to be regretted, for, though the West Indies—which we have chiefly in mind—do not offer the same openings on the land as those afforded by the great Dominions, they are certainly hoping for an influx of young and energetic men as overseers, and in the case of emigrants possessed of a moderate amount of capital, as planters. Surely there must be among the new armies many such potential settlers. In the years of their decline, the European population of the West Indies steadily declined, and the War has made a further drain upon it. The best men of military age have come over to join the Colours. Many have laid down their lives for their King and Empire, and many others will yet do so; but steps must be taken to induce those who survive the present struggle to return and maintain the traditions of the West Indies, in spite of the lure of the Mother Country and the Dominions. New settlers of the class of those who have in recent years made Dominica, St. Lucia, and Tobago their home should also be sought, and we are confident that if the climatic and agricultural advantages of the islands were brought prominently forward, they would be found without difficulty. In the circumstances, it is to be hoped that the proposed central emigration authority will include in the scope of its operations the lesser Colonies of the Empire as well as the great Dominions.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

THE firm refusal of the Food Controller to sanction the grant of licences for the export of sulphate of ammonia is a serious blow to the agricultural industries of the West Indies, and especially that of sugar, in the cultivation of which that product plays a most important part. The object of the Government in prohibiting the export of this fertiliser is, of course, to utilise the supplies in this country for increasing the output of agricultural produce, and in view of the threatened crisis in the food supply of the United Kingdom, we must bow to their decision, though we may doubt if it is a necessary one. Home farmers have hitherto been shy of using sulphate of ammonia. It had to be procured in bulk, and paid for in cash—conditions outside the possibilities of

any but the large farmers. The smaller farmers, therefore, preferred to use composite manures, which might or might not contain their nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia, and for which they got long credit. They could, too, get it in small quantities. An Ammonia Advisory Committee has now been set up at 84, Horseferry Road, S.W., which will sell sulphate of ammonia at £16 per ton, 24½ per cent. basis, in makers' bags, net cash, delivered at the consumer's station in any part of the United Kingdom. One thing is certain, and that is that the forcing of the use of sulphate of ammonia down the throats of reluctant farmers in this country is likely neither to be palatable to them nor in the interests of greater crop production. The farmers here are in a position to use other manurial agents, and enjoy besides the advantage of rotation of crops to renovate the soil for the cultivation of the crops for which it is proposed to use sulphate of ammonia. In the case of the sugar industry of the West Indies, especially of British Guiana and Trinidad, the position is altogether different. There is not enough farmyard manure to manure more than a fraction of the larger estates; there is not, from unavoidable reasons, the rotation of crops to keep alive the fertility of the soil, and sulphate of ammonia has been found by long experience to be the form of immediately available nitrogen essential to satisfactory crops of sugar-cane in spite of all the experiments which have been carried on consistently and persistently for the last thirty years in connection with other forms of manurial nitrogen. Indeed, it is not an exaggeration to say that if the West Indian sugar estates are deprived of their supplies of sulphate of ammonia, the crops of that sugar which has played, and is playing, such an important part in the sugar supplies of London and Liverpool and their vicinities, will be reduced by one-third. This being the case, we trust that the Government will reconsider its decision as to the export of sulphate of ammonia to our Caribbean Colonies. Home fertilising with sulphate of ammonia is a spring process, and will soon be over. The autumn use of sulphate of ammonia has been found to be ineffectual, on account of the loss during the wet months of winter. The Government, therefore, would not be departing from its laid-down line of action as to the use of sulphate of ammonia for home purposes if it issued licences for exportation during the next few months of such sulphate of ammonia remaining over after meeting home wants. It has been suggested that supplies for the West Indies might be obtained from the United States. Enquiries made by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, however, show that these are scanty in quantity and exorbitant in price, and it is, therefore, earnestly hoped that the Government will reconsider the matter and sanction the exportation of sulphate of ammonia, which is essential for the coming sugar crops.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

THE resolutions of LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH'S COMMITTEE and the letters accompanying them, which we publish on another page, reflect, we believe, the great bulk of

public opinion in this country. In the Dominions and Colonies they will give rise to unbounded satisfaction. Recognising the need for the adoption of special steps to stimulate the production of food-stuffs, raw materials, and manufactured articles within the Empire, the Committee adopt unanimously and without reservation the principle of Imperial Preference. The fact that LORD BALFOUR'S COMMITTEE includes life-long Free Traders and ardent Tariff Reformers furnishes a striking indication of the change wrought by the War in politics, and a hopeful augury that Imperial concerns will no longer be dealt with from the narrow point of view of the party politician. The resolutions submitted will pave the way for the discussions on Trade after the War when the Imperial Conference meets in a few weeks' time, and we may now confidently hope that practical effect will before long be given by Parliament to the recommendations of the Paris Conference.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, London, on February 8th. Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presided, and the other members present were Mr. R. Rutherford, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. J. Herbert Scrutton, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

Sir Frederick Clarke's resignation as Hon. Correspondent was accepted with regret, and a cordial vote of thanks to Sir Frederick for his past services was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson and Mr. C. V. C. Horne were appointed Hon. Correspondents for Barbados and Grenada respectively.

The following new members were elected:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. C. Harley	✓ Sir F. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Mosley, C.M.G. ✓ Miss Moseley [V.D.]
Mr. Thomas Duncanson	✓ Mr. W. C. Robertson, ✓ Mr. John R. Forster.
Mr. Houston Hutchings (Turks Islands)	✓ Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, ✓ Mr. W. M. Campbell.
Dr. H. A. Tempany, D.Sc. (Mauritius)	✓ Mr. G. Moody Stuart, ✓ Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. L. G. Crosby (New Brunswick)	✓ Mr. G. MacC. Mitchell, ✓ Mr. G. R. Alston.
Mr. Douglas G. Pile (Barbados)	✓ Mr. R. Rutherford, ✓ Mr. W. P. B. Shephard.

The Secretary reported that the total membership of the West India Committee was now 1,577. It was decided to apply for £600 of the War Loan (£300 new).

Mr. C. Sandbach Parker outlined the proceedings at a recent Conference on East Indian immigration, and the Secretary reported the action taken with respect to (1) imports of Cuban rum, (2) prohibition of the exports of sulphate of ammonia, and (3) West Indian cacao interned in

German ships at the Azores at the outbreak of war and since taken to Lisbon.

The order of the Board of Referees with regard to the application for an increase in the statutory percentage under the Excess Profits clauses of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915 (see CIRCULAR of Jan. 25th, p. 39), was laid on the table. Satisfaction was expressed at the increase in the statutory percentage to 11 and 12 per cent. in the case of the West Indian sugar industry.

DOMINICA AFTER THE HURRICANE.

The West India Committee is indebted to Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E., Colonial Engineer of Dominica, for sixteen interesting photographs illustrating the effects of the hurricane which swept over the island on August 28th last. They are to be framed, in accordance with his suggestion, and hung in the Committee Rooms.

Meanwhile, four are reproduced in the present issue, and of these, two show in a striking manner the devastating effect of the storm. The centre of the disturbance appeared to travel from Pegoua Bay up through the valley of the same name and the centre of the island, including the fertile district known as the Layou Flats. There it split up and spread devastation down practically all the Leeward Coast Valleys.

The upper illustration on the left-hand side shows the substantial girder bridge at Rosalie, which weathered the storm, although the water passed to a depth of three feet over its deck. Macoucherie Bridge, which, as will be seen, was constructed of ferro-concrete, was not so fortunate. This bridge, which had a 40 ft. clear span and 10 ft. waterway, with a 10 ft. auxiliary span to the right, might have withstood the torrent but for an immense log which blocked the fairway and banged into the structure. This log, which was brought down from the interior, was just over 40 ft. long. It was 5 ft. deep at its greatest girth, with a span of 12 ft. across the roots. The upper illustration on the right gives a view of the Macoucherie Valley after the storm.

Lime trees and cultivation generally on the banks of the river were swept away by the flood which followed the torrential rainfall consequent upon the hurricane. Other pictures which are not reproduced show the big wash-out on the Roseau-Rosalie main road within the lands of Bath Estate, a big scour at Colihant Village, and Roseau roadstead during the storm.

The centre illustration was taken immediately after an historic event. It represents the Chief of the Caribs and his wife immediately after the presentation to him of his staff of office, consisting of a fine malacca cane with a long silver ferrule and silver head inscribed "Chief of the Caribs," and surmounted with the crown. The tassels were of red, white and blue silk.

At a recent sale in aid of the Harrow Cottage Hospital, a pound of sugar was sold for 45/-.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The German levy *en masse* was a sign that the enemy intends to make a determined effort with all his remaining resources to end the War this year. But behind the ramparts of the Navy, our people have not taken in the full import of the most drastic military measure on record. All of us do not yet understand that the Allies must not only equal Germany's preparations, but beat them. A stimulus is therefore being supplied in authentic announcements that a decision will be reached on the Western front before Christmas. As no definite prophecies have hitherto been made by responsible persons, it is plain that the Government and its military advisers are at last confident that the Allies are establishing such an overwhelming superiority over the enemy as to enable them to see clearly the road to victory. After that, great events are sure to happen—perhaps even peace. But Kitchener estimated the length of the War in August, 1914. Where would the Allies have been had he not possessed the wisdom, courage, and judgment to base all our preparations on that estimate from the start?

The Submarine Menace.

The toll of ships sunk by enemy submarines is very heavy, including such large liners as the *Afric* and *Manatola*. Some idea of the depredations of these pirate craft may be gathered from the fact that during the past two and a half years a total of over 4,000,000 tons of shipping has been lost by their agency. During the past fortnight the ratio of destruction has increased. But it is satisfactory to know that the Admiralty is getting the situation better in hand, Admiral Jellicoe having expressed himself as satisfied with the situation. The Government, on their side, are showing commendable energy. Standardised ships of between 5,000 and 6,000 tons are being built, and the output of new trading vessels, as well as of auxiliary war craft has been enormously increased. Merchantmen are being armed so expeditiously that the number now capable of defending themselves against submarine attack has increased by nearly 50 per cent. since December last. These and other measures are being taken in combination with belated efforts to increase the home supply of food and to induce a more economical use of our resources by the individual citizen. But it is on the Navy that ultimate dependence must be placed for ridding the seas of an unprecedented menace.

The United States and Germany.

In spite of German diplomacy directed towards preventing China from ranging herself with the United States in accepting the Hun challenge, she has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany. The Scandinavian countries, with great courage, have sent a Note of vigorous protest to Berlin; so has Spain and the South American countries, especially Brazil. The reason why Holland has not come into line with the other maritime nations is

the presence of five German army corps on her frontier. The importance of the American lead, which has thus been followed by neutrals that use the sea, lies in its bearing on the future of international law. As long as they suffered the outrages of the pirates in silence, there was a danger that dangerous precedents were being set up for future wars. But with all the seafaring nations united in condemnation of Germany, as well as in a common hatred of her, there is promise of a potent combination for the maintenance of peace when it comes, and for the enforcement of law on the seas.

The Blockade of America.

War between the United States and Germany is hanging in the balance. Apparently President Wilson is waiting for some "overt act." A U-boat has sunk the *Lyman P. Law*, an American freight-carrier, in the Mediterranean. But whether the incident will precipitate hostilities or not is uncertain. Meanwhile, the enemy is heaping insults on the United States. After detaining Mr. Gerard, the American Ambassador in Berlin, as a hostage for the safety of interned shipping, threatening to arrest all Americans in Germany, and pulling down the United States flag in Brussels, the Huns had the effrontery to ask Mr. Wilson to discuss the new situation diplomatically. He refused until they return to the maritime usages of civilised nations. But, as is pointed out to him by American newspapers, if the United States is not at war with Germany, that country is at war with the United States. American ships do not leave port, the piers are congested with freight, and the industrial activities of the country are checked. Germany's threats of unrestricted U-boat warfare have tied up the shipping of the Atlantic seaboard. The difficulty is that the West and Middle West are averse from war, and Mr. Wilson cannot move without a united country behind him.

The Western Front.

Behind the armed screens on both sides preparation never ceases for the most titanic conflict of shells and bayonets in history. Germany, whose reserves in men seem to be inexhaustible, is putting new formations in the field of young troops, who are said to be of good physique and well equipped. Then there are the regiments returning from the drive in Roumania, whose moral is excellent. In all, it is estimated on good authority that the enemy will have 166 divisions on this front. Since such enormous forces cannot long be maintained by drafts, he must intend to stake the future in a mighty effort, which will be short-lived. These facts being known to us, no individual or common sacrifices are too great for us to make in order to provide the Allied armies in France with an overwhelming preponderance in men and guns.

It will be remembered that the French victory in Champagne, by which they captured the important Massiges ridge and 25,000 prisoners, was the first important offensive of the Allies. They advanced three miles thereby, creating an awkward salient for the enemy between the Butte du Mesnil and

Maisons de Champagne. With the idea of improving their position, the Germans launched a great attack on February 16th, penetrating the French line half a mile on a front of over a mile, and capturing 850 prisoners. The thrust is not supposed to have more than local significance.

On the Ancre.

The capture of Grandcourt, the fifty-third village which has been wrested from the enemy since the great push of July 1st last year, was a notable feat. Like Combles, it lies in a cup-like hollow, and like Combles, it was rendered untenable by the occupation and consolidation of ground in the neighbourhood, which threatened to envelop it. The tactical effect of this success is that it marks one more step towards the strong line Miraumont-Pys, four miles west of Bapaume. With Grandcourt, on the south bank of the Ancre, ours, British troops advanced to Baillecourt Farm, on the north bank, taking it by surprise. Two days after Baillecourt Farm had been occupied, our troops gained a footing at the base of Serre Hill, from which the enemy has vainly tried to dislodge them. To the west and north, however, he still holds strong positions.

On the Tigris.

Kut is being invested yet more closely, but there is little chance of its speedy reduction with the Turk behind its defences. It is a strong natural fortress, which enabled the little force commanded by General Townshend to hold out for months. So that the enemy, who is better prepared for a siege, may be expected to put up a protracted resistance. With the capture of the liquorice factory his hold on Kut has been reduced to a narrow peninsula due north of the town. He has lost the whole of the south bank of the Tigris and both banks of the Shatt-el-Ilai, and on the western side the trenches in the loop of the river, ending in the bridge of boats, which has been broken up by our guns. On the Sanna-i-Yat position on the north bank of the Tigris, where the British forces suffered so much last year, our troops recently made an advance. But on a vigorous counter-attack by the enemy they were compelled to retire to their original trenches.

In the Carpathians.

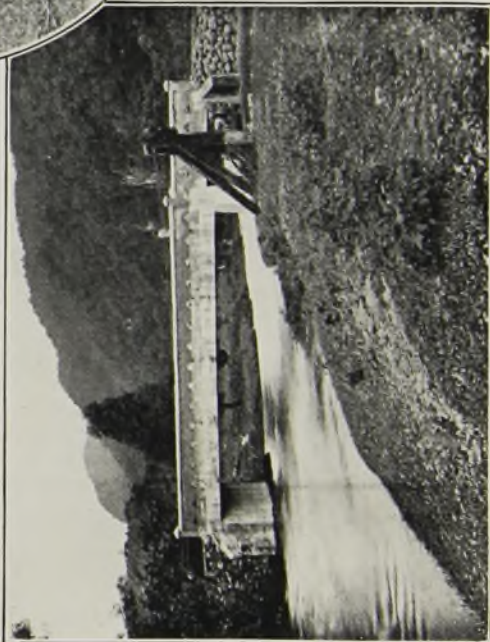
Desperate fighting is going on for the possession of heights on either side of the Jacobeny-Kimpolung road. On February 12th the Germans, after a strong artillery preparation, attacked the Russians in great force, seizing a height near Jacobeny. In a fierce counter-attack our Allies dislodged the Germans, who two days later resumed the offensive, forcing the Russians to retire from two heights near Jacobeny.

The Senussi.

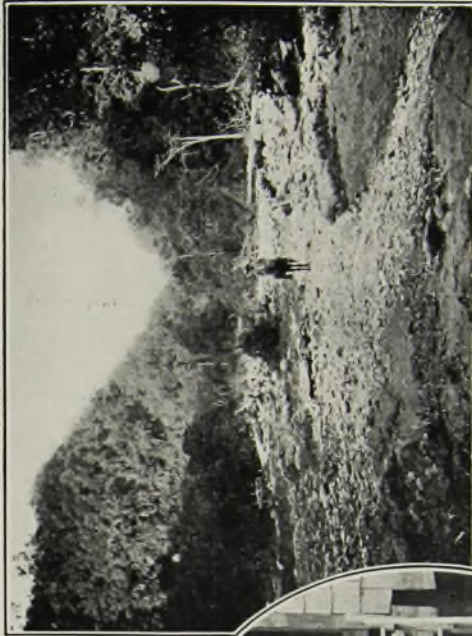
Under Sayed Ahmed, the main forces of the most fanatical of desert people have been defeated in the vicinity of Shiwa and adjacent oases. They were in a well-prepared position, which they defended against the British attacks all day. But at night they fled, having set fire to their tents and destroyed a large amount of stores and ammuni-



ROSALIE BRIDGE, WHICH WEATHERED THE STORM.



MACOUCHERIE BRIDGE WHICH WAS CARRIED AWAY BY—



MACOUCHERIE VALLEY AFTER THE DISASTER.



THE CHIEF OF THE
CARIBS AND HIS
WIFE.



—A MONSTER LOG WITH A 12 FT. SPAN AT THE ROOTS.

SCENES IN DOMINICA AFTER THE LATE HURRICANE.

From Photographs by Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E., Colonial Engineer.

tion. Our troops, on entering Shiwa, found it evacuated. But, in the meantime, a force detached for the purpose cut off the retreat of the enemy by the only pass possible for camels towards the Cyrenaica border, and captured a convoy. Later, a body of the fleeing tribesmen were successfully ambushed. In these circumstances, Sayed Ahmed, at the head of his main forces, was compelled to take to the waterless desert southwards. These operations have inflicted a severe blow on the Senussi cause.

Future of German East Africa.

General Smuts, the victorious soldier in East Africa, has been given a great reception on his return home. He says that, with regard to the future of East Africa, South Africa must be heard.

(To be continued.)

DEALINGS IN SUGAR.

A New Restriction Order.

An Order of the Food Controller (1917, No. 131), dated February 8th, lays down that no person shall on or after February 15th, without a permit issued under the authority of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person,

(a) buy, sell or deal in, or

(b) offer or invite an offer, or propose to buy, sell or deal in, or

(c) enter into negotiations for the sale or purchase of or other dealing in, any sugar outside the United Kingdom, whether or not the sale, purchase or dealing is or is to be effected in the United Kingdom.

The Order, which may be cited as the "Dealings in Sugar (Restriction) Order, 1917," does not apply to the insurance of sugar.

Applications for permits should, we are informed, be addressed to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, Scotland House, Embankment.

THE AEROPLANE FLOTILLA.

Trinidad II. and British Guiana II.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Perez and her friends, Trinidad II. aeroplane can now be commissioned. It was stated in the CIRCULAR of January 25th that £680 16s. 1d. had been collected towards that object, and a recent mail brought £819 4s. to complete the cost. This handsome sum, which has been forwarded to the Overseas Club by the West India Committee, represented part of the proceeds of two Flag Days and a Rag-time Revue entitled "Topsy-Turvydom," arranged and organised by Mrs. Perez and held at Prince's Building, Port of Spain, on December 2nd last to welcome Lady Chancellor to the island.

This entertainment proved such a success that

after payment for Trinidad II. there remained a surplus of \$287.28, which was allocated as follows: Orange and Limes Committee Fund, \$105; West Indian Contingent Fund, \$105; Bazaar for the Poor, \$50; and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Tobacco Fund, \$27.28.

The lady helpers, whose names deserve mention, included Mrs. A. C. Bell (who herself collected and remitted \$867.82 to the Overseas Club), Mrs. Inskip Read, Mrs. A. M. Low, Mrs. H. A. Alcazar, Mrs. J. McLelland, Mrs. Bertie Harragin, the Misses Agostini, Mrs. C. R. Smith, Mrs. Paul Dumoret, Mrs. de Pass, Mrs. Ferdinand de Verteuil, Mrs. Max Smith, Mrs. Vincent-Brown, Mrs. de Montbrun, Mrs. Raoul Scheult, and Miss Hahn, whilst Mr. C. R. Smith officiated as stage manager.

Mr. Tripp's account of this most successful Revue has already been published in the CIRCULAR, and to this may be added the following remarks of Mr. Henry D. Baker, the new Consul for the United States in Trinidad, in an interview published in the *Post of Spain Gazette*:—

"I was fortunate during my first evening in Trinidad in being present at the wonderful amateur 'Topsy Turvy' show, the most charming and artistic amateur production I have ever seen. I would like to see Trinidad send this representative amateur company on a tour of the United States. It would make Trinidad famous for artistic accomplishment and swell the Red Cross Fund, and would cause great American enthusiasm for Trinidad. The sentiment so delightfully expressed in the catchy song with the aeroplane dance—'Everybody is giving' and 'To-night is the night'—really expresses in short words the spirit of Trinidad, of freely giving and without delay that which they have to give in the service of their country including money and personal effort."

The caste included the following "principals": Miss Penalosa, Miss R. Angeron, Miss Harragin, Miss P. Vicentini, Miss V. Siegert, Mrs. Lyndon-Kerr, Miss McLelland, Miss Tripp, Miss Josine Harragin, Mr. Orsini, Mr. Jeffrey Read, Mr. R. Bradley, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Scott, Mr. Stanley, and Mr. Loughrey.

Many charming dancers and a very attractive beauty chorus also contributed towards the evening's entertainment.

British Guiana is also to present a second aeroplane to the Government. At a recent meeting of the Combined Court the following resolution was moved by the Government Secretary, seconded by Mr. Robson, and carried:—

Be it Resolved,—That this Court hereby authorises the presentation to the Royal Flying Corps of an aeroplane as a gift from the inhabitants of the colony, the cost thereof to be met from anticipated surplus of revenue over expenditure at the end of the financial year now current, or if there be no such surplus, from the revenue.

It was stated that the colony had already presented one aeroplane, thanks to the energy of Mr. J. B. Cassels and his band of workers. The aeroplane was named British Guiana, and was doing good work.

As mentioned in a recent CIRCULAR, in the event of any of these Imperial aircraft being lost or destroyed, their names will be given to new machines. Three machines only are now needed to complete the British West Indian Aircraft Flotilla.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

A White Paper (Cd. 8482) was issued on February 20th giving the following resolutions passed by the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy on the subject of Imperial Preference, together with copy of covering letter to the Prime Minister:—

1. In the light of experience gained during the War, we consider that special steps must be taken to stimulate the production of foodstuffs, raw materials and manufactured articles within the Empire wherever the expansion of production is possible and economically desirable for the safety and welfare of the Empire as a whole.
2. We therefore recommend that H.M. Government should now declare their adherence to the principle that preference should be accorded to the products and manufactures of the British Overseas Dominions in respect of any Customs Duties now or hereafter to be imposed on imports into the United Kingdom.
3. Further, it will in our opinion be necessary to take into early consideration, as one of the methods of achieving the above objects, the desirability of establishing a wider range of Customs Duties which would be remitted or reduced on the products and manufactures of the Empire, and which would form the basis of commercial treaties with Allied and Neutral Powers.

To the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George, M.P., Prime Minister.

Sir,

1. We think it expedient to state briefly the reasons which have led us to pass the accompanying Resolutions and transmit them to you at the present time.

2. It was our intention to discuss the future trade relations between the United Kingdom and the British Possessions Overseas in detail in connexion with and as part of the recommendations which it will be our duty to make in respect of the general commercial and industrial policy of this country after the War. In particular we desired to consider the position of the great staple industries, but in regard to these we feel bound to wait for the reports from the special Committees appointed by the Board of Trade.

3. The announcement that an Imperial Conference will be held at an early date has, in our judgment, made it expedient to state our opinions in the form of the Resolutions we have now the honour to transmit.

4. We have arrived at the conclusions indicated chiefly on the ground that although to some of us any measures which may act in restraint of trade are in the abstract distasteful, we think it necessary that for the sake of the unity of the Empire a serious attempt should now be made to meet the declared wishes of the Dominions and Colonies for the development of their economic relations with the United Kingdom, and that any abstract opinions we may hold should not, under the circumstances in which we are placed and with the experience gained during the war, stand in the way of any measures which are seen to be important, having regard to the general interests of the Empire.

5. It will be recalled that at the Colonial Conference of 1902 the Prime Ministers of the Self-Governing Colonies unanimously urged the expediency of granting in the United Kingdom preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the Colonies either by exemption from or reduction of duties then existing or thereafter

to be imposed, and that a Resolution in the same terms was passed at the Conference of 1907.

6. Whatever controversies may have arisen in the past, we think that, regard being had in particular to the sacrifices made and the services rendered by our fellow subjects overseas for a common purpose during the present war, the time has now arrived at which this request should be granted to the fullest extent which is now or may hereafter become practicable.

7. The Dominions have not asked, and we do not understand them to ask, that duties should be imposed by the United Kingdom for the sake of granting a preference to their products. But we feel that, in the words of the Resolutions we are forwarding to you, it will be necessary to take into early consideration, as one of the methods of achieving the objects indicated, the desirability of establishing a wider range of Customs duties than exists at present. This subject we propose to consider later, and to submit a further report thereon at an early opportunity, as well as on the question how far the interests of the Dominions could be met by the granting of subsidies in lieu of tariff preferences.

8. We do not overlook the practical difficulties involved, but we desire to emphasise the fact that for the purpose of recovering trade lost during the war, of securing new markets, and of consolidating the resources of the British Empire, the development throughout the Empire of a system of mutual tariff preferences is a subject which cannot, in our opinion, any longer be neglected.

9. In this connexion it will be necessary to examine closely the effect of imposing duties upon any articles which are used for manufacturing purposes in this country, especially in connexion with our export trades and the shipping and shipbuilding industries. Measures must be devised to safeguard the interests of the consumer and the rightful demands of labour. The special position of India, as well as of Egypt and the Sudan, will require consideration, and account must be taken both of our commercial treaty obligations and of the bearing of the proposed policy upon the interests of those countries our trade relations with which are of special importance.

10. We are satisfied, however, that these questions, with which we propose to deal more fully in a subsequent report, do not oppose any insuperable obstacles to the adoption of the policy embodied in our Resolutions.

We have, etc.,

BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH (Chairman).	W. S. McCORMICK.
ARTHUR BALFOUR.	ALEXANDER McDOWELL.
HENRY BIRCHENOUGH.	GERALD A. MUNTZ.
ALFRED BOOTH.	ADAM NIMMO.
FARINGTON.	CHARLES A. PARSONS.
H. GOULING.	ARTHUR F. PEASE.
W. A. S. HEWINS.	G. SCOBY SMITH.
C. G. HYDE.	GEO. J. WARBLE.

PERCY ASHLEY }
G. C. URCOTT } Secretaries.

February 2, 1917.

The British Sugar Industry.

It is particularly gratifying to find that the pamphlet "The British Sugar Industry," which was published by the West India Committee last year, has fallen on good soil. It is being extensively quoted by public speakers on the platform and in the press.

Mr. Stanley Machin, Managing Director of an important firm of confectionery manufacturers, speaking at a meeting of the British Women's Patriotic League at South Lodge on February 20th, said that private enterprise alone could not be expected to compete with industries that were strongly supported by the State, such as has been the case in Germany for more than a generation past. We were faced with a gigantic national commercial problem. We should be called upon to face an increased National Debt, which could

scarcely be less than 4,000 millions, and which might be materially more. This could only be repaid by the development of our oversea trade, with the aid of a sympathetic and progressive Government. Why, he asked, should we pay on an average nearly 50 millions sterling a year to America for raw cotton when our Empire, with proper support and generous treatment, should be capable of producing a greater part, if not the whole, of this gigantic requirement? This great field of wealth should be developed and supported by all the means in our power. Again, in regard to sugar, in the year before the outbreak of the present War, the imports into the United Kingdom from all sources amounted to 1,969,259 tons. Of these, 1,296,401 tons, or nearly 90 per cent., 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. Given the necessary financial support and guarantee for the future, more than sufficient sugar for the wants of the Empire could be produced from our West Indian possessions alone. The British Empire for an average of three years produced 880,000 tons of sugar. The possible crops were estimated at five times the present production. If the sugar industry could be guaranteed sufficient protection to prevent it from being swamped by the Germans and Austrians and other foreign countries after the War, there could be no limit to the possibilities of this great branch of commerce.

In this connection it is of interest to note that the Tariff Reform League is renewing its activities on a strictly non-party political basis. In co-operation with the Imperial Mission, meetings in support of Imperial Preference are to be held throughout the country.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

The sixth monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation records considerable progress in the campaign for Imperial Preference which it is conducting.

The Hon. F. M. B. Fisher, ex-Minister of Trade and Marine in New Zealand, addressed the members of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on January 25th, on behalf of the Organisation, Mr. Harold D. Bateson presiding, and on the 30th an address was delivered before the Society of Arts by Mr. Octavius C. Beale, a member of the Council, on "Imperial Industry after the War."

During the month the B.E.P.O. has continued to emphasise on every possible occasion the importance of developing the British sugar industry, with a view to rendering this country independent of foreign sources of supply after the War. A meeting of the Executive of the Sugar Section was held on January 9th. Mr. C. Sandbach Parker presiding. Those present were Mr. C. Sandbach Parker (Chairman), Mr. A. D. Jackson, Mr. F. F. Kemp, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. Snell, Mr. L. Souchon, Mr. H. C. A. Young, Mr. C. McNeil,

and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Hon. Secretary, Sugar Section).

A draft letter setting out the proposals of the B.E.P.O. in connection with sugar, for despatch to the Prime Minister, was approved. It was agreed that Mr. Robert Kerr, Chairman of the Glebe Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., and the Brewers' Sugar Co., Ltd., Greenock, should be asked to serve on the Executive as an alternative to Mr. William Martineau. In this connection it is recorded that Mr. Kerr was one of the earliest supporters of the B.E.P.O., and that for the last twenty years or more no beetroot sugar—bounty-fed or otherwise—has ever entered the Glebe Sugar Refining Co.

The B.E.P.O. continues to receive support from various organisations in the British Empire interested in sugar production. At a meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society held on December 21st, Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"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 that Organisation as far as it lies in its power."

In view of the interest evinced by members of Council and important members of affiliated associations, the B.E.P.O. proposes to form a Committee to discuss means for preparing large numbers of British trained technical managers for tropical estates, and the following preliminary memorandum was submitted:—

In view of the increase of tropical agriculture and industries which may be looked for from the adoption of an Empire self-supporting policy it will be necessary to provide in this country adequate facilities for preparing men for the work. At present, while there are a few colleges and universities in which agriculture is taught, there are no lectureships on tropical agriculture and the technology involved in the commercial products derived from tropical plants.

For example: To train men thoroughly for the Sugar Industry would, in the opinion of experts associated with the B.E.P.O., entail the establishment of lectureships, which should be divided into two main groups—

- (a) Agriculture as applied to beet and cane growing.
- (b) The manufacture of Sugar from the beet and cane.

In regard to (a) the lecturer would have to give information on—

- (1) The botany of the sugar producing plants and the breeding of improved varieties of beetroot and sugar cane.
- (2) The action of manures.
- (3) The treatment of soils and the drainage and irrigation of land.
- (4) The lay-out of railways, canals, and permanent works on the estates.
- (5) The mycology and entomology connected with the various cane diseases and pests.
- (6) Analytical laboratory work.

In reference to (b) it will be necessary to give instruction on—

- (1) The chemistry of sugar.
- (2) The manufacture of sugar.
- (3) Practical laboratory work and instruction in sugar house control.

- (4) Electricity, fuel, heat and steam course, with technical laboratory provided with suitable equipment, such as vacuum pans, triple effect, heater, &c., for instruction in the use of sugar-making apparatus and the economical use of heat.

It will be seen from the above that a knowledge of analytical chemistry is only a part of the equipment of a sugar technologist, but he ought to be able to use it as an engineer uses his foot-rule. The following gentlemen were invited to attend a preliminary committee to discuss this proposal:

Mr. L. Souchon, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. W. L. Hicheus, Mr. W. Douglas, Mr. Robert Kerr, Professor C. S. Orwin, Sir Charles Lucas, Mr. W. Rutherford, Mr. W. O. Smith, The Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey, Dr. Archibald Barr, D.Sc., LL.D., Professor M. J. R. Dunstan, Lord Sydenham, Mr. H. C. A. Young, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Lt.-Col. Sir W. Barnshaw-Cooper, The Hon. F. M. B. Fisher, The Hon. R. J. Strutt, Sir Edward Rosling, Sir Harry Wilson, Mr. Charles Marr, Mr. F. P. Kemp, Sir Owen Philipps, and Mr. A. R. Grieve.

It was proposed that a request should be addressed to Mr. Fisher, Minister of Education, that he should receive a deputation organised by the B.E.P.O. in concert with other institutions in regard to the necessity for establishing lectureships in Tropical Agriculture at Scotch and English Universities.

It is pointed out that at present there are no adequate facilities for teaching the cultivation of tropical products such as vegetable oils, indigo, sugar, jute, cacao, tea, coffee, etc.

To take sugar, for example, many of the leading experts are either Dutch, American, or German, and, in too many cases, a British company requiring a Sugar Technologist and Technical chemist for a sugar estate is in the deplorable position of having to go to a foreign country to obtain a man with adequate training. If a system of preferences for British Tropical Products is established, it is essential that facilities be given to young men to obtain the necessary education so that the requisite number of trained men of British birth may be obtainable. What is required is that means should be provided whereby a young man could study for about four years at a University in Great Britain, the first three of which would be devoted to general scientific education directed to applied chemistry. This part of the education is already adequately provided for in the leading technical colleges and universities in this country, and the Royal Technical College of Glasgow is, we are glad to say, provided with a good technological laboratory for the study of the manufacture of sugar. The fourth and final year should be devoted to specialisation in Tropical Agriculture and Technology.

Sir Harry Wilson, of the Royal Colonial Institute, suggests that facilities for the special study in various industries should be located in the most suitable centres, say—Glasgow, sugar; Liverpool, vegetable oils and cotton; London, rubber, tea, cacao, coffee; Bristol, tobacco. The technological laboratories at each centre should be provided with appliances necessary for teaching the use of apparatus employed in the manufacture of the several products.

The Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee trust that those members who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st last, without delay. In view of the depletion of the staff and the increased cost of production of the CIRCULAR due to the War, prompt payment is more desirable than ever. Subscriptions may either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

AGRICULTURE IN TRINIDAD.

Improvements in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Professor P. Carmody, Director of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, gives some interesting figures showing how the cacao trade has been affected by the War. The following table shows the destination of Trinidad cacao in the last two years:—

	1914 lbs.	1915 lbs.
United States of America	31,304,260	33,572,809
France	18,597,244	8,108,522
United Kingdom	7,310,166	11,037,081
Holland	1,986,882	—
Germany	1,694,350	—
Canada	709,296	1,149,270
Other British Colonies	73,160	36,704
Austria and Hungary	700,650	—
Italy	387,324	131,756
Denmark	253,200	—
Belgium	89,200	—
Spain	74,345	22,010
Argentina	20,000	20,000
Other Colonies	247,800	2,500

The 1915 crop was below the average, amounting as it did to 54,081,452 lbs., but the value showed an increase of no less than £400,000. Commenting on the increased exports to the United States, the Professor points out that these show that the agitation about decayed cacao had no detrimental effect.

Dr. Freeman, the Assistant Director, is able to record general improvement in the state of the Royal Botanic Gardens, which were adversely criticised some years ago. The area at the eastern end of the Gardens, entered from Church Road, St. Ann's, has been improved. The Cassias planted in 1914 have made good growth, and a new path has been laid out from near the fern houses to the gate. In the neighbourhood of the Giant Bamboo (which, unfortunately, continues to die out), some clearing has been effected; the side of the hill has been planted up with palms, flowering trees, etc., and a collection of decorative plants established on what was a very unsightly bare open space. Similar work was done around another part of the base of the Look-Out Hill (further to the west), and altogether a run of about 150 yards by some 10 to 20 yards in depth has been brought into cultivation in this neighbourhood during the year.

The knoll at the west end has been planted up in Crinum Bougainvillea, about forty plants being used. These will replace the Allamandas, which have not proved very satisfactory. The collection of succulent plants by the west gate has also been increased. Many new and interesting plants have been added to the collection, including an East Australian Flame Tree and a Royal Palm of Porto Rico.

Mr. THOMAS BOYD, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, has taken into partnership Mr. David Morriu, head of the shipping department and one of the attorneys of the Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., with which he has been connected in Glasgow and Trinidad for the past sixteen years. In future the business will be carried on under the name and style of Thomas Boyd & Co.

COALING AT COLON.

Fresh Records Accomplished.

A Committee appointed to test the Cristobal (Colon) coaling plant has now presented its report. In view of the coaling plant being a naval auxiliary, it was designed to have a maximum reloading capacity of 2,400 tons an hour, of 2,000 lbs. each, and to be capable of a sustained output of 2,000 tons an hour.

According to the *Panama Canal Record*, the official acceptance tests showed an average capacity for the three hours the test was run of 1,950 tons per hour, and a maximum capacity of 2,486 tons per hour. The average capacity was reduced by the necessity for stopping one of the four bridge diggers about an hour after the test began, due to difficulty with the bucket, but even with but three of the four diggers in operation for the greater part of the test, the average capacity was but 50 tons, or 2½ per cent., less than the contract capacity. Loading at the rate of 2,400 tons an hour is considerably in excess of the rate at most plants, even the coaling piers from which railroads deliver cargoes of coal by gravity from pockets. The Canal collier *Ulysses*, at a recent loading at Newport News, received her cargo of 12,000 long tons in eight hours, which is at the rate of 1,500 long tons or 1,650 short tons an hour.

The test at Cristobal was made simply for overall capacity of output. There was no attempt to load a merchant ship at this rate, and most ships are so constructed that they are not able to take coal as fast as the Cristobal plant could supply it. Their hatches are too small or their bunkers so arranged as not to admit coal at a rate approaching 2,000 tons an hour. In the case of naval colliers, however, their arrangements are usually such as to admit of very rapid loading. Twenty-four hundred tons is the capacity of a train of 80 cars, each holding 30 tons. It would be the capacity of two fair-sized trains as they are usually made up in the United States. The Panama Railroad handles about 18 gondolas to the train, in hauling coal across the Isthmus, leading approximately 35 tons to each car.

One of the four reloaders at the Cristobal plant recently delivered 417 tons of coal to the steamship *Henckes* in 24 minutes, in the time between 8.50 and 9.14 p.m. This is at the rate of 1,042 tons an hour for one reloader. It does not follow, however, that the four working at the same time could deliver 4,000 tons an hour, as the supply is limited by the operation of the reclaiming plant.

SIR EDWARD AND LADY CAMERON'S wounded son, Guy, is, we are glad to learn, making progress, though some time must still elapse before he will be convalescent. Their youngest daughter, Eileen, has followed the example of her sister Leila, who is working at No. 9 General Hospital at Rouen, and although she has only just left school, has entered upon V.A.D. duties at Lady Radnor's hospital at Longford Castle.

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.

SERGEANT HENRY F. HOLME, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, was killed in action in Mesopotamia on January 25th last. Sergeant Holme entered the Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua, in 1898, as fourth clerk, and had been clerk to the Legislative Council of the Presidency since 1908, when he came over to join the colours. From April to November, 1909, he was Private Secretary to the Acting Governor.

SECOND LIEUT. FRANK R. JONES, Highland Light Infantry, who was killed in action on November 18th last, was son of the late Mr. Saltus Jones, of I.M. Civil Service, British Guiana.

PRIVATE CHARLES RAYMOND SHANKLAND, of the Durham Light Infantry, who was killed in action on December 19th last, was the only son of Mr. Charles Shankland, Secretary of the Local Government Board of British Guiana.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SECOND LIEUT. JOHN CARLTON MANNING, of the Cheshire Regiment, has died of wounds received on February 17th. Mr. Manning, who was a son of Mr. Samuel Manning, of Bridgetown, was practising as a Barrister in Barbados when the war broke out. He came over to England and joined the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, and from that he was gazetted to a battalion of the regiment with which he was serving when he received his fatal wounds.

SECOND LIEUT. ARTHUR L. M. SHEPHERD, King's Royal Rifle Corps, attached to the Royal Flying Corps, previously reported missing is now officially posted as having died of wounds on November 3rd last, as a prisoner in German hands. Second Lieut. Shepherd was the second son of the Very Reverend H. Y. Shepherd, Dean of St. John's, Antigua. Before the outbreak of war he was in the Colonial Civil Service. He was Private Secretary to Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, Governor of the Leeward Islands, and proceeded to Fiji in a similar capacity when His Excellency was appointed to that Colony. Receiving permission to join the colours he returned to England with a contingent of Fiji men, and received a Commission in the King's Royal Rifles, from which he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps. It will be recalled that his brother, Flight-Lieutenant Malcolm Shepherd, also of the Royal Flying Corps, has been missing since August last. The Dean of Antigua and Mrs. Shepherd have thus suffered a double bereavement.

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 lists already published in the CIRCULAR:—

BARBADOS.

ROUSE, PTE. ASHTON.

BRITISH GUIANA.

CALENDER, LANCE-CORPL. ROBERT AUSTIN.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

IFIELD, PTE. F. L.

JAMAICA.

BROADLEY, PTE. U. HAWTHORNE, PTE. JACOBS II.
COVER, PTE. THEOPHILUS. PEASE, PTE. RONALD.
CROOKS, PTE. S. J. SAMPSON, C.Q.M.S. ALLAN F.

WOUNDED AND SICK.

CAPTAIN E. S. MASSIAH, R.A.M.C. (late of Georgetown, British Guiana), invalided from the Somme Front with bronchial pneumonia.

D. C. DUNCAN (son of Mr. R. G. Duncan, late of British Guiana), London Scottish, was wounded a few months ago, but is now out of hospital again.

SECOND LIEUT. WILLIAM ALFORD NICHOLLS (son of the Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Royal Fusiliers, has been invalided from the front suffering from shell-shock.

SECOND LIEUT. LESLIE NICHOLLS (nephew of the Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), has been severely wounded.

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN MERVYN A. MCKINNON, Durham Light Infantry, eldest son of the late Mr. Neil R. McKinnon, K.C., of Georgetown, British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service in the field.

CAPTAIN E. K. B. PECK, of the Manchester Regiment, formerly of Stephens, Ltd., of Port of Spain, Trinidad, a nephew of Mr. J. W. Stephens, has been awarded the Military Cross.

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.

Forward, Cadet Charles (son of Dr. F. Forward, and grandson of the late Mr. John S. Macdonald, of Antigua), Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

Hilliard, Captain Bertie (nephew of the Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Macdonald, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Surgeon-Lieutenant Wm. MacLachlan (Resident Surgeon of the Antigua Hospital, and son of the late Mr. John S. Macdonald, of Antigua), with Antigua Detachment, Leeward Island Contingent, British West Indies Regiment.

Macdonald, 2nd Lieut. Ronald George (nephew of the late Mr. John S. Macdonald, of Antigua), Royal Field Artillery. *At the front.*

Macdonald, Cadet Ian Donald Roy (son of the Hon. Donald Macdonald, and grandson of the late Mr. John S. Macdonald, of Antigua), Royal Flying Corps, Oxford.

Nicholls, Major T. B. (nephew of Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), R.A.M.C. *At the front.*

Nicholls, Captain W. N. (nephew of Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Director of Supplies and Transport, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Nicholls, Lieut. F. W. (nephew of the Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), Canadian Expeditionary Force. *At the front.*

Nicholls, Lieut.-Colonel F. (brother of the Hon. Dr. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica), in training in Canada.

Scott, Lieut. Stuart (son of Mr. F. E. Scott, of Trinidad), Northumberland Fusiliers.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Reid, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth (son of Mr. Robert S. Reid, of Tobago), Highland Light Infantry.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies and Bermuda who are sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. G. M. Cole, Somerset Light Infantry, Weybridge; Lieut.-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle; Pte. R. A. North, Thirsk, Yorks; Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Chichester.

Lieut.-Corpl. K. F. Pilgrim, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Oxford.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. J. Foreman, London; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. A. B. Marshall, Warrington; J. B. Dickenson, London; Sgt. W. H. T. Williams, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Pte. Geo. W. Hayley, Brighton.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London; Pte. G. W. Bourke, R.F., Glossop; Lieut.-Corpl. L. Turner Lynch, British West Indies Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. P. Ryan, Royal Fusiliers, Hammersmith.

TRINIDAD.

Trooper O. Haniel-Smith, London; Trooper N. O. Warner, Household Battalion, London; Trooper Wm. Howard, Household Battalion, Tooting; Rifleman E. Knowles, Bpsom.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Major C. S. Sanguinetti, 27, Berkeley Square, London; Major G. W. R. Jenkins, Officers' Convalescent Home, Great Central Hotel; 2nd Lieut. A. H. Thompson, Manchester; Regtl.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

As their term of occupancy of 5, Trevor Square will shortly come to an end, the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee are transferring their headquarters to 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., to which it is requested that all communications, gifts, etc., to arrive after March 31st next may be sent. Miss Mary Moseley will continue to act as Hon. Secretary.

* * *

The Contingent Committee have issued revised directions with regard to the despatch of gifts for those serving in this country or at the Front. In view of the urgent need of economising freight space and labour, they call particular attention to the following suggestion:—

"Except where gifts can be forwarded direct by Parcel Post, by far the best way of sending presents to individuals, whether in or out of the United Kingdom, is for the donors to forward money to the Contingent Committee, who will be glad to purchase, pack and despatch any articles that may be desired.

"The adoption of this recommendation will save much disappointment which must inevitably result when parcels are sent from the West Indies containing articles which are prohibited, or are too heavy for acceptance under the regulations for transmission out of the United Kingdom."

Copies of the new directions are being sent to the Governors, Administrators, and Press of the British West Indian Colonies.

* * *

Major Sanguinetti, of the British West Indies Regiment, is now, we are glad to be able to state, convalescent. He has recovered his voice, but it

is improbable that he will be able to rejoin his regiment. Possibly some useful work may be found for him in training recruits in the West Indies. Major Jenkins is, we are pleased to add, also out and about again.

* * *

The names, etc., of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment and the Barbados Citizens' and Trinidad Merchants' Contingents are now recorded on card indices at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., and it is requested that the Hon. Secretary may be posted with particulars as to casualties, promotions, etc.

* * *

A local Ladies' Committee has been formed at Port of Spain, Trinidad, to "co-operate with the West Indian Contingent Committee in London in the good work it is doing for West Indian soldiers on active service." It consists of the following ladies: President, Lady Chancellor; Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Gordon; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. John Wilson; Committee, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Geddes Grant, Mrs. Bernard, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Vincent Brown, and Mrs. Huggins.

* * *

In a preliminary circular the Trinidad Ladies' Committee point out that the chief ways in which help can be afforded are by—

- 1.—Giving money.
- 2.—Making warm garments, etc., for the men in the *trenches*.
- 3.—Letting each West Indian at the Front know that the West India Committee in London is able and anxious to help him in every possible way.
- 4.—Compiling complete lists of the names and addresses of all the Trinidad and Tobago men who are serving with the Colours in any capacity.

In order to make these lists correct and complete, the Committee appeals to all relatives and friends of men other than those in the British West Indies Regiment to send the following particulars of their friends at once to the Hon. Secretary, at 17, Stanmore Avenue, Port of Spain:—Name, Rank, Number, Battalion, Present Address, Place and Date of Joining (whether in Trinidad or elsewhere).

* * *

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

- Lady Cameron: 1 muffler, 1 pr. gloves, 2 prs. mittens.
- Lady Hayes Sadler: 1 muffler, magazines.
- Mrs. Cathcart Wason: 5 prs. socks, 5 mufflers, 1 sweater, 6 helmets, 5 prs. mittens.
- Miss Berkeley: 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. Vere Oliver: 7 prs. socks, 1 helmet.
- Mrs. J. W. Russell: 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. W. K. Woodroffe: 1 waistcoat.
- Mr. and Mrs. Morrison: 32 prs. socks.
- A. A.: 2 prs. socks, 2 mufflers.
- Mrs. Cathcart Wason: 2 mufflers, 2 waistcoats.
- Mrs. Stanley Taylor: 12 helmets.
- Mrs. Arthur McConnell: 9 dressing gowns.
- Miss Peterkin: 1 muffler.
- Mrs. I. B. Saunders: 2 prs. socks.
- Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas: 6 mufflers.
- Lady Llewelyn: 2 waistcoats, 2 prs. socks.
- Lady Egerton: 1 sweater, 2 mufflers.

The total amount received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund is £6,895 18s. 3d., and of this approximately £4,000 has been expended, leaving an approximate available balance of £2,895 only. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
The Bermuda Contingents' Committee ...	50	0	0
Part Proceeds of a Revue at Port of Spain, organised by Mrs. Perez ...	21	17	5
Messrs Sendall and Wade... ..	10	10	0
Sir Henry and Lady Blake	5	0	0
Proceeds of a Concert and Dance at Port of Spain, organised by Private Norman A. Motbry, T.L.I.V., and Patrol Leader Violet Crouch of the Girl Guides	3	15	0
Kingstown Club	1	6	0
J. A. Dougall	1	1	0
Messrs W. C. Winston & Co.	10	0	0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley	8	4	0
J. E. Blackman	5	0	0
S. S. A. Cambridge	5	0	0
J. H. Hazell	3	0	0
Anonymous	3	0	0
A. L. Gillezeau	2	0	0
Evan Hopley	2	0	0
L. R. Melville	2	0	0
J. A. Davy	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.

FAULKNOB THE UNDAUNTED.

A Chapter of West Indian History.

(Continued from page 49.)

One of the store-ships was the subject of special interest and conjecture, for it contained six small gun-boats designed for the reduction of the defences of Fort Royal, the chief stronghold of Martinique. These vessels, the forerunners of many minor units lately commissioned for service with the Royal Navy, were built in sections, which had to be assembled in the Carénage. They certainly presented some rather unusual features. To begin with, they were fitted with movable breast-works made of several folds of bulls' hide nailed to 1-inch planks—a sufficient protection against the musket-balls of those days. Then their fore-masts, which carried lateen sails and jibs, instead of having the usual rake, were inclined forward in order to allow ample room for the play of the 24-pounders which they mounted. Their mizzen-masts, too, were uncommon, being rigged with lug-sails. Finally, as a precaution against being becalmed, each boat was fitted with large sweeps. These gun-boats, which, being intended for mos-

quito tactics, were appropriately named *Tickler*, *Venom*, *Teaser*, *Vexer*, *Spiteful*, and *Tormentor*, were commanded by middies, who were promised early promotion if they showed proficiency in their duties.

At the end of January, the troops which had been encamped on the Savannah at St. Ann's, where they passed a strenuous time training for the campaign before them, were re-embarked, and on February 3rd the expedition started for Martinique, its first objective.

As the sails of the men-of-war and their convoy were shaken out and filled by the trade wind, Carlisle Bay presented a picturesque and animated scene. We may be certain that the cheers of the multitudes on shore were re-echoed by the sailors and soldiers, who were no doubt thankful to be proceeding on their voyage once more, since Bridgetown had been suffering from an acute epidemic of yellow fever. It is, indeed, recorded that during this particular visitation, from fifteen to twenty people succumbed daily to the fell disease in Bridgetown alone.

Martinique was reached on February 5th, when, ignoring the fire from two forts defending the entrance to Maran Bay, the main fleet dropped anchor off Pointe de la Borgnesse, a promontory about ten miles to the north-west of Pointe Salines, the southernmost extremity of the island. Here soldiers were rapidly transferred to flat-bottomed boats and towed ashore. They were met by a heavy fire from a land battery; but, alarmed by the gun-boats and some well-directed shots from Sir John Jervis' flagship *Boyne* and the *Veteran*, the enemy fled in confusion. The English troops were then disembarked without molestation.

A similar success was achieved at St. Luce village, four or five miles to the south-east, which was defended by a battery of two guns. These were speedily silenced by a well-directed broadside of the *Veteran*, and the landing party was not a little surprised to discover that they were two 24-pounders salvaged from the *Raisnable*, a man-of-war which had been wrecked in the neighbourhood a few years before, and that the guns' crews were commanded by the Curé of the village—a true fighting parson.

On February 6th, Lieut.-General Prescott's brigade landed at Trois Rivières, in St. Luce Bay, and was followed ashore by Sir Charles Grey and his staff. They marched across the great south-west promontory of the island to Rivière Salée, a stream which empties itself into Fort Royal Bay, detaching Brigadier-General Whyte on the way to capture the Islet aux Ramières, or Pigeon Island. This island, not to be confused with the Pigeon Island off Gros Islet Bay, St. Lucia, from which Rodney watched the movements of de Grasse and his fleet in 1782, was the key to the harbour of Fort Royal.

After seizing the posts of Point Solomon and Burgos with the help of two hundred seamen armed with pikes and pistols, Whyte ascended the heights and took possession of Mount Mathurine, an eminence commanding the island at a distance of about four hundred yards. Ammunition and a howitzer having been brought to him by a landing

party from Ance d'Arlet, he bombarded the garrison with such vigour from this position that after two hours the enemy had had enough of it, and struck his colours.

Meanwhile, Faulknor in the *Zebra* having driven the enemy from the battery on Pointe à Chaux, which protected Gallion Bay on the Windward coast, Major-General Dundas effected a landing without opposition, and advanced on the Gros Morne, a strong natural fortress commanding the principal pass from the north to the south of the island. From this position an attack on St. Pierre, the capital of Martinique, was contemplated; but it proved unnecessary, for a squadron of vessels comprising the *Asia*, *Veteran*, *Santa Margarita*, *Blanche*, *Rattlesnake*, *Nautilus*, *Vesuvius* (a bomb vessel), and, of course, the *Zebra*, which was invariably to be found wherever there was likely to be a scrap, speedily brought the shore batteries to subjection.



CAPTAIN ROBERT FAULKNOR.

To a request from the inhabitants, under a flag of truce, for three days' grace in which to consider capitulation, Dundas had replied firmly that he would give them three hours only, and when, at the expiration of that period, he entered the town, he was agreeably surprised to find that his comrades were already in possession, the French having hastily evacuated it on the approach of Colonel Synes, who had landed from the Fleet, leaving their guns primed and loaded and their colours flying.

As far as one can gather from the chronicler, the Rev. Cooper Williams, who accompanied the expedition as Chaplain of the Fleet, St. Pierre was even then the substantial town that it was when

it was devastated in 1902 by the eruption of Mont Pelé, the great mountain overshadowing it. Unlike English settlers, who are too apt, perhaps, to regard the West Indies as their temporary home, looking forward to return, after amassing wealth, to the old country, the French have always made their colonies their permanent places of residence, taking with them their Lares and Penates, and reproducing in the land of their choice the conditions prevailing in their mother country.

Mr Williams found St. Pierre "a long, handsome town situated on the shore of an open bay, and flanked by a strong battery at either end; also defended by two redoubts on the hill which overhangs the town. The surrounding country rises in a succession of hills beautifully variegated with woods and sugar plantations; and near the town are some fine gardens, which before the revolution had been kept up in a superior style of elegance and convenience. Each street of this beautiful town is watered by a clear stream from the mountains, running rapidly down the middle, which adds greatly to the health as well as convenience of the place. The streets in general are narrow and rough-paved, but very regular; the houses are built of a fine stone like free-stone, the lower apartments of which were in general handsomely, and sometimes superably, furnished."

Mr. Williams might have been writing of St. Pierre as it was just before the disaster of 1902, so little had it changed in a century, though it would perhaps be stretching a point to describe the town in its last days as handsome and beautiful. Picturesque it certainly was, with its red-roofed houses, its leafy boulevard on the sea-front, and its open-air cafés, recalling a prosperous provincial town in France.

As the English troops marched along the cobble-paved main street at ten o'clock in the morning, the women and children sat at the doors of the houses to watch them pass, and perfect order prevailed. Sir Charles Grey had warned his men that any attempt at looting would be visited with the most severe penalties, and so good was the behaviour of the troops that it was only necessary to make an example of one man—a drummer, who, on being found rifling a house, was at once hanged at the gate of the Jesuits' College.

Sir Charles Gordon was less successful than his colleagues in effecting a landing, but after an initial failure at Case des Navires he achieved his purpose at Cape Pilote, a few miles to the north-west, and drove the enemy before him.

After the loss of St. Pierre, the enemy concentrated his forces at Fort Royal. This town, now known as Fort de France, stands on the north shore of an immense bay forming a sheltered harbour in which one would imagine that all the navies of the world might safely ride at anchor. It lies between two rivers, quaintly named Rivière Monsieur and Rivière Madame, and was protected by two forts, Fort Louis and Fort Bourbon. Of these, the former stood—and its remains still stand—on a neck of land which juts out into the sea and affords shelter to the spacious Carénage, while the latter, a work of formidable appearance, was

erected by the Marquis de Bouillé. Fortunately, the details of these fortifications were well known to the English, for Chevalier de Saneée, who had assisted in their construction, was the guest of Sir John Jervis in his flagship.

The guns on Pigeon Island having been silenced, the English Fleet entered the Bay without difficulty. The transports and store-ships were conveyed to the Cul de Sac Colée, a safe inlet at the north-east corner of the Bay, where a wharf was erected for landing provisions and stores. The town and forts were now invested on all sides. General Rochambeau, who commanded the French forces and had retired with the garrison to Fort Bourbon, seeing the strength of the forces opposed to him, offered to capitulate if the English would agree to restore the island to Louis XVII, if he should ascend the throne, or to the French Republic if it were established. Sir Charles Grey, however, replied that he had come out expressly to take Martinique for his Britannic Majesty, for whom he hoped to take all the French islands.

Whilst these events were proceeding, Prince Edward, great-grandfather of King George V., arrived from Nova Scotia and assumed command of the Brigade of which Lieut.-Colonel Sir Charles Gordon had been in charge. The Royal soldier, who was then in his twenty-sixth year, had not hitherto been very popular in the Army. Having taken "French leave" from Geneva, where he had been sent for his education, he had been packed off by his august father to Gibraltar at a few hours' notice. There he joined the Army, but he proved such a martinet, and was so unpopular, that he was sent farther afield to Canada, where he was stationed when the war broke out. In October, 1793, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and was ordered to proceed to the West Indies, which he reached after an adventurous voyage.

Two days after the arrival of the Prince, Sir Charles Grey sent a flag of truce to Rochambeau calling upon him to surrender. The French General, however, now refused to do so, and nothing remained for the English but to carry on the siege with increased vigour.

By March 17th, our advanced batteries being within two hundred yards of the enemy's main redoubt, it was decided to make a concentrated attack on Fort Royal by sea and land. It was planned that while troops stormed the position from the land side, the *Asia* (64), Captain Brown, and the *Zebra* (16), still under the command of Faulkner, should enter the harbour and cover the approach of smaller vessels provided with bamboo scaling ladders for an assault on Fort Louis.

In accordance with this plan, the *Asia* and the *Zebra*, after a furious bombardment, got under way. But while the *Zebra* laid in towards the mouth of the harbour under a galling fire of grape from the fort, the *Asia*, to everyone's astonishment, on getting within range, wore and sailed away. The Admiral, believing that Captain Brown must have been killed, sent Captain Grey to take his place and run the vessel aground under the walls of the fort if necessary. Captain Grey, however, soon returned with the information that there was not a man hurt aboard the *Asia*.

The *Asia* then stood in again, only to wear once more as she neared the mouth of the harbour.* Faulknor, realising that he could hope for no assistance from his consort, and having been for a long time under a galling fire of grape-shot, which his officers and men stood "with a firmness not to be described"—to quote Sir John Jervis' dispatch—determined to act alone. With "matchless intrepidity" he ran the *Zebra* close under the walls of the fort. The pilot, on receiving the order to take the *Zebra* in, completely lost his head, and on being interrogated by Faulknor, admitted that he was quite unable to guide the vessel, and that he had dreamt that he would be killed. Faulknor thereupon seized the tiller himself, saying to the cowardly pilot, "Go and hide your head in whatever you fancy the safest part of the ship. Fears are catching, and if I hear you tell yours to one of your messmates, your life shall answer for it to-morrow!" By an irony of fate, the pilot, who went and sat on the arm-chest, was one of the few men of the *Zebra* who lost their lives. A cannon-ball struck the chest and blew him to pieces!

Faulknor himself seemed to have a charmed life. As he neared the shore he narrowly escaped losing his life from a grape-shot, which shattered a stout wooden cartouch box which was buckled round his body. But, nothing daunted, he leapt overboard at the head of the sloop's company, scrambled up the ramparts, and captured the position before the boats with the scaling ladders could reach the shore, although they were "rowed with all the force and animation which characterise English seamen in the face of an enemy."

Faulknor received with his own hands the Governor's sword and the Colours of the Fort.

As the *Zebra* came out of action she was loudly cheered by the Fleet. Faulknor was sent for by Sir John Jervis, who embraced him on the quarter-deck, and the ship's band made the hills of Martinique re-echo with the martial strains of "See the Conquering Hero Comes." "Such compliments," wrote the hero in a letter to his mother, "are without example in the Navy—I never could have deserved them."

Meanwhile, the troops under Captain Rogers having captured the town of Fort Royal, with the stores and munitions of the French Army, General Rochambeau, seeing that further resistance would be useless, sent a flag of truce to Sir Charles Grey, offering to surrender.

Commodore Thompson, Colonel Symes, and Captain Conyngham, having been appointed Commissioners, met Rochambeau's representatives at the residence of a Madame Dillon, and terms were agreed to on March 22nd, and signed on the following day. Prince Edward took possession of both gates of the fort, and the final scene was soon enacted. Generous conditions were allowed to the vanquished garrison, who, numbering nine hundred men, marched out of the great gate of the fort on March 30th, with

colours flying, between a line of British soldiers and sailors to the parade ground, where they laid down their arms. The rank and file were embarked upon transports without delay and sent to France, while General Rochambeau was granted a safe conduct to Rhode Island, where he elected to go.

Fort Bourbon was renamed Fort George, after the reigning Sovereign, and for Fort Louis, the name of Fort Edward was substituted, as a compliment to Prince Edward. The colours of Fort Bourbon were brought to England by Major Grey, second son of the Commander-in-Chief, and were presented by him, with the despatches, to the King, who ordered that they should be hung in St. Paul's Cathedral.

During the entire operations, which lasted forty-seven days, the officers and men never once changed their clothes, and their comparative freedom from sickness, in spite of tropical rains and burning sun, was attributed to the heavy flannel shirts which they wore.

Describing Faulknor's achievement, Admiral Jervis, in his despatch, said: "No language of mine can express the merit of Captain Faulknor on this occasion; but as every officer and man in the army and squadron bears testimony to it, this incomparable action cannot fail of being recorded in the page of history." Sir Charles Grey was no less emphatic, stating that "Captain Faulknor's conduct justly gained him the admiration of the whole army."

In recognition of his gallantry, Captain Faulknor was promoted from the *Zebra* to the command of the *Bienvenue*, a French frigate of 40 guns which had been cut out in the Carénage, and was now renamed by the Admiral the *Undaunted*, as a compliment to her new Commander.

(To be continued.)

THE LONDON LETTER.

THE opening of Parliament on February 7th was memorable in several respects. To begin with, all the panoply and show usually associated with that ceremony were dispensed with, the Peers and their ladies wearing morning dress, and part of the galleries being occupied by wounded soldiers from overseas. Then the state coach gave place to an open landau, before and behind which rode the Imperial Escort, an innovation which gave great satisfaction to the crowds lining the route. Major F. A. Ijston and Captains E. H. Beresford, E. H. Quin, and A. J. Allan upheld the honour of the British West Indies Regiment with dignity; each had the honour of being presented to the King on their return to Buckingham Palace.

* * *

THE King's speech was brief and impressive. His Majesty referred to recent overtures whose tenour indicated no possible basis for negotiations, and to the steadfast and unanimous determination of his people throughout the Empire, and of his faithful and heroic Allies, to secure the just demands for reparation and restitution in respect of

* It is only fair to the memory of Captain Brown to state that the failure of the *Asia* was due not to any lack of seamanship on his part, but to "want of precision" on the part of her pilot, "Monsieur de Tourelles," the "Ancient Lieutenant of the Port."

the past and the guarantees for the future which he regarded as essential to the progress of civilisation. The threats of further outrages upon public law and the common rights of humanity would but serve to steel our determination.

DEALING with the Imperial Council, His Majesty said: "I have invited representatives of my Dominions and of my Indian Empire, which have borne so glorious a share in the struggle, to confer with my Ministers on important questions of common interest relating to the War. The step now taken will, I trust, conduce to the establishment of closer relations between all parts of my Empire."

RELATIVES of those who have fallen in the War will be glad to know that the services of their honoured dead are to be recognised by the nation. Mr. Bonar Law recently said that a Committee sitting at the War Office was considering the question as to what suitable expression of gratitude should be given to the relatives of soldiers who had lost their lives in the nation's cause. He added that he hoped that it might be decided to issue a war medal to the relatives of the men who had fallen.

THE long frost has broken, and has left householders with depleted—and in many cases empty—coal cellars. The coal merchants are quite unable to cope with the demand for black diamonds, for, though their wharves and depots are well stocked, they have no means of "delivering the goods," owing to so many coal-heavers having been called up. It is now not unusual to see paterfamilias taking home his two-hundredweight sacks of coal in his motor-car or a taxi-cab. As usual, the poor are the chief sufferers, and are being charged monstrous prices for the sacks of coal hawked by itinerant vendors, whose carts are, however, nowadays only rarely seen.

THE British West Indies were extremely well represented at the Empire Fair held at the Savoy Hotel on February 14th and 15th in aid of the Roberts Memorial Workshops, canteens, and other activities of the Women's Auxiliary Force. Indeed, the West Indian stall organised by some ladies whose names are familiar in connection with our Contingent Committee, with Princess Marie Louise as Patroness, and the Countess of Stamford as President, was generally voted the most attractive in the room.

THE stall, which was arranged by a Committee consisting of Mrs. Aspinall, Mrs. Silverthorne, Mrs. Martin Sperry, and Miss Grey-Wilson, who were also among the sellers, was decked with gay bunting, West Indian produce, bananas, turtles, alligators, parrots, etc., which gave it local colour. Other sellers, who were tastefully dressed in black, with red sashes inscribed "West Indies," and bandana headdresses, were Miss de Rinzy—whose

mother, Mrs. de Rinzy, proved herself to be a most capable organiser as Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. Arbutnot (daughter of Sir Henry Blake), Mrs. Grey (who brought a native Jamaican, Dolly McLarty, of Manchester, Jamaica), and Miss Moseley.

AMONG other helpers we noticed Lady Grey-Wilson and Lady Hayes Sadler, and some of the most attractive articles on the stall were several water-colours of St. Vincent presented by Lady Sendall, a large variety of boxes decorated with West Indian shells by Lady Blake, and two plaster models made by Lady im Thurn.

THE postponed New Year's Honours List, which was eventually published on February 13th, included one peerage, seven baronetcies, and twenty-eight knightships, besides appointments and promotions in connection with various Orders. The Hon. Francis Watts, D.Sc., C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture of the West Indies since 1909, receives the well-merited honour of knighthood of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and C.M.G. is now added to the I.S.O. after the name of Mr. Robert Johnstone, whose services as Assistant Colonial Secretary of Jamaica are thus deservedly recognised. Among the new Knights Bachelor appears the name of Mr. Daniel Thomas Tudor, Chief Justice of the Bahamas, and for eight years Attorney-General of Grenada and St. Vincent.

ANOTHER honour of interest to West Indian readers is the knighthood conferred upon Mr. Charles Simon Davson, Chief Justice of Fiji and Chief Judicial Commissioner for the Western Pacific. Sir Charles Davson, who was admitted to the Bar of British Guiana in 1882, and was for some years Solicitor-General of that colony, is a son of the late Mr. G. L. Davson, manager of the British Guiana Bank, and a nephew of the late Sir Henry Davson, Chairman of the West India Committee. To Sir Francis Watts, Sir Daniel Tudor, Sir Charles Davson, and Mr. Robert Johnstone the CIRCULAR extends hearty congratulations!

THE Police Medal, a coveted honour recently instituted, is awarded to Inspector Thomas Alexander, of the Jamaica Constabulary, for "prolonged service and exceptional ability and merit," and to Sergeant-Major Joseph Blades, of the British Honduras Police, whose gallantry is thus recorded: "Arrested an armed murderer at Belize on January 25th, 1916. After shooting dead three persons in an office, the murderer went into the street. Blades followed him and procured a rifle. The man came out of a yard, and Blades, seizing his opportunity, threw away his rifle and pounced on the man, who was quickly secured with assistance." It will hardly be necessary to remind readers that the late Colonel Slack, of honoured memory, was one of the victims of the murderer.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged, and will take place very quietly, in Folkestone, on Saturday next, between Arthur F. Bean, Lieutenant, R.C.N., son of the Rev. and Mrs. H. Bean, and Dorothy Marion, youngest daughter of the late Most Rev. William Procter Swaby, Bishop of Barbados and Archbishop of the West Indies, and Mrs. Swaby, 20, Connaught Road, Folkestone.

IN spite of the great rise in the cost of labour and materials due to the War, no increase in the price of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR has been made, and it is hoped that none may be necessary if members continue to support the Committee as loyally as they have done in the past. Members can materially assist the work of the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee.



A B. W. I. Brooch

offered at the following prices:—

	18 Carat Gold and Enamel	2 10 0	2 10 0
Silver and Enamel	3 6	2 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.

MR. E. H. S. FLOOD, Canadian Trade Commissioner in the West Indies, in a recent report points out that the quantity of flour imported into those colonies in 1912 amounted to over a million bags. In the two following years the figure kept pretty well up to the million mark, but in 1915 it declined, owing to conditions of price and transport. In 1912, the last year before the Canada-West India Agreement went into effect, the quantity imported from the United States was about 750,000 bags, and from Canada 300,000 bags. In 1914, however, the first full year under the preference, the figures had considerably changed, the import from the United States and Canada being 467,532 and 493,401 bags respectively. Last year the gain for Canadian flour was still more apparent, the returns showing 349,411 for the United States and

441,733 for Canada. These figures do not include the Bahamas, their statistics not being available. The gain on the part of Canada would more clearly show the effects of the preference if the returns from Jamaica also were omitted, these colonies not being party to the Agreement. The figures would then stand: 129,879 bags from the United States, and 437,422 from Canada, showing that in the colonies that are giving a preference to Canadian flour the trade has in a large measure reverted to Canada.

THE people of Barbados have contributed a further sum of £400 towards the British Red Cross Ambulance Fund. This brings the total amount collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore for this object to no less than £3,650. The following letter from the Director of the Motor Ambulance Department has been forwarded through the West India Committee to the colony:—

I beg to thank you for your kind letter of the 27th instant, Ref. No. 700, enclosing a cheque for £400, the same being a further collection by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore from the people of Barbados towards the Motor Ambulance Upkeep Fund. I have pleasure in enclosing the official receipt in duplicate herewith.

Will you kindly convey to Mr. Collymore, and through him to the kind subscribers generally, our most grateful appreciation and thanks for this further kind help.

I note that with this further gift, the amount subscribed by the people of Barbados through Mr. Collymore amounts to £2,850 in cash and two Motor Ambulances of a value of £400 each. It is truly a splendid effort, and we are most grateful to Mr. Collymore for so kindly organising the collection, and to the people of Barbados for their magnificent responses.

I note from the extract from Mr. Collymore's letter you sent me that it is the wish of the subscribers that, in the event of either of their ambulances being rendered unserviceable, the present remittance of £400 should be used to replace it, so that there should always be two Motor Ambulances from Barbados on service at the Front. I am glad to be able to inform you that the two Motor Ambulances provided by the people of Barbados are still on service and doing excellent work amongst our sick and wounded soldiers. I have, therefore, devoted the £400 now subscribed towards their further upkeep.

THE organisers of the West Indian Stall at the recent Empire Fair in aid of the Roberts Memorial Workshops desire to acknowledge with thanks the following gifts:—

	£	s.	d.
Lady Owen Phillips	5	5	0
Lady Llewelyn	1	0	0
Lady Sendall	10	0	0
Lady Grey-Wilson	2	2	0
Lady Davson	1	0	0
Mrs. Howell Jones	1	0	0
Sir Walter and Lady Egerton	5	0	0
Mr. Guy Wyatt	10	0	0
Mr. C. Sandbach Parker	5	5	0
Mr. A. P. Messer	1	1	0
Mrs. Woodroffe	5	0	0
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall	3	3	0
Mrs. Greenwood	5	0	0

Mrs. L. I. Kerr a gift of brass ware.
 Lady Sendall: 6 water colour paintings of St. Vincent.
 The Countess of Stamford: cardigan jackets.
 Lady Blake: shell boxes, etc.
 Lady Hayes Sadler: 16 prs. socks and knitted caps.
 Lady Grey-Wilson: various fancy articles.
 Lady in Thurn: plaster model of the head of negro boy, and a plaster bracket.
 Mrs. Harley Moseley: baskets.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

DOMINICA—Relations with Canada.

A correspondent writes that Dominica is recovering from the setback of the hurricane. There is great recuperative power in the island: the soil is good, the climate is excellent, and the people possess abundant energy and pluck. Here and there, of course, there are persons who bewail their losses, but that does not prevent them using all possible exertions to restore their property. Since December the Government has ordered the port lights and all other lights in Roseau that could be seen from the sea to be put out or screened. It is understood that German armed vessels are in the Atlantic.

Mr. Welby Solomon, the Roseau Magistrate, has been transferred to St. John's, Antigua, and Mr. Harold Alford Nicholls, to the general satisfaction, has been appointed to act in Dominica. The news of the death of Mr. Leslie Jarvis, the Acting Commissioner of Montserrat, has been received with great regret. Mr. Jarvis was for several years Administrator's Clerk and Clerk of the Executive Council here, and he was an able and courteous officer and much liked by the public.

Christmas and New Year passed off without gaiety, although the labouring population indulged in their usual noisy drum dances. Business was very brisk in the stores, the people being apparently well supplied with money, which they spent freely on clothes, food and drink.

In the Journal of the Canadian and West Indian League there is some correspondence regarding the suggestion of the political confederation of Canada and the West Indies. To those who know both the Dominion and the West Indies the question does not lie within the region of practical politics. Let there be a tightening up of the commercial relations, by all means, but it is waste of time and energy to discuss the pros and cons of the idea of political union between the great democratic Dominion of the North and a number of scattered tropical islands with Crown Colony rule. Weld the West Indies together into a big confederation that can speak with a loud and single voice, and then union with Canada can be considered, but even then the probability is that the Caribbees would say that the political union with Canada would be like a vain attempt to mix oil and water.

GRENADA—26,839 Bags of Cacao Shipped.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, JAN. 19th.—The weather of late has been exceedingly pleasant, having been cool, with nice showers. The Hon. P. J. and Mrs. Dean have returned from England via America, both looking well. The Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne is also on a visit, and is also looking well, in spite of his protracted voyage of six weeks spent on the SS. *Serrana* on the way out.

Mr. Fred Kent, of Mt. Rich, St. Patrick's, died at 5 p.m. on the 16th of January, after a short illness. A large and impressive funeral took place the next day.

Our third contingent are still awaiting orders, and are stationed in Toron. An interesting ceremony was performed the other afternoon at the Drill Yard by His Excellency the Governor, who presented a badge of the British West Indies Regiment and a sovereign each to two representatives of two of our men who died whilst on active service. The SS. *Serrana* has been here three days taking in cacao which has been accumulating—all the warehouses were full. The shipments to date amount to 26,839 bags.

JAMAICA—A Central Factory Scheme.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—The weather during December was very pleasant, and the temperature was lower than is usual. The mean for the month was only 74.7 deg. F., the average for eighteen years being 76.9 deg. F., and the mean maximum and mean minimum were also below the average, the latter (66.5 deg. F.) being the lowest for ten years. The rainfall, however, was deficient, only totalling .02 ins. in Kingston, as compared with 1.78 inches, the average for forty years. Humidity was normal. A slight earthshock was recorded on the 17th at 10.20 p.m. Direction S.S.E. to N.N.W., magnitude .008 ins. Duration 1 second. No damage resulted.

Mr. J. H. Allwood, member for St. Ann, has resigned

his seat in the Legislative Council. His Lordship, Bishop de Carteret, returned from a visit to the mother country on the 11th, and on the 14th was enthroned as Bishop of Jamaica in the Spanish Town Cathedral. A reception in his honour was subsequently given at Clovelly Park, Kingston. Col. Moulton-Barrett, C.M.G., for many years connected with the West India Regiment, Custos of St. Ann, and member of the Legislative Council, has been honoured with the Order of the Bath by His Majesty the King.

Mr. E. F. W. Reid, Manager in Jamaica of the Atlantic Fruit Co., left the island on a visit to the United States early in the month. In his absence Mr. L. P. Downer is acting as manager. Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti has severed his connection with Messrs. Wray and Nephew, with whom he has been connected for many years, and will probably start his own business early in the New Year. It is stated that Messrs. Grace Bros., Ltd., of London, and Messrs. W. R. Grace & Co., of New York, have taken over the business of Messrs. Wessels and Nephew in Jamaica, and that a new company will be formed locally to carry on the business in their interests. The new company will probably be under the direction of Mr. M. S. Grace, of St. Thomas, Jamaica, but the personnel of the staff will remain unchanged. Messrs. Daniel Finzi & Co. announce that their business will be transformed into a limited liability company with a capital of £20,000. According to newspaper and other reports it is likely that Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co., the American banking firm, will open a local branch in Jamaica, but details are lacking.

Dr. Francis Watts, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture, is expected to visit the island in January in connection with the development of the sugar industry.

The Sugar Committee have sent in a report to the Governor in which, amongst other suggestions, it is stated that the Central Factories Law of 1902 should be amended allowing of Government guarantee of principal with interest not exceeding 6 per cent., or, if interest alone is guaranteed, at a rate not exceeding 8 per cent. That if the Government provides or guarantees the entire amount necessary for the erection of a Central Sugar Factory, the factory should be handled by a special Government Department, and profits should be applied in paying interest on the cost of factory, sinking fund, and depreciation, 25 per cent. of the balance going to the Government and 75 per cent. to the cane farmers. On the other hand, if cane farmers find one-third of the cost of the factory, giving adequate security for any advances by the Government and the Government advance or guarantee the balance, the profits, after making provision for interest, etc., should belong to the cane farmer, as in the Queensland systems. That advances by the Government for the construction of factories could be provided either by an Advance Department of the Savings Bank or by debentures issued or guaranteed by the Government. That a law should be passed making provision for the establishment of Sugar Experiment Stations, and that a special department should be created, presided over by a Director, who would also be the Director of the Sugar Experiment Stations.

Messrs. G. de Cordova and A. Solomon have purchased Fontabell sugar estate in the parish of Trelawny. A report is current that a dye factory, for the manufacture of logwood dye, will be erected shortly near Savanna la Mar. The 24th annual meeting of the Jamaica Telephone Co. was held on the 18th. The net revenue of the company for the year was £1,493 9s. 7d., and a dividend of 2/- per share was declared. The Governor in Council has amended the Telephone Co.'s license, enabling them to erect call stations at either the Kingston Railway Station or at the General Post Office, and also at Cross Roads Post Office. These stations will be worked on the slot system, and the charge per call will be 2d.

The fifth contingent is rapidly attaining its full strength, and prospects for recruits in the future are very bright. Efforts are being made to obtain as many men as can be spared from the local civil service. £853 4s. has been subscribed to date towards the Archbishop Nuttall Memorial Fund. The following are the active war funds this month:

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	5,437	10	1
" Polish Jews' Fund	1,374	10	4
" Blue Cross Fund	206	5	2
" Contingent Comforts Fund	317	12	10

Jamaica "Our Day" Fund	1,662	7	0
British Prisoners of War Fund	260	15	0
Re-opened Aeroplane Fund	218	12	6
French Red Cross	229	5	6
New Testament Contingent Fund	61	3	11
J. O. T. Red Cross Nurse Fund	64	10	3
Belgian Children's Christmas Fund	72	8	0

ST. KITTS.—The Canadian Reciprocity Pact.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JANUARY 15th.—Notwithstanding that the greatest and most cruelly conducted war the world has ever known has been raging for over two years we can congratulate ourselves that we are still able to speak of this isle as a perfectly tranquil spot—a fact which goes far to prove that, notwithstanding all that the Huns say to the contrary, Britannia still rules the waves—although, owing to the developments of modern science in devising various devilish forms of under-sea warfare, the task is somewhat harder than before. We have much to be thankful for during the past year—good crops, good prices, and all our wants comfortably supplied, although rather more expensively than hitherto—also, we have almost miraculously been spared the devastating effects of at least three tropical cyclones which had their genesis in this vicinity. So that, altogether, when one considers for a moment the amount of suffering and distress there is in civilized Europe to-day; the individual who can find much to grouse over in this part of the British Empire must be in a very bad way indeed. A cinema exhibition of the Battle of the Somme would do him good.

While no one can say what 1917 has in store for us, and there may be more anxiety and trouble in getting through the twelve months than we are ordinarily accustomed to, we must look at it philosophically and in a sense as being our little burden of the war—precious little as compared to a good many other people's. The outlook on the whole is a bright one, crop prospects are as good or almost as good as last year's, and the condition of the markets for our produce fairly satisfactory. Of course we have our trials; for instance, we may not unreasonably consider that in these days of a sugar shortage to all appearance in the United Kingdom, refiners might show a little respect for even our old muscovado—there are plenty of housewives in England to-day who would be glad of some at almost any price—but we find that the Canadian refiner gives us a fall whenever he can, and seeing that our Governments in emergencies invariably fall back on our lands or the produce of our lands to make good any deficiency in revenue, lack of much enthusiasm as to Canadian reciprocity is not to be wondered at.

On sugar estates a revised wage system was brought into force with the coming of the New Year; taking it all round one may say that wages have been raised from 20 to 25 per cent.; and this is as much as owners can reasonably be expected to do. Under these conditions work is proceeding smoothly in all parts of the island. There have, however, been a few cane fires—a most senseless form of crime, which a few misguided individuals appear to indulge in—and which injures the active working labourer more than anyone else, by depriving him of work and wages, seeing that the canes are mostly insured.

Owing to the illness of Captain A. Roger, I.S.O., Acting Administrator, the Hon. T. E. Fell, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, has been temporarily appointed to administer the Government of the Presidency. Captain Rogers possesses the confidence and esteem of all classes of the community, and we hope that he will be restored to health. Dr. W. H. Pretz, I am glad to say, has been able to resume his duties as Senior Medical Officer.

OBITUARY.

THE HON. WILLIAM HENRY WHYHAM, I.S.O.

We regret to state that the Hon. William Henry Whyham, I.S.O., died in Antigua on January 28th.

Mr. Whyham was born in 1848, and entered the Royal Navy in 1864. He retired nine years later, and joined the Leeward Islands' Colonial Yacht Union. In the fol-

lowing year, 1874, he was appointed a district magistrate in Dominica. He was transferred in 1878 to Antigua on receiving the additional appointment of Inspector of Prisons. In 1886 he was the Commissioner for Antigua at the "Colinderies" Exhibition, and in the succeeding years he received many acting appointments, administering the government of various presidencies. In 1904 he attended the Quarantine Conference at Barbados, and two years later he was admitted a Companion of the Imperial Service Order in recognition of thirty-three years' work in the Colonial Civil Service. Mr. Whyham was a member of the Federal and local Executive Councils.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6613 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.

February 21st, 1917.

THE NEW WAR LOAN has been a great success, over £700,000,000 of new money having been subscribed.

BANK RATE remains at 5½ per cent, as from the 18th January. First War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 84½. Consols stand at 52.

SUGAR. The sugar scarcity in the United Kingdom continues, and the general public are now beginning to realise that the shortage is a real one. But while some honestly attempt to conform with Lord Devonport's 2 lb. per head per week, there are still selfish free-feeders who endeavour to obtain a full supply on their own account on the basis of pre-war consumption, and who, in doing so, are indifferent to the fact that every pound over the official allowance they may secure means somebody else, in less favourable circumstances as to means of supply, going without.

The situation has been slightly eased by the Food Controller's announcement that in February 60 per cent. of the January, 1915, consumption would be distributed, instead of 50 per cent. This extra 10 per cent. should improve matters considerably.

At any rate, the United Kingdom is better off as regards sugar than Turkey! At Smyrna, the *Daily Mail* correspondent writes, it is the practice in the best circles to make birthday gifts of a few humps of sugar, which are greatly appreciated.

Three more Orders relating to sugar have been issued by Lord Devonport since the date of last Summary. One refers to deals in sugar outside the United Kingdom by persons at home, which are forbidden without a permit from the Sugar Commission, no matter whether the sugar is for consumption in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The other two relate to brewing sugars, which of late have found their way into grocers' shops. One of these Orders provides that no sugar shall be delivered from any warehouse except by the authority of the Food Controller, and that all brewers' sugars now in transit must be delivered into a warehouse. Exceptions to this rule are made as regards sugar sold to a brewer, or to a brewers' sugar manufacturer, and to sugar imported for brewing purposes under especial license issued by the Sugar Commission. The other Order regulates that any person owning stocks of, or possessing the power of disposal of, brewers' sugar exceeding three tons in weight, on February 8th, must make a return thereof to the Food Controller.

Brewers' sugar is officially defined as sugar not above 89° of polarisation, and the Sugar Commission has now announced that the granting of licenses for the import of sugar under that strength is suspended until further notice. This, however, does not apply to sugar already afloat, or to British West Indian crystallized grocery, British West Indian muscovados, or to British West Indian grocery syrups.

The quantity of sugar used in brewing in the United Kingdom last year was 115,307 tons, as compared with 192,192 tons in 1915, and 155,218 tons in 1914.

In a recent Summary reference was made to the low grade, almost black, syrup sugars posing in the retail shops as "Barbados sugar." It is to be regretted that these sugars, which came from Mauritius, should have

been passed by the Brokers' Commission for direct consumption.

Colonial sugar growers will be glad to hear that the Government Committee appointed to enquire into the recommendations of the Paris Conference as regards trade after the war has unanimously reported in favour of Imperial Preference.

It is understood that the 300,000 tons of duty free sugar with which Russia is arranging to be supplied, will come largely from Japan, through the Japanese Government, the Formosan crop being considerably in excess of Japanese requirements. The normal consumption of Japan is about 300,000 tons, and the present crop of Formosa and Japan is expected to be, according to Willett and Gray, 430,000 tons.

Recent advices as to the Continental beet crop show better returns in some instances than obtained last year. Germany is stated by Willett and Gray as being likely to finish with 1,600,000 tons, as against 1,400,000 tons for the 1914-15 crop; Austria-Hungary, 945,000 tons, as against 1,011,400 tons; France 200,000 tons, as against 135,000 tons; Belgium, 90,000 tons, as against 113,097 tons, and Holland, 275,000 tons, as against 242,753 tons. Russia will be very short at 1,380,000 tons, as against 1,467,096 tons. "Other" countries figure at 544,000 tons, as against 707,515 tons. The total European 1916-17 crop, therefore, may be taken as being 5,004,000 tons, as against 5,077,500 tons in 1915-16.

The Cuban crop does not progress in the manner it should do. Up to the week ending the 10th inst., only 571,296 tons had been made against 754,264 tons at the corresponding date last year, in spite of 182 factories being at work as compared with 176 last year at the same date. Difference in quality of juice would not be sufficient per se to account for this shortage, and there is little doubt that internal troubles in the shape of strikes and political dissensions has had much to do with the poor output.

The inevitable Cuban revolutionary is taking advantage of the distraction of the United States with more important matters, and a distinctly unsatisfactory political atmosphere obtains in the island, which must react on the sugar output.

The Board of Trade Returns for January show that 118,862 tons of sugar were imported during the month, as against 87,220 tons for the same month of last year. Of these, 19,617 tons consisted of white sugar, as against 36,014 tons last January. This was supplied almost entirely by Java, which contributed 19,560 tons out of the 19,617 tons, as against 17 tons in January, 1916. On the other hand the United States, which in January last year supplied 35,731 tons, only supplied 25 tons this year.

The imports of raw sugars amounted to 99,244 tons, as against 47,016 tons in January last year. As with the white sugar, Java supplied almost the whole of the raw sugar, sending 86,570 tons, as against 9 tons in January last year. No sugar came from Cuba. Peru contributed 5,526 tons, and Brazil 4,151 tons. The British West Indies and British Guiana supplied 2,654 tons, as against 2,127 tons in January last year. Mauritius, which supplied 19,966 tons in January, 1916, contributed nothing this January on account of her sugar going to France.

The stock of sugar on the 31st of January in the United Kingdom consisted of 20,350 tons of imported white sugar, 20,850 tons of British refined, and 83,150 tons of raw—in all 124,350 tons. On the previous 31st of December, the stocks were 18,250 tons of imported white sugar, 13,750 tons of home refined, and 86,800 tons of raw sugar—in all 118,800 tons. There has, therefore, been a slight increase in stocks, especially in the direction of refined and imported whites. The consumption for January, based on imports, was, therefore, 113,310 tons, as compared with 129,767 tons in January of last year. The amount liberated from bond for consumption during the month was 92,394 tons, as against 111,576 tons in January last year.

The West India sugar statistics in London from 1st January to 10th February were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	4,266	4,372	4,240 tons.
Deliveries	4,837	7,083	5,043 "
Stocks (Feb. 10) ...	7,444	8,389	5,206 "

The New York market has shown great strength in

the face of the disquieting news from Cuba, and 96% have advanced to \$5.52 duty paid, with a sympathetic rise to \$7.40 in granulated.

RUM. There has been a quiet market since last Summary. Spot values are nominally unchanged, and there has been less demand for rum to arrive.

According to the Board of Trade Returns, the quantity of rum imported into the United Kingdom in January amounted to 943,194 proof gallons. This is against an importation of 951,944 proof gallons in January of last year. The amount withdrawn from bond for home consumption was 399,604 gallons, as against 348,774 gallons in January last year. There is, so far, therefore, an excess of consumption of rum as compared with that of last year. In this connection it is interesting to record that the quantity of home-made potable spirits taken out of bond last year in the United Kingdom was 24,130,896 proof gallons, as against 30,045,018 gallons in 1915. Stocks in the United Kingdom on January 30th were 13,115,000 proof gallons, as against 8,808,000 proof gallons at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on February 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	10,509	5,840	5,257 puns.
Demerara	9,876	5,343	5,741 "
Total of all kinds ...	34,499	21,791	17,017 "

CAOAO. The market is firmer. At auction sales on the 13th 3,200 bags were disposed of, West Indian realising prices showing about 2/- advance. 102 bags of Trinidad were bought in. Out of the 629 bags of Grenada offered, 350 sold at prices ranging from 70/- to 75/-; 730 bags Jamaica were put up, out of which 200 bags sold at 70/6 to 74/-. Of the 322 bags St. Lucia offered, 240 sold at 62/- to 66/6.

On the 20th there was not so much demand, but the small quantity of West Indian offered sold at steady rates, Grenada fetching from 64/- to 73/6, and St. Lucia 62/- to 64/-.

According to the Board of Trade Returns the importations of cacao during January amounted to 19,193,104 lbs., as against 24,593,184 lbs. in January of last year. Of the former quantity 9,971,508 lbs. came from British West Africa, 3,721,872 lbs. from Ecuador, 1,347,360 lbs. from Brazil, 676,704 lbs. from Ceylon, and 460,544 lbs. from the British West India Islands.

The exports for the month were only 1,986,892 lbs., as against 7,648,368 lbs. in January of last year. The principal country of export was the United States, to which 840,896 lbs. were sent.

The quantity withdrawn from bond for home consumption during the month was 9,209,200 lbs. The stock in hand in the United Kingdom on the 31st January was 10,416,000 lbs., as against 8,288,000 lbs. on the same date last year.

The stocks in London on February 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,942	7,744	6,228 bags.
Grenada	14,080	9,149	5,086 "
Total of all kinds ...	232,834	102,180	57,429 "

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland have no business to report since the date of last Summary, but state that the market is very firm.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 248,715,400 lbs. were imported for January, as against 205,195,800 lbs. in January last year. Of this amount, 59,667,400 lbs. came from British possessions, including 49,260,300 lbs. from Egypt, and 9,676,200 lbs. from the British West Indies. There were no imports of cotton in January from the British West Indies.

The quantity of cotton exported during January was 11,205,900 lbs., as against 26,541,700 lbs. and 31,437,100 lbs. in January of 1915 and 1916 respectively. The exports to the United States, which in January last year were 21,788,600 lbs. sank in January of this year to 2,965,600 lbs. On the other hand, to Portugal, which only received 737,700 lbs. in January last year, this January there was exported 3,599,100 lbs.

COFFEE. Market firmer. At auction sale on the 13th, a good quantity was offered, with fair sales. Of 54 bags Jamaica, some sold at 61/- for good ordinary pale. At sales on the 20th, 122 bags Jamaica offered were bought in.

The Board of Trade Returns show that during January

3,552,416 lbs. of coffee were imported into the United Kingdom, and 3,026,464 lbs. withdrawn from bond for home consumption. The importations included 1,662,416 lbs. from Brazil, 421,568 lbs. from Central America, and 183,792 lbs. from the British West India Islands. In January last year, 23,836,400 lbs. were imported, including 119,952 lbs. from the British West India Islands.

The exports in January amounted to 3,650,976 lbs., as against 3,772,160 lbs. in January last year. The stock of coffee on hand on the 31st January was 142,128,000 lbs., as against 96,756,000 lbs. on the same date last year.

OOPRA. The market is firm, owing to small offerings. West Indian is quoted at £46 c.i.f. terms.

ARROWROOT. Business has been done in second-hand parcels reported up to 5½d. Quotations are nominal.

FRUIT. Oranges. Season for Jamaica closed.

Bananas. West Indian unchanged at £17 per ton (truck-loads). Canary: none to offer. **Grapefruit.** No stocks. **Coconuts** 25/- per bag (100's).

HONEY. Firm at last quoted rates. There is a fair enquiry for shipments to arrive.

SPICES. Ginger. Rather firmer. Sales of Jamaica have been made at 85/- to 105/- for good common rather small to good bold and bright middling. **Pimento** is dearer. Recent sales have been made at 4½d. to 4½d. per lb., and 5d. per lb. is now asked. Buyers' price for February-March shipment is 36/- per cwt. c.i.f.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is scarce. Small sales have been made up to 15/- per lb. Distilled is quiet, with value unchanged and still nominal.

Lime Juice. There is no change in raw. Concentrated is steady, but no sales have been reported. **Citrate of Lime.** Buyers' price £28 10s.

RUBBER. The market has been firm for the greater part of the past fortnight, and there has been a good demand, especially for spot and near rubber. To-day's value of standard sheet and crepe is 3/3¼ spot, and 3/3½ up to June delivery. July-December delivery, 3/0½.

The quantity of rubber imported into the United Kingdom in January was 17,862,700 lbs., as against 14,779,800 lbs. in January last year. Of this January's imports, the

Straits Settlements contributed 3,075,800 lbs., as against 3,061,500 lbs. in January last year; the Federated Malay States 6,562,600 lbs. as against 3,134,600; Ceylon, 2,295,800 lbs., as against 2,441,400 lbs.

The exports amounted to 13,821,000 lbs., as against 8,597,300 lbs. in January last year. The principal country of export was the United States, which received 7,972,800 lbs., as against 4,873,200 lbs. in January last year.

BALATA. Market is firm, owing to shortness of supplies. Venezuela block is quoted at 3/4 to 3/4½ spot. Forward quotation nominal at 3/1 c.i.f. The spot value of Panama block is 3/-. West Indian sheet, spot value 3/10; forward 3/8 nominal.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. Albert Mendes
Mr. C. H. Chambers	Mr. Wm. Greig	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mr. Albert T. Haunmond	Mr. John T. Molr
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mrs. Moseley
Mr. W. de Gale	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Dr. Frank Oliphant
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Sir Walter Egerton	Hon. E. Laborde	Mr. T. Orde
K.C.M.G.	Mr. E. K. Lane	Mr. D. G. Pile
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. Marsden	Dr. H. A. Tompauy
Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. T. M. Marshall	and
Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. A. L. McCall	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, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.		
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W.		
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.		
Mr. W. C. Shuttle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.		

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/-.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the export of produce from the British West Indies during last year to December 31st (except where otherwise specified), have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua. (a)	Bar- bados. (b)	British Guiana. (6)	British Hond- uras. (c)	Domi- nica. (d)	Grenada. (e)	Jamaica. (f)	Mont- serrat. (g)	St. Lucia. (h)	St. Kitts- Nevis. (i)	St. Vincent. (j)	Trinidad
Arrowroot ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,949.63	—
Asphalt ... Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93,243½
Balata ... Lbs.	—	—	1,450,702	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,106
Bananas ... Bchs.	—	—	—	872,133	—	5,460,641	—	—	—	—	—	64,094
Bitters ... Galls	—	—	—	14,379	—	12,291,400	49,315	3,638	1,577,064	—	175,421	54,086,579
Cacao ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	760	153,476	—
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,391,579
Coco-nuts ... No.	—	—	1,631,307	5,317,449	—	—	18,013,813	—	69,331	—	—	2,401
Coffee ... Lbs.	—	—	501,115	—	—	—	49,459	—	—	—	—	3,106,048
Cocoa ... Lbs.	—	—	237,128	164,954	—	—	—	—	91,821	—	—	—
Cotton, M. Galante Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	349,032	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	77,700	143,024	—	—	—	77,180	37,683	—	—	307,624	219,315	7,924
Cotton Seed ... Tons	—	—	—	—	—	301	235	—	—	699	—	—
Diamonds ... Carats	—	—	16,180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drywoods ... Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	64,339	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,836	—	—	—	—	—
Gold ... Ozs.	—	—	33,060	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bys & brls.	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honey ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	124,909	—	—	—	182	4,795	1,105
Lime Juice Car. Galls	118	—	—	—	—	150,525	106,447	45,588	—	—	—	23,365
Oil	—	—	—	—	—	7,500	2,788	1,289	16,823	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) ... Lbs.	—	—	52,202	—	—	—	—	1,280	595	—	—	—
Logwood ... Tons	—	—	—	7,125	—	—	—	—	900	—	—	—
Lumber ... Feet	—	—	360,277	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mahogany ...	—	—	—	5,317,449	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak ... Tons	406,200	66	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	163
Molasses galls.	—	8,794,460	—	—	—	—	—	12,618	101,910	339,650	—	528,211
Oranges ... No.	—	—	—	—	—	11,782,300	—	—	—	—	—	622,141
Oils, Essential Galls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	154	—	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum Galls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,097,190
Pimento ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	5,478,050	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rice ... Lbs.	—	—	28,736,450	2,617	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42,476
Rubber ... Lbs.	—	—	15,566	2,180	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	554,175
Rice ... Galls	—	92,438	4,386,854	—	—	1,028	1,471,897	—	17,290	728	—	—
Shingles ... No.	—	—	2,353,706	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar ... Tons	14,588	55,456	97,118	305	—	—	21,209	392	4,475	15,620	491	56,611
Timber ... Cubic Feet	—	—	138,347	411,811	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80,572

a To August 31st.

b To Dec. 29th.

c To Sept. 30th.

d To Dec. 15th.

e To Nov. 30th.

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.4.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

March 7th, 1917.

THE PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE made his promised statement regarding the prohibition of imports in the House of Commons on February 23rd, and on the same day a Proclamation was issued on the subject. The text of this is published in another column, and it will be noted that the list of articles, the importation of which is now prohibited, is a long and comprehensive one. Included in it are four of the great staples of the British West Indies, namely, cacao, coffee, bananas, and rum. It will be seen from the correspondence between the West India Committee and the department of the Board of Trade concerned, that while the prohibition of imports of rum and coffee is for the present absolute, subject to the admission of produce in transit or paid for before the date of the new Order, licenses will be granted for the importation of one-half of the amount of cacao imported from British possessions in the calendar year 1916, and for one-quarter of the quantity of bananas, the produce already imported this year to the date of the Proclamation being left out of account. The object of the new Order is to economize tonnage, and if there are any of our readers who doubt the necessity of the drastic measures which have now been adopted, we advise them to read MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S grave speech, some extracts from which are published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. Ships are needed to carry men and munitions to the various seats of war, and they are wanted to revictual our Allies. It is to this cause that the great shortage of tonnage is due, and on the top of it comes the new submarine menace, which it would be folly to dismiss lightly. The policy of

the Government is to suspend entirely the importation of luxuries of every description, and of those commodities of which there is an adequate supply in the country, in order that ships may be set free to carry munitions and essential foodstuffs, of which, as MR. LLOYD GEORGE said, stocks are alarmingly low. This being the case, it was obvious that rum would be prohibited, there being ample stocks in this country for many months to come. Rum producers will be temporarily inconvenienced, but that is unavoidable, and it will be some consolation to them to know that they will in all probability benefit in the price, which was likely to collapse at the close of the war in view of the huge stocks which have accumulated. Accepting the soundness of the Government's policy, it was clear that rum which could not pass into consumption for very many months would have to be shut out. As matters stand the West India Committee should be able to make out a good case for a reduction in the compulsory bonding period in the case of such rum as can be stored in the West Indies, for it is well-known that rum matures more rapidly in the tropics. There is, too, a possibility of spirit being needed for munitions purposes, to which we may revert later on, and the manufacture of Molasses—which we are informed can now be made in a concentrated form—must not be overlooked. Cacao planters are more fortunate, inasmuch as conditions warrant licenses being granted to importers to import 50 per cent. of last year's receipts from British sources. In 1916 only 35 per cent. of the total West Indian crop came to the United Kingdom, and there is hope, therefore, that no slump in prices will occur. With coffee planters there is more reason to sympathise, the prohibition of coffee imports being absolute, this being due to the large stocks built up here in the hope of better days. So few bananas came here from Jamaica that the reduction of imports to 25 per cent. of those of 1916 should not affect the island directly, though the displaced Central American fruit will probably compete with Jamaica bananas in the United States. In deciding to support the Government in every possible way in its decision to reduce imports the West India Committee adopted a patriotic, and what we believe to be the only possible, attitude, having regard to the grave issues involved, and we feel there is not a responsible body in the British West Indies which would not have immediately arrived at the same decision on having the facts of the situation placed before them in such terms as those used by the Prime Minister in his memorable speech. If once the door were opened to concessions there would be a perfect deluge of applications, and the Proclamation would soon be reduced to a dead letter. The Nation calls for sacrifices, and we feel certain that, as far as the West Indies are concerned, they will be made ungrudgingly.

OUR ASSOCIATED CHAMBER.

JUDGING from the cablegrams received from Mr. TRIPP, the Hon. Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, the inaugural meetings of that body, which were held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, between February 26th and March 2nd, were a marked success. Congratulatory telegrams were received from the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, and the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and other public bodies, and the proceedings appear to have been throughout of a most business-like nature. Mr. F. R. DAVSON, who has done so much towards the formation of the Chamber, was elected the first President, with Mr. W. GORDON GORDON Vice-President, and the resolutions passed included the subjects of Imperial Preference, improved relations with Allies, an all-British cable service, improved steamer service, and other matters of great importance to the trade of the West Indies. We shall revert to the subject when the full report of the proceedings come to hand.

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.

FOLLOWING on the accident to the concrete sea wall under construction at Pln. Lusignan, East Coast, Demerara, occasioned by the high and rough tides of mid-November, as referred to in the CIRCULAR of 11th January, several somewhat acrimonious debates have taken place in the Combined Court of British Guiana. The cause of the accident and the responsibilities of the engineering expert, MR. GERALD O. CASE, and the contractors, the CASE COAST PROTECTION CORPORATION, of U.S.A., as to the design and execution of the work, have been warmly debated. In the course of the discussion, MR. E. C. BUCK, Director of Public Works, came in for some adverse criticism, which seems to us entirely undeserved, as in his capacity as superintendent of Sea Defences, he was in a great measure subordinated by the appointment of the sea defence engineering expert introduced from the United States, on the recommendation of the British Embassy at Washington; and to whom MR. BUCK gave every assistance in the power of his Department for the supply of information and facilities for making the necessary examination of the position that the expert was called in to deal with. In the questions that arose after the partial failure of the newly-executed work, DR. NUNAN, K.C., the Attorney-General of the Colony, who it may be remembered was Chairman of the Sea Defence Commission of last year, was untiring in his efforts to find a solution of the difficulties, and, as Chairman of a Special Committee appointed to inquire into the whole matter, assisted by an advisory board of local consulting engineers—MESSRS. SEDORFF, PARRATT, GILLESPIE and MORRIS—he succeeded in arriving at the following satisfactory and acceptable conclusions:—

1.—The actual cause of the accident was an exceptionally high and rough tide creating immense waves which, mounting over the top of the wall, washed away the unprotected surface of the road dam at the back of the wall, which formed its support at the particular point at which the collapse occurred.

2.—Although no actual fault was found with Mr. Case's original design of the wall, it was suggested by the Advisory Committee that supporting buttresses might be introduced with advantage at intervals at the back, and that the toe of the wall in front should be carried down to a greater depth on the foreshore.

3.—The construction of the concrete wall, with its reinforcement, was well carried out on the whole by the contractors, who undertook to restore at their own expense the portions that had broken away; but to be paid extra for concreting the road surface and adding the buttresses at the back, as recommended by the Committee.

Shortly after the report of the Special Committee was presented, further damage was done to the sea dams on the East Coast at Plns. Mon Repos and Clonbrook, by the Spring tides about Christmas time; but the new wall stood this test without further damage, which was so far satisfactory. Later on the question of an extended new contract for permanent sea defence works on the West Coast and at Pln. Mon Repos, including concrete wall and training groyne, came up for consideration in the Combined Court, and was the occasion of considerable discussion, the elective members having expressed some hesitation about giving the contract to MESSRS. CASE & HENNEBQUE individually, or to the CASE COAST PROTECTION CORPORATION, whose financial standing was questioned, owing to their inability to provide the necessary sureties under their first or original contract, a feeling being also expressed by some of the members that British contractors should be employed in preference, if at all possible. However, as the matter was urgent, and MESSRS. CASE & HENNEBQUE being on the spot prepared to start work at once, it was agreed to give them the job under a provisional contract based on a percentage deduction, to be held as security until the completion of each section of the work; and subject to the approval of the proposed scheme by the Director of Public Works in Surinam, who had been invited to visit the colony and favour the Government with his opinion and advice on the subject, he having had experience of similar work in Holland. This gentleman, with the consent of the Surinam Government, was expected to arrive in Demerara sometime in February, but in the meantime work on the lines of MR. CASE'S report was to be proceeded with. It was certainly unfortunate that this untoward accident, involving the collapse of a section of the new, and, what was hoped to be, permanent sea defence work on the East Coast, happened; but failures, or partial failures, of important engineering works of a like nature are not entirely unknown, and, indeed, are often looked upon as having a certain educational value. SIR MAURICE FITZMAURICE, C.M.G., President of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the current year, in his inaugural address last November, took as his text this very subject, remarking in the course of his address: "I do not suppose there are any engineers in this room who have carried out undertakings of any extent, who have not had, at some time or other, to lament failure or accident in connection with at least some part of their works. Although very often not of great magnitude, they cause the engineer, the contractor and the principals great anxiety and disappointment, frequently involving alteration of design, or part of design, owing to unforeseen diffi-

culties which cause much anxious thought and trouble to all concerned, and in exceptional cases even necessitating abandonment of the work."

In view of these reflections, we may well take heart of grace in the present instance, and hope that the experience gained may prove of incalculable value in regard to future successful development of sea defence works in British Guiana.

THE NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

Following the announcement regarding the import restrictions a meeting of merchants and proprietors was convened by telephone, and held at the West India Committee Rooms at 3 p.m., on Monday, February 26th. Mr. R. Rutherford, in the absence of the Chairman from London, presided, and the following members were present: Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. Harding Brown, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Major Ivan B. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. F. E. D. Man, Mr. Arthur McConnell, Mr. Norman Malcolmson, Mr. F. H. Norton, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

In view of the gravity of the Prime Minister's speech in the House of Commons, on February 23rd, it was unanimously decided to support the Government in their decision to reduce imports and thus economise tonnage, although it was recognised that this decision must necessarily cause considerable inconvenience and dislocation of trade. The Secretary stated that he had already visited the Import Restriction Department of the Board of Trade, and had ascertained that licenses for the importation from British possessions of 50 per cent. of the cacao imports of 1916 would be permitted.

Subsequent to the meeting the following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Import Restriction Department of the Board of Trade:—

26th February, 1917.

Sir,

Referring to our conversation this morning, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the West Indian merchants and proprietors resident in London, at a meeting held this afternoon, decided unanimously to support the Government in every possible manner in their decision to reduce imports, and thus to economise tonnage.

2. They would be glad, however, to have replies to the following points:—

(1) What is the position of existing contracts for the sale of West Indian produce the importation of which is now prohibited?

(2) What is the position of contracts made for the future delivery, and against which advances have been made?

(3) What is the position of produce actually made in the British West Indies and awaiting shipment?

(4) Will Government contracts for the purchase of produce stand?

(5) May alcohol be imported?

(6) Is the calendar year 1916 the basis of calculating the 50 per cent. of imports of colonial cacao that may still be made?

(7) Will the quantity of cacao which has already arrived here during this year to date be included in the 50 per cent.?

(8) May 50 per cent. of colonial coffee imports in 1916 be imported?

(9) May Logwood and other dyewoods be imported?

3. My Committee desire me to add that they put forward these questions solely with a view of obtaining information, and in no contentious spirit.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

R. E. Enthoven, Esq.,
22, Carlisle Place, Westminster.

Board of Trade,
Department of Import Restrictions,
22, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.
2nd March, 1917.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of February 26th, I have to state that the replies to the various points raised in your letter are as follows:—

(1 & 2). Not able to take into consideration.

(3). Consignments which were in transit from the place of origin to this country on or before the date of the Proclamation, February 23rd, should not be detained by the Customs. Relative to this there is no doubt that if the Bill of Lading is dated on or before February 23rd, the Customs would consider such a consignment as bona-fide in transit before the Proclamation.

(4). Produce required for the fulfilment of Government Contracts will be licensed on receipt of a Certificate from the Government Department concerned that the goods are required and that it is not possible to obtain such goods except by importation.

(5). Prohibited.

(6). Yes.

(7). Not such quantities as arrive before the date of the prohibition, February 23rd.

(8). No.—Coffee absolutely prohibited.

(9). You will receive a reply to this question under another reference.

I am, your obedient servant,
R. E. ENTHOVEN,
Controller.

Messrs. The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.

27th February, 1917.

R. E. Enthoven, Esq.,
22, Carlisle Place, Westminster.

Dear Sir,

Referring to my official letter of yesterday's date I venture to put forward for favour of reply the following additional point:—

In view of the fact that it has recently proved more economical to bring produce, sold to France, to a British port and reship it thence to France (paying the surtax thereon) than to send it via New York and thence direct to France, will shipments of coffee and cocoa destined to French ports be licensed to come via England?

Yours truly,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Board of Trade,
Department of Import Restrictions,
22, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.
2nd March, 1917.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of February 27th I beg to inform you that goods entered in the report of the importing ship as in transit and bona-fide intended for

transhipment or transit, are not affected by the Prohibitions of Import Proclamations. Details of the Transhipment Regulations may be obtained on personal application in the Long Room of any Custom House,
I am, your obedient servant,

R. E. ENTHOVEN,
Controller.

A. E. Aspinall, Esq.,
Secretary, The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

The salient portion of the Prohibition of Import (No. 14) Proclamation, 1917, is given below:—

(1) As from and after the date hereof, subject as hereinafter provided, the importation into the United Kingdom of the following goods is hereby prohibited, viz.:—

Aerated, mineral and table waters.
Agricultural machinery.
Antimony ware.
Apparel, not waterproofed (except boots and shoes).
Art, works of.
Baskets and basketware of bamboo.
Books, printed, and other printed matter including printed posters and daily, weekly and other periodical publications imported otherwise than in single copies through the post.
Boots and shoes of leather, and materials used for the manufacture thereof, not already prohibited.
Brandy.
Clocks and parts thereof.
Cloisonné wares.
Cocoa, preparations of.
Cocoa, raw.
Coffee.
Cotton hosiery, cotton lace and articles thereof.
Curios.
Diatomite and infusorial earth.
Embroidery and needlework.
Fancy goods, known as Paris goods.
Feathers, ornamental, and down.
Fire extinguishers.
Flowers, artificial.
Flowers, fresh.
Fruit, raw, of all descriptions (except lemons and bitter oranges), and almonds and nuts used as fruit.
Glass manufactures not already prohibited.
Gloves.
Hats and bonnets.
Hides, wet and dry.
Incandescent gas mantles.
Jute, raw.
Leather, dressed and undressed.
Linen, yarns and manufacture of.
Lobsters, canned.
Mats and matting.
Naps.
Painters' colours and pigments.
Perfumery.
Photographic apparatus.
Pictures, prints, engravings, photographs and maps.
Plated and gilt wares.
Quails, live.
Quebracho, hemlock, oak and mangrove extracts.
Rum.
Salmon, canned.
Silk, manufactures of, not including silk yarns.
Skins and furs, manufactures of.
Soya beans.
Stereoscopes.
Straw envelopes for bottles.
Straw plaiting.
Sugar, articles and preparations containing, used for food (except condensed milk).
Tea.
Tomatoes.
Typewriters.
Wine.
Wood and timber of all kinds, hewn, sawn or split, planed or dressed.

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that

this prohibition shall not apply to any such goods which are imported under license given by or on behalf of the Board of Trade, and subject to the provisions and conditions of such license.

(2) As from and after the date hereof the prohibition imposed by the Prohibition of Import (Paper, Tobacco, Furniture Woods and Stones) Proclamation, 1916, on the importation of the following goods shall be removed, and the said Proclamation amended accordingly, viz.:—

All periodical publications exceeding 16 pages in length, imported otherwise than in single copies through the post.

OUR ASSOCIATED CHAMBER.

The circumstances in which the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies came into being are already familiar to most readers of the CIRCULAR. Each of the Dominions, besides having Chambers of Commerce in its chief cities and towns, has also a joint Chamber which crystallises and voices the views of all. It was felt that the British West Indies should enjoy similar advantages and following a tour made by Mr. Davson in 1912-13, proposals with this object in view were submitted by the West India Committee to the various Chambers, a tentative local Committee was formed, and an Associated Chamber of the British West Indies was definitely established.

The inaugural meeting of this new body was held on February 26th at Port of Spain, and judging by the special cablegrams received, which are extended below, proceedings went off with great élan. The local arrangements were made by Mr. Edgar Tripp, the prince of organisers, who recently went to St. Kitts and back to interview the various local Chambers, and now fills the position of Hon. Secretary of the Associated Chamber.

His Excellency Sir John Chancellor, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, attended the first meeting, and delegates were present from Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Montserrat and St. Kitts. Mr. Edward Davson was appointed first President, and Mr. W. Gordon Gordon Vice-President. The Governor read a message of congratulation from the Right Hon. Mr. Walter Long, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which he expressed confidence that beneficial results would accrue to the West Indies from the formation of the Chamber. His Excellency indicated on broad lines the Imperial and commercial work which the Chamber might successfully accomplish.

Mr. Davson, in an eloquent Presidential Address, welcomed the delegates, and outlined the steps which should be taken by the Chamber to secure the commercial development of the British West Indies on Imperial lines. Mr. W. Gordon Gordon (Trinidad), Mr. V. Hanschell (Barbados), and Mr. Austin (British Guiana), followed.

A series of resolutions was then passed, urging (1) The establishment of a system of Imperial preference with a surtax on goods from countries of our present enemies and improved trade relationship with our Allies on the basis of the recommendations of the Paris Economic Conference



THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN ROBERT FAULKNOR



FAULKNOR'S MONUMENT IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

(2) Approving the work of the British Empire Producers' Organisation. (3) Urging the need of all-British cable communication with an improved service, and (4) Urging the abolition of the ancient and out-of-date Dutch colour standard for grading sugar in Canada.

During the sitting a cablegram was sent to the King expressing the loyalty of the delegates and the determination of the British West Indies to assist with men and money in bringing about a victorious peace.

On the following day the Royal Colonial Institute, the British Empire Producers' Organisation, the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. Gideon Murray, and Sir Francis Watts were elected to Honorary Membership, the President taking the opportunity of congratulating Sir Francis on his knighthood, and eulogising Mr. Murray's work. The following message from the West India Committee was read:—

"West India Committee congratulate all concerned on occasion inaugural meeting Chamber, which hope will prove active force in cementing West Indies.—CAMPBELL, Chairman; ASPINALL, Secretary."

The question of mail communication was then discussed and resolutions were passed regarding shipping regulations and the treatment of enemy shipping, the policy of replacing Allied losses with enemy vessels being endorsed, and the improvement of port facilities in the West Indies.

On March 1st a gracious reply to the message to the King was read, and the delegates, after discussing the prohibition of imports, passed a resolution requesting that commercial representatives might attend the forthcoming Customs Conference, and that the question of freer trade intercolonially might be discussed. Other matters dealt with were the question of the naturalisation of aliens and the desirability of forbidding present enemy subjects to trade in the West Indies without licenses after the War. A resolution was passed favouring the provision of facilities for the exchange of labourers among the islands, and urging the development of the oil industry. Mr. Davson was appointed to represent the Chamber in the Imperial Council of Commerce.

On the following day resolutions in favour of the development of the agricultural credit system were passed, and the proceedings were brought to a close by the reelection of Mr. Davson as President and Mr. W. Gordon Gordon as Vice-President.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The speeches of the Prime Minister and First Lord of the Admiralty have inspired general confidence because in them the nation is told the truth, and shown that energy and well-considered measures are being employed to meet an unprecedented situation. In such circumstances Englishmen will always back up their leaders, and will now. "If we can solve the tonnage problem," said Mr. Lloyd George, "the victory of the Allies is assured." Therefore a further curtailment in sea-borne luxuries, drastic food regulations, and far-reaching organization aimed at largely increasing the home production of food have been accepted by all classes as inevitable. Bit by bit we are reviving the essentials of the old national policy by which we became great, and which we threw away for a cosmopolitanism that preferred opulence to defence. On the most unfortunate result, from the military point of view, our dependence on sea-borne food, Germany is basing her submarine piracy. Not that she can

hope to win the war that way, because our unconquered and unconquerable Navy bars to her shipping the trade routes of the world, but she hopes to inflict serious damage upon us, and, on land, is leaving nothing undone to deal us a smashing blow in the West. Hence Ministers now put the issue before us very clearly. If, in substance, they say, we are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices and practise the necessary self-denial, we shall win the war; if not, then we shall head the way to disaster. Who can doubt what the answer of the nation and the whole Empire will be? Not the least important form it has taken is the vast sum of "new" money subscribed to the third War Loan—£1,000,312,950, and not a single penny piece has been subscribed by the banks on their own account. It is a magnificent achievement of individual patriotism.

On the Ancre.

The British advance on the Ancre continues. Not only has Serre been captured, but within the past week, ten other villages, including Miraumont, Puisieux, Gommecourt, and the redoubtable Butte de Warlencourt, which had been protected by the most formidable defences in modern warfare. Any one of these positions a few months ago would have been held to the last gasp, but all of them have now fallen into British hands with small loss. There was fighting, of course, but only to mask the retreat, which was covered by darkness with great skill. Two reasons are given to account for the fact. One is that the Germans have retired, not merely as a defensive measure, but with the object of saving their strength for a great blow in the near future on one or other of the Allied fronts. The other is that the methodical efforts of the British steadily pursued for months have upset the equilibrium between the opposing forces so badly in this sector that the ground yielded by the enemy had to be sacrificed to avoid a more serious reverse. All the protecting elevations in the ground, which the enemy had prepared with engineering and scientific skill so as to render places like Grandcourt and Puisieux, situated in cup-like hollows, almost impregnable, have gradually been occupied by our men, who rarely let go of a trench or a bit of ground when once they lay hold of it. And once the covering positions were lost the town or village is rendered untenable. This much is certain, the late considerable German retreat from the outer defences of Bapaume was not purely voluntary. It was due to relentless British pressure and resource, combined with the heavy and persistent attacks of British artillery and terrific efficacy of the new gas shells.

The pronounced salient in the Allied line on both sides of the Ancre, with Thiepval as its apex, has been eliminated. It is the British front which now penetrates into the interior of the German positions, gravely menacing Bapaume in particular.

Germany and the United States.

President Wilson, or rather the American people, are still waiting for the "overt act," which is to precipitate war with Germany. In the meantime, Austria-Hungary has been asked for a specific statement as to whether or not she identifies herself

with her Ally in U-boat piracy, a question with which the new Emperor continues to temporise. The situation is further complicated by the publication of an anti-American plot to bring Mexico into the war. She was to ally herself with Germany on the chance of recovering her lost territories in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. At the same time President Carranza was asked to endeavour to detach Japan from the Entente Alliance, and to offer his mediation between her and Germany. These revelations have created a great sensation in the United States, but whether they will have any effect on American policy may be doubted. They have, however, given new grounds for believing that Mexican territory has been used to further submarine piracy.

In the Salonica Region.

French and Italian troops have cleared the road between Koritza and Lyaskoviki of Austrian troops and native brigands, thus cutting off all direct communication between the Germans and their Greek friends through Albania. On the front generally there has been artillery activity, and a raid has been made on enemy positions near Lake Doiran. There has been severe fighting on the Cerna, where, by the use of flame projectors, the enemy captured Hill 1050 from the Italians, though all but the summit was recovered in a counter-attack. The Germans are getting a hint that their line from Berlin to Constantinople must be adequately protected, but they may not be able to take it.

The Fall of Kut.

Rather unexpectedly this formidable fortress nestling in a bend of the Tigris below Baghdad, was evacuated by the Turks, after a decisive defeat of their military forces. The immediate cause of their action was the threat to their communications owing to the passage of the Tigris by detachments at the Shuman bend in the rear of the town. At dawn these made good their footing, and, in nine hours, a bridge was constructed for the crossing of the main body of the British force, the attention of the Turks meanwhile having been diverted by vigorous attacks on the Sanna-i-yat position. The risk involved in a movement which involved the separation of the forces on opposite sides of a great river, and the fighting of a decisive engagement on the south bank twenty miles from the point of passage, was very great. But the skill of General Maude was so ably seconded by his troops as to carry through the operations with complete success. The Turks, who are being pursued, are retreating in much better order than they did after the battle of Ctesiphon, fighting rear-guard actions to delay our cavalry. They have lost heavily in killed and wounded, besides 7,000 who were taken prisoners, and an enormous amount of stores and munitions which was captured.

The War at Sea.

The U-boat war continues, one of the latest victims having been the Cunarder, *Laconia*, a merchant vessel of 18,000 tons displacement. She had 295 souls on board, but all but twelve were saved, owing to the nerve and coolness of the captain and crew. Two American passengers died of exposure,

but, unless the people of the United States exert more pressure on the President than they have yet done, the "overt act," which is to induce him to take vigorous action against Germany has yet to be committed. Like the *Laconia*, Sweden's largest sailing ship, the *Hugo Hamilton*, has been torpedoed without warning. In the spirit of the Irishman, who wanted someone "to tread on the tail of his coat," the United States, Brazil, and other neutral countries, have sent vessels to the danger zone in challenge to the pirates.

Dutch Shipping Losses.

Holland, which accepted the German terms to secure immunity for her shipping, has lost seven vessels in one day, all of them torpedoed without warning. The largest had a displacement of about 9,000 tons, and their total value as hulls is put at £1,300,000. No wonder there is consternation in Holland, where the German suggestion that somehow Great Britain is to blame falls flat. The fact is Holland, like every other country which trusts to German assurances, has lived to regret her confidence. What she should have done was to apply to this country for information as to the safest route, thus saving her shipping from a disaster unparalleled so far in the evil record of submarine piracy.

German Naval Raids.

Enemy destroyers have again tried to catch our Channel patrols napping and failed. They were encountered by one of our ships, when short engagements ensued before the enemy vessels got away in the darkness. At the same time a futile raid by other German destroyers was made on Margate and Broadstairs.

In Persia.

Very little has been heard of Persia since the Russians headed off the Turks from Teheran. But light has been shed on the subject by the announcement that the country is being pacified, in the east by a force under Major Keith, and south by Colonel Sir Percy Sykes, who, in a country of primitive connections, and infested with organised bands of brigands and robbers, has travelled 1,000 miles. Not only have German agents and agitators been rounded up, but other disorderly elements they have used as puppets are being rooted out of their nests and killed or dispersed. The force Sir Percy has at his disposal is the Gendarmerie, which, under Swedish officers, broke like a rope of sand in the hands of the Persian Government. Its numbers have been doubled, in addition to which there is a battalion of Indian troops. The force is to be strengthened until it has an establishment of 11,000 men, and all the officers are to be British with Indian experience. One of the links in the German chain that was to extend from Antwerp to the Afghan frontier is in process of being broken.

Hamadan, about 180 miles from the Turkish frontier, has, like Kut, again fallen into the hands of the Allies. It was first occupied by the Russians in 1915, and retaken by the Turks last year. The town is an important centre of Persian trade.

(To be continued.)

CAO IN THE CAMEROONS.

A visitor from West Africa informs us that the cacao plantations in our newly-won possession, the Cameroons, which were overgrown during the progress of hostilities, are now for a great part cleared again, and are making rapid headway. The country, which has an area of 295,000 square miles and a population of 3,500,000, adjoins Nigeria in West Africa.

The quality of cacao produced is equal, if not superior, to the best yielded by the Gold Coast, which, however, is steadily improving under the expert advice of the local Agricultural Department. The crop, which was being gathered when our informant left our new possession in December, promised to be a record one. The type of cacao cultivated is chiefly that known as "forastero." This is grown on estates averaging 1,000 to 2,500 acres, as compared with the comparatively small individual holdings of the peasant proprietors, who are the main proprietors on the Gold Coast. No attempt is being made at present to extend cacao cultivation in the Cameroons, and any progress in this direction would be a costly business, owing to the dense bushes and tropical forest which covers the undeveloped parts of the country.

The Cameroon cacao plantations are fairly free from insect pests, and the small amount of disease prevailing is attributable only to the neglect of cultivation whilst fighting was proceeding.

The German proprietors and overseers have been completely cleared out of their former colony, and the estates are being administered by a staff of British planters under the control of the Nigerian Government. The port of shipment is still Victoria, a "town" established by English missionaries even before the Germans came on the scene and formally annexed the colony.

The best book on cacao is "Cacao: A Manual on the Cultivation and Curing of Cacao," by Hart, which is obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. Price 7/6, or post free 8/-.

In Messrs. Marconi's Advertisement on page ix. the figure 3 after the letters W.C. should be 2.

At the last sessional meeting of the Combined Court of British Guiana, a vote of £2,000 was proposed by the Government for the purpose of bringing out from England, in conjunction with the Mayor and Town Council, an engineering expert to report on the drainage, sewerage and water supply of the city of Georgetown. The proposal was rejected by the vote of the elective members, who evidently fought shy of introducing any more "experts" at the present time. Instead, they unanimously recommended that the late Town Superintendent, Mr. Luke M. Hill, M.Inst.C.E., now residing in England, be consulted in the matter, he being intimately acquainted with local conditions in Georgetown. In accordance with this suggestion, the Government has communicated with Mr. Hill, who, we understand, is preparing a comprehensive report dealing with the subject.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Towards the close of last year the Secretary of State for the Colonies circularised the Governments of the Colonies with the view of ascertaining their views regarding the recommendations of the Economic Conference of the Allies held in June, 1916.

The questions put in this connection to the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the very sound replies given by that body are published below:—

(a.) *What industries are essential to the future safety of the nation; and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them.*

The Committee gather from the letter of the Secretary of State that it is intended each colony should speak for itself from the view-point of its own conditions, and bearing this in mind the Committee desire to express their opinion that the sugar and oil industries, with their subsidiary products, as also the cacao and coco-nut cultivations, are all, in varying degrees, essential to the future safety of the nation, and they are of course, essential to the existence of this colony. The steps which should be taken to maintain them can be summed up in three words: "Inter-Empire Preference." This policy would stimulate the progress of industries and products of all classes, and so far as this colony is concerned would give fresh life to the important sugar industry, which had been nearly crushed out of existence by the dumping in the United Kingdom of enormous quantities of beet sugar, chiefly of German and Austrian origin, which, owing to the system of bounties and cartels, could be sold at prices under the cost of production of sugar made from British-grown cane.

(b.) *What steps should be taken to recover home and foreign trade lost during the War and to secure new markets.*

This is a question more for the Mother Country and for the large self-governing Dominions than for a small colony such as this. Our export trade generally has benefited by the War. At present, however, one of our most important products, cacao, is suffering because foreign-grown cacao which heretofore has been absorbed chiefly by Central Europe is now, owing to the more effective blockade of Germany, thrown on to the London market with depressing effects. The remedy for this would again appear to be "Inter-Empire Preference." With regard to our import trade, it has been inevitable that, owing to war conditions, we have had to seek in foreign countries many of the supplies which we heretofore obtained from the United Kingdom. On the resumption of normal conditions most of this trade will revert to the home country, especially if manufacturers will abandon the policy of conservatism that has moved a very substantial proportion of business from the United Kingdom to foreign countries, and show themselves prepared to meet the wishes of customers as regards the style of their manufactures. To insist upon a customer taking an article square when he wishes it round because the manufacturer has not been in the habit of making it round, is a very sure method of driving trade away, and such a policy must be abandoned. The way to secure new markets is to be prepared to supply those markets with the goods which they prefer.

(c.) *To what extent and by what means the resources of the Empire should and can be developed.*

The resources of the Empire can be developed to an extent practically illimitable, and to attain this end a British Trade Bank should be founded to give more assistance to both agricultural and commercial enterprises. The Government should also foster and encourage private enterprise, and should control or do away with all "rings" or combinations which tend towards destroying compe-

tion, such, for instance, as the Conference of the Steamship Lines, which has raised rates of freight to figures not by any means justified by existing conditions, and which has also established an objectionable system of rebates under which shippers are unfairly bound for long periods of time. No steamers seeking employment need call at this port, as any firm shipping by such an opportunity is boycotted or penalised thereafter. Thus steamers desiring oil fuel or cargoes of asphalt are often discouraged from calling here, and our trade, more especially in these important products, is in consequence restricted instead of being developed.

(d.) *To what extent and by what means the sources of supply within the Empire can be prevented from falling under foreign control.*

It ought to be possible to prevent entirely the sources of supply within the Empire from falling under foreign control, but to do so effectually the Mother Country and the Colonies must work hand in hand. So far as this colony is concerned, it has already been suggested that naturalisation in general should not be so easily or lightly granted as has hitherto been the case, and that as regards the subjects of what are now enemy countries, they should be debarred altogether from naturalisation for a considerable period of years. The question has also been raised as to whether aliens of any country should be allowed to own or acquire real property. It is suggested that they should not be allowed to hold real property, and that this prohibition should attach not only to individuals, but to companies or corporations in which aliens possess a controlling interest.

ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT.

The Report of the Committee of Management of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association for the year ended December 31st last, shows that despite the war that body has been doing something more than mark time, though its activities in the direction of advertising and pushing its proprietary brand of arrowroot, yclept "No Wyta," have been necessarily suspended to a great extent. The Committee, comprising Mr. C. J. Simmons (Chairman), Mr. C. R. Corea, Mr. H. P. Hazell, and Mr. D. A. McDonald, with Mr. J. Elliot Sprott as Secretary, again employed the services of a grading Committee in London.

In order to ensure a more perfect operation of the scheme it was agreed that every shipment of not less than 10 barrels on arrival in England should be submitted to the Grading Committee before it was placed on the market. After careful deliberation, it being conceded that arrowroot above the middle grade was in an unfavourable position in the markets, a resolution was unanimously passed, reducing the minimum prices of grades D to L, inclusive by 1-32 of a penny instead of 1-16 of a penny which had been the difference of the grades in the scale previously in operation. Otherwise the principle of grading was maintained and the prices of the highest and lowest qualities were unaltered. At a subsequent meeting a proposal that grades A, B and C be also included in the amendments was adopted, and it was thereupon decided to reduce the price of each of those grades by 1/4d.

In consequence of further advances of incidental charges and freight rates, whilst the market showed no commensurate sign of increased activity, the question of a further advance of the minimum price occupied the attention of the Committee at its first meeting of the year, and at a general meeting on the 21st February it was resolved that the graded

prices be increased by 1/4d. per lb. as from 1st March plus the previous 1d. advance. The announcement of the advance of the minimum prices seemed to have had a favourable effect on the market, an indication of which was shown in an enquiry from a London Syndicate for quotations for the whole crop of St. Vincent arrowroot on the basis of all or none. As, however, a unanimous agreement by arrowroot growers (which was a condition of the offer) could not be arrived at the offer was not accepted.

The loss of 2,821 barrels of arrowroot, on the SS. *Salybia*, which was sunk by enemy submarine on the 25th March, helped to relieve the congestion of the arrowroot market. But the abnormal freight rates, insurance rates, and other incidentals swallowed up the additional 1/4d. per lb., which the Association reluctantly fixed on the minimum price of the product. The producers indeed practically gained no benefit from the higher prices which the consumers paid for St. Vincent arrowroot as compared with pre-war prices. On the contrary, profits to the growers and exporters were reduced to comparative insignificance in consequence of the increased cost of production through the war conditions, coupled with economic difficulties and losses through local and other causes.

The cash balance at the Treasury being sufficient for the pursuance of the Association's objects for a time, the Association recognising that the smallest measure of relief would be acceptable during the war crisis, requested the Government to amend the New Market Fund Ordinance so as to reduce the Advertisement Tax to 3d. per barrel, and the necessary legislative measure was adopted for that purpose, and is in operation as from the 21st December, 1916.

The statement of receipts and expenditure from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1916, which accompanies the report, shows that a sum of £478 10s. 9d. was collected under the authority of the Arrowroot New Market Fund Ordinance—a falling off of £126 8s. 11d., as compared with the previous year,—indicating that arrowroot exportation was about 4,600 barrels less than in 1915. The receipts added to the credit balance of 1915 amount to £1,282 2s. 3d., against which £257 12s. 7d. has been expended, leaving a balance of £1,021 18s. 10d. in the Treasury.

The following quatrain by Mr. Hayden Church appeared in *London Opinion* of February 17th:—

The sugar shortage, all agree,
A problem truly grave is;
If things get worse a lump may be
A Demerara avis!

The West India Committee's Map of the West Indies should be in every West Indian businessman's office. It is indispensable.

The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 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.

"CURARE" OR "OURALI" POISON.

In view of the trial of certain persons now proceeding at the Old Bailey for an alleged attempt to poison the Prime Minister and Mr. Henderson with "curare," or "ourali," as it is more properly called, the following account of that poison and its manufacture in Sir Everard in Thurn's "Among the Indians of Guiana" is of interest. He writes:—

The poison used for the darts of blow-pipes, as also for various kinds of poisoned arrows, is the far-famed ourali. The various properties of this curious poison have, in spite of much research, not yet been fully traced. Its very name is but confusedly known. In Europe it is variously called *curare*, *curari*, *urari*, *urari*, and *ourali*. The first two of these forms have probably arisen from a mere blunder, but the three latter are various attempts to pronounce the Indian name. The letters *r* and *l* are very commonly interchanged in Indian, as in other languages; and of Indians, not necessarily of different tribes, but perhaps only of different settlements, some use the word *urari*, or even *urari*, some *urari*. The Macusis are the chief makers of this poison in Guiana, and they distribute it to the other Indians. But even of the Macusis it is only a man here and there who can make ourali, and the recipe is carefully kept and transmitted from generation to generation; so that the poison-maker is a great and important man in his district. The recipe appears to be known to other Indians of the tribe, and the fact that these do not prepare poison appears to be due, not to ignorance of the method, but to a superstitious feeling of the unlawfulness of its practice except by duly qualified practitioners, or perhaps to a feeling akin to the professional etiquette which in more civilised communities prevents members of one branch of a profession from doing work more proper to another branch of the same.

Ourali is made with much ceremony, probably intended to enhance the importance of the maker. A small hut is built especially for the occasion; and no woman or child is allowed to approach this. Many ingredients are used, such as several kinds of barks, roots, peppers (*Capsicum*), ants, and the poison-fangs of snakes; but of these only one, the bark of a creeping plant (*Strychnos toxifera*), is alone essential, as appears from an experiment made by Sir Robert Schomburgk, who produced poison of an effective kind from this substance alone. The Indians, however, as far as I have seen and heard, always use a variety of barks and one or more roots; and this is confirmed by Sir Robert Schomburgk, who also saw the poison prepared. The latter traveller mentions the ingredients which he saw used, as follows:—

Bark and alumen of Urari-plant (<i>Strychnos toxifera</i>)	2 lbs.
" " Yakki (<i>Strychnos Schomburgkii</i>)	½ lb.
" " Arimaru (<i>Strychnos cogens</i>)	½ lb.
" " Tarireng (?)	½ lb.
" " Wokarimo (?)	½ lb.
Root of Tarireng	½ oz.
Tararemu	½ oz.
Curamu (<i>Cissus</i> , sp. ?)	½ "

A few small pieces of Manuca wood.

I myself saw the first of these (*Strychnos toxifera*) used together with the fleshy roots of a caladium, and with certain other barks, which may or may not have been the same as those mentioned by Schomburgk, as I only saw these in a dry state and after they had been scraped into small fragments. The caladium root which I saw used replaced, I presume, the fleshy *cissus* root of Schomburgk's formula.

Water was fetched especially for the poison-making from a stream nearly a quarter of a mile distant; and care was taken, in carrying this to the house, to rest it on the ground every few yards. For, say the Indians, a bird wounded by a poisoned dart will fly only as far as the water with which the poison was made was carried without rest.

The shreds of scraped bark were placed in a large and new earthenware buck-pot, which contained three or four quarts of water; and the mixture was allowed to simmer gently for many hours, during which the poison-maker

carefully tended the fire, and every now and then blew into the boiling liquid. As we shall see elsewhere, the Indians believe greatly in the virtue of the breath of certain individuals—as, for instance, of the penman who blows away the spirit of disease from invalids, and the evil principle from meats otherwise unclean. After twenty-four hours the pot was taken off the fire. By that time the contents had been reduced to about a third of their original bulk, and were thick and syrup-like. This syrup was now strained through a new cassava-strainer, and was then exposed in a flat vessel to the heat of the sun. The juice of the caladium roots, which had in the meantime been boiled in a separate pot, on a separate fire, was now mixed with the other ingredients, with the immediate result of making the poison darker in colour and thicker in consistency. It was placed in the sun for some hours, till it at last darkened to a deep coffee-colour and to the consistency of a thick jelly. In this state it was put into the small gourds, in which it is kept, and, after four days, it was declared to be ready for use. Experiment proved its effectiveness. A fowl slightly pricked with a dart on which the poison had been smeared, ceased to live (for that is the only way to describe the apparent symptoms of the poison) in about six minutes. The poison, if kept warm and dry, retains its power for several years. That without these conditions it soon becomes powerless, I learned on two occasions. The first lesson was when I happened to pick up a stick in the forest, and accidentally pricking myself with the sharp end I found that it was an old blow-pipe dart with the poison still visible on it; exposure to the weather had, however, deprived the poison of its proper effect. On the second occasion, a bundle of poison darts which I had taken out of the quiver of an Indian two years previously, and had brought into the cold climate of England, fell so that the points entered the flesh of my hand. Robert Schomburgk was told by the Indians that the deadly power could, though once lost, be restored to the poison by mixing some cassava-juice with it and burying it.

FAULKNER THE UNDAUNTED.

A Chapter of West Indian History.

(Continued from page 74.)

After the reduction of Martinique, Sir John Jervis and Sir Charles Grey proceeded to St. Lucia leaving General Prescott in command of the garrison at Fort Royal.

St. Lucia had accepted so readily the doctrines of the Revolution that it had been called "the Faithful" by the National Convention; but the Governor, General Ricard, was old, and the garrison were in no mind to stand the rigours of a siege, having, doubtless, been kept fully informed as to what had occurred in the neighbouring island.

At 9.30 on April 1st, the main English Fleet lay off Pointe du Cap, at the northern extremity of St. Lucia, and awaited the convoy which had fallen to leeward. As soon as the transports had come up landings were effected by the troops without difficulty at Anse du Cap, an indentation near Gros Islet Bay, Anse du Choc, and Grand Cul-de-Sac, the great Bay to the south of the capital of the island, which Jervis called Barrington Bay to commemorate Admiral Barrington's decisive victory over d'Estaing in December, 1778, which was won on its waters.

As our ships sailed along the coast they were attacked by the shore batteries; but the shooting was wild, and the shots passed through the sails and rigging without doing any serious damage. At 4 o'clock the fleet dropped anchor in 20 fathoms

of water off Marigot de Roseau, and two hours later, just as the day closed in, Prince Edward landed with a Brigade of Grenadiers, and started to march towards the Morne Fortuné. This fortress, which was the main stronghold of St. Lucia, occupied a noble position on the heights overlooking Castries, the capital of the island, which was so called by Baron de Laborie, the Governor in 1784, after the French Colonial Minister of the day.

Shortly after sunset, Lieut.-Colonel Coote advanced towards the Morne from the north, and on the following day the Fort was invested on both sides. General Ricard, realising that his forces stood little chance of success against so determined an enemy, capitulated, and St. Lucia was thus won without bloodshed. At 9 o'clock in the evening of April 3rd the gates of the Fort were thrown open, and on the following morning the French marched out with full honours of war and piled their arms on the glacis.

Prince Edward then entered the gates with his Grenadiers, and with his own hands hoisted the Union Flag, renaming the Fort Fort Charlotte as a compliment to his august mother. The French troops were embarked on the transports and sent to France on the condition that they should not fight again during the war, and General Ricard followed Rochambeau to America. Pigeon Island, the island occupying an important strategic position overlooking Gros Islet Bay to which reference has already been made, was also surrendered to Major Maitland without a fight.

A garrison was left at St. Lucia under the command of Sir Charles Gordon, and on April 5th the remainder of the troops were re-embarked for Martinique. Three days were spent at Fort Royal in taking in supplies, and on April 8th, Jervis and the Commander-in-Chief sailed in the *Boyne*, accompanied by two other ships of the line, besides frigates and transports for the reduction of Guadeloupe, the most northerly of the French possessions in the West Indies.

Captain Faulknor, now in command of the *Blanche*, with Captain Rodger in the *Quebec*, Captain Inledon in the *Ceres*, and Captain Scott in the *Rose*, had been detached to capture the Saintes, a small group of islands to the south of Guadeloupe. This they accomplished so smartly that when the fleet came up they found the Union Flag already flying over the group.

For the proper comprehension of the ensuing narrative it should be explained that Guadeloupe, which was considered the fairest, as it was the most wealthy, of the French possessions in the West Indies, comprises what are practically two islands, namely, Grande Terre and Basse Terre, which are separated by the Riviere Salée, a salt river four miles in length. Grande Terre, the eastern portion of Guadeloupe, on which the chief town, Pointe-à-Pitre, is situated, is comparatively flat whilst the western division is mountainous.

On April 11th part of the troops were landed at Gozier Bay, under cover of the guns of the 32-gun frigate *Winchelsea*, whose Captain, Lord Garlies, emulating the feat of Faulknor at the capture of Fort Louis, ran his ship under the batteries within half-a-musket shot of the shore and soon silenced them with a well-directed fire.

Early next morning the formidable position of Fleur d'Épée was stormed by a detachment of troops under Major-General Dundas, and a landing party of seamen under the redoubtable Faulknor. The sailors were instructed to use their pikes and swords only, and the soldiers their bayonets, the value of which Jervis has emphasised in a stirring Order, from which the following is an extract:—

"The soldiers will bear in mind the use of the bayonet, which in possession of, they can have no excuse for retreating for want of ammunition, the bayonet being the best and most effectual weapon in the hands of a gallant British soldier; in which mode of attack (the General assures them) no troops upon earth are equal to them. In case of a night attack, ammunition and firing are totally out of the question, and the bayonet is ever to be preferred and made use of. Every reason is in favour of this system; amongst many others the following, viz.: It conceals you and your numbers from the enemy; the enemy direct their fire wherever they see or hear fire, consequently fire upon each other, whilst you are concealed, and they fall an easy prey. The General assures the troops of this from his own repeated experience; and the soldiers may rely in confidence upon him, that if it is strictly adhered to, it will seldom, if ever, fail of success."

The fort was considered impregnable, being well "defended by nature and art." It was situated on the almost perpendicular sides of a mountain, up the sides of which the men had to scramble as best they could. By the time they reached the ramparts they were so blown and exhausted that, to quote Faulknor, the strongest of them were unmanned. Faulknor himself, while panting for breath, was set upon by two Frenchmen, one of whom made a thrust at him with his bayonet, which pierced the arm of his coat without wounding him. The other struck a blow which Faulknor successfully parried, whereupon the Frenchman sprang upon his opponent, clasping him round the neck and fixing his teeth in his shirt and wrenching the sword out of his hand. The two rolled over on the ground, and Faulknor would certainly have been killed had not one of his seamen rushed to his aid at the moment when the Frenchman's hand was raised to stab him. "An escape so providential," wrote Faulknor, "and an event so critical calls for my warmest thanks to the Almighty."

With ringing cheers, the English now rushed the fort, putting the enemy to the sword. Cooper Williams, who inspected the position after the fight, gives the following account of what he saw:—

"It was early in the morning, soon after the action was over. At the foot of the hill lay several of our seamen badly wounded, waiting to be carried on board their respective ships; a little further, under the tall trees that grew within a few yards of the sea, several naval officers reposing after the fatigues of the morning, and their men not far from them. As we went up the hill we met some of the wounded prisoners brought in by our people; and at the gates of the fort was an heap of the slain, who had all died by the sword or the bayonet. Within the fort the destruction appeared more dreadful, being more confined; a multitude of miserable wretches expiring of their wounds, and many of our own people in the same situation: in the midst of this was his Excellency writing his dispatches on a table, on which, fatigued with the action, an artilleryman was sleeping, whom the General would by no means have disturbed; one proof among thousands that the truest heroism may be, and often is, united to the greatest humanity."

Fort Louis, an old fortification commanding Pointe-à-Pitre, and the town itself, were soon abandoned after the fall of Fleur d'Épée, many inhabi-

tants escaping by boat to Basse Terre, and the capture of Grand Terre was thus complete.

After this signal success the troops were transferred to Basse Terre, where they landed on the afternoon of April 14th, at Petit Bourg, without opposition. From there they proceeded along the coast towards Fort Palmiste and Fort Charles, the chief redoubt of this part of the island. The Commander-in-Chief and the Prince were received with great demonstrations of joy by the Royalists and at Trois Rivières were entertained in sumptuous style by Monsieur Belleisle, the proprietor of a large estate in the neighbourhood. Palmiste was easily captured, and General Collet, seeing that resistance was useless, surrendered Fort Charles, which was renamed Fort Matilda, and the entire island, with its dependencies, Marie Galante, Désirade, and the Saintes, to Great Britain. Leaving Major-General Dundas in command of the garrison, Jervis and Grey then quitted the island.

Up to this point the campaign had been a complete success. The whole of the French West Indies was ours. But the English had underestimated the enterprise of the National Convention, and the rigours of the tropical climate, which was already playing havoc with our troops, who were sadly neglected. In a subsequent debate in Parliament Sheridan stated that the men were "destitute of shoes and stockings, and that the hospitals were crowded with sick and wounded for whom neither medicines nor bandages were available." The troops, too, which consisted of "elderly men and mere boys with youths at their head," were suffering acutely from the "burning bilious fever . . . called, from the tinge which it gives in its last stage to the complexion, the Yellow Fever."

In June the startling news reached Jervis and Grey that a squadron of nine French vessels had eluded our patrols, and had reached Guadeloupe with substantial reinforcements from France. They hastened to the island only to find that, yielding to numbers, the inadequate garrison had been compelled to surrender the positions which had only recently been won at such a cost of life.

Victor Hugues, the notorious friend of Robespierre, had been appointed Civil Commissary, and had succeeded in landing troops at Gozier, where the English troops had been disembarked only a few months before. They had ravaged the estates in the neighbourhood, which had given Lieut.-Colonel Drummond time to withdraw to Fleur d'Épée with 310 officers and men, of whom 180 were French Royalists. Yielding to the solicitations of the latter, Drummond had consented to a sortie being made, which had ended disastrously, the Royalists having been seized with panic on sighting a picket of the enemy, and having fled in confusion. To make matters worse, Dundas had succumbed to yellow fever on June 3rd.

With the few vessels which he had with him Jervis could not risk an engagement with the French, and the entire island was at the mercy of the Revolutionary Forces. The disaster was complete, and it was with difficulty that the remnant of the English garrison was withdrawn from Fort Matilda, on which the French continued to fire for several hours after it had been evacuated. The

enemy, on gaining possession of the fort, in their anger desecrated the tomb of Dundas, who had been buried with full military honours, and threw his body into a neighbouring river.

It was while these events were happening that Captain Faulknor, who had been to Halifax, returned to Guadeloupe in the *Blanche*, and the crowning and closing episode of his career, which will now be described, was the only redeeming feature in the situation.

At daybreak on January 4th, 1795, while cruising off Grande Terre, Faulknor in the *Blanche* discovered a French frigate lying at Anchor just outside the harbour of Pointe-à-Pitre. He immediately stood in within gun shot of Fort Fleur d'Épée; but as the Frenchman, which proved to be the *Pique*, seemed disinclined to come out from under the batteries, the *Blanche*, which had hove to, trimmed sail to board a suspicious schooner running down along the island. This vessel claimed to be American, but as her papers were doubtful Faulknor brought her master on board the *Blanche* and took her in tow.

A battery at Gozier and the *Pique* then both fired at long range, and the *Blanche* finding that the *Pique* had tacked, and was standing towards her, shortened sail to allow the French frigate to come up; but at 3.30 the latter tacked and stood away. Hoping to induce the *Pique* to follow her the *Blanche* made sail for Marie Galante, and after sending a party of men in charge of a petty officer on board the schooner, proceeded to tow the vessel towards Dominica.

The *Pique* now came out, and at 12.15 a.m. the action began, the *Blanche* on the starboard tack passing under the lee of the *Pique* on the larboard (port), and returning a distant broadside which she received. Just before 1 a.m. the *Blanche* came up to within musket shot of the starboard side of the *Pique*, and the two vessels became closely engaged. At this moment Faulknor, with his own hands, lashed the *Pique's* bowsprit to the capstan of his own vessel. With her quarter deck guns the *Blanche* now raked the *Pique* from stem to stern, in spite of which the brave French sailors made repeated efforts to board their adversary. By this time the *Blanche* had lost her main- and mizzen-masts, and the *Pique* was a perfect shambles. Notwithstanding their losses the French continued to pour a constant stream of musketry on to the quarter deck of the *Blanche*.

Shortly before three o'clock whilst he was assisting Lieutenant David Miln to lash the two vessels together more securely the gallant Faulknor fell, shot through the heart by a musket ball. After this calamity Lieutenant Frederick Watkins assumed command of the *Blanche*, and the action continued as fiercely as ever. By three o'clock all the masts of the *Pique* had been shot away, and in this state the *Blanche* towed her before the wind, engaging her until a quarter past five, when the enemy shouted out that they had struck!

During the engagement all the boats of both vessels had been wrecked, and consequently Lieutenant Miln and ten men having unsuccessfully tried to reach the prize by the hawser swam across to the *Pique*, which was subsequently brought into port. She proved to be a valuable prize, mounting

twenty-six 12-pounders, eight 9-pounders, and four 32-pound carronades, whilst her crew numbered 360, of whom 76 were killed, 30 drowned when the masts fell, and 110 wounded. The *Blanche*, on the other hand, 38 guns and a crew of 98 men and boys only.

News of the death of Faulknor, and the circumstances in which it occurred, caused a profound sensation in England, and for many a day little else was heard of. In May, an interlude entitled, "The Death of Captain Faulknor," was played at Covent Garden Theatre, and the last moments of the hero after he had lashed the bowsprit of the *Pique* to the capstan of the *Blanche* formed the subject of a painting by Stothert, which was subsequently engraved and published in great numbers.

Doggerel lines also commemorated the action. Wrote one poet:—

"You Frenchmen, don't boast of your fighting, nor talk
of great deeds, 'tis in vain;
Do you think that Old England you'll frighten as easy
as Holland and Spain?
We listen and laugh while you threaten, your boasting
the valour of France,
Since your frigate *Le Pique* has been beaten by the
jolly brave tars of the *Blanche*."

Parliament reflected the feeling of the country, and on April 4th, the House of Commons, at the instance of General Smith, voted a sum of money for the erection of a monument to Faulknor in St. Paul's Cathedral. In introducing his motion the General said that three months could not have effaced the recollection of an action of unprecedented bravery; which, though it commanded the applause and admiration of the most distinguished commanders, formed only one of those gallant exploits which marked the conduct of Captain Faulknor. He then proceeded to read Sir John Jervis' despatch, and added: "In my opinion, Sir, Captains of ships deserve more praise for any particular detached action with the enemy, than those Captains who are serving in a fleet, and only obey the orders and signals of their superior officer: the former, Sir, must possess, not only the valour to execute, but also the wisdom to plan; and there are not wanting instances where such particular and individual merit has been rewarded by this House."

Mr. Grey, who seconded, expressed his pleasure at "being able to add . . . testimony from the best authority, that the whole of the late Captain Faulknor's conduct during the war was marked by a series of gallant actions," and after referring to the episode of the capture of Fort Louis by the *Zebra*, concluded by saying that, "in the last act of his life he fought with the most distinguished bravery—his fall was covered with glory."

To Mr. Windham, who struck a discordant note by claiming that the motion was unauthorised by precedent, Fox made a scathing reply. The present motion was, he said, founded upon the most honourable and just grounds—an enumeration of as glorious actions as ever distinguished the life of a man, and this had been answered by a long story of rule. "I know, Sir, of no such rule! I have heard of no such rule! There is no such rule! On the contrary it has been the invariable rule of this House to express its approbation of great and gallant actions." The Right Honourable Secretary (Mr. Windham) had said that there existed no

precedent to authorise the motion, and that honours were diminished by being too lavishly bestowed. "Does he then think that the illustrious heroes of England to whom monuments are erected, would be disgraced by an association with the gallant Faulknor? No! no! Brave spirits are congenial." Fox twice intervened in the debate, and, largely as the result of his support, the motion was carried, and the monument to the hero now adorns the west wall of the north transept in St. Paul's Cathedral. No monument was ever better earned.

WAR SERVICES.

The names of the following have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered in connection with the war.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Alexander, Qrnr. and Hon. D., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Auld, Capt. J. P., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Cran, Lt.-Col. J., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Elphinstone, Maj. L. H., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Maccall, Sec. Lt. T. V., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Matthews, Capt. P. E., British Honduras Vol. Force.
Slack, Lt.-Col. W. J., British Honduras Vol. Force (deceased).
Stoyle, Sec. Lt. H. B., British Honduras Vol. Force.

JAMAICA.

Blackden, Col. (temp. Brig.-Gen.) L. S.
Burke, Maj. H. M., Kingston Infantry Vols.
Calder, Lt. T., Jamaica Corps of Scouts.
Cargill, Maj. J. H., Jamaica Res. R.
Davis, Lt. R. H., Jamaica Corps of Scouts.
Downer, Capt. L. P., Jamaica Res. R.
Ewen, Capt. G. S., Jamaica Corps of Scouts.
Harrison, Lt.-Col. L. G., Jamaica Res. R.
Jarrett, Lt. F. M. K., Jamaica Corps of Scouts.
Kerr, Maj. W. C., Jamaica Res. R.
Levy, Capt. L., Jamaica Res. R.
Malcolm, Maj. M., Jamaica Corps of Scouts.
Neish, Maj. W. D., Jamaica Res. R.
Orrett, Capt. E. G., British West Indies R.
Plant, Maj. W. H., Jamaica Res. R.
Roper, Maj. P. L., Jamaica Res. R.
Scholefield, Capt. W., Jamaica Res. R.
Tittensor, Capt. W. H., Jamaica Res. R.
Guilfoyle, Sgt.-Maj. J. J., Jamaica Force.

ST. LUCIA.

Shaw, Capt. C. C., R. Can. Arty.
Gibson, Assist. Instr. L.-Cpl. C., St. Lucia Police Force.
Kingston, Instr. Sgt. W., R. Can. Arty.

TRINIDAD.

de Boissière, Maj. A., Trinidad Mtd. Inf.
Smith, Capt. M., Trinidad L.I.
Rust, Capt. Randolph, Trinidad Arty. Volunteers.

PRIORITY Committees are now being established in all colonies and dependencies in connection with the Priority Branch of the Ministry of Munitions of War. Application for permits for articles for shipment to the colonies will in future have to be made to these Committees in the first instance, the object being to ascertain whether applications have the support of the local Governments.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The Trinidad Ladies' West Indian Contingent Committee, the formation of which, under the Presidency of Lady Chancellor, was referred to in last CIRCULAR, has got rapidly to work. As the outcome of its work a sum of £150 has already been received through Mrs. Gordon Gordon, the Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, by the West Indian Contingent Committee, to be expended in providing comforts for Trinidad men. Mrs. Rapsey and Miss Sellier have been added to the Committee. It is hoped that similar branch Committees will be formed in other West Indian Islands.

The following is an extract from a typical letter received from a private from Trinidad now at the front. It is published to show the kind of assistance which the West Indian Contingent Committee is glad to be able to give to friends from the West Indies.

"I would be very much obliged if you can send me a few things, for I am in a horrible state at present, just from the trenches, and also covered with mud and those horrible little creatures. I will be very thankful if you can send me some of those disinfectant clothes you spoke about, also some soap, tooth-paste, tooth-brush-towel, and Gillette blades. I would be very much obliged if that is not intruding too much. I am really badly off at present."

It is hardly necessary to say that the articles asked for were sent out the very same day.

It should be noted that the Contingent Committee can only accede to requests for comforts where it is shown that such gifts are really needed. It is necessary to add this warning to check requests from men already provided for in this respect, which have been coming rather freely of late.

Second-Lieutenant Leicester Barclay Young, of the British West Indies Regiment, who has died in hospital of bronchial pneumonia following measles, was son of the late R. L. Young, Esq., of Brown's Town, Saint Ann's, Jamaica, and a nephew of Colonel Young, of Salterton, Devon. He had intended competing for a Rhodes Scholarship, and was almost certain to have obtained it, but, owing to the death of his father, he was obliged to give up the idea. He spent some years in Cuba, and returned to Jamaica to join the Contingent. He was very good at games, and captained his regimental teams ever since he joined: he was a most reliable and conscientious officer, and would have been promoted very shortly, besides this he was a good sportsman and staunch friend, and was very popular with all ranks. All who knew him heard of his death with the deepest regret.

The officers of the British West Indies Regiment who are now in hospital in London had the honour of being invited to tea at Buckingham Palace on Saturday the 3rd inst., when a large number of overseas officers were the guests of Their Majesties the King and Queen. The West Indies were represented by Major Sanguinetti (Jamaica) and 2nd Lieut. W. F. Albury (Bahamas), and it will interest the officers and men of the regiment to know that His Majesty had a long talk with Mr. Albury,

who has lately returned from Egypt, about the regiment, and expressed his great pride in his West Indian soldiers and the excellent work they are doing on the various fronts.

The work parties at 5, Trevor Square will be continued until the end of March, after which Lady Davson has kindly offered to have them at her house, 20, Fennimore Gardens. The day will be decided upon later and announced in due time. There will be a meeting of the Ladies' Committee on Monday morning next at 5, Trevor Square, at which the Countess of Stamford will preside, and Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, Patron of the Ladies' Committee, will be present. The gifts recently received by the Committee will be acknowledged in next CIRCULAR.

Offers of hospitality to sick and wounded West Indians in hospital have been received from several sources. The men in London hospitals are regularly visited and entertained, among the ladies who are taking a keen interest in this branch of the work being Mrs. Clarence Rooke and Mrs. W. K. Masclen, wife of the well-known cartoonist. The convalescent men have frequently been the guests of the Lyceum Club, and on Friday last, Mrs. Benjuta was their hostess at a tea and entertainment at the Hyde Park Hotel.

The total amount received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund is £7,046 19s. 1d., and of this approximately £4,000 has been expended. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Ladies' West Indian Contingent Committee			
(Trinidad and Tobago branch), per Mrs.			
W. Gordon Gordon	150	0	0
R. P. Pile, Esq.	1	0	10

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.

At Thames Police Court a dock labourer was recently sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment for the theft of 1 lb. of sugar.

MR. EDGAR MORTIMER DUKE, the British Guiana Scholar of 1911, who was called to the Bar on Jan. 26th by the Middle Temple should have an exceptionally brilliant career before him judging by the successes which he has already achieved. In 1913 he won the Andrews Scholarship in mathematics at University College, and in the following year he gained the Joseph Hume Scholarship in Jurisprudence. In 1915 he won the Inns of Court £50 prize for Criminal Law, and in the same year he was the Campbell Foster prizeman. In the final examination for the degree of LL.B., Lond., he took a second class in Honours and in last Hilary term he was appointed Barstowe Scholar.

NATURE NOTES.

THE question of the production of sugar from palms on modern lines has not received the consideration it deserves. Thus the Nipa palm will yield something like three to four tons of sugar, per acre, and, instead of suffering from the "tapping," likes it. The juice flows readily, and a day's supply can easily be obtained by a short running from each tree, in this respect being different to rubber trees, whose "latex" flows but slowly.

* * *

THE juice obtained is usually quite equal to cane juice of 9° to 10° Bc., is of high purity, and is easily worked after the manner of cane juice. The manufacturing plant has not to bear the cost of the running, maintenance, and installation prices of a mill plant, and the whole of the cane-cutting, transport, and grinding in the case of cane is represented by the collection of juice in travelling tanks and its conveyance to the factory.

* * *

THE subject of the grafting of coffee trees has been taken up by W. M. Van Hellen in Java, and the *Monthly Bulletin* states that, for success, it is necessary that the scions should be thoroughly sound terminal shoots with five to six nodes. They should be cut midway through the internodes, and the second, third, and fourth pieces, with node, used as scions.

* * *

THE method of grafting which gives the best result is simple cleft grafting. The wound is carefully ligatured, but it is stated that there is no need to cover it with mastic. The grafts are protected from drying by enclosing them in a glass tube. The hosts should be young coffee plants about two feet high, topped to about ten inches. The grafted plants are kept under shelter for some months before transplanting, 90 per cent. of successes being stated to be thus secured. Mr. Van Hellen states that the method may be simplified by using nursery plants as grafting stock.

* * *

SOME particulars as regards the cultivation of rice in Sumatra are given by Mr. M. B. Smits in *Teysmannia*. In these it is stated that the nursery beds are never irrigated, and that when transplanting is done, ten to twenty plantlets are placed in each hole at distances of sixteen to twenty inches. After transplanting, the irrigation water is let in freely, and run off as soon as the secondary stalks appear. When the first ears show, irrigation is again carried out, and, when the ears begin to turn yellow, the water is again run off. The crop is gathered year by year.

* * *

GIVING the results of his experiments in the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. W. Somerville says that when basic slag is used on grass lands, the increase of herbage, or of meat or milk, does not represent the whole of the benefits, as concurrently with such increase there is improvement in the fertility of the soil. The extent of this improvement, he states, depends upon the

amount of slag used, on the period of time during which it acts, and on the way in which the land responds to it. This accumulating fertility appears to be largely due to nitrogen stored up by leguminous plants.

OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN G. M. HICKS.

WE regret to state that Captain George Montague Hicks, Marine Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, died at his residence in Southampton on February 24th, from heart failure following congestion of the lungs.

The late Captain Hicks was born on February 27th, 1852, and had been in the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for forty-five years, having entered it as a Junior Officer as far back as August, 1872. For the last twenty years he had been their Marine Superintendent. By his death the Company has sustained a very severe loss, and one, moreover, which will be felt personally, not only by everyone in the service who knew him, but also by a great number of friends in many parts of the world.

MR. FRANK FOWLER.

FROM the homeward mail the CIRCULAR now learns that Mr. Frank Fowler, whose death was reported in a recent CIRCULAR, died from the effects of a seizure at the residence of Dr. H. Laurence, in Georgetown, Demerara, on January 16th.

Mr. Frank Fowler, who was born in 1864, was educated privately and at Queen's College, Georgetown. He entered the Government Service of British Guiana as Engineer's Assistant in the Public Works Department in February, 1878, and was appointed First Clerk and Draughtsman of the Government Land Department in November, 1886. He rose to the rank of Government Surveyor, and had held many important acting appointments when he was made Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Mines when those two departments were amalgamated in 1901. Two years later he was appointed the First Commissioner. In 1910 he was also made Protector of Aboriginal Indians and Officer in Charge of the rivers of the colony, and he filled in addition the following posts: Chairman of the Local Government Board, Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors, Shanks Canal Commissioners, and Canals Folders Commissioners, and Member of the Board of Agriculture, the Permanent Exhibitions Committee, and the Georgetown Town Council. He also acted on several occasions as Member of the Executive Council and Official Member of the Court of Policy and Combined Court.

Mr. Frank Fowler was gifted with great administrative ability, and during the time he was head of the Lands and Mines Department did much to ensure the efficiency of the department and to improve the status of its officers, such measures, moreover, being carried out with due regard to economy. His historical knowledge of land matters relating to the colony was comprehensive and of great service to the Executive. Important steps were initiated by him for the protection of the Aborigines of the colony, and the "Rest Houses" for Aboriginal Indians visiting the coast lands, erected in Georgetown and in New Amsterdam from moneys belonging to "The Aboriginal Indians' Reservation Fund," started and built up under his regime, remain as proofs of his work. The consolidation of the Crown Lands Laws and of the laws dealing with mining in British Guiana was carried out shortly after he took charge of the amalgamated department, and the Regulations relating to both these matters were revised on more than one occasion under his supervision. Three maps of British Guiana were prepared in the Lands and Mines Department during Mr. Fowler's tenure of office—the last, issued in 1914, being the most complete and accurate map of the colony published.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The Prohibition of Imports.

The Government's long-expected proposals for the further curtailment of imports with the view of economising tonnage were unfolded by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on February 23rd. At the very outset he laid stress on the gravity of the situation. The ultimate success of the Allied cause depended, in his judgment, on our solving the tonnage difficulties with which we were confronted. Before the War our tonnage was only just adequate. There was a very large shipbuilding programme, but it was to a very considerable extent suspended after the War, owing to the essential activities of the Navy. Since the War began there had been enormous increases in the demands upon our tonnage. There was transport for the Navy, transport for the Army, and for our expeditions in France and in Eastern waters. Our Allies had made very considerable demands upon British tonnage. Over a million tons of our shipping had been allocated to France alone. There was a very considerable tonnage set aside for Russia and also for Italy, and the balance left for the ordinary needs of the nation, after providing for these War exigencies, was only about half the whole of our tonnage. The shipbuilding capacity of this country had been considerably limited, he might say enormously limited, by the greatly increased demands for shipbuilding for the Navy, and the ordinary wear and tear of the Navy. On the top of that there had been, undoubtedly, a very considerable tonnage of our shipping sunk by submarines in the course of the last two and a half years of warfare. In the last four or five months, as his right hon. Friend the First Lord of the Admiralty stated in his speech on the preceding day, the ratio of the sinking of our tonnage had increased, and that month, owing to the very special efforts made by Germany, had been the worst.

His right hon. Friend (Sir Edward Carson) had made a frank statement as to the facts, but the public was apt to dwell on what was pleasant and to ignore the graver and disquieting aspects of a statement. Before the War, about 50,000,000 tons of shipping entered our ports annually. During the last twelve months that figure had been reduced to 30,000,000 tons. That was not attributable to submarines, but to the quantity of our tonnage allocated to our Allies.

Mr. Lloyd George proceeded to deal with the urgent need of stimulating shipbuilding, stating that if workmen and employers in all classes of the community strove to do their utmost, he believed that Great Britain could bear that burden successfully right to the end. Home production must also be increased in order to economise tonnage. Last year we imported 6,400,000 tons of timber, of which two millions were for pit props. Waste must be avoided and home supplies developed, and our Allies in France had agreed to the cutting down of their forests for this purpose. Iron ore, again, must be mined more extensively in this country.

THE RESULTS OF LAISSEZ FAIRE.

With regard to the production of foodstuffs, he said that twenty years after the Corn Laws were abolished in this country we produced twice as much wheat as we imported. Since then four or five million acres of arable land had become pasture, and about half the agricultural population—the agricultural labouring population—had emigrated to the Colonies. No doubt the State showed a lamentable indifference to the importance of the agricultural industry and to the very life of the nation, and that was a mistake which must never be repeated. No civilised country in the world spent less on agriculture, or even spent so little on agriculture, either directly or indirectly, as we did. Between 70 and 80 per cent. of our staple cereal for consumption had been imported yearly, and at the present moment he wanted the country to know our food stocks were low, alarmingly low—lower than they had been within recollection. Labourers would be guaranteed a minimum wage, and as farmers would not plough up their lands without a guarantee for the future, the following minimum prices would be fixed:—Wheat, 60/- per quarter in 1917; 85/- in 1918 and 1919; and 45/- in 1920, 1921, and 1922, when the guaran-

tee would cease. Corresponding prices would be guaranteed for oats, starting at 38/6 per 338 lbs.

Dealing next with the prohibition of imports, Mr. Lloyd George said a Committee, presided over by Sir Henry Babington Smith, had entered into the whole question of our dispensable and indispensable imports. A Cabinet Committee, presided over by Lord Curzon, went through the recommendations of the other Committee, and the Cabinet acted upon the recommendations of these two Committees.

In 1914, 1,800,000 tons of paper and paper material were imported. That had been reduced to 1,200,000 tons, and the imports would now be further reduced to 640,000 tons. He would now come to the reduction in food and feeding stuffs. All the essential articles of food would come on the free list. But there were certain articles of diet, of which we imported a large quantity, which were not essential to the national living, although very desirable, and which they thought it necessary to diminish the import of or prohibit altogether. The principal articles on this list would be as follows: Apples, tomatoes, and certain raw fruits. They had very reluctantly come to the conclusion they would have to prohibit altogether and depend upon our home supplies; oranges, bananas, grapes, almonds, and nuts would be restricted to 25 per cent. of the 1916 imports. Aerated mineral and table waters would be prohibited, and we should have to depend for them upon home industries; canned salmon 50 per cent.; tea they would have to reduce—foreign teas altogether. They had to be imported from a very considerable distance, but to a certain extent Indian teas will be reduced. Of coffee there was a very large stock in the country, and that stock under ordinary conditions would have passed on to Germany, but it had stuck here, and therefore they had enough to get along with until probably after the War. Cocoa had also got stuck here, and for the time being he was afraid they would prohibit both coffee and cocoa, because there were very large stocks in this country. Taking all together, they hoped to save over 900,000 tons per annum. The quantity of beer to be brewed, which was reduced from 36,000,000 barrels in 1914 to 26,000,000 in 1916, would be still further reduced to 18,000,000 barrels. As the population must not be driven from beer to spirits, there would have to be a corresponding restriction on the placing of spirits on the market.

AN APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM.

In conclusion, Mr. Lloyd George said:—

'It is with the deepest regret that we are inflicting an injury upon the French—upon the industries of some of our Allies. It is inevitable. We have got to cut down imports from France, and to that extent there is no doubt at all that there will be a certain amount of suffering in that poor, devoted country. Then somebody may say, 'There are the Colonies—are you going to deprive British Columbia of the chance of sending her supplies? She has been very loyal—very patriotic.' So she has. No part of the Empire has shown greater patriotism. The same thing applies to the other Colonies. My right hon. Friend has just told me that he has seen one or two of the Premiers who have arrived here, to whom he has explained the matter, and they met it in a spirit of loyal patriotism. They said that whatever temporary hurt it might inflict upon important industries in their countries, if it is essential to enable the Empire to win, they felt certain their people would agree to it. So will ours. I have never had the slightest doubt about it.

'If all this programme is carried out; if all those who can help us with production do help; if all those who are called upon to suffer restrictions and limitations will suffer without complaint, then honestly I say we can face the worst that the enemy can do—the worst! And that is what we ought to be prepared for. If we are not—if it were conceivable that the nation was not prepared to do and endure all these things, then I say with all solemnity I do not know the body of honourable men who would undertake for one hour to be responsible for the conduct of this terrible War. It is essential. There are millions of gallant young men in France, in Salonika, in Egypt, in Mesopotamia facing torture, terror, death. They are the flower of our race. Unless the nation at home is prepared to take its share of the sacrifice, theirs would be in vain, and I say it would be a crime—a black crime—for any Government to ask them to risk their

brave lives in the coming conflict if they knew that the nation behind them were faint-hearted or selfish. Their sacrifice would be thrown away. We have no right to ask it. For that reason I have come down, after long deliberation and thought, careful and searching, on behalf of the Government of this country, to submit to the House of Commons, and through the House of Commons to the nation, proposals which I hope the Commons will approve, and which I hope the nation will carry out with an unflinching and an ungrudging heart."

Indentured Immigration.

In the House of Commons on February 21st, Mr. MacCallum Scott asked the Secretary of State for India whether an assurance has been given by His Majesty's Government to the planting community in Fiji that the present system of indentured labour would be permitted to continue for another five years; and, if so, will he explain why this declaration has been made, in view of the announcement made by Lord Hardinge in March, 1916, that the early abolition of the system, which he described as a badge of helotry, had been determined upon?

Mr. Chamberlain: I do not wish to appear to underrate the strength of Indian feeling on the subject which, as Lord Hardinge observed, educated Indians tell us they look upon as a badge of helotry. But if the hon. Member will refer to the late Viceroy's speech, in which he quoted, without adopting as his own, this forcible expression of Indian opinion, he will see that the late Viceroy said:

"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 have been provided; and until they should have had reasonable time to adjust themselves to the change, a period which must necessarily depend on circumstances and on conditions imperfectly known at present."

A period of five years was named as the outside limit within which the change must be completed. I think there is every reason to hope that it will be accomplished earlier. In the meantime, I am glad to say that the condition of the indentured labourer has been greatly ameliorated by recent changes in Colonial laws, and I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the spirit in which the Colonial Administrations have met us, and of the help I have received from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his predecessor.

Crown Colonies and the Conference

In the House of Commons on February 22nd, Mr. Brookes asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Crown Colonies would be specially represented at the coming Imperial War Conference; and, if so, whether the representative would be chosen outside official circles in Whitehall.

Mr. Long replied: I will myself attend to the interests of the Crown Colonies in this connection.

[This announcement confirms the statement of the Secretary of the West India Committee in the following letter, which was published in the *Times* of January 25th:—

January 24th, 1917.

The Editor,
The Times,
Printing House Square, E. C.

Sir,

Mr. Eric Macfadyen, whose letter is published in your issue of to-day's date, may be interested to know that the question of the representation of the Crown Colonies and Dependencies at the Imperial Conference has frequently engaged the attention of the West India Committee, who have on several occasions voiced the claims of the British West Indies in this respect.

If all the lesser colonies were invited to send delegates it is obvious that the Conference would assume unwieldy proportions, and a difficulty has been to suggest the name of any individual sufficiently acquainted with the conditions prevailing in the various colonies to

be in a position to represent their interests adequately. In this connection it must be remembered that what is good for British Malays and Ceylon, for example, is not necessarily good for the British West Indies, and *vice-versa*.

We understand, however, that at the forthcoming Conference the Crown Colonies and Dependencies are to be represented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies who should be the true guardian of their interests, and this is probably the best arrangement that can be made in the circumstances.

Yours obediently,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Editor.]

THE LONDON LETTER.

SIR LESLIE PROBYN, the versatile Governor of Barbados, is the author of a new novel entitled, "The Shifting Spell," which has just been published. It is of the old-fashioned yarn type, and should appeal to a wide public who are frankly rather tired of literature dealing solely with the war, of which there is a plethora just now. Through the generosity of His Excellency several hundred copies have been distributed among various organisations handling books for our soldiers and sailors, and the British West Indies Regiment have not been forgotten.

IN this connection it is of interest to note that one of these bodies, the "Newspapers for the Fleet Committee," which was established in 1915 by the London Chamber of Commerce, has already despatched no fewer than 12,000,000 copies of books, periodicals, etc., to the fleet, besides 200 gramophones and 15,000 gramophone records. They have also collected £15,000 in cash.

MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, who, as we recently reminded our readers, spent some years in the Bahamas, and is now the Director of National Service, has had a busy fortnight. He has addressed crowded meetings at the Stock Exchange, the Baltic, and St. James' Theatre, where he confronted the leading lights of the stage, and as a result recruits are flocking to his standard. As a further result of his campaign Stock Exchange clerks are now busily employed during certain hours every week in addressing envelopes for the great cause, and costly theatrical productions are to be voluntarily banned by mutual agreement. 18 to 61 are the limits of age for volunteers and it is confidently expected that National Service for persons between those ages will become compulsory.

A NOVEL experiment is being made in the East End. Thanks to the generosity of an Imperialist whose name has not been disclosed, "The British Empire Tavern" has been opened at Poplar. It is described as "A Real Public House," with the addition of the significant words in brackets and small type, "without alcohol." The new "Pub" was opened recently by Mr. W. F. Massey, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and its patrons, besides being regaled with wholesome tea, bread and butter, etc., will also receive literature regarding our Dominions and the openings which they afford to settlers. The chief organiser of the new movement, which bids fair to be a great success, is Mr. T. E. Sedgwick, who was responsible for

the arrangements for the first of the Colonial Fruit Shows at the Royal Horticultural Hall some years ago.

ATTRACTED by the temptation of doing work for the Old Country in her hour of need, Mr. J. J. Quelch, the well-known biologist, has left his quiet retreat in St. Vincent, where he had settled down to grow vanilla, and come to England. Mr. Quelch, who is in the pink of health, has offered his services to the Board of Agriculture.

THE scarcity of potatoes, resulting from the potato famine which has obtained throughout the world, has brought forcibly to one's inner consciousness the place which this ubiquitous agricultural product holds in our dietary. Saturday afternoon is now given up to digging up of the hitherto uncultivated patches of ground which pervade the suburbs of London, and old and young, male and female, can be seen busily engaged in this useful work.

"SUMMER TIME" is to be reintroduced on the 8th of April. The experiment of last year is admitted on all sides to have been a success, except by the clocks, which resented deeply the operation of being put back, and in many instances have never kept good time since! In spite of all objections, summer time has come to stay, and the delights of the early morning freshness will be to all.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANGUILLA—The Salt Crop Lost.

MR. CARTER REY, JANUARY 25th.—The rainfall for last year—43.59 inches—was the highest on the record of the past ten years. The very heavy downpours in October and November (over 18 inches in five weeks) did very great damage to the cotton cultivation, and the crop in consequence will be smaller than was expected. The salt crop also was lost, and with the old crop already disposed of, exports from the island are reduced. There is a very fair supply of locally grown food crops, which is reassuring at this time. The steam mail service between here and St. Kitts has been indefinitely suspended. No official reason has been given as yet, but the ships' agents announce that it is on account of Admiralty requirements.

ANTIGUA—The Death of Mr. W. H. Whyham.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JANUARY 26th (received February 24th).—I regret to report the death of the Hon. W. H. Whyham, following an attack of fever and influenza. "Papa" Whyham, as the people called him, had worked as a Government official for nearly forty years, for the greater part of which he was District Magistrate. A gentleman and a thoroughly straight, efficient public servant, he was respected by all classes. He was laid to rest on the 21st, an immense gathering testifying to the esteem and regard in which he was held.

A detachment of the Defence Force was sent to Barbuda in anticipation of some trouble regarding tax collection, but their services were fortunately not needed after all. The weather has been cold and dry, and quite an epidemic of influenza has been raging.

The Hon. T. B. Fell, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, was sworn in as Acting Administrator on January 16th. Captain A. Roger, I.S.O., left by the Canadian steamer for the South yesterday, and all hope that he will benefit from the change.

BRITISH GUIANA—Death of the Hon. Frank Fowler.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JANUARY 16th (received February 26th).—Business has been hampered by a strike of wharf porters and stevedores. The latter suspended work for a few days only, but the former were out for practically a whole week. They resumed work yesterday. The strike extended to the railway employees, and no trains have been running on the East and West Coast.

The weather is, on the whole, favourable for the estates, though in some places it has been too wet.

With regard to the sea defences, a meeting of proprietors was held at Government House, which the Elective Members, with two exceptions, did not attend. The Draft Agreement was agreed to with certain alterations, and this has since been gone into by the law officers and contractors and finally confirmed. A meeting of the Combined Court was held yesterday for the purpose of submitting the agreement to the members.

JANUARY 24th (received February 26th).—The weather has been wet and bleak during the past few days. I regret to have to report the death of the Hon. Frank Fowler, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, which occurred on the evening of the 16th.

The Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Company's half-yearly meeting was held on the 17th inst., when the usual 3 per cent. dividend on the scrip capital was declared. The B.G. Mutual Fire Insurance Company held their half-yearly meeting on the 22nd inst., with a declaration of 2½ per cent. on the scrip capital.

The revised draft of the sea defence contract is published in the *Argosy* Mail Edition of January 26th. The Combined Court on the preceding day postponed acceptance of the contract with Messrs. Case & Hennebique until the presentation of the report of the Director of Public Works of Surinam, who has been invited to visit the colony and report on the matter.

ST. KITTS—Mr. J. Spencer Hollings Death.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, JANUARY 22nd (received February 24th).—We are having a spell of dry weather, with high winds, and the nights have a tinge of chilliness about them, so there is a good deal of sickness about, influenza being prevalent. The canes are showing signs that they want the bill, and we hope reaping will commence early in February. Cane fires still continue, I am sorry to say, about 90 acres having been burnt in the vicinity of Basse Terre last week.

I regret to have to report the sudden death of the Hon. J. S. Hollings, of Nevis, a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, which occurred on the 18th inst. He attended a meeting of the Legislative Council in the morning, and was as keen and alert as he usually was on such occasions. After lunch he transacted some business in the town, and was on his way to the wharf to return to Nevis when he evidently had a stroke, and he was taken to the Seaside Hotel. Medical attendance was summoned, but he never regained consciousness, and passed away about 10.30 p.m. He was a man with varied and long experience of life and things out here, and one who always took a keen interest in public affairs and things generally. His place will be very hard to fill.

TURKS ISLANDS—Looking up the Lobsters.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during December was more settled, having been exceptionally cool and more seasonable. The maximum temperature was 84 deg. Fahr. and the minimum 65.2 deg. Fahr. On the 4th inst. the schooner *Emerson Faye* arrived from Jamaica, and after taking part cargo of salt sailed on her return trip on the 6th, taking the stowaways landed here last month, with the exception of six, five of whom took to the bushes until after the schooner had sailed, and one the Commissioner took into his service at Waterloo.

On the 5th inst. the S.S. *Falcon* arrived from New York, sailing on the 6th with a party of labourers from the Dependency to work on contract at La Romana, Santo Domingo. The S.S. *Iroquois* arrived from New York on the 13th inst., bringing as passengers Mr. and Mrs. Mudge and Mr. Auden, a brother of the Government Medical Officer at Grand Turk, who hails from Toronto. Mr. Mudge, who is a resident of the United States, states

he is looking up the lobster industry of the Dependency. On the 17th inst. the S.S. *Crickel* arrived from New York, sailing the same day with a further batch of labourers for La Romana.

On the evening of the 19th inst. the S.S. *Tungus* ran aground in the roadstead of Grand Turk. A survey was held on the morning of the 20th, as a result of which she was pronounced seaworthy and undamaged, and she proceeded on her voyage to Santo Domingo.

The month has been a particularly busy one in the salt industry, and all have been kept busy with three steamers besides sailing craft loading salt at various ports in the Dependency at the same time. Quite a large quantity of salt has been shipped during the month, including ground or fishery salt. The supply on hand is beginning to look somewhat scant. Many proprietors are making preparations to start cleaning their ponds early in the New Year. The Commissioner tells me he has been for some time in negotiation with buyers of salt in South America (Rio and Bahia), and has completed arrangements whereby they are willing to take 1,000 tons monthly. Whether all his energy and trouble has been in vain remains to be seen. Should the merchants here allow such a splendid opportunity to pass, it is likely that Messrs. D. F. & H. F. Harriott, of Salt Cay, will take the matter in hand. Shipments of sisal, sponge, and canned lobsters have been made to the United States. From news to hand, there is a large demand for canned lobster in the United States, but whether it could be obtained in sufficient quantities to supply the demand is somewhat doubtful. The conch shell industry is still at a standstill.

The Commissioner has received very encouraging letters from Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland, of Liverpool, regarding his recent shipment of cotton from the Dependency, which shipment made 1/3 per pound. From the Commissioner's small experimental patch at Grand Turk, which is practically not more than one-fifth of an acre, it is estimated that about 600 lbs. will be gathered, and this despite the dry season we have experienced since it has been planted out. With such prospects of making money, the people here have made no move to plant cotton, although one hears of what they are going to do—and there it ends. The Commissioner has offered all kinds of inducements, but it seems of no avail. It means that some outside party will come and take over the acres and acres of land now lying idle, and plant and reap the benefit, and I do not think this day is far distant, either.

One of the oldest residents of the Dependency, Mr. A. W. Harriott, passed away on the 7th inst., after being in somewhat feeble health for some time. Mr. Harriott was for many years Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate at Grand Turk, retiring on a pension about three years ago. He was an M.A. of Yale University, and was 85 years of age.

TRINIDAD—Cacao Shipments.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of January were as under:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	253,921
B. N. America	398,500
France	517,400
United States America	5,728,879
Total for January	6,900,700
To same date, 1916	5,085,123
“ “ 1915	7,406,433
“ “ 1914	8,151,685
“ “ 1913	3,854,745
“ “ 1912	10,757,066
“ “ 1911	5,848,611
“ “ 1910	9,386,702
“ “ 1909	8,451,141
“ “ 1908	7,986,902

THE subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, which may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank is £1 Is. per annum.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The West Indian Produce Assn., Ltd.

A dividend of 6 per cent. for the year ended December 31st, 1916, has been declared. The Directors, in their report, state that they applied for £1,200 of the New War Loan on behalf of the Association.

The Royal Bank of Canada.

The Directors' report and accounts for the year ended November 30th last, which were adopted at the 48th annual general meeting on January 11th, show a balance of profit for the year of \$2,111,307.65, making, with the \$676,472.16 carried forward from 1915, a total available balance of \$2,787,779.81, which has been appropriated in the payment of four dividends at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, the transfer of \$100,000 to the pension fund, written off Bank premises account \$250,000, War tax on Note circulation \$119,226.51, and contribution to patriotic fund \$50,000, leaving \$852,346.28 to be carried forward. The Directors record with deep regret the death of three of their colleagues, Mr. Wiley Smith, Lieut.-Governor MacKeen, and Mr. T. J. Drummond. Among thirty-five new branches opened are three in Santo Domingo and one in Caracas, Venezuela. The capital authorised is \$25,000,000, of which \$12,000,000 has been paid up. The reserve and undivided profits stand at \$13,412,000. Sir Herbert Holt, moving the adoption of the report, referred to the tour of inspection which he had made, with six of his colleagues, of their branches in the South. None of them, he said, had previously visited any branch south of Cuba. They returned most favourably impressed with the excellent connection acquired in Cuba, Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, Costa Rica, and the British West Indies by many years of patient work. It was distinctly advantageous to obtain a personal knowledge of local conditions, and to meet the Bank's leading customers. They were pleased with the buildings erected by the Bank and their locations in general, and were happy to learn that the Royal Bank was held throughout the South in the highest esteem. They also visited the republics of Venezuela and Colombia. Since then they had opened one branch and would open two others forthwith in Venezuela, where the outlook was promising. They were gratified to receive from Viscount Grey, the late Foreign Secretary, his approval of the establishment of branches in that country, and a promise of support from the British Government.

The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

A company entitled the Trinidad Central Oilfields (Ltd.), with a capital of £350,000 in 44 shares, has been registered at Somerset House. It has been formed to take over the assets and undertakings of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, the Cruse Syndicate, the Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), and the Ortoire Syndicate, and to carry on the business of producers, refiners, manufacturers, importers and exporters of and dealers in mineral and other oils, natural gas, asphalt, pitch, &c. So long as the company carries on business in Trinidad it shall at all times be and remain a British company with a British chairman and managing director (if any) and a British majority on the board. Registered office, 79, Bishopsgate, E.C.

CORRESPONDENTS in the West Indies are requested to note that the mails which were forwarded by the *Laconia* which were all lost comprised letter mails which reached New York between February 14th and 18th, and probably included letter mails from Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, the West Indies, British Guiana. If definite information is desired whether a particular letter or parcel was on board, inquiry should be made by the sender at the office of posting.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.
March 7th, 1917

THE NEW WAR LOAN has been a success beyond all expectations. Of new money no less than £1,000,312,950 has been raised, including £130,711,950, the amount of Treasury Bills which would have matured at early dates, converted.

BANK RATE remains at 5½ per cent. as from the 18th January last. First War Loan (3½ per cent.) is quoted at 84½, and Second War Loan (4½ per cent.) at 90½. Consols stand at 52½.

SUGAR. The unsatisfactory state of the political situation in Cuba continues to cause anxiety. On the 1st inst. American troops were landed in Santiago, and no doubt the insurrection in that district will soon be quelled. Big prices and big development in the sugar industry have brought the inevitable labour troubles, which, in a country like Cuba, where revolution is a tradition, invariably means insurrection. The present trouble is, of course, much against the satisfactory reaping of the crop, and the position in this respect is intensified by the fact that the transport power of the Cuban railways has failed to cope satisfactorily with the many conditions associated with the rapid development of the sugar industry. While, therefore, canes are on the ground, and ripe, for a 3,400,000 ton crop, it will not be a matter of surprise if no more than the figures of last year are realised. Indeed, Messrs. Willett & Gray have already knocked 400,000 tons off their estimate. The drastic reduction of sugar supplies in the United Kingdom, however, should do much to counterbalance the deficiency in the Cuban crop, but high prices may be looked for in the near future.

Porto Rico is also suffering from labour disputes, and the Trades Unions are giving considerable trouble to the planters in that island.

France has at last adopted the ticket system of sugar distribution as the only practical means of securing that the population receives its just *per capita* share of sugar. The rate is 1½ lbs. of sugar per head per month—half the amount laid down by our Food Controller as the sugar ration in this country. France's pre-War consumption was 44 lbs. per head, and that of the United Kingdom 93 lbs.; consequently the French reduction of supply is at nearly the same rate as that of the United Kingdom—viz., 60 per cent. In this connection it is stated that France is arranging to plant an increased area of beet this season, obtaining seed from Russia for the purpose.

Russia is extending her area of beet this year from 1,595,000 acres to 1,784,000 acres.

The scheme for the development of a sugar industry in Haiti, mentioned in a recent Summary as being taken in hand by an American syndicate, has now assumed a definite form, a Company having been incorporated in the United States, under the title of the "Haitian American Corporation," for the purpose. The capital consists of \$6,000,000 in preference stock, of which \$5,500,000 is issued at once, and 60,000 Ordinary and 60,000 Founders' shares, to which no par value is assigned. Twenty thousand acres of sugar cane have been acquired in Haiti, and a factory to deal with 300,000 tons of cane is being erected near Port-au-Prince. The treaty which has been concluded between the United States and the Republic of Haiti, in which the United States takes upon itself the maintenance of order in that island, at the same time controlling the disbursement of Government funds, forms a material guarantee of the stability of the objects of the scheme.

Further American enterprise in connection with sugar is taking place in Venezuela. The export of sugar from that country, which in 1913 only amounted to 3,000 tons, is estimated for the 1916-17 crop, according to *Facts about Sugar*, at 25,000 tons.

According to the *Indian Trade Journal*, the imports of sugar into India for the first nine months of the financial year 1916-17 have been 328,869 tons. Of this quantity, 11,266 tons came from Mauritius and 289,229 tons from Java.

The newly-formed Associated Chamber of Commerce for the British West Indies, now holding its first meeting in Trinidad, has passed a resolution to the effect that the use of the Dutch Standard in the Canadian Customs tariff should be abolished. The object of the retention of the Dutch Colour Standard is, of course, the protection of the refiners, so as to prevent raw sugars of a grocery character, coming at a lower rate of duty, competing with their products. The Canadian refiners, while anxious that raw sugars for refining purposes should enter Canada on a lower scale of duty than refined sugar, object to raw sugars of the same polarisation but of light colour having that privilege, inasmuch as they might go directly to the consumer. The United States abolished the use of the Dutch Standard when the Underwood tariff came into force, and Canada should follow suit, and be satisfied with the protection afforded by a tariff based on the polariscope only.

Sugar companies in the United States are considerably agitated as to the excess profits tax which forms an item in the new Revenue Bill before the Senate. As in the United Kingdom, the Bill provides for exemption in the case of income derived from agriculture. This exemption is emphasised in a further clause as to incomes of labour, agricultural, and horticultural organisations. The untaxed profits are limited to 8 per cent. In view of recent events in this country, it will be interesting to see the light in which the United States Government regard sugar production—whether it comes under the head of agriculture or not. The sugar people are naturally afraid that sugar production will not be regarded as agriculture, necessitating, as it does, manufacture of a high type.

Sugar distribution in the United Kingdom is still uneven. Retailers naturally look at sugar as a means of extending their clientèle, while the big stores seem to have more than their share for distribution. The imports of sugar into the United Kingdom for the present year up to February 24th amounted to 179,389 tons, an increase of 7,370 tons on the receipts to the corresponding date last year.

In connection with the retail sale of sugar in the United Kingdom, a statement was made in the last Summary to the effect that the Brokers' Committee had passed low-grade black molasses from Mauritius as grocery sugars. This statement was made on high official authority; but it is now found that the sugar in question never came before the Brokers' Committee at all, to whom an apology is due for the statement.

Prices in the home market remain unchanged. Tate's cubes are quoted at 47/1½ per cwt., standard granulated 41/7½, West Indian crystallised basis 41/7½, West Indian grocery syrups basis 39/7½, muscovado 40/7½.

West Indian sugar statistics for London from January 1st to February 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	5,032	4,389	7,579 tons.
Deliveries	6,235	9,784	6,475 ..
Stocks (Feb 24) ..	6,812	5,705	7,113 ..

Cuban troubles have been naturally reflected in the New York market. On the 26th ult. the price of 96° duty paid had sunk to \$5.02 per 100 lbs. The market then steadily rose, reaching \$5.49 on the 5th inst. Better reports from Cuba, however, brought about a decline, and yesterday the value of 96° had fallen to \$5.27. Sympathy and strikes in American refineries also raised the price of granulated to \$7.90. The British Government have bought 100,000 tons of Cuban sugar at \$4.00 per 100 lbs. f.o.b. Cuba for March-April delivery.

RUM. The Government have absolutely forbidden the importation of rum as from the 23rd February. This will not include rum shipped on that date or rum which has been paid for in advance. The stocks in the United Kingdom are very high: 13,115,000 gallons of proof spirit on the 31st January—a record figure.

No sales have been heard of since our last report. Demerara may be quoted at 3/7 to 3/8 per proof gallon; Jamaica ordinary to fair, 4/6 to 4/9.

The stocks in London on February 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	10,167	5,894	5,012 puns.
Demerara	9,284	5,714	6,379 ..
Total of all kinds ..	33,105	22,170	17,127 ..

CACAO. The Government have decided to prohibit all imports of foreign cacao and to reduce the amount of the imports of British cacao to 50 per cent. of last year's shipments. This prohibition does not apply to cacao shipped by the 23rd February, nor to cacao paid for but not shipped on that date.

Each importer of British cacao will receive a license to import up to 50 per cent. of his last year's imports, and the amount of each importation will be endorsed on his license. In this way the importers will know exactly how they stand at any time as regards their quotas of shipments.

The amount of British West Africa, Ceylon, and West India cacao imported into the United Kingdom last year was 134,910,608 lbs., of which 24,890,608 lbs. came from the West India Islands, out of a total of 200,953,792 lbs. The total amount of cacao exported from the West Indies last year to all countries was 68,998,081 lbs. Of 47,415 bags of Trinidad's 1916-17 crop, 2,848 bags went to the United Kingdom, 12,740 bags to France, and 31,827 bags to the United States.

The first auction sales since the date of the prohibition of imports took place on the 6th, when 3,454 bags Grenada were mostly sold at prices running from 78/- to 81/-, 1,145 bags Trinidad, 500 bags Jamaica, and 10 bags St. Vincent were bought in.

The stocks in London on February 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,342	6,160	6,989 bags.
Grenada	12,080	10,487	4,347
Total of all kinds ...	224,198	99,678	49,873

COFFEE. The prohibition of coffee imports has had a strengthening effect upon the market, high rates being paid at auction on the 27th ult., when Santos sold at 66/6 for good quality. Costa Rica peas fetched the extreme price of 157/-.

COPRA. The market is flat, and prices have declined fully £2 per ton. West Indian may be quoted at £43 c.i.f. London usual terms. The exports of copra from Trinidad for January amounted to 504,788 lbs., of which 378,728 lbs. went to the United States, and 125,560 lbs. to the United Kingdom. This compares with 287,892 lbs. for January last year.

COTTON. The import duty in India on cotton goods has been raised to 7 per cent. ad valorem, while the excise remains at 3 per cent., thus establishing a policy of protection for that country in this respect. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that, in the absence of stocks, no business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since the date of last Summary. Ninety bales West Indian have been imported into the United Kingdom for the year up to March 2nd.

ARROWROOT. Market quiet and firm with moderate sales of new arrivals at 4d. to 5½d. for common to fair. Quotations nominally 4½d. to 6d.

HONEY. There have been no auction sales since last Summary, the next auction being to-morrow. The market is very firm.

SPICES. *Glazer.* Quiet, without change. Small good common to good bold bright Jamaica may be quoted at 90/- to 115/- per cwt. *Pimento.* Importers are holding for 5d. per lb. Last sales were at 4½d., but the demand has become quiet. *Nutmegs and Mace.* No change in absence of supplies.

FRUIT. Market firm for all sorts. West Indian bananas are quoted at £18 per ton (truckloads) landed London—an advance of £1 per ton. The orange season is closed. *Coco-nuts* are unchanged at 25/- per bag (100's).

LIME PRODUCTS. *Lime Oil.* There is little enquiry for distilled; sellers' price is 9/- per lb. Hand-pressed is quiet, with small sales at 15/-. *Lime Juice.* There is more enquiry for raw and concentrated, but no sales to report. *Citrate* is wanted, and £29 per ton could be obtained.

RUBBER. The market has remained quiet since our last report, and fluctuations in prices are very small. There has not been support from America to any extent for about a fortnight, but the general demand has been sufficient to keep prices steady and prevent any material decline. To-day's values are 3/3 for standard grades of crepe and sheet. Fine Para is also dull at 3/3.

BALATA. The market continues very firm indeed, and sellers now ask 3/3 c.i.f. for Venezuela block; Panama block being quoted nominal at 3/2, London landed terms. West Indian sheet is firm, sellers' price for spot parcels being 3/11 to 3/11½ landed.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbot	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. Albert Mendes
Mr. C. H. Chambers	Mr. Win. Greig	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. Paul Crossall	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. John T. Moir
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss Moseley
Mr. W. de Gale	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Dr. Frank Olyphant
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Mr. E. C. Jackson	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Sir Walter Egerton	Hon. E. L. Lorbord	Mr. T. Orde
K.C.M.G.	Mr. E. K. Lane	Mr. D. G. Fife
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. Marsden	Dr. H. A. Tennant
Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. T. M. Marshall	and
Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. A. L. McColl	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, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Baglan," 91, D. rowgate Road, Chiswick, W.
Captain J. B. Saunders, c/o Messrs. King & Co., 65, Cornhill, E.C.
Mr. W. C. Shettle, Chandos Lodge, Eye, Suffolk.

DEATH.

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.

Hodgson.—On the 17th ult., at Barbados, William Hodgson, of Demerara, youngest son of the late Charles Hodgson and of Mrs. Hodgson, of "Glyndhurst," Shoot-up Hill, N.W., aged 48. (By cable.)

WANTS.

Agriculturist, six years' experience; late Head Overseer Demerara Plantation, is open for re-engagement. Highest credentials. Ineligible for Army, and now in London.—Reply M. R. A., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

Capable Englishman, 32, ineligible, of good education, with thorough clerical experience and some knowledge of engineering and electricity, desires position West Indies for health reasons.—J. P. F., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

With the price of newspapers going up all round the Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee need make no apologies in urging those members who have not already done so to pay their subscriptions for the current year without delay. In view of the depletion of the staff and the increased cost of production of the CIRCULAR due to the War, prompt payment is more desirable than ever. Subscriptions may either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

"The Cane Sugar Factory" is a handy volume obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 1/-.

The . . . West India Committee Circular.

Vol. XXXII.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22nd, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegram: CARIB, LONDON.

March 21st, 1917.

The Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee trust that those members who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st last, without delay. In view of the depletion of the staff and the increased cost of production of the CIRCULAR due to the war, prompt payment is more desirable than ever. Subscriptions may either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

IN the present CIRCULAR we publish two articles dealing with the future of the West Indies. One which appeared in *The Times*, of March 13th, by the permission of whose editor it is now reproduced, is from the pen of a Canadian correspondent, and the other which gives a Pan-American view of the question is taken from the *New York Journal of Commerce*. The Canadian proposes the union in one Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, and the British West Indies. The American, on the other hand, holds that the United States "should have full guardianship of what belongs territorially to America," adding—for which our Canadian friends will be grateful—that "Canada, which is virtually independent, with a devoted loyalty to its mother country, is to be excepted as a matter of course, for it is truly American in its interests and its political spirit and likely to keep in harmony with the destiny of the Western world." In a word, he resents Europe having any interest in the West Indies, and asks why the islands "lying in the wide space between two continents and across the track of commerce between oceans should not become entirely American in its Government control." No answer is needed to this impertinent question, but when this Pan-American suggests that

the present possessions of the islands which have not become independent is due to mere seizure in the old buccaneering days a protest is due to the memory of such legitimate pioneers as WARNER and COURTEEN, and such naval and military worthies as PENN, VENABLES, HARVEY and ABERCROMBY, to name a few of those who won for us a place in the West Indies at the sword's point. This Pan-American cannot, and, we imagine, will not be taken seriously even by his own people, and we would advise him to dip lightly into West Indian history before plunging into thorny topics which he clearly does not understand. The suggested union of Canada and the West Indies is no new proposal, and it is one with regard to which it is very desirable to keep an open mind. It will be recalled that in 1911 the House of Assembly of the Bahamas, inspired by Mr. MACAULAY, the Managing Director of a Canadian Life Insurance Company, passed a resolution authorising their Governor to ascertain the terms on which the Dominion of Canada would admit that colony into the Dominion. With the return of that gentleman to Canada, however, interest in the movement flagged, and nothing of a practical nature resulted. MR. MACAULAY himself, as far as we can gather, now favours a commercial rather than a political union, and in this he differs from *The Times'* Canadian correspondent, who would go much further. *The Times* editorially supports political union, but while expressing the belief that opinion in this country would entirely welcome it, very properly adds that obviously nothing will come of it unless it emerges as a definite and complete proposition from the peoples themselves. For ourselves, we are inclined to think that anything more than ventilation of the subject at the present time would be premature and very undesirable. The question bristles with difficulties, and should be one of those which should be reserved for consideration after we have emerged from the present war, when our whole Imperial policy will come under revision.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

WHEN the people of the West Indies spontaneously and with one accord expressed a desire soon after the outbreak of war to send over a Contingent for active service, self-advertisement was the last thing they sought or even thought of. It is nevertheless rather disappointing to them that the doings of the British West Indies Regiment, which comprises their contingents, should be wrapped in such complete obscurity. But we fear that this is inevitable under the conditions of modern warfare, which render it in the highest degree undesirable that any mention should be made in the public Press as to the movements of troops or the strength of any particular

units. The West Indian Contingent, which, we may remind our readers, is drawn from every part of the British West Indies—from the Bahamas in the north to British Guiana in the south—and includes a detachment from such outlying places as the Turks and Caicos Islands—has not had the opportunity of appearing in the limelight as the immense brigades of Canadians—whose brilliant deeds have been recorded in telling language by LORD BEAVERBROOK—and Anzacs have had; but, like the South Africans, they are none the less doing splendid work in their own particular sphere of utility, and a work which is essential in every sense of the term, furnishing as it does the life-blood of the Army in the field. Without incurring the wrath of the censor by lifting the veil too much, we may, perhaps, be permitted to state that the West Indian Contingent is now widely distributed. It has been under fire in Egypt. As has already been stated the behaviour of the men under fire has been exemplary, and the reports as to the prowess of the men on the field of duty have been generally most satisfactory. Officers and men have gained many individual successes in various training courses, and the smart and business-like appearance of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment has not only won the commendation of the General Officers Commanding on the occasion of inspections, but has been also frequently commented upon by officers of other regiments returning from Egypt. In the realm of sport the men have astonished all beholders. They have defeated strong Australian teams at cricket, and have carried all before them at athletic meetings. In every sense the British West Indies Regiment is a fine body of men, who have by their loyal services already more than justified their embodiment into a distinct unit.

TRINIDAD AND FRANCE.

OUR readers will be interested to learn that Trinidad and Tobago were represented at the annual trade "Fair" which has just been successfully held at Lyons. The Permanent Exhibition Committee of that colony collected a representative exhibit, which was wisely confined to staple products, and this was sent last month to Bordeaux by French mail steamer, and thence to Lyons, where it was entrusted to the care of MR. L. LAPEYRE. That gentleman received much valuable assistance from MR. EDWARD R. E. VICARS, to whom acknowledgments are due, and the services of the West India Committee were also invoked and ungrudgingly given. With characteristic enterprise and thoroughness the Trinidad and Tobago Committee, of which MR. EDGAR TRIPP is Hon. Secretary, prepared and despatched with the exhibits a catalogue in the French language, of which some hundreds were distributed. This, we believe, is the first occasion upon which a British West Indian colony has been represented at the famous "Lyons' Fair," and from reports which we have received from our Consul General at Lyons we believe that the new departure will be fraught

with beneficial results to the trade between Trinidad and France which is already far from inconsiderable.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The following members were present at the monthly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held at 15, Seething Lane, London, on March 9th: Mr. W. Middleton Campbell (Chairman), Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Gurney, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

The following were elected members of the West India Committee.

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Sergeant Alan H. Ferry, R.A.M.C.	{ Mr. T. Greenwood. { Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.
Mr. S. Stanford Stone.	{ Mr. Francis B. B. Shand. { Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. Jos. E. Kernahan (Trinidad).	{ Miss Moseley. { Mr. A. Harcourt Hamel Smith.
Mr. John Robert Rochford (Trinidad).	{ Miss Moseley. { Mr. A. Harcourt Hamel Smith.
Hon. Charles C. Creaves (Nevis).	{ Mr. E. S. Delisle. { Mr. R. Williams.
Mrs. Edward Dixon (Jamaica).	{ Mrs. Bromley. { Mr. W. Fawcett.
Lieut. J. R. A. Branch.	{ Mr. Donald McDonald. { Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.
Mr. F. W. Ulrich, F.E.S. C.M.Z.S. (Trinidad).	{ Mr. G. MacG. Frame. { Mr. Claude Connell.
Mr. Charles A. Child (Trinidad).	{ Mr. M. Hamel Smith. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. C. J. Sanford Elvey.	{ Mr. Frank J. Evans. { Mr. W. Fawcett.
Mr. G. L. Lamotte.	{ Mrs. Noel G. Hackney. { Mr. R. Rutherford.
2nd Lieut. Marshall Greig.	{ Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G. { Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. J. Brown, L.R.C.P.	{ Mr. S. A. Cambridge. { Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.
Mr. E. Mortimer Duke, J.L.B. (Brit. Guiana).	{ Mrs. John Bromley. { Miss M. Moseley.
Mrs. Howard Marsh.	{ Mr. Howard Marsh. { Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C.
Mr. John M. Tallantyre.	{ Mr. W. Fawcett. { Mr. W. Middleton Campbell.

FACING page 104 in the present issue we reproduce a photograph of Mr. M. E. Muirhead, a patriotic war worker in Jamaica, for which we are indebted to Dr. E. Sturridge, who recently returned from a visit to the island after an absence of twenty years. Mr. Muirhead, whose age is over three-score years and ten, is shown at his daily, and self-imposed, task of making walking sticks and crutches for the wounded. This grand old man has made many thousands of these comforts for the halt and the maim.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Revolution in Russia.

For some time past it has been generally understood that Germanism pervaded high places in Russia. The Tsar was induced to believe that the victory of the Allies would be fatal to his dynasty, and so encouraged the insidious propaganda of the enemy, which was as a blight in the public service. The Government, with one exception, were tools, if not paid agents, of the Wilhelmstrasse, and were working for a peace separate from the Allies. In these circumstances the stagnation on the Russian military front for so long is comprehensible, and so is the failure to support Roumania at the critical moment. The revolution began in a demonstration by women and children in the streets with the object of obtaining black bread. When they were roughly treated by the police, the workmen turned on the police, who thereupon called in the Cossacks. But these and the soldiers generally sided with the people, and as the President of the Duma ably directed the situation, the Emperor Nicholas was forced to abdicate. His brother, the Grand Duke Michael, is appointed Regent in a National Government. The change is a disaster for Germany and a triumph for the Allies.

On the Ancre.

The enemy prepared his plans to retire from his defences above the Ancre as intelligently as those which succeeded so well in his previous retreat, but this time he was forestalled by our troops, who not only captured all that remained of the ground before Achiet, one of the two remaining positions protecting Bapaume, but also 300 prisoners. The British tactics were similar to those which won so much of the big salient between Arras and Rheims with comparatively small loss to ourselves. The Achiet-Loupard Wood trenches, of which Irles was the centre, were subjected to a devastating bombardment. In spite of the wet, darkness, and swampy nature of the ground, our troops worked round both sides of the village, so that just as the Germans were on the point of leaving, they were caught in a destructive enfilading fire, and swarms of British infantry were upon them, cutting off their retreat. Resistance concentrated in the cellars and ruins of Irles, in a ravine to the south-east, and in the adjoining chalk quarry. But it was soon overcome. As a result of this well-earned success, the enemy evacuated Loupart Wood and Grevillers. The German retirement then extended from the north-west of Bapaume to the south-west, where British troops occupied the enemy's first-line trenches skirting the western face of St. Pierre Vaast Wood, and forced him to fall back on his support trenches running through and behind it. This wood was the largest wooded tract embraced in the German front opposite the British lines, and was still well timbered, concealing a whole network of trenches and dug-outs. The evacuation of even a part of such a desirable position was, in connection with the gradual retirement in the Achiet area, a sign

that both the northern and the southern bastions of Bapaume were threatened by the weakening of the enemy's hold on the ridge.

The Allies' Swift Advance.

In the following week the Germans retired on a 60-mile front, in some parts to a depth of ten miles, Bapaume, Nesle, Chaulnes, and Peronne, besides sixty villages having fallen into British hands. Simultaneously, the French advanced between the Avre and the Oise, capturing Roye and Noyon, and pushing on to Lassigny and Ornon. The object of the enemy in so suddenly abandoning positions he has held for 31 months and fortified with unremitting toil, is still obscure. But that he will now occupy the Arras-Rheims line is fairly certain, not because it is shorter and better strategically than the one he has given up, but because he could not help himself. As for "enticing the British into a snare"—that remains to be seen.

Up to the present the Germans have not disclosed the direction in which they mean to launch an offensive. To account for it, one theory is that Hindenburg means to maintain a defensive attitude in the West, while attempting to arrive at a decision somewhere in the East. Another theory is that the German high command is waiting on the results of U-boat warfare, which is expected to starve the Entente Powers, especially England, into a more favourable state of mind with regard to peace. One thing must be clear to the German military authorities—the decline in the moral of forces on the Western front as they realise day by day the superiority of the British and French armies. This fact is bound to have a direct bearing on the enemy's future plans.

The Fall of Baghdad.

In Mesopotamia the Allies have scored their first decisive victory in the East. The Turks seem to have been broken by the severe fighting at Kut, for, with the exception of the strong rearguard action they fought fifteen miles from that place, they have made no stand in all the 150 miles which they have traversed since February 24th. In the relentless pursuit by the British they have ceased to be an army, and are now a rabble. Otherwise they would have put up a vigorous resistance at Ctesiphon, which had been carefully prepared for the purpose, at Diala, a strong position which our men took by assault in a sand-storm, or at Baghdad itself. The occupation of this historic city, which is of high commercial, political, and military importance, will be felt all over the Middle and Near East, retrieving all our previous disasters in Mesopotamia and wiping out the memory of Gallipoli. The victorious General, Sir Stanley Maude, the soldiers under his command, and the War Office are to be congratulated on a brilliant achievement, carried through with great skill, energy, determination, and endurance. Nor is it anticipated that our long line of communication, extending 30 miles beyond Baghdad, is in danger. For the Arab tribes, who have given us so much trouble hitherto, have already forsaken the defeated Turks to range themselves on the side of the victors, as is their pleasing habit.

The New Situation in Asia Minor.

In the first place, a Turkish army has been destroyed, and most of its guns have been captured by the British or thrown into the Tigris. As a result of its defeat at Kut, and the forcing of the enemy positions around Shumran and Sanna-i-Yat, siege warfare ended, and a war of movement began. The feats of the British cavalry in covering the distance between Kut and Baghdad, during which the Tigris was crossed thrice, in fifteen days, were, indeed, supposed by some critics to be impossible. On the north, General Judenich, who has retained his hold of Trebizond, Erzingan, and Erzerum, should be able to threaten Sivas, the granary of the Ottoman Empire, as soon as weather conditions permit. On the south-west, Arabia has won independence for itself under the Sherceef of Mecca. On the north, Sir Archibald Murray is strengthening his grip on Southern Palestine. On the east, the Russians are advancing through Persia. Worse than all, from the German point of view, the whole of the uncompleted section of the Baghdad Railway has fallen into British hands. The idea of the German High Command was that Kut was to prove itself a second Plevna. It has so far failed to justify their expectations that the Turks are falling back on Mosul or Nisibin, whichever is the railhead of the northern section of the Baghdad Railway.

The Russians in Persia.

The Russians in Persia have admirably timed their blows. The first enabled them to retake Hamadan, from which, owing to strong Turkish reinforcements, they were obliged to retreat last year; the second, to rout the Turks from their position at Bisitun, rich in historic memories of ancient Eastern Conquerors; the third, to occupy Kermanshah, a town of strategic and commercial importance, about 260 miles from Mosul by the most direct route. The Russians in the Lake Urmia region are, however, nearer to Mosul than the Turks who have just evacuated Kermanshah. So that events in this theatre of the War may move as rapidly in the near future as they have within the past month.

China's Attitude.

China was the first of the neutral States to follow the American lead in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany over unrestricted submarine warfare, and has gone further by seizing German merchantmen at Shanghai. As Germany did her utmost to avert this stroke, it must be supposed that she attached importance to China's neutrality, probably on account of the immense amount of German capital locked up in that country.

The United States and the War.

American merchantmen are to be armed fore and aft, and are to have as further protection, light, swift picket boats, which are to be launched on entering the danger zone, so as to serve as a screen to the parent ship against submarines. Moreover, the freight-carriers of the belligerents so armed can freely use American ports. The *Alonquin* has been sunk without warning, but as there was no loss of life, it is not held to be the "overt act" for which

the American Government is waiting. That it will be committed, there is no doubt in Washington, and preparations for war are being pushed. But as Congress does not meet till April 16th, there is no immediate prospect of German-American hostilities. The Dual Monarchy has definitely replied to the American Note by echoing German views on submarine warfare.

The Submarine Campaign.

The Admiralty have wisely stopped the publication of daily reports as to the successes of the pirates, whilst leaving the public in the dark as to the number of vessels which have crossed the "zone barred to them by the U-boats." Reports are now issued weekly showing the total of merchantmen of all nationalities over 100 tons burden entering and clearing from the British ports. During the past fortnight the figures were: Arrivals, 4,808; sailings, 4,738. British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine numbered 44, and those which successfully resisted submarine attack numbered 24. There will be small comfort to the anxious Germans in these figures.

(To be continued.)

THE FUTURE OF THE WEST INDIES.

A Canadian Point of View.

Through the courtesy of the editor of *The Times*, we are permitted to publish the following article, which appeared in that paper on March 15th, from a Canadian correspondent, under the caption "The 'Rig Brother'":—

It is sometimes said that the British Empire has been built up by a series of happy accidents. There may be a measure of truth in this suggestion, but it ought not to blind us to the fact that we have now reached the stage at which we have to take thought for the future development of the Empire. It is not only the map of Europe that will have to be redrafted as a result of the war, but the map of the world.

In this war Canada has won no new territory. But it is possible for Canada to help very materially in the process of organizing and consolidating our Imperial resources. To add the rich tropical territories of the British West Indies to Canada lying wholly in the temperate and frigid zones would at one stroke create an Imperial asset of literally incalculable value.

MUTUAL ADVANTAGES.

Canada is already a great consumer of tropical products. Within the last ten years the imports of these products into Canada have more than doubled. Apart from the imports of sugar, three-fourths enter Canada by way of the United States. The union of Canada and the British West Indies would make the Dominion the economic equal of the United States, if not their superior. It would be the entry into partnership with the rich young Canadian nation of a tropical territory larger than the Dominion of New Zealand. Hitherto Canada has made no very successful effort to develop her relations with the British West Indies. Attempts have certainly been made to establish a commercial union, and some efforts have also been made for bringing about confederation and certain tariff arrangements within the islands themselves. But these efforts have not been very successful. Little can be done until the two countries unite.

The present means of transportation are largely under the control of the United States. Union would enable Canada to deal directly with all the islands and save the New York brokers' profit, the cost of rehandling, and so on. Such an arrangement would have another highly



SOME N.C.O.'S OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.



A PATRIOTIC WAR WORKER IN JAMAICA.

important effect. It would cause Newfoundland to decline quickly about entering the confederation. A line of steamships running from the islands up the St. Lawrence to the great centres of population during open navigation, as well as to Halifax and St. John all the year, would bring to the people of Newfoundland at the minimum cost the tropical fruits which they so badly need to supplement their present diet. On the return trip these boats would bring back Canadian goods for Newfoundland, and then fill up with fish for the British West Indies. Thus Newfoundland would benefit in two ways. She would get frequent and regular supplies of tropical fruits as well as sugar and molasses free of duty and at a low rate of freight, and would have regular facilities for the transport of her fish to a market of two million consumers.

The practical advantages of economic and political union to the British West Indies are equally obvious. They would have a free and ever-growing market in Canada for their products, with free entry of Canadian produce for their home consumption. Closer commercial ties with all these islands and Canada have hitherto been impossible because the West Indies have feared that any preference granted to Canada would cause retaliation from the United States. Jamaica refused the Canadian offer of reciprocity in trade some years ago, mainly on this ground. The planters feared that the United States would retaliate by curtailing the banana trade. When political union was submitted to some of the leading men in Jamaica recently this fear had largely disappeared. Jamaica now realizes that if she were united with Canada in a genuine political and economic union there would be no danger of retaliation from the United States. Jamaica, too, is much less concerned now about her banana trade than she was a few years ago. That trade has grown to considerable proportions, amounting to the export of 17,000,000 bunches a year to America, mainly because the Free Trade policy of Great Britain gave bounty-fed German sugar the preference and handicapped the sugar industry of Jamaica. The cultivation of cane sugar in Jamaica gave place to the growing of bananas. But this process is now being reversed. Much of the land used to produce bananas is again being devoted to cane sugar, the industry having been stimulated by high war prices and the prospect of a preference in the Mother Country when the war ends. Canada will be able to take all the bananas that Jamaica can produce, and the sugar industry of the island will flourish again with the additional importation of Canadian capital and enterprise.

CONTROL OF THE TROPICS.

Important as these commercial considerations are, however, the political results that would flow from a confederation of Canada and the British West Indies are even more important. Writing in *The Times* nearly 20 years ago, the late Benjamin Kidd declared that the great rivalry of the future would be for the control of the tropics. He recognised that the complex civilization of the modern world rests upon the productions of the tropics to a much greater extent than is generally realized; and he pointed out that the trade of Great Britain and the United States with the tropics formed a very large proportion of the total commerce of both countries. Again, more than 70 years ago, Humboldt drew attention to the political significance of the British West Indies resulting from the opening up of an isthmian canal. The United States were quicker to see this than we were, and have just proved that they saw it by purchasing the Danish West Indies. What has determined America to make this purchase is the importance of these islands in the Caribbean Sea from both the strategic and the economic points of view. The West Indian Islands stand at the point of intersection of the trade routes between Europe and Panama and between North and South America. The Danish West Indies which the United States have just purchased form a most important defence for the Panama Canal, practically a second Gibraltar.

British possessions in this region are not less important to the safety and future economic development of the Empire. It is quite certain that other nations will not remain indifferent to the strategic value of these islands, standing in the zone through which an enormous volume of the world's traffic must pass. America found considerable difficulty in buying the Danish West Indies, owing to the fact that German capital had been largely

used in the commercial development of the islands. If the islands had not been purchased there is no doubt that Germany would have obtained political control over them and eventually would have annexed them. As far as the Danish Islands are concerned that danger is over. But the political isolation of the British West Indies constitutes a danger of similar character not only to Canada but to the British Empire as a whole. The experience of the last half-century has shown that these tropical regions if left to themselves cannot develop into modern States like Canada or Australia. They need a helping hand. The natural "big brother" of the British West Indies is Canada.

Pan-American Bluster.

The following article which was published in the *New York Journal of Commerce* of February 22nd cannot be taken seriously:—

The large group of islands which nature has left scattered between the Isthmus of Panama, with its American canal connecting the two great oceans, and the Atlantic with its broad pathway to the Eastern Hemisphere, has an important relation to the cause of Pan-Americanism, or prosperity and the safety of the nations lying between the Atlantic and Pacific. By far the greatest interest in their peaceful control is that of the United States, but it is a common interest of all these nations. There is no good reason why there should be any permanent European foothold there, and there ought to be none without a clear and friendly understanding with the United States. The present possession of those islands which have not become independent is due to mere seizure in the old buccaneering days, when the nations of Europe roamed over the newly-discovered regions of the earth taking possession of whatever might be of value to them, regardless of the rights of their native inhabitants.

In the progress of recent events the growing interest of the United States in the trade of the world has led to the cutting of the Panama Canal at great expense, and given new importance to the group of islands through which that trade must pass from ocean to ocean. The nearness to the coast of the United States of the largest of the islands and its misgovernment as a colony of Spain led to the insurrection and the war by which it gained independence with American assistance. The help then rendered induced the treaty whereby, as a condition of independence, freedom from internal revolutions is guaranteed by the American right of intervention. The position of Cuba with its political relation to the United States is likely to remain satisfactory.

As another result of the Spanish War, Porto Rico belongs to our Union of States, and is about to have a workable system of local self-government under Federal supervision. The two republics of Haiti and Santo Domingo on a single island have shown themselves not to be yet capable of a peaceful and progressive free government. The disturbance which they cause to other interests than their own, especially those pertaining to this country, has caused a certain degree of intervention with the consent of one and without serious resistance by the other. A relation similar to that with Cuba may yet be established there. Another important step is the acquisition of the small group belonging to Denmark which is just about to be effected.

This leaves the great mass of the scattered archipelago, from Jamaica, just south of Cuba, to Trinidad, close to the shore of South America, in the hands of Great Britain and France. These nations have long been on friendly terms with the United States—France never on any other. There is likely to be cause for their relations being even closer and more friendly hereafter, and there ought never to be occasion for their becoming otherwise. While we are not likely to be in actual alliance with both or either of those nations, it is to be hoped that we may have binding treaty connections that will insure permanent peace and friendship as a harbinger of what may come for all civilized nations at no distant day. While all this may be so, and may give assurance of safety for our trade interests, and the political interests of all the American republics, it would be better if the European ties could be severed altogether, and America should have full guardianship of what belongs territorially to America.

Canada, which is virtually independent, with a devoted loyalty to its mother country, is to be excepted as a matter of course, for it is truly American in its interests and its political spirit, and likely to keep in harmony with the destiny of the Western world.

As to this West Indian group of islands, lying in the wide space between two continents and across the track of commerce between oceans, why, may we ask, should it not become entirely American in its governmental control? So far as it is now English, it has the prevailing language of the United States, which is destined to make its way on the islands that were formerly Spanish. The French islands are of small value to France, either from a commercial or political point of view. If all the islands could come into a common relation with each other and with a single power having broad relations with the rest of the world, it would be especially favourable to development and progress for them. It would promote the cause of what is called Pan-Americanism, or good relations among all the components of the two American continents, with their adjoining islands. There is a possible alternative that might serve as a connecting link with the rest of the world, and strengthen the assurance of peace and safety. That is, some kind of a league between Great Britain, France, and the United States with reference to their possessions and their joint influence in the West Indies, for the common cause of civilisation and advancement in both hemispheres.

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

Lord Milner on its Aims and Objects

Lord Milner made an important statement regarding the objects of the forthcoming Imperial Conference at a luncheon given at the Savoy Hotel by the British Empire Producers' Organisation, on March 14th, in honour of Sir Edward Morris.

Their guest had, he said, come to this country as the Prime Minister of the oldest of all our Colonies, to take part with representatives of other self-governing British States and of India, and with British Ministers, in a special War Council of the Empire.

This was an event of great immediate importance as affecting the struggle in which the whole Empire was engaged, but also of great significance for the future. The gathering was commonly spoken of as an Imperial Conference, and such, indeed, it was. But it was something more than the Imperial Conferences which we had known in the past. For on this occasion representatives of the Dominions and of India would take part as members in a series of special meetings of the British Cabinet, meetings which would be entirely devoted to the consideration of the future conduct of the war and of the problems arising out of it. We would thus have for the time being an Executive Council of the Empire, capable of taking decisions about questions vitally affecting every part of it. (Cheers.) We were not content that those portions of the great British Commonwealth which were not represented in the Parliament and the Ministry of the United Kingdom should merely share in the burden and the sacrifices which the war entailed. We wanted them to share also in the conduct of this great enterprise. We wanted to have the benefit of their counsel, to give to their views and wishes the full weight to which they were entitled in directing the course of our efforts and defining the objects which we should strive to attain.

"A time may come—I hope and believe a time must come—when the supreme direction of Imperial affairs will be in the hands of a Government representative of and responsible to the people of all the States of which the Empire is composed." (Cheers.)

We could not realise that ideal yet as the circumstances of the time were not favourable to a great act of constitutional reconstruction. In the hands of the Government of the United Kingdom rested of necessity, as far as the British Empire was concerned, the supreme direction of the war. It was the only body which was in a position to exercise, in conjunction with the Governments of the Allied nations, a continuous control over military and

naval operations. In the discharge of that duty the Government was constitutionally responsible only to the people of the United Kingdom. But they were morally responsible to the whole Empire. Under his Majesty the King, who was the Sovereign of every part of it, we were the trustees of the interests of all its peoples. And so they were anxious to assure themselves that they were acting not only in accordance with their own judgment but also with that of the men who enjoyed the confidence of our fellow subjects across the seas.

Sir Edward Morris, responding to the toast of his health, said that for years it had been the dream of all who were interested in the Empire that its component parts might be brought closer together by some constitutional form of government, be it through a council, a federation, or an Imperial Parliament. More had been done in that direction by the German Emperor than by all the statutes ever passed or all the conferences ever held. Like Lord Milner, he looked forward to the day when a true Imperial Government would be established which would deal imperially with such important matters as defence, while leaving to each portion of the Empire its complete autonomy in all fiscal and other domestic matters.

The war had cost so far about four billion pounds, and the interest on this borrowed money, with the cost of, say, a million pensions, would add something like £250,000,000 a year to the national expenditure. The taxpayers would have to bear a very large share of that charge, and the only way in which they could be enabled to bear it was by a development of the resources of the Empire.

In the past, Sir Edward continued, there were fiscal questions that divided the people of these islands. I think we shall have to lay these aside, at least, for the present, and to see whether on the new basis that has now been created we cannot erect a new fiscal policy which will enable us to meet the calls which the future will be hurrying upon us. Are we prepared for peace? It will not do to leave the preparation to private or even public associations. The Government of this country will have to deal with this trade problem just as they are dealing with the manufacture of munitions and the carrying on of the war. We are spending nearly £8,000,000 a day on the war. If one-fiftieth of that had been spent before the war on developing the great estates of the Empire, the probability is that there would have been no war. (Cheers.) This Empire cannot live as a political Empire unless it is developed as an economic and industrial Empire. All the raw material produced in the Empire should be manufactured in the Empire before it leaves the Empire, and nothing should be admitted into the Empire that could be produced in the Empire. It may be said that the consumer will have to pay too high a rate to the producer. But if this country goes in for protection, as it will have to (hear, hear), it is a very simple matter for the Government to tell the manufacturer, "This is the price you will charge for your goods, and no higher." If we are able to control prices in time of war it ought to be very much easier to control them in peace-time.

Take the sugar industry. In the year before the war about 2,000,000 tons of sugar were imported into Great Britain, and of that total 1,700,000 tons came from Germany and Austria. Yet there are 2,000,000 people in the British West Indies who are able to produce all the sugar required in the Empire, if they are only given a little assistance and protection. Supposing you had to pay a little more, they would come here to buy your goods. Last year they went to the United States for 59 per cent. of what they required and only gave Great Britain about 33 per cent., because no interest was taken here in their industries and their development.

The display of posters for advertising purposes being now prohibited the familiar newspaper contents bills have disappeared. This is not an un-mixed blessing for though the posters were somewhat crude in their form of expression and calculated to unnerve the timid they kept alive the atmosphere of war in the minds of the proletariat.

GOLD COAST CACAO

A Slightly Reduced Output.

According to cabled advices from the Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast, the total exports of cacao from the colony amounted to 72,127 tons, valued at £3,852,350, last year, as compared with 77,398 tons, valued at £3,651,341, in 1915. The monthly exports last year were as under:—

Month.	Quantity Tons	Value £
January	6,214	360,724
February	9,630	585,525
March	10,757	671,091
April	7,319	416,278
May	5,298	296,572
June	6,927	383,351
July	1,706	89,253
August	3,321	162,367
September	3,410	161,903
October	2,881	132,323
November	4,202	180,829
December	10,522	412,134
Total	72,127	3,852,350

THE TRADE OF MARTINIQUE.

The Island enjoys Unparalleled Prosperity.

From a report recently furnished to the United States Government it appears that Martinique has enjoyed unparalleled prosperity since the War started. In 1915 her exports were valued at £1,678,000, or 36 per cent. greater than those of any previous year. The reason for this will be readily understood when it is stated that the chief products of the island are sugar, rum, and cacao, for which prices reached a very high level. Bananas and coffee are also cultivated in Martinique, and the minor products, comprising vanilla beans, goat and sheep-skins, and bay and lime oil, also fared well as to prices.

The banana crop was poor, and the local market absorbed the crop, the fruit selling at double its former price. The production of cassia in Martinique has declined in recent years, and the price paid influences the output. There were 160 tons produced in 1912, 50 tons in 1913, 106 in 1914, and 17 tons in 1915.

There have been planted, since 1913, 39,000 coffee trees of the Liberia and Robusta varieties in the island. The planters have discovered that the quality of the coffee is influenced by the character of the soil in which it is planted. The strong and prolific Liberia is modified after a few seasons in Martinique, and in certain soils the berry becomes smaller, much of the bitter taste disappears, and the aroma resembles the Arabic, the variety that has made Martinique coffee famous on the French markets. It also appears that the tendency of the Robusta, which is a Java variety, to produce larger grains and an improved flavour results from properly selected soils. The disease which attacked the Arabic coffee trees makes it difficult to produce this brand. The quantity of coffee exported in 1915 was below the average, but the higher prices

received placed it in value on an average with former years. There were 9.3 tons exported, compared with 14 tons in 1914.

The Lime Industry Unsuccessful.

Since 1914 there have been 200,000 lime trees planted in Martinique, and several attempts have been made to start a lime industry here, but it has so far proved unsuccessful. A small quantity of lime juice and citrate of lime have recently been produced and successfully marketed, and the quality has been pronounced excellent. Limes grow with little care in Martinique, and produce abundant fruit of a fine quality.

The high prices paid for sugar and rum in 1914 and 1915 has had a tendency to lessen the interest in the coffee and lime industries, although additional areas are being planted with these trees.

The chief articles and their values exported from Martinique in 1913, 1914, and 1915 are shown in the following table:—

Articles.	1913 \$	1914	1915 \$
Bananas	1,958	310	—
Cassia	225	2,027	325
Cacao	206,110	179,125	238,606
Cinnamon	—	—	811
Coffee	4,619	9,261	4,413
Hides	30,256	30,221	25,553
Rum	2,234,205	2,598,853	2,904,818
Sugar	2,378,851	2,328,060	4,582,420
Sugar, raw	—	6,450	1,649
Vanilla	14,725	8,440	7,412
Pineapples	—	1,718	19,686
All other articles	125,890	22,499	45,197
Total ...	4,996,839	5,186,964	7,830,890
Re-exports	580,246	558,616	560,583
Total exports ...	5,577,085	5,745,580	8,391,473

SEA ISLAND COTTON.

A Hopeful West Indian Outlook.

In a paper which he read before the members of the Manchester Athenæum on February 16th last, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton made an optimistic reference to the West Indian Sea Island cotton industry and its future. The quality of the cotton produced in the British West Indies was, he said, equal to, if not better than, the best cotton grown in any other part of the world. It was a splendid example of what the British Cotton Growing Association had proved, namely, that as far as quality alone was concerned, the Empire could produce all the cotton we require. The bulk of the cotton grown in the West Indies was Sea Island, which variety was supposed to have originated in those islands—hence its scientific name, *Gossypium Barbadosense*. It would, perhaps, be news to many that in the early days of cotton manufacturing, we obtained the bulk of our supplies from the West Indies, and it was rather an irony of fate that we should again have to revert to that part of the Empire to obtain the necessary cotton to keep our mills running.

In some ways our task in the West Indies was easier than elsewhere, for they had the valuable assistance of expert agriculturists, who had been scientifically trained. He referred to the very able

Commissioner and staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who had done such splendid work for the West Indies. It would be a good thing for the Colonies, and indeed for the whole Empire, if such an organisation existed in every one of our tropical possessions. With this help the Association's efforts in the West Indies had been eminently successful, for up to the outbreak of the War those islands were producing a sufficient quantity of Sea Island cotton to meet the existing demand. These extra fine cottons were largely used for articles of luxury, and consequently the demand was only limited, and the crop, which amounted to about 6,000 bales, was all that was required. West Indian cotton was as good as any cotton grown in South Carolina, and some of it had fetched very high prices, one lot having been sold at four shillings per pound. As far as Sea Island cotton was concerned, we had nothing to learn from America.

Sea Island cotton was not everybody's cotton, and it was not always easy to find a buyer, or to get him to pay a fair price for the cotton. The Association recognised long ago the best method of developing cotton-growing was to enable the grower not only to sell his crop as soon as possible, but also to obtain a fair price for it. The Council considered that they were in the position of trustees for the grower, and it was their duty to do their very best to enable him to receive a fair reward for his labours.

He was sorry to say that some of the consumers in this country had shown a lack of foresight in the matter. They had not recognised that the day must come when they would be almost absolutely dependent on the West Indies for their future supplies. The boll-weevil was gradually but steadily advancing over the cotton States of America, and it was only a question of time before it reached the Atlantic. When that day came we should probably see the disappearance of the cultivation of Sea Island cotton in America. One would have naturally thought that under these circumstances they would have erred on the generous side, and would have given more than a preference to the cotton grown by their fellow-countrymen on the other side of the Atlantic. He regretted to say that frequently during recent years cotton had been left on the Association's hands unsold for months together. This naturally had been most discouraging to the planters, and the Association had been most unfairly blamed for what had occurred.

When war broke out there was an immediate cessation in the demand for luxuries, and consequently Sea Island cotton was almost unsaleable. There had since been a big rise in prices, but many of the planters were much discouraged, and, attracted by the high price of sugar and other products, reduced their acreage under cotton, and in some cases abandoned it altogether for other crops. The total crop last season was only 3,600 bales.

As regards the future, he was convinced that the demand for this type of cotton was bound to increase. He could also confidently say that the West Indies could produce all the Sea Island cotton we required, but this depended entirely on the price, and whether the industry was sufficiently remunerative to the planters. In other words, if the

spinner wanted the cotton, he must be prepared to pay a fair price for it, and it was also essential that the planter should get a ready market for his produce. The Association would help him to the best of their ability in financing and marketing the crop, and it would be more than a misfortune for the West Indies if the Association were unable to continue this work.

Mr. C. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, has been endeavouring, with some success, to promote the cultivation of cotton in that outlying dependency of Jamaica. Reporting on three bales grown there from Upland seed, Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that the quality is excellent, the staple being longer than is usual in ordinary American cotton, and well worth cultivating. They placed a high valuation on it, but pointed out that prices of American cotton are now very high, and that if they were to fall, say, to 6d. per lb., the cotton would probably be worth 8d. per lb.

AGRICULTURE IN BRITISH GUIANA. [C]

The Report of Professor J. B. Harrison, Director of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana, records substantial progress with various industries subsidiary to the great staple of sugar. Most notable, perhaps, is the extension of rice cultivation. From 1903 to 1915 the area under cultivation in rice increased from 17,503 British acres to 50,737 acres—13,600 acres equal to 26.8 per cent. of the area under rice are situated within the empoldered areas of sugar plantations.

The relation of the rice-growing industry to the sugar-cane and other agricultural industries of the colony during the period 1903 to 1915 is summarised in the following table in which the areas occupied by the varied industries are given in British acres:—

	Sugar Cane.	Rice.	Other Products.	Total areas under cultivation.
1903	78,860	17,503	21,442	117,805
1904	74,424	23,016	28,338	125,778
1905	76,011	25,347	30,940	132,298
1906	78,158	27,898	30,317	136,373
1907	74,441	31,196	27,943	133,580
1908	74,865	39,746	33,356	147,967
1909	73,224	27,540	31,901	132,760
1910	73,319	33,264	36,651	142,139
1911	72,138	37,826	40,487	150,451
1912	71,808	44,020	43,132	158,960
1913	72,698	35,582	43,832	152,072
1914	73,108	47,037	49,389	169,534
1915	75,744	50,737	49,888	176,369

The development of coco-nut cultivation is also rapid. The area planted in coco-nut palms in the colony showed a still further increase in 1915, whilst a steadily continued extension of the planting of coco-nuts may be expected. The total acreage under coco-nuts now is 17,920, a considerable increase over that of 1914. The development

of the industry during five-yearly periods since 1904 is shown in the following:—

Year.	Acres planted.
1904	5,140
1909	9,466
1914	15,894
1915	17,920

The export of coco-nuts during the year was 2,090,000, being 200,000 more than in the previous year. As much of the acreage consists of young and immature plants a continued increase in the export of this product may be anticipated during future years. The following table gives the export of coco-nuts for quinquennial periods since 1892:

Period.	Average annual exports.
1892	80,374 nuts.
1897	21,892 ..
1902	187,305 ..
1907	526,901 ..
1911 (4 years only)	1,593,235 ..

A small quantity of copra was exported—1,619 cwt., or a little less than in the previous year.

The varieties of coco-nuts raised at the Botanic Gardens from imported seed and from selected local nuts yielded a crop of 992 nuts. Of these 524 specially selected nuts were distributed for planting purposes. The yields were as follow:—

Singapore plants	366 nuts
Tobago plants	186 ..
Trinidad plants	62 ..
Local plants	378 ..

In the recent plantings of coco-nuts on the large scale more careful attention is being paid to the proper spacing of the plants, whilst the need for satisfactory drainage is being recognised. On many of the older plantations the palms are planted far too closely whilst the necessity for proper drainage has been in frequent instances more or less completely overlooked. The drains are allowed to become choked with weeds and the beds to be taken over with grass, and little attention is given to the control of insect pests and the avoidance of "bud rot." The Economic Biologist in his report draws attention to two formidable pests which were active on coco-nut palms during the year. These were the caterpillar of the butterfly *Brassolis Sophoree* which defoliated large areas of palms in the East Coast of Demerara, and swarms of the great locust *Tropidacris Latreillei* which defoliated numerous coco-nut plantations on the upper Corentyne Coast. Neither of these pests is new to the colony and the means necessary for keeping them under control are well-known, but a deplorable lack of interest is shown by many planters of coco-nuts in dealing with these destructive pests.

Rubber experienced a set-back, the acreage under this tree being 4,687, or 275 acres less than that of the preceding year, due to the throwing out of areas planted with *Sapium*, and the abandonment of small areas under *Hevea* in unsuitable localities. At the same time results obtained with the growing and preparation of Para rubber at the experiment stations were highly satisfactory.

The acreage under coffee showed an increase of 142 acres over 1914, and the gradual extension of

the area under cultivation with coffee mainly Liberian, during recent years is indicated by the following table:—

Year.	Areas under coffee.
1905	1,432 acres.
1910	2,546
1915	4,468

Cacao, on the other hand, showed a paper decrease in acreage of 434 acres, as compared with 1914; but this apparent falling off is attributed to many small cultivators returning their areas under young cacao as being under ground provisions. The stagnation of the cacao-growing industry is illustrated by the following table:—

Year.	Areas under cacao.
1905	1,994 acres.
1910	2,016
1915	2,020

The total area returned as planted in lime trees in the colony during 1915 was 972 acres, an increase of 283 acres over that of 1915. This acreage is mainly in the hands of two companies—Messrs. Davson & Co., of Pln. Providence, Berbice, and the Agatash Estates, Essequibo River. The export of citrate of lime was 170 cwt., or 71 cwt. more than in 1914.

It is now fully proved that lime trees grow well on the lighter lands of the colony wherever they are protected from the force of the wind. When it becomes more generally known that there are very large areas of loose friable land in the colony well adapted to this cultivation a rapid extension of the lime-growing industry should take place.

With regard to sugar much useful and interesting information is given by Professor Harrison. As regards new variety canes, crossings of some important kinds have been effected. One hundred and thirty-three thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven cuttings of various new varieties were distributed to the estates. Of these D-118 was the one most in favour.

The manurial experiments at the experimental fields showed that sulphate of ammonia compared with its equivalent in nitrogen as nitrate of soda, gave much better returns per acre, the yield of canes with the sulphate being 32.4 tons per acre with 3.69 tons saccharose, and with nitrate 27.7 tons with 3.04 tons saccharose. The results with superphosphate of lime did not support the conclusion that this fertilizer improved the quality of the juice.

As regards the estates cultivation, only 14.74 per cent. remained in Bourbon. D-625 was credited with 50.5 per cent.

The returns to the Board of Agriculture gave the estimated number of cattle in the colony as 97,768, including 10,000 hinterland cattle, or an increase of upwards of 8,000 over the previous year. The number of other stock returned during the years 1914 and 1915 were:—

	1914	1915
Horses	1,013	1,006
Mules	1,998	2,137
Donkeys	6,004	6,078
Buffaloes	99	136
Goats	14,831	15,290
Sheep	19,734	22,150
Swine	10,926	13,763

An outbreak of anthrax during the year caused much anxiety, and the difficulties of the Department of Agriculture in coping with it were enhanced by the opposition of the small proprietors.

BRITISH GUIANA.

It was announced on March 16th that the King had approved the appointment of Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, to be Governor of British Guiana, in succession to Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., who is retiring for reasons of health.

The retirement of Sir Walter Egerton will cause no surprise to those who are acquainted with the state of his health. Sir Walter returned to England from British Guiana last autumn, and it will be recalled that shortly after his arrival he was granted an audience by the King at Buckingham Palace. He spent the winter at Cheltenham, but while his general health improved his eyes continued to give him trouble, and he was warned by his doctors that he would not be able to return to the colony without permanently endangering his health. Sir Walter was appointed Governor of British Guiana in 1912, the Combined Court voting an increased salary in order to secure a "Governor of marked constructive ability." Shortly after his arrival at Georgetown schemes for the development of the hinterland of the colony were eagerly canvassed, and, accompanied by a railway expert, His Excellency made an extended tour in the interior, visiting Kaieteur and Roraima in the winter of 1912-13. Proposals for the construction of a railway were then discussed on the basis of the Combined Court giving the Government the control over expenditure in return for Imperial assistance. A scheme to this end was, however, negatived by the Secretary of State. The outbreak of war rendered any further discussion of the question then useless. After the departure of Sir Walter Egerton on leave an agitation for his recall was conducted by the unofficial members of the Combined Court, and a memorial on the subject was addressed to the Secretary of State. It may, however, be definitely stated that it is ill-health alone that has compelled Sir Walter to resign.

Sir Wilfred Collet, who now succeeds Sir Walter Egerton, was born in 1856, and spent the earlier years of his career as a civil servant in Fiji and the Western Pacific. He was appointed Colonial Secretary of British Honduras in 1905, and he has been Governor of the colony since 1913. He was awarded the C.M.G. in 1897, and received the honour of knighthood in 1915. He is an enthusiast about sanitation, and a lecture which he delivered at the West India Committee Rooms in 1909, showed him to be eager to bring the colony which he then represented before the notice of capitalists and settlers.

AGRICULTURE IN THE WEST INDIES.

The report of the Agricultural Department of St. Kitts-Nevis for the year 1915-16 shows that the export of sugar was the lowest that had occurred for fourteen years. The shortage was due mainly to the severe drought of 1914, and partly to anticipated low price of sugar at the time of planting the crop. B-147 was the standard variety planted, about 50 per cent. of the acreage being in this variety. It is mentioned that other newer varieties, D-106, D-116, A-2, and B-376, are coming into popularity owing to their heavier tonnage of canes.

Owing to the disturbed market conditions consequent on the War, and, in addition, to the high price of sugar, the acreage under cotton had been considerably reduced, the total area under cotton not exceeding 2,300 acres—a reduction of nearly

60 per cent. It is mentioned that the system of planting cotton as an intermediate crop with canes was being carried on with great success.

The exports of cotton-lint for the year amounted to 736,471 lbs. in 1915, as against 735,547 lbs. in 1914.

The unfavourable effect of low prices, high freight, and adverse seasons, says the report of the Agricultural Department of St. Vincent for 1915-16, caused cotton growers to reduce considerably their areas in cultivation. For the previous five years the area cultivated had been 4,200 acres, whereas the actual acreage planted for the 1915-16 crop was 2,621 acres, made up of 1,531 acres planted by estates, and 1,091 acres planted by small growers. As a consequence, the weight of lint shipped in 1915-16 was only 295,411 lbs., as against 323,326 lbs. in 1914-15, and 561,526 lbs. in 1910-11. Of the 1915-16 shipment, 237,387 lbs. consisted of Sea Island cotton. As regards the starch industry, an increase in the exports of arrowroot and a decrease in those of cassava starch on the 1915 figures were recorded. 5,290,781 lbs. of arrowroot was shipped for the year, as against 4,618,347 lbs. in 1914, together with 111,722 lbs. of cassava starch, as against 111,722 lbs.

The shipments of cacao showed a slight increase, being 230,843 lbs. against 225,146 lbs. in 1914. It is stated that a good deal of attention was being given to the unsatisfactory state of the cacao cultivation in the colony.

War prices for sugar had caused a considerable increase in the amount of sugar shipped. In 1914 the quantity was 281,990 lbs., in 1915, 505,232 lbs. Considerable progress was reported in the minor industries—Indian corn, coco-nuts, ground nuts, and peas.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Jamaica's Views Crystallised.

In last CIRCULAR we published the reply of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce to the despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the recommendations of the Economic Conference of the Allies. The reply of Jamaica to Mr. Walter Long's enquiries is embodied in a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting of the special Committee appointed by the Governor, which was held on January 20th. The resolutions are as follows:—

Moved by Mr. Levy, seconded by Mr. Farquharson:

1. "Whereas this committee have been requested to advise on certain questions as to the future commercial and industrial policy of the United Kingdom, raised by the conclusions of the Conference of the Allies, of which the first is—

"What industries are essential to the future safety of the nation, and what steps should be taken to maintain and establish them?"

this committee declare that, in their opinion, the industries essential to the safety of the nation in which Jamaica is specially concerned, are those of the supply of food, dye-stuffs, and tobacco, and that the leading products coming under this head are fruit (bananas, citrus fruits, and coco-nuts), sugar, coffee, cocoa, dyewood, dyewood extracts, tobacco, and manufactures thereof.

2. "That it does not appear feasible or necessary to assist the banana industry by means of tariff advantages, but that the export of citrus fruits would be materially stimulated by a preference being secured in shipments of the United Kingdom, British Possessions, Colonies, and Allied countries which do or may impose import duties on such fruits.

3. "That an increasing industry may develop in the manufacture of copra (dried coco-nut meat) and that care should be taken that admission of coco-nuts and of this product on most-favoured-nation terms of Allied countries is made secure.

4. "That preferential tariff treatment would be essential to, and would probably induce, very considerable development of the sugar industry; but that also countervailing duties should be arranged as a protection against bounties if and when these are again given by foreign countries.

5. "That the production of coffee would be stimulated if preferential treatment is generally given to British possessions and Colonies, and Jamaica is admitted to share therein.

"That the sale of coffee to French markets has been often unduly hampered by the tariff arrangements of that country, which demanded a heavy surtax when coffee was shipped by a steamer which called at any European port before reaching France; and that it would be a material assistance to trade with that country if this regulation could be altered.

6. "That the production of cocoa has steadily increased during recent years and may be further largely developed if the treatment suggested regarding coffee be applied also to this product.

7. "That this committee desires to direct attention to the anomalous position occupied by Jamaican produce in regard to French Customs duties, whereby Jamaican products come under the maximum tariff.

"They appeal to his Excellency the Governor to bespeak the attention of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the matter with a view to putting Jamaican produce on the most favourable terms possible.

8. "That whereas in the suggested lines of action the Conference of the Allies undertook to adopt measures for facilitating the exchange of products by the establishment of direct and rapid land and sea transport services at low rates, this committee represent that this would especially assist Jamaica exports and should be supported so far as possible, but that any subsidies given to steamship lines should be strictly dependent upon:—

(a) "Control of freight rates by the Government granting the subsidy, and by the fixing of maximum rates from time to time.

(b) "The prohibition of the formation of any conference or combine;

(c) "The prohibition of the granting of rebates dependent on the restriction of business to certain lines.

(d) "The provision of suitable accommodation for the safe conveyance of fruit or other perishable cargo.

9. "That this committee represent that the Tariff of this Colony has hitherto been framed with a view to the raising of necessary revenue, but that there would be no objection to the principle of preferential treatment to importations from the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and Colonies and to Allied nations being adopted provided that such treatment becomes the practice of the British Empire generally; but that nothing should be done to prevent similar arrangements with other friendly nations who grant reciprocal terms.

"Whereas an order having been placed by the Canadian Government Railway for the building of two steamers, which, when completed, are to ply between Halifax, St. John, New Brunswick, on the Atlantic, and Vancouver, B.C., on the Pacific, via the Panama Canal:

"Be it resolved that this committee recommends to his Excellency the Governor that he should request the Secretary of State for the Colonies to communicate to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, with a view to having those steamers built and equipped for the carriage

of bananas and other perishable fruit, and that inducements be offered to make Kingston, Jamaica, a port of call.

"And whereas the Blue-book of the Dominion of Canada discloses that the value of her imports of our principal products for the 11 months ending February, 1916, was as follows:—

Sugar	...	...	...	\$19,120,968
Coffee	...	...	...	1,560,994
Cocoa	...	...	...	956,515
Citrus fruit	...	...	...	2,905,798
Bananas	...	...	...	2,533,156

"Be it further resolved that His Excellency the Governor be requested to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies (a) to call the attention of the Canadian Government that two steamers would be unable to take care of the proportion of the above products which Jamaica could supply in addition to the commodities shipped from the Atlantic Provinces of Canada to the Pacific Provinces, and vice versa; (b) to endeavour to arrange with the Canadian Government for the extension of the service so as to allow of shipment of Canadian products to Jamaica and Jamaica products to Canada."

Moved by Mr. Farquharson and seconded by Mr. S. Soutar:—

"That a factor of great importance in the future development of the Colony would be the establishment of a dry dock capable of accommodating vessels of large tonnage, and that such dock should be established by means of Government aid.

Moved by Mr. Farquharson and seconded by Mr. Lionel de Mercado:—

"That this Committee is convinced that the continuous and increasing exodus of labourers from the Colony to seek work in foreign countries is impeding the development of the resources of the island, and that it is of urgent importance that early measures should be adopted to arrest such exodus by the creation of conditions which will induce an improvement in the status of the labouring population."

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

Mr. J. A. Voelcker, Ph.D., F.I.S., the well-known Agricultural Chemist, read a paper at the Royal Society of Arts on the 14th inst., on "Fertilizers and their Supply in War-time." Referring to the urgent need for the production of food-stuffs in the United Kingdom, Dr. Voelcker said that:—

"In the face of this fact, it is evident that it becomes a question of the highest moment that the sulphate of ammonia produced in this country should be retained, so far as our requirements go, strictly for use here. Some considerable amount is used for munitions, but what remains after this paramount need is supplied should be reserved for agricultural use. Until recently, when, on January 19th, the export of sulphate of ammonia was prohibited altogether, the question of export has been a 'burning' one between manufacturers (with traders) and agriculturists.

"The removal of competition in prices with nitrate of soda and the shortened supplies no doubt offered favourable inducements to export, and to this were added the advantages that the stock could be at once disposed of, the money obtained, and so kept in busy circulation. On the other hand, the agriculturists and mature manufacturers urgently required it, and ultimately, in August, 1916, the Board of Agriculture arranged with the Sulphate of Ammonia Association that farmers could obtain sulphate of ammonia until the end of September at the price of £15 per ton for immediate removal, the price for the 1916-17 season being £15 10s. per ton. It would appear that, previous to this, farmers had not sufficiently availed themselves of the opportunities of buying in their needed supplies. For this there were several reasons. For in-

stance, a farmer seldom has the facilities for storing any considerable quantity of manure on his farm, and he does not care to order it long before he knows exactly what his requirements will be, while added to this is the expectation that prices may be more favourable. These two sets of conditions, as affecting the traders on the one hand and the farmers on the other, acted favourably to the desire for export; and it is to be noted that the total exports in July-December, 1916, were only 2,900 tons less than in the corresponding period of 1915. Along with this is the significant fact that, while the exports to Spain, Holland, Java, West Indies, Japan, and the U.S.A. were less in 1916 than in 1915, and naturally more to France, there was an increased export in 1916 of 12,500 tons to "other countries" (this meaning Scandinavia and mainly Norway) over that of either 1915 or 1914. One can scarcely resist drawing the conclusion that a not inconsiderable amount of sulphate of ammonia produced in this country found its way during 1916 to countries where it should not have gone, and, further, that in the production of this a not inconsiderable amount of sulphuric acid was being used at a time when the manure manufacturers were not able to retain enough of it to make superphosphate for the farmers' needs. One may have a certain sympathy with the maker of sulphate of ammonia in that by export he turns his money over, and has not to store his goods, whereas if he sells to the farmer, the latter will want him to keep it for him until he is ready to use it; but in these days one ought to be patriotic, and it is not right that the only available nitrogenous manure should be sent out of the country, more especially if it has been made by using the acid of which the manure manufacturer is deprived.

"Now, however, by the order of January 19th, 1917, this has been put right, the export of sulphate of ammonia being altogether prohibited, and a price of £16 a ton (£15 10s. per ton at the works) being fixed. While, however, expressing satisfaction at this, I must say that I do not think it would have been unreasonable to call upon the farmer to state by a certain date what his probable requirements would be, and to ensure that sufficient stock be kept over to meet these. A further matter that has been pointed out to me is that the concession to the manure manufacturer to buy sulphate of ammonia at 10/- a ton less is hardly sufficiently liberal to recoup him for the extra cost of handling, storing, etc.

"When dealing with substitutes for superphosphate, I mentioned that the use of nitre-cake had been urged by the Board of Agriculture on superphosphate makers. I would now ask why it should not have been equally urged upon makers of sulphate of ammonia where the product is to be used as a fertiliser? One can understand why it should not be employed when munitions are concerned, but there is no absolute need for a farmer to have a 24 per cent. or 25 per cent. ammonia 'sulphate.' A much lower quality would do quite well, and the presence of the sulphate of soda would not constitute a bar. I am aware, of course, that there would be difficulties with this, but probably not greater ones than exist in making superphosphate with nitre-cake, and, if necessary, the salt could be purified by recrystallisation. I have examined samples of sulphate of ammonia thus made and containing over 24 per cent. of ammonia."

SPEAKING of the effect of "polishing" on the food value of rice, Mr. J. Sen, the Imperial Agricultural Chemist of India, considers that the alteration in composition which the rice undergoes in the process is of great significance from a dietary point of view. This is especially the case as regards beri-beri, which is now generally regarded as one of the "deficiency" diseases like scurvy or rickets. Most food articles in their natural state contain the curative substance, which are at times lost during the preparation of the food for the fastidious taste of the modern consumer. The polishing of rice deprives it of its essential constituent, phosphoric acid.

STARCH FROM THE BRACKEN.

Mr. J. E. Purvis, the Cambridge University Lecturer in Chemistry, has recently investigated the amount of starch to be found in the rhizome or underground stem of the Bracken fern *Pteris aquilina*, which is so common in this country, and the results of his experiments are recorded by Dr. Shipley in a letter published in *The Times* of March 14th. In his report Mr. Purvis stated:—

1. The crude rhizomes were shaken well in water so as to remove as much soil and dirt as possible, and then crushed. They were afterwards pulped in a sausage machine. The crushed mass was placed in a piece of fine muslin, immersed in water, and the starch was worked by hand through the pores of the muslin. The stuff was allowed to settle, the top water syphoned off, and the residue washed again two or three times. The crude starch was filtered, dried, and a weighed quantity of it converted into sugar in the usual way. This was then determined quantitatively and calculated to its value in starch. On the original weight of rhizomes it gave 1.7 per cent. starch.

2. Another lot was washed so as to get rid of the soil, but it was not dried; the adherent water was simply removed. On the original weight of rhizomes these produced 2.02 per cent. starch.

3. A third sample was well washed and dried, and gave 2.33 per cent. starch on the original weight of dried rhizomes.

Dr. Shipley points out: "The percentage of starch does not compare with that of the potato, which varies from 9.8 per cent. to 18.7 per cent., according to the season of the year, but I believe the potatoes were peeled, whereas our rhizomes were weighed with their thick "bark" unremoved. Still, the starch is there, and although in our laboratory experiments it was of a light slaty grey, instead of white, it is obviously capable of being used as starch and certainly as a source of food.

"If a commercial firm takes the matter up on a large scale, I have little doubt that better results will be obtained both as regards quantity and colour. The rhizome contains most starch in the early spring, before the shoots are given off, and it would then be most advantageously gathered. Those which we experimented with came from the Cambridge Botanic Garden, where the soil is soft; it might be much more difficult to dig them up from the hard and wild ground of Scotland, Wales, etc. But all around Hertford there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of acres of bracken which grows in a sandy soil and attains a height of 6 ft. Here there should be no difficulty in pulling up the underground stems.

"The advantages that bracken presents as a starch-producing plant are:—

- (1) It costs nothing. It is self-sown and requires no cultivation, no manuring, and no tending of any kind.
- (2) Its eradication would be welcomed by every agriculturist, farmer, and sportsman.

"The disadvantages are:—

- (1) That the amount of starch may not justify the employment of labour to dig it up.
- (2) Neither in amount nor in quality is the starch quite first class."

DURING January 179 ocean-going vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 557,839 tons, passed through the Panama Canal.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

It is proposed to hold the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee shortly after Easter.

It cannot be too widely known that the Contingent Committee is glad to provide accommodation at one of the various Clubs for men of the Overseas forces free of charge for men connected with the West Indies on draft leave or on discharge from hospital. Such men need not feel lonely, for the Committee is glad to obtain for them tickets for various places of amusement and otherwise to look after them.

Officers of the British West Indies Regiment and West Indians holding Commissions in English regiments who may be in London on leave or in hospital are requested to forward their addresses to the West Indian Contingent Committee, as offers of hospitality and invitations to Buckingham Palace and various entertainments are received for them by the Committee.

The General Purposes Committee of the Contingent Committee have decided to invite friends in the West Indies to organise a West Indian Flag Day in aid of their fund. Small silk and other flags bearing the badge of the B.W.I. Regiment are being printed in considerable numbers, and it is proposed shortly to send these out, with collecting boxes, etc., to the various colonies.

The Contingent Committee, in response to requests received, have just sent out 500 pairs of stout gloves to the British West Indies Regiment in France, cricket bats and balls for one of the latest drafts, and cigarettes, cardigans, slippers, draughts, dominoes, mouth organs, etc., to a hospital through which West Indians are constantly passing. The cigarettes were sent through the "Smokes Soldiers Sailors" Society, and the comforts through the Director of Voluntary Organisations, with whom the Committee is in close co-operation.

* * *

As already announced the headquarters of the Ladies' Committee will be transferred to 15, Seething Lane at the end of March. An office has been secured on the third floor at that address where luggage can be stored and parcels packed. The work parties will, however, be held every Wednesday, at 20, Emmismore Gardens, S.W., through the courtesy of Lady Davson, the Chairman of the Committee. With the approach of spring the demand for anti-verminous underclothing is on the increase, and it is hoped that the work parties will be well attended.

The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:—

Lady King : 6 prs. socks, 6 caps.
 Lady Hodgson : 12 prs. socks, 11 packs of cards.
 Mrs. W. Conrad : 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. Woodroffe : 1 scarf.
 Mrs. Nourse : 5 waistcoats, 6 helmets, 6 prs. mittens.

Mrs. Archibald Pile : 5 prs. socks, 5 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. Edward Irving Hopkins : 1 muffler.
 Miss Mann : 1 muffler.
 Miss Cowie : newspapers.
 Mrs. Jobu Bromley : magazines.
 Lady Sendall : 3 prs. socks.
 Miss Hill : 2 mufflers.
 Mrs. Paine : 1 helmet.
 Lady Hayes Sadler : 5 caps, 1 helmet, 1 pr. socks, magazines.
 Miss Peterkin : 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. Cathcart Wason : 1 waistcoat, 5 mufflers, 12 prs. mittens, 12 prs. socks, 1 cap.
 Lady Sendall : 1 pr. gloves, 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Morris : 1 sweater for Trinidad soldier.
 Mrs. Wade : 4 mufflers, 1 shirt, 2 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. E. B. Arthur : 4 helmets.
 The Ladies' West India Committee, Trinidad : 11 mufflers, 21 prs. socks, 6 prs. mittens, 3 doz. handkerchiefs, 1 helmet, 1 pr. pyjamas, 2 vests, 2 prs. drawers, 1 chamois vest, 1 chamois chest protector, 1 pr. stockings.
 Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas : 2 mufflers, 1 chest protector, 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. Wade : 3 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
 Lady Le Hunte : 6 prs. socks.
 Miss Morris : sweater for Trinidad soldier.
 Lady Davson : 3 prs. socks.
 Mrs. W. C. Anderson : 3 prs. socks, 1 pr. slippers, 1 pr. operating stockings.
 Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Atkinson : 4 mufflers.
 Lady Hayes Sadler : 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Hollings : 1 pr. socks.
 Lady Cameron : 3 mufflers, 2 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. Luke Hill : 6 prs. socks.
 Mr. C. B. Hamilton : magazines.
 Mrs. Arthur Johnson : 2 mufflers and magazines.
 Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Fairaudeau : magazines and 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Wade : 2 prs. socks.
 Lady Hayes Sadler : 1 cap.
 Mrs. Cathcart Wason : 12 prs. socks.
 Miss Bratt : 1 muffler, 3 prs. socks.
 Lady Cameron : magazines.
 Mrs. Algernon Aspinall : 3 prs. socks.
 Games, such as dominoes, draughts, etc., are much needed.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies and Bermuda who are sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

BAHAMAS.

Lieut. F. T. Menendez, London; Lee-Corpl. J. H. Knowles, Somerset Light Infantry, Birmingham.

BARBADOS.

Second Lieut. Crawford, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Officers' Convalescent Home, Gt. Central Hotel; Pte. F. V. Barnes, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Newcastle; Pte. H. A. Gill, Newcastle; Pte. R. A. North, Thirsk, Yorks; Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Chichester. Pte. B. T. Seale, East Dulwich; Pte. C. A. Wood, Cardiff; Pte. A. L. Browne, Lincoln.

BERMUDA.

(All Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, attached Lincolnshire Regiment.)

Pte. J. Foreman, Croydon; Pte. C. H. Thompson, London; Pte. H. B. Davies, Liverpool; Pte. R. McNichol, London; Sgt. G. Tite, Dublin; Pte. A. B. Marshall, Warrington; Pte. G. A. Clark, Pte. E. Rodrigues, London.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Second Lieut. Kenneth M. Leighton, I.L.I., Wandsworth; Pte. Geo. W. Hayley, Brighton.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Lambert Fraser, British West Indies Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. P. Ryan, Royal Fusiliers, Hammersmith.

TRINIDAD.

Trooper O. Hamel-Smith, London; Rifleman E. Knowles, Eastbourne; Trooper H. Patterson, London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Major C. S. Sanghinetti, 27, Berkeley Square, London; Major G. W. R. Jenkins, Officers' Convalescent Home, Great Central Hotel; 2nd Lieut. A. E. Thompson, Manchester; 2nd Lieut. W. F. Albury, 17, Upper Grosvenor Street, London; 2nd Lieut. A. H. Dunlop, Wandsworth; Regt.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

MAJOR GEORGE CAREW, particulars of whose death have just reached us, was the proprietor of Stowe Estate in Dominica. Soon after the outbreak of war he obtained a commission in the Dorsets, and he was acting second in command of a battalion of that regiment when he received the fatal wounds to which he succumbed. Second Lieut. Walter H. Flear, who was with Captain Carew—as he then was—at the time, and has since been awarded the Military Cross, wrote to Mrs. Carew:—

"I had been ordered to accompany him and eight men taking water up to the companies holding the front line. It was a difficult and dangerous journey. The men, besides their rifles, had two cans of water to carry and the mud was very bad. Captain Carew was cheering the men on all the way, putting in a cheerful word in a wonderfully encouraging manner and even bearing a hand himself in carrying water. The last thing I saw him do was to haul a man who had sunk to his waist in mud from out of a shell hole. Was not that characteristic? A few minutes later I was sent to the rear to hurry up a couple of men who were straggling. I was called by the men in front and returned to find Captain Carew lying wounded. Even then as I knelt beside him he would not think of himself but only of the need for water up in front. He told me I must push on and get through at any cost. Then I was wounded and he said 'I am sorry,' but as I was not seriously wounded he urged me to push on and not worry about him. I am thankful to say that within two or three minutes I was able to get a Doctor and stretcher bearers to him."

Captain Carew died about twenty-four hours later and his promotion to the rank of Major was subsequently gazetted. He leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

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.

Becher, 2nd Lieut. E. C. (son of Major E. F. Becher, of Sherwood, Dominica), Royal Field Artillery. *At the Front.*

Leighton, 2nd Lieut. Kenneth M. (son of Mr. Leighton, of Georgetown, Demerara), Highland Light Infantry, attached to Machine Gun Corps.

Prada, 2nd Lieut. Louis R. (son of the Hon. E. Prada, of Trinidad), late Artists' Rifles, has obtained a Commission in the East Lancashire Regiment.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

Aird, Pte. John, Royal Fusiliers (Dominica Contingent), has been attached to the Army Pay Department, B.E.F.
Armstrong, Sergt. E. Lindsay, King's Royal Rifle Corps (Barbados), has been admitted to an Officer Cadet Battalion.

SUGAR IN MAURITIUS.

The Chemical Mutual Control of the Mauritius sugar industry has published the results of the working of the sugar crop of 1915 of that island. In the 28 factories included in the control, the percentage of sugar in the cane varied from 15.23 to 12.64, the calculated fibre in the cane varying from 10.87 per cent. to 14.50 per cent.

As regards extraction of sugar, the work done by the mills was shown by an extraction of sugar in juice on sugar in cane ranging from 86.5 per cent. to 93.4 per cent. The boiling house extraction varied from 84.1 per cent. to 89.1 per cent. In the latter case 87.9 per cent. was "vesou," or first sugar. The purity of the juice varied from 83.3 to 87.4, and the amount of maceration water used per weight of canes from 6.11 per cent. to 24.75 per cent.

The extra fuel consumption, expressed as coal was, in the lowest instance, 3.3 lbs. per ton of canes, and in the highest, 78.5 lbs.

COFFEE PLANTATION MACHINERY.

The planter of an earlier generation, could he but see the appliances which the engineering skill and invention of the day have put at the service of his descendants, would be lost in amazement at the multitude of advantages which he in his time had perforce to do without. Space, labour, and time-saving devices are continually multiplying, and in view of the strict economy which the world's demand for tropical products will presently enforce upon the planter, only the perfectly equipped estate will survive in the competition that is coming.

As an illustration of what engineering science has done to assist in the rapid and perfect preparation of but one tropical product, we would commend to our readers the book catalogue, entitled "Coffee: Its Treatment," issued by Messrs. Wm. McKimmon & Co., Ltd., of Spring Garden Ironworks, Aberdeen. The firm claim that this work is "a book of reference, not merely a catalogue," and we feel sure that every practical coffee planter will endorse the claim. In giving illustrations and descriptions of the various machines and appliances they manufacture, Messrs. McKimmon have in fact compiled a complete guide to economic coffee preparation. From the shrub to the market, all the general and particular difficulties by which the planter is faced are met and overcome. Local conditions and the various species of coffee are considered and catered for, and it would be difficult to suggest a need of the planter that has not been met.

Pulpers of all kinds are shown, and their special advantages explained. Troughs for feeding pulpers, feed-rollers for hoppers of existing pulpers, draining plates, ejectors, washers, elevators, etc., are then dealt with. Dryers are next discussed, and in this connection it is interesting to recall the report of Mr. W. H. Reed and Mr. R. D. Anstead on the working of Messrs. McKimmon's coffee dryers on a Mysore coffee estate, which bore eloquent witness to the advantages of the dryer over the old method of sun-drying. Descriptions of hullers, peelers, polishers, graders, and separators follow, and the catalogue concludes with explanations of the boilers, engines, etc., suitable for large or small estates. Every machine is priced, and its weight and dimensions are given, so that freight charges can be readily calculated, and the actual cost of the machine on the estate known. A really practical book that should be in the hands of every coffee planter.

MISS HAZEL ATKINSON, youngest daughter of Mr. E. L. Atkinson, is in France driving an ambulance for the British Red Cross Society.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. JOHN Q. ROWETT kindly presented to the West India Committee an engraving of the Parade, Kingston, Jamaica, which he purchased on the occasion of the sale of Jamaica rum for the benefit of the Grand Fleet.

MR. F. J. MORRIS, the well-known British Guiana and Trinidad sugar planter, has been appointed superintendent of the factories of the Sena Sugar Factory Co., Ltd., on the Zambesi, in Portuguese East Africa.

MR. JAMES SHAW, who died on March 4th, at his residence, 70, Argyle Road, Ealing, aged 74, was for many years manager of La Bonne Intention, Demerara. Besides many friends he leaves a widow and a son who is a captain in the Royal Field Artillery.

MR. H. B. WALCOTT, C.M.G., Collector of Customs for Trinidad and Tobago, returned to England recently for the benefit of his health. He has had the misfortune to contract bronchial pneumonia, from which, however, we are glad to say, he is now recovering.

MR. W. A. M. GOODE informs us that the National Committee for Relief in Belgium has received in response to their Christmas Appeal £52 3s. 7d. collected in Antigua through the Colonial Secretary, and £1 15s. through the manager of the Colonial Bank in St. Vincent.

We regret to learn that the winter steamer service between Nassau, Bahamas, and Jacksonville, Florida, the inauguration of which was recently announced in the CIRCULAR, has had to be abandoned for this season on account of conditions brought about by the war. It is much to be hoped that it will be possible to resume it next winter.

It will be surprising if another officer of the British West Indies Regiment is not "mentioned" or decorated. We refer to a very gallant young officer from Jamaica who was attached to the Flying Corps to be trained as an observer. His pilot was killed in an air fight, and our hero climbed into his place and brought the aeroplane down safely, although he had never before flown a machine, and his clothes were riddled with bullets!

THE Rev. James Aiken, whose induction as Minister of St. James', Forfar, was announced in a recent CIRCULAR, has accepted an offer from the Government of appointment as entomologist for service in mosquito prevention with the forces in Mesopotamia. Few people know more about the mosquito and its habits and life-history than Mr. Aiken, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Presbytery have granted him the necessary leave of absence.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, who will shortly vacate the

position of Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, has continued to maintain a close interest in the West Indies since he left Jamaica in 1913, after being the Governor of the Colony for six years. Sir Sydney is to be succeeded at the Board by Mr. A. D. Hall, whose name is well known in connection with the Rothamsted Experimental Station of the Lawes Agricultural Trust, of which he was Director from 1902 to 1912.

THE Colony of Barbados has decided, through the House of Assembly, to present to the Mother Country a sum of £40,000 as a further free gift for prosecuting the war. Including the sums of £20,000 contributed in 1915 and last year, the gifts from the public funds of the Colony now amount to £80,000. His Majesty's Government have expressed their high appreciation of the support which Barbados is giving to the common cause in this and other ways.

MR. H. F. STOCKDALE informs us that as the outcome of the appeal recently published in the CIRCULAR on behalf of the Sugar School of the Royal Technical College of Glasgow, the following subscriptions have been received or promised:—

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

- Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.—£100 per annum for five years.
- Messrs. The Demerara Co., Ltd.—£50 per annum for five years.
- Messrs. Henry Tate and Sons, Ltd.—£50 per annum for five years.
- Messrs. Leonora, Ltd.—£25 per annum for five years.
- Messrs. The Wales Estates (Demerara) Ltd.—£10 per annum for five years.
- Messrs. The Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co.—£10 per annum until further instructions.

DONATIONS.

- Messrs. The Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Co., Ltd.—£52 10s.
- Messrs. Blythe, Greene, Fountain and Co.—£10 10s.
- Messrs. John Walker & Co.—£10.

Full particulars as to the School and its work were published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 479, of February 8th. We shall be glad to receive and forward to the proper quarter further subscriptions and donations towards the maintenance of the School, which is doing admirable work.

THE following statement showing by what lines the cacao crop of Trinidad in 1916 was shipped, is published in the Proceedings of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago.

Steamship Line.	Tons of Cacao.	Destination.
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	4,250	Europe.
Joint Service	21,120	"
French Mail	53,421	"
Italian Line	13,292	"
Trinidad Line Steamers	140,238	New York.
Lampport and Holt Line	11,944	"
Dutch Line	300	"
"Prinnee" Line	25,835	"
S.S. <i>Oliver Olsen</i>	2,300	"
S.S. <i>Neptun</i>	5,150	"
R.M.S.P. Canadian Line	5,318	"
Total	334,168	

NATURE NOTES.

THE *Journal of Agricultural Research* for January 23rd contains an article by Mr. H. D. Young on the effect of fertilisers on the composition and quality of oranges. As the result of a considerable number of experiments, nitrogen appeared to be the only fertiliser which exercised a specific effect on the composition of oranges, resulting in a slightly lower amount of sugar, a somewhat coarser fruit, and a little less juice. Combination with potash or phosphoric acid, or both, made no difference in the effect of the nitrogen.

A RECENT number of the *Tropical Agriculturist* gives some useful particulars as to the cultivation of sumac, that valuable source of tannin. The soil required is dry and loose, the best being a clay soil with lime and silica mixed. It does not grow well in damp, compact ground, and it does not seem to matter much if the soil is rich or poor, so long as it is dry; but soils of volcanic origin were the best.

The sumac is planted in furrows, 8 ins. wide, 6 ins. deep, and 27 ins. apart, the plants being placed 27 ins. apart in the furrow. The sprouts must be a year old, taken from a full-grown plant, and care must be exercised that the roots are entire. The ground should be ploughed twice about four to six months previous to planting, and the plants should be cut down to within 6 ins. of the ground. The ground should be forked six times in the first year, the first three forkings being deep, the others only light.

The leaf crop is gathered when the leaves begin to turn yellow. First the leaves near the stalk up to about the middle of the limb are picked, and 20 or 24 days later half of the remaining leaves are gathered, and after a few days the ends of the twigs are cut off. The twigs are piled on a floor and are turned three or four times a day with a fork. After the leaves are separated from the wood, they are packed in bales for shipment. Suitable soil, with much heat, produces the greatest amount of tannin.

IN tobacco cultivation, the production of leaves for cigar-wrapping is an important matter, and the *Philippine Agriculturist* has recently given the results of interesting work in this direction by means of artificial shade carried out at the College of Agriculture in the Philippines. The shade covered an area of one-fifth of an acre, and the material used for shade was the fabric used for mosquito nets.

IN reaping the crop, the leaves were gathered singly from the stalk as soon as they had attained the proper degree of ripeness. In curing, the leaves were never exposed to the direct rays of the sun. As regards fermentation, the course adopted was ageing first and fermentation after-

wards. The results were very good, the leaves produced under shade being equal, if not superior, to the Sunatra quality.

DR. C. STADEL has finished his report on the *Hevea* leaf disease at Surinam. He finds that the disease is caused by a fungus which has three different fructifications, the one on old leaves, another on recently expanded leaves, and the third on young leaves alone. The latter constitute the serious source of infection. It is recommended that the infected plantation be kept free from young leaves for three or four weeks, the operation to be repeated from time to time, and to be conducted simultaneously on adjoining estates.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

DOMINICA—The Strength of the Entente.

A correspondent writes under date February 12th: The *entente cordiale* is strong in the West Indies. The school children of Martinique have subscribed 473 francs for the sufferers by the hurricane in Dominica "in grateful memory of the assistance and hospitality extended by the Dominicans to the inhabitants of Martinique." This refers to what the people of Dominica did for those of Martinique at the time of the devastating eruptions of Mont Pele.

The peasant proprietors have been advised to take up cane cultivation again, as one of the means to restore their prosperity, which received a serious setback in consequence of the storms of last year. Many of them have set to work enthusiastically to prepare land for cane plants, and the Government has arranged to distribute all the plants required. Antigua and St. Kitts have offered to supply plants at a price which is not below their value, whilst Guadeloupe and Martinique (our French neighbours) have offered to supply as a gift all the plants Dominica wants free of cost and to deliver them in Dominica freight free. In this instance our brother colonists of Antigua and St. Kitts have not turned out to be the good Samaritans.

The Legislative Council met on the 1st February, and passed, with slight amendments, the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1917-18. The estimates were drawn up with a view to economy, for last year entailed a considerable expenditure to restore the damage done by the storms to the roads, buildings, etc., and what the President in his speech described as "the silent pressure of the war" has caused a diminished revenue. The "road programme" for the coming year has been stopped.

A sum of £500 was passed as subsidy for the French mail steamers, which now call at Dominica to pick up and deliver European mails. Up to now the Company has carried out the service gratuitously, but a new port of call means extra expense in running the mail steamers, and this, of course, must be met by the island—which benefits by the arrangement.

The death of the Hon. W. H. Whyham, I.S.O., the Acting Colonial Secretary of Antigua, gave rise to much regret in Dominica, where he had served at various times as Magistrate, Acting Commissioner and Acting President. The Legislative Council passed a resolution of condolence which will be sent to his widow.

An Order in Council has been promulgated permitting the holding of the Carnival on the 19th and 20th February under somewhat restricted conditions as to time—which will extend on both days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. To permit the people to indulge in noisy, joyous, public masquerading, whilst the nation is engaged in a great war rendered sorrowful by the heavy carnage, and horrible by German savagery, is unseemly (to say the least of it) in the opinion of many people of weight and influence in the island. And it is, perhaps, to be regretted that the Carnival was not stopped during the first year of hostilities.

The Administrator left on the 9th inst. to attend a meeting of the Federal Council in Antigua, and the Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O., Treasurer, has been sworn in.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Colonial Civil Service.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I read with interest, a letter which appeared in the *Times* of the 25th of January, written by the Secretary of the West India Committee on the question of the Crown Colonies being represented at the coming Imperial Conference. I quite agree with him that it would be impossible for one person to represent all the different Crown Colonies spread over the various parts of the globe. But any Secretary of State for the Colonies who undertook to represent them at the Conference, i.e., the Crown Colonies, would have to consider many little particulars of their differences. There is one point which I have often thought is not borne sufficiently in mind, i.e., that the civil servants of any particular colony are not sufficiently regarded as servants of the Empire. I will mention one or two instances to show this. Firstly, there is the question of double income tax, a matter which should be arranged between the mother country and any particular colony in such a way as not to tell too heavily upon the individual. Again, there are some Crown Colonies where, if you only remain in their service a certain time you are not entitled to any pension. I, for example, get no pension from Barbados, where I was for about two years—no pension from British Guiana, where I was for more than a year. In my opinion wherever you serve as a civil servant you are in the service of the Empire, and your pension should not be interrupted because you are moved from one place to another. The question of coinage should also be considered. When I first went to Mauritius I was paid in sterling. One day a law was passed replacing the sterling by rupees—the result was a loss to many. The above are just a few points which require consideration when taking steps to make every British subject feel that he belongs to our Empire. We hear a great deal about our Dominions and their responsible Governments; but we must not forget the large populations which have the Crown Colonies for their homes. I am afraid I am writing at some length, but I take an interest in our Crown Colonies, having served in more of them than perhaps any other Colonial servant. I went first to Mauritius, then to Jamaica, then to Barbados, then to British Guiana, then to Ceylon, then back to Mauritius, then to Hong Kong, then to Sierra Leone, and then to the Leeward Islands.

I am, etc.,
FRANCIS FLEMING.

7th February, 1917.

A Balloon wanted!

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—To wanderers, like ourselves, from tropical climes, surrounded, as we are now, by the ice and snow of a semi-arctic winter, and cold as the charity of a converted cannibal, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR brings with it in some inexplicable fashion a subtle suggestion of blue skies and sunshine, renewing within us the flickering hope of that longed-for future when, putting off the panoply of war, we may, *more Cinchmati* (Rome, not U.S.A.), grasp once more the humble hoe, and resume our cultivation of the fertile yam-patch.

But, meanwhile, there are things to be done; and in this connection we have a grievance to air, if you will allow us.

You, Sir, have lately been appealing on behalf of the Overseas Club for subscriptions for the purpose of completing a flotilla of aeroplanes for the Royal Flying Corps. This, we agree, is an excellent object—none better—and we wish you every success in your endeavour. But may we point out that the activities of the R.F.C. are not confined to aeroplanes. We, Sir, are interested—very interested—in observation balloons, and we are hurt at our particular branch of industry being left out in the cold. It's chilly enough without that, as anyone who has tried it will tell you.

To put the matter in a nutshell, do not ignore the claim of balloons. They have many things to commend them, but the mention of one should suffice, namely, that

the Boche doesn't like them. So will you, please, include balloons in your appeal? Or, if it is too late to do that, may we make a personal appeal through your columns to our friends in Trinidad and Dominica?

Well, then, old pals of palmier days, will you foot the bill for a "Dominica" and a "Trinidad" balloon, just as you did for the "Dominica I," "Dominica II," and "Trinidad" aeroplanes? Make the presentation exactly as was done in the case of the planes. £500 per balloon will do the trick. Only, buck up, or the war may be over before the goods are delivered. If that happens while they are in transit, through no fault of your own, we pledge ourselves (D.V.) to take you for joy-rides in them over your respective savannahs "*après la guerre*." Can we offer more?

Anyhow, seriously, come up to the scratch, as you did before, and don't let two of your fellow-citizens appeal to you in vain for such a cause.

With many thanks to you, Mr. Editor, for the space which we feel sure that you will, with your unflinching courtesy, accord us.

We are, yours very sincerely,
FRANCIS B. B. SHAND,
STANLEY S. STONE,
Royal Flying Corps.

The Marine Society.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I hope you will excuse my troubling you at the present crisis in the Empire's history, but that crisis must itself be my main excuse; and the close association which has existed between the West India Committee and this Society, dating from nearly a century and a half ago, will doubtless assure that this petition be not passed by without response. The fitness of such help being given by those interested in the oldest British Possessions to the oldest Society to train for boys to weave the web of Empire across the ocean to unite us is obvious, and we must also remember that both "West India" and "Warspite" are synonymous with "excellent" in the description of their products.

The Marine Society was instituted in 1756, when the urgency of a supply of seamen for our ships was first recognised to be a public concern. Since that date it has equipped and sent to sea 67,430 British boys. It was also the first Society to institute a Training Ship over 130 years ago, to which the *Warspite* is the fifth in direct succession, and this example in thus preventing destitution and crime, and in providing for the main support of the Empire—the sea services—has been imitated throughout the world.

When we try to imagine what would have been the effect on the Empire's history had this large number of boys not been trained and placed in useful paths of life, and how their posterity would have in many cases been a hindrance rather than assistance towards the progress of the Empire, we can realise in some slight degree how the boys of the "Warspite" breed have striven and wrought to defend and develop the Empire.

Owing to the absorption by both the Royal Navy and the Merchant Service of a continuous supply of lads from the *Warspite*, and to the special reasons in connection with the War for the maintenance and increase of this supply, the Marine Society now appeals once again for support in its work of training boys for the sea. It has already, to meet the needs of the hour and of the future, increased the number of boys in the *Warspite* to 250, and in consequence has considerably overdrawn its account at the Bank.

It asks your help to continue and increase this National work at a time when the country is more than ever dependent upon British seamen for its defence and means of subsistence.

Trusting this application will receive favourable consideration,

I am, as ever,
Yours very faithfully,
THOS. E. SEDGWICK,
Secretary.

Marine Society's Office,
Clark's Place, Bishopsgate, E.C.

OUR LIBRARY.

Oil-Field Development and Petroleum Mining. By A. Beeby Thompson, M.I.Mech.E., M.Inst.M.M., F.G.S. London: Crosby Lockwood and Son. Pp. 648, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 152 illustrations, xvii. tables. Price 25/- (Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, post free 26/-.)

To all interested in oilfield development, whether as prospectors, engineers, financiers, small investors or proprietors, this comprehensive, authoritative, and well-written treatise should prove most valuable. Mr. Thompson's earlier work, "Petroleum Mining," revised and, to a great extent, re-written, is incorporated in the present volume, which surveys the whole field of the petroleum industry in the most practical manner.

The general scheme of the book is excellent. We have not met any work of a technical nature in which difficult points are explained more lucidly, or in which the matters dealt with have been more skilfully co-ordinated. The reader is led easily from broad general principles and the main theories of petroleum mining to the practical details of everyday work on the oilfields. Thus the introductory chapter deals with the history of petroleum in the Old and New Worlds, and with its geographical distribution. Following this we have a summary of the prevailing systems of oil-field tenure, and of the methods of valuation, with notes on waste and its prevention.

The geology of the oil-field is then described, with the factors governing the distribution of petroleum. This section of the work contains excellent descriptions of the various indications of petroleum which the prospector needs to understand, and of the geological structure of typical oil-fields. We are also given a brief synopsis of the rival theories of the origin of petroleum, followed by notes on the composition and character of the oil and on its uses and by-products, and the methods of refining. Subsequent chapters deal exhaustively with petroleum mining, the machinery used, and the many difficulties which have to be overcome in practice; and the book concludes with notes on oil-field organisation, accountancy, and the compilation of statistical records.

Directors of companies, investors, and private developers will find the chapter dealing with the cost of oil-field development, and the vagaries of prices for the various forms of petroleum, most useful; for in it are clearly described the financial pitfalls which have proved so disastrous to individuals and companies that have unwittingly or wilfully ignored them. Mr. Thompson points out again and again that the main factor of success in oil-field development is sound finance, and that sound finance does not necessarily mean large capital, but always means ample working expenses for drilling; for "it is obvious that it is drilling alone which will secure, maintain, or increase production. Tankage and pipeline provision for contingencies that never arise are a fruitful object of needless expenditure and diversion of funds, urgently required for the operation which alone will yield the material to transport and fill the tanks." These are wise words, and should be memorised by all interested in oil-field development.

In another place Mr. Thompson writes: "It would be well to dispel the fallacy which has been obtrusively circulated that oil-field development requires much more money than other commercial enterprises. The cost of equipping an average oil property bears no relationship to that required for a mine of the same tonnage; indeed, the development of an oil property that lies within the sphere of railways and roads is often well within the means of a private well-to-do citizen." Of course, the prospecting and opening up of the wilderness, as Mr. Thompson points out, is quite another matter.

Our Trinidad readers will welcome Mr. Thompson's appreciation of the oil-fields of the island. Their development, he says, has been impeded by scarcity of roads in the oil districts and absence of transport facilities, and we must hope that in the time to come it will be recognised that the development of so important an Imperial asset as the Trinidad oil-fields, will receive assistance from the Home Government in this regard. "Manifestations of petroleum on a phenomenal scale," writes Mr. Thompson, "are to be observed at many points in the southern half of the island." The Empire is not so rich in "phenomenal" oil-fields that it can afford to neglect this latent wealth. In Barbados also, Mr. Thompson finds "numerous and unmistakable indications of oil," and he asserts that "nowhere does the thickness of coral preclude the possibility of reaching the petroliferous sedimentary beds beneath."

Very interesting are those chapters which deal with the much debated question of the origin of petroleum, and Mr. Thompson states the various theories with great fairness. On the whole the theory which ascribes the oil to animal deposits is the most plausible, though there are objections which have not been overcome, at any rate, to the satisfaction of science. One of the prime difficulties of the problem is that petroleum is not necessarily or even probably found where originally deposited; and Mr. Thompson's notes on the migration of the oil are not only of scientific interest, they are also essentially practical, for a knowledge of the many factors which may affect this movement is necessary to a proper understanding of the construction of oil-wells. Gas, water, capillary attraction, and gravitation all play their part in this migration, which, even if the actual deposit of oil has now ceased, is still taking place. The movement of oil is often very sudden in worked oil-fields, owing to the displacement of the saturated sands, the liberation of gas, and the passage of water.

Mr. Thompson recognises to the full the value of scientific theory, but he rightly condemns those extremists who maintain that until all is known, nothing can be done. "Many of the greatest oil-fields of the world," he explains, "were discovered and worked before geologists or chemists were aware of the elementary conditions that promote the accumulation of oil." Which is, happily or unhappily, precisely what generally happens, the practical man does things, and then science steps in and explains how the things were done.

With Mr. Thompson's elaborate descriptions of machinery and of the various methods of drilling in vogue we have not space to deal; we can only say that, full of technicalities as they necessarily are, we have not come across a single description which the ordinary educated layman could fail to understand. This in itself is no inconsiderable achievement. The treatise, moreover, is very fully illustrated, and contains some excellent maps showing the world's oil-fields.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—664 Central.

15, SEETHING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib, London"

LONDON, E.C. 3.

March 21st, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as from the 18th of January. First War Loan (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) is quoted at 85 $\frac{1}{2}$; Second War Loan (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$. The new Victory Loan is not yet quoted. Consols stand at 53 $\frac{1}{2}$.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS. These for February were issued, but recalled on account of error. The amended returns have just arrived, too late for insertion in the present Summary.

SUGAR. No further action as regards the price of sugar in the United Kingdom has been taken by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, one of the members of which, Sir William Slaughter, has, we regret to state, just died. In view, however, of the high world's price of sugar, an increase in the price of Government sugar, and, *pari passu*, in that of sugar imported under licence, may be expected.

The Food Controller has, meanwhile, issued an order, dated March 16th, by which manufacturers making any article containing sugar for sale are further limited in their 1917 supplies. The 1915 supplies are taken as the standard, and of these, 20 per cent. will be allowed for the first six months, 30 per cent. for the following three months, and 40 per cent. for the last three months. The manufacture of jam, marmalade, and condensed milk is exempted from the operation of the order. The 50 per

cent. hitherto allowed has thus been cut down to 27½ per cent. It may be presumed that the low amount allowed for the first six months has been fixed with the view of confectioners working up large stocks in hand, and thus relieving the general situation.

It has also been announced that the general supply of sugar in the near future will be temporarily reduced, and a 1lb. per head per week ration only supplied. Arrangements are, however, being made with the Shipping Controller with the view of more tonnage being provided for sugar later on. The period of great scarcity would continue until the end of April. An order is being issued to make it an offence to insist upon the purchase of other goods with sugar. This is not likely to improve matters much as regards distribution, as the inevitable result will be a "No" to the enquiry of the would-be purchaser who wants nothing else than sugar. Lord Devouport states, also, that he is convinced that there has been a leakage from retailers selling sugar for other than domestic purposes; perhaps, he adds, to mineral water and jam makers.

The progress of the Cuban crop is still being retarded by the insurrectionary movement, and returns of deliveries at sea ports only continue to be available. The receipts at these for the week ending the 10th inst. were 107,832 tons, as against 116,000 tons for the preceding week—an amount which, at the period of what should be the biggest output, does not suggest a satisfactory position of affairs. There appears to have been some destruction of sugar property although not to any great extent. But the crop is ripe, and every day's delay in its reaping is a source of loss.

Coincident with the troubles which the planters are experiencing in Cuba, have been the strikes in connection with the sugar refineries in the United States. These have been the cause of considerable want of supply in that country. For the last three weeks no quotation for granulated has appeared.

An important change is about to take place in the method of application of the duty on sugar in the case of U.S.A. refineries that desire the change. Hitherto the duty on sugar has invariably been paid on importation, and there has been no refining in bond. This system worked very well so long as there was no refined sugar exported, or so long as the amount exported was small. But when, as has been the case since the War, the exportations have been large, the amount of drawback to be obtained from the Government has been considerable. Indeed, *Facts about Sugar* states that in 1916 the drawbacks amounted to no less than \$10,000,000, with a consequent considerable locking up of refiners' capital. To the Revenue Bill an amendment has been added providing for refining under bond where desired, which should prove a considerable boon to exporting refiners.

The 5 per cent. reduction on goods provided for in the Underwood Tariff in connection with imports in American "bottoms" into the United States has been annulled by a decision of the Supreme Court of that country as being unconstitutional.

The subject of sugar has come forward almost daily in our House of Commons at question time. Questioned as to the supply of 10,000 tons of low-grade Philippine sugar held for the use of brewers, Captain Bathurst replied that the quality was not suitable for direct consumption, and also that its being retained for the use of brewers represented a certain amount of tonnage saved, inasmuch as that quantity would not have to be imported for their use. In this connection it may be mentioned that Philippine sugar has recently appeared on the tables of a well-known City restaurant.

With regard to sugar production in the United Kingdom, Mr. Prothero, the President of the Board of Agriculture, stated that beets with a high sugar content could be grown in many districts in this country. Also, that it had not been proved that sugar could be manufactured at a profit from home-grown beet after paying an adequate price to the farmer, but that the Board of Agriculture were endeavouring to secure the means of making the experiment.

Delayed advices from Mauritius give, under date 26th December, 208,000 tons as the total output of the crop. The loss of crop due to the May cyclone is put down as 41,950 tons, representing a loss of Rs.12,500,000, or over £800,000 to the island. The prospects for next crop are stated to be very promising.

The London West Indian sugar figures from January 1st to March 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	6,727	4,914	8,165 tons.
Deliveries	8,535	12,250	7,888 ..
Stocks (Mar. 10) ...	6,207	3,789	6,486 ..

The New York market has shown steadiness, with a rising tendency, during the fortnight. Duty paid 96° are to-day quoted at \$5.46. There have been no quotations for granulated. Great Britain has purchased 20,000 tons of Canadian granulated at \$6.00 per 100 lbs. f.o.b.

RUM. The market has become dull, and is likely to continue so until after the Budget. In the absence of transactions, recent quotations remain—viz., Demerara, new landed, 3/10; Jamaica ordinary to good, 4/8 to 5/3. Stocks in London on March 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,691	5,830	4,723 puns.
Demerara	8,539	7,198	6,511 ..
Total of all kinds ...	31,273	23,352	17,226 ..

CACAO. The market is quiet. At auction sales on the 13th, the large quantity of 13,250 bags, mostly West Indian and from the Cameroons, were offered. The demand was good. Nearly the whole of the 7,529 bags of Grenada were sold at prices varying from 67/- to 81/- 168 bags of Jamaica were bought in. A portion of 423 bags Trinidad changed hands at 87/- to 88/-.

The sales on the 20th were quiet. Out of nearly 9,000 bags offered, of which 3,504 bags were West Indian, only 1,900 bags were sold. Out of 1,873 bags Trinidad, 600 bags sold at prices varying from 85/- to 88/- 700 bags out of 1,514 bags Grenada were disposed of, realising from 70/- to 82/- The Jamaica and St. Lucia lots were bought in.

A change has been made by the authorities as to the licensing of cacao imported into this country from British Colonies. Instead of the licence being issued on this side to the importer, it will be given to the exporter by the local Government authority.

It is reported that the restriction of cacao imports into the United Kingdom has much upset the New York cacao market.

Stocks in London on March 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,630	4,324	7,801 bags.
Grenada	18,767	9,680	7,691 ..
Total of all kinds ...	245,875	87,179	55,478 ..

SPICES. Ginger is quiet but steady. Small sales of middling to good Jamaica, 100/- to 110/- per cwt. Pimento is dull. Spot sellers at 43d. per lb. Nutmegs are firm. At auction sales on the 14th, 23 packages West Indian were sold, 80's at 1/1 to 1 2, 78's at 1/2, broken at 8d. Mace: Steady at 1/8 to 2/6, with broken at 1/2.

HONEY. Market firm. 105 packages Jamaica sold at auction; dark, 90/- to 94/6; amber to pale, 86/6 to 100/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice. Raw, no change to report; concentrated in good demand and tending higher. Lime Oil. Distilled, lower, with some sales at 8/- per lb. Handpressed, quiet; normal value 15/- per lb. Citrate. Sales at £30.

RUBBER. Quiet. Plantation sorts may be quoted—krape at 3/3, and sheet at 3/2. Fine hard Para is worth 3/3, and soft 3/2.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuela block quoted 3/4 c.i.f. sellers; buyers 3/3 c.i.f.; spot 3/5 to 3/5½. Panama block 3 1 c.i.f.; spot lots quoted 3/3 landed. West Indian sheet steady; spot value 3/11 nominal.

COFFEE. Market quiet. At auction sales on the 13th, the 164 bags of Jamaica offered were bought in. The Food Controller has arranged with the Coffee Trade Associations that coffee shall be supplied from the market on such terms as to enable all grocers or distributors to sell retail a good coffee at 1/6 per lb. No change in prices occurred at auction sale on the 20th.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that buyers are eager to purchase West Indian cotton, and that good quality West Indian Sea Island is worth 38d. per lb. Up to the 10th March, 338 bales of West Indian had been imported into the United Kingdom for the year.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6612 CENTRAL
 15, SEETHING LANE,
 LONDON, E.C. 3.
 Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

April 5th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.00.

THE VALUE OF MUTUAL CONTROL.

FOR many years past it has been the practice in Java to circulate the manufacturing figures of the sugar factories of the island in tabular form, and on a uniform basis, for the information and benefit of all concerned. The successful inception and maintenance of this scheme is due to the business insight of the Dutch planters, who not only recognise the advantages to be gained from the application of scientific control to sugar manufacture, but also appreciate the value of the interchange of the practical knowledge facilitated by it. They see in the mutual comparison of the figures resulting from scientific factory working, one of the means of perfecting their manufacture. The Java Mutual Control figures give much valuable information. They deal with the composition of the canes ground at the several factories, the amount of sugar expressed from them by the mills (with the quantity of maceration water required to give this result), the composition of the juices, syrup and massecuites, and the quantity and polarisation of the sugars extracted from the canes, besides other items essential to a proper factory control. The mean work of all the fac-

ories in respect of these details for the year is also compared with that of the previous years and an invaluable record of progress is thus established. More recently the Mauritius planters followed the Java example and inaugurated a system of mutual control on much the same lines, while the planters of Hawaii have also taken up the subject with enthusiasm, and have decided on the methods of procedure to be adopted for obtaining the necessary figures as a preliminary to the establishment of a definite system. Unfortunately in British Guiana and the British West Indies a diametrically opposite policy has hitherto obtained. So far from there having been any system whereby the work of the factories might be mutually compared, the control figures of individual estates have been guarded with such jealous care that few estates are permitted to know what their neighbours are doing, and there is generally a deplorable lack of co-operation. The result is, that any factory manager, overseer or chemist anxious to ascertain how his work compares with that of his neighbours, has to depend upon personal communication, and the information thus given, even if correct, affords no reliable means of comparison, owing to want of uniformity of method. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the cause or causes at the bottom of this policy. It may, however, be pointed out that in these days the individual concerns are not in market competition, and that there is consequently no reason for trade secrecy. What the West Indian sugar industry will have to face after the war is not only competition with its old enemy, the Continental beet industry, which will no doubt rise, Phoenix-like, from its ashes, but also with the progressive cane sugar industries of other countries, enormously stimulated by the recent high prices. The strength of a chain is that of its weakest link, and the strength of an industry in any country is measured by the strength of its units. This is an axiom which applies with particular force to the British West Indian sugar industry, which will have to show a united front in many matters vital to its existence, and which no preferential treatment in our Customs tariff will benefit unless the manufacture is up-to-date in every respect. To the latter the pooling of the information afforded by factory results is one of the essentials. While the staffs of the better working factories are stimulated to greater exertions in order to maintain their place in the scale of merit, those of the factories which show worse results naturally receive an incentive to strain every nerve to better their factory's position. Owing to the geographical position of the British West Indies, the inception of a system of mutual scientific control in connection with the sugar industry in those colonies presents difficulties which were not experienced in Java or Mauritius. These difficulties are, however, far from being insuper-

able. It seems to us that the first step which should be adopted is to secure the co-operation of a definite group of factories, and the next to arrange for a conference of factory managers and chemists to settle what items should be included in the control and what means taken for the collection and dissemination of statistics regarding them. The machinery for the carrying out of the scheme would thus be established. Quite recently the official secrecy which has characterised the West Indian sugar industry has been broken by the publication of figures giving the salient points of the manufacture of three up-to-date factories capably managed by MESSRS. HENCKELL, DU BUISSON & CO. These have been already published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR; but we reproduce them as an indication of the valuable information conveyed by properly carried out chemical control:—

	ANTIGUA FACTORY.			ST. KITTS FACTORY.			TRINIDAD FACTORY.		
	1914.	1915.	1916.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Sucrose in Cane	13.50	12.00	12.52	11.47	12.02	12.84	11.97	10.68	11.21
Sucrose in Megass	3.64	3.05	3.01	3.85	3.18	2.99	4.35	3.88	3.40
Purity of Juice	84.67	83.57	83.95	86.86	84.40	84.70	78.9	76.13	77.6
Recovery of Sucrose	79.68	82.56	84.48	79.01	83.08	85.87	79.67	79.18	82.55
Yield of 98% Sugar ...	11.01	10.29	11.01	11.08	10.39	11.44	9.97	8.73	9.66

In the publication of these figures we see the germ of a system which we trust will ultimately develop into definite mutual chemical control in the West Indian sugar industry.

THE "B.E.P.O."

EVIDENCE is accumulating as to the value of the work which is being performed by the BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION. That body, which has now been in existence for over a year, has been conducting a whirlwind campaign in favour of Imperial Preference, that now appears practically certain to be a success. Having the advantage of having Mr. W. M. HUGHES, the Premier of the Australian Commonwealth, as its Patron, the B.E.P.O., as the association is now popularly called, anticipated in its policy the decisions of the famous Allies' Economic Conference of June, 1916, and has been emphasising it with a driving force which is distinctly refreshing. Though the interests of most of our agricultural and manufacturing industries are embraced within the scope of the operations of this very useful body, sugar has been held up as the great object lesson of the folly of neglecting our own resources and depending on the foreigner for important items of food supplies and essential raw materials. It will be recalled that an important sugar conference was held under the presidency of Mr. HUGHES in May last, and the first fruits of its labours were the formation of a Sugar Section and Executive, which is now busily at work. In the present issue we publish the text of a letter addressed by Mr. C. SANDRICH PARKER, as Chairman, to LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH'S Committee, and it is by no means improbable that his Lordship's complete conversion to the policy of Imperial Preference is in great measure due to the lucid manner in which the B.E.P.O. stated their case. The activities of this live body are not intended to stop short at sugar. We note that amongst its affiliated bodies are the Rub-

ber Growers' Association, the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, the Behar Planters' Association, and the Incorporated Society of Toy Manufacturers and Wholesalers, which denotes a catholicity of interests that is decidedly encouraging where the general development of British trade and industries is desired. The B.E.P.O. have had on their platform many public men including Sir George Foster (the "Father" of Canadian-West Indian trade), Sir Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner of New Zealand; Sir E. P. Morris, Prime Minister of Newfoundland; and only recently Mr. Austen Chamberlain. The West India Committee and the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow are represented on the Council of the B.E.P.O., and it is satisfactory to know that the organisation is receiving the full support of the British West Indian Colonies. As we recently showed, the Associated Chamber of Com-

merce of the West Indies has pledged itself to further the movement, and we are also able to state that each individual Chamber has also welcomed the opportunity of giving its adherence to the terms of a memorial dealing with trade after the war which the Organisation is to present to the Imperial Ministers who are now sitting in Conference in London. In conclusion we need only state that if further evidence were needed of the activity of the B.E.P.O., it would be found in abundance in the reports which are now being issued monthly from the offices at Kingsway House.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

A STATEMENT has been circulated in the West Indies to the effect that certain interested parties in Canada have been endeavouring to persuade the Dominion Government to induce the Imperial Government to give only a nominal preference to West Indian sugar in the event of the adoption of a policy of Imperial preference. The object of this reported movement is said to be to secure for Canada a supply of cheap preferential sugar. From enquiries that we have made, we are quite satisfied that no importance need be attached to the matter at the present time. We are quite satisfied that the desire of the Canadian Government is to promote in every possible way the development of friendly trade relations between the West Indies and the Dominion, and we understand that not only have they not been approached directly in the matter, but that if they were to be approached regarding it the supporters of the movement would receive very short shrift. The assistance of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in this connection has been invoked by certain organs of the press; but from information at present to hand there would appear to be no grounds for taking any action. Our readers in the West Indies may rest assured that their interests will be fully safeguarded.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

More Men Wanted.

In introducing the Military Service (Review of Exceptions) Bill, Mr. Bonar Law spoke in terms of warning. He said that the arrangements last autumn for the supply of men had not been fulfilled, and that, unless the shortage, which runs into six figures, is speedily made good, the prospects of our armies in the field will be jeopardised. Why there should have been this miscalculation is not clear. To put it down to the submarine menace is not very convincing, because the submarine menace was serious all the latter part of last year. Moreover, even if it had not been so we should have required to develop food production in these Islands and to build new ships to replace the enormous amount of our merchant tonnage taken over by the Admiralty. That both would require a large amount of labour should have been foreseen. It, therefore, comes to this, that the present Government have inherited a legacy from their predecessors that may prove to be another "too late." Moreover, if there is a shortage of 100,000 men, why does not Ireland come into line with the other parts of the Kingdom? It is estimated that there are at least 250,000 men, unsurpassed raw material for soldiers, in the country districts of Ireland. Why, too, are the men of military age who took refuge in the colonies after the outbreak of war not "dug out"? The Legislative Council of Jamaica, to its credit be it said, is passing a Bill in favour of compulsory military service, which should prove a salutary lesson to certain shirkers whose names have for some time been a by-word in that island. If the Anglo-French offensive in the West is not to be delayed as it was last year the greatest energy and courage on the part of the Government must be shown now.

After the Revolution.

From the past news which came through from Russia, it was understood that there was no intention of setting the Romanoff dynasty aside, but merely Nicholas and his pro-German clique. The progress of Russia towards a more popular form of Government was to proceed under the regency of the Grand Duke Michael, with the Grand Duke Nicholas, who has been described as the soul of the Russian Army, in the position of Commander-in-Chief. Unfortunately the revolution has swept both away, and let loose forces of disorder, which, unless they are dealt with firmly will constitute a danger to the State. When France and England, as well as Germany and the Dual Monarchy, are concentrating authority in a few hands, the reverse is happening in Russia.

The German Retreat.

The Germans are still yielding ground, but the pace has slackened, though the conflict partly takes on the character of a war of movement and partly of trench warfare. In their withdrawal the enemy

has been true to his innate savagery, for in his wake he has left ruin and desolation. Loot, sabotage, and kidnapping of young girls and boys, were systematically organised. The fruit trees were so injured that they will never bear fruit again, and villages were utterly destroyed. The intention of the enemy is to annihilate the economic fabric of the French Province he has occupied so long, and possibly to induce the Allies to consider an inconclusive peace. It is said that Belgium has not been devastated in this ferocious way because the Germans expect that it will eventually become a German dependency. What will happen when that hope fades away may be guessed from the awful experience of France.

The Situation in the West.

With the progress of the Somme-Oise battle the great Arras-Rheims salient is being straightened out. For the moment the main interest centres in the struggle for St. Quentin, which is being hard pressed by the British, who are making for Cambrai, on the north, and by the French on the South. With the capture of Roisel, our troops cut the Cambrai-St. Quentin railway, and every day they drive in an outpost of the enemy by the capture of a fresh position. In places the fighting is hard, violent counter-attacks being made. For instance, Beaumont, near Arras, changed hands four times, the German General Staff attaching great importance to the position, as they did to Croiselles and Savy, to defend which excellent German troops put up a stout defence. Lagincourt, which is also in British occupation, is another dominating point, the enemy made strenuous efforts to retake.

On the south the French have established themselves in Tergnier, a junction on the Paris-Cologne line, at a point where the line from Amiens to Calais crosses, thus securing lateral communications, which ensure mobility of movement. A further advance drove the Germans beyond the line Barisis-Servais and appreciably nearer the crest of the St. Gobain plateau, which defends Laon. Not less important is the capture of Essigny by sheer hard fighting on the part of the French, who have been roused to fury by the barbarities of the retreating foe. The position is to the south of St. Quentin, whence opens a gap which is the most direct strategic route between Paris and Belgium. As a result of the recent operations, the British are within three miles of St. Quentin, and the French within two miles, and the whole of the department of the Somme has been liberated. During the month of March, 1917, we took in raids, local operations, and in the course of the enemy's withdrawal, 1,239 German prisoners, including 16 officers, and captured also three field guns, 25 trench mortars, 60 machine-guns, and a quantity of other war material. The total number of German prisoners taken by us in the first three months of this year is thus raised to 4,600, including 79 officers.

The Hindenburg Line.

The exact position of this line has yet to be determined, but wherever it may be it cannot be as strong as the line which the enemy definitely lost

when Beaumont-Hamel was stormed by the British. For the Allies now occupy the high places, except in front of Cambrai and St. Quentin, and the enemy is in the low ground. In short, the relative positions of the belligerents have been reversed. Apparently the Germans are led to believe that by means of the Hindenburg line and U-boat warfare, the Allies are to be forced into surrender. But already both British and French are nibbling at the new line, and so little hope has the enemy of retaining La Fere that he has broken the locks in the St. Quentin Canal.

In Mesopotamia and Persia.

For the present interest in this theatre of the war centres in Khanikin, across the Persian border. Towards it the Turks, driven out of Hamadan, are fleeing with the Russians in full pursuit. Our Allies have occupied Karind, which they found systematically burned and looted. Though the Germans continue to describe the retreat of the Turks as well-ordered, many of them have left the road, and taken to a region deep in snow. To add to their troubles, a British force is marching north-eastwards from Baghdad, the effect of which will either divide them, so that they can be cut up in detail, or lead to their encirclement, by a junction between the British and Russians. The Turks are fighting stubborn rear-guard actions as they retire on Khanikin.

A British Success in Palestine.

Sir Archibald Murray reports another victory, in which a force of the enemy, numbering 20,000, was engaged. Not only was it defeated, but it suffered heavy losses, which would have been heavier still but for fog and the waterless nature of the country. The prisoners included the General Commanding and the whole Divisional Staff of the 53rd Turkish Division. The British attack must, therefore, have been in the nature of a surprise. By its complete success our troops are now close to Gaza, on the Syrian coast. Between that flourishing town and Beersheba there is a good road as well as railway communication, which also links up both places with Jerusalem. Sir Archibald Murray praises his troops, who consist of men from the Home Counties, Yeomanry, Welsh and Anzacs.

The War at Sea.

Another hospital ship, the *Asturias*, one of the splendid "A" boats of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, on which a dastardly attack was made in February, 1915, has been sunk by an enemy submarine, with a loss of eighty-two lives. No warning was given, though she steamed with all navigating lights and Red Cross signs brilliantly illuminated. The German excuse for this outrage is a pure invention, that she carried munitions of war.

Two destroyers have been sunk, one by striking a mine, the other by colliding with a steamer. The loss of life was not serious.

The *Alnwick Castle*, a Cape liner, was torpedoed without warning 330 miles from land. The sufferings of the survivors were so great that many were

severely frost-bitten, dying from exhaustion, or on the point of collapse from shock. The boats in which they were exposed to wind and weather for eight days landed on the Spanish Coast

German Raider forced to Fight.

A stirring story has been told by neutral seamen, who have been prisoners on the *Moewe*, and who have arrived in Copenhagen. The *Otaki* which was sunk on March 10th, before she went down fought a regular engagement. The *Moewe* was hit by seven shells and finally set on fire, the outbreak taking days to get under. She had from 500 to 600 prisoners on board, and uses many devices to conceal the fact that she is an enemy cruiser until she is ready to strike a victim.

Some idea of the depredations on the British Mercantile Marine may be gathered from the following figures, which exclude losses from the action of the commerce raider *Moewe*:—January 26 vessels, February 66 vessels, and March 55 vessels.

America and the War.

It is practically certain that by the time these lines are in print America will be at war with Germany. On April 3rd Mr. Wilson, in a speech which will become historic, asked Congress to declare a state of war existed. The United States Navy is to co-operate with the Allies and an army of 500,000 men is to be raised at once. Hail, Columbia!

(To be continued.)

A DEPUTATION of the West India Committee recently attended at the Ministry of Shipping to urge the desirability of maintaining steamship communication between Calcutta and the British West Indies. More cannot be said than that a very satisfactory reply was received to their representations.

* * *

A MEETING of the Jamaica Standing Committee of the West India Committee was held on March 29th, Mr. E. A. de Pass presiding, to consider the situation arising out of the prohibition of imports of rum.

DR. HENRY L. CLARE, Surgeon General of Trinidad and Tobago, who is at present on leave in Jamaica, will retire on April 14th, after thirty-six years' service in the British West Indies. He took the degrees of M.B., and B.Ch., in 1879 and that of M.D. in 1897 and his first public appointment was at the hospital in Kingston, Jamaica. He was translated to Trinidad in 1907 to succeed the Hon. J. A. De Wolf as Surgeon General. The position proved far from being a bed of roses and Dr. Clare became the centre of a violent controversy as the outcome of an outbreak of plague of which the last has now happily been heard. He stuck, however, to his guns, and will have the satisfaction of knowing that his resignation is the cause of much regret. On leaving the island he was presented with a silver mounted purple heart walking-stick and an Address by the staff of the office over which he presided.

A WEST INDIAN CONFERENCE.

Unity the Keynote.

A homeward mail has brought a detailed report of the proceedings of the first triennial meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, held in Trinidad on February 26th to March 2nd, which were summarised in a recent issue. The participating associations and their delegates were:—

The West India Committee (Incorporated): Mr. E. R. Davson.

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated): Mr. V. Handschell, Mr. E. I. Baeza, Mr. Dudley G. Leacock.

The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown (British Guiana): Mr. A. P. G. Austin, Hon. G. Russell Garnett, Mr. C. Martiu-Sperry.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada: Mr. John Barclay, Mr. G. A. De Freitas.

The St. Lucia Agricultural and Commercial Society: Hon. G. S. Hudson, Mr. George Williams.

The St. Vincent Agricultural and Commercial Society: Mr. W. N. Sands, Mr. J. Elliott Spratt.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society (St. Kitts): Hon. A. M. Reid, Mr. J. R. Yearwood.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Montserrat: Hon. W. L. Wall, Mr. H. F. Shand.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated): Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. John Howard Smith, Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.

The delegates met in the Council Chamber, Port of Spain, at 9.30 a.m., on February 26th, and were welcomed by the Governor, Sir John Chancellor, who read the following message from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Request that you will convey to President of Associated Chamber of Commerce, British West Indies, on day of inaugural meeting, my congratulations on formation of Chamber and expression of my confidence that it will result in benefits to Imperial commerce."

His Excellency, in a forceful speech, said that—
their meeting that day was a sign of the great change that was taking place throughout the British Empire—the discovery of the need of co-operation for the common good. It was to be hoped that the spirit of brotherhood and co-operation awakened by the War might remain with us when peace was restored to the world, and that we might not forget that the almost aggressive individualism and independence which had always been valuable features of the British character, were not in any way diminished if each individual learnt on occasion to suppress his own personal views and prejudices in order to combine with others in the achievement of some great public good. No doubt the discussion of the Resolutions of the Economic Conference of the Allies, held at Paris last June, would occupy their attention. So far as the West Indies were concerned, he believed there would be no difficulty in taking such action as might be considered necessary to give effect to them. The industries of the British West Indies being almost entirely confined to agriculture, their economic problems, though difficult, were not complex. Their main preoccupation was to secure a market for their produce, and if the Resolutions of the Allies' Conference were carried out, they were justified in hoping that a preference in the markets of the United Kingdom for some of their staples would secure such a market. He hoped that any discussion on the subject in England would be conducted with greater breadth of view and detachment by both sides than had been the case in the past. Protectionists were apt to forget that trade was simply barter, that one man exchanged something that he had and did not want for something that he had not and wanted belonging to someone else. Protective tariffs, therefore, by creating obstacles to trade, tended to deprive both parties of the mutual benefits to be derived from such transactions. There was no doubt, therefore, that in an ideal world,

free trade would be the ideal economic state. But, alas, the world was very far from being an ideal world, and it was further from that state than it was seventy years ago, when the Free Traders held out hopes to the world of universal free trade and universal peace. Free Traders, on the other hand (of whom he was one up to the outbreak of war) had been apt to forget that international trade was not a purely economic question as between the individuals of different nations, and in giving prominence to the truth that it was to the interest of the consumer to buy in the cheapest market, they had overlooked the social and political aspects of international trade questions, and they had ignored altogether the vital question of national security. The need for security had been burned into the mind of every citizen of the British Empire by the War; and that was the new feature that had revolutionised the situation.

A Plea for Customs Uniformity.

His Excellency then proceeded to deal with the subjects for the deliberations of the Conference, and to make an important suggestion. The import trade of the British West Indian Colonies was, he said, valued at about £15,000,000 per annum. That was a very considerable trade, and a trade that any nation would be glad to secure. At present all the Colonies had different tariffs and different Customs laws and regulations—a state of affairs which caused inconveniences to trade, external and inter-colonial alike. Arrangements had been made to hold in the near future an Intercolonial Conference with the object of establishing uniformity in the Customs laws and regulations of several of the West Indian Colonies, and such uniformity, if it could be established, would greatly facilitate trade. The West Indian colonies would be still further benefited if they were to combine and form a Customs Union. He was aware that there were serious obstacles in the way of establishing such a Customs Union, perhaps the most serious arising from the fact that the Colonies derived a large portion of their revenue from their Customs receipts, and the natural reluctance on the part of the smaller Colonies especially to endanger their financial equilibrium by a general readjustment of import duties. This obstacle might be removed if it were arranged that the Customs receipts of all the Colonies belonging to the Union were pooled and divided between them at the end of each year in fixed proportions based upon their present Customs revenues. The establishment of such a Customs Union would put the Colonies in a much more favourable position to negotiate commercial agreements with other countries than they were at present, when each had to negotiate independently; and it would have other obvious advantages to trade, perhaps the most important being that it would also facilitate the provision of what was urgently needed—a regular and rapid mail steamship service between England and the West Indies. In conclusion, His Excellency wished the delegates success in their labours.

Mr. Davson's Presidential Address.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, Honorary Secretary, having read congratulatory telegrams from the West India Committee, the London Chamber of Commerce, the Royal Colonial Institute, the British Empire Producers' Organisation, Mr. Gideon Murray and Mr. Guy Wyatt, Mr. Edward Davson delivered his Presidential address.

At the outset he thanked His Excellency for honouring them by attending their inaugural meeting, and read the following message which the Executive had decided to send to the King:—

"Associated Chamber of Commerce of British West Indies, at inaugural meeting Trinidad, sends expression of dutiful loyalty to His Majesty, and on behalf of the West Indies asserts its determination to do all possible to assist in the prosecution of the War until victorious peace is attained, and in development of Imperial trade after the War."

Proceeding, he dealt with the genesis of the Chamber and its aims and objects:—

He attended, he said, a meeting of the Agricultural Conference in Trinidad in 1912 as a representative of the

West India Committee, and while there it struck him that the benefit of West Indians assembling together to discuss their various interests in common was so great that there was even a danger of advantage being taken of it to introduce into the Agricultural Conference questions which were not so entirely agricultural, but much more properly came within the domain of commerce. And it seemed to him that this was fraught with danger, because, in the first place, it *de facto* meant that these commercial subjects were being discussed by gentlemen who were not necessarily the best authorities on them; and, in the second place, it meant introducing into the Agricultural Conference extra work for which there was very little room. Therefore it seemed the right thing to hold Commercial as well as Agricultural Conferences. He therefore submitted a proposal to the West India Committee and to the Imperial Council of Commerce, and the West India Committee wrote to the various Colonies and invited their views on the subject. All expressed strong approval with the exception of Jamaica, which could not see its way to join. But now that the Chamber had become a concrete fact, he hoped that Jamaica would reconsider its decision. (Cheers.) He then toured the West Indies in order to draw up rules and discuss the matter with the different Chambers, and Mr. Tripp had recently done the same.

Mr. Davson then dealt with the functions of an Associated Chamber. All were aware of the value of a Chamber of Commerce whose decision represented, as far as was humanly possible, the considered judgment of the majority of the commercial men of the colony. That Chamber sent delegates to the meetings of the Associated Chamber, where the decision was the verdict of the commercial men of that part of the Empire represented, and in turn the Associated Chamber referred the decision to the Imperial Council of Commerce, when, if adopted, it became the verdict of the business men of the Empire. Their Associated Chamber would deal with West Indian and not with insular matters.

At the same time, they would in no way detract from the power and influence of the local Chambers. He would say, in conclusion, that if they approached the matters before them with the realisation that the aims of the different Colonies and in the interests of the different Colonies were sometimes not identical; if they approached them with a broad-minded toleration for the views of others, and if, finally, they realised that some self-sacrifice on the part of the individual was necessary, he believed that those present would look back with pride on the fact that they had attended what might well prove to be one of the most historic days in the commercial history of the British West Indies. (Loud cheers.)

The Advantages of Unity.

Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Vice-President (Trinidad) who followed, laid great stress upon the greater degree of unity among the West Indian Colonies which should result from the work of the Associated Chamber.

They had a striking example of the maxim "Unity is Strength" while their brothers and sons and cousins, and all their kith and kin, were standing shoulder to shoulder at the Front, from all the ends of the earth to which our vast Empire extended. If this did not show how we should be united, then he did not know what else would. It was by uniting themselves together that they could best prepare themselves for the trade war which would be waged against them when peace was restored. He hoped to live to see the realisation of a united British West Indies. (Applause.)

Mr. V. Hanschell (Barbados) congratulated Mr. Davson and their Hon. Secretary upon the successful result of their efforts. Barbados had been very ready to join the Associated Chamber, not because she had any burning question or any grievance to be ventilated, but because it was felt that the existence of such a Chamber would greatly strengthen the separate Chambers of Commerce in the various Colonies, and that it would greatly help to make their concerted voice better heard, as also to allow their Governments a fuller opportunity to consider joint representation in trade interests. Although British Guiana and the West Indies formed but a small unit of the Empire, they were no less a unit of the most loyal

and patriotic communities, ever ready to bear their share of the Mother Country's needs, be it in her prosperity or in her distress. He therefore trusted and felt confident that the Associated Chamber of Commerce would greatly help to further enhance the value of those Colonies in the future. (Applause.)

Mr. Austin (British Guiana) said the Chamber which he represented was fully alive to the need for unity, and willingly pledged itself to do all it possibly could to support it.

The Resolutions Adopted.

The text of the resolutions that were subsequently adopted are given below:—

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Moved by the President, seconded by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon (Trinidad), and supported by Mr. G. S. Hudson (St. Lucia):—

"That this Chamber urges on His Majesty's Government that arrangements should be made without delay to institute such a Customs Tariff as will enable a substantial preference to be granted to Empire-produced commodities with a view to increasing their production and exchange; that such measures as have been indicated by the Paris Economic Conference for the improvement and increase of our trading relations with our Allies be adopted; that a substantial surtax be imposed on goods which are the production of enemy countries; that such measures be adopted as will in future prevent the dumping or subsidised competition of foreign goods with those produced within the Empire; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

SUPPORT FOR THE B.E.P.O.

Moved by the President, seconded by Mr. A. P. G. Austin (British Guiana), and supported by Messrs. G. S. Hudson (St. Lucia) and Yearwood (St. Kitts):—

"That this Chamber recommends and approves the work of the British Empire Producers' Organisation in pressing for the development of Imperial trades and industries in order to make as far as possible self-supporting."

CANADA AND THE DUTCH COLOUR STANDARD.

Moved by Hon. G. Russell Garrett (British Guiana), and seconded by Mr. D. G. Leacock:—

"That the maintenance of the Dutch Standard of colour as a basis of duty on sugar imported into Canada is detrimental to the interests of those West Indian Colonies which supplied to Canada under the Reciprocity Agreement, and that the Canadian Government be respectfully invited to consider the advisability of adopting the polariscope test of quality as the only basis of sugar duties as is now generally adopted throughout the world, rather than be dependent on obsolete standard fixed annually in a foreign country."

CABLE COMMUNICATION.

Moved by the President, seconded by Mr. V. Hanschell (Barbados), and supported by Messrs. W. Gordon Gordon and Hon. Adam Smith (Trinidad), Mr. Hudson (St. Lucia), Mr. Garnett (British Guiana), and Messrs. Baeza and Leacock (Barbados):—

"That this Chamber urges the necessity of cable communication between the West Indian Colonies and Great Britain passing only through British territory; and requests His Majesty's Government to give urgent attention to the need of establishing an all-British route."

Moved by Hon. G. S. Hinton (St. Lucia), and seconded by Mr. E. Williams:—

"That this Chamber also recommends the reduction of cable rates between Canada and the West Indies on the one part and Great Britain on the other; a reduced flat West Indian rate; and the application of deferred rates to all places."

The resolutions adopted on the second day were as follows:—

Moved by Mr. E. J. Baeza (Barbados), and seconded by Mr. A. P. G. Austin (British Guiana):—

"That this Chamber desires to express its dissatis-

faction over the frequent delays and mutilation of telegraphic messages, and also the failure in some instances of cablegrams reaching their destination, and is strongly of the opinion that means should be provided for fixing the responsibility of the same upon the Cable Companies and rendering them liable for any loss which may result to the senders or the addressees."

Moved by Mr. Wall (Montserrat), and seconded by Mr. D. G. Leacock (Barbados):—

"That the attention of His Majesty's Government be especially called to the island of Montserrat, with which no telegraphic communication exists, and to the urgent necessity of linking up that island with its neighbouring Colonies by wireless or cable communication."

PILOTAGE.

Moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. Martin-Sperry (British Guiana):—

"That Pilotage Certificates for ports of the British Empire be granted only to persons of British nationality."

CONSULAR SERVICE.

Moved by the Chairman and seconded:—

"That this Chamber recommends that an increased efficiency on the part of the British Consular Service be aimed at, so that no opportunity may be lost of maintaining and developing West Indian trade with foreign countries; and that Consuls only be appointed who are British subjects and have a business training and a knowledge of the language of the country to which they are accredited; and that the same applies as far as possible to Consular agents."

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

The Chairman moved:—

"That in order to prevent trading with enemy countries, the production of certificates of origin for goods imported from all foreign countries be made compulsory."

"WAKE UP, ENGLAND."

The Chairman moved and Mr. Wall (Montserrat) seconded:—

"That manufacturers in the United Kingdom be invited to consider the possibility of adapting their system of supplying goods so as to meet the requirements of Colonial markets to a greater extent than heretofore, and so that they may be better able to compete for orders with those of other countries, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Imperial Council of Commerce."

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

Moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. De Freitas (Grenada):—

"That it be a recommendation to the various West Indian Colonies to consider the improvement of harbours, lights and lightering arrangements, so as to encourage shipping and facilitate the rapid and economical loading and discharge of cargo."

PENALISATION OF ENEMY SHIPPING.

Moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. Hanschell (Barbados):—

"That this Chamber recommends that:—(a) Enemy ships be not free after the War to extend their share of the world's carrying trade until the enemy has replaced all ships lost by the Allies owing to the enemy's particular methods, and that this recommendation be considered in the terms of peace.

(b) A lower scale of tonnage dues and port charges to apply in British ports to British-owned vessels.

(c) Privileges in British ports to be accorded to Allied and neutral shipping equivalent only to corresponding privilege accorded by Allied and neutral countries.

(d) Enemy shipping to pay in British ports higher dues than those paid by other shipping for a period.

(e) British Government subsidies in no case to be granted to enemy shipping.

(f) Foreign tonnage in Empire ports to conform to Empire conditions regarding shipping.

(g) Shipping laws and regulations to favour the shipment of goods from one port to another within the Empire in vessels under the British flag registered in the Empire.

(h) No agreements to be entered into by the British Shipping Companies with Foreign Shipping Companies without the cognisance of the Board of Trade or other Ministerial Authority.

(i) Measures to be taken to prevent foreign goods from being carried in British ships from British ports at less rates than similar British goods."

The resolutions passed on February 28th, were as follows:—

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICES.

Moved by the Chairman and seconded by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon (Trinidad):—

"That this Chamber records its belief in the possibility of arranging for improved West India steamship services, and recommends:—

"1.—That inquiries should be made as to the possibility of negotiations being entered into with a British line of steamers running between England, Colon, and the Pacific with a view to their calling at such West Indian Islands as may be suitable for the requirements of the West Indies.

"2.—That failing, or concomitantly with this, investigation be made as to the possibility of arranging for a transatlantic service with the United Kingdom suitable for West Indian requirements when the return to normal conditions makes such a service practicable.

"3.—That the necessity for an improved passenger and cargo service with Canada be respectfully brought to the notice of the Government of the Dominion, so that at the expiration of the present contract, steps may be taken to secure such improved service.

"4.—That in the event of the impossibility of the ocean services 2 and 3 giving sufficient facilities and opportunity for the development of intercolonial passenger and cargo traffic, an intercolonial steamship service be provided.

"5.—That the Secretary of State for the Colonies, before entering into any contract which may be found necessary for the carrying out of the above recommendations, be respectfully invited to allow this Chamber to discuss the terms thereof, such terms to include the Government control of freight and passenger rates." In supporting the above Resolution, Mr. Hanschell wished it to be placed on record that Barbados was not prepared to vote a subsidy.

THE SHIPPING "CONFERENCE."

Mr. Gordon Gordon (Trinidad) moved, and Mr. E. J. Baeza seconded:—

"That this Chamber views with great concern the continued improper influence on shippers brought about by the combine of Steamship Companies operating between the West Indies, the United Kingdom, and America, whereby British traders were bound by conditions which deprived them of their legitimate rights and privileges, and urges that no West India contract be entered into with any Steamship Company that allows freight rebates or one allied to any Conference of ship-owners designed to control freight rates in a direction inimical to West Indian interests, and further desires that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governors and Administrators of the various Colonies in the West Indies with the request that they communicate with the Colonial Office, and solicit due intervention towards securing the necessary relief."

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

Mr. W. G. Freeman (Trinidad) moved, and Mr. W. N. Sands (St. Vincent) seconded:—

"That this Chamber approves of the system of Agricultural Co-operative Banks in the West Indies, and recommends its development wherever possible."

Mr. Hudson (St. Lucia) moved, and Mr. D. G. Leacock (Barbados) seconded:—

"That this Chamber recommends consideration being given the question of the West Indies initiating an Agricultural Land Mortgage Bank on Prussian 'Landschaften' lines, and invites the Chambers of the West Indian Colonies to consider and report on the subject."

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

An Important Letter on Sugar.

The seventh monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation contains the following letter addressed by that body to Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Chairman of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy, which recently supported the decisions of the Allies' Economic Conference in favour of preferential trade within the Empire.

21st November, 1916.

MY LORD,

The three main points raised by you at our meeting on the 31st October were:—

- (1) At what price excluding duty could the Empire supply its requirements?
- (2) Would not an Imperial Preference give undue Profits to those parts of the Empire best suited to Sugar production?
- (3) At what price could Neutral or German sugar be produced?

Mr. Saunders and Mr. Young have each written with special reference to the Dominions they represent (South Africa and Australia).

Our Committee have carefully considered your questions, and having regard to the new conditions created by the War, we beg to reply as follows:—

- (1) At what price excluding duty could the Empire supply its requirements?

Answer.—(a) The Empire cannot, and in our judgment never will be able to, supply its full requirements unless adequate security in this market is assured.

(b) Preferential treatment to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. and no more to be maintained for a period of not less than ten years is, we believe, the best, if not the only effective method of providing this security, without which the capital required cannot be attracted to the industry.

(c) If this is forthcoming we have no doubt that the Empire can, and will, in time produce ample sugar for its full requirements.

The area within the Empire suitable for the production of Cane Sugar is capable of supplying not only the requirements of the Empire, but probably those of the whole world. It is widely distributed throughout our tropical and semi-tropical possessions. We believe that Beet Sugar under these conditions can be produced in the United Kingdom as good results as anywhere on the Continent.

(d) Making full allowance for higher rates of freight, cost of supplies, increased wages, and appreciation of money after as compared with before the War, we believe that the requirements of the Empire can be produced at a cost to sell retail in this country, exclusive of duty, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. The average retail selling price for three years before the War was approximately 2d. excluding duty.

(e) The initial stages of development on the scale required will involve a higher cost of production than will be attained when the industry has, as in Cuba and Java, been brought to a high pitch of efficiency. By the time the Empire becomes self-supporting the cost of production should admit of a lower selling price than $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. excluding duty. There is no reason why the cost of production should not then be approximately the same as in the best developed countries.

(f) The length of time which must elapse before the Empire can supply its full requirements is problematical, but judging from the development which has taken place in Cuba, where the crop has increased from 650,000 to over 3,000,000 tons in 15 years, and has doubled itself in the last five years, it may fairly be assumed that ten years under the conditions we propose should be nearly sufficient to achieve our object.

- (2) Would not an Imperial Preference give undue Profits to those parts of the Empire best suited to sugar production?

Answer.—The preference proposed would unquestionably at first increase the profits of existing producers throughout the Empire, and to a greater extent in those countries which at present produce most cheaply, but

their present production is so small that this is a very unimportant factor in dealing with a question of this magnitude. The danger that sugar would be produced in unsuitable parts of the Empire is not real. So soon as the Empire production reaches a point when it is nearly self-supporting, the price in U.K. will fall to a point where unremunerative production will cease.

- (3) At what price could Neutral or German sugar be produced?

Answer.—It is at present impossible to express any opinion as to the cost of production in Germany after the war, except that, for reasons already stated it will obviously be higher than formerly. It is difficult to forecast the cost of production after the war in Neutral countries because—

If on the one hand a lower cost of production may be expected to result from the improvements in Manufacture and Agriculture which are being carried out as a consequence of the vast profits accumulated, largely at our expense, during the war, without any deduction for Income or Excess Profits Tax; on the other hand, we can safely assume that the higher cost of supplies, labour, and money will undoubtedly tend in the other direction. During the three years immediately preceding the war, high grade Raw Sugar analysing 92 per cent. total yield of Sugar was sold by Neutrals and Germany in this country at an average price equal to $12\frac{1}{2}$ p. cwt. c.i.f. U.K. The following are the average quotations for 1911-13 per cwt. on which the above average is based.

	Cubans 98° poln c. & l. New York		Java 96° poln. Floating landing		Beet 88% c.o.b. Hamburg.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1911 ...	14	5 0/4	13	11	12	9½
1912 ...	13	1 0/24	13	7½	12	5
1913 ...	10	0 4	10	10½	10	5

After adding landing, refining, and distributing charges, this was sold in the shape of a Refined Sugar, retail, exclusive of duty, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

On the whole we think that the cost of production after the war in Neutral countries will tend to a higher level.

We think it desirable to add the following remarks as bearing on our conversation:—

4. The proposal to give Home-grown Beet a preference over Empire-produced sugar is of the nature of a development grant to start a new industry. The chief reason why past efforts in this direction have failed is that the factory relied for their supply of Beets on contracts with the farmers, who were unwilling to make the experiment, and did not make the best of it. There is every reason to believe that there are areas available in England where Beet could be grown as advantageously as on the Continent, but to make a success of it two things are necessary—

- (1) That the factory should own and cultivate scientifically a sufficient area in its immediate neighbourhood to enable the factory to be worked on a paying basis. Farmers will soon come in when they see the result.
- (2) That the offal crop be utilised to the best advantage. Farmers in U.K. are not accustomed to feed their stock on the refuse of Beets. Farmers on the Continent make full and excellent use of this by-product.

The question as to the relative merits of Wheat and Beet is one for expert agriculturists; we believe that there is room for both. It is generally recognised that the yield of Wheat following a crop of Beet is greatly increased. Our view is that experience in Continental countries shows that stock can be raised to a greater advantage on feeding stuffs, the by-products of Beet and Cereals, than on grass land as in this country.

The British Sugar Beet Growers' Society state that when Beet culture reaches a crop of 50,000 tons of Sugar per annum in this country, the industry will be established and can afford to do without the extra preference.

5. The Refining power in U.K. at present is only capable of dealing with about 40 per cent. of the total consumption. Facilities and inducements should at once be offered for the erection of additional refineries in this country. Some of these might be built in close proximity

unity to or in connection with proposed British Beet factories, and others in ports where Empire Sugar could come alongside.

6. Finally we come to the position of the consumers in this country. They may be divided into two classes—

- (1) Trades which use Sugar as raw material, Confectionery, Mineral Waters, Brewing, Cocoa, Jams, Biscuits, &c.
- (2) The retail consumer of Sugar.

The position of both at present is that in addition to the high duty of 11d. per lb. they have to pay nearly double the price for sugar compared with the period before the war. The reason is that when war broke out we depended for over 90 per cent. of our sugar on foreign countries, and 66 per cent. of it came from enemy countries—1,300,000 tons per annum. Assuming that this is entirely prohibited for five years after the war, as we recommend, our supplies will have to be obtained elsewhere. It is reasonable to suppose that those countries will not abandon production for export without a struggle; but with their labour supply depleted by the war, and the fact that they will have no free market open to them, it is doubtful to what extent they will be able to resume manufacture for export. On the other hand, Russia especially, and France, being, as Allies, admitted on preferential terms to this market, will in time increase their export. Russia in particular may be expected to make material increase.

We thus arrive at the conclusion that Cuba, Java, and Peru will be our main sources of supply until the Empire production is largely increased.

World's prices have been kept lower than would otherwise be the case owing to reduction of consumption in the U.K. due to restricted imports.

The resumption at the end of the war of normal consumption in the U.K. will tend to maintain the level of prices considerably above normal, and this can most quickly be reduced by developing Imperial production.

The question therefore for this country is whether they are prepared to support the Government in offering the inducements required to bring about this increase. There is no doubt that the Dominions will do so, as they have already given preferential treatment to Empire products.

It is important to note that our proposals give the Sugar-using Trades the same scale of preference in Empire countries to the extent of the sugar contents of their goods as is given to Sugar Producers.

The general public will only suffer as taxpayers to the extent of the cost of the preference on the proportion of Empire sugar coming into this country, estimated to be one-tenth of a penny per lb. of sugar consumed in the first year.

As Empire production increases the consumer will benefit by the consequent reduction in World's price.

The Empire will regain control of its sugar supplies. The Refining Industry in this country will revive. Subsidiary industries such as Sugar Machinery, Fertilisers, etc., will benefit by the demand for their goods. The wealth and purchasing power of our sugar-producing Dominions and Colonies will be developed and increased. The demand for labour and the opportunities for remunerative employment in the Empire will be greater, and the Beet Industry in this country will put more people back on the land.

We think that the benefits which will accrue to the Empire as a whole, and this country in particular, producers and consumers alike, are out of all proportion to the loss of Revenue which may be involved.

7. The question is urgent. A new industry, even though natural conditions are favourable, takes time to establish. Factories could not be put up and crops grown on new land which would require clearing, in less than two years. Valuable time should not be wasted in hesitating to deal with this question. No capital will be invested in the industry until the Government intentions are known. Managers and Chemists must be trained. The industry must be organised, and once that is done development should be rapid.

I have the honour, etc.,

C. SANDBACH PARKER,
Chairman.

The Rt Hon. The LORD BALFOUR OF
BURLEIGH, K.T., P.C.

GUIANA AND THE EMPIRE.

Five Scholarly Resolutions.

Mr. C. Martin-Sperry, Hon. Secretary of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, has forwarded for the information of the West India Committee copies of the following resolutions which were moved by Dr. Nunan, K.C., seconded by Hon. A. P. Sherlock, and carried unanimously at the Annual General Meeting of the members of that body on February 5th last:—

BE IT RESOLVED:—(1) That our first duty as British citizens and as British South American Colonists is to consider the effect of anything we do or say upon the principal object which we have in view, which is the winning of the War as the only means by which the cause of the British Empire, of the Allied Nations and of human liberty can be preserved and advanced, and the only means of securing complete restitution, full reparation and effectual guarantees;

(2) That as Mr. Bonar Law points out although 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, we consider that every effort not required for the War should be devoted to the policy advocated so ably by Mr. Hughes, *viz.*, resolutely putting aside all considerations of party, class and doctrine without delay to devise a policy for the British Empire, a policy which should cover every phase of our national, economic and social life, to promote the idea of Britain as an organised nation and the British Empire as an organised Empire, organised for trade, for industry, for economic justice, for national defence, for the preservation of the world's peace, for the protection of the weak against the strong;

(3) That we realise the priceless services rendered in the prosecution of the War and the promotion of imperial unity by the Premiers of Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, and by the Indian Councils and Princes, and we believe that this revelation of the ties which, light as air but strong as links of iron, bind the various races, nations and creeds of the Empire to the Mother Country and to one another will lead to a suitable federation or other unified form of imperial government as a consequence of the War;

(4) That realising it is not the respective virtues of Free Trade or Protection that concern us but the great question of how best to develop the resources and trade of our great Empire in a manner compatible with our national safety and the economic welfare of our people, realising that it is imperative that the broad general principles and the foundations of the new order should be laid down without delay and without waiting for the end of the War, we desire to acknowledge with gratitude the sympathetic reception given by the late Secretary of State for the Colonies to the movement for an immediate investigation of the requirements and resources of the Tropical Colonies of the Empire originated by the British Guiana Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute on 24th May, 1916, and we express our confidence that the principle of such a policy will receive equal sympathy and equally practical assistance from the Right Hon. Walter Long;

(5) That we adopt the main Resolution of the British Guiana Branch with the understanding that we consider the actual form of the enquiry to be unimportant so long as a thoroughly business-like and scientific enquiry is made.

The resolution referred to in (5) was one adopted by the local branch of the Royal Colonial Institute urging the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry on the resources of the tropical colonies. It will be recalled that this formed the subject of a deputation to Mr. Bonar Law on November 3rd.

At the same meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, Mr. H. E. Murray,

Chairman of the British Guiana Planters' Association, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. A. P. C. Austin, and also carried unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED,—This meeting pledges itself to support and co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation in its efforts to secure preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain for the products and manufactures of the Empire and that all such products should be protected against unfair foreign trade or competition, thereby affording adequate security for the investment of British capital.

And whereas 1,000,000 tons of sugar or 50 per cent. of the total Home consumption could be grown in this Colony, be it further resolved that this meeting urges that prompt measures be adopted to prevent the dumping in the United Kingdom of sugar produced in enemy countries, at the termination of the War.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

The Viceroy on the Coming Changes.

At the close of last year Pandit Malaviya introduced into the Indian Legislative Council a Bill having for its object the peremptory abolition of indentured emigration, and the prevention of any natives of India leaving the country "under or with a view to entering into an agreement to labour for hire in any country beyond the sea, other than the island of Ceylon or the Straits Settlements."

The Bill was disallowed by the Viceroy, who at the opening of the Legislative Council on February 7th, explained the reason for his action. There was, he said, no difference of opinion between him and the Pandit except as to the question of procedure. His Excellency continued:—

"I may say emphatically that there has never been any intention either on the part of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India of departing from the pledges made by Lord Hardinge on behalf of the Government of India. Lord Hardinge made it perfectly clear that the object he had in view was the eventual abolition of the existing system. He made it equally clear that the existing system of recruiting must be maintained until the new condition under which labour should have been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and Crown Colonies concerned, until proper safeguards in the Colonies should have been provided, and until these should have had reasonable time to adjust themselves to the change. At the same time, he expressed his confidence that everyone would agree to that. As the policy of the abolition of this system had been definitely accepted, and would be carried out, India could afford to accept the delay in a reasonable and generous spirit. Lord Hardinge's speech was delivered on the 20th March, 1915, and having regard to the magnitude of the issues and interests involved, I cannot help feeling that my honourable friend, in his earnest desire to forward the matter, which lies close to his heart, and which, in fact, is of the deepest concern to us all, has been betrayed into some impatience in his action in endeavouring to introduce a Bill which, I fear, can only tend to prejudice the cause which he desires to serve. This Bill, as framed, provided not only for the abolition of indentured labour, but also for the absolute prohibition of the departure of any native of British India by land or by sea out of British India under, or with a view to entering into, any agreement to labour for hire in any country beyond the sea other than Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. It thus went beyond the scope of the honourable member's own resolution of last year, and, in fact, beyond anything that the Government of India have been asked to agree to or have undertaken to consider. I myself, in my speech of the 5th September last, explained that the

abolition of the existing system cannot be effected by a stroke of the pen or the simple feat of a statutory enactment, but that it entails considerable enquiry and investigation in order to guard against the danger of a bad system being succeeded by a worse. I rather think that what is at the back of the Hon. Member's mind is that the Government of India have been sleeping over their pledges.

"I assure him that this is not the case. The matter has not been allowed to rest either in India or in the Colonies. It has been necessary to obtain the views of Local Governments who are primarily concerned with the details of recruitment and with the conditions under which this should be conducted in future. Their replies are being received. A special mission has been despatched to Ceylon and the Federated Malay States—where labour is chiefly employed under short-term contracts, which give the labourers frequent opportunities of changing their employers—to ascertain whether the system in force there can be purified of its defects and adopted for employment in the other Colonies. The report of this mission is expected towards the close of this month. It is intended that a Conference should meet in London as soon as it is practicable thereafter, probably in May next, consisting of representatives of Indian and Colonial interests, and it is hoped that this conference will be able to formulate a scheme embodying conditions acceptable to both parties. At the same time, I may say that our decision that the present form of emigration must cease has been whole-heartedly accepted by the Colonial Office, and they are busily engaged not merely improving the conditions of labour in the interval, but in making ready for the great change which has to take place. The Colonies concerned have on their part shown the utmost readiness to co-operate in removing the features of the present system which are regarded as objectionable.

"In 1915, even before the Government of India had decided to recommend the abolition of the indenture system, the Fiji Government prepared a draft Bill to give effect to the more important recommendations made by Messrs. McNeill and Chiman Lal, including the abolition of imprisonment as a penalty for labour offences. During the last year, again, on receipt of intimation from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the indenture system was definitely to be abolished as soon as possible, the Governments of British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica immediately initiated legislation to provide for the changes that would be necessary. Further legislation in the Colonies will be undertaken after the close of the ensuing Conference as soon as the precise character of the reforms to be introduced is decided. Meanwhile, we have been definitely informed that imprisonment as a substantive punishment for strictly labour offences has been expunged from the laws of all the four Colonies. Both the Colonial Office and the Colonies which they represent are, therefore, entitled to full recognition of the spirit in which they have met us, and to generous consideration in the many difficulties they have to meet, and I should deprecate most strongly any display of suspicion of their good faith or any failure to acknowledge the real difficulties which they have to confront. I may add that any law restricting emigration to other countries must obviously affect far wider interests than the mere internal politics of British India, even though these may be the most important consideration involved.

"It appears to me, therefore, to be essential that any legislation on the subject should be introduced by the Government of India as a Government measure. I have no hesitation in telling the Council that, as soon as the necessary preliminaries can be got through, the Government of India will themselves undertake whatever legislation may be required in a wholly sympathetic spirit, and I appeal with confidence to all my hon. friends in the Council to be satisfied with this assurance, the fulfilment of which will, I hope, not be long delayed.

"Much has been said lately in the Press with regard to the moral evils of the present system. I can assure the Hon. Member, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, whose unselfish zeal in this matter we all admit, that I deplore with him the undoubted evils which exist in this respect, and that if by a stroke of the pen I could abolish these evils, I would gladly do so."

Commenting upon His Excellency's remarks and the

speeches at a "great demonstration" held at Allahabad on January 9th to urge the immediate termination of the indenture system, Mr. T. K. Swaminathan, Editor of the *Indian Emigrant*, regards emigration as a necessity, and adds: "We do not thus share in the opinion of those who say that emigration must stop. If it should, let us go about doing it the right way. Let us organise the labour forces."

THE HIGH PRICE OF SUGAR.

By an Occasional Correspondent.

Much literature is being published on cane sugar appertaining chiefly to those points in its manufacture and use, first the cost of production at the factory, secondly the cost to the consumer, and thirdly the necessity for a further increase in output, but in none of these works can be found anything to help the situation to any material degree.

Lord Bryce is quoted in the February issue of "Tropical Life" as having written to the effect that "Cane sugar growing, properly managed, with more efficient labour, ought to beat beet-root sugar out of our market by the advantages of tropical climate and soil."

These are undoubtedly the essentials; but it is necessary to go a little further, and review in detail just what the present factories and their management are doing, and it is in this connection the writer raises one or two interesting points that cannot fail to impress many who are studying this question of beet *versus* cane.

Those Britishers who hold strong views on the necessity for preference being given to the colonies in the matter of cane sugar will have to be very careful and stick to their guns, for strong forces are at work which will produce for the nation directly upon the cessation of hostilities huge quantities of beet sugar, and at such prices that those neutral to the matter of preference will at once rise up and demand its use. If some of these neutrals could understand how many sugar factories are worked, and the present hopeless wastage of sugar that goes on, there would be very little hope for those colonial preference parties in achieving the objects laid out in the literature mentioned.

There are, of course, usually two opinions on any debated point, and the writer's opinion on many factories is that the war has simply given them a longer lease of life in the form of nothing more or less than that of giving oxygen to a dying man.

An examination of the report sheets, when such are to be had of an intelligent setting out, at once reveal a state of things impossible to have gone on much longer—the amount of molasses per ton of sugar made, the amount of sugar sent to the furnaces, the amount of sugar sent to the fields in scum cake, all show inefficient methods of manufacture, and in many cases due to an apparent hopelessness of combating with the beet peril of the day.

If we are to give preference to the colonies for cane sugar, then the sugar factories must in turn look after and reduce costs of production in every conceivable way, particularly by a very considerable increase in *rendement*; only in this

manner can the dumping of beet sugar into the country be avoided.

There are at present some few schemes going about as feelers, to find out where the capital is likely to come from, to start new factories, undoubtedly created by the unprecedented condition of the sugar market, and it makes one hopeless to think that these even only tentative schemes should be at the mercy of some factory owners, merchants or agents, whose sole duty is to ask for and compare tenders and carve them down to the minimum.

The competing engineering contractors are made to toe the line, and the agent "commended by the lord" for showing such good qualities of salesmanship.

This will not do, the owner himself or responsible administrator must look carefully into these matters, compare what his factory is doing with other estates acknowledged to have their heads above water, and intelligently discuss with the competitive firms all the pros and cons of the advantages in putting down an extra mill, converting a triple to a quadruple, in deciding the equipment of the scum house, in alteration and proper design of furnace for efficiently burning bagasse, and, further, that they are prepared to guarantee the reduction and possible elimination of the extraneous fuel bill.

With such a grip of the situation and these points as well as other similar ones thoroughly gone into, there may be some hope for an overwhelming majority in the polling when the time comes to decide whether preference for colonial sugar shall be given.

Only under such conditions of working can this be expected, the day of the factory sending bagasse to the furnace of a 5 per cent. sucrose content and a heavy fuel bill to be met each campaign is over, and proper management, one of Lord Bryce's main points, must be given proper machinery.

[The CIRCULAR takes no responsibility for the views expressed in the above article. It would certainly not advocate a preference to bolster up obsolete or antiquated factories, and realises that, preference or no preference, competition after the war will be so keen that the weakest will have to go to the wall.—ED. W.I.C.C.]

DOMINICA.

The Storm of last August.

Mr. Joseph Jones, Curator of the local Botanic Station, has submitted to the Administrator of Dominica a report on the losses sustained through the storm which visited that island on August 28th last. In order to obtain as precise information as possible circulars were sent out to 120 planters. Some of these had not the politeness to reply. Ninety-five replies were, however, received, and it is on these that the report is based—

Limes.—The figures show that the premier industry suffered considerably. This is to be expected, as lime trees are susceptible to overturning by wind, and even a gale may at times account for some damage in this respect. Fortunately the lime, when blown over, ex-

hibits, under sound treatment, great powers of recovery, and the actual loss by deaths owing to storms probably does not average more than 2 or 3 per cent. In the present instance the high percentage of total loss in proportion to trees blown over is due to floods and landslides, and to some extent to the effects of large forest trees falling upon the cultivations.

The number of lime trees totally lost on estates is stated in the returns to be 23,000, and those blown over, but likely to recover in the course of two or three years, reach the high figure of 83,000. These trees are planted at varying distances apart, but if we take an average of 200 per acre, this means that 115 acres of trees have been destroyed and 415 acres blown down. The latter will recover in the course of several years, but their productive capacity practically ceases during that period.

The loss of crop is stated to be 118,000 barrels of fruit. Except in very sheltered positions, practically all the fruit, mature and immature, on the trees was blown off, and in turn much of this was swept away by the rush of water through the fields. Further losses were experienced owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour in emergencies of this kind. In spite of this huge figure, the crop of limes for 1916 only showed a decrease of 6,000 barrels of fruit when compared with the previous year's production. In this respect it was fortunate that a large proportion of the crop ripened before the end of August. As there has been no advance in the lime crop of Dominica during the past four years, observers confidently expected an increase of crop of close upon 100,000 barrels. This expectation was not realised owing to the hurricane. It is evident that a large increase of crop would have been recorded but for the adverse weather conditions.

Cacao.—The fact that much of the cacao cultivation on estates is grown in sheltered positions accounts for the comparatively light damage sustained. The number of trees lost is placed at 10,000; the damage in this instance being caused chiefly by floods and landslides. In this connection several planters deplore the loss of wind-belts which are essential in certain localities. In many instances successful cultivation cannot be carried on without this form of protection. Many years must elapse before efficient windbelts can be restored.

Minor Industries.—The loss in this case is comparatively small, and is returned as numbering 1,026 coco-nut trees and 1,360 Para rubber trees. The set-back in neither case is serious.

Live Stock.—Under this head the returns show a small loss of £303.

Damage to Agricultural Buildings.—The total loss is returned at £2,047 10s. This comparatively slight loss shows that the hurricane experienced, although so disastrous to lime cultivation, was by no means one of the highest intensity, such as sometimes occur in the West Indian Islands.

The above figures relate entirely to the losses on estates. Planters were asked to furnish information in respect to peasants' cultivations of limes and cacao in their immediate vicinity, and although much information came to hand, it proved impossible to form even an approximate estimate of the damage. That it has been considerable is undoubted, and if it could be expressed in figures would form an important addition to the estate losses given above.

Peasants' gardens also suffered by rain-wash and landslides, but the root crops which are chiefly grown are fortunately not affected to any extent by high winds. That is, no permanent damage is done by the wind, the plants only receiving a check in growth, from which there is usually a quick recovery. Efforts are being made to assist this class by furnishing supplies of cane tops for planting. Enquiries have shown that there is a sufficiency of propagating material of other garden crops in all the districts.

The hurricane of August, 1916, exerted the greatest intensity on a tract of country extending on the Eastern side of the island from St. Saviour in the south to Hutton Garden in the north, proceeding across the island, taking in the north end of the Imperial Road, and out on the western side between the Layou Valley in the south and Colihaut in the north. Fortunately in this section the proportion of forest land to cultivated land is higher than in any other district of the island. Within this area

lime estates suffered considerably, but north and south of this section the loss sustained was chiefly in crops, and not to any extent in loss of trees. A point brought out in the two recent hurricanes is the amount of protection afforded by the high mountains and the gigantic ridges which buttress them. These are formidable enough to deflect the wind, and many estates escape practically undamaged in a hurricane owing to these natural defences, while other cultivations more exposed experience great damage. It would appear that nothing like wholesale destruction by hurricanes can happen in mountainous islands like Dominica such as is known to occur in countries with a comparatively flat surface.

In Roseau, on both occasions, only a few heavy blasts of wind were experienced from the north-east, then came the calm period, lasting nearly half an hour. Following this the wind blew continuously from the south-west for half an hour, after which it came in powerful gusts, the intervals between the gusts growing longer and the force decreasing as the centre of the storm moved away. In other words, Roseau, owing to protecting hills, only experienced a little more than half of the force of the hurricane. Had the full force been felt from both directions, it is probable that properties in the district would have been considerably affected instead of escaping with little damage. The experience of the chief town in this connection is typical of what happens in other districts. Generally speaking, the damage at Windward was caused by the wind from the north-east, and on the Leeward side by the wind from the south-west.

The actual losses are summarised in the following table:—

Limes—Trees Lost	23,000
Limes—Trees Blown Down	83,198
Barrels of Limes Lost	117,881
Cacao—Trees Lost	10,180
Coco-nuts—Trees Lost	1,026
Rubber—Trees Lost	1,360
Live Stock—Financial Loss	£303
Damage to Agricultural Buildings	£2,047

THE RHODES TRUST.

In the Annual Report of the Rhodes Trust for 1915-16, which has just been published, it is recorded that by an Act of Parliament passed on the petition of the Trustees the provision made in the will of Mr. Rhodes for a certain number of German scholars to be nominated by the Kaiser has been cancelled. The scholarships thus set free will, under the Act, be distributed among communities within the British Empire not provided for under the will, and the CIRCULAR understands that the West Indies, whose hope for recognition in this connection was brought before the Trustees by the West India Committee, will not be overlooked. During the year the Trust continued its policy of giving leave to all scholars from the Dominions and Colonies who take service in the Imperial Army or Colonial Contingents with the right of resuming their scholarships when the war is over. Leave of absence was also given to scholars from the United States who wished to take up work with the Red Cross or Y.M.C.A., and eighteen availed themselves of it.

During the year 94 scholars were in residence, of whom 76 were American and 18 Colonial. Of 26 new scholars elected for 1915, 17 took military service with coming into residence; 15 scholars or ex-scholars have given their lives to their King and Empire, the Roll of Honour including the name of A. J. Motyer, of Bermuda (1905). A Bermuda scholar, T. E. Waddington (1908), was awarded the Military Cross.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A COMPLETE factory, including house, has been ordered from the United States for an estate in Barbados.

CAPTAIN A. K. AGAR, of Corlet, Dominica, has just returned to England from "somewhere" in the Mediterranean on a month's leave.

MR. JAMES PEET, the well-known West Indian engineer, has been appointed a Director of Messrs. Geo. Fletcher & Co., Ltd., of Derby.

MR. GIDEON MURRAY, Administrator of St. Lucia, will leave the island shortly to take up a temporary appointment under the War Office.

BARON DE REUTER, who was killed in action whilst serving with the Black Watch, only son of the late head of Reuter's News Agency, was an assistant master at Harrison College, Barbados, in 1913.

WE regret to learn that Cadet Ivor McCrae Wakefield, younger son of Mr. Arthur Wakefield, formerly branch manager of the Colonial Bank—latterly in St. Kitts—has died in hospital of pneumonia.

GENERAL SIR EDWARD HUTTON, presiding at a prohibition meeting at Egham on March 29th, said there might well be occasions when a rum ration would be of inestimable advantage to troops undergoing great privations at the Front. Under trying physical conditions there were times when a rum ration was invaluable as a tonic administered by a surgeon.

PROFESSOR P. CARMODY, F.I.C., who has just completed forty years in the Imperial Civil Service, is about to retire from the position of Director of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, which he has filled since 1908. The Professor, who is a distinguished chemist, was for some years the chief analyst at Somerset House, and he first went out to Trinidad as Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry at Queen's Royal College in 1890.



A. R. W. J. Brouche

Souvenir brooches of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment are offered for sale 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	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.

STANDARDISATION OF SPICES.

A Committee of the United States Department of Agriculture has had under consideration the composition of various condiments on the American markets, and have submitted a series of definitions and standards, from which the following are extracted:—

Spices are aromatic vegetable substances used for the seasoning of food, and from which no portion of any volatile oil or other flavouring principle has been removed, and which are clean, sound, and true to name.

Allspice, *pimento*, is dried fruit of *pimenta officinalis* (L.) Karts., and contains not less than eight per cent. (8%) of quercitanic acid (calculated from the total oxygen absorbed by the aqueous extract), not more than six per cent. (6%) of total ash, not more than three-tenths per cent. (0.3%) of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid, and not more than twenty-five per cent. (25%) of crude fibre.

Bay leaves are the dried leaves of *laurus nobilis* L. Cardamom seed is the dried fruit of *eleteria cardamomum*, White and Raton, and contains not more than eight per cent. (8%) of total ash.

Cinnamon is the dried bark of certain species of *cinnamomum*, from which the outer layers may or may not have been removed. True cinnamon, Ceylon cinnamon, is the dried inner bark of *cinnamomum zeylanicum* Breyn.

Cassia is the dried bark of certain species of *cinnamomum*, other than *cinnamomum zeylanicum*, from which the outer layers may or may not have been removed. Cassia buds are the dried immature fruits of certain species of *cinnamomum*.

Ground cinnamon, ground cassia, is the powder, consisting of cinnamon, cassia, cassia buds, or a mixture of these spices, and contains not more than five per cent. (5%) of total ash, and not more than one per cent. (1%) of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid.

Pimenton, *pimiento*, is the dried ripe fruit of *capsicum annuum* L., having the characteristics of that grown in Spain. It contains not less than eleven per cent. (11%) and not more than fourteen per cent. (14%) of non-volatile ether extract, and not more than eight per cent. (8%) of total ash, and not more than five-tenths per cent. (0.5%) of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid, and not more than twenty-one per cent. (21%) of crude fibre.

Nutmeg is the dried seed of *myristica fragrans* Houttuyn, deprived of its testa, with or without a thin coating of lime, and contains not less than twenty-five per cent. (25%) of non-volatile ether extract, not more than five per cent. (5%) of total ash, not more than five-tenths per cent. (0.5%) of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid, and not more than ten per cent. (10%) of crude fibre. Macassar nutmeg, papua nutmeg, male nutmeg, long nutmeg, is the dried seed of *myristica argentea* Warb., deprived of its testa.

AMONG the publications obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms are the following:—

- The Banana.* By Fawcett. 7/6 net; post free 8/3.
- Cacao.* By Hart. 7/6 net; post free 8/-.
- The Cane Sugar Factory.* By Seard. 1/- net; post free 1/3.
- Historic Jamaica.* By Cudall. 5/-; post free 5/8.
- The Pocket Guide to the West Indies.* By Aspinall. 5 -; post free 5/6.
- West Indian Tales of Old.* By Aspinall. Post free 5/8.
- The West India Committee Map of the West Indies.* Mounted 7/6; unmounted 5/-. Postage extra

Orders, which must be accompanied by a remittance, should be sent to the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The prices quoted are for postage abroad. In the United Kingdom there is a slight reduction.

NATURE NOTES.

THE *Agricultural Journal of Egypt* gives some interesting details as to the cultivation of "dry" dates. It appears that in those districts of Egypt where these are cultivated it is customary to plant several seedlings in one hole, and also to allow off-shoots to grow into fruit-bearing trees around the mother palm. The fruit remains on the trees until it has passed the ripe stage and becomes almost hard, when the branch is cut.

* * *

AFTER being allowed further to dry for two or three days on the bunch, the dates are picked and spread on the ground, which is covered with ashes. The fruit is turned over every four or five days for a period of six to seven weeks, or even longer. It is then stored in sacks or heaps until it is shipped to Cairo, or elsewhere, for sale, wood ashes being mixed with the fruit.

A STUDY of the assimilation of nutrients by the rice plant has been made by Mr. Jatindra Nath Sen, of the Agricultural Research Station of Pusa, in India. The conclusions he arrives at are full of interest. Speaking of the solid matter of the plant, he finds that this increases up to the time of maturity, the largest increase in the weight of the crop occurring before the formation of the flowers. During growth the percentage of nitrogen decreases steadily.

* * *

On the other hand, the phosphoric acid content in the parts above the ground remains practically the same except in the first stage, and in the flowering stage, when it is slightly higher. In the roots there is a slight but regular decline in the proportion of phosphoric acid throughout all the stages of growth. The proportion of potash in the above-ground parts increases from the first stage to the pre-flowering stage from whenceforward there is again a decline.

* * *

As the ears form and mature there occurs a concentration of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in the grains at the expense of the other parts of the plant. As the assimilation of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash by the plant is fairly complete by the time the flowers appear, fertilizing should be done during the early stages of growth. None of the absorbed nitrogen or potash migrates back to the soil.

As the result of investigations conducted by Mr. K. Miyake, the experimenter comes to the conclusion that the determination of soil acidity by titration with standard alkali is a logical method of determining the amount of bases which should be added to the soil to improve its fertility; because, "although the titration does not indicate the true acidity of the soil, it does afford a measure of the bases which must be added to neutralize the free acid and decompose the aluminium salts, either or both of which may be responsible for the infertility."

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE U.S.A.

The "Virgin Islands of the United States" is the official title given to the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. The Stars and Stripes were hoisted at noon on Saturday, March 31st, over those islands and at the same hour Mr. Lansing, Secretary of State, handed to the Danish Minister at Washington Treasury certificates for £5,000,000.

The various stages in the negotiations which resulted in the sale of the Danish West Indian islands to the United States, have already been recorded in the CIRCULAR. The treaty for the sale was drawn up in July last, and was ratified by the United States Senate on September 8th. The treaty was opposed by the Upper House (Landsting) in Denmark, which endeavoured to get its ratification postponed until after the war or alternatively to have it submitted to a new Lower House (Rigsdag). The matter was then referred to a Plebiscite, which was taken on December 14th, and resulted in a substantial majority in favour of the sale of the islands. The Landsting then agreed to ratification and the sale was duly completed.

Geographically the islands form part of the Virgin Islands' group and no exception can be taken to the name by which they are to be called. At the same time it is possible that it may lead to some confusion with the British Virgin Islands, a dependency of the Leeward Islands, comprising Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost van Dyke, Peter Island, Salt Island and many smaller islets. The group was named Virgin Islands in honour of St. Ursula and her fellow-martyrs.

BLACKBEARD.

Piratis expulsis commercia restituta.

At noon on Saturday, March 31st, the Danish West Indies were formally handed over to the United States. With the goodwill of the islands the traditions of the buccaners and pirates who once had their lairs in St. Thomas pass into the safe keeping of our American cousins, who, with their characteristic enterprise, may be depended upon to make the most of them as an attraction for tourists.

As you enter the spacious harbour of Charlotte Amalia, the pride of St. Thomas, you pass a brilliantly red-painted fort, over which the Stars and Stripes now float. The town which gives the harbour its name straggles over three spurs of the central mountains which slope gently down to the water's edge. On the hill-side are two conspicuous towers of ancient appearance. One of these is known as Blackbeard's and the other as Bluebeard's Castle. Both date from the seventeenth century, when the latter was built as a fort latterly called Frederiksfort. Blackbeard's Castle, on the other hand, was built in 1674 by one Carl Buggert, and it is a tradition that it was for many years the headquarters of the individual whose name it now bears, the King of the pirates, a sketch of whose infamous career is given below.

Though Blackbeard was identified with St.

Thomas, the more northerly Bahamas islands were, however, the principal base of his operations. The motto of that British colony which heads this article serves as a reminder of the romantic history of that archipelago of wind-swept coral islands which stretches from the coast of Florida to Haiti. New Providence, the principal island of the group, which was first peopled from Bermuda in 1666, was from its earliest settlement a favourite resort of pirates, who for many years infested the surrounding seas, preying upon the ships of every nation.

By their repeated raids these lawless seafarers, who feared neither God nor man, brought down not only upon their own shoulders, but also upon those of such respectable inhabitants as there were in the island, the vengeance of Spain, then the predominant Power in the West Indies, and consequently the greatest sufferer.

In 1680 the piratical "settlers" were attacked by the Spaniards. Twenty-three years later the Spanish troops, with the help of the French, blew up the principal fort in New Providence, and, after spiking the few guns which it mounted, carried off the Governor and the leading inhabitants to Havana. Later in the same year the Spaniards made a second descent upon the island on their own account; but they failed to exterminate the pirates, who, as soon as the enemy's back was turned, again made New Providence the base of their operations.

By far the most notorious of these pirates was Edward Teach, a scoundrel who was not only immortalised by Michael Scott in that best of West Indian classics, "Tom Cringle's Log," but also won for himself, by his crimes and disgraceful career, a place in our leading biographical work, in which he is pilloried with England's greatest men. All who have read "Tom Cringle" will remember "Aaron Bang's" sarcastic description of the subject of this chapter as—

"The mildest-mannered man
That ever scuttled ship or cut a throat."

Teach, or Thatch, was a product of the West Country, being, it is said, a native of Bristol, a city which at one time enjoyed the lion's share of West Indian trade. He first went out to the West Indies during the war of Spanish succession, in the course of which he saw a good deal of fighting. This proved so much to his taste that he refused to recognise the Peace which followed, and, gathering round him some companions as worthless as himself, he roved the seas in search of adventure.

Teach earned the nickname "Blackbeard," by which he is better known, from the prodigious hirsute appendage which hid his ungainly chin. This beard, so his chroniclers assert, he permitted to grow to an inordinate length, plaiting it into tails like those of the then popular Ramillies wig—a style of coiffure which enhanced the natural ferocity of his countenance and rendered him a terrifying object to friend and foe alike. When he was fighting, his appearance must have been still more formidable, for he then carried three brace of pistols slung over his shoulders in holsters like a bandolier, while lighted slow matches were tucked under his hat and behind his ears.

Blackbeard first came into prominence in 1717, when, with a certain Benjamin Hornigold, he cap-

tured a French Guinea ship of 40 guns. Renaming her the *Queen Anne's Revenge*—which showed that he had a slight spark of patriotism left—he hoisted the "Jolly Roger" and sailed the main in search of further victims.

His courage was only equalled by his audacity. On one occasion, during a cruise along the coasts of Carolina and Virginia, he sent one of his companions ashore to demand a medicine chest, declaring that if it were not forthcoming he would immediately put to death some prisoners whom he had taken. Needless to say, it was forthcoming, for no one dared refuse him anything.

The *Queen Anne's Revenge* had a short life as such, for in 1718 she was wrecked while trying to make Topsail inlet in North Carolina. Blackbeard, who seemed to have as many lives as a cat, managed to escape with his fellow pirates in a couple of sloops, but he soon quarrelled with his companions—a circumstance which is not to be wondered at, considering the very unpleasant practical jokes which he used to play upon them.

McKinnen, who visited the Bahamas within a few years of Blackbeard's death, tells how on one occasion this unscrupulous villain gave them a foretaste of the place to which they all and he himself so richly deserved to go. Closing the hatches of his vessel, he kindled a fire 'tween decks and burnt sulphur and brimstone. "With oaths and frantic gestures," to quote the chronicler, he then "acted the part of the devil, as little affected by the smoke as if he had been born in the infernal regions; till his companions, nearly suffocated and fainting, compelled him to release them." Again, at another time, when frenzied with drink, he sat in his cabin with a loaded pistol in each hand, and cocking them under the table, blew out the lights and blazed away at random among his long-suffering companions, one of whom received a shot which maimed him for life.

For a while Blackbeard exercised almost sovereign rights over New Providence, which had not at that time been officially recognised as an English settlement, and he was accustomed to hold his Council of War and promulgate his orders under a wild fig or banyan tree, which was still standing in East Bay Street in Nassau until comparatively recent years.

The piratical trade proved profitable, and by the seizure of vessels and frequent raids on the English plantations in North America, Blackbeard amassed much wealth, which he squandered in Nassau, the principal scene of his debaucheries.

Many villains have a romantic side to their nature. But this was not the case with Blackbeard. As a lover he was almost as brutal and unfeeling as he was as a pirate, and his conduct towards his wives—of whom he had no fewer than fourteen—is said to have beggared description. It was only paralleled by that of his prototype Bluebeard, the monster of Charles Perrault's "Barbe Bleue." To quote Michael Scott, he was "A very devil amongst the ladies," who were, apparently, attracted rather than repelled by his ferocity.

After the loss of the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, Blackbeard quarrelled with his fellow pirates, and for a time the band was dispersed. Some were cap-

tured and hanged, and Blackbeard himself returned to North Carolina with the intention of giving himself up. On arriving there, however, he changed his mind, for he found in Governor Eden a man after his own heart. That most unworthy official was so totally lost to all sense of honour that he actually entered into partnership with the pirate. An understanding having been arrived at, Blackbeard put to sea again, and the many prizes which he captured were condemned with suspicious regularity by the venal Governor. Richly laden vessels, too, were found "deserted at sea," and the proceeds of their sale went to swell the coffers of this ill-assorted pair.

(To be concluded).

AT WESTMINSTER.

Our Sugar Consumption.

In the House of Commons on March 27th, Captain Bathurst said that it was estimated that the total consumption of sugar, exclusive of brewers' sugar, during 1915, was about 1,750,000 tons. The amount of sugar used in the manufacture of beer during the twelve months ended September 30th, 1915, was about 134,000 tons. According to an estimate of the Manufacturing Confectioners Alliance, the total quantity of sugar used before the War for all purposes of manufacture, except beer, was 400,000 tons per annum, but how this was divided amongst the various trades concerned it was impossible to say.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

In a written reply to Sir J. Harwood Banner, M.P., dated March 29th, Lord Wolmer, on behalf of the War Trade Department, said: It was decided in December last that the issue of licences for the export of sulphate of ammonia should be suspended in order to retain sufficient supplies in this country to meet the demand for agricultural purposes. Any recent exports to Java, Spain and the United States can only have taken place under licences authorised before the date of this decision. The needs of the West Indies are fully recognised, but it is regretted the available supply is insufficient at the present time to allow of export.

Spirits in Bond.

Replying to Mr. Millar, M.P., on March 28th, Mr. Roberts said that 156½ million proof gallons of spirits (of all kinds) were in bond on July 31st, as compared with 158½ million proof gallons on the same date in 1914.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—A Labour Union Formed.

According to the *Barbados Advocate* mail edition of February 21st, the weather has been favourable for reaping, which had been proceeding apace. The price of foodstuffs had risen, but yams were still comparatively cheap. Planters were arranging for a large area to be planted in "provisions."

A Labour Union, with Mr. W. Abbott, of Whitfields, Ltd., as President, and Dr. Dixon as Vice-President, had been started.

The news of the death of Lieut. John C. Manning had been received with general regret.

The old Standard Hotel has been reopened as the Hotel Bridgetown, under the management of Mr. S. J. Rock. Fisher Ponds, in St. Thomas, St. George, and St. Joseph (314 acres), has been sold to Messrs. R. Challenger and W. H. Wright for £17,000. The crops are to be reaped at Andrews, which was sold to the same purchasers last year for £21,000.

Mr. John Chandler, second son of Sir Wm. Chandler,

was married to Miss Winifred, only daughter of Mr. A. S. Brydon, at St. Michael's Cathedral on February 7th. The ceremony was performed by Canon R. Skeete, Rector of St. Peter.

The mail edition of March 7th reports a showery fortnight, from which the young canes and ratoon benefited. The plant canes were not within a ton of canes to the ton of sugar equal to those of last year, and this was attributed to the shortage of rain at the end of the year; but some planters maintained that the yield has been affected by the absence of manures, which were unobtainable owing to the war.

The railway has been reopened as far as Three Houses. Mr. J. J. Nunan, K.C., is visiting the island.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Colony's Bauxite Deposits.

FEBRUARY 16th.—Considerable attention is being paid to the bauxite deposits in the North West district, and two geologists who have been exploring the district have returned to Georgetown with the view of engaging a staff of men to return to the district to commence mining operations. Some bectroots grown at P'n. Tuschen have been on view in Georgetown. The largest of these weighed 13 ozs. A meeting of the Agricultural Committee of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society has been held, at which it was decided to hold a Colonial Agricultural Show in conjunction with the Board of Agriculture. It was expected that exhibits would be received from other Colonies.

JAMAICA—The New Moneague Lakes.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The lakes which have made their appearance at Moneague, in the parish of St. Ann, are still rising rapidly, and have now assumed very large proportions. They now stretch for a distance of over four miles through the mountain valleys, and are in places fully 60 feet deep. They are of great beauty, and should attract visitors to that part of the island. The lakes are reported to be rising at the rate of 10 inches per week. Another lake, of smaller proportions, has made its appearance in Manchester, near Harmon.

Mr. S. G. Davenport is now in Jamaica preparing plans for alterations to the building recently purchased by the Royal Bank of Canada from Messrs. G. W. Young & Co., in order to make it suitable for their use as a bank. Mr. Frank Pearce, of the Colonial Secretary's Office, who is now on sick leave in Canada, will retire on his pension next month and settle abroad. Mr. C. M. Morales, now on active service, has been awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for Jamaica for 1917. Mr. T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G., has been returned unopposed for the Legislative Council vacancy for St. Ann's.

The transfer of the business of Messrs. Wessels and Nephew to Captain M. S. Grace has been completed, pending the formation of a new Company, "Grace, Ltd." Messrs. W. R. Grace & Co. are contemplating the erection of a Central Sugar Factory at Spanish Town, and have recently secured an option on a suitable site for the purpose. It is the intention of the firm, should their plans mature, to erect a factory capable of handling from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of sugar.

The financial position of the Government at the end of 1916 would appear to be strong, and it is stated that a substantial cash balance is at credit. The Customs receipts have been increasing lately; the returns from the various new taxes imposed have exceeded expectations, and there is probability that many of the latter will be removed at the forthcoming meeting of the Legislative Council in March next.

The suggestion of the Sugar Committee that the rate of interest on deposits in the Government Savings Bank be increased to 3 per cent. has been adopted, but the idea of the Government entering into the sugar business and erecting Central Factories has not, so far, found favour with the Privy Council. On the other hand, some measure for guaranteeing interest on sums provided by private concerns for the same purpose is likely to be adopted. The amount subscribed towards the memorial for the late Archbishop Nuttall has now reached £899 0s. 11d.

The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	6	12	4
"Our Day" Fund	2	17	5
Polish Jews Fund	1	42	10
Blue Cross Fund	2	7	6
Contingent Comforts Fund	3	35	0
British Prisoners of War Fund	2	96	10
Re-opened Aeroplane Fund	2	41	11
New Testament Contingent Fund	8	1	11
Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund	7	0	9

The weather during January was most pleasant. The maximum temperature was 89.9 deg. Fahr., the minimum 63.3 deg. Fahr., and the mean 74.1 deg. Fahr., the latter being 1.7 deg. below the mean for eighteen years. The rainfall of 0.26 inch was also below the average, which for forty years is 1.02 inch. The maximum velocity of the wind was 32 miles per hour on the 23rd.

MR. J. H. PHILLIPS, MORANT BAY, MARCH 9th.—The Session of Legislative Council commenced on the 6th. The Governor, in his opening speech, indicated that, owing to the restricted importation into the United Kingdom of our island produce, this would materially affect our trade, and he was sure that all concerned would recognise the necessity for this prohibition, and would carry their crosses bravely. The finances of last year show a surplus of £71,000. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year would absorb this, leaving a deficit of £5,000, but as the prohibition had come into force subsequent to the compiling of the estimate, they had now to budget for another £50,000 deficit, which in order to meet they would have either to curtail expenditure on most important matters, or to continue for the period of one year certain items of temporary taxation which had been introduced last year—and public opinion appears to favour the latter course.

The Member for Kingston introduced a resolution—which was carried unanimously—asking the Government to introduce a Bill making every male subject who has attained the age of eighteen years, and not over forty-one, liable to be called on for military service in this island, or beyond the limits, for the period of the War.

Our sugar estates are all in full swing, and splendid crops are expected; but our peasant class people are having a bad time of it, as they are dependent mostly or solely on bananas, and so far there is no demand. One of our Fruit Companies have signified that, most of their ships having been taken over by the British Government, they do not see how they will operate for the coming year. The producers of coffee are quite hopeful that in a short time the British Government will lift the prohibition on this article, and so they are not exercised over this, but the difficulty will be in regard to our rum crop, as there is no knowing when this will be allowed to go into England, and it will mean a large amount of money lying idle.

ORENADA—The Wesleyan Methodist Squad.

MR. C. V. C. HOARE, FEBRUARY 24th.—Recruiting meetings have been held all over the island. One particular meeting took place in the Market Square, St. George's, on the 1st inst., His Excellency the Governor in the chair. Speeches by the Vice-General, Rev. Fr. Moss, and Rev. Bills were excellent, and produced good results.

It is with pleasure we hear of the promotion of three Grenadians who went with the 1st Contingent, viz., Dr. Mitchell to be Captain, R.A.M.C., from 9th March; Morris Sharpe to be a Second Lieutenant; Sergt F. A. Haynes to be Company Quartermaster-Sergeant.

St. George's branch of the Grenada Literary League held a musical evening in aid of "Our Boys" (on Active Service) Comfort Fund." His Excellency the Governor was present, and £3 5s. 6d. was collected. A very successful concert, also in aid of "Our Boys," was held at York House on the 15th inst. Mrs. de Lamsarez' piano-playing was much appreciated, and all the other artistes and helpers deserve great praise. Mr. Evelyn W. Ray is also to be congratulated on the able way he conducted affairs, and in consequence the fund benefits to the extent of £24 18s. 1d.

The Wesleyan Methodist Squad held their meeting here this year; Rev. S. M. Hawthorne, Chairman and General Superintendent.

On February 16th, after nine years' imprisonment,

Robert Benjamin, late Treasury Clerk, who attempted the life of the Treasurer, Mr. Lockhart, was released. A well-known character, "Bill Palmer," died after a short illness on February 6th. He will be much missed at cricket matches at Queen's Park, where he was always seen at his best.

Turfites are looking forward to the two-days race meeting to be held at Grenville at Easter. Our sportsman, Mr. H. A. Berkeley, the Hon. Secretary, is doing all he can to make it the usual success.

Amongst other small local events, we have had several motor-car accidents. One tried in the early hours of the morning to proceed home by sea; no casualties. To be up-to-date, the porters on the wharf struck for higher wages on account of the increased cost of living.

The total amounts collected here for the Red Cross are as under:—

	£	s.	d.
St. George's Parish	9	20	0
St. Andrew's	7	5	0
St. Patrick's	6	7	0
St. John's	2	8	4
St. David's	1	39	4
St. Mark's	1	0	0
His Excellency the Governor	1	0	0
Say,	£3,000	0	0

The Governor's League Essay Prize, 10 volumes of Charles Kingsley, was won by Mr. T. A. Murryshaw, Editor, *West Indian*.

Up to date 84 men have been passed and enrolled for the 4th Contingent.

Mr. Jno. Barclay and Mr. Geo. De Freitas represent Grenada at the Chamber of Commerce Conference which is being held in Trinidad. Amongst the delegates from the Northern Islands who passed through in the *Chiguecto* was Mr. Davson.

The Carnival, which many hoped would have been suppressed during the War at least, passed off quietly in St. George's, but a good deal of horse-play took place at Salines and St. John's.

ST. LUCIA—A Local V.A.D. Formed.

During the past few months the Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray has been occupied in forming a Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment of the British Red Cross Society in St. Lucia to be employed in case of need in connection with the local Defence Garrison of Royal Canadian Artillery. This detachment has now been formally recognised by the Executive Committee of the parent Society in London, and has been designated by them "The St. Lucia Red Cross Detachment No. 2." Mrs. Murray has received official warrants of appointment as Colony Director and Commandant of the detachment. Mr. A. S. Duff has also received a warrant of appointment as Hon. Treasurer of the St. Lucia Red Cross. In addition to the Hon. Mrs. Murray as Commandant, the detachment at present consists of eight ladies as follows: Mrs. Gregor Peter (Quartermaster), Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Norah Macphail, Miss Leonora Nairn, Miss Nellie Denny, Miss Kathleen Reardon, Mrs. A. E. Harris (Class Secretary and Supernumerary), and Mrs. Beatrice Oatway (Supernumerary). Six of these ladies have entered for and successfully passed the first-aid examination, and have been awarded certificates. The detachment is much indebted to Surgeon-Captain Chalmers, C.M.C., and Mrs. Fordage, Nurse-Matron of the Victoria Hospital, for their assistance in instructional courses. We believe this to be the first Voluntary Aid Detachment to be formed in the West Indies.

NEVIS—The late Mr. J. Spencer Hollings.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 24th.—Since I last wrote the death has occurred of the Hon. J. Spencer Hollings, the "grand old man" of Nevis. Called away in the midst of activities, he will be remembered for his work for the island and its people. All Nevis mourns with his relatives. He was laid to rest in St. Kitts, where he died.

Crops are now in full swing. Cane and cotton are reaping, and everyone is busy, the high prices for cotton and its ready sale here making much stir. 250 bales were sent over to St. Kitts to be shipped to the United Kingdom by *Satan* a few days ago. The Russian barquentine *Hiram* came ashore here on the evening of 24th December loaded with greenheart timber from Demerara

for Liverpool. She is a total wreck. The prices of food-stuff are rising steadily, and, the weather being exceedingly dry for the past twelve months, no provisions can be planted; still, we are not discouraged. We had the pleasure of having amongst us Mr. W. A. Griffen, of the firm of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., for about a fortnight, and he gave a very interesting straight-talk address to the Agricultural and Commercial Society, of which he is now an honorary member. An Onion Growing Association has also been formed, a large crop of onions having been sown, and the crop is doing well. The Hon. C. C. Greaves is now its President, as also that of the Agricultural and Commercial Society.

ST. VINCENT—The Cotton Crop and Prices.

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 19th.—The weather continues favourable—light rains and sunshine. There have been two meetings of the Cotton Growers' Association and Agricultural and Commercial Society held recently, at which important questions were dealt with. The first matter was to discuss telegrams received by the Agricultural Superintendent from the Pine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association. The Fine Spinners greatly regretted the disaster to the cotton crop, and enquired if they could help financially or otherwise to ensure a full acreage being planted next season. The Society thought that if highest possible prices are paid for the present small crop of 340 bales only, including stains, and if a promise of high prices for next crop was given, growers would be encouraged to plant. There was no doubt that they had experienced a very bad run of luck extending over three or four years, and had had to "foot the bills." If they are given sufficient inducement, they will no doubt plant, and will be less likely to continue to turn their attention to crops of a less speculative nature, such as sugar-cane and arrowroot. The Fine Cotton Spinners had promised to take all cotton immediately at full rates, and all next crop at top market prices, and also to help financially any planter who required such assistance.

It is unlikely that there will be any change at this time in the method of shipping and marketing, and the practice of previous years by making shipments to the British Cotton Growing Association will be continued. The telegrams of the Fine Spinners were much appreciated by cotton growers, and the Agricultural Superintendent has been asked to make suitable replies to them.

The other business was in connection with the Associated Chambers of Commerce for the West Indies and the proposed Congress to be held at Trinidad shortly. The Society decided to become affiliated and to send two delegates to the Congress. The delegates appointed were Mr. J. Elliott Sprott and the writer, and these gentlemen were given instructions and information in regard to certain matters down for debate. It is very gratifying to know that St. Vincent has decided to join up and take her place in the Councils of the Association, which will now represent all the Colonies from St. Kitts to British Guiana.

TOBAGO—The Young Cacao Wilted.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, FEBRUARY 14th.—January and February thus far have been unusually wet, with fairly high winds. These, with the moisture in the air, have had quite a chilly effect, with the result that there is quite a deal of colds and mild fever throughout the community. The spell of dry, hot weather in December checked the young cacao crop, most of which was wilted. There is a fresh flush of flowers following the dropping of leaves, but the subsequent weather can only decide if these will hold. The future crop prospects are very doubtful. Pickings are now on quite a small scale, but the crop just about over has been exceedingly productive, some estates having already picked the equivalent of the 1915-16 crop. On the few muscovado estates, sugar-making has started, and it is expected that there will be a slight increase on the output. The coco-nut crop promises well. Most of it will be made into copra, which is relatively more productive than shipments of nuts at the present time. Last sales of copra were at 7d. per lb. The Chief Justice had quite a number of cases at last month's sessions, chiefly of housebreaking. The worst offender, with several indictments, escaped prison on a plea of being subject to epileptic fits!

The coastal steamer *Belize* has been running almost a

day late every week on account of big cargoes, thus proving that the attempt to run the service with one steamer can only be regarded as a "war measure." If the *Belize* breaks down, the consequences will be serious, as there is no steamer available to take her place.

FEBRUARY 28th.—The weather continues exceptionally favourable for the crops, light showers falling almost every day, and everything is green almost as in the rainy season. This must produce good crops of cacao and coco-nuts in due time, and I do not think sugar-making will be seriously impeded. Small cacao pickings still continue, and the trees are loading up well for next crop. It is reported from Trinidad that the home Government has prohibited importations of cacao, coffee, and rum. Surely this applies to foreign produce only, otherwise it would be a serious matter for these islands to be dependent on the United States market practically.

Although our public roads are greatly improved, in places—especially on ridges—the protection on the sides is very inadequate. On Saturday last Mr. and Mrs. Tucker were driving to Richmond, and two miles from here (at Delaford Village) the horse shied, and the four-wheeled buggy was capsized over the hillside. The carriage wheels, shafts, and hood were smashed, and both occupants injured. From what I can learn, the injuries were not serious, and Mr. and Mrs. Tucker were able to proceed on a borrowed carriage; but as the latter is not in very good health, the accident is exceedingly unfortunate. Rails or a fence of some sort ought to be placed in such dangerous places. For years past I have been agitating for parapets on all hill roads, and this is gradually being done. This accident may stimulate the Public Works Department to push on more rapidly with this necessary work.

You have no doubt heard of the death of the Hon. H. L. Thornton (suicide in a London Hotel) in London. For some time past he had been depressed and in poor health. His loss is sincerely regretted. His cacao estate, Cacao-wattie (named after a Ceylon plantation) was being developed, and was on the way to become a very valuable property. Mr. Savill, another English settler, has just sold his plantation, "Riversdale," to Mr. Mendes, a Trinidad merchant, who now owns three Tobago properties, viz., "Bacolet," "Goldsborough," and "Riversdale." Whilst welcoming the increasing interest of Trinidad in its little brother island, we are sorry to lose the settlers, who were the pioneers in rousing Tobago from its practical abandonment when sugar ceased to pay. Tobago cannot be expected to have much love for the Cobdenites who allowed the island to be ruined in order to feast on cheap German beet! Cheap while it lasted—but at what a terrible price, this War and dear sugar all too clearly demonstrate.

TURKS ISLANDS Canned Lobsters sell well.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during January has been for the most part seasonable. The maximum temperature for the month was 83.5 deg. Fahr., and the minimum 64 deg. Fahr. The total precipitation was 0.80 inch. At Grand Turk everything is beginning to look burnt up. Reports from the Caicos Islands are more favourable, and consignments of vegetables are coming up from there as opportunity offers. On the 2nd inst., postage stamps of 1d. and 3d. denominations, specially overprinted "War Tax," were issued. As is usual with every new issue, there is quite a large sale among the stamp dealers and collectors.

On the 11th inst. the first regular meeting of the Turks and Caicos Islands Agricultural and Industrial Society was held at Grand Turk, but was very poorly attended. Among other things, it was suggested that a small show of flowers and general produce be held somewhere about March. This met with good support from those present, and it is hoped that by a little encouragement of this class the inhabitants may eventually take an interest in the Society. The month has been just the reverse of the previous months, having been one of the quietest for many years—absolutely nothing at all doing. Fortunately for the labouring class, a good number of them have been on Clyde steamers around San Domingo; locally there has been nothing doing.

With the commencement of the New Year, Mr. W. R. Tatem took over the duties of his appointment as Secretary of the Central Salt Pond Board and Inspector of Salinas. With a return of a portion of the royalty on

Salt and now a salaried officer paid out of the public revenue, it is hoped they will endeavour to do something to raise themselves out of the mire. The Central Salt Pond Board have been in session several days during the month, but so far have come to no satisfactory settlement of the co-operation scheme, and it is doubtful if they ever will.

Shipments of sponge and a small conch shell shipment have been made to the United States during the month. Canned lobsters are being shipped, and find a ready sale in the United States at a good figure. Mr. George Sily, one of the proprietors of the Caicos Development Company, is now at Grand Turk, having been brought up from Chalk Sound for medical treatment, and has been seriously ill for some time, but am pleased to say he is now able to be about again.

With a continuance of the present weather it is likely that some of the salt pond proprietors will start raking for this season about the middle of March. The ponds of Mr. T. L. Smith, of Grand Turk, who has been in somewhat poor health for some time, are this year being worked by Messrs. D. E. & H. E. Harriott, of Salt Cas.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone 6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
April 4th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5½ per cent. as from January 1916. The New War Loan is quoted at 94½, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 91½, and the 3½ per cent. War Loan at 85½. Consols stand at 55½.

SUGAR. Complaints as to the unequal distribution of sugar in the United Kingdom have increased in volume and intensity, and Lord Devonport has appointed a Committee to consider the present system as adopted by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, and to report as to what further steps should be taken to arrange the allocation of existing supplies. The Chairman of the Committee is Lord Somerleyton, and the other members are Mr. T. B. Ferens, M.P., a Director of Reckitt & Sons, Ltd., and of the Star Life Assurance Society; Mr. Arthur Richardson, M.P., at one time President of the Nottingham Grocers' and Provision Dealers' Association; Mr. R. H. Burton, Chairman of Burton, Sons & Sanders, Ltd., Ipswich, wholesale sugar distributors, Mr. H. E. Emery, Director of the Home and Colonial Stores; Mr. A. J. Giles, Secretary of the Federation of Grocers' Associations; Mr. C. M. Liddell, partner of Hindon & Liddell, Eastcheap, representing the Wholesale Dealers' Association; and Mr. H. J. May, Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress. Capt. S. E. Tallents, of the Ministry of Food, will act as Secretary.

Some of the low-grade sugars stored in this country for brewing have been liberated by the Sugar Commission for manufacturing purposes. A corresponding amount of sugar more adapted for direct consumption will thus be set free for the use of the general public.

In the last Summary, the new regulation regarding the supply of sugar for confectioners for 1917 was misinterpreted. The Order provided for a supply equivalent to 40 per cent. of the 1915 supply, apportioned as follows:—1st January to 30th June, 20 per cent.; 1st January to 30th September, 30 per cent.; 1st January to 31st December, 40 per cent. Reduced to plain English, the confectioners will receive, for every 100 tons of 1915 sugar, 10 tons for the first six months, 12.5 tons for the next three months, and 17.5 tons for the last three months.

The Board of Trade figures for February, which did not appear in their corrected form until the 22nd of March, show that 75,326 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom for the month, making 194,196 tons for the year, as against 100,153 tons and 187,372 tons for the corresponding periods of last year. The amount of white sugar imported was 1,972 tons, as against 48,926 tons in the same month of 1916, making 21,539 tons for the two months of the year (59,131 tons for the same period in 1916). 73,414 tons of raw sugar were imported, making 172,659 tons for the year.

Of the white sugar, 1,878 tons came from Java, making

21,368 tons for the year. Of the raw sugar, 60,778 tons came from Java, or 147,349 tons for the year; 6,119 tons from Peru, making 11,644 tons for the year; 1,800 tons from Mauritius; and 2,534 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana, making 5,194 tons for the year.

The quantity of sugar liberated from bond for consumption during February was 85,712 tons, as against 109,275 tons in February last year. Of this, 53,804 tons came from our refiners, as against 52,931 tons in February last year. The consumption based on imports was thus 94,726 tons.

The stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom amounted on the 28th of February to 104,950 tons, as against 124,350 tons on the 31st of last month, and 81,000 tons on the 28th of February last year. Of this quantity, 10,450 tons consisted of foreign refined, 25,700 tons of British refined, and 68,800 tons of raws: an increase of 11,050 tons over the last month's stocks in the latter item.

As regards Cuba, the revolution still continues, although the Government are reported as getting the upper hand, and damage has been done to cane and sugar-carrying main-line railways. The estimate of the crop has been further reduced to 2,850,000 tons. This is a serious shortage on the original estimate of 3,400,000 tons.

This year's Argentine crop promises to be short again, and this, taken in conjunction with the short crop of 1916, has brought about a serious sugar position in that country. So far from exporting sugar, it is expected that 84,000 tons will be required to be imported this year, in addition to the 16,000 tons of last year. *Facts about Sugar* states that this importation is being arranged for by the Argentine Government, which has called for tenders. The sugar will be admitted at a reduced rate of duty. The estimate of the Porto Rico crop has also been reduced by Messrs. Willett & Gray from 450,000 tons to 400,000 tons. From the above sources alone, therefore, there is already a disappearance of an amount getting on to three-quarters of a million tons from the sugar in sight three months ago.

It is announced that, so far from the sugar of the new United States possession of St. Croix enjoying the full benefit of the new ownership, an export tax of \$8 per 1,000 lbs. sugar will be imposed. This means that the St. Croix producer will only receive a preference of 20 cts. per 100 lbs. in excess of that received by his Cuban competitor.

The Amendment to the Revenue Bill presented to the United States Senate, providing for refining in bond, referred to in our last Summary, has been dropped, in order that no delay might take place in the Bill becoming law.

The position of the United States as regards refined sugar has been unique on account of the strikes. For the first time, Canadian granulated has been sent into that country. As American granulated is now again quoted, it may, after a considerable period, be taken, however, that refining in that country has resumed its usual course.

The annual report of the American Sugar Refining Company is to hand. The profit "from operations" amounted to \$9,756,379, interest on loans and deposits \$782,900, income from investments \$2,905,737, and net profit from investments \$248,336. The amount declared on dividend was \$6,299,972. The capital stock of the Company is \$90,000,000. The dividend was therefore at the rate of 7 per cent. The manufacturing profit on turnover was only 4½ per cent.

The London West Indian sugar figures from January 1st to March 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	7,563	5,584	9,377 tons.
Deliveries	10,684	13,413	9,245 ..
Stocks (Mar. 24)	4,894	3,276	6,144 ..

The New York market is very strong in view of the statistical position, and 96° sugars, duty paid, are now quoted at \$5.99 per 100 lbs. with granulated at \$7.90.

RUM. Proof sorts have advanced 3d. per gallon, last sales of ordinary Demerara being at 4/- per gallon. Jamaica is in slow demand; nominal value 4/7 to 5/6.

A rumour that 50 per cent. of the rum manufactured in 1913 would be admitted under licence is contradicted by the Import Restrictions Department. The question of the manufacture of alcohol for munitions purposes

continues to receive attention, and negotiations in this connection are proceeding favourably. It is understood that spirits as low as 35 to 40 O.P. will be acceptable, as all under 66 O.P. will have to be re-distilled. Spirit already coloured will not be barred, as the colour will be eliminated in rectification.

The Board of Trade figures for February show that 682,493 proof gallons were imported into the United Kingdom for the month, making 1,625,687 gallons for the two months of the year. This compares with 652,708 and 1,604,652 gallons respectively for the corresponding periods of last year. The stocks on the 28th of February were 13,007,000 proof gallons, as against 8,864,000 gallons on the 29th of February last year.

The stocks in London on March 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,477	5,287	4,291 puns.
Demerara	8,795	8,272	6,744 ..
Total of all kinds	30,426	23,402	17,736 ..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report Sea Island cotton as continuing in demand, the official quotations being raised 2d. per lb. during the last week.

According to the Board of Trade Returns, 103,349,600 lbs. of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom during February, as against 159,045,300 lbs. in February last year, making 292,397,900 for the two months of the year. 47,160,200 lbs. came from Egypt, 2,440,000 lbs. from the British East Indies, and 140,000 lbs. from the British West Indies. The exports amounted to 27,872,400 lbs., of which 20,914,600 lbs. went to the United States.

CACAO. The market has been quiet. At auction sale on the 27th ult., 5,682 bags were offered, but there was little demand. Some Grenada was sold at 65/- to 82/-, but the Dominica and St. Lucia lots were bought in.

The arrangement whereby licences to import British cacao will be issued to the exporters instead of to the importers appears to meet with general approval. In this connection it may be pointed out that the West India Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in March, asking him to communicate with the Governors with a view to arranging that the 50 per cent. of 1916 importations might be distributed *pro rata* among the exporters. It was pointed out that otherwise an injustice might be done to estates whose crops are not reaped until later in the year.

The quantity of cacao imported into the United Kingdom for the month of February was 20,479,984 lbs., as against 20,248,064 lbs. in January. Of the February imports, 14,494,144 lbs. came from British West Africa, 2,656,304 lbs. from the British West Indies, and 269,584 lbs. from Ceylon.

The exports for the month amounted to 3,528,112 lbs., as against 2,568,048 lbs. in February last year. The larger figures of this year were due to increased exports to the United States, which were 2,048,728 lbs., as against 873,040 lbs. in the previous February.

The stocks on the 28th of February in the United Kingdom were 107,520,000 lbs., as against 55,552,000 lbs. on the 29th of February last year.

The stocks in London on March 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	16,768	11,517	9,065 bags.
Grenada	20,825	12,375	5,708 ..
Total of all kinds	258,663	96,605	53,385 ..

COPRA. The market is very dull pending the decision of the Government as regards control. The value of West Indian may be quoted at £43 c.i.f. London, usual terms.

The imports for the month of February amounted to 1,864 tons, making 10,445 tons for the two months of the year. These figures compare with 2,236 tons and 13,853 tons respectively for the corresponding periods of last year. The exports for the month were 249 tons, making 826 tons for the year. The exports in February of last year were 2,223 tons, and for January and February 4,939 tons.

SPICES. **Ginger:** The demand for Jamaica continues very quiet, and last quotations are not altered. 518 cwts. were imported into the United Kingdom in February, as

compared with 24 cwts. in February last year. For the two months 788 cwts. have been imported, as against 587 cwts. in January and February, 1916. **Pimento:** The market is still quiet. Only small sales have been made on the spot at 4½d.

FRUIT. Demand good in face of limited supplies. **BANANAS:** West Indian £21 per ton (truck loads). 257,225 bunches were imported in February, as against 366,402 bunches in February last year. 543,025 bunches have been imported for the year up to the 28th February, as against 718,264 bunches for the same period last year. **Coco-nuts:** 30/- per bag (100's).

RUBBER. The market has been somewhat stagnant since the date of last Summary, with very little activity. America has only taken a small interest. However, prices have only given way to a small extent, and after touching 3/0½ for standard crepe, shows recovery at the close to 3/1½. Large arrivals are reported, but no material change in rates is looked for.

The Board of Trade Returns give 16,367,600 lbs. as the quantity imported into the United Kingdom during the month of February, and 34,230,300 lbs. as the imports for January and February. Of the February imports, the bulk came from the Federated Malay States, which sent in 4,426,300 lbs. The Straits Settlements contributed 2,295,800 lbs., and Ceylon 1,448,900 lbs. 3,786,500 lbs. came from Brazil. The imports for the same two months of last year were considerably less, being only 25,067,200 lbs.

During February, 14,542,900 lbs. of rubber were exported. Of this quantity, 8,463,300 lbs. went to the United States, 3,120,500 lbs. to France, and 1,139,900 lbs. to Russia; the exports for the year having been 27,363,900 lbs., as against 18,518,000 lbs. for the corresponding period of last year.

HONEY. The market is very firm. Jamaica may be valued at 90/- to 100/-.

ARROWROOT. No further business to report. Quotations nominally 4½d. to 6½d.

COFFEE. Market quiet. The February imports amounted to 5,669,216 lbs., of which 9,856 lbs. came from the British West India Islands. Stocks in hand on the 28th February were 12,697,600 lbs., as against 9,507,600 lbs. at the same date last year.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Juice.** Raw, no change; concentrated is in good demand. **Lime Oil.** Distilled is quiet, with sellers at 8/- per lb. Handpressed is also quiet, with sellers at 15/- per lb. Citrate of Lime is unchanged.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. John T. Greg	Mr. John T. Moie
Mr. C. H. Chambers	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Mr. F. J. Morris
Mr. H. S. Cox	Mrs. E. Haynes	Miss Moseley
Mr. Paul Cressall	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Dr. Frank Oliphant
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. W. de Gale	Hon. E. Laborde	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Mr. E. K. Lane	Mr. D. G. Pile
Sir Walter Egerton	Hon. A. Don. Lockhart	Mr. C. M. Rolston
K.C.M.G.	Mr. A. Marsden	M.D. C.M.
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. L. McCall	and
Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. Albert Mendes	Mr. F. H. S. Wauchope
Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. Alfred Mendes	

Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harragate.
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove.
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Coileus, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
Mr. F. Driver, 43, Dovecourt Lane, Beeston, Notts.
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E. C. 3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON

April 18th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

WEST INDIAN FEDERATION.

THE one disappointing feature about the otherwise most successful Conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies was the absence of delegates from the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Jamaica. The failure of British Honduras to participate in the deliberations is no doubt attributable to the regrettable fact that no Chamber of Commerce or similar organisation exists at Belize, a shortcoming which must be remedied if the colony, which at present is generally regarded as side-tracked, is to be brought into line with its better-known neighbours. But no such explanation can be adduced in the case of the Bahamas and Jamaica, both of which have Chambers of many years' standing, and we cannot help thinking that if MR. EDWARD DAVSON and MR. TRIPP had been able to extend their tour to those colonies and to explain to the merchants there the aims and objects of the Associated Chamber, all of the West Indian islands of consequence, without a

single exception, might have been represented at the recent meetings. A perusal of the resolutions adopted shows that many, if not most of them, apply with equal force to Jamaica and the Bahamas as they do to the islands which took part in the meetings. The keynote of the Conference was unity and uniformity, subjects which have frequently formed our text in these columns, and it is gratifying to notice the growth of the federal idea in the British West Indies. We have always held the view that proposals for federation must come from the people of the West Indies, and not from outside, though the *vis a tergo* will no doubt be helpful when the question is fairly launched; and we are interested to learn that a league has been formed in Trinidad to foster the idea. What is particularly significant is that many people in Barbados are evincing a disposition to discuss the question in a manner very different from that which prevailed in the PORE-HENNESSY days of the 'seventies, and in this connection it goes without saying that in any arrangements that may be made, Barbados and the Bahamas must retain their representative institutions. MR. W. GORDON GORDON, Vice-President of the Chamber, in one of his speeches said that he hoped to live to see a united West Indies, and events certainly seem to be moving in that direction. Hitherto the question of federation has only been nibbled at. Proposals—many of them admirable so far as they go, and others quite impracticable—have been mooted for welding together certain colonies and groups of colonies, the effect of which would be little more than the establishment of a glorified Leeward Islands, for the "united" colony could not speak as the British West Indies without Jamaica, with its 4,207 square miles and 900,000 inhabitants, and the Bahamas with 4,404 square miles and 55,000 inhabitants, to say nothing of British Honduras, which could throw into the hotch-pot 8,598 square miles and 42,000 souls. It seems to have been overlooked that such a minor union could be effected to-morrow without any elaborate legislation, for the "Leeward Islands Act" of 1871 empowers the King, by Order in Council, to include any other West Indian island in the federation, upon joint addresses from the Legislative body of that island and from the Council of the Leeward Islands, "on such terms and conditions in each case as are in the addresses expressed." A really united West Indies must embrace those three important colonies, the Bahamas, British Honduras, and Jamaica, and it is surely on the lines of securing their adherence that negotiations should proceed. With them the united colony would have a total area of 110,305 square miles and

a population of over 2,000,000, and would indeed occupy an important place among the Dominions and Colonies of the Empire. The War has brought many changes, and will bring many more. The federal idea was once, we believe, distasteful to the Bahamas and Jamaica. May it not be that the War and the fact that men from those colonies are marching side by side with their brethren from the other West Indian colonies in the British West Indies Regiment will bring about—if it has not done so already—a broader view of the situation, apart from any question of the gain of economic strength resulting from the amalgamation of the general forces of the individual units? The distance between some of the islands has been adduced as a reason against federation, but if the union of Jamaica and Canada, which lie 1,800 miles apart, can be seriously discussed, it cannot be regarded as unreasonable to contemplate the possible federation of Jamaica and the other West Indian Islands, which are only about 1,000 miles distant.

THE WEST INDIAN FLAG DAY.

WHEN the accounts of the West Indian Contingent Fund for the past half-year are published, it will, we believe, be found that the Committee are making good use of the money entrusted to their care. With the considerable expansion in the strength of our Contingent which is taking place, and an increased appreciation of the objects of the Committee, the calls on the fund are growing. It will be recalled that the Committee was formed not only to provide assistance and advice when needed to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, but also to help similarly all men who have come over from the West Indies to serve their King and Empire. At first some difficulty was experienced in getting into touch with such men, but this no longer exists to any extent, and every day brings a heavy postbag containing letters and cards from men in training or at the Front, and its quota of visitors in khaki in need of assistance or advice. It cannot be too widely known in this connection that the West Indian Contingent Committee is always glad to board and lodge sailors or soldiers connected with the British West Indies in one of the Clubs for overseas forces whilst they are on sick furlough or on draft leave—that is to say, their final leave before they proceed abroad. It may well be imagined that many men without friends and relations on this side of the Atlantic find themselves stranded and at a loose end in London, where one can be more lonely than in any city in the world; but those who put themselves into touch with the West Indian Contingent Committee need not be so for a moment. For the Committee, besides putting the men up, is glad to provide them with invitations to entertainments and introductions which banish melancholy. This, however, is only one branch of the Committee's work. Others include the dispatch of tobacco and cigarettes to men at the Front and in hospital, and the provision of comforts for the British West Indies Regiment. We have shown how musical instruments, sporting appliances, Christmas gifts, etc., have been presented to all ranks, while only recently several hundred pairs of gloves have

been despatched to one battalion, and we have before us a request for five company "canteens" for the officers of another, which will be immediately met. It is obvious that the more sinews of war that are provided in the shape of donations, the greater the possibilities of the expansion of this good work become, and we are glad to be able to announce that a West Indian Flag Day is to be held in aid of the fund. Our "day" is to be observed exclusively in the West Indies and by those connected with those colonies, it being felt that we should do for our troops what the county associations in this country are doing for theirs. In this Flag Day we shall have another example of West Indian unity, for we are glad to say that it will be observed by each British Colony in the Caribbean without exception, besides in the Bahamas and British Guiana. A prodigious quantity of flags of a most attractive description have been ordered, and at the instance of the Governors and Administrators of the various colonies, ladies' committees have been formed, which are now no doubt busily at work organising their platoons of fair sellers for the Day. Apart from other considerations, the flags will form an interesting souvenir of the part which the West Indies took in the War, and we hope that our friends of the West Indian Press will contribute towards making the West Indian Flag Day a complete and conspicuous success.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,578.

* * *

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on April 12th, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate	Proposer and Seconder.
Sir Hugo Fitzherbert, Bart.	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. Lionel H. Miller	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Leach's Argentine Estates, Ltd.	{ Mr. Harold Carey. } Mr. Stephen Ewen.
Mr. John Edward Sealy	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. E. A. de Pass.
The Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd. (Canada)	{ Mr. H. A. Trotter. } Sir W. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. David Morrin (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Thomas Boyd. } Mr. Geo. F. Huggins.
Capt. Findlater L. Roper (Jamaica)	{ Miss Mary Moseley. } Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Mrs. J. M. C. Galloway	{ Miss Mary Moseley. } Sir W. Trollope, Bart.
St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory (St. Kitts)	{ Mr. W. Moody Stuart. } Mr. Wm. Gillespie.

Members are requested to note that the Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee will be held at 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 10th. As a "war economy," the Annual Report of the Executive and the Accounts will be published in the CIRCULAR instead of as a separate pamphlet.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Some Notabilities in Trinidad.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Edgar Tripp, Hon. Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, the CIRCULAR is able to reproduce a photograph of the delegates who attended the recent Conference of that body. The names, reading left to right, are:—

Front row, seated.—Mr. V. Hanschell (Barbados), Mr. Edward R. Davson (The West India Committee), President; Sir John Chancellor, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. W. Gordon Gordon (Trinidad and Tobago), and Mr. A. P. G. Austin (British Guiana).

Second row, standing.—Mr. E. J. Baeza (Barbados), Hon. G. R. Garnett (British Guiana), Mr. G. A. De Freitas (Grenada), Mr. C. Martin-Sperry (British Guiana), Mr. John Barclay (Grenada), Mr. J. H. Smith (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. J. Elliott Spratt (St. Vincent), Mr. J. R. Yearwood (St. Kitts), Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G. (Trinidad and Tobago), and Mr. Edgar Tripp, Hon. Secretary.

Back row, standing.—Mr. Dudley G. Leacock (Barbados), Hon. W. L. Wall (Montserrat), Mr. W. G. Freeman (Trinidad and Tobago), Mr. W. N. Sands (St. Vincent), Mr. George Williams (St. Lucia), Mr. H. F. Shand (Montserrat), and Hon. G. S. Hudson (St. Lucia).

The second illustration is reproduced from a photograph of the Consuls of Trinidad taken recently in the Gardens of Government House, Trinidad. The names are:—

Sitting, left to right.—Hon. A. Fraser (Sweden), Dr. F. L. Calvani (Venezuela), Mr. Paul A. Serre (France), Dean; His Excellency the Governor, Miss Chancellor, Mr. Edgar Tripp (Norway), Deputy-Dean; Mr. H. Dunstons Baker (United States), and Hon. A. Wight (Denmark).

Second row, standing.—Mr. Carl Boos (Italy and Netherlands), Mr. A. G. Siegert (Cuba), Mr. J. M. Rodriguez-Gonzales (Vice-Consul, Venezuela), Mr. Carlos Dominguez Olavarria (Brazil), Mr. J. A. Orsini (Mexico), Mr. V. N. Conde (Colombia), Mr. J. F. Salazar (Argentine), Mr. J. F. Webster (Panama and Peru), and Mr. Joaquim Ribeiro (Portugal).

Third Row.—Mr. A. Gordon (Santo Domingo), Mr. R. Pielan (Vice-Consul, U.S.A.), Mr. G. Descamps (Haiti), Mr. George Grell (Spain and Uruguay), and Captain Davidson, A.D.C. to the Governor.

The fifth interim report of the Dominions Royal Commission deals with the resources and trade of Canada. Under the section devoted to shipping the Commissioners state that in their final report they will submit proposals for the general development of the overseas communities of the Empire. Referring to the subsidy of £150,000 to the Cunard Company for the 24-25 knot Liverpool-New York service, they say that it is to them incredible that the Government should ever again contemplate the grant of assistance of this kind to develop an ocean service with a foreign country. Proceeding, they show that the average distance from Liverpool to New York direct is 3,144 nautical miles, whilst the route to New York *via* Halifax averages 3,083 nautical miles. Assuming a speed across the Atlantic of 24 knots and on the railways of 50 miles an hour, they estimate that by taking advantage of the short sea route and landing the mails at Halifax there would be a saving of 13 hours in the delivery of the American mails to ports west of Chicago.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Sir William Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, at a conference of Trade Unionists, warned the nation that the way to victory will be long and hard. He dwelt on the extraordinary and desperate efforts which Germany is making, and lent the weight of his authority to the statement that she is numerically stronger now than she has ever been since the War began. As, too, it is imperative that she should do her utmost before the United States can put any considerable force in the field, and France has no further reserves of strength to draw upon, this Country must put forth an immense effort during the spring and summer to ensure that the sacrifices the Allies have already made shall reap their full reward. Sir William Robertson placed no limit on the number of men that the Army will require, but stated that its urgent needs as between now and July next will be 500,000 men.

Enter the United States.

Not since the battle of the Marne has the War been marked by an event of such high importance as the ranging of the United States on the side of the Allies. With her declaration of war on Germany, which also entails a rupture with Austria-Hungary, there is now no great Power which is not fighting in the cause of civilisation and liberty. The moral effect of her action in the world as a whole is immense, and, in the Western Hemisphere, her example may soon be followed by Brazil, Argentine, and Chili, as it has been by Cuba and Panama, the first consequence of which would be the release of 800,000 tons of shipping—the most pressing need of the Allies. That the United States, in concert with the Entente Powers, will bring to bear against the enemy the whole of her vast resources in men, money, material, and skill, is certain. But to mobilise them will take time. It is possible that a small Expeditionary Force, formed from her Regular Army, may soon be sent to France as a symbol of her spirit and military power, but at the earliest none of the 500,000 men it is proposed to raise immediately can be despatched to the Western Front before November. Even then it is doubtful if there will be sufficient tonnage available for the transport of themselves and their requirements in munitions and food. For the United States, unlike ourselves, has not a large mercantile marine.

How America Can Help.

Americans are setting themselves to the task of playing their part in the War with the enthusiasm of youth and strength. In the first place, their aid will naturally take a financial form, and men of weight who a little while ago talked of a loan to the Allies in millions, now talk of a loan in billions. That the treasure chest of the richest of the nations opens to us when England should show signs of the strain, if she does not, is an incalculable advantage in a war which is so largely economic. In the second place, the American Navy, the second in

the world now that the German forces are reckoned as uncertain, should render valuable service, not only in convoying merchantmen, but in patrolling the Atlantic trade routes. Unfortunately, it has very few light cruisers and auxiliary small craft. But as on the Great Lakes the shipping of the United States is of large dimensions, no doubt many suitable vessels can be requisitioned and adapted to war service.

With regard to freight carriers, the United States is already pushing forward construction. The idea is to build small vessels of about 3,000 tons burden and high speed, so that they will have a good chance of escaping the predatory submarine, and, if sunk, will not represent a heavy loss. They are to be driven by oil fuel.

Finally, the United States is well ahead in the air. Her manufacturers have been busy for the last two years, and both in construction and engine power surprising developments have been made. Profiting by the lessons of the War, American experts have so increased the resources of their country in fighting aircraft that, whatever else the intervention of the United States may mean, it should certainly involve a big accession of strength to the Allies in the air.

The Allied Advance.

The Allies are no longer fighting elusive rearguard actions, but are dealing heavy blows at the German forces, especially in Artois, in which a new British offensive was lately launched between Arras and Lens. In the course of it the most dramatic incident, so far, was the capture of the Vimy heights, which have so long withstood our forces. It will be remembered that the French fought desperately to win the ridge in 1915, and the British were once in possession of it in 1916, but with less expenditure of strength it has now fallen to the Canadians, and the open country to Douai lies before our troops. Even the German art of turning truth into fiction is baffled by a defeat so striking. To prevent the recapture of the ridge, the British have taken positions on the north and east of it, and are pushing up the valley of the Scarpe. East of Arras, on the Cambrai road the heights of Monchy and La Bergere have been occupied, and from these the British dominate the Douai Plain south of the Scarpe as they do north of it from the Vimy ridge.

Further south good progress is being made by both the British and French in the encirclement of St. Quentin. Already a village due west of the Hindenburg line on the St. Quentin Canal has been taken by the British. In the recent operations our troops have taken no fewer than 14,000 prisoners and 194 guns, not to speak of other war material. Our French allies have also launched a great offensive. Between Soissons and Rheims they developed an attack, taking over 10,000 prisoners and a considerable quantity of war material.

The German Miscalculation.

Just what the idea of the enemy was in retiring so stealthily from his scratch positions on the Aene cannot yet be fully known. But in devastating the country and ruining its communications his object was to delay our troops, who were to waste their

time and strength in fighting costly rearguard actions while he was scientifically to perfect new and intact positions to form the so-called Hindenburg line. But he reckoned without the energy and organisation of the British, who not only surprised the Germans, but some critics at home, by the rapidity with which they brought up light railways, the telephone, and all the complicated machinery necessary to the maintenance of a modern army in the field, still more to its advance. So far were our troops from being delayed by the enemy's scheme that they not only did all that in bad weather, but prepared the new offensive from Arras as well.

What is the German plan? The "fog of war" has never been so dense as it is now. On the Western Front the German legions continue to fall back, and more of French soil is redeemed from the grip of the enemy. The "Hindenburg line" has been reached and passed. St. Quentin may fall at any moment. Lens, the centre of the coalfield area, Cambrai, and Douai are seriously threatened. No wonder the flighty pacifists are prophesying a speedy German collapse. But let us "wait and see."

In Russia.

The Provisional Government is taking steps to secure effective direction of the War by the establishment of a small Council invested with the necessary authority. It includes M. Gutchkoff, Minister of War, and Prince Lvoff, who has proved that he has remarkable organising ability. General Alexieff has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Russian forces, whilst General Letchitsky, who did such fine work in the Bukovina last year, has been given the command on the Roumanian front, and General Brussiloff on the Galician front. With the adherence of the Cossacks to the new regime, the possibilities of a counter-revolution are remote.

The Position in Asia.

As was expected, the Turks have been headed off from Khanikin, in which they would have been trapped by the British and Russians, who have now effected a junction near Kizil Robat, on the left bank of the Diala River, 70 miles north-east of Baghdad. This should safeguard the British right flank, and enable the Allies to march simultaneously towards Mosul. The Turks, in their retreat on Khanikin, had at least a road of sorts, but the route to Mosul is little more than a bridle-path. How, then, they are to get their guns away with them is a problem in transport which might baffle their German masters at their most resourceful. If the Turks solve it successfully, they are apt pupils of misfortune. In the area between the Diala and the Shatt-el-Adhaim, they tried to encircle our troops, while holding the Russians on the upper reaches of the Diala, but have been defeated in this design by General Maude.

The War at Sea.

The destruction of tonnage by enemy submarines continues, but the latest Admiralty returns show that so far is the volume of our trade from declining that the number of ships entering the ports of the United Kingdom is larger than it was the previous



DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



THE FOREIGN CONSULAR BODY AT PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD.

week. The arrivals of all nationalities were 2,406, and the sailings 2,367 for the week ending April 8th, as against 2,281 and 2,399 for the week ending April 1st. The British losses for the past week were 25 ships, including six fishing vessels.

With the entry of the United States into the War, 600,000 tons of German shipping interned in American ports should be released for the service of the Allies.

The Royal Flying Corps, whose superiority over the enemy was temporarily on the decline, has reasserted its ascendancy in a great battle in the air in which whole squadrons took part. On our side 28 machines were brought down, most of them in the enemy's country. The Germans lost 15 machines, besides 31 seriously damaged. The value of the results lay in the 1,700 photographs obtained by our aviators, and taken behind the German lines. They will be of incalculable value in future operations.

The Royal Naval Air Service has also distinguished itself during the past fortnight by attacks on Bruges and Zeebrugge. In the course of the first, bombs were dropped on ammunition dumps, some of which exploded; in the course of the second, on light craft in Zeebrugge Harbour. One enemy destroyer was sunk and another severely damaged.

Two more hospital ships have been sunk, one by mine, the other by torpedo, and as a reprisal a large squadron of British and French aeroplanes liberally bombarded Freiburg on April 14th.

(To be continued.)

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Among other resolutions adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom on March 20th and 21st was the following:—

"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 restricting, by tariffs and otherwise, 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."

MR. BERNARD BONYUN, for some time Assistant Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, has made a welcome reappearance in London, having returned from West Africa on five months' leave.

THE SUGAR COMMISSION AND PRICES.

A Valuable Historical Report.

It is understood that no further returns regarding the purchases of sugar by the Royal Commission are to be published at present.

The report of the Auditor-General for the year ended March 31st states that the sale of sugar by the Treasury realised £34,840,523, leaving an excess of receipts in 1915-16 of £8,408,153 11s. 5d. In 1914-15 the payments exceeded the receipts by £7,105,747 18s. 3d., so that there was a net excess of receipts over payments in the two years of £1,302,405 13s. 2d.

The Departmental Committee on the Increase of Prices of Commodities since the outbreak of War deal in their third report with the position of sugar in the United Kingdom.*

The rise in the prices of sugar (inclusive of duty), since the beginning of the War, has, they state, been proportionately greater than that of any of the other main articles of food, the average price of white granulated sugar, the variety most commonly used by working-class families, having increased by 170 per cent. in the United Kingdom generally. The periodical changes which have occurred since July, 1914, are shown in percentage form in the following table:—

Date	Increase per cent.
1914:—	
August	84
September	65
October	18
November	72
December	68
1915:—	
January-May	67
June	69
July-August	68
September	70
October-December	93
1916:—	
January	93
February	103
March	119
April	128
May	152
June	155
July	158
August	160
September	163
October	166
November	168
December	170

"A great part of the increase took effect at the commencement of the War, the retail prices shown in the returns supplied to the Board of Trade by retail shopkeepers averaging nearly 3½d. per lb. at the beginning of September, 1914, compared with approximately 2d. per lb. in July. In the early part of August prices had been even higher. After a temporary rise to 3¾d. in September, the average reverted in October to 3½d., at which figure it remained until September, 1915. An increase of over ¾d. per lb. in the duty, during the latter month, was accompanied by a reduction in the wholesale

* White Paper [Cd. 8483].

† Except in the case of the first figure given, which is for 8th August, the percentages relate to the beginning of each month.

price, the net effect being an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in retail prices, which then remained at an average of 4d. until January, 1916. Between January and the end of March, 1916, the price rose to $4\frac{3}{4}$ d., and another $\frac{1}{2}$ d. was added in April as the result of extra taxation. Since May, 1916, further increases have occurred, making the figure for December approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. The increase during the War has thus averaged about $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., of which slightly over $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. is accounted for by the additional taxation imposed in September, 1915, and April, 1916.

"The sudden rise in prices at the outbreak of the War was caused by excited buying on the part of the public, combined with the stoppage of imports from Germany and Austria-Hungary (which had been the sources of two-thirds of our supplies in 1913) and with interruptions to shipments from other quarters. For the whole month of August, 1914, including the period before the entry of this country into the War, the total imports of sugar into the United Kingdom were only 34,000 tons, compared with 184,000 tons in August, 1913, and at the end of the month the quantities in the bonded warehouses had fallen to little more than one-half of those at the same date in 1913, or less than the equivalent of one month's clearances for home consumption.

"The situation was relieved, and the threatened exhaustion of stocks averted, through the intervention of the Government, large supplies being purchased and a Royal Commission appointed to take

them over and generally to control the further importation and the distribution. Arrangements were also made by which all the important sugar refineries were placed under the control of the Government and their selling prices fixed, and announcements had meanwhile been issued by the Board of Trade specifying the maximum retail prices recommended by an Advisory Committee of Retail Traders. As the result of these measures, the rise in prices was arrested. By November, 1914, the shortage of stocks had been remedied and the recommended maximum price reduced from $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

"The absence of the cheap European supplies, however, and the consequent necessity of buying in less favourable markets, precluded any possibility of a fall to the pre-war level, and from November, 1914, to September, 1915, the wholesale price of standard granulated sugar in bond in London was over 80 per cent. above the price in the early part of July, 1914. Since that period there has been a further rise, and wholesale prices, even apart from the extra taxation, are now nearly double those of the months immediately preceding the War.

"The extent to which the sources of supply have been changed is shown in the following table, comparing the quantities imported from various countries to the United Kingdom in the period January-November, 1916, with those for the same months of 1913. (The figures given include the re-exports, the quantities of which were insignificant.)

Country.	REFINED SUGAR.		UNREFINED SUGAR.		TOTAL.	
	1913	1916	1913	1916	1913	1916
	Jan.-Nov. Tons	Jan.-Nov. Tons	Jan.-Nov. Tons	Jan.-Nov. Tons	Jan.-Nov. Tons	Jan.-Nov. Tons
Europe—All Countries	810,525	4,373	591,614	—	1,402,139	4,373
United States of America	381	268,465	—	—	381	268,465
Cuba	—	—	220,444	550,206	220,444	550,206
British West Indies†	—	—	42,668	67,715	42,668	67,715
Java	—	70,989	99	245,845	99	316,834
Mauritius	274	26,757	18,799	80,063	19,073	106,820
Philippine Islands	—	—	—	65,206	—	65,206
Other Countries	16	16,240	66,034	52,685	66,050	68,925
Total	811,196	386,824	939,658	1,061,720	1,750,854	1,449,544

*The relatively small quantity of unrefined sugar which was imported from the United States in the period January-November, 1913, has not been published separately in the "Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation," but it is included in the figures given for "Other Countries."

† Including British Guiana and British Honduras.

"In view of the dislocation in supplies indicated by these figures, of the abnormal increase in the purchases made in the United States, Cuba, Mauritius, Java, and the Philippines, and of the higher transport and insurance charges involved in the transference of the demands previously made on European countries to such remote centres of production, it was not to be expected that a considerable increase in prices could be prevented, even with the advantages which attended the concentration of purchasing in the hands of the Royal Commission. It is remarkable, however, that although large proportions of the present supplies are obtained from the United States and from Cuba, where large American firms have powerful interests, the f.o.b. price of granulated sugar in New York is higher than the wholesale price in bond in London.

"Further factors in the rise of prices, especially

during the present year, have been the increases in the charges for docking and handling in the ports and in the working expenses, including wages, cost of conveyance, packages, petrol, horse-keep, repairs, etc., at the refineries and in the different stages of distribution. The refiners' profits are limited, their selling prices being prescribed by the Royal Commission on a basis regulated in accordance with the price at which the raw sugar imported is issued to them. In addition, any profit made in excess of the pre-war figures, plus an agreed percentage, is recovered by the Royal Commission. The profits of the wholesale distributors are also limited to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the price, including duty, this rate being fair, in the opinion of the Commission, having regard to their ascertained profits from various classes of transactions before the War. The Commission itself aims at adding only such a fraction to the cost

as will meet insurance and working expenses, and provide a sufficient reserve fund to enable uniformity of price to be maintained and to provide a balance in hand to meet any possible reduction in prices at the close of the War.

"Wholesale prices being thus regulated by the Royal Commission, the prices charged by retailers are also watched. Owing to the variations in the cost of transport from the ports to different towns, and in the terms upon which different traders purchase their supplies, no attempt is made to prescribe a uniform retail price for the country as a whole; but action is taken to deal with any efforts which may be made by individual traders to exact grossly excessive prices. For standard granulated sugar, the present wholesale price to the first-hand buyers, including duty, is $41\frac{1}{7}\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt. (less 1% per cent.), which, after allowing for a fair profit to the distributors, will in most cases permit the retailer to sell at 5d. per lb. at the port. When the sugar has to travel to a place in the country ordinarily well served by transport facilities, it is considered that $5\frac{1}{4}$ d. will usually give a fair rate of profit to the retailer. In places less favourably situated, a further addition may be justifiable, and where customers require credit and delivery for long distances, the cost of these facilities also may properly be added to the price.

"The points towards which criticism has been mainly directed in the evidence which has been given before us are the prohibition of direct importation by individual traders and the arrangements for distribution. It is complained in some quarters that the concentration of importation in the hands of the Royal Commission has created a monopoly, and that if dealers and manufacturers had been allowed to continue to import on their own account they would in many cases have been able to secure larger supplies than they obtain under the present methods of importation and distribution. The system of distribution has also been charged with being crude and unfair.

"As regards the restrictions on imports, we find that these were imposed primarily on account of the discovery that sugar imported from various countries was probably being replaced by supplies of enemy origin. When the prohibition was instituted, exceptions were made, subject to licence, in the case of supplies which were already contracted for, and some sugar was accordingly imported, during 1915, through channels other than the Royal Commission. This import has now ceased, and the only supplies for which licences to import have been granted are brewers' sugar (a low-grade article, unsuitable for grocery purposes or for refining) and certain West Indian grocery sugars made exclusively for the United Kingdom. The shortage of sugar during the present year, however, has not been due either to the original restriction of private imports or to the stoppage of those brought in under licence in 1915. It has been caused by the growing scarcity of available ships, which has made it necessary, in the national interests, to reduce the amount of tonnage placed at the disposal of the Sugar Commission, and by the increased Army requirements of sugar. The imports by the Royal Commission have the advan-

tage of being carried in requisitioned vessels, at 'Blue-book' rates of freight, and as in the present dearth of shipping any private importer would incur abnormally high charges for transport, even if he could obtain tonnage at all, it appears to be as desirable, in the interests of economy, as it is essential from the standpoint of limiting tonnage, that the reduced imports should continue to be shipped by the Commission rather than by private traders.

"Notwithstanding the restricted supply and the necessity for a reduction in consumption, the evidence given to us by retail distributors is to the effect that there has been little or no abatement of demand on the part of the public, and it appears probable that many of the complaints which are made with regard to the distribution of supplies arise rather from the general shortage than from inequalities in the quantities obtainable by different consumers. The aim of the Royal Commission has been towards distributing the shortage as evenly as possible among different classes of buyers, and provision has accordingly been made to secure that the limited supplies shall reach the public through the ordinary trade channels, and, so far as possible, in the same proportions as formerly. Both raw and refined sugars are imported, the former being issued to the refiners and the latter sold direct to the trade. The output of each refinery, after the retention of the amount required by the Government, is issued to customers in the proportions which their total purchases bore to the aggregate sale of the refinery in 1915. The quantities sold direct by the Commission are also distributed to buyers in the proportions which the supplies obtained by those buyers in 1915 (whether from the Commission or by direct importation under licence) bore to the total of such supplies.

"Wholesale dealers are required to observe the same principles, letting each client of 1915 have his proper proportion of the sugar at their disposal, and the retailers are expected to distribute to their customers as fairly as possible. In order to prevent the waste of the home-grown fruit crop, a special exception has recently been made in the case of the jam manufacturers, who have been provided with the necessary sugar to enable them to convert home-grown (but not imported) fruit into jam.

"We are aware that complaints have been made as to the practice which has been introduced by retailers, without objection from the Commission, of limiting the sale of sugar to those who purchase some prescribed value of other groceries at the same time. Such complaints are often made without adequate consideration either of the necessity of restricting the demand for sugar, or of the best interests of the poorer classes of the community. It would appear that, for a time, some retail grocers imposed conditions which were unfairly onerous; but the terms of sale have now, we understand, been generally revised in the direction of greater consideration to smaller purchasers. Experience has shown that restriction of this or some other kind is required to prevent the exhaustion of stocks by more well-to-do purchasers and also to prevent sugar being accumulated by individual buyers drawing from a number of shops; and we consider that the

condition that groceries to the value of, say, 2/- must be purchased with each 1 lb. of sugar cannot, in the present circumstances, be regarded as unreasonable.

"Having regard to the magnitude of the work undertaken by the Royal Commission, and to the difficulties attending the equitable administration of a short supply, equality of distribution from the outset was hardly to be expected; and we are of opinion that the action of the Commission has enabled supplies to be secured which might not otherwise have been available, and has kept prices at a level much below that which they would otherwise have reached."

THE WAR AND FREIGHT CHARGES.

In connection with the rise in price of wheat, the Departmental Committee on Prices investigated the question of freight charges. The extent to which these have advanced is instanced by figures obtained from the books of the leading firm of shipping brokers, which show for time-chartered vessels a rise, in round figures, from about 3/6 to 6/- per ton

Mean of Quotations reported in the undermentioned periods.

Cargo and Place of Shipment		January to March, 1914.	January to March, 1915.	January to March, 1916.	April to June, 1916.	July to September, 1916.	October, 1916.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
GRAIN:—							
New York*	... per quarter	1 2	7 4	15 4	11 9	9 8	9 4
Philadelphia—Baltimore	... "	2 0 ¹	6 2	16 0	12 1	11 3	—
Argentine—Up River	... per ton	13 1	62 0	144 2	161 9	152 9	125 0
Down River	... "	9 10	65 10	140 4	156 4	140 6	117 6
Bombay	... "	16 7	40 0	122 7	113 0	118 2	133 9
Australia	... "	28 0	—	108 4	110 0	120 0	—
PROVISIONS:—							
New York*	... per 100 lbs.	11	1 11	4 9	8 0	6 3	6 7
RICE:—							
Burmah, etc.	... per ton	22 2	60 3	167 6	142 11	150 5	158 4
COTTON:—							
New York*	... per 100 lbs.	1 5 [†]	4 8	10 10	8 0	6 0	7 10
	* Berth rates to Liverpool.		May, 1914		2 October, 1914		

per month before the War to 60/- early in 1916. A fall then occurred, and in October the figure was 40/-. Examples of freight rates for various voyages to the United Kingdom are quoted as above.

The Committee find that the rise is due to the shortage of shipping, the most important cause of which is the very large proportion of the total British mercantile tonnage requisitioned for naval and military service, for the transport of munitions or other commodities connected with the prosecution of the War, and for the services of the Allies. The withdrawal of the German mercantile marine has also to be taken into account in connection with the general shortage of shipping. A further loss of effective tonnage, estimated by one expert to be equivalent to a reduction of about 10 per cent., has also arisen from the shortage of labour and congestion at the docks, which have much increased the time taken to turn the ships round in port. Some compensating gain has been obtained by increasing the quantities carried on each voyage, and by reducing the number of voyages made in ballast, but the net result is still a very heavy reduction in cargo carrying capacity since the beginning of the War.

A QUESTION OF INSURANCE

The substantial increases of duty on produce since the War began having raised the question as to whether it would be safe to cover by insurance produce (lying at the docks) only, and not the duty, the following letter was sent to the Secretary of the Board of Customs by the West India Committee:—

26th March, 1917.

Dear Sir,—Would you kindly oblige by informing me whether merchants when insuring produce lying at the docks should cover duty as well as the value of the produce?

A reply at your early convenience will be much appreciated.

Yours, etc.,
ALGERNON H. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

To this letter the following reply was received:—

Custom House, London, E.C. 3.
2nd April, 1917.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 26th ultimo, No. 119, I am directed by the Board of Customs and Excise to inform you that, in the event of dutiable goods, lying in a bonded warehouse, being lost or destroyed by an avoidable accident before payment of the duty, they have

power under Section 87 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, to remit the duty. Should such an accident occur, the Board are prepared to consider any evidence which may be submitted with a view to remission of the duty if they are satisfied as to the facts and circumstances of the loss.

I am, etc.
N. O. TRAIN,
for Secretary.

The Section of the Customs Consolidation Act referred to runs as follows:—

87 If any goods warehoused or entered to be warehoused, or entered to be delivered from the warehouse, shall be lost or destroyed by unavoidable accident, either on ship board or in removing, landing, or receiving into the warehouse, or in the warehouse, the Commissioners of Customs may remit or return the duties due or paid thereon.

This reply is regarded as satisfactory, as we interpret it to mean that in the event of produce lying at the docks being destroyed by fire, for example, due to accident, the Customs will remit the duty. For the further comfort of the merchants, it may be stated that in the case of rum, the duty on which is largely in excess of the actual article, it is not the practice to cover the duty as well as the value of the produce.

AGRICULTURE IN ANTIGUA.

The Work of the Government Granary.

The Report of the Agricultural Department of Antigua for 1915-16 is now to hand, and contains much of interest in connection with the agricultural industries of that island.

The sugar output in 1915 was 4,600 tons less than that of 1914, owing to climatic causes, the total output consisting only of 9,250 tons of crystal and 1,576 tons of muscovado—in all 10,856 tons; and the cotton industry showed a similar reduction, due in this case, however, to lessened acreage planted. It is recorded in the Report that the good prices obtainable for sugar had induced many of the peasantry and others to substitute the cultivation of the sugar-cane for that of cotton, and the result was that the area planted, 440 acres, was the smallest acreage planted in cotton since 1903-4, representing a decrease of 240 acres on the 1914 area. In addition to the above, 70 acres were planted in cotton in the island of Barbuda.

As regards the minor industries, no extension of the planting of lime trees took place. It must be remembered that lime-growing can only be carried out in Antigua in certain spots favourable to it. The interest in the coco-nut industry is stated to have been well maintained, and 400 acres were under this crop. The onion industry was also thriving, and, thanks to the work of the Antigua Onion Growers' Association, the export of onions was increasing. In 1915-16, 6,913 crates of onions were exported, as against 6,571 crates in 1914-15, 6,557 crates in 1913-14, and 4,406 crates in 1912-13. The season, however, of 1915-16 was too wet for the crop, many seedlings and onions being lost from this cause.

By no means the least interesting part of the Report is that dealing with the operations of the Government Granary in connection with the maize industry. It will be remembered that the object of the scheme was to conduct the purchase, preparation, storage, and sale of this produce on a co-operative basis. A first payment was made for the corn-cobs when delivered to the Granary, and any profits made on sale were divided between the grower and the Government in the proportion of 75 per cent. to the former and 25 per cent. to the latter. The corn was kiln-dried in the Granary.

The following is a summary of the year's working:—

Total weight of cob corn purchased	109,987 lb.
Total amount paid	£298 18s. 10d.
Price paid per 112 lb.	8s. 1d.
Total number of persons from whom bought	52
Kiln-dried corn sold	67,032 lb.
Price realized	£315 3s. 4d.
Average price per 112 lb.	10s. 6d.
Expenditure on labour and materials	£37 9s. 9d.
Expenditure on bags	£13 17s. 10d.
Loss on Transaction	£35 3s. 1d.
Per cent. kiln-dried corn or cob corn	60.9
Moisture per cent. wet corn	18.3
Moisture per cent. dry corn	10.6
Moisture per cent. loss	7.7
Shelling per cent.	65.0

The working resulted in a loss to the Government of £35 3s. 1d. on the year's working.

Antigua is very subject to droughts, and the important subject of re-forestation has not been lost sight of in connection with the island, 50 acres of the catchment area of Walling's reservoir being planted with forest trees. The method of planting was simple, the land being mostly covered with coarse grass and other dwarf herbage. Small areas of one foot square and eight feet apart having been cleared with the hoe, shallow holes were made with a fork, and three to five seeds planted in each. The results of this simple process have been good, and it is stated to be preferable to transplanting young trees. In this connection it is mentioned that the Arbor Day trees planted on the sides of the road leading to St. John's have made good growth, but that some of them have been badly damaged by reason of their bark—they are mahogany trees—being appropriated by passers-by for medicinal purposes.

CACAO IN NIGERIA.

Mr. P. H. Lamb, in his latest report on the work of the Agricultural Department of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, refers to the success which has attended the introduction of varieties of sugar-cane from Barbados. These were distributed to the natives, who, having seen the difference between the creole variety and the West Indian, now show some keenness in obtaining the latter. A small acreage in the Maigana plantations has been planted with Barbados canes in order to facilitate their distribution in future.

According to our contemporary *West Africa*, the yield in cacao for the year was slightly higher than that of the previous year. At the native cacao farm, at Ibadan, a further test was made with the Hamel-Smith cacao-drying machine. The cost of machine-dried and sun-dried cacao was at the rate of 5/5 and 1/6 per cwt. respectively. The two kinds of cacao were sent for examination at the Imperial Institute, where the composition of the beans was found to be quite satisfactory. It is a matter of interest that the percentage of total alkaloid was slightly above the normal; it was respectively 2.05 and 1.92 per cent. in the artificially dried and sun-dried beans. Fermented cacao from Nigeria previously examined at the Imperial Institute contained 1.58 to 1.80 per cent. of alkaloid.

Brokers and cacao and chocolate manufacturers, to whom samples of the cacao were submitted, expressed favourable opinions as to the quality of both products, but considered that which had been sun-dried slightly superior. The sun-dried cacao was valued at from 77/- to 79/- per cwt., and the machine-dried at 76/- to 78/- per cwt., at a time that St. Thomé and Cameroons cacao was selling at 74/- to 77/6 per cwt. There is thus little to choose between the value of the sun-dried and artificially dried cacao, provided the cacao is properly fermented and dried in both cases. As the latter method is more expensive, it is regarded as fortunate that in Nigeria the principal cacao harvest coincides with the dry season, when it is rarely necessary to resort to artificial means to dry the crop.

BLACKBEARD.

(Continued from page 136 and concluded.)

Coming across two French ships, one well laden with produce and the other in ballast, Blackbeard, after transferring the crew of the former to the empty ship, brought the full one to port. He then swore an affidavit to the effect that he had found her abandoned at sea. This affidavit was readily accepted by Eden and his equally culpable Secretary, Tobias Knight, who received as their share of the swag 60 and 20 hogsheads of sugar respectively. Ostensibly on the grounds that there was a danger of her sinking and blocking the river, but in reality to conceal all the traces of the piracy, the ship was taken out to sea and burnt after her valuable cargo had been discharged.

Blackbeard's log would make interesting reading if it were still in existence, judging from the following extracts, which are quoted by Surgeon-Major Bacot.*

"Rum all out. Our company somewhat sober. A damned confusion among us, rogues a-plotting. Great talk of separation, so I looked sharp for a prize.

"Took one with a great deal of liquor on board, so kept the company hot, damned hot. Then things went well again."

The waters off Carolina were, as we have seen, much favoured by Blackbeard for his piratical operations, and it was here that he was ultimately cornered. The settlers in North Carolina, realising that it was quite useless to hope for any sympathy from their own Governor, who, as already stated, was hand-in-glove with the pirates, appealed for help to Colonel Alexander Spottiswoode, the Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, imploring him to send some vessels to hunt them down. They did not appeal in vain. Spottiswoode, who had fought for Queen Anne, and had been wounded at Blenheim, was not the kind of man to have any truck with pirates. He readily acceded to the request of the settlers, and commissioned George Gordon and Ellis Brand, who commanded the *Pearl* and the *Lime* frigates, to undertake the dangerous task of extirpating the lawless gang. As, however, the frigates drew too much water to permit of their entering the shallow creeks along the coast, two sloops were fitted out for the expedition, and these were put under the command of Robert Maynard.

On November 17th, 1718, the two sloops sailed from James River in search of the pirates. Four days later they tracked Blackbeard down to a secluded creek near Cape Hatteras, where he was lying in wait in his sloop, which mounted several guns and was manned by twenty-five as desperate ruffians as were to be found in either hemisphere. Having cleared his vessel for action, the pirate had indulged overnight in a drinking bout, from which he had not recovered when the enemy was upon him. The water was shallow, and Maynard's sloops constantly grounded, which gave the pirates, whose vessel drew little water, a distinct advantage that was enhanced by their intimate knowledge of the locality.

* "The Bahamas: A Sketch." By Surgeon-Major Bacot. London: Longmans, Green.

Blackbeard was the first to fire, and a hail of "swan shot and scrap iron" from the pirate sloop played havoc with Maynard's small force. No fewer than twenty-nine men were either killed or wounded by the first broadside, and one of the two attacking sloops was immediately put out of action. But Maynard never wavered. Lightening his vessel by throwing all the available ballast overboard, and ordering the survivors to keep out of sight 'tween decks, he gallantly seized the helm and steered straight for the pirates' vessel, which was now herself aground.

This was more than the pirates bargained for, and Blackbeard, seeing the game was up, stood with a lighted match over his powder magazine, determined that neither he nor his companions should be taken alive. At the last moment, however, in a frenzy of rage he changed his mind, and, hurling hand-grenades, which swept the decks of Maynard's sloop, now at close quarters, determined to board her. Leaping over her bows, followed by twelve of his men, he made a dash at the Lieutenant, the only man visible. But at this moment a dozen stalwart sailors sprang to Maynard's assistance, and the tables were turned. A violent hand-to-hand fight ensued. Pirate after pirate fell, but Blackbeard, now streaming with blood from many wounds, still fought on until from sheer exhaustion he fainted just as he was stepping back to recock his pistol, and expired.

Maynard made good his victory, taking fifteen of the pirates alive; and he returned in triumph to James River with his prize. On the bowsprit of his vessel was the bloody head of the once dreaded pirate—a terrifying spectacle.

The surviving pirates met the fate they so well deserved. Thirteen were hanged, two only escaping the punishment they so richly deserved—one on the grounds that he had only just "enlisted," and the other on the plea that the Proclamation pardoning all who surrendered had not yet expired. This individual, it is said, returned to London and earned an honest living as a crossing-sweeper! The pirate sloop and stores of sugar and cacao which had been seized by Brand, who had raided the pirates' stronghold, were sold, and the proceeds were divided among the ships' companies as prize money, a claim for the whole of it put forward by Maynard having been rejected.

Great were the rejoicings in the plantations of North Carolina and Virginia when the people learned the glad tidings of the death of Blackbeard and the capture of the survivors of his desperate gang, which for so long had been the terror of the seas.

Meanwhile, the English Government, moved at last to action by the constant complaints of the London merchants trading with the West Indies, determined to adopt rigorous measures for ridding the Caribbean and the neighbouring seas of the pirates. To this end King George I. gave Woodes Rogers a commission as Governor of New Providence. Rogers, who was a Captain of the Royal Navy, was already known to fame as the rescuer of Alexander Selkirk, whose adventures on Juan Fernandez are portrayed in "Robinson Crusoe" by Defoe, though the author placed his hero on the

West Indian island of Tobago, as the geographical descriptions in the opening chapters very clearly show. Rogers' selection for this difficult task was no doubt prompted by the success which had attended his cruise in the South Seas in command of the private men-of-war *Duke* and *Duchess*, at the instance of the merchants of Bristol.

With a hundred men and stores and equipment, of which New Providence was sadly in need—for the principal fort mounted a single gun only, a solitary nine-pounder—Rogers now set out for the Bahamas. He reached his destination on August 3rd, 1718, and met with a very cordial reception. Some writers allege that he was greeted by no fewer than a thousand pirates, but those responsible for this statement must have assumed that every inhabitant of the island was of a piratical disposition. Suffice it to say that Rogers was received on landing by Thomas Walker, Chief Justice, Thomas Taylor, President of the Council, and other leading inhabitants. From the waterside to the fort the pirates were drawn up in two lines, and fired a *feu de joie* as the Governor and his staff passed down the ranks! On arriving at the fort, the Governor was sworn in, his Commission having been read with due ceremony.

Rogers found Nassau, the capital of the settlement, in a pitiful state. The accommodation in the place was so limited that his men were compelled to unbend their sails and to make tents of them to shelter them from the elements—no great hardship, however, in a semi-tropical island.

They soon settled down in their new surroundings, and within a very few weeks of their arrival they rounded up the pirates and threw them into the principal fort. A court-martial followed on September 10th, when sixteen of the more dangerous characters were arraigned for piracy. Seven were acquitted, but nine were condemned to death, their names being John Angur, William Cunningham, Dennis MacCarthy, William Dowling, William Lewis, Thomas Morris, George Bendall, William Ling, and George Rounsivell.

The sentence was carried out on December 12th, 1718. At ten o'clock in the morning of that day, the condemned men were led out of the top of the rampart overlooking the sea. Thence they were conducted down a ladder to the foot of the fort wall to the gallows, where the final scene was enacted.

The fort has long since disappeared, and its site is now occupied by a palatial hotel, which is much frequented by American tourists during the winter months. A well on the property is called Blackbeard's Well, but whether it was used for its legitimate purpose or as the last resting-place of the pirate's wives, history does not relate. Mr. G. H. J. Northeroft, in his "Sketches of Summerland," writes of this well: "The famous pirate—so the story goes—used to water his ships here, and, presumably, drank of it himself, whenever he used a liquor so innocent as water; and there is a legend to the effect that anyone drinking of this well can never entirely leave the Bahamas"—which reminds us of the somewhat similar properties of the Fountain of Trevi, in Rome, and the Cascadura fish in Trinidad.

Not to be outdone by St. Thomas, the Bahamas have also a Blackbeard's Tower, where, according

to tradition, the pirates were wont to keep a bright look-out for hostile craft. It stands near the eastern end of the island on a low hill in the midst of a sisal plantation known as Sans Souci. The tower is rather off the beaten track, and for that reason, perhaps, it has made as yet no special appeal to the passing visitor, who more often than not knows nothing of the tradition associated with it.

A. E. A.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Captain William H. G. Thorne, of the British West Indies Regiment and Barbados, has been appointed an Assistant Provost Marshal.

The British West Indies Regiment has been mentioned in the Commander-in-Chief's Orders in Egypt for the smart and efficient manner in which a guard which it furnished carried out its duties.

Compendium writing tablets which the Contingent Committee sent recently to France for distribution among men in hospital are giving great pleasure. One unlooked-for result has been that the Committee is now receiving more letters than ever!

The Committee is assisting a Sergeant who has been granted leave of absence to proceed to Trinidad, as Corporal Roberts, of the Middlesex Regiment, did recently. Corporal Roberts, on his return to Port of Spain, addressed recruiting meetings on the Savannah, and it is hoped that the B.W.I. Sergeant will be able to do the same.

The Ladies' Committee and others interested in their work are reminded that the weekly work-parties are now held at Lady Davson's house, 20, Ennismore Gardens, on Wednesday, from 2 to 6 p.m. The demand for comforts is constantly increasing, and it is hoped that the regular workers may be reinforced.

The headquarters of the Ladies' Committee have been transferred from 5, Trevor Square, S.W., to 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3, where all parcels should now be sent. The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:—

Mrs. Wade: 1 pr. socks.
The Lady Jane Grey: 2 prs. socks.
Lady Llewelyn: 2 prs. socks.
Miss Young: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. Arthur Johnson: Magazines, 1 scarf, 1 pr. mittens.
Mrs. Lister: 6 prs. socks.
Mrs. Barnes: 4 prs. socks.
The Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas: 51 prs. socks, 3 mufflers, 3 helmets, 6 chest protectors.
Lady Sendall: 3 prs. socks.
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Hill: 4 packs cards and draughts.

Following are a few extracts from letters received from men to whom gifts have been sent by the Committee:—

"I shall treasure the handsome gift and keep it as long as I live, not only as a souvenir of the War, but also as a memento of the good work the W.I.C. Committee has done and is doing for us."

"Socks have never been more welcome to me than they were when your parcel arrived, and it was great to get some West Indian papers."

"I beg to thank you sincerely for the kind and generous assistance which you gave me during my furlough. I thoroughly enjoyed myself at the Victoria League Club, and I do not think a better place could have been selected."

"I received the boots safely. They fit nicely, and I feel quite a lot of relief in them."

"Many thanks for parcel of fags. They were just in time to save me from disaster"

* * *

The attention of officers in the British West Indies Regiment may be called to the Royal Overseas Officers' Club which now occupies the palatial Royal Automobile Club premises in Pall Mall. All officers from our Dominions and Colonies who are serving with a Colonial Regiment are eligible for membership, without entrance fee or subscription, on application to the Secretary. A special Committee of the Club—which, among other attractions, has a Turkish bath and squash racquet courts—arranges entertainments for officers and provides invitations to country houses. Officers from overseas who are serving with Imperial Regiments can join the club on payment of £4 4s. for the rest of the present year.

The total amount received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund is £7,070 1s. 3d., and of this approximately £4,352 has been expended. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, per Mrs. Alice Menendez (earmarked for Bahamas Contingent)	30	0	0
Mrs. J. Kay (for Caroni men)	6	3	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
Collections at Cathedral, Kingstown	4	3	4
Rev. Canon Gresham	10	0	0
Per month (January):—			
Kingstown Club	1	14	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
Hon. C. E. P. Richards	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	0
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	0
James H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	0
A. L. Gallizeau, Esq.	2	0	0
James Davy, Esq.	1	0	0
Per month (February):—	8	8	8
Kingstown Club	1	10	0
Hon. C. E. P. Richards	10	0	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	0
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	0
James H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
A. L. Gallizeau, Esq.	2	0	0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	0
James Davy, Esq.	1	0	0
	4	11	4
N. J. A. Bascom, Esq.	3	2	6
John T. Haynes, Esq.	2	2	0
J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd. (further rebate on badges, to come)	1	15	6
Lady Sendall	1	1	0
The Misses Peterkin	1	0	0
F. J. Morris, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Harper	5	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. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

CADET IVOR McCRAE WAKEFIELD, who, as stated in last CIRCULAR, died of sickness on February 28th, was the younger son of Mr. Arthur Wakefield, formerly branch manager of the Colonial Bank, latterly in St. Kitts, and now of the Morellas, 2, Ryersfield Road, Richmond, Surrey. Cadet Wakefield was at the Royal Garrison Artillery Cadet School, when he caught a chill, which developed into pneumonia. Born in St. Vincent, Ivor Wakefield was educated at the St. Vincent Grammar School and at St. Paul's. At the latter school he was on the modern side, it having been his intention to study medicine. He was a foundation scholar, a prefect, a member of the second XI. and the first XV., and won his colours in December last. On leaving school in January last he joined the Cadet Battalion, with which he was serving when he caught his fatal illness. He was very popular with all who knew him and, to quote his Commandant, "by his death the service loses a boy who was typical of the best type of officer." A school friend writes of him: "He was admired and liked by all who were acquainted with him, and loved by those who really knew him well."

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. A. H. HAMEL-SMITH, Royal Berkshire Regiment, of Trinidad.

SECOND LIEUT. LOUIS E. PRADA, East Lancashire Regiment, of Trinidad.

SECOND LIEUT. ROBERT E. QUESNEL, North Lancashire Regiment, of Trinidad.

PTL. OSCAR L. DINSEY, Royal Fusiliers, of St. Kitts.

TROOPER KENNETH V. GALT, King Edward's Horse, of Trinidad.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. A. McARTHUR, of Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Demerara, and now in Northumberland Fusiliers, has been awarded a bar to the Military Cross which he received in August, 1916. He was decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, Feb 21st.

SECOND LIEUT. WILFRED STUART LANE PAYNE, Royal Garrison Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action, having displayed great courage and skill when employed as Observation Officer, and having later rescued six men who had been buried in a dug-out. He is a member of the Survey Staff of the Lands and Mines Department of British Guiana, and son of the late Charles Lane Payne barrister-at-law and successively Inspector of Police and Stipendiary Magistrate of that Colony.

SECOND LIEUT. A. F. ("DICKIE") BRYDEN, South Lancashire Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry in leading a raid on the enemy trenches in February last. He is son of Mr. A. S. Bryden, of Barbados.

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.

Cave, Capt. J. P. (proprietor of Nicholas Abbey, Barbados), Royal Engineers.

Cook, 2nd Lieut. Cecil Haddon (son of Mr. W. H. Cook, of Georgetown, Demerara), Manchester Regt.

de Gale, 2nd Lieut. Walter C. (of St. Patrick's, Grenada), Royal Field Artillery.

Duruty, C. E., 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Warwickshire Regt.

Farrar, 2nd Lieut. Walter Frederick (elder son of the late Bishop Farrar, of British Honduras), Machine Gun Corps.

Farrar, 2nd Lieut. Thomas Inmiss (younger son of the late Bishop Farrar, of British Honduras), Royal Devon Regt., attached to Machine Gun Corps. *Wounded at Kut.*

Hamel-Smith, A. Harcourt, 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Hatt, Lieut. Clarence D. (son of Mr. G. David Hatt, of Tobago), Machine Gun Section, Canadian Infantry.

Irving, Cadet Alfred (fourth son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, of British Guiana), Military College, Quetta, India.

Laughlin, G., 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Money, 2nd Lieut. P. K. (overseer in Pln. Nonpareil), British Guiana, Norfolk Regt.

Medford, W. H. L., 3rd Barbados Citizens' Contingent, late Army Service Corps, 2nd Lieut. Royal Garrison Artillery.

Quesnel, Robert E., 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, North Lancashire Regiment.

Quick, Gunner Pierre (eldest son of Canon F. L. Quick, of British Guiana), Royal Field Artillery.

Rochford, John R., 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Rooks, Frank O., 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Sawyer, R. H., of Nassau, Bahamas (grandson of the late Hon. R. H. Sawyer, C.M.G.), late Canadian Infantry and Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Royal Flying Corps.

Usher, A. N. of British Honduras, late Sergt. British West Indies Regiment, 2nd Lieut. Royal Fusiliers.

THE AMERICAN VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The United States Congress has passed an Act (No. 389, 64 Congress) to provide for the temporary government of the islands recently acquired from Denmark, now known as the Virgin Islands of the United States. By this Act, which was approved on March 3rd last, all military, civil and judicial powers necessary for the government of the islands are vested in a Governor, and in such person or persons as the President may, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint.

The existing laws as to elections and franchise, as set forth in the code of laws published at Amalienburg on April 6th, 1906, and other local laws in force on January 17th, 1917, are to remain in force subject to appeals being reviewable by the United States Court of Appeal for the Third Circuit, instead of the Courts of Denmark.

With regard to taxation, all articles the growth or product of or manufactured in the island are to be admitted into the United States. Existing Customs laws and regulations will continue in force and effect subject to United States products and manufactures being admitted into the islands free of duty, and to the imposition of an export duty of \$8 per 2,000 lbs. on sugar. Duties and taxes raised are to be used for the benefit of the islands, and not paid into the United States Treasury.

Finally, the Act provides for the payment of \$25,000,000 in Washington to the representative of the King of Denmark, in full consideration of the cession of the Danish West Indian Islands to the United States made by the Convention of August 4th, 1916.

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.

NATURE NOTES.

MR. J. E. JARVIS, the entomologist of the Australian Experiment Station, has been experimenting on the effect of the addition to the soil of arsenate of copper in connection with cane cultivation. So far, the experiments show promise of good results. The effect of the arsenate is to free the soil from hostile fauna, and the action is probably the same as that of bisulphide of carbon. These experiments are of the highest importance.

WRITING in the *Agricultural Bulletin* of the Federated Malay States on the subject of the coagulation of rubber latex in the presence of sugar, Mr. B. J. Eaton states that the conclusion he arrived at as the result of experiment was that 0.2 per cent. of sugar was the minimum amount for perfect coagulation. From 20 to 25 per cent. of water, in which the sugar is dissolved, is added to the latex, which is then well stirred. Coagulation is complete in 18 hours. With an excess of sugar, the process of coagulation is not hastened.

EXPERIMENTS in the same direction with fermented coco-nut milk were not successful. The milk contained as much as 5 per cent. of sugar, from which a liquid containing 2.3 per cent. of acetic acid was anticipated. The acid content was measured from time to time, and was found to be only 0.4 per cent. after seven days, and 0.46 per cent. after 15 days' fermentation. It was also found that only about half of the acid formed was acetic acid, the remainder being a lactic acid.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society contributes some interesting facts in connection with the Black Fly of Citrus. He states that his citrus grove was so infested with the pest that all the trees save one were covered with the sooty mould secreted by the larvæ of the fly. An examination of the solitary tree showed that there was a small ants' nest on the tree, and the ants had completely cleared out the flies and their larvæ. An ants' nest was placed on every tree in the grove, and in six months the trees began to look clean again.

IN Vol. ix., No. 4, of the *Philippine Agricultural Review* an article appears dealing with the subject of the spread of rinderpest among cattle by means of infection from swine. As the result of experiments, the author of the article, Mr. W. H. Boynton, concludes that pigs can contract rinderpest when exposed to cattle with this disease. Further, that cattle can contract rinderpest from pigs, but not very readily.

THE effect of continuous cultivation on soils has recently been studied by Messrs. P. L. Gainey and W. M. Gibbs. It was found that soil under continuous corn and wheat contained, in the absence of any addition of fertilisers or manure, comparatively few bacteria. In the presence of manures, however, soils with continuous wheat and corn cultivation

showed the presence of large numbers of bacteria. In the case where the manure was cotton-seed meal, the ability of the soil to liberate ammonia remained unchanged, but the ability of the soil to oxidise ammonia to nitrates was materially altered. Without manure, the continuous crop evils had little oxidising power; but this was raised by the addition of manures.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. W. GORDON GORDON, Mr. Robert Rutherford and Mr. J. Rippon have been elected Vice-Presidents of the West Indian Club.

BRITISH ships again exceeded those of every other nationality using the Panama Canal in January. No fewer than 66 passed through the waterway, as against 42 American and 13 Norwegian vessels.

MEMBERS of the West India Committee residing in the West Indies can now pay their subscriptions into any branch of the Colonial Bank. This has been found to be a great convenience.

THE Royal Bank of Canada is "tearing down,"—as the Americans would say—Waterloo House in Kingston, Jamaica, with a view of erecting on its site a more palatial building to house their local manager, Mr. Leon Colvin, and his staff.

THE Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee trust that those members who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st last, without delay. Subscriptions may either be sent direct or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

MISS ETHEL M. BUSHE, daughter of the Hon. R. Gervase Bushe, C.M.G., Auditor-General of Trinidad and Tobago, was married at St. Mark's, New Ferry, Cheshire, on April 11th to Mr. Lionel G. Peel, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Peel, of "Avebury," in that town.

A LENGTHY list of occupations in which new workers may not be employed has been issued by the Ministry of Munitions under the Defence of the Realm regulations. They include the manufacture of cigars and sugar and chocolate confectionery which are classed as non-essential trades.

THE marriage took place, very quietly, at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, W., on April 8th, between Arthur McArthur, M.C., Northumberland Fusiliers, and Hilda, widow of Captain E. C. Wright, Wiltshire Regiment, and daughter of the late Most Rev. William Procter Swaby, D.D., Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands and Archbishop of the West Indies.

WE have received from Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., of Derby, a catalogue giving an ac-

count of milling, boiling, and curing appliances adapted for small factories. The catalogue is elegantly got up, and by no means the least interesting part of it is the photographs of machinery belonging to large plants which this firm has recently turned out.

THE Chinese are very skilful in making confectionery. According to *Confectionery*, they are able to empty an orange of its pulp entirely, then fill it up with fruit jelly without one being able to find the smallest cut in the rind or even a tiny hole. Indeed, they even empty an egg in this manner, and fill it with a sort of almond nougat, without one being able to find the slightest break or incision in the shell.

MR. C. SANDBACH PARKER will deliver a lecture on the "Sugar Trade of the Empire" at the London School of Economics and Political Science early in May. The lecture will form one of a series on the Staple Trades of the Empire, arranged under the auspices of the Imperial Studies Committee of the University of London. Sir Henry Birchenough will preside. Tickets for the lecture can be obtained by members of the West India Committee from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

THE *Maritime Merchant* of Halifax, N.S., does not believe that the suggestion made by the New York Journal of Commerce and quoted in last CIRCULAR, that the United States should have full guardianship over all the West Indian islands will be taken seriously. Our contemporary adds that in all probability the writer himself does not take it any more seriously than he would a proposal from Canada to annex Porto Rico because the Dominion is geographically larger than the United States.

A FEW modifications in the prohibition of imports Order have to be recorded. As announced in the "Produce Markets' Summary" in the last issue of the CIRCULAR, arrangements have been made whereby the Governments of the various Colonies will issue licenses to the exporters to export a quantity of cacao equal to 50 per cent. of the exportations made during 1916. The West India Committee asked the Colonial Office to request the West Indian Governors to arrange for the 50 per cent. to be distributed *pro rata* among the estates, and the arrangements now made are generally regarded as being better than the original plan of issuing licenses to importers.

It has been decided that *Oranges* as fresh fruit shall be licensed up to 25 per cent. of the importations of 1916. *Tamarinds in Syrup* will be admitted to the extent of 50 per cent. of the importations made in 1916. *Limes, Cattlefood, and Industrial alcohol* are not prohibited. The restriction on the importation of *Dried Fruit* of colonial origin is withdrawn. Licenses will be granted to the actual consignees in this country for the admission of *Logwood* from the West Indies on receipt of full particulars of a specific consignment, *i.e.*, quantity of timber, name of vessel, and ports of dis-

patch and entry, on the distinct understanding that the vessel carrying same clears from the port of dispatch to this country on or before May 31st next.

OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD ROGER, I.S.O.

We regret to state that Captain Archibald Roger, I.S.O., died in Barbados on March 2nd.

Captain Roger, who was born in Tortola, Virgin Islands, on November 27th, 1842, was the son of the late James Dean Roger, of St. Kitts, and Bridge of Allan, Scotland. He was educated at Collegiate School, Glasgow, and at Brunswick, and joined the 2nd Royal Lanark Militia as an Ensign in August, 1859. In the following year he was transferred to the 2nd West India Regiment, becoming a Lieutenant in 1861 and Captain in 1866. He exchanged to the 1st Battalion of the 17th Regiment in February, 1867, but sold out of the Service in January, 1870. Whilst in the Army he served as Private Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas, 1860 to 1869, and afterwards as Fort Adjutant in Jamaica, 1863 to 1864. He married Alicia Julia, daughter of the late William Henry Hall, of Nassau, Bahamas. Captain Roger was appointed Police Magistrate of the Rural District, St. Kitts, in June, 1863, and was made District Magistrate for District D. in May, 1874. He was an Official Member of the Legislative Council from 1896 to 1900, and after acting as Administrator of St. Kitts, he was decorated in 1913 with the Imperial Service Order, and in February, 1914, was made a Member of the Executive Council. Captain Roger had been in poor health for some little time, but after the departure of Major Burdon on sick leave, he again acted as Administrator until he felt compelled by illness and advancing years to retire. At the time of his death he was visiting Barbados prior to retiring after thirty-five years in the Colonial Civil Service. Of a kindly and genial disposition, "Archie" Roger was a general favourite.

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.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1, 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is a single payment for £10 10s.

The B.E.P.O. have intercepted a letter which is being extensively circulated from Havana announcing the formation of a "vast organisation" entitled "The German Economic Federation for Central and South America and the Antilles" for stimulation of trade between the Vaterland and the Americas after the war. It is stated in the letter that the support of the German shipping companies has been obtained, adding "With peace will commence a great maritime activity. Germany is in the position of being able to place at once in active service her steamers, and will have the same tonnage at sea as before the war, even although she should not recover the steamers which are prisoners in enemy ports. The shipping constructed during the war is approximately equal to that which has been captured or destroyed."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The prosperity of the British West Indies is reflected by the cheerful tone of the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, extracts from which are given below. The decision of the Government to prohibit the import of several West Indian staples, among many other articles, with the view of releasing tonnage for war purposes, has been accepted in the proper spirit in most parts of the West Indies, as we felt sure it would be when the gravity of the Premier's speech was recognised. Where this has not been the case it can only be due to failure to realise the seriousness of the times, as Mr. E. J. Shelford points out, though no complaints have come from the colony which he represents. In this connection it must not be forgotten that the present prosperity of the West Indies is largely due to the high prices engendered by the War.

ANTIGUA—Dean Shepherd's Loss.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, MARCH 9th.—It is to be regretted that the Presidency was not represented at the recent Conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce. The writer and Mr. Scott-Johnstone had been nominated as delegates, but at the last moment neither was able to attend. The formation of this body is of great importance to the West Indies. We shall have the advantage of presenting a united opinion on matters concerning the welfare of these Colonies.

The long-drawn-out case of Dew v. Marshall has at last come to a conclusion. This was an action by Capt. Dew against Mr. Marshall to obtain possession of Thibou's Estate. Capt. Dew bought and paid for it some time ago, but certain complications arose, as Mr. Craustoun claimed that he was the actual purchaser.

It is with sincere regret that we have learnt that official notification has come that Lieut. Arthur Shepherd has died from wounds in a German hospital; also that Harry Holmes has been killed in Mesopotamia. This is the second son that the Dean and Mrs. Shepherd have lost in this terrific struggle. Young Shepherd was a sterling, upright young man, and much sympathy is felt with the Dean and his wife. Harry Holmes was the brother of Mrs. Scott-Johnstone, and had been in the Colonial Service for some time—latterly in Nigeria. Both he and Arthur Shepherd will be greatly missed by their Antigua friends. One hardly knows how to express the feelings of the community adequately on such an occasion. A memorial service will be held on Sunday in the Cathedral.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sir W. Egerton's Retirement.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MARCH 12th.—The weather has been showery and high winds have prevailed. Mr. Edward R. Davson has arrived in the colony with our delegates to the recent Conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. G. R. Garnett and Mr. A. P. G. Austin. The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society have addressed the following letter to Sir Walter Egerton on his retirement:—

Sir,—The President and Directors of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society have learned with great regret that the adverse report of your medical advisers prevents your return to British Guiana. Our Society, which is a non-political body, and which has served this colony in the domain of agriculture, commerce, science, and literature for seventy-three years, greeted you on your arrival nearly five years ago as the representative of its gracious Patron, His Majesty King George V., and as the bringer of a message of progress. We had arranged to welcome your return from a well-deserved holiday by a similar loyal reception, but fate has willed it otherwise.

Little more than two years of your administration had passed when the Empire found itself compelled to devote all its thoughts and energies to the terrible struggle with unscrupulous enemies which is still being

waged. Within that period, however, you had succeeded in completing the conversion of our somewhat conservative population to the conviction that British Guiana could never be developed without a railway aiming at becoming the northern section of a South American trunk line. You carried out in person some of the pioneer stage of this project in a visit to the Rupununi savannahs and exploded the legend that the interior was unhealthy and the scheme financially impracticable.

Your interest in schemes of irrigation and drainage, including the boring of artesian wells, has been persistent, and the results will one day be fruitful. The English law became the law of the colony during your administration. You gave our Society every form of personal encouragement. Your industry was unceasing.

To Lady Egerton the colony owes the Self-Help Depot and the Baby Saving League, and her devotion to public duty in other spheres of action will long be remembered by a not ungrateful people.

We regret that untoward circumstances will not allow you to complete the constructive work you had so far advanced at the outbreak of war, and will deprive our Society of its Vice-Patron.

I have, etc.,

JOSEPH J. NUNAN,

On behalf of the President and Directors of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society.

The obituary includes Mr. William Hodgson, late manager of Pln. Nismes, which occurred at Barbados on February 17th.

The prohibition of imports of rum and coffee into the United Kingdom and the restriction of cacao imports caused planters some concern. 4,386,854 gallons of rum, 501,115 lbs. of coffee, and 46,619 lbs. of cacao were shipped from the colony last year, and there are now 330,000 gallons of rum in the local bonded warehouse. The prize of £10 has been awarded to Lieut. A. R. Carroll for his design for the local Kitchener memorial.

GRENADA—Cacao Export Arrangements.

MR. C. V. C. HORN, MARCH 17th.—The Government subscribed £15,000 to the British Victory Loan. A fund has been opened called "Our Boys' Comfort Fund," with Mr. H. A. Berkeley as the Hon. Secretary, the idea being to purchase special gifts for Grenada soldiers at the front, to be sent from their homes here. Up to date the sum of £58 7s. has been collected. Mr. E. Harford, brother of the Hon. Fred Harford, of L'Esterre Estate, who went home and enlisted in August, 1915, has been granted a commission, and is attached to an Anti-Aircraft Battalion. The eldest son of the Hon. D. S. De Freitas has been reported wounded by a gunshot in the thigh, and is in hospital. The Grenada Boys' School Annual Sports are to be held on March 23rd at Queen's Park.

The Rev. Fr. Buckler, O.P., reached his Diamond Jubilee in the Dominican Order. His 60th anniversary was solemnised at a Mass of Thanksgiving, and at which Fr. Buckler conferred the degree of "Preacher-General" on the Very Rev. Fr. Moss, the V.-G. £4,076 13s. 6d. has been collected so far in connection with the extra War Tax on cacao; this tax continues during the War. On March 12th an influential meeting was held in the Public Buildings, presided over by His Excellency the Governor, to decide the "apportionment" of our cacao crop, now that our imports into the United Kingdom are restricted to 50 per cent. of last year's shipments. It was unanimously adopted that producers of 50 bags and under be allowed to ship 70 per cent. of their last year's amount, and those of over 50 bags, 50 per cent. We have about 13,000 bags to complete the 50 per cent. allowed to be exported. The "Supply Stores" has been registered as a Limited Company as D. Slinger & Co., Ltd., under the managing directorship of Mr. R. C. Pitt.

The "Grenada Handbook," which is of so much use, stood a chance of being withdrawn this year, but the Legislative Council placed £40 on the Estimates for the continuance of its production. The price will be doubled and the number of copies reduced. The Colony Hospital has been coming in for a good deal of public criticism of late. So valuable an institution should be well supported and upheld.

His Grace John Pius Dowling, Archbishop of Port of Spain, is on his Canonical Visitation, and is administering sacrament of Confirmation to candidates in all the parishes. There is some talk of a new Presbytery being built. Motor-cars still continue to arrive; seven came by last American steamer. Influenza and whooping cough are prevalent. For many years we have not experienced such a "dry" season.

MARCH 24th.—Statement of shipments from Grenada from October 1st, 1916, to date, as compared with the corresponding period, 1915-16:—

10 March.	SPICE.				KOLA.		LIME JUICE.	
	Bags Cocoa.	Half Brls.	Half Brls.	Cases.	Bags.	Hhds.	Cr. Casks.	
1917.	55,194	2860	78	59	240	4	38	2861
1916.	51,802	3397	106	196	3772	1	46	911

We have been having exceedingly nice weather—very cool in the mornings, and local showers. The present crop will not come up to last year's, but it will be a good average crop. Conditions are good at present for the young cacao. The Carriasson cotton crop is in full swing, but will not be up to the average; there was too much rain at the wrong time. Mr. Archer's lime estates are doing well a great boon for Carriasson, as he employs a great deal of labour.

Our 3rd Contingent is expected to leave shortly; they have been in training for nearly a year. Major Smith is still in command. With his tuition and experience they ought to give a good account of themselves.

JAMAICA—A Proposed New Dyewood Factory.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The weather during February was abnormally cool. The maximum temperature was 87.8 deg. Fahr., the minimum 63.5 deg. Fahr., and the mean 74.4 deg. Fahr. The rainfall was again very deficient, being only 0.16 inch in Kingston, as compared with an average for 40 years of 0.76 inch. The Legislative Council has been summoned to meet on the 6th of March. The report presented at the half-yearly meeting of the Jamaica Ice Company on the 9th showed net earnings for the period under review of £3,448, from which a dividend of 1/9 on 17/6 shares and 2/- on 25/- shares was paid. The system of Coupons for pre-paying postage on letters has been introduced here this month. The Anglican Synod was in session in the early part of February. Mr. H. T. Ronaldson has resigned his seat in the Legislative Council as representative for Clarendon, and an election to fill the vacancy will be held in due course. Amongst recent visitors to the island were Prince Bibesco of Rumania and party, Countess Festetics, Mr. F. Perry (General Passenger Agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway), and Mr. Cochran on his yacht the *Warrior*. Mr. Theodore Roosevelt postponed his visit on account of the political situation in the United States. On the whole, the tourist season this year has been a disappointment, but in view of the recent wild reports of raiders and German submarines, the possibility of the United States being drawn into the European struggle, and more recently the revolution in Cuba, this could only be expected. Because of the absence of visitors, and also lack of funds, the Jamaica Tourist Association has reluctantly decided to close for the present its information bureau. Inquiries from abroad will nevertheless be answered by the Secretary, and literature distributed as hitherto, and until such time as normal conditions will permit of the re-opening of the information bureau. Mr. Cunningham Graham, the celebrated novelist, passed through Jamaica on his way to Colombia early in the month. Whilst here he went into the question of cattle raising, and published his views on this subject, and also on the suitability of our mules for the work of the armies in Europe and elsewhere. Mr. Graham was very favourably impressed with these animals, and it is understood has so reported to the Home Government. Mr. A. E. Perkins has spent some time in the island, and has now left for Bermuda, via New York.

The wedding took place on the 7th of Lieut. T. J. Proctor, 1st W.I.R., and Miss Jessie Connolly. Hon. Robert Johnson, Acting Colonial Secretary, has received many congratulations upon the award to him of the C.M.G.

Plans for the erection of a dyewood factory in Westmoreland are understood to have matured, and it is reported that a company with English capital and head-

quarters in Leeds will shortly ship the necessary machinery and start operations. Jamaica added its quota to the War Loan, and amongst others who subscribed were the Church of England in Jamaica (£3,000) and the Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society (£10,000). Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture in the West Indies, arrived here on the 24th from Barbados, and is carefully investigating the local sugar possibilities with a view to advising the Government as to the best course to take for the development of the industry. Several schemes for the erection of central factories are receiving support, and it is probable that the near future will see unprecedented activity in this direction. The parish of St. Catherine would appear to be receiving special favour in this respect. Archbishop Nuttall's Memorial Fund has now reached £920 18. 9d.

The active War Funds stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	7,639	5	10
Blue Cross Fund	267	17	5
Belgian Orphan Fund	171	18	3
Jamaica Red Fund (Miss Douet)	828	18	5
Belgian Children's Fund	76	13	7

(Other Funds remain as last reported.)

ST. KITTS—Major and Mrs. Burdon's Return.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, MARCH 9th.—We are busy reaping the crops, and work is proceeding smoothly. The weather is dry, with high winds. We are very much pleased to have His Honour Major J. A. Burdon and Mrs. Burdon with us again. The Hon. T. E. Fell has returned to Barbados after a brief but successful term of office. The honourable gentleman gave two interesting and vigorous addresses on the War and his personal experiences at the Front, which were keenly appreciated by two large audiences at Basseterre and Sandy Point. The War, however, is so remote from us that it is not to be wondered at that many of our people do not seem to realise the seriousness of the times at all. Some real War cinema films should be sent round these islands bearing the stamp of the War Office—from an educational point of view alone.

The sad news arrived here last Friday of the death of Captain the Honourable A. Roger, I.S.O., at Barbados, where he had gone for change and medical advice. The tidings came as a shock to his relatives and many friends, for advice by letter told of a marked improvement in his health.

TOBAGO—A Motor Lorry Imported.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MARCH 7th.—In these days of bleak winds there is quite a lot of fever, and in the out-districts the lack of medical aid and even dispensaries is rather a serious matter. The roads are recovering from the floods of November and December, but bridges are needed, and some regrading to facilitate motor traffic, which is now indispensable. Mr. Archibald (Roxburgh) now possesses a motor lorry for the conveyance of his produce, supplies, etc., and no doubt more of these will be in use before long.

Sugar-making has commenced in the Leeward District, whilst coco-nut picking and copra-making are general all over the island. Cacao planters have marketed the bulk of their crop, but are much concerned as to the result of the restricted imports into the Old Country. The news has caused a serious drop in prices, and with the high cost of food-stuffs, the small proprietors will have rather a set-back. In the United States prices quickly responded to the bad news. It is hoped that normal conditions will shortly be restored.

TRINIDAD The Fire at Brighton.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 15th.—The annual Agricultural Show given by the Agricultural Society and Agricultural Board, assisted by other Associations, came off with something more than usual success on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Among the visitors were the delegates to the Commercial Conference, who thus had a good opportunity of judging of the varied resources of the colony. The Ankylostomiasis Commission, the Tuberculosis Association, and the Health Department contributed largely to the practical interest of the show with exhibits on which much care had been expended. A novel exhibit

was that of the new silkworm industry, showing the whole process from the egg to the winding of the silk from the cocoon. A very marked improvement in all classes of vegetables and fruits has occurred since these regular competitions have been established, but the most remarkable improvement is in poultry. There were about 220 entries in the different classes, many of the birds being of exceptional beauty. It was probably the finest exhibit of the kind ever seen in the West Indies.

The annual orgie known as the Carnival probably received its well-deserved death-blow this year. It was not actually prohibited, but the Governor issued a Proclamation forbidding bands of more than a certain number to patrol the streets, stopping the hideous forms of hooting—usually commencing at midnight—before six in the morning, and forbidding also the wearing of masks. This was the unkindest cut of all. The principal attraction of masquerading was lost when the riff-raff of the town could not hide its individuality behind a mask. And so the whole thing fell flat. A few stragglers appeared for a short time, but no one noticed them. Stores, for the first time in a century, kept open, tramways ran as usual, and business was normal. Let us hope we have seen the last of this annual discredit to the fair name of the colony.

The origin of the calamitous fire at Brighton, which is said to have damaged property of the Asphalt Company to the amount of about £100,000, is still more or less a mystery. It will be some time yet before the restoration of the transport plant will permit of shipments of asphalt being resumed. This is the more to be regretted as the export of this article was gradually increasing to something like its volume before the outbreak of war.

The War Contribution Tax passed all its stages at a meeting of the Legislative Council held last week. Incomes up to £500 are exempt; over £500 up to £1,000, 6d. in the £; £1,000 to £2,000, 1s.; and so on up to the unhappy capitalists, who will be called on for 6/8. A penny war stamp will also come into being on 1st prox.

Everyone, I think, welcomes the new taxation, and will contribute to it with pleasure, but it is estimated that only about 400 people will qualify out of the population of 350,000. The sugar crop goes along merrily. Planters are jubilant over the juice, whose richness has been unequalled for years. Weather could hardly be better.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United States America	2,044,666
United Kingdom	813,124
France	5,690,992
B. N. America	153,218
Italy	60,000

Total for February	8,762,000
Shipped previously	5,085,123

Total from 1st January 13,847,123

To same date, 1916	13,898,802
" " 1915	15,871,414
" " 1914	16,414,326
" " 1913	12,580,244
" " 1912	18,966,873
" " 1911	10,870,541
" " 1910	15,764,034
" " 1909	14,841,342
" " 1908	16,103,829

TURKS ISLANDS.—Labourers Still Leaving.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—On February 14th the S.S. *Henry T. Scott* arrived from Jacksonville, Fla., en route to La Romana, taking the last batch of labourers from Grand Turk to work on contract there. The newly-appointed Secretary of the Salt Pond Board, Mr. W. R. Tatem, has been exceptionally busy, and if he can only continue on the lines upon which he has started, doings will be materially improved. There certainly is need of improvement at Grand Turk, more especially where lots of the small owners of the pond have allowed it to get in a most dilapidated and filthy state.

The outlook for the coming season, as far as the sale

of salt goes, bids fair. The cotton industry, I am pleased to be able to report, seems to be fast getting out of the initiatory stage. About ten bales have been received so far. Two of the growers received nearly £6 as their first advance of 2 cents per lb, and when account sales are forthcoming will probably receive an equal sum. This has been such a revelation that one may have no fear of the result now. The Commissioner has just presented to the Agricultural Society a hand rope-making machine, one similar to what I have seen used in England on small rope-walks. Should this prove satisfactory in enabling peasants in the Caicos Islands to utilise the fibre of the Pita plant, which grows abundantly in these islands, for home use, and so save the importation of expensive cordage, the Commissioner proposes to place a number of these hand machines in each settlement. The Commissioner certainly deserves great praise, and it is hoped they will wake up and profit by his experience. He is trying in every way to help the people along and enlighten them in industries and agricultural pursuits.

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. 3.

Peel—Bushe—On the 11th April, at St. Mark's, New Ferry, Cheshire, by the Rev. H. Lowry, Vicar, assisted by Rev. S. P. Leadley-Brown and Rev. G. V. Yonge, Lionel G. Peel, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Peel, "Avebury," New Ferry, to Ethel M. Bushe, daughter of the Honourable R. Gervase Bushe, C.M.G., of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

McArthur—Swaby—At St. Andrew's, Wells Street, W., on April 8th, Arthur McArthur, M.C., Northumberland Fusiliers, to Hilda, widow of Captain R. C. Wright and daughter of the late Most Rev. William Proctor Swaby, D.D., Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands, and Archbishop of the West Indies.

Cran—McNeil—On the 11th April, at Wellington U.F. Church, Hillhead, Glasgow, by the Rev. Alex. Gibson, South U.F. Church, Prestwick, assisted by the Rev. Wm. Edie, Inveresk, Peter M. Cran, Captain R.R. (S.R.), B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., to Rosina, youngest daughter of John McNeil, Esq., Glenamod, Prestwick.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts of the half year, ended December 31st last, show a net profit of £33,234 10s. 5d (as against £22,070 0s. 2d. for the same period last year), making, with the balance of £43,700 14s. 4d. brought forward (£30,889 15s. in 1915) a total of £76,935 4s. 9d. (£52,954 15s. 2d.). Out of this the directors recommended the transfer of £50,000 to the General Reserve Fund, and the payment of dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. for the half-year, less income tax, leaving £65,750 to be carried forward. For the corresponding period last year the same dividend was declared, but there was no appropriation to the Reserve Fund. 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 £454,975 0s. 10d.; deposits at interest, current accounts, etc., at £3,714,434; bills payable and other liabilities at £463,971 8s. 6d. On the credit side of the accounts appear: specie £331,607 4s. 5d.; cash at London bankers and at call on short notice £260,093 17s. 4d. 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 1888) £739,916 8s. 2d.; bills receivable,

etc., £27,082 11s. 4d., due in the Colonies on current accounts £425,946 3s. 7d.; bills discounted in the colonies, bills in transit, advances on security, etc. £1,107,669 9s. 3d.; liability of customers for acceptances £384,675 0s. 5d.; and bank premises and furniture in London and the Colonies, £80,000.

Presiding over the 158th half-yearly general meeting on April 4th, Lord Beaverbrook said that the balance-sheet was the largest in the history of the Bank, which was due to the expansion of trade in the West Indies and to the development of the New York and Threadneedle Street branches. The deposits showed very large increases. Acceptances on Account of Customers was a new and growing item, which represented the commercial credits extended to merchant firms carrying on business overseas. The Bank carried more cash and more specie than last year. Its investments had been reduced by realisation. It was the intention of the Bank to employ its funds in banking transactions and to avoid investments. Bills receivable, current accounts in the Colonies, and bills discounted showed increases. The Bank had moved its offices in New York to new and convenient premises, and business there was expanding very rapidly. The City branch at Threadneedle Street showed considerable growth, and they expected very satisfactory results in the future. In the West Indies they had opened another branch in Jamaica. They had extended their business to West Africa, and branches had been opened at Accra and at Lagos, in British West Africa. During the half-year, Mr. Hewett, Joint General Manager, had visited all the branches in the West Indies, and Mr. Bell, Joint General Manager, who joined the Bank a year ago, had gone out to West Africa to superintend the opening of branches there. Excellent results followed the visit of Mr. Hewett to the West Indies. The business of the Bank at its branches had been stimulated, and the benefits were considerable. The policy of sending General Managers out to visit branches would be continued, he hoped, with increasing regularity. The Directors did not intend to waver in the policy which was defined at the last semi-annual meeting of making the Corporation the Colonial Bank—in fact as well as in name, serving the Colonies and the Empire, and endeavouring by efficient banking facilities to cultivate trade relations between England and Colonies and the Dominions. In conclusion, Lord Beaverbrook moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. Hamel Smith congratulated the staff at home on the work that they had done in a trying year. He also thanked the Directors, and hoped that they would not forget South America. A branch might, he hoped, be established, say, in Manaus or Para, not only for philanthropic or patriotic reasons, but also because business was expanding in South America. A branch or two might also with advantage be opened on the Spanish Main as well as in the West Indian Islands.

Lord Beaverbrook thanked Mr. Hamel Smith for his suggestions, and said that the Directors took a broad view of the usefulness of the Bank. It was their policy to serve the Colonies and Dominions first, and then to develop branches abroad.

The resolutions for the adoption of the report and accounts and declaration of the dividend having been passed, Lord Beaverbrook, Mr. Thomas Du Buisson, Mr. Colin Algernon Campbell, Mr. Arthur John McComell, and Colonel Charles W. Sofer Whitburn, the retiring Directors, were re-elected.

The meeting was followed by a Special General Meeting to approve the Colonial Bank Additional Powers Bill now before Parliament. Explaining its objects, Lord Beaverbrook said that they asked for power to increase the capital to £10,000,000, subject to the authority of the Treasury. That met the Treasury views respecting the issue of new capital at the present time. Furthermore, they asked for power to rearrange their capital, and it was their intention, if the power was granted, to make a rearrangement in order that new capital might be issued at a premium sufficient to maintain the ratio of the reserve fund to the present paid-up capital. Of course, the rights for taking up shares would be given to the present Shareholders. If the power were given by Parliament, it was proposed to ask the Treasury permission to issue £1,000,000 of capital immediately. They hoped to call up

as much as £300,000, and expected to realise not less than £100,000 of premium.

They asked for power to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors, subject to confirmation at the first following general meeting. It was conceivable that the Board might be depleted from one meeting to another. It was provided in the Bill that additions to the Board should stand until the first ordinary meeting of the Shareholders. It was further provided in the Bill that while Colonial legislatures should have no power to interfere with the constitution of the Corporation, nothing in the Act should exempt the Corporation from being otherwise subject to Colonial laws and regulations. It was expected, if the powers were conferred, to make use of the privilege to extend business to foreign countries. Increase of capital was necessary if the Bank's business was to be developed. The assets had grown very rapidly in the past two years. Further increases were expected, and they must be prepared to meet the development by providing additional resources—additional capital, subscribed and paid-up.

The resolution approving the Bill was seconded by the Deputy-Chairman and unanimously adopted.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6632 Central.

15, SEETHING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib. London."

LONDON. E.C. 3.

April 18th, 1917.

BANK RATE was lowered on April 5th to 5 per cent., after having stood at 5½ since the 15th of January last. This was the precursor of an issue of Exchequer bonds at the lower rate of interest for this class of security of 5 per cent., the last issue having been made at 6 per cent. This has had the effect of raising the market prices of other Government securities. The original 3½ per cent. War Loan is now quoted at 87, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 92½, and the 5 per cent. War Loan at 95½. Consols also have risen to 55½.

SUGAR. In spite of the increase in the world's price of sugar, the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply have not, as yet, raised the price of Government and license sugars. It is, however, out of the question, in view of statistical position of sugar that this step can be long postponed, and the time when the Government purchases at lower figures than those which now obtain, are exhausted cannot be far off. It is impossible to sell, except at a loss, granulated, purchased in Canada at \$6.00 per 100 lbs. f.o.b., at 41/7½ per cwt., the 14/- per cwt. duty paid value of standard granulated in the United Kingdom. A rise in the price of sugar would now appear to be overdue.

In the meantime, Lord Devonport has published the new hotel, restaurant and large boarding-house restrictions as to rationing. The quantity of sugar allowed per head per week is half a pound, which will have to be distributed among the various meals on a definite ratio.

The popular agitation on the subject of sugar distribution still continues, although the lessened amount allowed to the Sugar Using Trades has materially eased the situation as regards the general public.

With the idea of aiding the development of a British beet sugar industry, Mr. Ernest Jardine, M.P., has, on behalf of the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, bought an estate of 5,600 acres at Kelham, near Newark-on-Trent. A factory, capable of dealing with, it is said, 1,000 tons of beet per day, will be put up. It is difficult to see where this tonnage is to come from with the above acreage.

The situation in Cuba remains unsettled, although, as the result of the capture of the insurgent leader, General Gomez, the main body of revolutionists has been resolved into guerilla bands, so dear to the heart of the Cuban rebel. But at the same time the reports of crop progress are still received from only six ports, which show that the status quo has not been restored, while the statement that at least two factories have shut down from shortage of canes, due to destruction by the rebels, coupled with the statement made by *Facts about Sugar*, that at least 35 factories had been closed by order of the insurgents, show that a considerable loss of sugar may be expected as the result of the insurrection. The direct loss thus in-

curred has been placed by local authorities as being 250,000 tons, but this may be looked upon as a low estimate, and there is no reason to believe that the crop will exceed 2,800,000 tons. In the meantime, Messrs. Willett & Gray estimate the production on the 24th ult. as having been 1,393,278 tons, as against 1,629,816 tons at the same date last year.

Mr. Himely estimates that in the unaffected districts alone the loss on estimate will be 10 per cent., due to late starts and difficulties as regards transport, etc.

The Indian Government are at last waking up as to practical sugar production, and according to a correspondent, has thrown open 60,000 acres for cultivation purposes in the Bombay Presidency, with which is associated our irrigation scheme. It is incomprehensible why so little has been done in India, with its great national resources, in the direction of modern sugar production. That country is capable, not only of supplying its own wants, but also those of the East.

Last year's Philippine exports amounted to 306,500 tons, as against 193,880 tons in 1915. Of these quantities, 122,800 tons of 1916 exports went to the United States, as against 76,140 tons in 1915; 67,000 tons to the United Kingdom, as against 18,700 tons in 1915; 31,430 tons to Japan, as compared with 24,500 tons in 1915; and 85,290 tons to China and other Eastern Countries, as against 119,440 tons in the previous year.

Advices from Porto Rico point to the labour troubles in connection with the sugar crop being practically over.

It is anticipated that the next United States beet crop will considerably exceed the last. Larger areas have been sown with beets, and new factories are in course of erection.

After a series of endeavours on the part of the Queensland planters to obtain the notorious Dickson wages award quashed, in the course of which they proceeded from Court to Court, a legal technicality has resulted in failure. The cost of production in Queensland factories is naturally very high on account of the white labour employed in field and factory. This cost the war has increased by the higher price of stores, maintenance, etc., and the Dickson award, with its compulsory excessive labour rate, has aggravated the situation. Last crop's sugars were practically commandeered by the Queensland Government, and purchased at a rate only equal to the world's price, duty free f.o.b., 96° sugar. Unless the Government price, therefore, is increased, the planters are faced with a loss for next crop. This, in face of an extension of factories to an extent stated to bring up the output to over 300,000 tons.

Messrs. Willett and Gray give the following as the Continental 1916-17 beet crop, as compared with the 1915-16 crop:—

	1916-17. Tons.	1915-16. Tons.
Germany ...	1,500,000	1,400,000
Austria ...	945,000	1,011,400
France ...	200,000	135,899
Belgium ...	100,000	113,097
Holland ...	260,000	242,753
Russia ...	1,250,000	1,467,096
Sweden ...	150,000	127,315
Denmark ...	120,000	125,200
Italy ...	150,000	230,000
Spain ...	110,000	160,000
Switzerland ...	4,000	4,000
Roumania ...	15,000	31,000
Bulgaria ...	15,000	22,000
	4,819,000	5,069,760

The United States Department of Commerce states that in 1916, between \$175,000,000 and \$200,000,000 was expended by the United States public in confectionery, in addition to large sums for cocoa and chocolate, not included under that head. This is about \$1.80, or 7/6 a head of population.

The statistics of West Indian Sugar from January 1st to April 7th, are as under:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports ...	8,546	6,972	10,094 tons.
Deliveries ...	11,752	15,001	10,450 ..
Stock ...	4,809	3,076	5,653 ..

The New York market has been very strong in face of the statistical position, and 96° sugar, duty paid, is now

quoted at \$6.45 per 100 lbs. Granulated has not been quoted for some days, the last quotation being \$8.15.

RUM. The market has shown a rather firmer tone during the fortnight. Jamaica of recent distillation is valued at 4/9 to 5/3, with Demerara at 4/- to 4/1. The negotiations with the Ministry of Munitions as regards the purchase of West Indian spirit has been concluded in the case of British Guiana, which colony will now ship its rum in the uncoloured form for munition purposes. The Jamaica arrangements have not yet crystallised.

The stocks in London on April 7th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,030	5,102	4,055 puns.
Demerara " " "	8,234	9,393	7,310 "
Total of all kinds ...	29,287	24,774	18,127 "

CACAO. Auction sales were resumed yesterday, when 16,526 bags were offered, including 8,188 bags West Indian. Of this quantity, 7,000 bags sold at lower prices, for Trinidad 2/- and for Grenada 1/- for fine and 2/- for common. Out of the 3,369 bags of Trinidad put up, 500 sold at prices varying from 82/- to 85/-. 2,000 out of the 4,050 bags Grenada were disposed of at from 65/- to 81/-. The Jamaica lot was bought in. 80 bags out of 560 bags St. Lucia offered were sold at prices varying from 79/- to 80/-.

The stocks in London on April 7th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,683	13,096	7,407 bags.
Grenada " " "	20,141	14,995	3,778 "
Total of all kinds ...	262,646	119,678	54,576 "

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that West Indian Sea Island continues to advance in price,

quotations being raised 2d. per lb. Up to the 12th inst, 1,107 bales of West Indian had been imported for the year.

COFFEE. Market very quiet, the value of good Santos may be taken at 62/- to 63/-.

COPRA. The market for West Indian Copra is steady, with little business passing, owing to the uncertainty as to whether Government control will be instituted. The value of West Indian is £43 10s. c.i.f., usual terms.

HONEY. No auctions have taken place since the date of last summary. The market remains firm.

SPICES. There has been very little enquiry for **GINGER**, and prices are unchanged. Small dull to bold Jamaica is worth 92/6 to 115/- per cwt. **Pimento** is in very quiet demand. There are sellers on the spot of fair quality at 4½d. per lb. **Nutmegs** were steady at 1/1½ for 110s and 1/6 for 80s. **Mace** may be quoted at from 1/3 to 2/-.

FRUIT. Bananas: £21 per ton (truck loads) l.o.b. London. **Coco-nuts:** 30/- per bag (100's).

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Juice.** There is no change to report in raw. Concentrated is in good demand. **Lime Oil.** Distilled is quiet with sellers at 8/-; Hand-pressed quiet, with sellers at 15/-. **Citrate of Lime** unchanged.

ARROWROOT. Market very quiet. No change in quotations.

RUBBER. Plantation is easier, after being steady. The value of crepe is 3/0½, and of smoked sheet 3/0½. Market for Para dull, with very little business doing. Fine hard is quoted at 3/1½.

BALATA. The market is quiet, but steady. Business has been done in Venezuela Block at 3/3½ c.i.f., 3/5 landed. Panama Block is nominal at 3/3½, at 3/4 spot. West Indian Sheet may be valued at 3/8 forward, 3/11 to 3/11½ spot.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the export of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados to 25 May.	British Guiana, to 22 Feb.	Brit Hon- duras, to 15 Mar.	Dominica.	Grenada, to 28 Feb.	Jamaica, to 24 Mar.	Mont serrat, to 15 Feb.	St. Lucia, to 15 Mar.	St Kitts- Nevis, to 31 Jan.	St. Vincent, to 28 Feb.	Trinidad, to 15 Mar.
Arrowroot												
Asphalt												
Balata												
Bananas			220,528									348
Bitters				130,808			10,990					
Cacao												5,110
Cassava Starch ...						3,787,603	1,024,800	658	756,480		53,426	23,668,561
Coco-nuts											23,383	
Coffee			364,540	882,400			5,381,500					1,706,335
Copra			34,116				3,245,260					
Cotton, M. Galante												629,471
Cotton, Sea Island		26,051						25,944			63,168	
Cotton Seed								1,166			6	
Diamonds			80					13				
Dyewoods												
Ginger							8,966					
Gold							999,384					30
Ground Nuts Hgs & Hrs.			3,440									
Honey							27,207					
Lime Juice Raw						20,450			8,690			
" " concd. ...						1,200		68,050				14,500
Lime (citrate of) ...			1,120									
Logwood												
Lumber			21,112						350			
Mahogany				1,949,482								75
Manjak												10
Molasses		302,600										138,668
Oranges									14,729	19,300		150,750
Oils, Essential							270,250					
Oil, Petroleum												23,668,561
Pimento							2,435,660					
Rice												948
Rubber			4,735,468									
Rum			2,953	425								
Sisal			12,500	922,870	710		142,096			52	4,061	93,184
Sisal				282,000								
Sugar				49,236								7,795
Timber			5,940	1,208,741			6,418	9	425	143	251	

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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May 2nd, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

THE announcement made by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on April 27th, that the Imperial War Cabinet had accepted the principle of Imperial Preference, will be the subject of much satisfaction throughout the Dominions and Colonies overseas, which will, however, be qualified by the vagueness of both statesmen as to the position of foodstuffs in this connection. MR. LLOYD GEORGE stated that the Cabinet believed that a system of preference could be established without involving the imposition of burdens on food, whilst MR. BONAR LAW said that the resolution of the Cabinet left the question open and did not involve the taxation of food. If this means that foodstuffs are not to be taxed at all, Imperial preference will not be of much practical use to our Dominions and Colonies, whose principal exports are food and not manufactured articles. To give a preference on manufactured articles and raw materials other than food, would neither help the producers of wheat within the Empire, nor the sugar and cacao planter

in the West Indies. Nor would it help to increase the food supply of this country from within the Empire. The Colonies in which we are particularly interested are, however, fortunately placed, inasmuch as their great staples, sugar and cacao, are already on the dutiable list in this country, so that a preference can be given to them without involving a burden on food. This could be effected by reducing the duties—which must remain at a high level for many years after the war—in favour of sugar and cacao from British sources, and it is inconceivable that the consumer would object to this course. A further cause for disappointment with the recent pronouncement is that nothing is to be done until after the war, for, though in view of the very necessary prohibition of certain imports, due to military requirements and submarine ravages, it must be admitted that Imperial preference would not be immediately effective, producers throughout the Empire naturally want to know—and to know without delay—how they will stand after the war. They want to know, too, how they are to meet competition with neutral countries, who have not had to bear the strain of extra taxation and other disabilities which the war has brought in its train.

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.

DEALING with the question of the sea defences of British Guiana in our issue of March 8th last, we mentioned that a provisional contract had been given to MESSRS. CASE & HENNEBIQUE subject to the approval of the proposed scheme of defence by the Director of Public Works of Surinam. That official—HEER WITTEVEEN—has now visited the Colony, and, after a full investigation, has given his complete approval of MR. GERALD O. CASE's proposals as well as of the work being executed by the CASE COAST PROTECTION CORPORATION of the United States as contractors represented in the Colony by MR. HENNEBIQUE.

The report, which is dated March 5th, and is published in the Mail Edition of the *Argosy* of March 20th, is a comprehensive one. It deals with a mass of technical detail and reflects credit on HEER WITTEVEEN's industry and ability in obtaining such a thorough grasp of the situation after only a month's stay in the Colony, which afforded but a comparatively brief opportunity for examination and report on the many points that had to be considered on the spot. With the main principles of training groyves for the protection and building up of the foreshore in front, and construction of permanent defence works behind, consisting of curved

sea-walls of re-enforced concrete on the East Coast and sea-dams with protective facing of concrete on the West Coast, he expresses himself as being in entire agreement. He gives preference, however, to the sloping form of construction embodied in the sea dams. He also agrees with Mr. CASE'S condemnation of vertical wave screens and sheet piling as likely to have an injurious effect on the foreshore. He enters fully into the details of construction of the sea wall at Plu. Lusignan in regard to its contour, depth and height, and approves of the modifications suggested by the Advisory Committee of local consulting engineers, emphasising the importance of having trustworthy inspection at every stage of the constructional work. Taken as a whole HEER WITTEVEEN'S report may be considered as highly satisfactory, being a complete vindication of Mr. CASE'S proposals, and serving to allay the fears expressed by some of the Elective Members of the Combined Court as to the reliability of the general scheme. It also indirectly serves to relieve Mr. E. C. BUCK, the Director of Public Works, of the adverse criticisms directed against him in course of the discussion. The immediate result of the report has been the execution of the formal contract with MESSRS. CASE & HENNERIQUE, individually, for the construction of the defence works on both the East and West Coasts of Demerara, which had been held in abeyance pending this inquiry. We trust that the work will now be energetically carried through to a satisfactory and successful completion, and redound to the good of the Colony and to the credit of all concerned in the scheme.

MOLASCUIT.

THE compulsory curtailment of the output of beer to one-fourth of the pre-War quantity with the view of the utilisation of the barley used for malt for direct human consumption cannot but intensify the difficulties connected with cattle feeding, especially in the winter months. The "wet grains" of the brewers are extremely valuable for this purpose, and a substitute for them would fill an important gap in cattle feeding caused by the reduction in beer production. Molascuit, that useful preparation of cane molasses patented by MR. GEORGE HUGHES, by which, by absorption by the cellular fibre of megass, concentrated molasses can be shipped in a dry form convenient for handling, would be an ideal substitute for brewers' grains. Thanks to the persistence of MR. HUGHES, who in spite of several rebuffs at last induced the Government to place molasses cattle goods on the free list in our tariff, Molascuit has not to bear the heavy burden of taxation that sugar has to sustain. The prohibition of rum import has, also, brought the subject of the manufacture of Molascuit into especial prominence, although the purchase of alcohol for munitions purposes by the Government has materially relieved the position in which rum producers found themselves by reason of the prohibition of that commodity. The manufacture of spirit for munitions purposes must of course be a prior consideration, but there is quite a number of

sugar estates in the West Indies where rum is not made, and the manufacture of Molascuit by these for the purpose of filling the gap in cattle dietary caused by the lost "brewers' grains" would be a boon to the farmer at home, and a source of emolument to the producers. Unfortunately, in the West Indian Colonies where the non-rum-making estates exist, the crop season is nearly over. Between this and next crop, however, the estates could make their arrangements for the manufacture of Molascuit, and be ready to supply our farmers with it early next year. The question of tonnage would, of course, still obtain; but it is possible that the Government, in view of the importance of maintaining our cattle supply at a high level, would see its way to give special facilities for the shipment of Molascuit to this country. At any rate, its importation has not been prohibited. The value of Molascuit for cattle food purposes is evidenced by the following analysis which is taken from the "Standard Encyclopædia of Agriculture," while its fattening and generally stimulating properties have been convincingly demonstrated by the results of practical experience.

Water	...	...	...	...	15 75
Oil	...	...	...	...	63
Nitrogenous matter	...	...	...	...	2 25
Digestible fibre	...	...	...	...	17 59
Woolly Fibre	...	...	...	...	6 30
Mineral matter	...	...	...	...	6 80
Sugar	...	...	...	...	50 68
					100 00

We hope to see, under the new conditions which must inevitably prevail as regards agriculture in this country, Molascuit occupying a prominent place in the sun as a cattle food.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Principle accepted by War Cabinet.

Mr. Bonar Law made the important announcement in the House of Commons on April 27th, that the Imperial War Cabinet had unanimously accepted the principle that "each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of our Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire." He added that there was no intention of making any change during the war, that the resolution left the question of foodstuffs open, and that it did not involve the taxation of food.

Mr. Lloyd George made a statement on the subject on the same day at the Guildhall, where he received the Freedom of the City. In the course of his speech he said: "When the war is over and reconstruction begins, I hope and trust and pray that we are not going to dive into the pigeon-holes of any party for dust-laden precedents and programmes. (Loud cheers.) Let us think out the best methods for ourselves in the face of searching facts we knew not of before the war. We are a thousand years older and wiser. The experience of generations

has been crowded into just a few winters, and we should indeed be unworthy of the great destiny to which Providence has called this generation of men if we threw all that away for the sake of any formulas that were framed before the Flood. (Cheers.) There is no part of the whole sphere of statesmanship where there is a greater need for us to revise our ideas than in our attitude towards that great commonwealth of nations which is known as the British Empire. In the past we treated it as an abstraction—a glorious abstraction, but an abstraction. The war has shown us, all of us, that the British Empire is a fact, nay, a factor, the most potent factor to-day in the struggle for human liberty. We sent a hundred thousand men to France in August, 1914. They turned the tide of history. (Cheers.) The Dominions and the great Empire of India have contributed one million men. That has transformed our ideas as to the reality and the beneficence of the British Empire. The world cannot afford to let it dissolve. But the choice must be between immediate concentration and ultimate dissolution. We can never let things remain where they were. It may be said that the shadowy character of the relations between us and the Dominions and the great territories of the East have produced this real cohesion. That was all very well before they made great sacrifices. They have established claims now to real partnership. Henceforth effective consultation must be the only basis of co-operation. If our action brings them into trouble, as it has, costing them myriads of precious lives, they must henceforth be consulted beforehand. Methods must be carefully considered. The whirl of a great war is not the best time for thinking out perhaps new Constitutions, but our Councils of Empire must at any rate be a reality. The Imperial War Cabinet, the first ever held, has been a demonstration of the value of these councils.

"Our colleagues from the Dominions and from the great Empire of India have not taken part, believe me, in a formal conference to carry resolutions. They have had a real share in our councils, and in our decisions, and they have been a great source of strength and wisdom to our deliberations. They have come there with fresh minds. They have viewed this world-conflict from, as it were, different peaks. Minds running the same course for a long time are apt to get rutty, and the weightier the minds the deeper the ruts. (Cheers and laughter.) You require fresh minds to lift the cart out of those worn furrows, and we have had them. We have had war decisions of the most far-reaching character, in which our colleagues from beyond the seas have assisted us. These great problems in regard to submarines, shipping, and food, as well as our military decisions, have all come for review at councils in which they have taken part.

"But we must do more. I feel that this experiment must be incorporated in the fabric of the Empire. We have been taught by the war the real pride, as it undoubtedly would be our special value of the Empire as a world-force, and one of the first duties of statesmanship in the future will be to take all measures which are necessary to aid in the development of the stupendous resources of the Empire. That ought to be our special care, our special

security. We want to develop the lands under the Flag. (Cheers.) If fifty years ago we had directed our minds and our power and our influence to that end, you would now have had double the population you have got in these Dominions, by diverting the tide of emigration to British Dominions instead of other lands, and you would have attracted the virile populations of Europe in addition to that.

"In the future we have decided that it is the business of statesmanship in Great Britain, as well as in the lands beyond the seas, to knit the Empire in closer bonds together of interest, of trade, of commerce, of business, and of general intercourse in affairs.

"We have given grave consideration to this problem, and have decided that in order to develop these enormous territories in future it is necessary that exceptional encouragement should be given to the products of each part of the Empire. (Cheers.) We believe that a system of preference can be established, which will not involve the imposition of burdens upon food. We believe that it can be done without that, and, of course, with food at its scarcest and at its dearest, this is not the time to talk about putting additional burdens on food. But for purposes of preference that would not be essential. You can secure that by other means, and more particularly by taking measures which other lands have taken for improving the communications between one part of their dominions and another. By these means the products of one country inside this great Imperial Commonwealth can be brought more freely, readily, and economically to the markets of the others.

"This great Empire has infinite resources in wealth, in minerals, in food products, in timber, and in every commodity useful for man, and it is obviously to the advantage, not merely of the particular countries where these products come from, but of every other part of the Empire, including the United Kingdom, that these commodities should be developed to the utmost. It enriches, it strengthens, and it binds together the Empire as a whole."

Mr. Bonar Law's Statement.

In the House of Commons on April 27th, General Croft asked the Prime Minister whether the Resolutions of the Balfour of Burleigh Committee in favour of Imperial preference and commercial treaties had yet been considered by the Imperial War Cabinet; and, if so, whether he could state what the policy of the Government was in reference to these proposals.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Bonar Law) replied: The Imperial War Cabinet has unanimously accepted the principle that "each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of our Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire."

Mr. Onthwaite: How did they come to that decision when one part of the Empire was not represented?

Mr. Bonar Law: The representatives who were present have come to this decision, which does not at present include Australia.

Mr. King: Will there be any legislation brought in to this end in the near future?

Mr. Bonar Law: I need not tell the House there is no intention whatever of making any change during the War.

Major Hunt: Does it apply to foodstuffs?

Mr. Bonar Law: The resolution I have read leaves that question open. It does not involve the taxation of food.

SUGAR SUPPLY OF THE EMPIRE.

The London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, which is the largest industrial chemical society in the world, have formed a Committee of experts in industries connected with sugar throughout the Empire, to enquire into the question of providing a supply which should render the Empire independent of sugar from foreign sources. The Committee is composed of members of the Society of Chemical Industry with such other outside experts as it has been found desirable to co-opt.

The subject matter to be dealt with will comprise not only the economic aspect but also the technical side of the problems involved. Thus, the Committee will consider the wants of the Empire with regard to sugar, not only as to quantity but also as to the nature required by the various users, and the best means of satisfying these wants.

The subject of the development of technical education in regard to sugar production will also come under the consideration of the Committee, as this question has not hitherto received the attention which its importance warrants.

As at present constituted, the Committee comprises the following gentlemen, and it is proposed to co-opt others—whose names will be announced later—to render it fully representative: Sir George Beilby, F.R.S., Mr. R. Blair, of the Glebe Sugar Refining Co.; Prof. M. J. R. Dunstan, of Wye Agricultural College; Sir Richard Garton, of Messrs. Garton & Co.; Mr. T. H. P. Heriot, of the Glasgow Technical College; Mr. J. W. Macdonald, of Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons; Mr. G. Mathieson, representing the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, and Mr. F. I. Seard, representing Colonial Cane Sugar.

The Chairman of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. Arthur R. Ling, will act as Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. T. D. Morson as Secretary.

A scheme for the establishment of another beet sugar factory in this country has been formulated, and an area of 5,600 acres of land has been acquired for the purpose at Kelham, near Newark.

The enterprise is being carried out by the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society (Limited), and a loan has been made from the Treasury of £125,000 towards the expenses of purchase and erection.

The Chairman of the Company is Captain Beville Stanier, M.P., the Vice-Chairman Mr. Jardine, M.P., and the other members of the Committee are:

Mr. H. G. Alexander (Both and West and Southern Counties Society), Major G. L. Courthorpe, M.P., Major David Davies, M.P., Principal M. J. R. Dunstan, M.A. (South-Eastern Agricultural College), Mr. S. F. Edge, Captain R. Williams Ellis, Mr. W. H. Fowler, Mr. W. A. Hayland (Central Land Association), Mr. D. M. Horne, Mr. P. F. Kemp, Mr. J. L. Luddington (Royal Agricultural Society of England), Mr. V. A. Malcolmson, Sir Herbert Matthews (Central Chamber of Agriculture), Professor C. S. Orwin, M.A., Mr. L. Souchon, of Mauritius, and the Hon. Edward Strutt, Messrs. W. T. Chadwin, R. N. Dowling, H. F. Easton, W. J. Hosken, and George Turner are assisting in an expert advisory capacity.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

The West India Committee has received the following letter from the Department of Import Restrictions of the Board of Trade:—

Sir,—I beg to inform you that the following arrangements have been made respecting the importation of fruit:—

Fresh Fruit.—Oranges, grapes, and bananas will be allowed in under licence from this Department to the extent of 25 per cent. of the importations made during 1916. A Statutory Declaration of that year's importations will be required.

Other fresh fruit prohibited.

Canned, Bottled, and Preserved.—Allowed in under licence to the extent of 50 per cent. of the quantities licensed by this department during the season ending June 30th, 1917.

Dried Fruit.—A similar quantity will be licensed to that which was licensed during the season ending June 30th, 1917.

Preserved Fruit without sugar (Italian origin).—50 per cent. of 1916 importations. A Statutory Declaration of that year's imports must be furnished.

Canned, Bottled, and Preserved of Colonial origin.—A Statutory Declaration of the 1916 importations must be supplied to this Department, and licences will be issued for the importation of a quantity equivalent to 50 per cent. of the quantities shown thereon.

Dried Fruit, Colonial origin.—A General Licence has been given to His Majesty's Customs to admit.

Notes.—Licences will only be issued to the actual importers, i.e., the agents in this country of the packers or factors abroad.

The Statutory Declaration required in connection with the above arrangements must only show those items for which Customs entries were passed during the year ending December 31st, 1916.

The following information must be furnished for each entry shown on the Declaration:—Name of ship, port of entry, date of Customs entry, country of origin, quantities, weights and description.

For information respecting all fruit, either fresh or preserved, of French origin, application should be made by the exporter to the French Ministry of Commerce, 66, Rue de Bellechasse, Paris, who will visa the application, and it in order transmit same to the English Board of Trade, Import Restrictions Department, 10, Place Edouard VII., Paris.

I am, your obedient servant,

R. E. ENTHOVEN,

Controller.

The Budget.

Mr. Bonar Law introduced the Budget in the House of Commons yesterday. No new taxes are proposed. The Tobacco Duty, however, is raised by 1/10 per lb., the Entertainments Tax by 50 per cent., and the Excess Profits Duty by 20 per cent., so that it will now stand at 80 per cent. The new taxation is expected to yield: Tobacco, £6,000,000; Entertainments £1,000,000, and Excess Profits £20,000,000. The estimated Revenue and Expenditure for 1917-18 and the actual figures for 1916-17 are as under:—

1917-18 (ESTIMATE).	
Expenditure	£2,290,381,000
Revenue	638,600,000
Deficit (to be met by loans)	
	£1,651,781,000
1916-17 (ACTUAL).	
Expenditure	£2,198,113,000
Revenue	573,428,000
Deficit	
	£1,624,685,000

Certain concessions are made in respect of the Excess Profits Duty, an additional 3 per cent. interest being allowed for new capital put in during the War.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE
for the year 1916.

To be laid before the Annual General Meeting of
The West India Committee on May 10th, 1917.

The Executive Committee beg to present to the members their Annual Report, the Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1916, and the Balance Sheet.

On December 31st the total membership of the West India Committee was 1,564, the highest figure yet reached. During the year 109 new members were elected. The new members were resident in the following places:

Trinidad 21	Canada 4	Natal 1
Jamaica 8	Antigua 2	Nigeria 1
British Guiana ... 7	Bahamas 1	Martinique 1
Grenada 7	Bermuda 1	New York 1
St. Kitts 6	British 1	London 13
Dominica 6	Honduras 1	and
Tobago 8	Nevis 1	Country 17
Barbados 4	St. Vincent ... 1	

To the list of members who died on active service which was published in the last annual report, must be added the name of

MAJOR C. GEORGE W. CAREW.

The Committee have also to record, with deep regret, the deaths of Mr. George Carrington, for many years a member of the Executive; His Honour T. Leslie H. Jarvis, Hon. Correspondent for the Virgin Islands; and the following other members:—Mr. F. C. Adams, Mr. J. O. Challenger, Mr. E. C. H. Cresswell, Mr. E. F. Dyett, Major-General J. M. C. Galloway, Mr. Aston W. Gardiner, Mr. G. Graf, Mr. James R. Greig, Captain G. M. Hicks, Hon. J. Spencer Hollings, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Mr. E. X. Leon, Mr. H. E. McCulloch, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. C. A. Parrett, Mr. L. A. Rattigan, Mr. Julian G. Rust, Colonel W. J. Slack, Captain David L. Slinger, His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, and Mr. J. R. Williams.

Honorary Officers for 1916.

At a meeting held on May 11th, pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell was re-elected Chairman, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Deputy-Chairman, and Mr. Cyril Gurney and Mr. Rutherford Hon. Treasurers of the West India Committee.

During the year Sir William Trollope, Bart., and Mr. Alexander Duckham were elected Members of the Executive Committee.

As the outcome of a suggestion made at the Annual General Meeting it was decided to appoint a Standing Committee to watch the interests of the West Indian Petroleum Industry. Mr. Alex. Duckham, who is prominently connected with the

industry in Trinidad, undertook the formation of the Petroleum Committee, but owing to the pre-occupation of the gentlemen who were invited to serve upon it through important War work, no substantial progress can yet be recorded.

Financial Position.

On December 31st the surplus of assets over liabilities was £3,054 16s. Owing to a reduced revenue and to the greatly increased cost of production of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR due to the War, the Income and Expenditure Account shows a small debit balance. Twenty-one members have now taken up Life Membership.

An account was opened with the Colonial Bank for the convenience of members who can now pay their subscriptions into the local branches of that institution.

It will be noted that allowances were made to two members of the Staff—Corporal George Hussey and Gunner G. J. Dent—who were on active service.

The Contingent Committee.

The West Indian Contingent Committee, which was formed in August, 1915, as the outcome of a suggestion made by the Committee, and at the instance of the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, continued to avail itself of the offices and of the services of the staff of the West India Committee. A statement of receipts and expenditure and a record of the work of the Contingent Committee to June 30, 1916, was published in July.

War Gifts.

On behalf of the Army Council the Committee continued to receive and distribute gifts of fruit to the sick and wounded collected by the Jamaica Agricultural Society to Trinidad and Tobago Orange and Lime Committee, the Dominica Agricultural Society and the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica. The total number of packages dealt with up to the close of the year was 12,314, made up as follows:—

From Jamaica ...	6,634
„ Trinidad ...	4,669
„ Dominica ...	1,011

It will be noted from the Special Funds' Account appended to this report that the Committee also received and forwarded to the proper quarters sums amounting to upwards of £4,000 for various charitable objects in connection with the War.

Association of Chambers of Commerce.

The proposals for forming an Association of Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies, which had been submitted by the Committee to the various Chambers of Commerce and had been generally approved, were put into effect. The Association was definitely established at a meeting of a preliminary Executive held at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on June 30th. The West India Committee was invited, and readily consented to represent the interests of the Association in London.

East Indian Immigration.

Lord Hardinge announced at a meeting of the Indian Legislative Council on April 1st that the Government proposed to accept a resolution, introduced by the Hon. Pundit Malaviya, recommending the abolition of the system of indentured labour.

On February 28th a deputation, comprising the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass (Chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee), Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. T. Prentice, and the Secretary, waited upon the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, to emphasise the importance of the continuance of the introduction of East Indians into British Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica.

The views of the Committee on the subject were submitted by cable to the delegates to an inter-colonial Conference on immigration held at Port of Spain on June 24th-29th, and were endorsed in the valuable report which was subsequently published.

In December the Committee were represented by the Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. J. McConnell, and Mr. C. Sandbach Parker at a Conference on immigration held at the Colonial Office under the chairmanship of Mr. A. D. Steel Maitland, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, which was also attended by representatives from Fiji.

The Indian Government consented to give the Colonies time to enable them to adjust themselves to the changed conditions before finally abolishing indentured labour, and negotiations proceeded in the direction of the establishment of a system of immigration into British Colonies on a free basis.

Imperial Preference.

On March 4 the Committee submitted to the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P., the then Prime Minister, a Memorandum on the subject of the Development of the British Sugar Industry. They pointed out that in the year prior to the outbreak of the War the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom from all sources amounted to 1,969,259 tons, of which 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; and that in the same year the amount of sugar produced within the British Empire and available for export was only 571,746 tons. They expressed the opinion that the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, the Additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations and Agreements were absolutely annulled by the State of War which supervened in 1914, and that Great Britain and all signatory Powers to that Convention, have, by its abrogation, recovered full liberty of action; and they urged that early steps might be taken 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.

This Memorandum was accompanied by official reports, obtained by the Committee from the Dominions and Colonies, which showed that, even leaving out of consideration the possibilities of India

and England, considerably more sugar could be produced within the British Empire than would be sufficient for the requirements of the United Kingdom.

The Memorandum and reports were subsequently published in a pamphlet entitled "The British Sugar Industry," which has been widely circulated and quoted in the Press.

It had been the intention of the Committee to establish a British Sugar League, composed of representatives of sugar-producing countries of the Empire, to impress on His Majesty's Government, on broader lines, the desirability of Imperial Preference. It appearing, however, that the British Empire Producers' Organisation was in course of formation with similar objects in view, in respect to all the industries of the Empire, it was decided to support that body, instead of forming a separate league, in order to prevent overlapping.

Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass and Mr. C. Sandbach Parker were subsequently nominated to represent the West India Committee on the Council of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, of which Mr. C. Sandbach Parker is now the Chairman.

A Conference of sugar producers, at which every sugar producing country of the Empire was represented, was held under the auspices of that body in May, and drew up representations as to the terms necessary to make the Empire self-supporting in respect of its sugar supply. These were presented to the Right Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, before he left to attend the Economic Conference of the Allies in Paris, and were subsequently laid before His Majesty's Government.

It is satisfactory to note that the Government have now announced their definite adhesion to the principles of Imperial Preference.

The Immature Spirits Act.

The Committee were successful in obtaining a further concession to rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act. Following their representations, a clause was included in the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1916, giving His Majesty powers, by Order in Council, to 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 was 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 might think fit.

On August 18th an Order in Council was issued extending the concession to rum until May 19th, 1917, subject to the increase in the period of compulsory warehousing from nine to twelve months. This decision was regarded as very satisfactory.

Excess Profits Duty.

In conjunction with the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, the Committee lodged an application with the Commissioners of Inland Revenue under Part III. Excess Profits Duty Section 42 (1) of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, for

an increase of the Statutory Percentage as respects "the business of growing sugar-canes, or manufacturing cane sugar in the British West Indies and in British Guiana."

The Board of Referees, to whom the application was referred, have since granted an increase in the Statutory Percentage to eleven per cent. in the case of a trade or business carried on or owned by a company or other body corporate, and to twelve per cent. in the case of any other trade or business.

The Rhodes Scholarship.

It being understood that a Bill was to be introduced into the House of Commons to abolish the scholarships at Oxford tenable by German students, established by the Trustees under Mr. Rhodes' Will, and to substitute for them scholarships tenable by students from British Dominions and Colonies, the Committee requested the Trustees to consider the claims of the British West Indian Colonies for further recognition in this connection. A sympathetic reply was received from Dr. G. R. Parkin, C.M.G., the organising representative of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust.

Colonial Development.

At the invitation of the Trade and Industry Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute, the Committee were represented by Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. R. Davson, and Mr. C. Sandbach Parker on a deputation on the subject of trade after the war which waited on the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, on November 3rd. The deputation, which was introduced by Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., urged the adoption of steps to secure the development of the natural resources, and the improvement of the labour supply of, and transportation and inter-communication between the Crown Colonies with a view to making the Empire more self-supporting.

Honorary Correspondents.

The thanks of the Committee are again due to their Honorary Correspondents, who, in spite of the difficulty of mail communication, due to the War, have kept them informed as to the conditions in, and requirements of, the Colonies and countries which they represent.

The Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1916, the Balance Sheet, and the Special Funds Account are given on the next two pages.

* * *

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.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is a single payment for £10 10s.

HONORARY CORRESPONDENTS

of The West India Committee.

ANGUILLA.—Carter Rey, Esq.
 ANTIGUA.—A. P. Cowley, Esq.
 BAHAMAS.—H. E. M. Johnson, Esq.
 BARBADOS.—Sir Frederick Clarke, K.C.M.G.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—J. C. McCowan, Esq.
 BRITISH HONDURAS.—Hon. A. R. Usher and Hon. G. B. Grabham.
 CARRIACOU.—Tom Archer, Esq.
 DOMINICA.—H. A. Alford Nicholls, Esq., C.M.G., M.D.
 GRENADA.—Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Hon. P. J. Dear, and C. Falconer Anton, Esq.
 JAMAICA.—J. L. Ashenhelm, Esq., R. Craig, Esq., John Barclay, Esq., Hon. D. S. Gideon, Hon. Beresford Gosset, J. E. Kerr & Co., J. H. Philipps, Esq., and Hon. Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G.
 MONTSERRAT.—K. P. Penchoen, Esq.
 NEVIS.—E. Williams, Esq.
 ST. KITT'S.—E. J. Shelford, Esq.
 ST. LUCIA.—Hon. E. DuBonlay.
 ST. VINCENT.—W. N. Sands, Esq.
 TOBAGO.—Robert S. Reid, Esq.
 TRINIDAD.—Edgar Tripp, Esq.
 VIRGIN ISLANDS.—His Hon. Leslie Jarvis (since deceased).
 GLASGOW.—R. W. Tomlinson, Esq., Hon. Secretary, the West India Association.
 LIVERPOOL.—W. Speed, Esq., Secretary, the West India Association.
 BERMUDA.—Dr. W. Cardy Black.
 HALIFAX, N.S.—G. MacG. Mitchell, Esq., and A. N. Jones, Esq.
 MONTREAL.—Robert Anderson, Esq.
 TORONTO.—Wallace Anderson, Esq., Lewis P. Clemens, Esq., F.R.C.I.
 NEW YORK.—John Farr, Esq.

Publications.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR was posted to members fortnightly throughout the year. The Committee believe that this publication, which now has a wide circulation throughout the world, is proving of value in disseminating information regarding the British West Indies and in ventilating many questions of general interest. The Committee also published the pamphlet entitled "The British Sugar Industry," to which reference is made in an earlier paragraph.

W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL,
Chairman.
 R. RUTHERFORD,
Deputy-Chairman.
 ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

May 2nd, 1917.

SIR JAMES WILLCOCKS, who has seen active service in the present War, has been appointed to succeed Sir George Bullock as Governor of Bermuda.

* * *

THE Port of London Authority has given notice that in consequence of the extra cost entailed by further increases in wages and other expenditure due to war conditions, the following increases will be made in the existing tariffs of Dock and Warehouse dues, rates and charges, as from May 4th, viz. :—

Dock and warehouse rates, charges and rent on goods : 30 per cent. instead of 15 per cent. as at present.

Dock dues and other charges (except rent) on vessels and lighters : 30 per cent. instead of 15 per cent. as at present.

Dock dues on vessels in Class 1 : 27½ per cent. instead of 12½ per cent. as at present.

Rent on vessels and lighters : 15 per cent.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Established circa 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Dr.		INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended December 31st, 1916.		Cr.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Salaries and Wages	1,180	18 3	By Subscriptions received from Members, amounts receivable for advertisements (<i>less</i> commission), and sales of <i>The West India Committee Circular</i> and books	2,845	13 6
.. Allowances to members of staff on Active Service	99	2 6	.. Interest on investments and deposits	73	8 7
.. Rent of Committee Room and offices	165	0 0	.. Contributions from Colonial Governments for representing the Permanent Exhibition Committees, publicity, &c.—		
.. Printing and stationery	1,071	10 5	Barbados	10	0 0
.. Newspapers and Press cuttings	11	12 3	British Guiana	10	10 0
.. Literary contributions, copyrights, &c.	80	9 3	British Honduras	10	10 0
.. Postages, etc.	244	14 8	Jamaica	10	0 0
.. Travelling expenses	1	0 11	Trinidad	10	10 0
.. Rent of telephone	21	14 0	Leeward Islands	25	0 0
.. Audit fee	15	15 0	Grenada	10	0 0
.. Office cleaning, coal and lighting	44	1 3	St. Lucia	10	10 0
.. Sundry office and general expenses	67	5 10	St. Vincent	10	0 0
.. Repairs and renovations	1	3 0	.. Balance	19	1 8
.. Depreciation of office furniture	30	19 6			
.. Interest	13	11			
.. Testimonial to Secretary	9	3 0			
	<u>£3,045</u>	<u>3 9</u>		<u>£3,045</u>	<u>3 9</u>

Dr.		BALANCE SHEET, December 31st, 1916.		Cr.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Sundry creditors for printing, &c.	452	4 4	By Investments at cost—		
.. Sundry creditors for advertisements paid in advance	43	4 0	£500 Trinidad 3% Inscribed Stock	444	17 3
.. Subscriptions received in advance	72	6 11	£200 British Guiana 4% Inscribed Stock	214	1 0
.. Unexpended balances of special funds	67	6 9	£200 Jamaica 3½% Inscribed Stock	194	11 0
.. Life Members' subscriptions account	157	10 0	£200 Antigua 4% Inscribed Stock	203	9 8
.. Loans from bankers	280	0 0	£300 Barbados 3½% Inscribed Stock	290	6 0
.. Income and Expenditure Account—			£300 Western Australia 4% Inscribed Stock	294	16 0
Balance at 31st December, 1915	3,073	17 8	£300 Dominion of Canada 4% Stock 1940/60	299	13 6
Less Balance as per annexed account	19	1 8	£300 War Loan 4½% 1925/45	300	16 3
	<u>3,054</u>	<u>16 0</u>	Market Value at date	£1,777.	
					2,242 10 8
			.. Office furniture—		
			Balance at 31st Dec., 1915	412	18 6
			Additions during year	11	16 10
				424	15 4
			Less depreciation at 7½%	30	19 6
					393 15 10
			.. Library and pictures as at 31st December, 1915	697	8 5
			.. Sundry debtors for advertisements, &c., less reserve	476	13 2
			.. Subscriptions in arrear, since paid	8	8 0
			.. Commission on advertisements paid in advance	55	13 0
			.. Stock of books and maps at cost	31	2 2
			.. Cash at bank and in hand—		
			At bank—On current account	190	4 5
			In hand	1	12 4
					191 16 9
	<u>£4,097</u>	<u>8 0</u>		<u>£4,097</u>	<u>8 0</u>

R. RUTHERFORD,
CYRIL GURNEY,
WILLIAM GILLESPIE,
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

Hon. Treasurers.

Dr.	SPECIAL FUNDS.				Ct.		
	£	s.	d.	£		s.	d.
Payments to British Red Cross Society for maintenance of 2 Barbados Motor Ambulances ...	1,450	0	0	Sundry balances, Dec. 31st, 1915	27	4	2
Payment to British Red Cross for Trinidad Ambulance	378	10	3	Barbados Motor Ambulance Fund (per F. A. C. Collymore, Esq.)	1,450	0	0
Blue Cross Fund	72	10	0	Trinidad Ambulance Fund (per T. R. N. Laughlin, Esq.)	378	10	3
Overseas Club for Aircraft Fund	500	0	0	A. Somers Cocks, Esq., for Blue Cross Fund	60	0	0
British Red Cross Fund	933	7	2	Mrs. Delamere, Barbados	12	10	0
Belgian Relief Fund	0	0	0	Mrs. Perez, Trinidad Aeroplane Fund	500	0	0
Pervyse Fund	326	5	10	C. P. Bowen, Esq., British Red Cross Fund	20	0	0
Vegetable Products Committee for the Grand Fleet	1,132	15	6	G. Whitfield Smith, Esq., British Red Cross Fund	20	0	0
Kitchener Memorial Fund, per The Lord Mayor	10	9	4	Turks and Caicos Islands, British Red Cross Fund	375	0	0
Hargreaves Plate	24	0	0	Grenada (sale of Cacao), British Red Cross Fund	495	5	10
Shackleton Expedition Sugar Fund	16	5	0	C. Rey, Esq., Anguilla, British Red Cross Fund	23	1	4
Balance as per Balance-sheet—				Turks and Caicos Islands, for Belgian Relief Fund	65	0	0
Virgin Islands Relief Fund	0	0	0	T. R. N. Laughlin, Esq., Editor, <i>Port of Spain Gazette</i> , for Pervyse Fund	326	5	10
Shackleton Expedition Sugar Fund	12	19	0	Proceeds of Sale of Jamaica Rum, sent per Jamaica Agricultural Society	1,132	15	6
Sundry balances	11	5	9	Capt. R. Rust, Kitchener Memorial Fund	10	9	4
	69	7	9	J. H. Levy, Esq., Hargreaves Plate	22	5	0
Less Hargreaves Plate balance (received January, 1917)	0	0	0	Virgin Islands Relief Fund	45	0	0
	67	6	9				
	£4,963	7	3		£4,963	7	3

We report that we have examined the Books of the West India Committee for the year ending 31st December, 1916, and have checked therewith the above Accounts, which we hereby certify to be correct.

3, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, E.C.

PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO.

May 2nd 1917.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication

The Food Controller has warned the nation that the situation with regard to food is critical, and that the next step will be compulsory rationing. "If you reduce your consumption we are safe," he said, "go on eating with no diminution and there will be a bitter time before the next harvest comes." A Bill to increase the home production of corn has passed the House of Commons, whose ultimate aim is to increase our wheat growing area by 8,000,000 acres and our rural population by a quarter of a million of men. But the measures now being taken to develop and economise our food resources will not be effective till 1918. The situation is rendered more acute by last week's official return of British losses by mine and submarine. The numbers were nearly double those of the week before, 52 vessels having been sunk, exclusive of fishing boats. Of these 38 were ocean-going, and, though their total tonnage is not published, it must be considerable. Moreover, it does not include the neutral and Allied tonnage lost. New construction cannot keep pace with such heavy losses, especially when 60 per cent. of our Mercantile Marine is engaged in the service of the war. Invention may be equal to devising a means for dealing with submarines, but then again, it may not, and so evidently our calculations are being based on the prospect of a continuation of heavy losses. Victory in this war will be to the side which can feed itself longest.

The War in the West.

The French in the battle of the Aisne have been as brilliantly successful as the British in the battles of Arras, in the first day's fighting capturing 10,000 prisoners. The 25-mile sector on which they opened their new offensive was up to then looked upon as the strongest ground naturally on the whole German front in France. Part of it consists of the Craonne plateau, which is full of hills and woods and deep ravines, in which some of the most desperate conflicts of the war have been fought. The French front of attack rested on the Aisne at Vailly on the west, and swept round again to the Aisne again at Berry-au-Buc, north of which is the natural gateway into the great plain surrounding Laon. Once that is forced Champagne to the south-east, and Laon to the north-west, are threatened. Though the French from Soissons to Auberive have captured some twenty towns and villages and, on an average, advanced a mile, the results of the past ten days' fighting can only be measured adequately by strategic results. These are highly important, and achieved in the face of what might have been regarded as impossible. For in the face of a powerful and determined enemy, well provided with heavy artillery, the French scaled the heights of the Aisne, at one point six hundred feet high. Not only are they now in possession of the hills of Moronvillers, but the eastern end of the Chemin des Dames, the hog's back, from which the enemy has been able to dominate the whole country. The losses of the Germans in counter-attacks to recover these strong positions have been tremendous.

The Battle of Arras.

After bad weather for a week, the British resumed their offensive by capturing Gavrelle, to the north of the river Scarpe, and the greater part of the Havrincourt Wood, together with 1,000 prisoners and a whole battery of guns. But the character of the battle has altered. The Germans are once more fighting stubbornly on a formidable range of positions, and contesting each one. As on the Aisne and the Somme the advance of the British is slow, sure, and methodical, requiring careful co-ordination. Some points are captured and re-captured more than once. It may, therefore, be assumed that the Hindenburg line has been reached. One of the most famous of our military correspondents has, however, noted a difference in German methods as between the fighting on the Scarpe and on the Somme. In the one case each position was defended obstinately from the beginning of the attack, and, in consequence, all the local reserves were used up, so that when a position was lost, there was often delay in launching a counter-attack due to the time spent in bringing fresh troops from a distance. Now the enemy does not attempt a desperate defence, but keeps his reserves in hand for the counter-stroke, which is delivered in great force, and before the attacking troops have had time to establish themselves firmly in their new ground. But the end will be the same, the wastage of men and material, which is enormous, as our artillery fire is so accurate and destructive that the enemy is driven out of his defences and forced to fight in the open. He continues to talk of the inability of the Allies to "break through." But, as he has his back to his own country, they never can "break through" in the sense which he means. That is what he would like them to do. But what they are achieving is such a military position as will again compel him to shorten his line, each advance of the Allies proving their moral and material ascendancy, both in the field and in the air.

Allied Conferences in Washington.

Allied Conferences are taking place in Washington to secure co-operation as between the *Entente* Powers and the United States. Mr. Balfour is the head of the British mission, which includes naval and military officers, and M. Viviani, of the French mission, though its most striking member is Marshal Joffre. Complete understanding has been arrived at on all questions affecting finance, trade, shipping, banking and kindred problems, while England is to be given the first loan (£200,000,000) under the new conditions. On the political side Mr. Wilson has furnished Mr. Balfour with assurances that the United States will make no separate peace, but will remain in the war until the great objects of liberty and civilisation have been achieved. Naval and military co-operation will take longer to arrange, and, naturally, the details cannot be made public.

The passage of the Conscription Bill through Congress by overwhelming majorities is an unmistakable sign that the bulk of the nation is behind Mr. Wilson in the rigorous prosecution of war measures.

In Mesopotamia.

General Maude reports fresh successes on the Tigris, beginning with the forcing of the passage of the Shatt-el-Adhaim, and the destruction of the Turkish detachment, which held it. The following morning our troops attacked with great vigour and dash the main position covering Istabulat Station, about nine miles south of Samarra. Not only were more than 1,200 prisoners captured, but six machine guns and much booty. The advance was continued in spite of the enemy's stubborn resistance to Samarra Station, the railroad of the Bagdad railway, and 68 miles from the City of that name. A large amount of rolling stock was captured at the same time.

In Syria.

A fortnight ago the British advanced and captured the enemy's advanced positions on a front of 6½ miles, afterwards consolidating their gains. In the meantime the Turks have been reinforced, and strengthened a naturally strong line from Gaza towards Beersheba. Evidently a big battle is impending, which may have as important results in Palestine as that of Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia. For if, as is more than likely, the enemy is driven out of his new position the rout which will ensue will open to the British the road to Jerusalem and Jaffa.

The War at Sea.

The story of how the destroyers *Swift* and *Broke* attacked a raiding flotilla of six German destroyers reads like a glowing page from Marryat. The action in time lasted but five minutes, but in those five minutes were crowded incidents as heroic and decisive as any recorded in the glorious annals of the British Navy. For the enemy flotilla was broken up, with one vessel rammed and another torpedoed. As the operation of ramming one of a line of destroyers by dashing through pitch darkness at between 20 and 30 knots, as the *Swift* did, is extremely delicate, some idea of the superb tactical skill with which the British ships were handled may be gathered. Again the *Swift* was boarded by the shrieking, maddened crew of the rammed destroyer, up to then supposed to be an impossible incident under modern war conditions. Still more dramatic was the fact that their course was stopped by a single midshipman with an automatic revolver. As for the *Broke* her fine tactics played a large part in the success of this exciting naval engagement, and her helmsman, though he was hit four times, remained at the wheel throughout the action, only showing that he was wounded by fainting. Commander Evans of the *Broke* gained fame as second in command to Scott in the Antarctic expedition, but it is eclipsed by his share in a sea fight which proves that the spirit of the British Navy is as high and unconquerable as ever.

In a spirited attack on five German destroyers, which were observed to be steaming between Blankenberghe and Zeebrugge, our sea-planes dropped 32 bombs, one of which was seen to make a direct hit, the ship struck listing to port and remaining stationary. Later four out of the five

destroyers were observed to enter Zeebrugge harbour. It is, therefore, most probable that one was sunk.

Ramsgate was shelled on April 26th by enemy destroyers, which rained projectiles on the town. But the fire was so wild that only two people were killed, and the material damage was relatively slight.

Germany's Crowning Infamy.

The enemy continues to make war on hospital ships, two more, the *Donagal* and the *Laufranc* having been sunk. As such vessels are conspicuous by their distinguishing marks, which "U boat" commanders do not respect, one of the two carried none. This was mistaken policy as it enabled the Germans to plead ignorance of her character until she was torpedoed. There was considerable loss of life in the *Laufranc* and the *Donagal*, including 15 German wounded, the rest having been saved by British patrol ships at the risk of themselves being torpedoed, while the Huns merely watched the struggling people in the water. As this country cannot make reprisals on such a brutal power as Germany with effect, it has been decided that hospitals for the wounded must be established oversea, and, to staff them, further calls are to be made on the medical profession.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

Mr. Walter Long, Secretary for the Colonies, and Mr. Robert Rogers, the Canadian Minister of Public Works, were the guests of the British Empire Producers' Organisation at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on April 26th.

Sir Owen Phillips presided, and there was a full attendance. Mr. Sandbach Parker, the Chairman of the Organisation, announced that they had forwarded to the Imperial War Conference a memorial which had provided a sound basis for national development, and been signed on behalf of eighty-one industrial associations representing many hundreds of millions of capital and millions of workers, urging the adoption of the resolutions of the Paris Economic Conference of the Allies which afforded a sound basis for National development.

Mr. Walter Long, replying to the toast of "The Visitors," said he rejoiced that this Association had been brought into existence. It had been too long a reproach that business men took little interest in politics, but he hoped that in future there would be a closer association between the business and industrial classes of the community and the Parliament and Government of the country. (Cheers.) Our sacrifices in this war would have been in vain if, in the first place, we did not attain a real victory which would assure the peace of the world for many a decade to come, and if, in the second place, we did not take the lesson to heart of the possibilities and advantages of organisation of our business and industrial affairs. (Cheers.) If, in the past, we had organised and utilised to the full the incomparable advantages and resources of the Empire our position to-day would have been stronger and the length of

this war would have been materially shortened. With a few exceptions, there was nothing that was required for the sustenance of the Empire that was not to be found in some part or other of the Empire. (Hear, hear.) If it was true, as had been alleged, that we had been sitting quiescent while the foreigner acquired and developed the resources of our Empire, it was all to our shame. (Cheers.) It was up to us in the future to take care that the Empire's first concern should be the Empire itself. (Hear, hear.) In the matter of food supplies, about three-fourths of the wheat we required came from outside this country. We were now making an effort to increase the home supply, and he hoped those efforts would be successful; but however successful we might be in that regard we could not expect to be wholly independent of outside sources, but to the extent that we were compelled to rely upon imports care must be taken that the advantages of that trade should be secured to the producers within our own Empire. (Cheers.) We had been in the past far too hospitable to outsiders. He would be sorry to see the day when the Empire was not free to those people who wished to make their home among us, but we needed to be more careful that those who were working here for their own advancement, and laying well-devised plans which could be used at the propitious moment to the advantage of their own countries, should not be allowed to use to our disadvantage the power and position and wealth which they might acquire here. (Cheers.) The time was when we thought that the Empire might find its best defence in our soldiers and ships. We had learnt that we needed also a great Mercantile Marine, such as that which had played so magnificent a part in this war. (Cheers.) We had left the building-up of that marine to the ingenuity and brain and capital of men like their Chairman—(hear, hear)—we had believed, as he still believed, in individual enterprise, but we had to do more in the future—we had to take care that every possible step should be taken to pool the resources of the Empire. (Hear, hear.) The Empire must be looked upon as a business concern. Our business men could not afford to let the Government of the country rest solely in the hands of the politicians. (Cheers.) The true foundation of the State was to be found in its business, its industry, and its workers. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Rogers, who also responded, said that our plain duty was to see that on the signing of peace we did not suffer from the lack of trade munitions as we had suffered in the past from the lack of war munitions. (Cheers.)

The salient paragraphs in the Memorial referred to by Mr. Sandbach Parker are given below:—

1. That the deepened sense of our unity of interest in the face of national danger, as between various classes of the community and as between the Dominions and territories of the Empire, must be recognised and maintained in all measures to be considered from the point of view of economic security and progress.

2. That the first claim on Imperial statesmanship is that remunerative employment shall be made available for all under conditions that will crown with comfort and prosperity the freedom for which we are now working and fighting.

3. That to this end the three great agencies of production—capital, labour, and science—should be system-

atically directed towards the development of the boundless resources of the Empire so that it may become more productive, not only of the prime necessities of life, but also of the essential materials of industry and of all departments of manufacture.

4. That the Resolutions of the Paris Economic Conference provide a sound basis for national self-development and for maintaining mutually advantageous and privileged commercial intercourse between the Allied Powers.

5. That after the institution of such a system of reciprocal preferential arrangements as will give practical effect to the Resolutions of the Paris Conference, which can best be settled in detail by conference with representative organised associations of manufacturers and producers, our next Imperial duty is to stimulate the employment of available resources of mechanical and chemical science for enhancing productive capacity and so enriching the whole community.

6. That the system of general and technical education should be thoroughly revised to afford to all classes equality of opportunity for talent and industry.

7. That the State should, while facilitating general conditions, recognise and regularise the position of industrial organisations and give them additional responsibility for the efficient conduct of each section of industry. In conference with each other, with labour, and with the Government they may thus find a system of industrial security and progress in true accord with the spirit of British enterprise as being capable of continuous adjustment to varying circumstances and giving opportunity for the exercise of individual energy and original endeavour.

Among the signatories were the West India Committee and following Agricultural and Commercial bodies in the West Indies, to whom copies of the Memorial were submitted by the Committee:—

The Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies.

The Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society.

The Barbados Agricultural Society.

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce.

The British Guiana Planters' Association.

The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana.

The Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange.

The St. Kitts Agricultural Society.

The St. Lucia Agricultural and Commercial Society.

The St. Vincent Cotton Growers' and Agricultural Association.

The Tobago Planters' Association.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce.

Sugar occupied the time of the House of Commons for over an hour on May 1st, when Sir P. Banbury, on the motion for adjournment, complained that offers made by certain firms to supply sugar to the Government had been rejected with scant courtesy by the Royal Commission. It was shown by Captain Bathurst, in reply, that the firms in question had never dealt in sugar before and that there were plenty of sources from which the Government could obtain sugar, but that the difficulty was to find tonnage. It was for that reason that supplies to the public had been cut down. Replying to a question put by Sir Henry Dalziel on the following day, as to why raw sugar should not be supplied in order to save the cost of refining, Captain Bathurst said that the Food Controller had already considered the proposal carefully, and having regard to the condition in which the hulk of the sugar was received in this country, and the high percentage of impurities contained, he was not prepared to adopt it. He added that sand and clay and specimens of the sugar vermin were found in it. He spoke, however, of the "bulk" of our sugar, and we must assume that he did not refer to grocery and 96° sugars. We shall revert to this matter in next issue.

CACAO FROM SAN THOME.

The Boycott Removed.

It will be recalled that in 1910 the chief cacao manufacturing firms in this country decided to boycott cacao from the Portuguese islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, on the grounds that it was produced under conditions closely akin to slavery.

This drastic action resulted in reforms being carried out, and these have been so far-reaching that Mr. A. J. Balfour, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, wrote on February 27th to Sir L. Carnegie, our Minister at Lisbon, expressing the hope of the Government that the boycott would be removed, as they themselves had formed the opinion that the general conditions in Angola and the Portuguese islands, the terms of the labourers' contracts, and those on which they were renewed, as well as the conditions of repatriation, were entirely satisfactory.

It was a curious coincidence, and nothing more, that a Proclamation totally prohibiting the importation of foreign cacao, among other items, should have been made on February 23rd, four days before Mr. Balfour's letter was written. The decision, which it is understood has been arrived at by the cacao manufacturers to resume purchases of Portuguese cacao, will not result in any immediate importations, as no relaxation of the Prohibition Order is contemplated. There are, however, 25,000 bags of San Thomé cacao in London and Liverpool, which will now, no doubt, be absorbed.

A despatch from Mr. Hall Hall, His Majesty's Consul-General at Loanda, on the conditions of labour in Angola and Portuguese West Africa, which led to the change of view on the part of the Government, has now been published, with other documents on the subject, as a White Paper (Africa No. 1 (1917) [Cd. 8479]).

Mr. Hall Hall's final despatch was dated October 30th, 1916, and runs as follows:—

Loanda, October 30, 1916.

"I have the honour to state that, in my humble opinion, the present conditions under which native labour is engaged for and employed in those islands are such as to justify the purchase of cocoa from San Thomé, and Príncipe by Messrs. Cadbury and other British firms.

"Since September, 1915, I have visited nineteen plantations, mostly in the southern, less favoured, portion of San Thomé, where, if anywhere, the plantations are likely to be poorly equipped, and have also spent over two months visiting the districts in Angola where successive parties of liberated 'serviçaes' are now settling down; and I have come to the conclusion that the Portuguese Government and planters have, during the last few years, made an earnest and successful effort to put their house in order, which could now fitly be recognised.

"The remarks made in the remainder of this despatch deal more with San Thomé than with Príncipe. I have not yet been able to visit the latter island, but the statistics for some years back show that a majority of Cape Verde natives are employed there; I have met with some of these natives in San Thomé, and they are well known to be independent

and little likely to submit to injustice. One may therefore feel satisfied that the conditions of native labour there are at the least not behind those in San Thomé.

RECRUITMENT FOR SAN THOMÉ.

"As regards recruiting for the islands, there are, in my humble opinion, good reasons for considering that the methods now adopted for obtaining labourers are quite satisfactory. I recently travelled up into the interior from Benguella with a Senhor Martins, the recruiting agent for part of the Benguella district, whom I have known in that capacity for some two and a half years. He was looking forward with great interest to the return, during next year and onwards, of labourers whom he had recruited two or three years ago for the islands. He considered that their return, with money and good clothes, would be most helpful in persuading others to go. He had up to then been recruiting in the neighbourhood of Huambo and to the south of it, and was now going to Bailundo, north of Huambo, to start recruiting there, as he considered that he had almost arrived at the time when there would be a regular flow of labour from the Huambo region without the necessity of recruiting; he hoped to establish the same conditions at Bailundo. The policy of recruiting natives of the Quilengues tribe for contracts of one year has already borne fruit, as is mentioned by Mr. Vice-Consul Cassells in the memorandum I forwarded on the 30th June last,* in which he says that a Mr. James Chapman, a British subject born in Angola, 'stated that many of his boys (Quilengues) had left him, and of their own accord had engaged themselves for service in San Thomé.' The Emigration Society, which does the recruiting for the islands, have, as I have had the honour to report before, adopted the sensible plan of inviting native chiefs to visit San Thomé, so as to assure themselves of the conditions under which their people would go to work there; several chiefs from the southern part of Angola have made visits of this nature, and about two weeks ago, while I was talking with some Angola labourers on board ship bound for San Thomé, I found among them a chief from near Bailundo who was going to visit the island with his wife and daughter, accompanying a group of his people who had just been recruited for labour there.

"During the last two years or so there has been a marked development of agriculture in Angola, and consequently an increased demand for labour. The agriculturists blame the officials in no measured terms for what they considered their failure in their duty of assisting them to obtain labourers: in almost every issue of the weekly *Jornal de Benguella*, which is the chief representative of the farmers, there is some abuse on this subject hurled at the heads of the local authorities or their superiors; but I have never seen any criticism of the methods used by the recruiters for the islands to obtain their labourers. If they resorted to any illegal or objectionable practices the agriculturists would be the first to denounce them, as their competition in the labour market is very keenly felt.

* Not reprinted here.

WAGES THE CHIEF INDUCEMENT.

"The amount of the wages earned by work in the islands seems to act as the chief inducement, though, in fact, the rate paid is not much more than the rate laid down by law in Angola, the difference being that the San Thomé worker comes back with a 'bonus' earned during perhaps three years all in a lump sum, whereas the Angolan who stays at home rarely works for more than three months at a time, and consequently has less to show for it at the end. In talking to labourers bound for the islands, I have very frequently asked them why they were going there, and the answer has almost invariably been 'because of the money.' I am told that during certain times of the year a good number go and offer themselves to the recruiting agents, so as to escape having to work at road-making in the neighbourhood of their homes, for which they get no pay.

"With regard to the provision made for the 'serviçaes' comfort while in the islands, I would respectfully refer your Lordship to my despatch of the 3rd July last, in which is given a description of my observations at the nineteen plantations I had recently visited.† The majority of these plantations are, as stated above, in the less prosperous part of San Thomé, where the soil does not give so good a return as in the other part, and where, therefore, it might well be that the conditions would be seen at their worst. Among these plantations I found extremely rare cases of defective hospital or living accommodation; the most noticeable of such cases was San Joao dos Angolares, a plantation in a state of bankruptcy owing to the extravagance of its mulatto owners. I have subsequently heard that it is being taken over by the creditors. It has in itself the possibility of becoming a most flourishing concern if there is capital to work it, and I think there is no reason to doubt that the new owners will supply what is lacking in the accommodation for the 'serviçaes.' During my visits to the plantations I saw almost everywhere evident signs of new buildings just finished or in course of construction for hospitals or living accommodation for the labourers, and there could be no doubt whatever of a very serious effort that the planters have been and are making in spite of the difficulties occasioned by the war to provide greater comfort and more healthy conditions for their 'serviçaes.'

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT NOT EXCESSIVE.

"I am unable to say from personal knowledge whether the labourers are subjected in general to ill-treatment on the plantations or not, but I do not think that it is likely that they receive excessive, if any, corporal punishment from their employers or their subordinates. The infliction of wounds or bruises and of imprisonment are offences against the law, and the offender is liable to severe punishment. Moreover, the labourer may not be stopped from appealing to the authorities, under a heavy fine or imprisonment. A planter told me that 'serviçaes' avail themselves of their right to appeal to the authorities, and that they go to the curator and lay their complaints before him. When passing

† Not reprinted here.

about among the plantations I never saw signs of fear displayed by labourers at the sight of the administrator or his subordinate, who might happen to be with me. An indication that the conditions of life in the islands, generally speaking, are acceptable to the 'serviçaes' is given by the number of ex-'serviçaes' found to be returning for a second period of work. Of the numerous ships bound for San Thomé that I have travelled on or visited, I do not recollect a single one on which I did not find one or more going back to the islands a second time. These were of the new, regularly contracted, type of labourer. On the last occasion on which I visited labourers on board bound for the islands, out of about 120 Angolans there were at least three going to San Thomé for the second time. Two of these, whom I spoke to, had done three years previously, and were now going for five years more; they were quite aware of the length of time they were going for; they said they were going on account of the money.

DEATH RATE OF 50 PER 1,000.

"The death returns for the plantations are fairly high. Out of a labourer population of perhaps 35,000 to 40,000 in San Thomé, the statistics which have just been published give 1,958 deaths during the first six months of the present year, i.e., about 5 per cent. for the year. Of these 908 were Angolans, and 1,006 from Mozambique. Previous returns gave 2,159 deaths during the period June, 1915, to February, 1916, which is a slightly lower percentage. The statistics also show that the majority of the deaths were from dysentery, pulmonary disease, and tuberculosis, due no doubt very largely to the change of climate. The number of deaths is lamentable, but perhaps is not unlike what is found to occur in other parts, where natives are employed away from their own country.* It is the unanimous opinion of such planters as I have spoken to that it takes about six months for the labourer to become acclimatised and accustomed to the work of the plantations. He spends a large part of this time in hospital, either on account of wounds received through his unskilful handling of sharp-edged tools, to which he is not accustomed, or on account of illness brought about by the unfamiliar conditions of work and climate.

"With regard to recontracting, I think the time has now gone by when the 'serviçal' could be imposed on, either by fraud or violence, to recontract. During the course of my recent travels in the interior I talked with hundreds of the old type of 'serviçal,' originally slaves, now liberated and settled, more or less permanently, in Angola. They came from plantations in every part of the islands, and I think that it is, to say the least, highly unlikely that it would be possible for others of the same sort to be forced or deceived into staying behind if they wanted to go and there was a ship that could take them. Moreover, when proceedings connected with recontracting are to be held, the public are advised beforehand in the *Official Gazette* of the day, hour, and place, if it is to be on

a plantation; it is either at the curator's office or on the plantation, according to the number of labourers concerned; and the public have a legal right to be present at either place.

MANY LABOURERS RE-CONTRACT.

"Of 2,290 labourers in San Thomé who entered into fresh contracts with old or new masters during the first six months of this year, for periods of one, two, and three years (mostly two or three years), 1,423 were Angolans and 676, or nearly a third, from Mozambique. If those who entered into these new contracts had to be induced to do so by fraud or violence, it would not seem likely that so large a number of Mozambique natives would have been found among them.

"As indicated in my despatch above referred to, it is quite possible that some of the old Angolans are choosing to stay in the islands rather than go back to Angola. They find themselves in a peculiar position when they reach the interior of the country. So far as I have been able to discover, large numbers of them came as children from the Belgian Congo. The local natives know that they were slaves and do not have the same respect for them as they would have for free men. They therefore keep together and tend to settle in communities in the neighbourhood of one or other of the old slave roads, and there they form a race apart, not mixing much with the local natives and apparently disinclined to devote themselves seriously to work for their maintenance. On one or two occasions when I was visiting those parts I desired to buy food for myself and my carriers and told a boy to go to some village I could see to buy a chicken and some meal; and the boy said it was no use to go to that village, as they were 'Santomistas' there and would not have any food to sell. On one occasion I made him go in spite of that, and he came back with the message that they had no food to sell that evening, but would get some from another village and bring it next morning, which they did. As I have already had the honour to point out, these people have been habituated to a regular supply of food not procured directly by their own labour, and it is perhaps hard for them to adapt themselves to a new manner of life. Hence, I think it is quite conceivable that in some cases they come to the conclusion that the life in San Thomé was preferable, and go back there and tell others what their experience has been and advise them to stay where they are. A planter in San Thomé, manager of the firm of Messrs. Lima and Gama, told me that this occurred on his plantation. (*To be concluded.*)

The shortage of aniline dyes has brought dyes of vegetable origin into special prominence. One of the foremost of the latter is turmeric, which attaches itself readily to wool, silk or cotton, giving a yellow colour. Mordants are rarely required, but Calcutta dyers obtain a brilliant yellow by the use of carbonate of soda in conjunction with turmeric. The turmeric plant (*Curcuma longa*) is extensively cultivated all over India. For use as a dye, the roots are cleaned and treated gradually in closed earthen pots. They are then dried in the sun, boiled with water, and pounded into a paste, from which a decoction is made.

*Mr. Hall Hall may be surprised to learn that the death rate among the East Indian immigrants in British Guiana and Trinidad is under 15 per 1000.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Princess Alexandra of Teck is to present a Silk Union Jack and Shield to the British West Indies Regiment and other colonial units at the Colonial Office on Saturday, May 5th, at 3.30 p.m. The gifts, which are offered by the Women and Children of the British Isles, at the instance of the League of the Empire, will be received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the Colonial troops.

The headquarters of the Ladies' Committee of the W.I.C.C. have now been transferred to 15 Seething Lane, where a special room is now devoted to the sorting, packing and despatch of comforts received. The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

- Miss Cowie: 1 bed-jacket.
- Mrs. Vere Oliver: 1 helmet, 1 muffler.
- Mrs. Archibald Pile: 11 prs. socks, 2 prs. mittens, 1 muffler.
- Mrs. J. W. Russell: 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. Arthur Johnson: 2 mufflers and magazines.

The work parties at Lady Davson's are being well attended, and a very satisfactory amount of work has been accomplished lately. The Committee have been able to send a large number of comforts to the men of the British West Indies Regiment who have recently arrived in France. It is to be hoped that there will be no falling off in the number of gifts, as the demand is largely increasing. Games of all sorts and magazines will be very acceptable.

* * *

The total amount received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund is £7,274 12s. 9d., and of this approximately £4,444 has been expended. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

Ladies' W.I. Committee, Trinidad, per Mrs. Gordon Gordon	150	0	0
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Nassau, Bahamas (per Miss A. Menendez)	30	0	0
Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son (further rebate badges, for March quarter)	16	6	6
"J. B. K. and C. T. K.," St. Vincent	3	3	0
Hon. Lambert Phillips	3	0	0
J. M. Gray, Esq.	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Turner	1	1	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. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

* * *

Below are some further extracts from letters received from the West Indians on active service

which show that the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee is appreciated:—

"It is a real comfort to know of the existence and object of the West Indian Contingent Committee, and I assure you that we West Indian boys appreciate to the fullest extent all that is being done both in England and at home towards our comfort and welfare."

"It was quite a treat to have some cigarettes again, as we have been some distance from the Y.M.C.A. for the past two months, and haven't been able to get hold of any." (East Africa.)

"I have received the two parcels you have sent me safely. I was very glad when I found there were some smokes. Oh, it was all well with me." (Mesopotamia.)

"The cigarettes were a delightful change from the Indian brands, which are mostly what we get out here." (Mesopotamia.)

"I was somewhat surprised to receive your gift, as I thought I was out of touch with all West Indian institutions."

"The two lots of cigarettes you sent I shared with the other chaps. They were like water in a dry desert, and we all appreciated them very much. You cannot imagine what a smoke means in a place like this. If anything deserves support, it is your Comforts Fund. It has helped many of us out who have had no parcels to look forward to. I often think of you all, and on a long night ride the gloves you sent me have saved me many a time cursing the fate of war, as when we can keep hands and feet warm half the battle is won."

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:

BAHAMAS.

Pte. G. M. Cole, Plymouth.

BARBADOS.

Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Eastbourne; Pte. B. T. Seale, Hampstead.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Second Lieut. Kenneth M. Leighton, H.L.L., Officers' Convalescent Hospital, Great Central Hotel; 2nd Lieut. C. E. L. Cox, Great Central Hotel, Pte. Geo. W. Hayley, Brighton.

JAMAICA.

Pte. Jones, Pte. Hussett, British West Indies Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. P. Ryau, Royal Fusiliers, Brentford; Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Chelmsford.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, Royal Berks, Manchester; 2nd Lieut. L. Prada, East Lancashire Regt., Manchester; Trooper O. Hamel Smith, Kingston; Trooper Kenneth V. Galt, King Edward's Horse, Englefield; 2nd Lieut. R. E. Quessnel, Rouen; 2nd Lieut. A. E. Evelyn, 7, Mandeville Place, W.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Major G. W. R. Jenkins, Officers' Convalescent Home, Great Central Hotel; 2nd Lieut. W. F. Albury, 17, Upper Grosvenor Street, London; Capt. R. S. Waters, Sir John Ellerman Hospital, Regent's Park; Regt.-Sergt.-Major W. J. Hogg, Hammersmith.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. ARTHUR C. PONSONBY, who has been seriously ill, owing to an attack of pneumonia following influenza, is now, we are glad to learn, out of danger.

* * *

ANOTHER invalid is Mr. John McNeil, of Messrs. John McNeil & Co., who recently underwent an operation. His friends will be glad to learn that he is now very much better and hopes to leave his Nursing Home in about a week's time.

MR. JOHN WILLIAMS, First Assistant in the Government Laboratory of British Guiana, has been admitted to the Fellowship of the Institute of Chemistry *honoris causa*.

* * *

THE work of collecting and despatching the limes for sick and wounded soldiers and sailors in hospital from Dominica is now undertaken by the Permanent Exhibition Committee, who are assisted by Mr. Ralph E. A. Nicholls and Mr. Joseph Jones.

THE steamers of the new direct service of the Mexican Fruit and Steamship Company, between New Orleans and Venezuela, which call *en route* at Trinidad, are to be used exclusively for freight purposes, and will not carry cargo.

MEMBERS of the West India Committee overseas, who have not already done so, are requested to remit their subscriptions for the current year *without delay*. Subscriptions can either be sent direct, or paid into the local branches of the Colonial Bank.

MR. M. A. FRENCH, of the North-West District of British Guiana, who was in the *Laconia* when she was torpedoed, has been at Richmond Hydro recovering from the shock, and hopes to return to the colony by way of Canada before very long.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT calls our attention to an amusing slip perpetrated by a well-known West Indian newspaper, which shall be nameless. It gave as the motto for the day:—

"Oh, woman, in our hours of ease,
Uncertain company and hard to please," etc.

It evidently never occurred to the hard-worked Editor that the proof-reader might never have heard the word "coy" before, and might take it as an abbreviation for "company."

* * *

THOUGH any one, except enemy subjects, may subscribe to and receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULARS, post free, for the year, for £1 1s. or \$5.00, 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.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. The compound subscription for life membership for individuals is a single payment for £10 10s.

It would be well if the Post Office authorities were to instruct correspondents in the West Indies as to how to address letters for overseas, and were to refuse to forward letters improperly addressed. Here are some examples from the Contingent Committee's blind letter department, showing how letters should *not* be addressed:—

- (1) "On I.L.M.S. Pet. — No. — M.E.F. Egypt, 4 Bralean (Battalion?) B.W.I.R."
- (2) "— — B.E. Force, France."
- (3) "Mr. — — No. —, A.P.O.S. Force, British Expedition, France."
- (4) "—, B. Company, Egypt Town."
- (5) "Pte. —, East India."

These examples remind us of the Barbadian who went into a smart London tailor's shop for the first time, and said that he wanted a coat like that worn by his friend, Mr. So-and-so, of Speight's Town!

The proper mode of address is—

"1006, Pte. John Smith,
2nd Battalion, 'A' Company,
British West Indies Regt.,
E.E.F.,
Egypt

—or B.E.F., France, as the case may be.



A. D. W. J. Brooch

Souvenir brooches of the Badge of the British West Indies Regiment are offered for sale 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	
Gold 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.

A series of short illustrated lectures on "The Tropical Industries of the Empire," describing the production of rubber, tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, etc., in connection with the collections in the public galleries of the Imperial Institute, will be delivered by Miss Edith A. Browne, F.R.G.S., at the Imperial Institute each week in May, June and July, at 3 o'clock. As the number of tickets that can be issued for any one lecture is strictly limited the course will be duplicated, each lecture being given on a Monday and repeated on the following Wednesday. 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, S.W. 7. Applicants for tickets should state whether they wish to attend on Mondays or on Wednesdays.

NATURE NOTES.

Dr. WAAL, in the *International Sugar Journal*, states that, as the result of experiments conducted on heavy clay and sandy cane soils, "molasses constitutes a valuable rectifier for cane soils, which, when applied in combination with organic matter, has given marked results in estate experiments on a large scale during three consecutive years. Even in a diluted form, the results are very encouraging."

A RECENT number of the *Californian Station Report* contains an article by Mr. W. P. Kelly on the effect of the continuous application of nitrate of soda to soils, which was found to be a well-marked deterioration in the physical properties of the soils, with a rapid loss of soil calcium, and the presence of a high content of soluble sodium in porportion to other bases in the water extracts from the soils treated. It was concluded that sodium nitrate reacts with calcium carbonate in soils to form small amounts of sodium carbonate.

IN one of the March numbers of the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, Mr. R. C. Paulwetter gives the result of an extensive series of observations on the causes which tend to the dissemination of the Angular Leafspot of cotton. The conclusion he arrives at is that there is little dissemination due to seed, although this is a probable factor in primary infection; that insects play a very unimportant part in the spread of the disease; and that wind-blown rain is an important factor in this connection.

The important subject of the activity of soil protozoa has recently been taken up by Mr. G. P. Kock. The experiments show that the addition of organic matter to a sandy soil encouraged a greater protozoa development than where none had been added. In a clay loam the addition of dried blood had very little influence in increasing the proportion of protozoa, while cow manure had no effect. The presence of protozoa in soil is prejudicial to bacterial development.

QUITE recently Mr. P. A. Bonequet, in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* has published results of observations, which afford a novel explanation of "soil sickness." He comes to the conclusion that plants affected by peculiar diseases contain reducing bacteria, which may operate to such an extent on the nitrates absorbed from the soil as to bring about nitrogen starvation in the plant, even when grown in nitrogen rich soil, and that this becomes worse when rotation is not practiced.

The faulty growth and disease of plants growing in soil apparently in good physical and chemical condition is one of the problems which have confronted agriculturists for many years. The view accepted of late years has been that the soil is sick of the growth of that particular plant cultivated, and one theory advanced to account for it is that the plant gives out a toxin to the soil which, while innocuous to other plants, is harmful to itself.

OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN JOHN GARNER BELLAMY.

Captain J. G. Bellamy died, we regret to state, on March 15th, at Georgetown, Demerara.

Captain Bellamy, who came of a Lincolnshire family, was Senior Captain of Sproston's and an Inspector of Shipping to the British Guiana Government. He first went out to the colony as chief officer of Scrutton's S.S. *Nonpareil*, and in 1893 he entered Sproston's service as skipper of the S.S. *Penwortham*, which plied on the North-West District route. Latterly he had commanded the S.S. *Mazaruni*. His knowledge of the tides and currents on the coast was unequalled, and it was said that he could take his vessel up the Waini river blindfolded.

MR. L. A. RATTIGAN.

Mr. L. A. Rattigan has died in Jamaica.

Mr. Rattigan was for many years a member of the Civil Service in Jamaica, and when he retired some years ago he continued to reside in that island, where he was born. He took a close interest in many public movements, and raised funds for a memorial to King Edward VII., which takes the form of a clock-tower, embellished with a bust of "Edward the Peacemaker," at Halfway Tree.

MR. C. WILGREGG ANDERSON, I.S.O., J.P.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. C. Wilgress Anderson, which took place at his residence, Lyndhurst, Georgetown, Demerara, on March 19th.

Mr. Anderson, who was only fifty years of age, contracted typhoid fever on an expedition to the Venezuelan boundary on which he started in November. He remained under medical care at Morawhanna until March 2nd, when he returned to Georgetown, still seriously ill. Complications ensued, and he eventually succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. Born in British Guiana on March 27th, 1867, Mr. Anderson was the son of Mr. Henry Anderson, a well-known Water Street merchant. He was educated at Queen's College and in England, and on his return to the colony he joined the Department of Lands and Mines, of which he was appointed a first-class officer in 1904. He accompanied Professor Harrison on his Geological Survey in 1902, and in the following year he was selected as Commissioner to demarcate the British Guiana-Venezuela boundary. In 1906 he demarcated the Brazilian boundary, for which services he received the thanks of the Imperial Government, and in 1909 he was decorated with the I.S.O. He was for many years a member of the West India Committee and the Permanent Exhibition Committee of British Guiana, which he represented on Commission at the International Rubber and Tropical Products Exhibition in 1914, and the Court which he arranged with much skill won the West India Committee's silver cup for the best comprehensive exhibit. He leaves a widow, who was Miss Elsie Florence Miles, and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Mr. J. J. Ouckelt, who is at present in this country, writes: "It was a very great shock to learn of Anderson's death. Even after the most trying experiences of travel in the interior of the colony, and under every possible condition, he always gave one such an impression of youthfulness that one grew quite to picture a green old age for him. His loss will be a heavy one, for not only was he a very efficient and able officer, but his record of travel and exploration had given him an unrivalled knowledge of the hinterland in all its parts—a knowledge that was as unselfishly placed at the disposal of individuals as it was of the Government, from whom it can hardly be said that he met with that degree of recognition and remuneration that his able services deserved. Apart from the ordinary official surveys, he had carried out successfully some of the most difficult undertakings in the

terior, such as the Commissions for the delimitation of the frontier with Venezuela and Brazil and on the gold exploration of the Kajeteur Plateau. His work as Forestry Officer was much criticised, I know; but one has to remember that from the very beginning he had no fair chance of success, as his services were continually required for other purposes, which, to say the least of it, was unfortunate. It is sad to think that his genial camaraderie is finished, and so useful a career closed."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Very few letters have been received from the West Indies since we last went to press. A correspondent sends some interesting information from Dominica, and it will be noted with satisfaction that a Chamber of Commerce has been appointed there.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Sea Defences.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, MARCH 20th.—The sea defence question is carried a step further by the report of Heer Witteveen, Director of Public Works in Surinam (*Argosy*, March 20th, p. 5). The Director expresses general agreement with the contractors' plans. The deaths of Mr. C. Wilgress Anderson, I.S.O., Captain J. G. Bellamy, and Mr. S. Webb are recorded with deep regret.

DOMINICA—The "Millionaires' Club."

A new social institution, known officially as the Roseau Club, and unofficially as the "Millionaires' Club" (because it is located in the Royal Bank Building), has been opened recently. Mr. A. Emmanuel is president, Mr. J. E. Chader-ton, vice-president; Mr. S. L. V. Green, secretary; and Mr. A. C. Shillingford, treasurer.

The Bishop has returned from a visit to Portsmouth, Vieille Case and Wesley. The erection of a Government Lime Factory at Grand Bay is under consideration. It will serve the surrounding district, and also Delice and Lap-laine—weather permitting.

A correspondent writes under date March 31st:—Mr. Harold Alford Nicholls having resigned the appointment of Acting Magistrate for District E, Mr. H. W. Steele has been transferred to Roseau, and Mr. E. R. Green, the Government Officer of the Eastern District, has been appointed to carry on the magisterial duties for Mr. Steele in District F. Mr. Steele, who is a native of Grenada, has gained a reputation as a careful and courteous official since he came to Dominica.

The physical configuration of the island renders it an ideal place for the illicit distiller, and a very large quantity of rum has been manufactured in recent years in almost inaccessible places in the mountains, whilst a considerable portion of it has found its way to Roseau. The Administrator was determined to stop this wholesale defiance of the law; the steps taken have proved successful in a number of instances, and it is hoped that the makers of the Dominica "mountain dew"—which is now known locally as "Mahaffy" (!)—will before long be roped in. Captain Rnane, the Acting Inspector of Police, has been indefatigable in this and in other duties of his office, and on all sides one hears the hope expressed that he will remain in Dominica.

The news that Lieut. H. T. S. Johns was killed in action on January 11th in Mesopotamia has been received with great regret. Mr. Johns came to Dominica as second master to the Grammar School, and after a time he became a Treasury Officer. When the War broke out he went to England to offer his services, and he got a commission in the Welsh Regiment. He passed safely through the severe fighting at the Barlandelles, and now he has made the supreme sacrifice for his country in the advance on the Tigris.

It is proposed to erect a Government Co-operative Factory at Grand Bay for the manufacture of concentrated lime juice and the distillation of the essential oil of limes. It has been estimated that 6,000 barrels of limes would be dealt with annually in such a factory, and the resulting returns to the peasant proprietors who grow the fruit would be greatly in excess of what they get now from the purchasers of the ripe limes. A successful meeting was held at Grand Bay on February 24th, under the chairmanship of the Administrator, and those present were enthusiastic for the scheme, which is undoubtedly an excellent one and deserving of all support.

The Sixth Session of the Legislative Council (period 1914-17) expired on March 8th, and the new Council met on the 22nd inst., under the Presidency of the Administrator. The constitution of the Council is as follows:—

Officials.—The Hon. W. H. Porter, I.S.O.; The Hon. Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G.; The Hon. T. Cools-Lartigue, Mr. P. Noble, Mr. Joseph Jones, and Dr. R. H. Allport.

Unofficials.—The Hon. J. Colin Macintyre, The Hon. W. M. Fletcher, Mr. W. G. Penrice, Mr. Hamilton Rolle, Mr. T. H. Shillingford, and Mr. J. R. H. Bridgewater.

After a short address by the President, the Council passed standing Rules and Orders, and a few supplementary votes authorising a further public expenditure of £1,668. The Hon. J. C. Macintyre and Mr. W. G. Penrice were elected as delegates to the Federal Legislative Council.

On the 26th inst., at a meeting of the leading members of the mercantile community, the Chamber of Commerce of Dominica was inaugurated, with Mr. W. Stedman Archer as Chairman, Mr. W. C. Winston as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. J. R. Marsan as Secretary. Such an institution has long been a want in Dominica, and it is hoped that the new body will accomplish good and useful work. At the meeting a resolution was passed thanking Mr. H. A. Frampton for his past sixteen years' service as a member of the Legislative Council, and expressing regret that he and Mr. Francis Potter had not been re-nominated to the new Council. It seems that the practice now is to make two new appointments on the unofficial side at each new session, and Messrs. Frampton and Potter had to give way to Messrs. Shillingford and Bridgewater.

ST. VINCENT—The Associated Chambers.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, MARCH 19th.—The Congress of the Associated Chamber of Commerce for the West Indies was attended by Mr. J. Elliott Sprott and the writer as representatives of the St. Vincent Cotton Growers' Association and Agricultural and Commercial Society. We feel that the Congress marks a big advance towards securing unity of action on matters of common interest in the West Indies. The resolutions passed and the discussions which took place on them will without doubt have far-reaching effects.

Our administrator leaves for St. Lucia to-morrow to act as Administrator, and His Honour Anthony De Freitas, Chief Justice, will act as Administrator here. The weather was cool and seasonable. Cotton growers were awaiting the reports of sales of the past season's cotton before settling definitely on a plan of action for the coming season.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Barbados Labour Union.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In your issue of the 5th inst. there is a statement taken from the *Barbados Advocate* to the effect that I am the President of the Barbados Labour Union. There is no truth in this statement. The President is Dr. Dixon.

Yours faithfully,

W. ABBOTT.

Venezuela's 30 per cent. Surtax.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—A couple of weeks ago I returned from my annual trip to the West Indies, Venezuela, Colombia, and the Isthmus of Panama, and am now getting back from Trinidad the numbers of your CIRCULAR which you so kindly sent me. I note in your number of January 25th Mr. Monsir's answer to my letter of June last.

Mr. Monsir's communication is a very long one, and as I am under the impression that answering many of his remarks would not be of any interest to your readers, I am cutting—I think to the advantage of all concerned—those referring to Mrs. Brown's washing and similar items.

It is a puzzle to me how Mr. Monsir has come to the conclusion that I largely approve of the 30 per cent. Nothing has been further from my mind. On the contrary, in my previous communication I stated that the time was ripe for discussing its repeal, and added that

it would be worth while trying for. I said, though, that some concessions would have to be made to Venezuela, but that the privilege (the repeal of the surtax) should not be paid too dearly, and I still hold to the same idea.

That the export of goods from Trinidad to Venezuela will increase by the removal of the surtax, nobody can deny. More important business will be done with Maturin, Guanoco, Guiría, and other small places, also with some of the places on the Orinoco River, but to think that Trinidad is going to do the bulk of the Venezuelan trade is a fallacy.

I think this is the most propitious time to tackle this matter, but I do not consider it would be convenient to do so through Diplomatic channels. The present British Minister in Caracas is probably the best we have ever had there; H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul there is also a very active and intelligent gentleman, taking every interest in whatever concerns British trade; but I do not think that their intervention, at least at the beginning, would bring the question to a satisfactory issue. This is a business proposition, and as such should be taken in hand by the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, not by sending an attorney or a representative, but by sending a delegation of two or three of its members to Caracas to discuss the matter with the Venezuelan Government. There are some intricate points connected with the Venezuelan Customs regulations that can only be settled satisfactorily by men of the intelligence and business experience of the members of the Trinidad Mercantile Community.

Mr. Mousir is very anxious about Canadian trade with Venezuela. There is only one way to get it, and that is to follow the footsteps of that progressive institution, the Royal Bank of Canada. They wanted the Venezuelan business, and they went and opened branches in Caracas and Ciudad Bolívar. In the same way, if the Canadian manufacturer or producer wants the trade, he has to see that steamship communication is arranged, and have steamers calling at the principal ports. Under the present conditions, no Venezuelan merchant is coming to Trinidad to buy 500 bags of flour, pay landing and shipping charges, then another freight to the Venezuelan port, when he can get the 500 bags direct from New York by the Red D. Line of steamers.

The above does not refer to Ciudad Bolívar; the Canadian producer can ship to Ciudad Bolívar through Trinidad at through rate with transshipment, without having to pay the 30 per cent. surtax, and exactly on the same conditions and privileges as his American competitor.

Mr. Mousir, still with the nightmare of the wonderful influence of the Germans, states that the British Empire's and Germany's trade with Venezuela ran about the same—Bolívars 38,000,000 annually. I have no complete tables at hand, but I find in the *Gazetteer of The Business Encyclopedia* that the United States export to that country was 47 per cent., and Great Britain 28 per cent. (pre-war figures); so that 75 per cent. of their total imports are already accounted for by the United States and Great Britain; consequently the other 25 per cent. is to be divided between France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, so that the amount corresponding to Germany must be comparatively small, in spite of that German influence so much vaunted by Mr. Mousir.

As regards exports from Venezuela, I have no data; but the figures would not show very much. There are certain special markets in Europe for the different classes of produce: Liverpool for cotton, Havre for coffee, Hamburg for tobacco; so that it is impossible to judge of the ultimate destination of the produce by the port to which it is consigned.

It would do a lot of good to many people—possibly also to Mr. Mousir—to take a little trip to South America. They would find that the Germans have not ousted us from those markets, and that they are very far from doing so; such a trip would make most people recognise this fact and feel a little more proud of our Empire, but talk a little less of it; those ideas of German influence, German methods and organisation would soon be dispelled.

Yours truly,

M. J. TAUREL.

Lyndhurst,
27, Highbury Quadrant,
London, N.

[Mr. Taurel's suggestion seems to be a very practical

one, and no doubt it will receive the attention of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. The earlier letters on this subject were published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of June 29th, 1916, No. 463, and July 13th, 1916, No. 464, and January 25th last, No. 478.]

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.

15, SERTING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib, London."

LONDON, E.C. 3.

May 2nd, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from April 5th. The 3½ per cent. War Loan is quoted at 87½, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 91½, and the 5 per cent. War Loan at 94½ ex. div. Consols stand at 56½.

SUGAR. The imports of sugar into the United Kingdom for the current year up to March 31st amounted to 274,167 tons, as against 367,643 tons and 472,164 tons for the corresponding periods of 1916 and 1915 respectively. 250,320 tons of the 1917 imports consisted of raw, and 23,849 tons were refined. For the first three months of 1916, 243,685 tons of raw sugar were imported, and for January to March, 1915, 278,451 tons, with 126,958 and 193,703 tons of refined respectively. No more import figures for sugar will be given by the Board of Trade.

The stocks of sugar on hand in the United Kingdom on March 31st were 78,300 tons. The bulk of this, 51,850 tons, consisted of raw sugar. The consumption, based on imports, for the three months was 314,669 tons.

In view of the prospects of increased scarcity of sugar supplies, Lord Devonport has announced the reduction of the general sugar ration to ½ lb. per head per week, thus bringing the household consumption rate into line with that of the hotels and restaurants. This means that the total consumption in the United Kingdom will be brought down to something near 1,000,000 tons per annum. As to price, it is reported that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has bought 96° sugars in Cuba for May delivery at \$4.80 per 100 lbs. f.o.b.—a rate much higher than that for previous purchases, pointing to a much higher distribution price in the near future, unless the Commission are prepared to dispose of sugar at a loss. Sales of high-class yellows for the Government have been made in Jamaica at £23 10s. per ton f.o.b.

The political situation in Cuba is improving, and the extent of the damage done to the crops by the rebels is being ascertained. Reports of deliveries, however, are still confined to six ports, which shows that the insurrection has so far not entirely been got under. Unfortunately, some of the canes for the 1917-18 crop are included in the destruction list.

Messrs. Willett & Gray, in their *Journal* of April 8th, summarise the results of the 1916-17 beet crop in the United States. The total production was 794,577 tons of sugar, a figure considerably below the estimate, and 45,179 tons below the big crop of the previous year. The principal producing State was Michigan, which made 244,449 tons, California following with 174,213 tons. Ohio was at the bottom of the production, but with 29,887 tons. The total number of factories working was 74, seven of which operated for the first time. The prospects for next crop are stated to be fair, and fifteen new factories are being constructed for next season. One of these, it is important to note, is being brought from Canada, being the machinery of a Canadian beet sugar factory which has been dismantled.

The same authorities state that the Canadian 1916-17 crop has closed at 12,500 tons, from 15,000 acres, as against 17,641 tons from 17,000 acres last year.

The Italian Government is erecting refineries in Italy in order to make up for the shortage of home sugars by importing raws and refining them.

The German 1916-17 beet crop has suffered severely from the want of nitrogenous fertilizers. Dr. Geerligs states, however, that the production of nitrolim from air-nitrogen has now increased to such an extent in Germany that farmers can now reckon upon getting 50 per cent. of their requirements of manurial nitrogen in this form. This should materially increase next crop.

A scheme for the development of the Jamaica sugar industry by means of Government supported central factories has been formulated in that island. In this scheme a factory to turn out 10,000 tons of sugar per crop is contemplated. The money for the erection is proposed to be supplied by the Government, secured by 6 per cent. debentures, which form a first charge on the property. After the payment from the gross profits of the debenture interest and after providing a 4 per cent. sinking fund for the redemption of the debentures, the Government is to receive half the remaining profit so long as any debentures are outstanding, and one-fourth of the profits after the debentures are paid off for the space of five years. The farmers supplying the cane are to receive 5 per cent. of the tonnage supplied at the price of 96^c crystals f.o.b. Jamaica, the other half of the profits being divided between them according to the tonnage of canes supplied.

The Cuban export returns are naturally incomplete, only six ports being represented, but Mr. Hinely gives the shipments for the present crop up to the 9th April in their incomplete form, as being 1,016,726 tons. Of this quantity 797,476 tons have gone to the United States, 208,221 tons to the United Kingdom, and 7,779 tons to Spain; 2,143 tons have been sent to other European ports, and 1,099 tons to Mexico. Freight has been advanced to 55 cents per 100 lbs. Centrals Chaparra and Delicias are expected to make 157,000 tons between them. This is "some" output.

Prices in the United Kingdom remain at the same figures—Tate's cubes, 47/11; standard granulated, 41/7; Java white, 41/7; West Indian crystallised, basis 41/7; West Indian muscovados, basis 40/7; West Indian syrups, 39/7; with 1/8 maximum and minimum limits in each.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to April 21st are as follows:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Imports	10,192	8,910	12,194	tons
Deliveries	13,004	16,298	11,855	"
Stock	5,203	3,717	6,348	"

The New York market has weakened during the fortnight—96^c duty paid are quoted at \$6.21, and granulated at \$7.90.

RUM. The market has been firmer since the date of last Summary, although difficulty in getting samples from the docks restricts business. Jamaicas may be quoted at 4/9 to 5/6 for common to fine for new spirit. Older kinds are worth 1/- more. The value of Demeraras is 4/- to 4/11 per proof gallon.

The Government concession as regards rum expires on the 18th May, and unless a fresh Order in Council authorising the liberation of rum of less age than the three years required by the Immature Spirits Restriction Act, no rum of less age can be taken out of bond after that date. The West India Committee has the matter in hand, and it is expected that the concession will be renewed at an early date.

The quantity of rum in bond on the 31st of March was 13,042,000 proof gallons, as against 9,268,000 gallons on the 31st March last year.

The stocks in London on April 21st were:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Jamaica	9,175	4,719	3,814	puns
Demerara	3,216	10,684	8,221	"
Total of all kinds	29,632	27,041	18,532	"

CACAO. At auction on the 1st inst. the demand was unsatisfactory. Grenada sold at easier rates at from 65/- to 79/-; a few bags of Trinidad changed hands at 50/- to 84/-; of St. Lucia at 75/-; and of Dominica at 76/- to 77/-. The Jamaica lot was bought in.

Further reports by Mr. Consul-General Hall Hall to the Foreign Office on the subject of the St. Thome and Principe labour conditions in connection with cacao estates have been published in a White Paper. It will be remembered that the "slave" conditions alleged to be associated with cacao cultivation in those islands attracted much attention in this country some time ago, and that Messrs. Cadbury sent an agent to investigate the matter, who reported as to the unsatisfactory conditions. As the result of Messrs. Cadbury's representations our Government approached the Portuguese Government in the matter, which took the matter in hand. In the mean-

time the chief cocoa manufacturers decided to suspend the purchase of St. Thome and Principe cacao. The satisfactory nature of Mr. Hall Hall's report has led Mr. Balfour to express the opinion that the boycott might well be removed. No foreign cacao is allowed to be imported, but considerable stocks of St. Thome cacao exist in this country, that in London amounting to 23,697 bags, and in Liverpool to 2,000 bags.

The stocks in London on April 21st were:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Trinidad	18,892	15,911	7,482	bags.
Grenada	23,032	16,052	8,026	"
Total of all kinds	264,544	13,8172	56,944	"

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that a good demand exists for Sea Island growths, and that spot quotations are easily obtainable. The Liverpool Cotton Association's Circular gives the value of West Indian Sea Island as being 41d. to 43d. per lb. for good to fine.

The Board of Trade Returns for March show that the imports of cotton into the United Kingdom amounted to 130,504,200 lbs. during the month, making 535,384,200 lbs. for the year. This is against 278,254,100 lbs., and 535,884,200 lbs. for the corresponding periods of last year. The quantity of West Indian imported for the year up to 26th April was 1,794 bales.

The exports for March were 22,688,700 lbs., making 61,760,000 lbs. for the quarter.

COFFEE. The market is steadier. At auction on the 27th April a fair business was done at full rates, although Jamaica was neglected. Good ordinary Jamaica may be quoted at 65/- to 68/-.

ARROWROOT. Market very firm with good demand, partly speculative. Quotations nominally 5d. to 6d.

A correspondent in the Daily Mail points out that 1,000 tons of West Indian arrowroot are in stock in the United Kingdom, and would form a useful article for cakes, biscuits, etc.

FRUIT. West Indian Bananas £26 per ton f.o.r. London. Coco-nuts Jamaica, 32/- per bag (100s.).

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice. No change in raw. Concentrated in good demand. Lime Oil. Handpressed, sellers, 15/-, quiet. Distilled, seller 8/-, quiet. Citrate, unchanged.

COPRA. West Indian excited strong demand. Little offering, value £49, c.i.f. terms.

SPICES. Pimento. Nothing doing. Nominal quotation, 4d. Ginger. Small business passing, values, 80/- to 120/- Nutmegs 10d. to 1/2 for 110's. to 68's. Mace 1/6 to 2/2 for red to good pink.

BALATA. The market for Venezuela block is slightly easier, and there are sellers at 3/2 to 3/3 c.i.f. Panama block, nominal at 3/2 to 3/3, London landed terms. West Indian sheet firm spot sales 3/11 to 4/-.

RUBBER. Plantation firm. Crepe is worth 3/1; smoked sheet, 3/0 3/4; Para is dull, with fine hard at 3/0 1/2.

The amount of rubber imported into the United Kingdom for March was 19,843,900 lbs., making 54,174,260 lbs. for the year, as against 16,236,000 lbs. and 41,553,200 lbs., respectively for the corresponding periods of last year. The exports amounted to 9,540,500 lbs. for March, and 36,904,400 lbs. for the quarter.

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 India Contingent Committee, for transmission to the men from the West Indies serving in English Regiments.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is 1s. or 5s per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or 5s per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SEETHING LANE,
6642 CENTRAL LONDON, E.C. 3

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

May 16th, 1917

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 Is. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 Is. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

THE Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held on May 10th, and in accordance with time-honoured precedent, the Deputy Chairman, MR. R. RUTHERFORD, was at the subsequent Executive Meeting elected to the chair, the Chairman, MR. W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL, having decided to retire. Since he succeeded the late SIR HENRY DAVSON eight years ago, MR. CAMPBELL has rarely missed a meeting of the Executive, and MR. RUTHERFORD was voicing, we may feel sure, the wishes of the Members of the West India Committee generally in moving as he did a cordial vote of thanks to him for his past services. MR. RUTHERFORD, the new Chairman, is deservedly popular in West Indian circles, and we may be certain that his appointment will be the subject of general satisfaction, especially in Barbados, with the industries and trade of which island he has been closely identified for over forty years. The election of MR. H. A. TROTTER will be regarded as equally happy. Partner of the well-known firm of Messrs. Thomson, Hankey and Co., West India merchants, MR. TROTTER is a Director of the Bank of England, a Freeman of the

City of London, and Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company; and he may be confidently relied upon to uphold the traditions of the West India Committee—the doyen of Colonial organisations in this country, or, indeed, in the Empire. The report of the Committee, which was published in last CIRCULAR, gives some idea of the extent and importance of the activities of that body, and in this connection it is of interest to note that much of the work done was of the same character as that undertaken during the Napoleonic wars, when many problems affecting the West Indies were successfully dealt with. But in the present War the work of the Committee has covered a wider field than it did during the struggles at the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries. Then operations were almost entirely confined to protecting the interests of the planters and merchants, as the old minute-books show. Now they are altogether wider in their scope. Not only does the Committee continue to watch and further the interests of the trade and industry of the West Indies in a great variety of ways, but in conjunction with the West Indian Contingent Committee it is promoting the welfare of the thousands of loyal subjects who have come over with the West Indian Contingents or independently from our possessions in the Caribbean to serve their King and Empire. But, interesting as the past and present work of the Committee has been and is, it is to the future that we must look. When peace has once more been restored, many Imperial problems will remain to be solved, and for this reason especially it is a matter for congratulation that the West India Committee is in a stronger position now than at any former period of its existence. It has been incorporated by Royal Charter, and the permanence of its existence, which was frequently in doubt in the old days, has now been assured, and its membership stands at the highest figure yet reached. The West Indies, in spite of many adverse circumstances resulting from the War, are more prosperous now than they have been for over a century, and we confidently hope that this prosperity will be enhanced after the War if, as we anticipate, the various parts of the Empire are brought into closer relationship with each other. To this prosperity, and to the unification of interests which is rapidly developing in the West Indies, the West India Committee, with its organisation and resources, should be in a position to contribute by safeguarding on this side the many and important interests of those Colonies, and the spade-work already done and still being done will, we have no doubt, bear full fruit in the future.

THE WEST INDIAN BLUE-BOOKS.

WE have more than once called attention in these columns to the shortcomings of the annual Blue-books of the West Indian Colonies, and we may be pardoned, perhaps, for reverting to the matter in view of the forthcoming meeting of a Customs Conference in the West Indies. There is at present a sad lack of uniformity and a deplorable confusion of arrangement in respect of these portentous volumes which renders the comparison of the working results of one colony with those of another practically impossible without reference to the Statistical Abstracts for the Dominions and Colonies—a work necessarily published later than the Blue-books. To begin with, the indices should be alphabetical. At present they begin with "Taxes" and end with "Post and Telegraph Statistics"—an arrangement which does not facilitate speedy reference. The advantage of an alphabetical index is demonstrated in the British Honduras Blue-book, in which there are an alphabetical index and an official (presumably) index side by side. Then there should be complete uniformity as to the records of public accounts, which should either be given in sterling or in American currency for all the West Indian Colonies. At present the figures for British Guiana and British Honduras are given in dollars and cents, whilst those for the islands are in £ s. d., which further militates against comparisons being made. There should, too, be complete uniformity as to the period covered by the published accounts. In most of the islands the figures of revenue and expenditure are now given for the year ended 31st March (the Financial Year), whilst the trade and Customs returns are for the year ended December 31st (the Calendar Year), "as desired by the Board of Trade." Trinidad and British Guiana (the former, at any rate, "with the approval of the Secretary of State") have meanwhile adopted the Calendar Year, with the result that the Blue-book for 1914-15 is followed by one covering the period of nine months only—April to December, 1916. This will involve much confusion and difficulty in analysing the trade conditions of the West Indies as a whole, which could have been obviated if the change had been made by all the Colonies simultaneously. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Turks and Caicos Islands accounts have for many years past been presented for the Calendar Year. Uniformity in design in the Blue-books should also be aimed at. At present, whilst in most cases the imports are set out alphabetically with alphabetical sub-headings, these items are given in the St. Lucia Blue-books under classified groups—e.g., "Food," "Drink" and "Tobacco," "Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Manufactured," etc. The former appears to us to be far preferable, and we certainly should like to see it generally adopted. The present discrepancies in regard to weights and measures also call for attention. The present shortcomings in this respect may be exemplified by the fact that in the Jamaica Blue-book the exports of cacao are given in cwt., and in the Trinidad and Grenada Blue-books in lbs. Again, in the Trinidad Blue-books the exports of sugar are given in lbs., in the British Guiana Blue-book in tons, and in the

Jamaica Blue-book in cwt.; and these instances of lack of uniformity could, unfortunately, be multiplied. It should be added that quantities which are often given in "bags and barrels" and "packages" are quite valueless unless the size of the package and average contents of the bags are stated. In the British Honduras and the Leeward Islands Blue-books, weights and quantities are only given in a few cases. The Leeward Islands Blue-book is simply chaotic in respect especially of the imports and exports. No attempt at intelligent sequence appears to have been made, as a reference to any recent volume will show. Once the Blue-books of the Colonies have been overhauled, an improvement in the annual Colonial Reports, which would make them of real value to merchants, settlers, capitalists, and tourists, could be effected. But to this we will revert in a future issue. Meanwhile, we trust that the delegates to the forthcoming Customs Conference will find time to give consideration to the revision of the Blue-books, at any rate in so far as the statistics in which they are interested are concerned.

 THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at 15, Seething Lane, London, on Thursday, May 10th, Mr. W. Middleton Campbell presiding.

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

The total expenditure for printing and stationery showed an increase, which was almost entirely accounted for by the increased cost of production of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, due to the rise in price of materials and labour consequent upon the war, whilst the revenue also showed some falling off, which was not unnatural. The CIRCULAR, however, had not lost any of its interest and was, he believed, greatly appreciated. He did not propose to deal at length with the work of the Committee, which was outlined in the Report, but he would refer to one or two outstanding features which called for special attention. With regard to East Indian immigration, he regretted that the present Viceroy had followed the policy of his prede-

cessor in condemning the existing system; but the way in which his Excellency had spoken indicated that there was a strong antagonistic feeling in India against emigration, and it was clear that the West Indian Colonies would have to make up their minds to reorganise their labour system, and to depend as far as possible on local labour, whilst endeavouring to tap other sources of supply.

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

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

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

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

The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. Rippon, and carried unanimously, and the proceedings of the General Meeting were then brought to a close.

Among the members present were:—

Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. U. R. Alston, Mr. H. W. Bailey (Thomas Lowndes & Co.), Mr. G. C. Benson, Mr. G. G. Browne, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. Harold Carey, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. H. Dix (Messrs. E. D. & P. Man), Mr. Stephen Ewen, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. Harold Hamel-Smith, Mr. F. Knocker (Messrs. Pereira & Gonsalves), Mr. Norman Malcolmson, Mr. A. G. Marks, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Miss Mary Moseley, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. G.

Moody Stuart, Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C., Sir William H. Trollope, Bart., Mr. C. H. Thorley (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. C. White, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, Mr. C. Worters, and Mr. Algernon L. Aspinall, Secretary.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Following the General Meeting, a meeting of the Executive was held for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation.

Mr. Middleton Campbell, who presided, moved that Mr. Rutherford be elected Chairman of the West India Committee. Mr. Rutherford had, he said, occupied the position of Deputy Chairman for eight years, and well deserved promotion. He had been most helpful in presiding over meetings of various sub-committees, which he, Mr. Campbell, had been unable to attend.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney and carried unanimously.

Mr. Rutherford, rising to thank the Committee, said that he greatly appreciated the honour which had been conferred upon him. He had taken an active interest in the work of the West India Committee for a great number of years, and it had been his privilege to support their former Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, in the successful campaign against foreign Sugar Bounties, and latterly also Mr. Campbell. A very great deal of useful work had been performed by the Committee, which he believed had been greatly appreciated in the West Indies, as well as at home. It would be his constant endeavour to promote the continuance of this work. Among other matters which were before them, was that of Imperial Preference, and it could not fail to be the subject for congratulation that there was at last a good prospect of articles produced within the British Empire receiving fair treatment and encouragement, by way of preference in the Customs Tariff of the United Kingdom. They must all regret that Mr. Campbell would no longer preside over their monthly meetings, as he had done with such great regularity since 1909, and their thanks were especially due for his regular attendance since the outbreak of war, as it was well known how busily he had been engaged in carrying out duties of the greatest importance in his capacity as a Director of the Bank of England. In conclusion he begged to propose a cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Campbell for his services to the West India Committee, and for his conduct of the chair. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, supported by Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, and carried unanimously, Mr. William Gillespie then moved that Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter be appointed Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee. He was satisfied, he said, that no better selection could be made. Mr. Trotter had wide experience of the trade and industries of the West Indies, and especially Jamaica and the Windward Islands, and he felt sure that his appointment would give general satisfaction. The resolution was seconded by Mr. T. Greenwood and carried unanimously.

Mr. Trotter, thanking the meeting, said that he wished to thank the Committee for the honour they had done him, and that under the leadership of Mr.

Rutherford he would do all he could to promote the interests of the West India Committee both here and in the Colonies themselves.

CANDIDATES ELECTED.

The Committee then proceeded with its usual business. The Secretary reported that the membership was now 1,578, and the following candidates were elected:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Dr. F. G. Rose (British Guiana).	{ Mr. Mewburn Garnett. } Mr. John Bramell.
Mr. M. P. Comach (British Guiana).	{ Mr. T. Greenwood. } Mr. John Bramell.
Mr. R. C. Otway, J.P. (St. Vincent).	{ Mr. I. M. Gray, J.P. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Donald E. Malone (Nevis).	{ Mr. Wm. Gillespie. } Mr. Howard K. F. Smith.
Messrs. A. F. Craig & Co., Ltd	{ Mr. W. Scott Herriot. } Mr. H. Crum Ewing.
Mr. James Brown (Surinam).	{ Mr. J. Johnstone Kirke. } Mr. Robert Kirke.

A letter of resignation from Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shephard, on the grounds of increasing years, was read, and it was resolved to accept his resignation with regret, and to convey to him a vote of cordial thanks for his many services to the West India Committee, especially in connection with the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1904.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The despatch of the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of supplies of Sulphate of Ammonia, was approved:—

7th May, 1917.

Sir,

We had the honour to address your predecessor, the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., on February 1st last, on the subject of the prohibition of exports of Sulphate of Ammonia.

2. We pointed out that that commodity was absolutely essential to the satisfactory growth of the sugar-cane, and that any cessation of supplies would have a most prejudicial effect on the output of sugar from the British West Indies, which should otherwise undergo a considerable increase in the near future.

3. We expressed the hope that, in the circumstances, licences might be granted for the export of Sulphate of Ammonia to these Colonies.

4. We were, however, informed by the Ministry of Food on February 9th that it had been decided to suspend the issue of licences to export Sulphate of Ammonia until further notice, in view of the home demand (for agriculture), and the increasing requirements for munitions purposes.

5. Every endeavour was made to meet the demands of the British West Indies for manures from other sources, but this did not prove uniformly successful, either as regards quantity or price.

6. As, therefore, it may now be assumed that the requirements in respect of Sulphate of Ammonia for agriculture have now been met for the present season, we beg to express the hope that you, Sir, will endeavour to arrange that licences for the export of reasonable quantities of that

commodity to the British West Indies may now be granted.

We have the honour, etc.,

(Signed) R. RUTHERFORD, *Deputy Chairman.*
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

THE IMMATURE SPIRITS ACT.

The despatch of the following letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the compulsory warehousing of Rum was authorised:—

10th May, 1917.

Sir,

We beg 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.

2. It will be within your recollection that by Section C, Clause 2, of that Act, it was laid down that the restriction with regard to age should not apply for a period of one year after the commencement of the Act to imported rum, if it had been warehoused for a period of at least nine months.

3. Pursuant to powers taken in the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1916, this concession was extended by Order in Council for a further period of a year, subject to the increase in the period of compulsory warehousing from nine to twelve months.

4. This concession will expire on May 19th next, and we beg to request that it may be again extended.

5. In preferring this request we would respectfully point out that the requirements of the Government have been so heavy during the past two and a half years that there has not been sufficient surplus stock of rum for the trade to take up and set aside for ageing. The difficulties of the situation have also been further aggravated by the recent prohibition of imports.

6. In the circumstances we trust that our representations may receive early and favourable consideration.

We have the honour, etc.,

(Signed) R. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman.*
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The New Officers.

The following brief biography of the new Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee will be of interest.

MR. ROBERT RUTHERFORD.

Mr. Robert Rutherford, who succeeds Mr. W. Middleton Campbell as Chairman of the West India Committee, is senior partner of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller, a firm of West India merchants, established as Lascelles & Maxwell as far back as 1743, whose interests lie chiefly in Barbados. He first entered the City in 1872 and has been a familiar figure in business circles ever since. He was Hon. Treasurer of the Anti-Bounty League from its inception in 1898 until its activities ceased with the suppression of the Foreign Bounty System in 1902, and he was elected to a seat on the Board of the Colonial Bank last year. Mr. Rutherford took an



ENTRANCE SHOWING THE MEMORIAL TABLET.



THE SPOT WHERE DEVEAUX LANDED.

FORT MONTAGU, NEW PROVIDENCE.

active part in the re-organisation of the West India Committee in 1898, and was appointed Hon. Treasurer, a position which he still holds, in the following year. He was appointed Deputy-Chairman on April 1st, 1909. Mr. Rutherford has been closely identified with the activities of the West India Club, of the Committee of which he has been a member ever since its inauguration in 1898. In co-operation with Lord Stamford and Dr. Anderson he promoted the visit of Mr. Slade Lucas' Cricket XI. to the West Indies in 1895, the first team to tour in those Colonies. Mr. Rutherford is married to the second daughter of William Wood, Esq., of Bothwell, Lanark, N.B.

MR. HENRY ALEXANDER TROTTER.

Mr. H. A. Trotter, who now succeeds Mr. R. Rutherford as Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1891. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1893 and practised until 1900. In that year he entered the firm of Thomson, Hankey & Co., West India merchants, which is believed to have been established in 1685, and whose records date back to 1720. In the year 1916-17 Mr. Trotter was High Sheriff of the County of London, of which he is a Deputy-Lieutenant. He is also a Freeman of the City of London and Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. He is a Commissioner under the Income Tax Acts for the City of London, and has been a Director of the Bank of England since 1909. He has paid several visits to the West Indies. Mr. Trotter was married in 1914 to Madeleine Dorothy, daughter of Major and Mrs. J. H. Howe, of St. Andrews, Fifeshire.

The names of the Chairmen of the West India Committee since 1872, and Deputy Chairmen since 1873, are given below:—

Years.	Chairmen.	Date of Appointment
1872-1873	CHARLES MARRYAT, Esq. ...	Feb. 2, 1872
1873-1884	THOMAS DANIEL HILL, Esq. ...	Nov. 27, 1873
1884-1909	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G. ...	Aug. 7, 1884
1909	SIR HENRY KATZ DAVSON ...	Jan. 7, 1909
1909-1917	W. MIDDLETON CAMPBELL, Esq. ...	April 1, 1909
1917	ROBERT RUTHERFORD, Esq. ...	May 10, 1917
Deputy-Chairmen.		
1873-1884	NEVILLE LUBBOCK, Esq. ...	Nov. 27, 1873
1884-1898	QUINTIN HOGG, Esq. ...	Sep. 10, 1884
1898-1909	SIR HENRY KATZ DAVSON ...	June 23, 1898
1909-1917	ROBERT RUTHERFORD, Esq. ...	April 1, 1909
1917	H. A. TROTTER, Esq. ...	May 10, 1917

* Knighted in 1899.

† Knighted in 1903.

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present *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.3. 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 PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The Submarine Menace.

The submarine war on merchantmen, Allied and neutral, continues at a rate which not only accounts for the grave warnings of British statesmen to a nation that even yet fails to realise the gravity of the menace, but for the boasts of the enemy, who aims to starve us into surrender before General Haig can break the Germany Army. Though we have called in our reserves of shipping, and cut down the trade in luxuries, tonnage shrinks with every week that passes, and it cannot be made good by new construction for months to come. As for the Food Controller, he seems to be making the mistakes of his predecessors without their excuse, though voluntary rationing, as he conceived it, might have succeeded had he but made our people understand the need through the churches and municipal bodies. As he did not, his appeal has fallen flat, and compulsory rationing is bound to come. Even if the tonnage available could be employed for bringing us food it would be too limited; but when two-thirds of it are employed in bringing us raw material, essential to the conduct of the war and our staple industries, some idea of the seriousness of the situation may be gathered by the meanest intelligence. The most drastic measures are being taken to economise space, but if the lack of tonnage is not to interfere with the successful conduct of our offensive in France, the Food Controller will have to enforce greater economy in the use of food on the individual citizen, and without any further delay.

The Battle of Arras.

Neither on the Scarpe nor the Aisne could the start the Allies gained on a surprised enemy be maintained. After a short run of success they found themselves up against a stream of fresh German divisions and additional batteries of the 5.9, so that the present fighting, which is of the most determined character on either side, is to prove the quality of Hindenburg's reserves. That the *moral* of many of them is excellent there can be no doubt, and they are not yet melted away, as the incurable optimists would have us believe. As, however, German counter-attacks are incessant, and the ground regained is seldom held for more than a few days, how long will it be until the enemy's *moral* shows fresh signs of weakening? The most notable achievements of the British during the past fortnight have been the capture of Arleux and Fresnoy, on the Oppy line. The first, in spite of strong counter-attacks, has been held; the second has been re-taken, or, rather, a part of it, so that the enemy's chance of retaining it for any length of time is remote.

The outstanding features of the fighting still are the superiority of the Allies in artillery and in the air. Consequently, passive defence of positions is no longer possible, and little progress can be made while the enemy's reserves are numerous. Under these conditions he is forced to adopt tactics, which entail on him the maximum of cost with the minimum of advantage. The initiative is definitely on the side of the Allies, who, not only upset his plans

in the West, but prevent him from preparing for an offensive on the East, which he might consider likely to succeed, owing to the unsettled political conditions in Russia. He will want all his reserves and more to defend his new line in the West.

The Battle of the Aisne.

In their attacks on Hurtebise Farm the Germans suffered a severe defeat. Stopped at first by the French artillery fire, they renewed the assault later, only to be thrown back on their lines by a vigorous counter-attack, and at Cerny they were twice repulsed in the same way. These successes of the French were followed up by a heavy blow dealt the Germans in the capture of Craonne, the most important bastion of their Laon line. To recover it, a division of the Prussian Guards was brought up and decimated without achieving their purpose. Even more brilliant was the advance of our Allies at the other end of the Chemin des Dames ridge, when they pierced the enemy's front for an extent of nearly four miles, capturing over 5,000 prisoners in five days' fighting. Laon is thus being threatened on the south and west, and the French look down into the valley of the Ailette, which forms, as it were, a moat in front of the plateau, on whose impregnability the whole enemy line from the North Sea is based.

The United States and the War.

One of the advantages of America's participation in the war will be greater stringency in the blockade, whose leakages have all along been a source of scandal. An Embargo Bill, now before Congress, is to be expedited, so as to prevent neutrals from obtaining food supplies from the United States. That is to say, Holland, Denmark and Sweden will not be allowed any longer to provision the enemy with the help of America. Now we know for certain why one of the most effective means of crippling Germany has not been used, except haltingly, until the present. With regard to other measures for furthering the Allied cause, rapid progress is being made, the Anglo-French Mission and the authorities at Washington having covered immense ground in the working out alike of principles and details. That the United States can give powerful aid in men, money, food, material and engineering skill, is plain; what is not so plain is, that merchantmen will be forthcoming to lend mobility to her aid. In other words, the situation in every phase turns on shipping, which is the only doubtful factor. To solve the problem invention and organisation are being employed under the high pressure of the dynamic force of a new country. To economise space, too, it is suggested that luxuries should be limited.

The Russian Situation.

Weather conditions have prevented free warfare on the Russian front, many parts of which are under water, and even far in the rear unusual floods are reported on the Don and Dnieper. But when the ground hardens will Russia be able to launch an offensive? The internal situation is such that

nothing big can probably be undertaken for months to come. The trouble is that the two forces, which brought about the revolution, the Moderates and the Extremists, form a small part of the Russian population, the great mass of which is illiterate, and venerate the Church and House of Romanoff by tradition. The Extremists are Marxian Socialists, with an Oriental impracticability of their own, and the danger is that they may overwhelm the Moderates, who support the Provisional Government. It is symptomatic of their constructive inefficiency that they have created something like a crisis in Russia by insisting on the adoption of the "no annexation and no indemnities" principle, when their country is in the grip of the enemy.

In the Balkans.

The British, after a long spell of comparative quiet, are showing activity in the Lake Doiran sector, which, with the Ghevveli sector, constitutes the very centre of the Bulgar disposition, covering, as they do, his most important railway. The gain of last week has been followed up by another this week. But no decisive effort is expected in this region. Towards Monastir, the Russians and Serbians are operating with some success. Its continuance would threaten the Uskub Railway, thereby compelling the Bulgars to fall back from the lower Vardar, when the British could take a hand in the pursuit. To facilitate this they are seeking to secure more advantageous points in the Lake Doiran front than those at present in their possession.

In the East.

The Turkish troops, which retreated in rout from Persia before General Baratov's columns, have managed to reach Kifri, between which and Mosul there is a good road. General Maude could have cut them off, but he might have lost more than he gained by the operation, taking the theatre of war as a whole. The Turkish Army Corps, which has been entrenching in a strong position on both banks of the Shatt-el-Adhaim, has been swept out in a surprise attack by the dash and vigour of British troops. The broken enemy, pursued by our cavalry, have fallen back to the Jebel Hamrin hills. The tropical heat on the Tigris seems to have no effect on the spirit of General Maude's Army.

That Enver Pasha and his German masters regard the British approach to Jerusalem as a serious matter is evident from the fact that the Turkish re-inforcements at Gaza include Ottoman units in German-made uniforms, originally intended for the Galician front. Moreover, the natural strength of the Gaza-Beersheba line has been increased by every device known to science. The cavalry, which has played such a fine part in the British advance from El Arish, is hampered here by the character of the country, constituting a continuous bottle-neck, full of deep ravines.

The War at Sea.

A British scouting force of light cruisers and destroyers sighted eleven German destroyers be-

tween the Dutch and English coasts. It immediately opened fire and gave full chase, but the enemy ships made off at full speed under cover of a dense smoke screen. They were pursued to within range of the guns of *Zeebrugge*.

The British transport *Arcadian* was torpedoed in the Eastern Mediterranean on April 15th, and sank in five minutes. The loss of life was serious, 279 persons have been returned as missing. Another transport, the *Ballarat*, which was conveying a large force of Australians to France, was sunk by a submarine, about 35 miles from the nearest land. So splendid was the discipline on board, and so quickly did our patrol boats arrive on the scene, that there were no casualties. That a new, untrained and untried regiment should have so worthily upheld the traditions of the race must be a matter of honourable pride to Australia.

A German seaplane has sunk the *Gená*, a British merchantman, with a torpedo. It was at once assumed by some people that this was a wonderful feat. If so, it was performed by a British seaplane in the Sea of Marmora as far back as August, 1915.

Our naval forces have been very active in the North Sea lately. They heavily bombarded *Zeebrugge*, the enemy's submarine base in Belgium, and destroyed *Zeppelin L22*, besides putting nine other enemy machines out of action.

(To be continued.)

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

PRIVATE MALCOLM ALSTON, of the Royal Fusiliers, who has been killed in action, was the second son of Mr. J. W. Alston, of San Fernando, Trinidad, in which island he was born.

SECOND LIEUT. D. P. IRVING, who was reported wounded and missing since July 30th last, is now presumed to have been killed in action on that date. The third son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, Government Medical Officer of British Guiana, he was born at Hopetown in British Guiana, on June 5th, 1897. He was educated at Epsom College, where he was captain of the cricket eleven in 1915, and after leaving school he passed into Sandhurst. In January, 1916, he passed out, and was gazetted with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, with which he was serving when he received his fatal wounds.

LIEUT. ROBERT LYON, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, who was killed in action on March 17th, was the eldest son of the late Rev. Robert Lyon, of North Church, Perth, and cousin of Mr. James Lyon, of Glasgow.

PRIVATE J. O. THORNHILL, Royal Berkshire Regt., who transferred from the British West Indies Regiment, which he joined with the first British Guiana Contingent, was killed in action in France on April 23rd. He was a son of Mr. J. G. Thornhill, of British Guiana.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

CAPTAIN A. M. DRYSDALE, M.C., Highland Light Infantry, who died on April 15th, of wounds received in action, on April 1st, was a Director of Messrs. Drysdale & Co., Ltd., of "Bon Accord" Works, Glasgow.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

SERGEANT E. G. BRADDON, of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who died on active service on February 4th, was well known in British Guiana, where he spent many years of his life. Born fifty-seven years ago, he was the

eldest son of the late Right Hon. Sir Edward Braddon, P.C., K.C.M.G., a former Agent-General for and Premier of Tasmania, and nephew of the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Norman, G.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica from 1883 to 1889. In his youth he was trained as a stock-rider in Queensland, but he preferred a mining career, on which he accordingly embarked in 1882, being one of the pioneers on the Mt. Brown Goldfield in New South Wales. After a spell of railway work on behalf of Van Diemen's Land Company in Tasmania, he worked in the mines in Queensland. He was a member of the first expedition of miners and prospectors sent out to the Chillagoe fields by John Moffat & Co. in 1888, and for many years was identified with exploration work and practical mining mainly in Australia. He first went to British Guiana to manage the mines of the Omai Gold Mining Company, and remained there for nine months. Since 1902 Mr. Braddon had been greatly interested in the question of the development of British Guiana, in the future of which he had supreme confidence. At the outbreak of war he returned to England and enlisted as a private. Severely wounded at Bukoba, he was incapacitated for heavy marching, and became a sergeant despatch-rider, and he was looking forward eagerly to the end of the campaign in East Africa as he had been recommended for a commission, and was anxious to proceed to France. He leaves a widow and many friends to mourn his loss.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT.-COL. EDWARD RICE (of the Minnehaha Dredging Syndicate, British Guiana, Royal Fusiliers, has been wounded and has had his right arm amputated.

SECOND LIEUT. R. OZZARD, of the Durham Light Infantry, a son of Dr. Ozzard, of British Guiana, has been wounded in the shoulder.

SECOND LIEUT. N. T. CALDER, Royal Field Artillery, son of Mr. Calder, of Jamaica, has been wounded in the head.

GUNNER ROWLAND FRITH, Canadian Siege Battery (son of Mr. H. M. Frith, of Nassau, Bahamas).

TROOPER S. DALY, Household Battalion, 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent.

TROOPER C. W. SPENCER, Household Battalion, 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent.

LIEUT. C. M. G. PURCHAS, of Jamaica.

PRIVATE C. L. LANGTON, Canadian Infantry, of Trinidad.

LIEUT. GEORGE WRIGHT, Lincolnshire Regiment (son of the late Mr. E. P. Wright, Inspector-General of Police, Jamaica).

HONOURS.

LIEUT. A. F. SELLERS, R.N.R., who has been mentioned in despatches, is a son of Mr. W. F. Sellers, of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

SECOND LIEUT. THOMAS J. FARRAR, of the Royal Devon Regiment, attached to the Machine Gun Corps, who was wounded at Kut, has been awarded the Military Cross.

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.

Aikman, Corporal Charles Walter (son of Mr. J. H. Aikman, Manager of the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent), Alberta Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Braithwaite, Cadet C. F. (son of Mr. F. A. R. Braithwaite, of British Guiana), R.A. Officer Cadet School.

Fryer, C. H. B. (son-in-law of the late Edward G. Barr, Esq.), Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

Ponsonby, 2nd Lieut. Guy E. (son of the Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby), The Essex Regiment.

CACAO FROM SAN THOME.

(Continued from page 174.)

The remainder of Mr. Hall-Hall's despatch of October 30th last, which resulted in the removal of the boycott against San Thomé cacao, is given below.

"I do not consider that the fact of there being a fairly large residue of these people still in the islands should be taken as a proof that they are illegally detained there. This residue is most evidently being gradually but surely reduced by repatriation; I have not, to the best of my recollection, visited any ship yet, engaged in repatriation to Angola, that has not had a party of the old type of 'serviçaes' on board. For reasons such as are suggested below, it is not considered advisable to repatriate simultaneously large numbers of those of them who wish to go; but they are being repatriated steadily according to a systematic plan directed by the curator, the working of which I witnessed for myself when I visited the island in May of this year.

"With regard to the repatriation of the old Angolans, as stated above it has been decided not to send away *en bloc* all who wish to go, and in my humble opinion there is good reason for this decision. The removal of large numbers of labourers from plantations and the landing of them at Loanda, Nova Redondo, or Benguella, would not only cause damage to the planters greatly out of proportion to the gain to the labourers, but would also very probably not be to the advantage of the labourers themselves. It is not difficult for small groups when landed in this country to attach themselves to one or other of the settlements of their fellows already established here; but if they arrived in larger numbers the resources of their friends, never very abundant, would be overtaxed; they would soon be in distress and likely to resort to mischievous methods to support themselves. The 'bonus' money paid them on arrival is mostly spent very quickly, and generally, but not always, on unprofitable objects. Moreover, if the available accommodation on the ships were taken up, as it would be, for several months, by these 'serviçaes,' others who also had a claim for repatriation would be kept waiting. It is doubtless a hardship that they should not be sent away as soon as they wish to be, but it is difficult to see how this can well be avoided.

"As concerns Angolans of the newer type, and natives from Mozambique and elsewhere, I saw nothing during my recent visit to San Thomé that indicated anything but a keen desire on the part of the curator to repatriate them as their contracts came to an end and in accordance with the room on the ships; and the planters seemed ready enough to carry out his orders, though occasionally his arrangements were upset by planters neglecting to send the 'serviçaes' off from the plantations in time to catch the steamer, with the result that the 'serviçaes' would have to be lodged till the arrival of the next steamer, and the ship they had been intended for sailed without her full complement of such passengers.

"The statistics show that, in 1915, 14,235 labourers were landed in San Thomé and Principe and 5,989 repatriated. During the same period

3,196 recontracted in the two islands, and it may, perhaps be estimated, from the figures given above of the deaths in San Thomé in the first six months of this year, that some 4,000 deaths occurred in the two islands in 1915. This gives 14,235 new labourers entering the islands in 1915 against 13,185 repatriated, recontracted, or dead. During the first half of the present year the available statistics, for San Thomé only, show that 6,833 labourers entered the island and 3,424 were repatriated; 2,290 made new or renewed contracts, and 1,958 died. These figures give 6,833 as having entered the island and 7,672 as having been repatriated or recontracted or as having died. Of these, 2,703 of those landed were Angolans; 1,994 Angolans were repatriated, 1,423 recontracted and 908 died. These figures give totals of 2,703 Angolans landed in San Thomé during the first six months of the present year, against 4,325 repatriated, recontracted, or dead. Among those 'contracting' or making 'new' contracts are included the grown-up children of 'serviçaes,' born in the island, and therefore the figures do not afford a basis for exact calculation; but they are quoted as providing a means of estimating roughly the number of 'serviçaes' that might be calculated to be awaiting repatriation during a given year or period. In view of these figures, there would appear to be good grounds for concluding that repatriation is being effected with reasonable speed and regularity.

A PEACEFUL REVOLUTION.

"The reforms which the Portuguese have carried out since 1908, when Messrs. Cadbury and Burt visited the islands and the first ten men were repatriated to Angola, are so great that I think it may without exaggeration be said that a revolution has been effected. There seems no reason to doubt that the methods of recruitment are free from objection. The conditions under which the labourers live and work have reached a high standard and are improving. There is not only no evidence to show that fraud or violence or other illegal methods are used to secure renewal of contracts, but there is evidence tending directly to show that the labourers are left perfectly free to choose whether to recontract or not; the proceedings moreover are open to the public and are advertised beforehand. Finally, the fact of continuous repatriation to Angola, as well as to Mozambique and elsewhere, apart from all statistics published on the subject, is patent to every person who comes to these shores. Any missionary or trader established within three or four days' journey from the coastline between Novo Redondo and Benguella would be able to bear witness to the constantly growing numbers of ex-'serviçaes' of the old type, who have been repatriated to this country, especially during the last two or three years; the new type of labourer on returning resumes his place in his village and is not so noticeable.

"In view of these considerations, I respectfully beg to express the opinion that the time has come when British firms can again purchase cocoa from the islands. Should it be withdrawn, I venture to suggest that it should be understood that the standard now reached shall at the least be maintained during

the present state of affairs and that later on, for the purpose of increasing the punctuality of repatriation, any additional means that may become available for shipping away the time-expired 'serviçaes' shall, with due regard to the 'serviçaes' best interests, be utilised to the full. With these objects in view it is, in my humble opinion, very important that the curator at San Thomé, and his substitute when he is away, should always be officials of a high type, such as the present holder of that office."

The Boycott Removed.

Messrs. Cadbury Bros. sent the following letter to Mr. Balfour, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on April 19th, in response to his suggestion that the boycott against San Thomé cacao should be removed* :—

Sir,—We have received and read the White Paper "Africa No. 1 (1917)" and made particular note of the last five pages, summarising the position at date October, 1916.

At the time of our personal visit to the Colonies, 1908-9, no Consular reports on the subject of the labour conditions had appeared. This visit was undertaken to see personally whether a promise of reform had been carried into effect: as practically nothing had been accomplished we had no other course but to decline further purchases. Since that date it has been a satisfaction to us to note that Regular Consular Reports have been issued, each showing marked improvements over the last.

We have pleasure in responding to your request to remove our boycott of the past nine years, in acknowledgment of the earnest endeavour of the Portuguese to reform their whole system of Contract Labour. We also record our appreciation of the thorough way in which the Consuls have persistently followed up this difficult subject both in Angola and the Islands.

There is apparently much yet to be accomplished in the direction of sanitation and health, and to insure the complete and unfettered freedom of the older serviçaes. May we repeat a statement made in our letter of x. 21. '15: "Repatriation and recontracting must be decided in an open court by the freewill of the labourer himself"—regardless of the convenience of the planter, or any other secondary consideration.

In conclusion, it is but fair to state that the commercial effect of our action will be small, as we shall probably continue to buy largely cocoa from the Gold Coast Colony. The British Government has here adopted the wise policy of maintaining the native land rights, with the result that in the past 10 or 12 years a purely native cocoa industry has been established, unrivalled in any other part of the world. We respectfully submit that Contract Labour in the Portuguese or any other tropical dependencies must generally result in a comparatively low birth rate and higher mortality, with a corresponding high cost of administration and limited output, and that the only true solution to the Tropical Labour Problem is the establishment of the native as a free man in possession of his own farm.

Yours faithfully,

CADBURY BROS., LTD.

On May 3rd Messrs. Cadbury Bros. wrote to the *Daily News* :—

"Our attention has been called by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society to what appears to be a serious error in the White Paper recently issued by the Foreign Office—'Africa No. 1, 1917.' It is there stated that the mortality among the labourers in S. Thomé is now 5 per cent. per annum (against 10 per cent. nine years ago). This statement, if true, would be the best evidence of substantial reform. The actual figures in the report, however, go to prove that the death rate should be 10 per cent. The Foreign Office has been asked for

an explanation, as such a high mortality figure would no doubt modify Mr. Balfour's statement to the public: 'His Majesty's Government has formed the opinion that the general conditions there . . . are entirely satisfactory,' and his recommendation to the British manufacturers. Our own action would also be materially affected."

RICE GROWING IN TRINIDAD.

With the shortage of tonnage due to Government requirements and the submarine piracy becoming more and more accentuated, the West Indies are particularly well advised in endeavouring to increase the production of foodstuffs for local consumption. In British Guiana the area under rice has undergone marked extension in recent years. (It rose from 200 acres in 1886 to over 40,000 acres last year), and the industry is also being rapidly developed in Trinidad.

The Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago have adopted the report of a sub-committee which should result in a further material extension of the area under rice cultivation in the colony. The Committee, which comprised Sir Norman Lamont, Mr. W. G. Freeman and Mr. A. B. Carr, at the outset state that the present local crop of paddy (unhusked rice), may be roughly estimated at 40,000 bags (of 160 lb.) grown on some 5,000 acres. Swamp rice is principally grown, the cultivation being carried on by small proprietors and tenants, mainly East Indians. The principal areas of production are in the Oropuehe, Caroni and Chaguanas districts, and small patches exist in other localities. Hill or upland rice is also cultivated on a very limited scale in many parts of the Colony. A considerable proportion of the crop is hulled in the houses of the growers in simple pounding mills, and the surplus sold to the rice mills, of which there are three at work, situated at Port-of-Spain, St. Augustine, and Chaguanas. The total capacity of these mills may be stated at 100 bags of paddy per day. These mills are capable of dealing with more than double the present rice crop of the colony. The yield of cleaned rice is approximately 60 per cent. of the weight of the paddy.

With a view to increasing rice production the Committee advocate the inception of a series of prize competitions based on quality and method of cultivation, the introduction of two tons of standard British Guiana rice for experiment and sale to cultivators, and the education of rice growers as to the advantages of the co-operative system.

In the latter connection, however, they do not think that there is any immediate necessity to establish a co-operative mill with a direct Government subsidy, as the existing mills can deal with more than double the present crop.

The Committee also favours experiments with irrigation in the Caroni area, for example, and the throwing open of suitable Crown lands for rice cultivation.

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.

* See WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, May 3rd, 1917, No. 485. Page 172.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

It is expected that the Inter-departmental Committee on East Indian Emigration will hold its first meeting at the India Office in June.

The *South of India Observer*, published at Ootacamund, makes some very sensible remarks on the subject of Indian labour in its issue of March 10th. Commenting on a report by Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks and the Hon. Khan Bahadur A. T. Marakkayar, who visited Ceylon and Malaya on a similar mission to that of Mr. McNeil and Mr. Chinnman Lal to the West Indies and Fiji, it says: "There is just now a great demand for the immediate suppression of indentured emigration to other colonies, more especially to Fiji, but so far as we have seen, there are no suggestions as to what system is to replace it. We think that the present outcry is more in the nature of a platform or plank for professional agitators, and that scores of people are drawn into it, especially Indian women of good families, who do not understand the least bit what they are agitating for. It must be remembered that the indenture system was devised as much for the protection of the cooly as for his masters, and that it cannot be abolished by a stroke of the pen. Further emigration to the colonies in question may be stopped altogether, but something must be done for the protection of the thousands of labourers already there, and the matter will require much consideration. Free emigration to the distant colonies cannot be thought of, as the condition of the emigrants might then be infinitely worse than at present."

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The Principles of Preference Adopted.

The decision of the Imperial War Cabinet in favour of the principle of Imperial Preference was followed by the publication of the recommendations of the Imperial Conference on the same subject. In a statement issued by the Secretary of State of the Colonies, the following resolutions of the Conference, among others, are published:—

"The time has arrived when all possible encouragement should be given to the development of Imperial resources, and especially to making the Empire independent of other countries in respect of food supplies, raw materials, and essential industries. With these objects in view, this Conference expresses itself in favour of:—

(1) The principle that each part of the Empire, having due regard to the interests of our Allies, shall give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire.

(2) Arrangements by which intending emigrants from the United Kingdom may be induced to settle in countries under the British Flag.

"Having regard to the experience obtained in the present war, this Conference records its opinion that the safety of the Empire and the necessary development of its component parts require prompt and attentive consideration, as well as concerted action, with regard to the following matters:—

(1) The production of an adequate food supply and arrangements for its transportation when and where required, under any conditions that may reasonably be anticipated.

(2) The control of natural resources available within the Empire, especially those that are of an essential character for necessary national purposes, whether in peace or in war.

(3) The economical utilisation of such national resources through processes of manufacture carried on within the Empire.

"The Conference commends to the consideration of the Governments summoned thereto the enactment of such legislation as may assist this purpose."

Other resolutions record the decision to admit India to full representation at future Conferences—a decision which leads to the hope that in time a United West Indies may be similarly represented, and the views of the Conference regarding the Constitution constitute the resolution on which subject is as follows:—

"The Imperial War Conference is of opinion that the readjustment of the constitutional relations of the component parts of the Empire is too important and intricate a subject to be dealt with during the War, and that it should form the subject of a special Imperial Conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

"It deems it its duty, however, to place on record its view that any such readjustment, while thoroughly preserving all existing powers of self-government and complete control of domestic affairs, should be based upon a full recognition of the Dominions as autonomous nations of an Imperial Commonwealth, and of India as an important portion of the same, should recognise the right of the Dominions and India to an adequate voice in foreign policy and in foreign relations, and should provide effective arrangements for continuous consultation in all important matters of common Imperial concern, and for such necessary concerted action, founded on consultation, as the several Governments may determine."

THE EMPIRE'S SUGAR TRADE.

Mr. C. Sandbach Parker's paper on the Sugar Trade of the Empire, which he delivered at the London School of Economics and Political Science on May 2nd, was followed attentively by an appreciative audience. The lecturer dealt with the history of the sugar industry from its early days to the present time, tracing the vicissitudes through which Colonial cane sugar passed through the inactivity of successive British Governments.

Referring to the sugar purchases by the Royal Commission in the early stages of the war, he said that it was a matter of satisfaction to the West Indies to feel that after they had been persistently neglected and brought to the verge of ruin by the Mother-country they had been called upon to save her from famine, and had done so at a loss of £250,000 to British Guiana alone, at the price of which they sold their sugar. With regard to the future, he expressed the opinion that no return to pre-war values could be expected, at any rate for a considerable period after the war. Shortage of labour and other causes made it highly improbable that Germany and Austria would have any sugar to export; in fact, they might have to import. France, Belgium and Poland would probably be buyers, owing to the devastation of the best beet-growing

districts in those countries, while consumption in England would at once increase when the present restrictions were removed. No development could, however, take place in the British Empire unless security of market could be assured for a reasonable number of years. The capital required to make the Empire self-supporting as regards sugar would be some £40,000,000 to £50,000,000, a sum about equal to the extra cost of sugar to this country since the war began. This could not be tempted into the industry without adequate security.

Mr. Parker's paper is to form one of a series on the Staple Industries of the Empire, to be published by the London University.

A SHIELD OF HONOUR.

Presentation to our Regiment.

An interesting ceremony took place in the courtyard of the Colonial Office on Saturday, May 5th, at 3.30 p.m., when Princess Alexander of Teck, on behalf of the women and children of the British Isles, presented silk Union Jacks and commemorative shields to various Colonial units, including the British West Indies Regiment.

The regiment was represented by Major Findlater Roper and Captain R. C. Waters, and several members of the West Indian Contingent Committee were present, the company including Sir George and Lady Le Hunte, Sir Owen and Lady Phillips, Lady Davson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Miss Moseley, The Lady Doreen Long, Miss Bonar Law, The Dowager Viscountess Montmorres, Colonel Sir James and Lady Hayes-Sadler, General Sir James and Lady Willcocks, Sir Francis and Lady Fleming, Lady Cameron, Sir Edward Merewether, Sir William Baillie Hamilton, Sir William Trollope, Bart., and Miss Trollope, and Mr. Douglas Pile, M.C.P.

In requesting her Royal Highness, as Patroness of the League of the Empire, under whose auspices the arrangements were carried out, to make the presentation, Miss Chamberlain, daughter of the late Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, said that their object had been to find expression for the admiration and gratitude of the women and children of the British Isles towards the men of the Overseas Contingents fighting for the Empire in the great war. In Europe, in Asia, in Africa, their fellow-subjects and partners in the Empire upheld the cause of freedom and justice, side by side with the men of this country, and they knew not whom most to praise, where each one seemed to have attained the utmost height of heroism. The soldiers and sailors of the United Kingdom heard the voice of pride and thankfulness; their deeds would be remembered among us while the land they served and saved retained her liberty. Nor yet would we forget the tide of loyalty and patriotism which flowed deep and full from every part of the Empire overseas towards the points of danger, seeking the grim conflict for righteousness' sake. Lest they should remain ignorant of our deep sense of the new bond uniting all subjects of

the British Crown in mutual help and common sacrifice for the noblest ends, lest any of the men who offered their lives for us should not know how we honoured them in our heart of hearts, the women and young people here at home had found a symbol in the Flag of the Empire and had provided the accompanying record in these shields.

Her Royal Highness then presented the shields to Mr. Walter Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, for safe keeping. That intended for the British West Indies Regiment is inscribed:—

TO THE
SOLDIERS OF THE
BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT
WHO HAVE FOUGHT IN THE CAUSE OF THE EMPIRE
DURING THE GREAT WAR,
FROM THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF THE BRITISH ISLES
IN HIGH ADMIRATION OF THEIR VALOUR AND DEVOTION.
PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LEAGUE OF THE
EMPIRE.

In the centre of the shield, which is made of white metal, is a laurel wreath and the badge of the regiment.

Mr. Walter Long, in accepting the flags, said that in our possessions overseas men were eating their hearts out because they were not allowed to take their place in the fighting line. They could not be allowed to go because they were needed for the government of the colony in which they lived. Of all who faithfully served in whatever national work they might be called upon to perform, it might be said that they were doing their duty equally with those who fought the common foe. There was hardly a home in the Kingdom that was not darkened by the black shadow of sacrifice and sorrow. But sacrifices were not made in vain. We were not fighting for territory, but for great ideals—those liberties and rights which had become part of our very existence.

THE OVERSEAS CLUB.

The Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., will attend the Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Club on Empire Day, May 24th, at 5 p.m., at the Club premises, General Buildings, Aldwych, and will hand over to the Royal Flying Corps a cheque to purchase the one hundredth aeroplane subscribed to the Overseas Imperial Aircraft Flotilla by British subjects overseas. The Overseas Club, which was inaugurated in August, 1910, now numbers over 148,000 members and associates, drawn from all parts of the world. Its primary object is to promote Empire Unity, and it has organised centres in all the principal districts overseas. Since the outbreak of the war over £400,000 have been raised for patriotic purposes. With this money a ceaseless supply of tobacco, cigarettes, hampers, and comforts of all kinds has been sent out to the fronts; large sums have been forwarded to the Red Cross Society, and an Imperial Aircraft Flotilla, consisting of 100 machines has been presented to His Majesty's Government. Lord Northcliffe will preside over the annual meeting.

HOW DEVEAUX TOOK NEW PROVIDENCE.

BY ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

During the last few years much has been said and written about "ruses de guerre." So little was the population of our tight little island accustomed to hostilities when Europe was set ablaze by the military caste of Prussia, that it regarded with grave disapproval such legitimate dodges for deceiving an enemy as flying false colours and mounting dummy guns, which were, and still are, practised not only by the Germans, but also by ourselves.

People had forgotten that in the Napoleonic wars it was an every-day occurrence for one of the combatants to endeavour to lure his opponent into a trap by hoisting a flag other than his own. But then, as now, where civilised communities are concerned, it was the invariable custom to lower the false colours and to hoist one's own before firing a single shot—a custom which has not been followed by our present dishonourable foes, who have yet to learn many of the glorious traditions of the sea.

The mounting of dummy guns, too, to deceive an enemy has been practised from time immemorial, and yet so little did our home-staying folk know of warfare that they regarded a large dummy gun placed on a building in the north of England to scare away the Zeppelins, as a positive outrage, believing it to be a mean trick of the Government to deceive the public and to conceal our shortcomings in respect of the adoption of defensive measures. It will, indeed, be recalled in this connection that at more than one bye-election a dummy gun was drawn through the streets to discredit the Government and to win a seat for an independent candidate.

In the West Indies "ruses de guerre" were common in the stirring days of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and it will be shown in the following pages how, by means of one of them, the Bahamas were finally won for the British Crown.

Without harking back to the settlement history of that exquisitely beautiful group of islands, which lies in summer seas off the coast of Florida, it should be stated that from the year 1646 until 1776, though periodically ravaged by the Spaniards, they were British. In the latter year New Providence, the principal island of the group, was captured by Commodore Hopkins, of the then newly-formed American Navy, who, with a squadron of five frigates, commissioned by Congress, descended upon it in the belief that he would find a goodly store of powder there. In this, however, he was disappointed, for the Governor, John Murray, fourth Earl of Dunmore, having learnt that the American vessels were about, had taken the precaution of sending 150 barrels to sea overnight. Hopkins had, therefore, to be content with a quantity of artillery and stores and the persons of the Governor himself and other local notabilities, whom he sent to Virginia.

Incidentally, it may be added that the sufferings of these unfortunate people were acute. For the best part of a year they cruised off the coasts and

in the rivers of Virginia, whose inhabitants drove them from place to place. Cabined, cribbed and confined in vessels much too small for their numbers, they were attacked by "that malignant and infectious distemper called jail or pestilential fever," and few escaped with their lives.

Hopkins abandoned New Providence, regarding the island as untenable; but six years later Nassau, the capital—let it be at once recorded that the name is Dutch and not German, and that it is pronounced Nassore and not Nassow, as the Huns would have it—was seized by Don Juan de Cagigal, the Governor of Havana, with a force of 5,000 men, intended to assist the French in the reduction of Jamaica, a scheme which was frustrated by Rodney's victory over de Grasse in the Battle of the Saints. To meet this formidable army, Colonel Maxwell, the English Governor, could only muster 150 invalids, the manhood of the colony being at sea engaged in the profitable pursuit of privateering.

By the Peace of Paris the island was restored to Great Britain; but before the treaty had been signed an imaginative young officer, Andrew Deveaux by name, determined that the island should be won back at the sword's point.

With an expedition fitted out entirely at his own expense, Deveaux, who had fought throughout the American war and had latterly commanded the Royal Foresters, or South Carolina Militia, set sail from St. Augustine, in East Florida, for New Providence, determined to "restore its inhabitants, with those of the adjacent island, to the blessings of free Government." His force comprised from 50 to 65 picked volunteers, who were embarked in two armed brigantines, commanded by Captains Dowd and Fennell, and appreciating that this number would be unequal to the task of reducing the formidable Spanish garrison of 700 bayonets—as they say nowadays—he put in to Harbour island to collect reinforcements.

This island, which owes its name to its fine, though now rather inaccessible harbour, is quite one of the prettiest of the group. Fringed with coconut groves and encircled by a beach of white sand and tropical seas, it rises gently to an elevation of a hundred feet or so in height, on which Lord Dunmore, with great judgment, built his summer residence. The people of this charming little island had long enjoyed, as they still do, a well-deserved reputation for patriotism, and to this no doubt, and also to the fact that it was one of the oldest settlements, may be attributed Deveaux's decision to visit it.

After four or five days' active recruiting, Deveaux enrolled 220 men, a number which evidently exceeded his anticipations, for he had with him only a hundred and fifty muskets to distribute amongst them. His objective was now the "Eastern Fort" of New Providence, which is identified with Fort Montagu, a redoubt still standing on the sea-shore, about a mile to the east of Nassau.

This fort, which was named after the Duke of Montagu, was constructed between 1741 and 1742, according to the plans and under the guidance of Captain Peter Henry Bruce, during the Governor-

ship of John Tinker, as the following inscription on a tablet placed over the main entrance records :—

FORT MONTAGU
BUILT BY
CAPTAIN PETER HENRY BRUCE
FOUNDATION STONE LAID 18TH JUNE, 1741, BY
HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN TINKER, ESQUIRE,
GOVERNOR.

FORT COMPLETED JULY, 1742
BLADEN'S BATTERY WAS NORTH-EAST OF THE FORT.

A memorandum regarding the Forts in New Providence,* compiled by Mr. Harcourt Malcolm, K.C., the Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Bahamas, tells us that the foundation-stone was laid in the presence of the principal inhabitants. The stone with which the fort was built was raised from local quarries and carried to the spot by negroes on their heads, there being no "wheel carriage" in the island. Bruce, in his memoirs, wrote :—

"All the stone on this and the adjacent islands is of so soft a nature, when raised from the quarries, that we could cut and shape them in any form with very little labour, and after they have been some time exposed in the open air, they turn hard as flint, with this excellent property, that in firing into the walls, the ball lodges as in a mud wall, without making the least breach; this I proved by several shot from an eighteen pounder. I found no small difficulty in getting fresh water for the mortar: I was at first supplied by a small pool of rain water, but when that was dried up I had recourse to digging a well through this soft rock; and getting as low as the level of the sea we found water very fresh, by the sea water having filtered through the stone and left its saline particles behind. We found afterwards that the farther we dug from the sea, the water proved to be so much the fresher. The masters of vessels provided themselves with filtering stones, which contained several gallons, to rectify their spoiled water on board. The mastic wood, which the inhabitants delivered for palisades, was as hard and heavy as iron: I was obliged to form them while the wood was green, for when they are fully dry, there is no possibility of working them. The inhabitants affirmed to me that they would last above a century; they are so hard that a musket ball makes no impression on them; they assured me they were proof against swivel shot, but this I did not think proper to try."

The inhabitants did not exaggerate the strength of the stone, for the walls of Fort Montagu are still standing and are to all appearance as sound as they were when they were first built. Bladen's Battery, of which no traces now remain, was an outlying redoubt named after John Bladen, Governor Tinker's son.

The Fort and Bladen's battery were completed at the end of 1742 and mounted eight 18-, three 9- and six 6-pounders. It had a terraced cistern to hold thirty tons of rain-water, barracks for the garrison, a guard-room, and a powder magazine to hold ninety-five barrels of powder, which tempted Hopkins to make his descent on the island, to which reference has been made above. On the land side the position was protected by palisades of mastic wood, no trace of which now remains.

When the work was completed Bruce, to quote his memoirs :

* "Historical Memorandum relating to Forts in New Providence." By Harcourt Malcolm, K.C. Nassau, New Providence: "The Nassau Guardian," 1913.

"... invited the governor and principal inhabitants to it, and then delivered his excellency the keys thereof, under a discharge of all the cannon. The Governor and inhabitants were now extremely well pleased to consider themselves in a condition to repel the invasion of an enemy, as the back door through which the place often had been surprised, was now shut up; and in this good humour the governor wrote the following letter to the Duke of Montagu :—

"New Providence, Aug. 28, 1742.

"My Lord,—I should have presented my duty to your grace much sooner, but waited till Captain Bruce had finished the fort, which I have taken the liberty of by your grace's illustrious name, as a mark of respect and veneration due to your grace's person and merit. It is situated so as to guard the eastern part of this island very securely, and is as strong as anything of its size can be; and I must do the gentleman who has the direction of these works, the justice to say, I believe the public money was never more frugally or more justly administered; which is a proof of your grace's excellent judgment in the choice of men. He is now engaged about the other works, at Fort Nassau; and as he proposes to lay before your grace, and the board of ordinance, the absolute necessity there will be of erecting a strong redoubt, in order to complete the well-fortifying of this island, a farther sum of money will be wanting than the sixteen hundred pounds already allowed: which soon be laid out in raising the old fort from the ruinous condition it lies in now. I think, by the nearest estimate we can make, there will be still wanting two thousand five hundred pounds; which when your grace is pleased to compare with the mighty sum Mr. Moore's plan would have taken to put into execution, I hope this will be thought a trifle; especially when the ill consequence of such a place falling into an enemy's hands, is taken into consideration. We may set them at defiance if these works are all completed in the manner proposed: because I am persuaded this will then be the strongest possession in British America: always supposing a proper garrison will be established, which cannot be less than three hundred men. Fort Montagu requires an officer and fifty men for its ordinary guard; your grace will see the impossibility of doing the common duty with only one independent company, our whole force at present. I have presented a memorial to the board, praying for a supply of powder and small arms, which, I hope, will not be thought unreasonable, when it shall appear fifty barrels were sent to general Oglethorpe before he went to St. Augustine, and two mortars, which have never been returned, and now I believe he has use enough for them. I have also intelligence, that if the Spaniards succeed at Georgia, they will fall upon us next. I humbly ask pardon for this freedom, and only beg your grace will be pleased to take the Bahama Islands and their governor under your protection.

"(Signed) JOHN TINKER."

(To be continued.)

It is recorded in *Lightbourn's Mail Notes* as an item of historical interest, that on March 31st the Dannebrog, or Danish flag, was lowered at the Port Staff at Charlotte Amalia, St. Thomas, by Chief Petty Officer Vrim, of the *Valkynien*, and that the Stars and Stripes was raised by Chief Quartermaster MacAdams, of the *Hancock*.

On April 9th Admiral James H. Oliver reached St. Thomas in the *Dolphin* and took the oath as Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States. His Excellency received a cordial welcome, Dr. Mortensen addressing him on behalf of the Danish citizens, while Mr. Leroy Nolte spoke on behalf of the Press. A portrait of President Woodrow Wilson now hangs in the Council Chamber at Charlotte Amalia.

NATURE NOTES.

THE 1916 Report of the Planters' Association of Ceylon states that the tea planters have endeavoured to remedy the absence of potash salts for manuring by having recourse to lime and nitrate of soda, on account of the action of these upon the potash reserves in the soil. So far as an opinion can be expressed the lack of the direct application of potash has not been felt.

A PAPER was recently read by Mr. E. R. Clarke at a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad on the subject of cacao cultivation. The conclusions arrived at by the author, as the result of experiment, were that, as manures, sulphate of ammonia, sulphate of potash and basic slag should be used; that shade trees should be thinned out to a certain extent, and one "chupon," or shoot, from the base of the tree should be allowed to grow at the foot of each mature tree.

THE Report of the Madras Department of Agriculture for 1915-16, mentions that manuring with potash in rice cultivation has, if anything, a depressing effect on the yield, and, further, that black castor cake takes a front rank in rice manurial agents. The addition of lime at the time of ploughing has been found to have a beneficent effect on the yield of rice, although lime by itself has a contrary effect. Super-phosphate in conjunction with green manuring is also stated to give good results.

SPEAKING of rice, F. B. Wise and A. W. Broomell, writing in Bulletin No. 330 of the United States Department of Agriculture state that the winnowed rice is covered with hard, siliceous hull. The hulled grain is covered with a light brown bran coating, which, when examined under the microscope, is found to consist of seven layers. There is, also, the germ, or embryo, located near one end. During the process of milling, the hulls, the germ, six of the bran layers, and a portion of the seventh, are removed.

IN a Report recently published on Agriculture in India, by Mr. James McKenna, it is stated that, in twenty years, the area of Indigo in cultivation in India has declined from 1,500,000 acres to 137,000 acres, and is steadily decreasing in spite of the impetus given to the use of this dye by the war. With the idea of rehabilitating the industry, the Java indigo plant was introduced in 1898; but in 1907 it was attacked by some unknown diseases, which killed the plant before the seed set, rendering it for some time impossible to improve the quality by selection and crossing.

ACCORDING to French law, the alkalinity of the ash of pure cocoa should not exceed 2.75 per cent. calculated as potassium carbonate and expressed in terms of the dry peat free substance; when this limit is exceeded, the cocoa must be sold as "alkalised," or "soluble cocoa," indicating that it has been treated in alkali during manufacture. The

Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry gives the results of the examination of the actual cacao bean as regards alkalinity of ash, this being in the case of Madagascar and Chudo beans 3.5 per cent., well over the limit for cocoa allowed in France.

THE subject of pea-nut wilt has recently been dealt with in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, as the result of an outbreak of this disease, which took place in Virginia recently. The disease appears to have been introduced through seed, and the wilting was found to be due to the fungus attacking the roots at or near the surface of the soil and killing the invaded tissues. This fungus was found to be identical with *Sclerotium Rolfsii*. It was further stated that *S. Rolfsii* lives in a soil for three years and produces as large a percentage of disease on land where a three-year rotation is practised, as on land continuously planted with pea-nuts.

THE *Journal of Agricultural Research* for April 2nd, contains an account of a disease of citrus trees, and particularly of orange trees which has appeared during the last few years in California. The disease which is called "citrus blast" appears during the rainy season. Young leaves are found to be dropping off, sometimes leaving single twigs on and oftentimes whole branches of twigs bare of leaves. On close examination, black discoloured areas are noted on the leaves, most commonly at the junction of the leaf blade and the wings of the petiole. The affected parts are stated to present a water-logged appearance, and the whole leaf loses its rigidity and hangs limply from the branch. The cause is an organism called *Bacterium citrare-faciens*.

THE recent Report of the Government Mycologist of Madras states that two fungi were found commonly on coco-nut palms in the Presidency, where there is a disease of the leaves in which the leaf surface is destroyed to such an extent that the trees cease to bear. Very few trees appear to die and the infected area is stated to be very small. One fungus, a *Rhizoctonia*, gave negative results when inoculated into healthy coco-nut palms, while the other, a pink fungus with Penicillium-like fructifications, produced the disease on leaves of healthy palms. This does not pass from leaf to leaf unless the atmosphere is saturated and rain is frequent. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture is to be tried as a preventive.

MESSRS. J. EATON and G. S. Whitby have recently been experimenting on the effect of pyroligneous acids on the curing of smoked rubber sheet. The results are published in the Agricultural Bulletin of the Federated Malay States, and it was found that pyroligneous acid produces generally a like effect, although this is more marked in the case of an acid distilled from mangrove than when the acid is distilled from the wood of the rubber tree itself. The cause of this is the greater quantity of phenol bodies in the mangrove pyroligneous acid, than in the rubber wood acid. It was subsequently determined that although phenols have a markedly retarding effect on the curing of smoked sheet, they have no influence on the rate of cure of slab rubber.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR WALTER EGERTON, whose eyes, we are sorry to learn, are still giving trouble, has taken Renby Grange, at Boarshead, near Tunbridge Wells, for a year.

MR. WILLIAM DURNO, formerly manager of Plu. De Kinderen, on the West Coast, Demerara, has embarked on farming, and has purchased Lenham Court, at Lenham, in Kent.

SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE is at present acting as Hon. Secretary of the Disabled Soldiers' Aid Committee, established under the auspices of the Friends of the Poor at 42, Ebury Street.

A COLONIAL edition of "West Indian Tales of Old" is published for sale at 2/- net. Copies can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3, for the Colonies only, for 2/6 each, post free.

THE HON. DONALD McDONALD, who is paying a visit to this country, has received by cable the sad news of the death of his mother, which occurred at Gray's Hill, Antigua, where she had resided for no fewer than fifty-four years.

OFFERS of hospitality for convalescent officers and men connected with the West Indies will be much appreciated by the Contingent Committee, who will also be glad to be notified by officers and men of their arrival in England.

SEVERAL kindly correctors of the Press have called our attention to an egregious misprint in last CIRCULAR, which made it appear that a certain shipping company would carry freight but not cargo. The offence was aggravated by this wildly improbable statement appearing near one in which we chided some folk who were addressing letters wrongly. Lest inconvenience result it should be stated that the Mexican Fruit and SS. Co. will carry cargo but not passengers!

THE MANUFACTURING CONFECTIONERS' ALLIANCE: EXPORT BRANCH is the title of a new organisation comprising the principal manufacturers of chocolate, cocoa, and confectionery in the United Kingdom. The membership is strictly confined to British manufacturers, and the Committee consists of the following firms: Messrs. Batger & Co., J. Buchanan & Bros., Ltd., Calbury Bros., Ltd., Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, Ltd., J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd., James Keiller & Son, Ltd., John Mackintosh, Ltd., R. S. Murray & Co., Ltd., and James Pascall, Ltd., with Mr. R. M. Leonard as Secretary. The offices are at 9, Queen Street Place, E.C. 4.

A SIXTH Barbados Citizens' Contingent reached London on May 16th. The names of the gallant young men comprising it, who were consigned to the care of the West India Committee, were H. A. Arthur, E. G. Bayne, B. G. Cheeseman, H. F. K. Greaves, H. H. Leslie, F. L. McLeod, and P. E. Williams. J. Connell and C. I. Skinner also came

over independently to join the Colours. The men, who were in excellent health and spirits, were entertained at the theatre on the day of their arrival, and most of them were boarded at the Peel House Club pending enlistment.

MR. ERNEST C. STEMBRIDGE, a journalist, who added to his laurels in British Guiana, where he spent some years, contributed an article on the Order of St. Michael and St. George to *United Empire*. He traces the history of the Order from its institution in 1818 to the present day. Probably few Knights or Companions are aware that it was founded at the instance of Sir Thomas Mailland as a reward for the services of distinguished residents of the Ionian Islands. In 1868, four years after our Protectorate over those islands ceased, membership was extended to the Colonies generally.

CLOSE upon the heels of the Barbados men came a further Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, which is also being looked after by the West India Committee, on behalf of Mr. G. F. Huggins and his colleagues in Trinidad. The members are F. Marryat, Amery Maingot, J. Herrera, R. A. Wade, A. A. Scott, Frank Burslem, M. G. Grell, and R. Nazzari. Wade has come over for the second time to join up, having left the Artists and returned to Trinidad after the death of his father and brother, who was a member of the first contingent, and was killed in action; and it is interesting to note that Maingot is the seventh of his name from Trinidad to join the Colours. The men were all in first-rate condition.

SOME sweet potatoes were recently sent by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, through the West India Committee, to the Food Committee of the Royal Society for experimental purposes. Reporting on them the Secretary wrote:—

"The sweet potatoes which you were good enough to send were tried by various members of the Committee, and the unanimous conclusion was that they would prove a very acceptable foodstuff, and one which people would readily get used to. But I regret to say that there are two difficulties in the way of getting supplies to this country. The first is the bad keeping qualities of the sweet potato. Within a fortnight of their arrival here, the greater number of them had gone rotten. This was not due to careless storage. The crates, when they were received, were simply opened and put in a cool place. A further difficulty, in view of the small tonnage available, is the large water content—namely, 55 per cent. This is rather less than the water content of the ordinary potato, which is usually given at 62 per cent. But it should put the stowage space at not less than 60 cubic feet to the ton, and probably as high as 65. As the stowage space for wheat is from 45 to 50 cubic feet to the ton, and the water content is also considerably less, it is obvious that it would be more profitable to utilise tonnage for wheat than for sweet potatoes."

Apart from other considerations the increase in the price of foodstuffs in the West Indies, which has been accentuated since the entry of the United States into the war, makes it most improbable that there will be any surplus for exportation. It may be mentioned that before the war sweet potatoes and yams were successfully imported by the West Indian Produce Association, which distributed a good deal of literature as to how they should be cooked.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Emigration from Jamaica.

On May 9th Brigadier-General Croft, M.P., asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to the amount of emigration of Jamaicans to Cuba; whether he would ascertain whether the economic conditions prevailing in Cuba were such as to attract labour from Jamaica; and, if so, whether he would have inquiry made as to the possibilities of extending to the West Indies economic advantages similar to those which Cuba enjoyed with the United States.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Long): I am aware that there is considerable temporary migration of Jamaicans to Cuba and some permanent emigration. It is to be inferred that the economic conditions in Cuba are attractive. As regards the last part of the question, if my right hon. friend intends to suggest that West Indian products should receive preferential treatment in the United Kingdom, that is a matter which is not possible to consider until the end of the war.

The Purity of West Indian Sugar.

In reply to Sir Henry Dalziel on May 2nd, who suggested that, as an economy, sugar might be retailed in its raw state, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food Control (Captain Bathurst) made the following remarkable statement: "The Food Controller has already considered this proposal most carefully, but having regard to the physical condition in which the bulk of raw sugar is received in this country and the high percentage of impurities which it contains, he is not prepared as at present advised to adopt it. The impurities consisted of sand and clay, and specimens of the sugar louse."

Asked whether this was the judgment of the representatives of the refineries or the Commission, Captain Bathurst said that it was not. The matter had been most impartially investigated by the Ministry of Food, including, amongst others, by himself; and he added that this plan of a reduction in sugar was preferable to putting an impure product upon the market which might seriously affect health.

It will be noted that Captain Bathurst referred to "the bulk of the raw sugar" imported, and his reply therefore could not be taken to refer to West Indian Sugar. The West India Committee, however, requested Mr. Mitchell-Thomson to take the matter up, and at his instance Mr. Butcher, K.C., M.P., asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether West Indian raw sugars which were imported into this country were largely consumed here in the raw state, and whether there was any reason to suppose that such sugars contained impurities which would make them unsuitable for human consumption.

Captain Bathurst, in reply, said: "Broadly speaking, two descriptions of West Indian raw sugar are imported into this country. One, known as "grocery" sugar, which polarises at about 98°, and is intended for and goes into direct human consumption on arrival here. The other known as West Indian refining, polarises at about 96°, and goes through refining here before it is used for human consumption. These sugars prepared abroad are free from the impurities which prevent the issue of the bulk of raw sugars received in this country."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA and The West India Committee.

The new Governor was expected to arrive *via* New York towards the end of April. The question of his salary, which the Colonial Office has suggested should be fixed at £4,000, with £1,000 a year for contingencies, but without the Customs allowances, is engaging the attention of the Combined Court. Sir Walter Egerton's letter of resignation is published in the *Argosy* Mail Edition of March 31st. At a meeting of the Combined Court on March 30th, Mr. R. E. Brassington paid a compliment to the West India Committee, attributing to it wide influence in influential quarters; but he erred, however, in stating that its members were chiefly interested in sugar,

a great majority of them being actually connected with cacao and other industries.

MR. J. C. MCCOWAN, APRIL 5th.—The weather has been rather on the dry side, showers having fallen at intervals which were not, however, heavy enough for requirements.

ST. VINCENT—Home-grown Maize Marketed.

MR. W. N. SANDS, APRIL 16th.—We are experiencing seasonable, dry weather. Planters of ground provision crops desire rain. Ground provisions are not plentiful here just now, but we usually grow enough and to spare. Bread stuffs and grain foods generally are dear, which entails much hardship on the poorer classes. Import duties have also been increased recently in order to provide the revenue badly needed to meet expenditure. The failure of the cotton crop last year has thrown back the colony considerably. Planters of other crops are not doing badly, and if we can only get a good season for cotton, the situation must improve. The Government Ginery dried and stored 1,250 bushels of Indian corn purchased on a profit-sharing basis in 1916, and this is now being sold in the form of meal for human consumption. The action taken is much appreciated in these hard times. Our local food crops will not come in until August.

The continuous migration of young men from the colony for some years past is a matter for concern. Whilst it is true that recently a considerable number of men have loyally joined His Majesty's Forces, still the bulk of them leave for larger countries in order to better their positions or prospects.

Mrs. George Liddelow, of Trinidad, who is on a visit to the island, has recently been successful in forming a Committee of local ladies for providing surgical requisites for the improvised hospitals in France. The work has been taken up keenly, and the Committee hope to send on a consignment of articles during the present month. It is understood that in Trinidad a very great deal of valuable work has been done along similar lines, and has been much appreciated by those in charge of the hospitals named. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barnard arrived from St. Lucia last mail and are staying at Orange Hill, in the Caribb. country.

TRINIDAD—Cacao Shipments during March.

The shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of March were as under:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	2,772,082
B.N. America	84,424
France	2,768,700
United States America	10,224,444
Total for March	15,849,650
Shipped previously	13,847,123

Erratum:

Shipments January—	
6,900,700 lbs., not 5,085,123 lbs.	
as shown February Return	1,815,577
Total from 1st January	31,512,350

To same date, 1916	20,062,564
" " 1915	24,324,943
" " 1914	29,743,676
" " 1913	20,018,604
" " 1912	24,410,396
" " 1911	17,364,848
" " 1910	21,370,585
" " 1909	21,472,378
" " 1908	19,969,706

DEATH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

MacDonald.—At her residence, Gray's Hill, Antigua, B.W.I., on April 29th, Mrs. Kate McDonald, widow of the late John Scotland McDonald, of Antigua. Aged 72. (By cable.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Molascuit.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
 Sir,—In your leader in last CIRCULAR the substitution of Molascuit for brewers' grains for cattle food was advocated. It should, however, be pointed out that the latter are richer in fats and albumenoids than Molascuit, while the latter is especially rich in carbohydrates. The ideal complete cattle food would, in my opinion, be Molascuit plus brewers' grains.

I am, etc.,
 FARMER.

Trade after the War.

Dear Sir,—May I bring to your notice a few remarks on the subject pertaining to the fostering of British trade?

Trade Marks Bill.—When Parliament, a few years ago, passed the Trade Marks Bill, which compelled all foreign-made goods to be stamped with the name of the country of origin, it certainly opened people's eyes to the extent and variety of German manufactures, which in not a few lines had entirely shut out British goods of a similar nature. Would it not now be absolutely necessary, if we are to extend our trade in our Dominions beyond the seas, and *vice versa*, when the War is over, that every British manufacturer, not only in the Homeland, but in the Colonies, stamp their goods with the words "Made in England," "Made in Scotland," or "Made in Canada"—or Australia, as the case may be. A merchant may have a first-class article for sale, but if he does not advertise it, or if people do not know in what country it is made, the general public will just as readily accept a similar article, although it happens, as a fact, to be made in Germany, Austria, America, or Japan. I am aware that, to a certain extent, British-made goods are now stamped as such, but the practice should be extended, and not, as hitherto, "more honoured in the breach than in the observance."

Trade Marks.—I would also advise the registration of trade marks in every British Colony and Possession as a protection against infringements by foreign manufacturers, in particular the Germans, as instances in this colony by that nation have hitherto been many.

Invoices and Declaration of Country of Origin.—All foreign goods imported into Great Britain or her Colonies should be accompanied by an invoice and a declaration of the shippers as to the country of origin, and both documents, authenticated by a British Consular Officer, accredited to the port or place of shipment. Apart from such a procedure being a preventive against frauds being committed on British manufacturers, it would to a great extent make the British Consular system self-supporting, as obtains in the American Consular Service of to-day.

These suggestions, I venture to think, may be found useful, and do not let us wait for their adoption after the War, but act now, so that the practice may be in good working order to meet conditions when trade generally, as we all hope, will boom as it never did before under our glorious flag.

Yours faithfully,
 WILLIAM H. ORRETT.

Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I.

The West Indian Death Rate.

Sir,—We believe the death rate in Trinidad is under 2½ per cent. It would be interesting to see an up-to-date statement of the conditions among contract labourers in B.W.I.

CADBURY BROS., LTD.

Bourville, Birmingham.

[The mean death rate among indentured immigrants in the British West Indies is well under 2½ per cent. In British Guiana for the five years 1907-8 to 1911-12 the death rate was 19.8 per 1,000, with extremes of 14.6 to 21.1 per 1,000. In Trinidad the mean rate for the five years 1907-1911 was 19.9 per 1,000, with extremes of 11.4 and 38.0 per 1,000. In Jamaica for the years 1908-9 to 1912-13 the mean death rate was 22.9 per 1,000, with extremes of 15.5 to 30.9 per 1,000.—Ed.]

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co

The Directors recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the Preference Stock, and a balance dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, on the Ordinary Stock, making, together with the interim dividend paid in November last, a total of 7 per cent. for the year 1916.

The Demerara Railway Co

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st, 1916, show a gross revenue of £39,712 16s. 8d. (as compared with £29,488 10s. 8d. for the same period of 1915), and gross expenditure £22,782 8s. 3d. (£24,802 4s. 9d.), leaving £10,930 8s. 5d. (£4,686 5s. 11d.), less amount due to Government on account of the Parika extension £180 4s. 8d. (£63 14s.), and Debenture interest £1,400, leaving net revenue £9,350 9s. 9d. (£3,222 11s. 11d.). After adding the Government subsidy £6,250, the amount withdrawn for renewal fund £946 11s. 11d. (£3,208 16s. 5d.), and the amount carried forward from the preceding half-year £1,291 5s. 2d. (£1,491 8s. 11d.), there remains a balance of £17,838 9s. 10d. (£14,172 17s. 3d.). 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 the half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on Seven per cent. Preference Stock, £4,025. (b) Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. on Preferred Ordinary Stock, £563 10s.; (c) appropriation to renewal fund, £3,000, and £600 to contingency fund, leaving to be carried forward £3,999 10s. 10d. (£1,334 7s. 3d.). For the corresponding period last year the dividends were the same, but the appropriation to the renewal fund was only £2,000, and there was no appropriation to the contingency fund.

The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	1916	1915.
Demerara Railway	166,231	192,779
Berbice Railway	31,111	31,956
West Coast Railway	133,044	121,276
	330,386	346,011

The tonnage of goods was:—

	1916.	1915.
Demerara Railway	42,780	36,381
Berbice Railway	7,520	5,886
West Coast Railway	2,432	2,023
	52,732	44,290

The traffic receipts show an improvement on all lines. The rice crop on the West Coast of Berbice was the largest on record, and there is evidence of general prosperity in the colony. Increased prices for all materials have raised the expenditure to an amount above the normal, but the total shows a decrease when compared with the corresponding period owing to the large amount of special renewals in 1915. Since the close of the accounts the wages bill has been increased by additional war bonuses, and still higher prices must be anticipated for all materials and stores. In order to partly compensate for this increasing expenditure, a further small addition to the passenger fares has become necessary. The curtailment made in the mileage of this traffic is being continued where possible. The results shown by the accounts now submitted would, in ordinary circumstances, have justified the Directors in recommending a dividend on the Ordinary Stock, but, in view of enhanced costs and the increasing difficulties in maintaining traffic operations, they have decided to delay recommending a distribution and to carry forward a larger balance than usual, in the hope that it may soon be possible to define the position more clearly than at present. The traffic returns so far received for the current half-year show satisfactory increases over the corresponding period of 1916. The Director who retires by rotation is Mr. E. B. Read, and

Mr. C. F. Wicting, of the Demerara Committee, also retires, both gentlemen offering themselves for re-election.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

The accounts for the six months ended December 31st, 1916, show an amount to credit of revenue of £49,117 12s. 7d., as compared with £33,553 5s. 2d. in the corresponding half-year of 1915, and expenses of £32,188 13s. 4d., against £22,987 1s. The result is, therefore, a balance of £16,928 19s. 3d., to which is added £1,656 4s. 7d. interest on investments, and £2,280 7s. 6d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £20,865 11s. 4d. Of this sum the Directors have placed £4,000 to reserve, leaving an available balance of £16,865 11s. 4d., which it is proposed to distribute as follows:—First Preference Shares at 6/- per Share, £10,368 18s.; Second Preference Shares at 6/- per Share, £1,400 14s.; Ordinary Shares at 6d. per Share (free of income tax), £2,208 0s. 6d., leaving a balance to current half-year's account of £2,887 18s. 10d.

In their report the Directors state that, as in the previous half-year, the traffic receipts show an increase due to the same cause, viz., prices of produce being favourable to the planters. The cables continue to be maintained in good working order. The extension of the date of maturity of the £80,000 of 5 per cent. Debentures from December 31st, 1916, to December 31st, 1926, which was referred to by the Chairman at the last half-yearly meeting, has been carried out. The financial year in future will run from January 1st to December 31st, and annual meetings will be held in May. The change will not preclude the payment of interim dividends in November of each year.

OUR LIBRARY.

A Great Missionary.

JOHN MORTON OF TRINIDAD: Journals, Letters and Papers edited by Sarah E. Morton. Toronto: Westminster Company. 6" x 9"; pp. 491 + xiv.

Dr. Morton's journals, letters and papers, as edited by his widow and prepared for the press by his son, will appeal to all in the West Indies who knew him, and to all, wheresoever they may be, who are interested in missionary enterprise. Dr. Morton's long connection with Trinidad was due in the first instance to the seeming accidents that, snuffing from throat trouble, he had to winter in the West Indies, and that, owing to the price of oak staves, the ship on which he sailed put into Trinidad. At that time there were some 20,000 Indian coolies working on the sugar estates, and it was the fact that these people, living in a Christian country, had no one to tell them of Christ and Christianity, which called John Morton to the work of his life.

On his return to Canada, where he had charge of the Presbyterian congregation at Bridgewater, he addressed a powerful appeal to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America, that a mission should be established in Trinidad; following up this letter by a personal address to the Synod. The matter was duly considered, and after much discussion and correspondence, continued over a period of two years, John Morton was appointed missionary, and on November 30th, 1867, he and his wife and little daughter set sail for Trinidad.

The present work is a record of his labour in the island, and is informed throughout by the simple piety which animated all he did. Interspersed with the story of Dr. Morton's missionary labours are many admirable descriptions of Trinidad, and of the conditions obtaining in the island when Dr. and Mrs. Morton first came there. In the second chapter, too, there will be found a brief summary of the main events in the history of the island, built up of notes from "Chapters on the History of Trinidad," written by John Morton in 1910. In addition to the parts actually written by Dr. Morton, and those built up by Mrs. Morton from her husband's notes, there are many excellent descriptions written by Mrs. Morton herself, which exhibit a keen observation and a shrewd insight into character—qualities which must have been of great service to them both in the early days of their missionary work, when the Indians' habit of thought was strange to them.

Of course, as in all cases where the missionary comes

into contact with an ancient and alien civilisation, the evangelising work of Dr. and Mrs. Morton was often disappointing, the results being apparently insignificant when compared with the labour involved. But the little leaven worked, and final results are generally beyond our knowledge. From the first, however, Dr. Morton made friends with the people to whom he brought the message of Christianity. Among the coolies, the majority of whom professed the Hindu religion, there were also Mohammedans, and Dr. Morton had consequently to combat two alien religions which have nothing in common, though, of course, apart from strictly religious observances, the caste system gives the Indian people a certain homogeneity, whatever their faith or race.

Possibly Dr. Morton's early estimate of the character of the people errs on the side of severity, but being formed soon after he came among them, and apparently from personal observation, it is quite astonishingly correct. It is always difficult to judge a people, but it is most difficult when that people is found on alien ground and without the immemorial setting which serves to explain otherwise almost inexplicable social and moral customs.

Schools for the children soon became a leading feature of the mission, and the love of learning which the young people displayed receives many a tribute in the course of the narrative. Dr. Morton, in his journals, quotes some instructive instances of the rapidity with which the children grasped the meaning of the parables, one of which deserves quotation:—

"The new lesson," writes Dr. Morton, "was the Parable of the Excuses. As I told them of the land-owner excusing himself because he must go to see his new piece of land, and the farmer because he must try his new oxen, and the young man because he had married a wife, the Mohammedan boy kept saying: 'Exactly! exactly! just so!' I then asked if people make excuses now when asked to come to Sabbath school or church. 'Oh, yes—plenty.' 'Tell me some of these excuses.' Here are some given by the boys: 'I must get a bundle of grass for the cow'; 'Don't you see I am going to the river to bathe?'; 'I must cook rice!'; 'My feet are not good.'"

Coupled with his missionary labours, agriculture also received Dr. Morton's attention. With Sir Neville Lubbock he was responsible for the successful establishment of the cane farming system, and he was for a number of years Vice-President of the Trinidad Agricultural Society, and latterly of the local Board of Agriculture, to whose deliberations he brought to bear a wide knowledge of agricultural and labour conditions.

There is much in the volume which we should like to quote did space permit. However, our readers, we are sure, will go to the book itself, assured as they will be that it is the record of a life devoted to duty, and a word-portrait of a good Christian, and a man most lovable in all the relations of life.

The volume is well illustrated with portraits, views, and maps.

Letters received from Barbados and Trinidad, as we go to press, indicate that the continued absence of rain was interfering with the planting and ground provisions in the former Island. Following the embargo placed on the shipment of rice in British Guiana, the exportation of sweet potatoes, yams, etc., from Barbados had been prohibited. The sugar crop was still proceeding in the island, and the yield of sugar was good. A Naval Recreation Room was to be opened in Bridgetown. From Trinidad, Mr. Tripp wrote that a Navy Club had been started, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon having generously provided rooms near the wharf rent free. The Asphalt Company had repaired the damage done to their works, and active operations had been resumed at Brighton. From British Guiana news comes of the arrival of the new Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet, on April 16th. The local merchants were protesting against the prohibition of the export of rice, and denied that there was any shortage.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—'Carib. London.'

15 SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E C 3
May 16th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from April 5th. The 3½ per cent. War Loan is quoted at 86½, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 91½, and the 5 per cent. War Loan at 94½. Consols stand at 55½.

SUGAR. Nothing of moment has taken place as regards sugar in the United Kingdom since the date of the last Summary, beyond unjustifiable complaints in the House of Commons as to the refusal of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to entertain private—and much self-interested—offers of sugar. It would appear that the fact is still not grasped in many quarters that the shortage of sugar which has obtained in the United Kingdom is due to the determination of the Government to reduce the supply so as to relieve tonnage for other and more pressing wants, and not in inability to get sugar.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons as to the assertion that the bulk of the raw sugar coming into the United Kingdom was unfit for direct consumption, which was made recently by Captain Bathurst, the latter replied that this did not extend to West Indian grocery and refining sugars. It is understood that the attempt to put 96° Cuban into direct consumption has been a failure.

The Cuban "all ports" returns are still unavailable, but the crop up to the 5th of May was 1,713,524 tons for the six ports for 1917, as against 2,438,327 tons for all ports to the nearest date last year. The week's receipts for the six ports were, however, 93,079 tons, as against 94,914 tons for the corresponding week of last year for all ports, which indicates an increased power of production—at least, in the districts not affected by the insurrection. The 2,800,000 tons crop estimate, however, still stands good.

The latest advices (March 8th) from Queensland report the trouble arising from the Queensland award as being still acute. At a meeting of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association a strong resolution had been passed to the effect that, after some months' experience of the operation of the award, it was found to be unworkable, and that the Association emphatically declared that sugar production must cease in Queensland if this award continued in force, as the rate of wages enforced by the award was very far beyond the capacity of the industry to pay. The Association decided to appeal to the Commonwealth Government with the view of its taking over the working of the industry under the War Precautions Act.

The imports of sugar by India continue to decrease. For the eleven months ending the 28th of February, 412,590 tons were imported, as against 477,735 tons in the corresponding eleven months of 1916. Before the War, the yearly sugar imports of India amounted to 800,000 tons. The bulk of the 1916-17 sugar was coming from Java, which sent in 355,274 tons for the eleven months. The other large contributor was Mauritius, with 22,662 tons.

In a recent summary we informed our readers that the Government had decided to advance the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd., the sum of £125,000 to go towards the purchase of an estate of 5,600 acres in Keyham, in Devonshire, and the erection of a factory to deal with 1,000 tons of beets per day. This is the result of the report of the Agricultural Policy Sub-Committee, which was appointed in August, 1916. This report expressed the opinion that the grant should be made with the view of testing whether the price a factory could afford to pay for its roots is sufficient to induce the farmer to substitute the cultivation of the sugar beet for a portion of his root crop, and also how far beet growing could be introduced into the system of farming as at present carried on in this country. These points, the report considers, can best be settled by an experiment of a large farm under the same control as the factory. The weak

point of the scheme is that the acreage will not be sufficient to keep the factory supplied with beets, which will be against the satisfactory solution of the problem involved. The Germans have adopted, as giving the best results, the four-year Norfolk rotation, and with the German yield of 13 tons to the acre, only sufficient beets would be obtained to run the factory for 18 days annually! Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that, for a factory to pay a maximum price for its root supply, it must work under the most favourable economic conditions. The report also hopes that the experiment will show the advantage accruing to the following crops from a sugar beet cultivation.

Facts about Sugar states that on April 11th, 100,000 tons of sugar—a fifth of the crop of Porto Rico—was held up in that island for want of freight opportunities. The same journal states that it will not be possible for sugar beet production to be increased this year in the United States, as, on account of the high prices of other agricultural produce, farmers are reducing their planting of beets. A shortage of labour is also anticipated.

Prices in the United Kingdom remain unchanged. Tate's cubes are quoted at 47/11, standard granulated at 41/7½, West Indian crystallised, basis 41/7½; West Indian muscovado, basis 40/7½; West Indian syrups, basis 30/7½, with maximum and minimum limits of 1/6 in each of the last three cases.

As already mentioned, the Board of Trade Returns no longer give import figures as regards sugar. The amount in stock, however, in the United Kingdom on the 30th of April was 83,450 tons, consisting of 1,600 tons of foreign refined, 12,450 tons of home refined, and 69,400 tons of unrefined. On the 31st of March the stocks were 78,300 tons, with 51,850 tons of unrefined.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to May 5th are as follows:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	14,200	11,610	12,988 tons
Deliveries	16,193	17,467	13,768 ..
Stock (May 5th)	6,022	5,248	5,229 ..

The New York 96° market, after remaining steady at unchanged prices for the greater part of the fortnight, declined to \$6.02 yesterday, granulated remaining unchanged at \$7.90.

RUM. Both the Jamaica and proof markets have been firmer during the fortnight, with improved enquiry, and the value of the former has hardened to the extent of 2d., and of the latter of 1d. per gallon. Jamaica may be quoted at 5/- to 5/6 per liquid gallon, and Demerara 4/2 to 4/3 per proof gallon. The concession under the Order in Council in connection with the Immature Spirits Act expires this week, and pending further modifications no rum will then be marketable under three years in age. The West India Committee and the Wine and Spirit Trade Association are pressing for a further concession, which is essential, otherwise the consumption will cease in a few months' time.

The stock of rum in the United Kingdom on April 30th was 12,794,000 proof gallons, as against 9,843,000 gallons on the same date last year.

The stocks in London on May 5th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,176	4,392	3,664 puns.
Demerara	8,480	11,366	8,571 ..
Total of all kinds	30,226	27,806	18,833 ..

CACAO. The market is quiet. At auction on the 15th there was a good demand, St. Lucia and Grenada advancing. A small lot of Trinidad was sold at 84/-; 6,884 bags of Grenada were mostly sold at 64/- to 81/6; 39 bags Demerara were bought in; out of 993 bags St. Lucia offered, 100 were disposed of, the better quality fetching 78/- to 85/-.

As will be seen by the correspondence published elsewhere in these columns, Messrs. Calhury Bros. state their intention to buy Gold Coast cacao instead of San Thome cacao, from which, as announced in the last Summary, the boycott had been removed.

The amount of cacao in stock in the United Kingdom

on April 30th was 128,576,000 lbs., as against 75,600,000 lbs. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on May 5th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	21,941	15,266	5,872 bags.
Grenada	19,007	14,124	5,214 ..
Total of all kinds ...	258,424	149,169	56,250 ..

COFFEE. The market is steady, with a moderate demand. The small quantity offered at auction on the 11th fetched full rates. The value of prime Santos is 62/- to 62/6.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice. Raw is quiet and unchanged. Concentrated is in good demand. Lime Oil. Distilled quiet; sellers at 8/-. Handpressed firm. Value about 15/-. Citrate unchanged.

ARROWROOT continues firm, with a slightly quieter tone. Quotations nominally at 5½d. to 6½d.

FRUIT. Bananas, £31 per ton f.o.b., London. Coconuts, 32/- per bag, 100's.

RUBBER. Market very quiet, but steady. Crepe is quoted at 3/0, smoked sheet at 3/0½, and hard fine Para at 3/-. The quantity of rubber imported into the United Kingdom for the month of April was 22,647,400 lbs., making 76,821,600 lbs. for the four months of the year, as against 58,379,600 lbs. for January to April last year. The exports were 188,205 lbs. for the month, or 55,724,900 lbs. for the four months, as against 36,890,300 for the corresponding period in 1916.

BALATA. The market continues dull, with sellers of Venezuela Block at 3/2½ per lb. c.i.f., and buyers at

3/2 c.i.f. Panama block is easier, small spot sales passing at 3/0½ landed terms. West Indian sheet keeps fairly steady, with sellers on the spot at 3/4; forward value 3/8 to 3/9 nominal.

SPICES. Ginger is quiet at unchanged rates. Small to good common is quoted at 87/6 to 92/6; good to choice Jamaica 100/- to 130/- per cwt. Pimento: Market lifeless; sellers of fair on the spot at 4d., but very few buyers. Mace is dearer at 1/6 to 2/3. Nutmegs are quoted at 9½d. to 1/4.

HONEY. Quiet at auction sales, and some old crop Jamaica sold rather cheaply. Present nominal value, 87/6 to 105/- per cwt.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that all Sea Island growths continue in good demand, and that prices remain firm. Up to May 10th, 1,879 bales of British West Indian had been imported for the year.

123,053,000 lbs. of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom in April, making 658,942,200 lbs. for the four months of the year. The corresponding amounts last year were 142,089,700 lbs. and 842,002,400 lbs. respectively. The exports for the four months have been 90,556,300 lbs., as against 28,789,300 for the same period last year.

COPRA. Business has been resumed, and sales of West Indian have been made at £46 c.i.f. London, net cash terms.

The imports of copra into the United Kingdom for April amounted to 3,064 tons, as against 3,947 tons in April last year. The quantity imported for the four months of the present year was 18,663 tons, as against 23,437 tons and 69,189 tons for the corresponding periods of 1916 and 1915 respectively.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados, to 25 Mar.	British Guiana, to 22 Mar.	British Gonduras, to 31 Mar.	Dominica.	Grenada to 15 Mar.	Jamaica, to 31 Mar.	Mont- serrat, to 31 Mar.	St. Lucia to 31 Mar.	St. Kitts- Nevis. to 28 Feb.	St. Vincent, to 31 Mar.	Trinidad, to 31 Mar.
Arrowroot	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,525,238	—
Asphalt	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,919
Balata	Lbs.	—	291,567	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas	Bchs.	—	—	165,099	—	21,561	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,485
Cacao	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	4,979,503	1,039,160	2,518	863,135	—	—	68,767
Cassava Starch ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,503,637
Coconuts	No.	—	440,202	1,117,870	—	—	—	—	46,014	—	—	—
Coffee	Lbs.	—	162,816	—	—	6,069,100	3,264,800	—	—	—	—	2,748,245
Copra	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,750	—	—	1,054,174
Cotton, M. Galante ...	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island ...	Lbs.	53,515	—	—	—	—	—	173,936	—	40,356	—	63,168
Cotton Seed	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	163,513	—	78	—	—
Diamonds	Carats	—	440	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyewoods	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	9,533	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	1,128,384	—	—	—	—	—
Gold	Ozs.	—	5,820	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Rgs ...	Bchs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	636	—
Honey	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime Juice, raw ...	Galls.	—	—	—	—	45,870	36,607	70,469	8,690	—	—	2,135
... ..	countd.	—	—	—	—	4,000	—	319	2,328	—	—	—
... ..	Oil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	—	—	—
Lime (Citrate of) ...	Lbs.	—	1,120	2,705	—	—	—	22,664	—	—	—	—
Logwood	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lumber	Feet	—	28,941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mahogany ... ..	... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak	Tons	15,115	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,248	14,769	43,750	808	158,194
Oranges	No.	—	—	—	—	—	270,250	—	—	—	—	270,850
Oils, Essential ...	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum ...	Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	12	—	—	23,759,065
Pimento	Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	2,719,136	—	—	—	—	—
Rice	Lbs.	—	9,985,521	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber	Lbs.	—	4,013	827	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rum	Galls.	22,142	975,403	710	—	150,255	—	—	—	—	654	—
Shingles	No.	—	529,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar	Tons	12,651	24,494	—	—	—	6,860	—	—	—	—	—
Timber	Cubic Feet	17,381	6,320	1,210,732	—	—	—	—	42	942	302	48
												12,183

In the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of April 19th, Montserrat was credited with 1.166 tons of Cotton Seed and 13 carats of Diamonds. This was due to the eleventh hour mistake of the compositor. The figure should have been 116.6/13 tons Cotton seed.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXII.

THURSDAY, MAY 31st, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

May 30th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE SHIPPING PROBLEM.

THE perennial problem of West Indian steamer communications has again become acute, owing to the decision of the Government to requisition for their own purposes vessels of the Quebec Steamship Company, the Canada-West Indies line of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and Messrs. Elders & Fyffes. The Government having now assumed the control of all shipping, representations to the various companies on this subject will be of no avail, and it is to the Colonial Office and the Shipping Controller that we must look for the readjustment of existing services in such a manner as will cause the minimum of inconvenience and loss of trade. The reason for the application of yet more commercial shipping to war purposes will be obvious. It is the increasing requirements of our Allies and the urgent need for making good the losses due to the unrestricted submarine warfare which, although considerably fewer recently than they were in the earlier days of the new ruthless campaign, are none the less menacing. Until the submarine danger is past, as we confidently believe it will be before many moons are set, every

square inch of tonnage available, or that can be made available, must be devoted to bringing food supplies for our teeming population. But we do not contemplate for one moment such a contingency as an almost complete suspension of the West Indies' existing meagre shipping facilities, and our friends in and connected with those Colonies will learn with satisfaction that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is already in touch with the Colonial Office on the subject. In Jamaica special concern is felt, and particularly by banana planters, at the termination of Elders & Fyffes' fortnightly steamer service between that island and this country, and it is an anomaly which will no doubt receive attention that, whilst that company no longer serves Jamaica, its vessels should still be plying between Colombia and the United Kingdom. An obvious step would be the transfer of the steamers from the Colombian to the Jamaica route. It is, we believe, urged that at present Jamaica cannot offer full banana cargoes, but if this is so there should be no invincible objection to the existing Santa Marta-United Kingdom line taking in at least a portion of its cargo at Jamaica. But in any case bananas will be coming rapidly forward in a few weeks time, and we hope that by then, at any rate, Elders & Fyffes' steamers will again be calling at Jamaica. Under the existing import restrictions, however, the Company would only be able to lift about five full cargoes, but as a foodstuff is involved the Import Restrictions Department might be induced to permit of the importation of more British fruit. Another anomaly to which we have repeatedly referred is, that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company should be carrying cargo between Colon and New York, while it practically cold-shoulders the West Indies. It is true that it calls at Jamaica *en route*, but we fail to see why Colon and occasionally other foreign ports should be served at the expense of British Colonies. As regards the other West Indian islands, the problem is scarcely less difficult; but it is satisfactory to learn that the Canada-West Indies service is not to be suspended altogether. As usual, the smaller islands are the chief sufferers from the lack of tonnage. When the last mail left tons of muscovado sugar were lying at Antigua awaiting shipment, and in any arrangements which may be made we certainly feel that the interests of the smaller islands should be respected and that space should be reserved in the steamers for their produce. We are glad to learn that the Colonial Office is making enquiries throughout the West Indies as to the minimum tonnage requirements for such of their

imports and exports as are not on the prohibited list, and it is to be hoped that the Shipping Controller will do his best to meet them.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

IN our article on this subject in a recent issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR we showed how seriously West Indian agriculture, especially in connection with sugar, was prejudiced by the refusal of the Food Controller to sanction the grant of licences for the export of sulphate of ammonia. The object of this prohibition was, of course, to secure a supply of that valuable manurial agent for the purpose of increasing the production of agricultural produce in the United Kingdom. In view of the impossibility of obtaining sulphate of ammonia from the United States, the output of that country being quite insufficient for its own needs, the hope was then expressed that the authorities would modify their attitude in regard to the issue of export licences, and the outcome of representations then made by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE was a promise that when sulphate of ammonia could be spared from home requirements, West Indian users would be given the opportunity of obtaining, at least, a modicum of their wants in this direction. As will be seen from the letter from the Colonial Office, a copy of which appears elsewhere in these columns, the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries are now in a position to consider applications for limited amounts of sulphate of ammonia for the Colonies. One of the conditions is that purchases must be made in consultation with the Sulphate of Ammonia Advisory Committee, who will inform the purchasers of the sources from which the sulphate of ammonia can be obtained, so that localities where it is required may not be depleted.

Some idea of the increasing demand of sulphate of ammonia for agriculture can be formed from the enormous increase in production that has taken place of recent years. The world's figures are, unfortunately, not available for the last four years, but during the decade 1903-1912 the output had increased from 582,206 tons to 1,327,508 tons, or 128 per cent. From figures, for which we are indebted to Mr. RUSSELL, of Rothampsted, we find that while in 1903 the German production was 160,000 tons, in 1912 it had amounted to 492,000 tons, an increase of 208 per cent.; during that period the production of the United Kingdom had grown from 237,520 tons to 394,521 tons, an increase of 66 per cent. only; that of the United States from 38,000 tons to 149,700 tons, or 290 per cent.; that of France from 42,000 tons to 68,500 tons, an increase of 63 per cent., and that of Belgium from 19,000 to 43,700 tons, an increase of 130 per cent. These figures show the important part which sulphate of ammonia plays in agriculture. This is especially the case in the tropics. In temperate climates, in many conditions, nitrate of soda or of lime can be used with equal advantage. But with a heavy tropical rainfall these nitrates are unsuitable for use by reason of their deliquescent nature, which renders them liable to be washed away. The announcement that sulphate of

ammonia is now available for Colonial use is, therefore, especially gratifying, and will relieve the anxiety of the planters.

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.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is a single payment for £10 10s.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

Man Power Again.

The Government has issued an appeal for Volunteers to form two new classes, (1) men from 41 to 45, (2) men from 45 to 50. But Sir Douglas Haig says that he wants young men, and as there are plenty of them who have not yet enlisted, trouble is sure to arise before the question is settled. Whatever factor in the war distracts public attention, ships, munitions, food, money, it is forced back to the consideration of man power.

The Navy and the War at Sea.

The return of submarine losses in the week ended was more hopeful, the total of British losses being half the highest recorded. To May 20th the figures were not so good, 27 ships sunk (18 large, and 9 small), as against 23 (18 large, and 5 small). For the week ended May 27th the figures were distinctly better, 19 vessels only (18 large, and 1 small) having been sunk. Unfortunately, as these losses do not include those suffered by our Allies, or by Neutrals, they are misleading. In consequence of the general situation created by "U-boat" warfare changes have been made which free the First Sea Lord and the heads of the Naval Staff from administrative work, and provide an organisation at the Admiralty corresponding to the Department which supplies the Army with munitions, while developing and utilising to the best advantage the whole of the shipbuilding resources of the country.

On the Western Front.

The British, who for a fortnight held on to Bullecourt against constant and determined counter-attacks, though their footing was anything but strong, have consolidated their position by recapturing the ground they lost, and by occupying a mile of trenches between Bullecourt and Fontaine-lez-Croeselles, south of Sensée. That irreparable breaches have been made in the Hindenburg line is evident from the persistence of the enemy in trying to recover the ground he has lost, and by the large losses of fine troops he has incurred in the process. To safeguard the positions he still holds he has created what are called "switch-lines," the Beaucourt-Queant point being one. But that they

can be as strong as the positions the British have wrested from his grip since the Battle of Arras began, is impossible. In the first place they are not so strong by nature, in the second place he has not got the time adequately to prepare them by the aid of science. The steady pressure of the British prevent his plans from materialising, while their artillery and air service daily proves their superiority. The defensive offensive is costing the Germans dear, without gaining for them any advantage.

The French in Champagne.

The French continue to gain ground on the Moronvillers plateau, and have captured the last of the observation posts dominating the valley of the Ailette, north of Laon, besides holding their own against ceaseless German counter-attacks.

There have been fresh changes in the leadership of the French Armies. General Nivelle, who succeeded Marshal Joffre, has been relieved by General Petain, the hero of Verdun, on a portion of his command.

Italy's Success.

Italy's new offensive has been crowned with brilliant success. The enemy, reinforced from the Galician front, has been defending positions of extraordinary strength, which have been perfected by science both before the war and since it began. Nevertheless our Allies have fought their way into possession of dominating heights and observation points which jeopardise the whole Austrian line east of the Isonzo. The occupation of Mount Kuk was by itself a signal achievement, but when to that was added substantial gains on the Bainsizza plateau between Tolmino and Gorizia, and the capture of Monte Santo, except one small foothold, to which the enemy stubbornly clings, some idea of Italy's triumph may be gathered. The Austrians in their efforts to create a diversion in the Trentino and elsewhere on the front, failed so badly that the Italians were able to commemorate the second anniversary of their entry into the war by a strong thrust on the Carso, the most difficult front in the present European war, the terrain resembling Gallipoli. In spite of strong counter-attacks they have not only consolidated their gains but made fresh advances, which threaten the road to Trieste. Seeing that dug-outs and trenches had to be blasted out of the solid rock and that the enemy had the advantage in position, the intrepidity and patience of the Italians were beyond all praise. They have a long way to go yet, but having won the ledges of the plateau they have confidence that, in time, they will carry the bulwarks of the enemy's defences. Ten batteries of British heavy guns had a share in Italy's latest successes.

The Russian Situation.

With the formation of a Coalition Government the situation in Russia shows small signs of improvement. But as revolution always makes for disintegration until the forces of reconstruction gather strength, conditions are chaotic, from which both the Russian Army and Navy are suffering. Discipline is a delicate thing, and essential to victory. Unfortu-

pately, it has so seriously declined that the new Minister of War, M. Kerensky is compelled to concentrate all his energies on restoring it, a matter that will take time. It is to be hoped that he will soon be successful, otherwise the military situation will be worsened for the Allies. For when the ground dries sufficiently for considerable operations Russia must be able to launch an offensive or Germany will be able to transfer large forces to the Western front, Bulgaria to Macedonia, Austria to Italy, and Turkey to Syria and Mesopotamia.

The Russian Government has adopted the No Indemnity, No Annexation formula in relation to peace terms, and by so doing, given Germany an opportunity to pose as a friend. But no one supposes that she would not exact the uttermost farthing and square mile of territory if she saw the chance of obtaining them. Her aim in countenancing the formula is merely to detach Russia from the Grand Alliance. France has announced her peace terms, which will include an indemnity and Alsace-Lorraine, but she will be no party to penalising Germany in the matter of an indemnity. This announcement has given great satisfaction in Russia, whose extremists are beginning to understand that the Allies, while true to their ideals, may not conclude peace by a strict adherence to the "no indemnity, no annexation" formula. Otherwise they would do grave injustice to France, Belgium, Serbia, Italy, Roumania, and Japan, not to speak of the British Empire, and perpetrate infinitely greater wrongs than would be perpetrated by handing over Armenia, for instance, to an Ally rather than to the horrors of Turkish misrule, and leaving German influence as it is in the Balkans, so that she could scheme and plot in the Near East, rather than help Serbia and Roumania to realise legitimate ambitions.

The United States and the War.

It is in the fitness of things that America's first purely military aid to the Allied cause should be naval, a flotilla of her destroyers co-operating with the British Fleet. In France, 12,000 American engineers are already on active service, and another large body is re-organising the transport of Russia. By June 5, all males between the ages of 21 and 30 will be registered, when it is estimated that 10,000,000 men will be available as the raw material of future armies. Largely on account of the moral effect an Expeditionary force of about 20,000 men, under the command of General Pershing, is to be despatched to France as early as possible. As a proof of her confidence in the new Coalition Government, the United States is lending Russia £20,000,000, on the understanding that she devotes the money to purely military purposes and concludes no separate peace.

The War at Sea.

The British patrol service in the Adriatic has suffered a severe loss by the sinking of fourteen drifters with most of their crews. The enemy force consisted of Austrian light cruisers and destroyers, which, later, were hotly pursued by H.M.S. *Dartmouth* and H.M.S. *Bristol*, assisted by French and

Italian destroyers, until Cattaro was nearly reached, when, on enemy battleships putting out in support of their cruisers, our vessels drew off. On her return journey the *Dartmouth* was struck by a torpedo, but owing to the resource and seamanship of her ship's company she managed to return to port. The enemy's losses are not known.

A British transport, the *Cameronia*, with troops on board, was torpedoed by an enemy submarine in the Eastern Mediterranean, with a loss of 140 lives. Three weeks later the *Transylvania*, a new Anchor liner, also with troops on board, was sunk within eight miles of land with a loss of 400 lives. A squadron of Zeppelins visited Norfolk in a fog on May 24th, the first raid on this coast since November 16th, when two of the enemy craft were destroyed. On the recent occasion little damage was done, and only one man was killed. Experience seems to prove that the lighter-than-air machine has little value, except for scouting at sea, and since aeroplanes can be launched from ships even that advantage is discounted.

The Folkestone Air Raid.

On Friday, May 25th, a squadron of 17 enemy aeroplanes attacked the south-east of England, between 5.15 and 6.30 p.m.—in broad daylight. It was subsequently announced that the town which suffered most was Folkestone. The casualties were 76 killed, of whom 27 were women and 23 children, and 174 injured. Aeroplanes of the Royal Flying Corps went up in pursuit and the raiding aircraft were engaged by fighting squadrons of the R.N.A.S. from Dunkirk on their return journey. Three of the enemy aeroplanes were shot down by the latter.

The fact that no warning whatever was conveyed to the inhabitants by the authorities, who were well aware that hostile aircraft were about, has naturally given rise to much indignation.

(To be continued.)

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The following letter, received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in reply to the West India Committee's representations as to the need of sulphate of ammonia for the West Indies, is published for general information:—

Downing Street,

May 21st, 1917.

Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department dated the 9th May, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to inform you that a communication has been received from the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to the effect that applications for limited quantities of Sulphate of Ammonia for the Colonies will now be considered.

2. Approval can, however, only be given on the understanding that the Sulphate of Ammonia is purchased in consultation with the Sulphate of Ammonia Advisory Committee, who will inform purchasers of the sources, approved by the Food Production Department, from which Sulphate of Ammonia can be obtained. This course is necessary to prevent supplies being taken from districts where it is required for home consumption.

3. All applications should be sent direct to the Director, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food Production Department, 72, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

4. Letters on this subject have been received at this office from Messrs. Alexander Cross and Sons, Ltd., 19, Hope Street, Glasgow; from the St. Lucia Usines and Estates Company (1907), Ltd., 10 and 11, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.; from Messrs. John Poynter, Son and Macdonalds, 72, Great Clyde Street, Glasgow; and from Messrs. Gillespie Brothers and Company, 82, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3. It is understood that you have kindly offered to inform those firms of the present position as regards the supply of this commodity.

Your obedient servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary, The West India Committee.

SUGAR PRICES.

The prices of sugar in the United Kingdom were raised on May 28th. The following letter from the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply was received on that date by the Committee of West Indian Brokers:—

Dear Sir,—

I am instructed to inform you that this Commission has come to the conclusion that it is desirable to simplify the scale of prescribed wholesale selling prices of sugar, and with that object has decided to reduce the number of categories to the following five, viz.:—(a) Cubes, Chips, etc., Crystals, Granulated. (b) Dry White Sugar, West Indian Grocery Crystallised, Yellow Crystals. (c) West Indian Muscovado, Raw Sugar. (d) Moist (pieces), West Indian Grocery Syrups. (e) Jellies, Knots and Lumps to be sold only to manufacturers.

I am accordingly to request that as from Tuesday, 29th May (inclusive), your Committee will conform to this classification and will arrange that all West Indian Crystallised, Muscovado and Syrup Sugars, in so far as they are not inferior to the Grocery standard, should be sold at one flat price for each category as follows:—(b) West Indian Crystallised, 46/9 per cwt., 1¼ per cent. discount. (c) West Indian Muscovado, 44/6 per cwt., 1¼ per cent. discount. (d) West Indian Grocery Syrups, 42/3 per cwt., 1¼ per cent. discount.

I am particularly to call your attention to the desirability of attaining uniformity in the terms on which all sugar is sold, and to request that your Committee will in future adopt the same terms as those on which Commission's sugars are sold, viz.:—1¼ per cent. discount, 14 days rent and interest, in place of the usual terms of 1 per cent. discount and one month's rent and interest.

(Signed) C. S. REWCASTLE,

Secretary.

On the same day an increase in the retail prices to the following figures was announced:—Cubes, 6½d. a pound; granulated and Demerara, 5¾d. a pound; Muscovado and raw, 5½d. a pound; and pieces, 5¼d.

BRITISH SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS.

The formation of the Empire Sugar Supply (Technical) Committee of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry has now been completed. The members are Sir George Beilby, F.I.C., F.R.S., Past President of the Society; Mr. R. F. Blair, representing the Glebe Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.; Prof. M. J. R. Dunstan, M.A., (Oxon), F.I.C., F.R.S.E., of the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd.; Sir Richard Garton, F.I.C., of Messrs. Garton, Sons & Co., Brewing Sugar Manufacturers; Mr. T. H. P. Heriot, F.C.S., of the Glasgow Technical Training College; Mr. Arthur R. Ling, F.I.C., Chairman of the London Section of the Society, and Chairman of the Committee; Mr. J. W. Macdonald, of Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons, Ltd., Refiners; Mr. G. Mathieson, representing the Manufacturing Confectioners' Alliance, Ltd.; Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, of the Demerara Co., Ltd., (Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation); Mr. J. Pickering, of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co., of Australia and New Zealand; Mr. R. Robertson, representing the Confectionery and Preserved Food Manufacturers' Federation; Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C., Colonial Sugar Technologist; Mr. Louis Sonchon, of Mauritius; Mr. A. J. Yorke, of Messrs. Parry, Murray & Co., Producers and Refiners, India; and Mr. T. F. Morson, Hon. Secretary.

The extended terms of reference of the Committee are:—

1. To prepare an account of the pre-war sugar position as regards (a) Production, its amount and nature; (b) Consumption, its amount and nature; and (c) The quantity, nature, and source of the sugar imported or exported of each unit of the British Empire.

2. To ascertain the economic sugar-producing possibilities of each unit of the British Empire.

3. To report on the most likely localities for increased supply, as well as on the kinds of sugar required by the various consumers throughout the Empire.

4. To make such technical suggestions as may appear of use to the development of the industry.

At a meeting of the Committee, held on the 23rd inst., Messrs. Ling, Macdonald and Seard were appointed an Executive Committee in connection with the work of the Committee.

Planters in Barbados continue to complain of the dry weather. There were slight showers on April 24th and 29th, but the rain was hardly sufficient to lay the dust. The April record was under one inch. Very rapid progress was being made with the reaping of the old crop when the last homeward steamer left. Particulars are given in the *Reporter* of Searles' Co-operative Factory, which is nearing completion. It stands in 16½ acres of land and will have a capacity of 5,000 tons. It will start with an 8-roller miller; but three more will be added later.

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 BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

Much has already been written, and much is likely to be said in Parliament in the near future regarding the British Trade Corporation, which was granted a Charter of Incorporation on April 21st last. The aims of the Corporation, as set out in the Royal Charter, are to carry on the business of trading and banking in any part of the world, and particularly with the following powers, objects and rights:—

(a) To act as agents for any Governments or Authorities, or for any bankers, manufacturers, merchants, shippers and others, and to carry on agency business of any description including the power to act as attorneys and to give discharges and receipts.

(b) To carry on business as contractors, merchants or traders on their own account.

(c) To promote or finance or to assist in the promotion or financing of business and undertakings of any description, and to develop and prove the same, either through the instrumentality of syndicates or otherwise, and to act as an issuing house.

(d) To enter into any partnership or other arrangements for sharing profits or on joint account.

(e) To acquire and hold or dispose of any share, stock, bonds, obligations, debentures, debenture stock, scrip or other securities or interests of any companies, trusts, or corporations, or of any Governments, States, Provinces, Municipalities or other authorities.

(f) To acquire and hold or dispose of any interest in any railways, tramways, ships, canals, docks, harbours, armament works, ship building establishments, irrigation works, electrical works, gas works, water works, and in addition any carrying, transporting, trading, industrial, agricultural, financial, or manufacturing works, concerns, or business of any description, and to carry on the same.

(g) To acquire and hold any interest in and to develop the resources of, and to turn to account, deal with, pledge, and dispose of any territories, forests, mineral fields or other lands, possessions, buildings or property, real or personal, immovable or movable, in any part of the world, including lands, buildings and other hereditaments in the British Islands, notwithstanding the provisions of any statutes of mortmain or any other statutes or laws to the contrary.

(h) To undertake and execute any trusts, and to act as executors, administrators, receivers, and treasurers, and to give any guarantees.

(i) To obtain, work or dispose of any Concessions, Charters, Acts of Parliament, or other legislative rights, monopolies, licences, patents, copyrights or other privileges or advantages.

(k) To establish and maintain Information and Investigation Bureaux, and to collect statistics, returns, particulars, and information likely to prove useful for the consideration of business and financial propositions, and to undertake experimental and research work.

(l) On behalf of any Governments, Authorities or Corporations to keep any registers relating to any stocks, shares, debentures, debenture stock, or

securities, and to undertake any duties in relation to the registration of transfers, issuing of certificates, or otherwise.

Clause 4 of the Charter grants to the Corporation the right of being an agent for the representation of British interests, so far as relates to trade or finance, in cases where H.M. Government is desirous that British capital shall participate in financial operations not falling within the terms of any agreement or arrangements with other parties which may be existing to the date of the Charter, but at the same time provides that H.M. Government shall be entitled to appoint another agent or other agents in any special case in which such a course shall appear to them to be necessary or expedient. It is provided *inter alia* that the Corporation shall remain British in character and free from foreign control, and shall have their principal domicile and principal place of business in England, and the controlling Board of Directors in England. The first Directors of the Corporation are:—Lord Farington, The Rt. Hon. F. H. Jackson, Mr. A. Balfour, Mr. F. D. Docker, C.B., Hon. W. H. N. Goschen, Mr. J. H. B. Noble, and Sir James Hope Simpson. The share capital of the Corporation is to be £10,000,000.

BRITISH EMPIRE PRODUCERS.

Sir Edward Carson was the guest at luncheon at the British Empire Producers' Organisation, held at the Savoy Hotel, on Empire Day, Admiral Lord Beresford presiding.

In the course of the proceedings Lord Beresford made the dramatic discovery that a plate which was placed in front of him was "made in Germany," whereupon several of the members and their guests emulating the prowess of a certain music hall artiste, "who made the Shah laugh," commenced to smash the table crockery—a proceeding which has been much commented upon.

Responding to the toast of his health, Sir Edward Carson said:—

In this association you naturally discuss and think a great deal of the outcome of the war. But there is one result from the war that nothing but our own actions and our own energies can keep for us, and nothing but our own inaction and our own carelessness can deprive us of, and that is the utilisation and the organisation of the vast resources of the Empire to which we belong. The war has demonstrated three or four fundamental material facts. It has taught us in the first place what our resources are, as I do not believe we ever knew them in the slightest degree until war broke out. We were an easy-going sort of affluent people. We had plenty of amusement, and we thought that was more or less the end of all things, and whether the sources of our entertainment came from Germany or Australia was quite immaterial to us. I am not sure there was not a large school of thought which said, "Let us have something foreign; it is very interesting," and, indeed, "Made in Germany," which at one time was a contemptuous expression, became rather a

fashionable idea in the self-satisfied smug sort of way in which we were living. Secondly, having found out our resources we have also found out that we can by a little trouble and organisation make use of them to make the Empire self-supporting. Thirdly, we have found out what we were rapidly forgetting, that blood is thicker than water, and fourthly, that we have been living in a fools' paradise in allowing these resources to be used for strengthening our enemy and in forging weapons to enable them to fight us here. The war will have been fought in vain if all that does not come to an end. It is not a question of victories in the field which will necessarily bring that about. You may throw up your hats and rejoice at a peace when the Allies march into Berlin, but unless you adopt new methods, founded on the experience of the fire through which we are passing now, all the great victories of your Armies and your Fleets will have been achieved in vain.

You must get rid above all things of the old catchwords. They will die very hard. I read occasional speeches of Ministers or ex-Ministers, and I find there is still a remnant of the feeling that we can get back to what they are pleased to call "the old ideals of our party." God help us if we do. I will take a few of the catchwords—Imperial Preference. Looking back at it now it seems to me that Imperial Preference was a preference for the Empire of Germany. "Most-favoured nation clause." How well that sounds. What did it really mean? It meant that it was a combination of our enemies to make treaties which pleased them but left us at a disadvantage. I could quote you innumerable instances which have occurred during the many years when I myself was a law officer of the Crown. Therefore I say, "Get rid of catchwords, and come to reality."

But the war has brought about many other changes. No war of this magnitude, which has involved almost the population of the civilised world, could be waged for nearly three years without bringing about a vast revolution. In Russia you have had a revolution because war has brought home to the people there that the power, and the real power, must be in the people who have to fight the war. It ended in bloodshed, it ended in abdication, and what may replace it is still in the lap of the gods. But it was, I believe, however in some respects we may regret it, a necessary revolution for freedom brought about by necessary thoughts that came home to men when they were day by day faced with the horrible devastation and peril of war. Do not imagine that there is no revolution going on in this country, and do not imagine above all things that there is not a revolution going on in the Empire. True it is that the King was never more safely and securely fixed upon the throne than he is at the present moment. (Cheers.) He has rallied round him the undying loyalty not of the United Kingdom alone but of his great Empire. The more the Empire has been used, the more they have done, the more we have found that the great coping stone of that noble edifice is his Majesty the King—(renewed cheers)—and the reason of it is that in his position he reflects the feeling of his people, of progress, of liberty, and of

the intense desire to carry on his Government not from selfish motives or for a dominating or ruling class, but for the benefit of the vast majority of those who are loyal to him.

The Revolution in the Empire.

But do not imagine on that account that the war has not equally demonstrated the power and the necessity of every constituent part of the Empire. Look at the innovation which came about almost as if it were automatic—the Imperial War Cabinet. Who would have thought before the war that sitting in Downing Street you would have had the Prime Minister and the other Ministers of all the outlying Dominions of the Crown discussing not the interests of any one constituent part of the Empire, but discussing as one people the great questions of peace and of war, of foreign policy, of the domination of races, of justice to small nations, and all those various matters which we have found to be the connecting link that binds us together? It is because they and we have exactly the same ideals of liberty and progress as have ruled always those who governed the country. People talk wildly of an Imperial Federation. It was a kind of dream. Many people talk of it as a splendid thing, not knowing in the least what it means, and I venture to give this one word of warning, that there cannot be and there will not be an Imperial Federation if you mean by that any Act of Parliament is going to bind together the various units that make up the British Empire. It is said that we have a very loose system binding us. Well, I do not mind how loose it is so long as it is the best working system. Do not try to tighten it by artificial means. Let it work in its own way. The announcement made by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons the other evening that this great Council of the whole Empire, not merely as a conference but as a Cabinet, was to meet from year to year to discuss really what I may call Empire executive matters, is the nearest approach that at the moment we can get to the ideal that they and we are aiming at here.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN MADRAS.

During a recent debate in the Madras Legislative Council, Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao moved that an inquiry be held into the economic conditions of the agriculturists. He wished, he said, to show that the average agriculturist in the Presidency was in a poor condition, and that he stood in need of some remedial measures calculated to relieve him. He wished to show, too, that notwithstanding the increase of prices of foodstuffs, there had been no substantial improvement in his material condition, and that he could not generally afford to bear further taxation. As evidence of the poverty of the people, he drew attention to the extent to which they emigrated.

Mr. Venkatapathi Raju, who seconded the resolution, said there was a general feeling among non-officials that the general body of agriculturists were exceedingly poor. Officials might not hold that

view, but they had not facilities for discovering the real state of affairs.

Sir Alexander Cardew, on behalf of the Government, said that the subject of economic enquiry was an interesting one. But they could hardly expect such an enquiry to be undertaken by Government, unless he could give some definite indication that there were evils which showed the steady retrogression of the agricultural classes. Mr. Krishna Rao's speech quite failed to produce any substantial evidence in either of the directions referred to. The mover told the Council that a large number of the population emigrated every year, and he inferred from that that people could not earn a living in India. The answer to that was that they earned a better living somewhere else.

RICE AS A FOOD.

Mr. J. Sen, M.A., Imperial Agricultural Chemist, in a report on rice grown in Bihar and Orissa, states that the composition of polished rice is dependent somewhat on that of the original unhusked rice. But although the amount of substance removed as bran is not very much, the grain suffers a material alteration in composition. The polished rice becomes poorer in all constituents, except soluble carbohydrates which increase a little. The amount of oil decreases to less than half; the albuminoids suffer only a slight diminution; the fibre is reduced to about one-fourth of the original quantity and the amount of mineral constituents falls to a half. The outer layer and the embryo which are removed during the polishing operation are thus seen to be richer than the inner material in all these constituents. But the concentrations of fibre and oil in the bran are relatively higher than that of the mineral constituents. The distribution of the albuminoids is more uniform than that of any of the above.

In the unpolished grain the quantity of phosphoric acid is just less than half of the ash. In the polished rice also, the phosphoric acid is slightly less than half of the amount of ash. The potash content, however, which in the unpolished rice is about half of that of the phosphoric acid now rises to about three-fourths of the amount of phosphoric acid. It thus amounts to this that, although both phosphoric acid and potash are more concentrated in the "bran" than in the rest of the seed, the distribution of the potash is more uniform than that of the phosphoric acid.

As regards the material lost during the operation of polishing, this consists of the plant embryo and some of the outer layers of the grain. The germ being freely exposed and not embedded in the grain is easily rubbed off, the little nick at one end of the polished grain marking the place where it was located.

It might be supposed that the estimation in which any variety of rice is held among the consumers, as evinced by the market price, would be mainly determined by its nutritive value and its palatability. The latter term includes culinary properties, such as flavour, consistence, appearance, taste, etc.,

which cannot be definitely described and are rather difficult to observe accurately. As regards the nutritive value of rice, as revealed by analysis, there is no doubt that, other things being equal, the variety of rice which contains larger amounts of albuminoids is more valuable, inasmuch as albuminoids, which are the flesh-formers, are a more expensive form of food than starch. The relative nutritive value of a sample of rice can thus be assumed to depend on its albuminoid content. It was noticed, however, that no accurate relation can be found between the chemical composition and the value of a rice from the consumer's point of view. In a well-balanced ration, the relations between the albuminoids, the oil and the soluble carbohydrates should vary within certain definite limits. Rice, however, in common with other cereals, contains an excessive proportion of starch and is thus not suitable for use as the sole article of diet by any one.

This holds not only from the point of view of the organic constituents but also of the mineral ones, which are the bone-formers. Rice is quite poor in this respect also. The importance of giving due consideration to the amount and composition of the ash of foods is very great in order to ensure the supply of material for the proper development of bone, and of the mineral constituents necessary for vital processes—factors which have as much influence on the well-being of animals as proteids, carbohydrates and fats in appropriate quantities.

Where a variety of food stuff is used, the probability of much injury being done by ignoring these aspects of the question is not very great. Happily the use of rice is nearly always supplemented by the addition of other substances of vegetable and animal origin which often supply the deficient elements.

An interesting characteristic of rice protein may be mentioned here. It has recently been shown that in its general aminoacid make-up the protein of rice more nearly resembles the majority of the proteins of animal tissues than do the proteins of maize and wheat. This may explain the fact that rice, in spite of its low protein content, furnishes food for more human beings than any other cereal.

The alteration in composition which rice undergoes during the process of polishing is of great significance from the medical point of view. Some authorities believe that beri-beri is due to specific germs. Others think that it is caused by the bacterial fermentation of the large amounts of carbohydrates eaten in unbalanced diet. But the consensus of opinion is that beri-beri is one of the "deficiency diseases" like, e.g., scurvy or rickets. Most of the food articles in their raw state contain the curative substances. These are, however, at times lost, or considerably reduced, during the process of "finishing" and preparation which the fastidious taste of the modern consumer prescribes. Reduction in the content of phosphoric acid is now generally accepted as an index of beri-beri-producing power of a sample of rice. Judged by this standard, although all samples of unhusked rice used during this investigation were good, many samples of the "polished" rice were unfit for consumption as a sole article of diet. It must be remembered, however, that rice is

almost universally supplemented by some other food-stuffs, the mixed diet often to a great extent nullifying much of the apprehended injurious effects.

TORPEDOED!

My party on H.M.T. *Transylvania* consisted of myself and four others. We left on May 3rd, in beautiful weather, and that evening and night passed off without accident or incident worthy of record. There was a crowd of nurses on board, and we all looked forward to a voyage more than usually interesting, especially as the nurses had been in camp with us in France, and were good "pals." The morning of May 4th was fine, with a fair wind blowing from north-east. Someone had just remarked that we were in for a yachting cruise in the Mediterranean, when two shrill blasts of a siren were heard, and the Trooper swung round at once and headed for the land. About five minutes after the siren sound there was a loud explosion, which shook the ship like an earthquake. There was no panic; the orders were to get the nurses into the boats first, the men next, and the officers last. The nurses were soon pushing off in their three boats, waving hands and handkerchiefs in "adieu," alas! to many on board. A few minutes after the nurses had got clear there was another and more terrific explosion. Again there was no panic, though rapidity of movement, and men in boats and on rafts and swimming in the water could be plainly noticed. I remember that thoughts like these chased through my brain—"Many a man will die to-day. I will probably be among the number; but a man that can show such contempt of danger will never die."

About half an hour afterwards the order was shouted by a sergeant that the captain-loped all officers who could do so would save themselves. A subaltern helped me on to a rope ladder, but it swayed so much that I lost my grip and fell into the water. My first prayer of thankfulness was that the water was warm; my second that I had kept up my practice in swimming in Kingston harbour (Jamaica) and until I left Egypt in January. Eventually I got to a boat which soon swamped, and we gradually sank lower and lower. I think our ladders and spars and boxes and barrels and keeping her head to windward (by desperate paddling at times) helped to float our frail craft. I saw the good ship go down head foremost a few minutes after eleven o'clock, and our sense of loneliness was, of course, proportionately increased. Ours was the last boat but one that I saw picked up; we were rescued by a small Italian tug-boat, privately owned. I was delighted to hear, on reaching land, that the rest of my party had been saved. The reception on shore will never be forgotten by the survivors. The people had brandy and liqueurs and warm drinks ready, and took the wounded and sick to hospital and to their homes in every sort of vehicle available. The funerals were attended by thousands of people, tears of sympathy coming not only from women and children, but from the eyes of strong men hearing on their breasts the emblems of bravery. The kindness and hospitality of the Italians and their goodness to all will never be forgotten by the survivors, and I feel sure—when the story is told—by the British public.

I am writing this hurried sketch in a beautiful garden in France. The roses climb up the walls and peep in at me as they nod lazily in the soft south wind; the big fish in the ponds glide gracefully under the stone archways; the lilies and the palms remind me of my tropical home; and I find myself wondering whether recent happenings in my life are really true. The cold and ice and mud of Flanders, the banging of German shells amid the lines, the warm welcome on return to our old camp, the eubarkation, the struggle for life amid the big unfriendly waves, the grey walls of an Italian hospital, the warmth and comradeship of a rest camp, the booming of heavy guns in the distance, and the tents

shining like minarets in the soft southern sunlight awake me from my reverie, and I know that is all too true; and my soul cries aloud for vengeance on the Hun!

JAMAICA WAR GIFTS.

Kind friends in Jamaica continue to send over many war gifts through the Jamaica Agricultural Society for distribution by the West India Committee. The forty-fourth shipment included 73 garments, 36 hospital bags and 8 pillows from the Spanish Town Branch of the Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. F. E. Taylor, and 100 garments, pillows, etc., from the Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne, for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild; 24 garments from Mrs. Gummings, and 67 from Wolmer's High School, per Miss K. J. Howson, for the Belgian Relief Funds; 381 garments from St. Thomas-in-the-Vale Red Cross Guild, per Mrs. McPhail, of Bog Walk, for Mr. Craig's Hospital at Dumbarton; 424 bandages, etc., from the Misses Cousins, Castle, Cundah, Lucie-Smith, Nixon Taylor, Rhodes, Hitching, Emery, and Mrs. Langdon, per Mrs. Rhodes, for the British Red Cross Society; 650 hospital bags, from the Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mr. W. W. Wynne, for Lady Smith-Dorrien's Fund, and 16 boxes of grape fruit, from Mrs. Wynne, for the Military Hospital at Norbury and the Dundee War Hospital.

The forty-fifth shipment included, 400 garments, pillows, etc., for the British Red Cross Society; 1,043 hospital bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien's Bag Fund, and garments for destitute Belgian children, from the Ladies' Working Association, Half-Way-Tree; 485 pairs old gloves for the Glove-Waistcoat Society, from Mrs. Briscoe, and 14 boxes of grape fruit from Mr. H. T. Ronaldson.

The forty-sixth shipment included 10 bags of sugar for Prisoners of War in Germany, collected by Mr. Hugh Clarke; 1 cask of honey, from Mr. H. Stead; bundle of mahogany crutches, from Mr. R. J. Miller; and 4 bundles of walking-sticks and crutches from Mr. M. E. Muirhead, for the British Red Cross Society; case of pillows and bags, from Mrs. Briscoe, for Q.M.N.G.; bandages, pillows, etc., for Winchester War Hospital, from Mile Gully V.W. Guild; 16 boxes of grape fruit from Mrs. W. W. Wynne, for the hospitals; a supply of "Head" sugar, from the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and 80 eggs for Bishop's Knoll Hospital, from Mrs. C. C. Anderson.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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. 3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee.

HOW DEVEAUX TOOK NEW PROVIDENCE.

(Continued from page 193.)

Deveaux and his force, which made up in courage and enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers, reached New Providence shortly after sunset on April 14th. At the dead of night boats were lowered from the brigantines, and the gallant Colonel was rowed ashore with a party of men, armed with cutlasses and muskets, to capture the fort which has just been described, the sailors using muffled oars and adopting every precaution to prevent an alarm being raised.

The boats were gently beached on the sandy shore near the spot where the Board of Ordnance boundary post, depicted in last CIRCULAR, now stands, and the men leaping ashore made at once for the fort.

As had happened before, and will no doubt happen many times again where the Spanish soldiery is concerned, the garrison was caught, not only figuratively, but actually, napping. Every man comprising it was fast asleep, with the exception of the sentinels, who hastily lighted his match, intending to blow up the Fort rather than let it fall into the hands of the hated English. Deveaux himself pounced on the unfortunate man and gagged him before he could utter a single cry. The English then swarmed over the ramparts and fell upon the garrison, who readily gave themselves up.

So far the enterprise had been a complete success; but the Spaniards in Nassau and the forts above the town, who greatly outnumbered the English, were now aroused, and the gallant Harbour Islanders would have stood a poor chance against such odds had not Deveaux resorted to his memorable ruse which proved so eminently successful.

To their astonishment the Spaniards now saw a continuous stream of boats passing between the brigantines and the shore, bringing apparently hundreds upon hundreds of armed men to reinforce the landing party.

The explanation was perfectly simple, though it did not occur to the garrison until it was too late. As fast as the boats reached the shore their occupants leapt out under the lee of the fort only to jump in again and conceal themselves under the gunwales on the return journey, so that to all appearances the boats were empty as they were rowed back. The same men were being constantly rowed backwards and forwards with the satisfactory result that the Spanish soldiers thought the strength of the invading force was overwhelming.

Believing that it was they themselves that were outnumbered the garrison hastily withdrew to the shelter of their forts. To add to their mystification Deveaux now dressed up figures of straw in uniform and placed them in conspicuous positions, and profiting perhaps by the success of the "Boston Tea Party" nine years before, he disguised some of his men as Indians, a foe of which the Spaniards were terrified.

On April 16th, Deveaux captured two hills overlooking the principal fortress and mounted upon

them two batteries of twelve-pounders. With "a pompous description of his formidable force" he then called upon Antonio Claraco y Sanz, the Spanish Governor to surrender. On the latter showing some hesitation a well-directed shot from a field-piece went crashing into his official residence. This demonstration immediately had the desired effect and on April 18th, Deveaux enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing the English colours hoisted over the fort. The Governor had decided to capitulate.

Generous terms were granted by Deveaux to the garrison who were greatly mortified when they realised how completely they had been taken in by a force so much inferior to their own in point of numbers and so "ludicrous in their dress and general appearance."*

The Governor and the garrison under his command were permitted to march with full honours of war to Fort Montagu, which was again placed temporarily at their disposal, and were allowed to retain one gun and sufficient ammunition to enable them to salute their flag when it was hoisted every day. Government House, the public stores, and all the vessels in the harbour were handed over to Deveaux, on behalf of His Majesty King George III., though the Spanish officers and men were allowed to retain their baggage and personal effects. The Spanish residents were also permitted to keep their belongings, and the merchants were given two months in which to settle up their accounts. y Sanz surrendered four batteries with about seventy pieces of cannon and four large galleys—no mean bag for the small invading force!

Eventually the garrison were given a safe conduct to Havana, while y Sanz was sent to Spain in a British vessel. In the subsequent treaty of peace it was provided that "His Catholic Majesty shall restore to Great Britain the islands of Providence and the Bahamas, without exception, in the same condition they were in when they were conquered by the arms of the King of Spain," and since the day of their departure the Spanish flag has never again flown over New Providence, which, with the neighbouring islands, still forms one of our prosperous West Indian colonies.

For their share in the capture of New Providence

* The terms of capitulation as published in the Annual Register, 1783, p. 156, were as follows:

"1. The Government house and public stores to be delivered to His Britannic Majesty.

"2. The Governor, and garrison under his command, to march to the eastern fort with all the honours of war, retaining, with a piece of cannon and two shots per day, in order to hoist His Catholic Majesty's flag. Provisions for the troops, sailors, and sick in the hospital to be made at His Britannic Majesty's expense, as also vessels prepared to carry them to the Havana, particularly a vessel to carry the Governor to Europe.

"3. All the officers and troops of the garrison belonging to His Catholic Majesty are to remain in possession of their baggage and other effects.

"4. All the vessels in the harbour belonging to His Catholic Majesty are to be given up, with everything on board the said vessels, to His Britannic Majesty.

"5. All effects appertaining to Spaniards to remain their property, and the Spanish merchants to have two months to settle their accounts.

"(Signed) ANTONIO CLARACO Y SANZ,
"A. DEVEAUX.

"New Providence, April 18, 1783."

the loyal Harbour Islanders were granted in perpetuity rights of commonage on the neighbouring island of Eleuthera, and to this day white sailed sloops may be seen skinning over the waters separating the two islands, as they take their descendants to and from the land which, through their labours, has become a market garden of the Bahamas.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SERGEANT G. S. WILSON, of a Canadian Battalion, who was killed in action on May 1st, was younger son of the late John Shine Wilson, of Aranguez, Trinidad. When war broke out he was a Departmental Superintendent of a mine in Canada, and enlisted as soon as it was decided to send over a Canadian Contingent. He joined the 4th Canadian Highlanders at the request of the Canadian Military Authorities, came to England in October, 1914, and went to France in February, 1915. He was wounded and gassed at the second battle of Ypres on April 22nd, 1915. He was passed for active service again in July, and went to France with the Canadian Battalion. He was slightly wounded and buried in a trench in October last, but only remained off duty for a few days.

WOUNDED.

CAPTAIN E. W. DEANE (second son of Major F. G. W. Deane, of Barbados), North Staffordshire Regiment, has been wounded in the head.

CAPTAIN REGINALD STURRIDGE, only son of Dr. P. F. Sturridge, of Kendal, Westmorland, and grandson of Mr. George Sturridge, of Mandeville, Jamaica, has sustained a compound fracture of one leg, and has been wounded in the neck.

PRIVATE E. W. BRANCH, Royal Fusiliers, of Antigua, has been wounded.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. ALAN S. GARDNER, of the Royal Fusiliers, has been awarded the Military Cross, and has been promoted for gallantry. He is the son of the Rev. T. Gardner, of Barbados, and by a curious coincidence won his distinction on the same day as that on which his cousin, 2nd Lieut. W. F. Bryden, of the South Lancashire Regiment, was equally fortunate, though they were separated from one another by many miles.

PROMOTIONS.

SECOND LIEUT. KENNETH M. LEIGHTON, Highland Light Infantry (of British Guiana), has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

RONALD J. MAINGOT, 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, late Artists' Rifles, has received a commission in the Royal Fusiliers.

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.

Curry, Robert A. (son of Mr. R. H. Curry, of Nassau, Bahamas), Royal Flying Corps.

Curry, Pte. Ormond H. (son of the late Mr. E. H. Curry, of Nassau, Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery, is transferring to the Royal Flying Corps.

Menendez, Lieut. Tremar (son of the Hon. F. M. Menendez, of Nassau, Bahamas), Gloucester Regiment, is transferring to the Royal Flying Corps.

Payne, Sgt. Jocelyn Maynard (son of the late J. F. Lavington Payne, of Grenada), Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:

BAHAMAS.

Pte. G. M. Cole, Plymouth; Gunner R. Frith, Leeds.

BARBADOS.

Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Eastbourne.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Pte. G. B. Phillips, Canadians, London.

JAMAICA.

Lieut. Purchas, 2nd Lieut. N. Calder, R.F.A.; Ptes. D. Smith, Cummings, Graham, British West Indies Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Chelmsford.

TRINIDAD.

Second Lieut. P. H. Laughlin, Royal Berks Regiment, London; 2nd Lieut. L. Prada, Chester; Pte. Pierre de Verteuil, H.A.C., Wandsworth; Trpr. J. Rochemont and Trpr. S. Daly, Household Battalion; Pte. J. R. Thavenot, K.R.R.C., London; Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, France.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The Purity of Cane Sugar.

On May 25th Sir Henry Dalziel asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether he could explain why American white refined sugar was being imported at a premium of £10 per ton when Cuban raw sugar was available in this country; and why some of the largest wholesale distributors in the country had been refused supplies of the same for the grocery trade after that trade had expressed its readiness to accept and use this unrefined quality?

Captain Bathurst: A certain quantity of American granulated sugar has been purchased to meet the requirements of fruit preserving, for which Cuban raw sugar is quite unsuitable. Supplies of Cuban raw sugar to wholesale distributors have been refused because, as has already been explained, the impurities in sugar of that description render it unsuitable for general consumption as a grocery sugar. It contains iron, and if strawberry jam were made with it it would turn it black.

Sir H. Dalziel then asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food whether the Sugar Commission in their dealings with sugar planters always asked them to supply low grades, i.e., refinery sugar polarising 96 per cent.; whether he was aware that such action was largely influenced by the refiners, who were anxious to keep their refineries open; and whether sugar planters, if they had been asked to supply a higher-grade sugar which could be sold direct to the public, could equally well supply it?

Captain Bathurst: The Sugar Commission do not usually deal direct with planters, nor does the Commission influence in any way the character of the sugar which planters produce. That has been determined long ago by the methods practised and the plant employed in treating the juice of the sugar cane, and it does not lie with the Sugar Commission to alter it. The influence of the refiners does not affect the policy of the Commission.

Sir H. Dalziel next asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, in reference to a recent statement on behalf of the Department regarding impurities in raw Cuban and Java centrifugal sugars, would he say whether the refiners had from time to time melted raws

the polariscope test of which was 97 to 98 degrees, and if the alleged high percentage of impurities was overstated, and would he produce copies of the analysis of sugars melted during the last three months; and would he say whether the polariscope test of Cuban raws now being refined was higher than that of the Jamaica and Demerara raws which the Royal Commission allocated for grocery use?

Captain Bathurst: The question appears to be based on the supposition that the polariscope test of sugar is indicative of the impurities that may be mixed with the sugar. This, however, is not the case, as sugars showing a high polariscope reading may contain a large percentage of impurities, rendering them unfit for direct human consumption. Conversely sugars with a low polariscope reading may be relatively free from such impurities. There appears, therefore, to be no reason for furnishing the analyses asked for, as it would involve a large amount of unnecessary labour.

Sir H. Dalziel: Having regard to the fact that the hon. and gallant gentleman the other day made some serious suggestions about the impurities of this sugar, why should he not be able to give up the analysis which was made previously when I asked my question?

Captain Bathurst: Because there would be nothing gained if the analysis desired is one which will result from the polariscope test. The polariscope is effective in determining the amount of sucrose in the sugar itself—that is, the amount of saccharine matter—but it would not be effective in making any determination with regard to such adulterants as beetles, lice or lizards.

Sir H. Dalziel: Will the hon. and gallant gentleman allow any tests of impurity previous to my asking my question, and then we will go into the lizard question afterwards?

Captain Bathurst: I am trying to point out that no test would, in fact, be effective. I should like to invite the right hon. gentleman to come and see the collection now to be found in the Sugar Commission museum. As a zoologist it would interest him.

It will be recalled that in reply to a question asked by Mr. Butcher, M.P., at the instance of the West Indian Committee, Captain Bathurst said that his remarks as to impurities did not apply to British West India sugar.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

A meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee is to be held at the West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. 1, at 4.30 p.m., on Tuesday, June 5th, to consider a draft report and the audited statement of accounts for the six months ended December 31st last.

A correspondent in France informs us that the French population is delighted with the behaviour of our Contingent, wherever they have been stationed. There have been no complaints, while, on the other hand, the inhabitants have been heard to say that they never had better behaved troops billeted on them. The latest arrivals are well up to earlier standards. "They are a splendid lot, with very little nonsense about them."

During the fortnight many hundreds of thousands of flags and cardboard badges have been despatched to the West Indies for sale at the Flag Day, on behalf of the West Indian Contingent Fund, which is to be held in all the West Indian Colonies, with one single exception. The arrangements in the Islands are being made by local committees, while in British Guiana, Mr. J. B. Cassels and Mrs. H. W.

Spence have kindly undertaken the organisation of the sale. It is hoped that all readers in the West Indies will help to make the day, the date of which has not yet been fixed, a complete success. The increasing calls on the Contingent Fund for the Board and Lodging and financial assistance of men from the West Indies, while on furlough in this country, alone make it certain that good use will be made of whatever sum of money is subscribed.

* * *

The total amount received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund is £7,395 6s. 1d., and of this approximately £4,734 has been expended. Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Marionville Plantation, Ltd., per C. B. Adamson, Esq.	83	6	8
Barbados Citizens' Contingent Committee, per Dudley Leacock, Esq.	25	0	0
A. P. Cowley, Esq. (3rd donation)	5	0	0
"In Memoriam"	5	0	0
Mrs. Johnston, per West India Committee	1	0	8
Miss I. Samuel	5	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. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

A correspondent writes:—

"Whilst acknowledging the receipt of your several parcels, I beg, on behalf of the members of the 2nd Merchants' Contingent (Trinidad) serving with the 2/6 Devons, to offer you our heartfelt thanks. I need not mention how highly your useful gifts are appreciated, but you may rest assured that your souvenirs will always be kept by us as a memento of the kindness of the West Indian Contingent Committee."

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Trade of Barbados.

The local authorities seem to be determined that there shall be no uniformity about the Blue-books of the West Indian Colonies. Thus, whilst Trinidad has just reverted to the calendar year for its accounts, Barbados still favours the "financial year." According to the report of Mr. T. H. Fell, the Colonial Secretary, on the Blue-book of that island for 1915-16, there was a deficit on December 31st of £21,086. The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the past six 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	215,697	1,539,710	1,005,931
1912-13	221,624	221,340	1,465,431	1,085,569
1913-14	214,865	222,177	1,353,059	856,618
1914-15	223,091	236,786	1,300,073	915,099
1915-16	212,483	227,008	1,270,154	1,181,986

"It will be noticed," says Mr. Fell, "that the Colonial revenue increased by £13,392 during a year in which the foundations of the civilised world were quivering from the effects of war. To the extent of £9,815, this increase was due to new taxation, viz. Export duty on sugar and molasses (2/6 per ton on crystals, 1/8 per ton on muscovado, and 10d. per 100 gallons on molasses), £5,160†; increase of 1/- per gallon in the excise duty on rum, £2,118; and 20 per cent. additional duty on spirituous liquors and

tobacco, £2,537. Apart from extra taxation, therefore, the annual revenue grew to the figure of £3,577. Two causes account for this satisfactory condition. The initial shock of the War had passed; the economic effects of war had become universally accepted facts; hence, during 1915-16 (rightly or wrongly), a lesser degree of economy, or individual retrenchment, was shown than during 1914-15. Secondly, the exceptionally high price of sugar had increased the spending power of the people, and thereby added to the vitality of the Colony's ordinary revenue."

Owing to the War, imports fell off. The percentage of imports from the principal "countries of origin" during the past two years were as under:—

	1915 Percent.	1914 Percent.
United Kingdom	35	38
Canada	15	13
United States	31	26

The net loss of revenue attributable to the operations of the Preferential Tariff during 1915 amounted to £263. This insignificant loss has, says Mr. Fell, caused no hardship on the consumer, and the preference system is believed to be of material value to the staple industry of the colony—sugar.

The values of the principal items of export were as under:—

	1915 £	1914 £
Bread and Crackers	6,648	6,600
Cotton-seed Meal	1,765	1,625
Raw Cotton	17,042	13,473
Hides and Skins	4,214	6,334
Lime, building	1,752	1,454
Oleomargarine	1,913	2,251
Vegetables, fresh	9,959	6,676
Sugar, Muscovado	159,512	94,688
Crystals	342,989	158,371
Molasses, whole	74,179	55,332
" fancy	204,904	306,076
" vacuum pan	8,526	1,158
Rum	2,780	444

In 1915, 1,780,147 gallons of molasses, 3,782,851 gallons of fancy molasses, 454,717 gallons of vacuum pan molasses, 19,878 tons of crystallised sugar, and 9,569 tons of muscovado sugar were exported.

The seedling sugar-cane B.6450, to which reference has been made in the last three annual reports, continues to give excellent results as compared with the White Transparent and other varieties that have been cultivated for some years. The Barbados Department of Agriculture reports that for the 1915 crop the average yield of this variety over large areas exceeded that of the White Transparent, the standard cane, on the average of both plants and ratoons in the black and red soil districts, by 8.7 tons of canes per acre, and in spite of the comparatively poor quality of the juice, due to the excessive rainfall during the reaping season, which prevented the canes from ripening properly, by over half a ton of dark crystal sugar per acre. Further, that the monetary gain to the planters, had the whole 30,000 acres been planted in this variety, would, at the average price at which sugar sold during the ten years previous to the outbreak of the War, have been not less than £160,000.

Other new varieties, notably Ba.6032 and B.H.10 (12), have during the period under review given excellent results, and plants are now being distributed to the estates for cultivation in considerable areas. Of the former, over 1,000 acres have been planted for the crop of 1917. During the crop of 1915 the experimental trials with the Ba.6032 on nine estates resulted, on the average, in an increase over B.6450 of 1,334 lbs. of saccharose per acre.

As regards cotton, the Barbados Department of Agriculture has endeavoured, during many years, to obtain, by selection and hybridisation, varieties having resistance to insect pests and fungoid diseases, and giving satisfactory yields of good quality lint. The cotton from the more promising plots were reported on by Mr. C. M. Wolstenholme, of the firm of Messrs Wolstenholme & Holland, cotton brokers, of Liverpool and Manchester, as being "bright staple, very fine, long, and strong," while the yield has been satisfactory. The Department is continuing its efforts in the above directions in order that, after the War is over and the price of sugar returns to its normal condition, there may be seed of high-grade cottons giving heavy yields of good quality lint ready for distribution.

A desire to take an active part in the military operations in Europe led to batches of recruits leaving Bar-

* For calendar years 1909-1915.

† To December 31st, 1916.

bados for enlistment in British regiments. A decision was subsequently arrived at to form these recruits into a West Indian Contingent, together with recruits from other West Indian Colonies, and to send them to Europe for active service. A Recruiting Committee was inaugurated in the colony, and, on the issues of the War being explained to the people, recruits were readily forthcoming. Selection was made from the best qualified men, but a large number of those who presented themselves for enlistment failed to reach the necessary standards. The House of Assembly has readily voted money for transport, outfit, separation allowances, and disability pensions.

Funds were also raised by private enterprise for the formation of a "Citizens' Contingent," the object of this movement being to send to England men who might be specially anxious to enlist directly into British regiments.

New Industries in St. Lucia

Based on the Administrator's reports on the Blue-books of St. Lucia, the following figures showing the exports and imports and revenue and expenditure of the colony for the past five years are given:—

	Revenue	Expenditure	Imports	Exports
1911-12	71,778	99,328	318,590	273,101
1912-13	66,292	67,824	315,361	287,716
1913-14	67,490	68,352	228,405	274,460
1914-15	57,795	68,352	306,152	241,422
1915-16	72,643	73,956	265,933	431,916

The prosperity of the agricultural industries in 1915-16 resulting from the prevailing high prices offset a further reduction in the coaling trade. The number of ships calling for coal showed a further decline, and only 90,939 tons were shipped, as against 117,532 tons in 1913. With regard to agriculture, it is noted that lime cultivation is making rapid progress, the value of the lime-juice exported during the year 1915 (£7,312) exceeding that for the previous year by £1,740. The value of the export (the only available indication of the production) of cacao in 1915 was £51,495, as compared with £38,846; the amount exported (10,347 bags) was more by 2,377 bags than the export in the preceding year. The value of sugar exported in 1915 was £89,466, as compared with £46,279 in 1914. A small quantity of cotton was again produced in the Choiseul district. The export figures were 3,200 lbs of lint, valued at £160, and 80 cwt. of seed, valued at £23. This is an industry which will not repay attention in this colony. The planting of coco-nuts is increasing. The quantity shipped was 67,206 nuts, valued at £204; and 137 cwt. of copra, valued at £121, also figures among the exports. The year was a better one for honey, the exportation being valued at £401, which is £131 more than in the previous year.

Considerable activity on the part of the Agricultural Department and better prices for produce brought about by the War have, says Mr. Gideon Murray, proved a great incentive to local agriculture. Throughout the colony increasing interest is being evinced, and more intelligent and more modern methods are gradually but surely being introduced. Fresh lands are being opened up, especially for lime cultivation, whilst the growth of ground provisions is being stimulated, every effort is being put forth to help both planters and peasants.

Mr. EDWARD DAWSON is expected to reach home, after his West Indian visit, next week.

We have to congratulate Mr. Edward Packard, of Ipswich, a former member of the Executive of the West India Committee, upon his golden wedding, which has just been celebrated.

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.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. JOHN F. SCULLY, of Dominica, brother-in-law of Sir Hesketh Bell, has arrived in England on a visit.

THE Aspinwall Hotel on Taboga—one of the Pearl Islands off Panama—is being used as a concentration camp for Germans interned on the Isthmus of Panama.

NURSE J. DEANE, daughter of Major F. G. W. Deane, R.A.M.C., of Barbados, having completed her training at Guy's Hospital, has joined the Army Nursing Staff for service abroad.

DR. W. P. CLARKE, who recently represented the Parish of St. Andrew in the House of Assembly of Barbados, has arrived in England to offer his services in connection with the war.

MR. H. D. SPOONER, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has just returned to London from Canada, after a visit to Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat, where he has interests.

MR. HERBERT GARRISON has now delivered his lecture on the Empire and the War no fewer than 300 times, to audiences aggregating 320,000. He is now showing some excellent slides of the British West Indies Regiment, supplied to him by the West Indian Contingent Committee.

FOLLOWING the retirement of Mr. G. W. Johnson, after thirty-six years service, there has been a redistribution of work at the Colonial Office. Mr. I. F. N. Green has been transferred to the Australian Department and has been succeeded as Principal Clerk of the West Indian Department by Mr. T. C. Macnaghten.

OUR esteemed and generally well-informed contemporary, the *Louisiana Planter*, in a recent article describing the "processes employed in the Guianas" for sugar-making, paints the muscovado process pure and simple. Much water has flowed down the Essequibo River since the process existed in British Guiana.

THE cacao industry in the Gold Coast continues to enjoy great prosperity, and the exports of last year which amounted to 160,749,120 lbs., valued at £3,840,567, seem likely to be exceeded. In the first two months of the present year 48,074,880 lbs. of cacao, valued at £934,018, were shipped from the Coast.

THE *Louisiana Planter* gives an interesting account of the sugar industry as practised in French Indo-China. There the system is opposite to that of the modern Central Factory. The grower grows his canes and instead of his taking them to the factory, the factory comes to him in the form of a small bullock mill of wood, with some iron boiling

pans and earthen pots carted round by the wandering miller.

* * *

MR. LLOYD GEORGE announced on May 17th, that it was proposed to call the Imperial War Cabinet every year. It is to consist of "the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and such of his colleagues as deal specially with Imperial affairs, of the Prime Minister of each of the Dominions or some specially accredited alternate possessed of equal authority; and of a representative of the Indian people to be appointed by the Government of India."

IN the reconstruction after the war there will be a great number of Public School and University men who will be anxious to make their careers in the colonies in preference to the various positions at home for which they were intended. Firms who may wish to employ this type of man might communicate with Messrs. Truman & Knightley, Ltd., 158-162, Oxford Street, W.1., who are always in touch with just the right sort of Public School boy and University man.

* * *

THE imports of raw cacao into Canada are still almost negligible when compared with the output of the British West Indies. For the year 1916 they amounted to 6,696,169 lbs. only, of which 3,332,069 lbs. were imported from the British Empire and 3,364,100 lbs. from foreign countries. Towards the total the British West Indies contributed 2,358,298 lbs., as against 771,984 lbs. only in 1912 the year before that in which cacao was made dutiable in the Dominion, and a preference was given to British beans.

* * *

THE Government has appointed a Civil Aerial Transport Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Northcliffe, to enquire into the question of aerial civil communications after the war. It will be remembered in this connection that Mr. Gideon Murray suggested some years ago that a solution of the mail question in the West Indies might lie in the use of aircraft. Lately this has been brought nearer realisation than the most sanguine among us could have anticipated. Mr. G. E. A. Grindle represents the Colonial Office and presumably also the West Indies on the Committee.

* * *

EMPIRE DAY was more generally observed in London than it ever has been before. The Union Jack was flown on all Government offices and many patriotic meetings were held. Foremost among these was one at the Overseas' Club in Aldwych, over which Lord Northcliffe presided. Mr. Walter Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Lord Meath, the founder of the Empire Day movement, were among those present, and the former took the opportunity of presenting to Sir David Henderson a cheque for the one hundredth aeroplane, provided as the result of the appeals made by the Club. This proved to be the gift of the Government of British Guiana, and it was stated that the machine would be known as British Guiana II.

NATURE NOTES.

WHILST the common trout only lays a maximum of 3,000 eggs per kilogramme (2.204 lbs.) of live weight, perch get as high as 218,000 eggs per kilo, while roach reach the giddy altitude of 370,000 per kilo; 1,000 trout eggs, however, weigh about $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz., while 1,000 perch and roach eggs only weigh $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.!

* * *

TO prevent the introduction of the pink boll-worm in imports of foreign cotton, the Federal Horticultural Board of the United States found fumigation with hydrocyanic acid quite effective, the larvæ being destroyed even in the centre of a compressed bale. Experiment has recently shown that this fumigation has no prejudicial effect upon the cotton.

* * *

McINDOO has been investigating the action of nicotine as an insecticide. Nicotine spray solutions, he says, do not pass into the tracheæ, nor do they penetrate the integuments of insects. But the fumes of nicotine used as a fumigant, the vapour from nicotine spray solutions, and the odoriferous particles from evaporated spray solutions or from powdered tobacco do pass into the tracheæ, and are widely distributed to all the tissues.

* * *

NO matter how it is applied, nicotine kills insects, or, indeed, any animals, by paralysis, which in insects travels along the ventral nerve-cord from the abdomen to the brain. Mr. McIndoo did not arrive at any conclusion as to how the nervous system is paralysed by the nicotine, but he decided that the latter prevents the nerve-cells performing their functions, and with the lower class of animals he noticed the same structural changes resulting in death as observed when such animals are deprived of oxygen.

* * *

EXPERIMENTS have lately been conducted by Messrs. P. L. Gile and J. O. Carrero on the question whether a plant can absorb a maximum amount of any one mineral element when supplied to only part of its roots, while the other essential elements are supplied to all the roots. Nitrogen was the element chosen for the experiments with rice and corn, and potash, phosphates and iron with rice.

* * *

THE results are published in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, of August 17th, show that, under the conditions, the plant does absorb a maximum amount of the particular food element, and the fewer the roots supplied with the element, the smaller the total amount absorbed. In other words, the roots of a plant have not the power of compensation in regard to any particular food element requiring to be absorbed.

* * *

CONTINUED attention is being given by scientists to the question of the rôle played by "Vitamins," the infinitesimal something in natural food which appears to be essential to satisfactory food assimilation. A recent number of the *Comptes Rendus* of

the Biological Society of Paris contains the results of experiments on feeding, which are of great importance. The experiments were conducted on animals, and the experimenters came to some interesting conclusions.

PROMINENT among these is that sterilisation in the case of meat or cereal grains removes some ferment which is essential to normal nutrition, especially that of the nervous system. Pigeons, fed exclusively on a diet of raw polished rice, showed symptoms of nerve degeneration, due to dietary deficiency. Sterilisation of the whole grain produced the same effect as the removal of the outer coat, and sterilisation of the grains after the removal of the outer coat hastened the appearance of the symptoms.

IN the annual report of the Governors of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Farm School at Newton Rigg, near Penrith, the results of experiments in the feeding of cows on palm kernel cake and cotton cake in conjunction with swedes, hay, and straw are given. These were in favour of the palm kernel cake; but it is expressly stated that the latter had to be damped with treacle solution or dusted with locust bean meal before the cows would eat it, which rather vitiated the experiments.

SUGAR has not hitherto been classed among manurial agents, plants being regarded as quite equal to obtaining all the carbohydrates they want from the constituents of the air. L. Knudson has, however, been experimenting on the effect of the addition of sugar to plants and has found that Indian corn could absorb through its roots glucose, sucrose and maltose, with resulting increased growth. Field peas and timothy responded markedly to manuring with these sugars, as did also vetches. Cabbages showed a delicate discrimination in favour of maltose.

GAILLARD, in a recent number of the *Comptes Rendus*, gives the result of experiments with the fermentation of cane sugars in a beet distillery. A "starter" was prepared from a solution of beet molasses to which sulphate of ammonia and phosphate of soda had been added. This starter was inoculated with yeast and when fermentation had started, a solution of cane sugar was added. 18.3 lbs. of cane sugar were required to produce one gallon of rectified alcohol. The cane sugar used was raw sugar of 96° polarisation.

EXPERIMENTS have been made in Denmark from time to time with the substitution of cacao-cake for earth-nut and soya as the food for cows. The general result, according to the *Monthly Bulletin*, has been that less milk is afforded. The cause of this is attributed by Professor Hansen to poisoning with theobromine, of which the cake used contained 1.5 per cent. Cases of poisoning had been recorded with cattle, fowls and pigs after the use of cacao-cake, and on account of these, Professor Hansen experimented with fowls, rabbits and mice, and came to the above conclusion as the result.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—The Tonnage Difficulty.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, APRIL 20th.—I regret to report the serious illness of Mr. Martin Coniacho, our second Puisne Judge, who has suffered amputation of the right leg following the stoppage of an artery. An able man and a good judge, the whole community sympathises with him and his wife and family. Mr. Godfrey Maginley, of Gilbert's Estate, has been married to Anne, daughter of Mr. John Maginley, of L'Anse's Estate.

We are faced with a serious problem as to the disposal of our crop owing to the shortage of tonnage. Every curing house is full of muscovado, and sugar has also to be stored in St. John's, which involves double handling and deterioration. The Canadian steamers fill up at the larger islands, as they know that the smaller ones are bound to wait. The threat of the authorities to put an embargo on nitrate of soda is another serious matter, as contracts have still to be fulfilled.

MR. COLLINS, son of Colonel Collins, has arrived to take up the post of Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture. Mr. Wildy has bought all—or nearly all—the cotton crop at flat prices on the spot. Growers are well satisfied, finding this arrangement better than waiting for sales in England.

BRITISH GUIANA—A Foodstuffs Committee.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, APRIL 21st.—The Government has appointed a Foodstuffs Advisory Committee, consisting of the Auditor-General (Chairman), Professor the Hon. J. B. Harrison, C.M.G.; Hon. A. P. Sherlock, Hon. P. N. Browne, Mr. C. F. Wieting, the Mayor of Georgetown, the Mayor of New Amsterdam, the Chief Commissary, the Comptroller of Customs, Mr. J. Coniacho, Mr. T. Snellicie (representing the Chamber of Commerce), and Mr. P. Cressall (representing the British Guiana Planters' Association). The Committee has recommended that an area of 5 per cent. on all land under sugar, cocoa-nuts, rubber, etc., etc., should be planted up with ground provisions, and the necessary legislation to enforce this put into effect. The Association has referred the matter to the various planters for their views. In the meantime it is considered the area already in rice on the estates should be taken into account and included in the 5 per cent.; this figure is considered too large, especially when dealing with the larger estates.

SIR WILFRED COLLET, our new Governor, arrived on April 15th, and was sworn in on the same day. He afterwards attended a special service at the Cathedral, and later on in the day met the Municipality at the Town Hall, when an address of welcome was presented to him. His first "At Home" was held yesterday, and was well attended.

The weather since has continued very dry, and rains are badly wanted. A conference of the British Guiana cane farmers had been held, and Mr. A. I. Laing gave it as his opinion that the future of the sugar industry of the Colony depended upon cane farming. A report on the subject from Mr. C. Shaukland, of the Local Government Board, was read, which brought out the fact that over 14 tons of canes were taken to the ton of sugar at the factories mentioned in the Report. The quantity of farmers' canes refined in the Colony in 1916 was 19,863 tons, as against 7,377 tons in 1911-12.

At the conclusion of the meeting of the Combined Court on April, 2nd, Mr. Clementi, the Acting-Governor, administered a strong rebuke to certain members of the Electric Section who "persistently impute bad faith to the Government generally and particularly to myself as officer administering the Government," which had a very disquieting effect upon the people of the colony.

The Acting-Government Secretary has stated in the Combined Court that the increase in the cost of foodstuffs due to the war was 53 per cent.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Freight Rates Bounding Up.

HON. G. E. GRABHAM, APRIL 18th.—You have, of course, already been advised of the transfer of the Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet, to British Guiana. He left us on

the 23rd March, having been in the colony some thirteen years, first as Colonial Secretary, and was appointed Governor on 13th May, 1913. The Hon. R. Walter, Colonial Secretary, has been appointed to officiate, an appointment we hope he may hold for some considerable time.

At present the colony is much engaged in military matters. Recently there has been a great recruiting rally, and a large number of men have come forward to strengthen the military forces of the colony for the period of the war, and very hard work is now being done to put them through the necessary training.

There has been a record spell of dry weather; no rain to speak of has fallen since November, and at present there is a great deal of anxiety as regards the water supply in Belize, nearly all the storage vats are dry, and unless rain falls very soon there is likely to be a water famine. The fine weather has been extremely favourable for the mahogany works, and I doubt if there has ever been a more favourable trucking season. A very serious fire occurred in a crowded part of the town last month which destroyed a large grocery store and several houses, the estimated damage being about \$27,000, of which unfortunately only about \$11,000 is covered by insurance, and, as usual in such cases, the loss falls on those who can least afford it. It was only through the efforts of the Fire Brigade and the splendid help given by the crew of the American gunboat *Whetling* that happened to be in harbour at the time that a greater part of the town was not destroyed. More fire engines and a proper water supply are badly needed, but, as is the case with nearly everything now, it will have to wait until after the war.

Cost of living is pressing very hardly on the poorer classes, and this is being further added to by the action of the United Fruit Co., who have recently seized the opportunity of increasing their freight rates about 500 per cent. We were hoping from the declared intentions made by the U.S. President that help would be given to the Allies, that we should get some relief from the excessive costs, but if this is an example of it, we should like to know where the help comes in. We are being treated in much the same way as regards cable service, and since declaration of war the United States seem to think it necessary to close all their wireless stations, and consequently we are getting no news from the outside world, and as our mails are now arriving two or three weeks late, you can realise there is a pretty strong feeling that some steps should be taken to place the colony in better communication with the United Kingdom, and we believe it only needs a slight strengthening up of the Jamaican Wireless Installation to give us this. We have tried getting cable communication through Mexico and New Orleans, but as the cables are either never delivered at all or else only get through in about a month or six weeks, it has been given up as hopeless.

DOMINICA—Green Lime Trade Menaced.

A correspondent writes, under date April 27th, that on the evening of March 30th there was a strike of the boatmen, who without warning refused to unload the cargo of a steamer in port unless they were paid an exorbitant wage. The agent of the Steamship Company offered to compromise by offering half the rise they asked for, but they held out, and the matter was serious, as the vessel had foodstuffs for the island. Captain Ruane, the Inspector of Police, came to the rescue, and got the recruits of the British West India Regiment to bring the cargo ashore. Both men and officers worked with a will, and accomplished their unusual task in good time, much to the praise and satisfaction of the well-intentioned members of the community. The next morning the Executive Council met to consider the question, with the result that the Administrator made and promulgated an "Additional Regulation under Martial Law" which renders any licensed boatman, porter, or jobber refusing to assist in the loading, unloading, etc., of any cargo from or to any vessel during the period of the war liable to imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than six months, and on conviction to forfeit his license. This prompt and proper action, which met with public commendation, put an end to the strike as suddenly as it began, and since then a number of steamers have been loaded and unloaded as of old.

On the 12th and 13th inst. a Fête was held at the grounds of the Recreation Club and at the contiguous Convent School premises, to raise a fund in aid of Queen Mary's Convalescent Home for maimed and crippled soldiers and sailors at Roehampton House. The Fête, which was organised by Mrs. Woolward, the wife of the Manager of the local branch of the Colonial Bank, was an unqualified success. A subsidiary fair was to be held on Empire Day.

Mr. Martin J. Comacho, the acting second Puisne Judge, left here in ill-health for Antigua a few weeks ago, and his many friends have learnt with deep regret that a clot in one of the vessels of his left leg has necessitated amputation of the limb. From recent news he appears to be doing well, and everyone in Dominica hopes for his complete recovery.

Mr. T. A. V. Best, the Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands, arrived in the island on the 17th inst. on an official visit, and he was received by the Administrator, Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, heads of Departments, and some of the leading residents. There was a guard of honour of the Dominica Defence Force and the Dominica Division of the Leeward Islands Police. His Excellency has been travelling about the country districts, and he is staying at Emsall, which has been placed at his disposal by Mr. L. Rose. A suitable residence in Roseau for the Governor on his official visits is very much required. Either the Administrator and his family have to turn out of the small Government House so that the Governor can occupy it, or the Governor has to go to the Government House at Morne Bruce, which is a ramshackle old building at an inconvenient distance from Roseau. After the war is ended, and the public revenue again becomes in excess of liberal expenditure, the question of suitable residences for the Governor and the Administrator should be dealt with.

On April 6th the Governor of the Leeward Islands on behalf of the Colony sent a cordial greeting and sincere good wishes to the Governor of the Virgin Islands of the U.S., which was replied to on April 10th by the new American W.I. Governor, who "highly appreciated the message." Since then the postage from the American Virgin Islands to the English Colonies has been reduced from 2½d. to 1d., but no alteration has yet been made in the return postage.

News reached Dominica that the Home Government had requisitioned one of the three steamers of the Quebec S.S. Company on the New York-West Indian route, and there was some consternation, as the green line trade depends entirely on these steamers for transportation of the fruit to New York, and a very considerable amount of the imported food is brought by them. The merchants at once communicated with the Governor, who had already called to the Secretary of State, as representations had been made to His Excellency by Antigua and St. Kitts, and the result is anxiously awaited. To take off one of these steamers on which Dominica so largely depends for food and prosperity, will be a very serious blow, and it is hoped that when this fact is known in England the order to commandeer the vessel will be withdrawn.

Much of the lime fruit shipped from the island is bought and put up by storekeepers, "speculators," and others; and there has been a good deal of complaint that the fruit so exported is bad, immature, and carelessly packed. The result is that the important lime fruit industry is in danger of being very considerably curtailed; for, unless something be done to check the exportation of barrels of inferior fruit, the American fruit dealers will buy only the limes grown and packed on plantations of reputation. The Administrator addressed a communication on the subject to the new Chamber of Commerce, which body made certain recommendations for the consideration of the Government. It is to be hoped that something will be done to prevent the shipment of fruit that is bringing down the high reputation of the Dominica lime, and that should never be allowed to leave the island.

JAMAICA—A Central for St. Catherine.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—Mr. Otto Crowden, J.P., has volunteered for war service, and will shortly proceed overseas. His Honour Mr. A. C. Robinson, Com-

missioner of Cayman Islands, who has been spending some time in Jamaica, has returned to resume his duties. The death took place on March 2nd, after a paralytic stroke, of the Rev. Canon Harty, a prominent figure in local Anglican circles. Hon. J. V. Calder has resigned his seat as a member of the Legislative and Privy Councils, and Mr. C. C. Anderson has been appointed in his place. Dr. Scott, at the request of the Government, has relinquished his commission with the R.A.M.C., and returned to take up his work as Government Bacteriologist, Dr. Catto, the Assistant Bacteriologist, having resigned. Mr. J. A. G. Smith has been elected for the seat as representative in the Legislative Council of the Parish of Clarendon, vacated by Mr. H. T. Ronaldson. Mr. S. C. Burke, Supernumerary Magistrate, having joined the Contingent, Mr. H. C. Robinson is now filling his duties.

The annual general meeting of the West India Electric Co. was held in Montreal on the 14th, and an encouraging report for the past year presented. It is stated that Messrs. Grace and Co. have taken over control of the Jamaica Shipping Co. (a recently formed concern), and are building a large vessel for trade in these waters. It is also stated that the United Fruit Co. have under construction, in American yards several new vessels for the Caribbean trade.

The business of Messrs. Grace & Company has now been converted into a limited liability company, under the caption of Grace, Ltd. This firm, who have for some time been considering the erection of a large Central Sugar Factory in St. Catherine, will shortly issue a notice stating upon what terms they are prepared to do so, and it is likely that their plans will mature.

A shipment of bananas was made from Montego Bay this month, but unless opportunities, of which there are at present no indication, are offering, there will be a repetition of last year's glut of fruit. At the 20th annual general meeting of the *Gleaner* Co., a dividend of 5 per cent. for the six months ended December 31st was declared.

The main business of the session of the Legislature now proceeding is to pass the estimates for the new financial year and to consider the question of compulsory military service and registration for the period of the war. A plan for the erection by the Government of one or more Central Sugar Factories will also be considered.

The original proposal made by Mr. Cox to ask permission to introduce a compulsory military service Bill was not adopted, but at Mr. Simpson's suggestion, H.E. the Governor was asked to introduce a bill providing that every male British subject, ordinarily resident in Jamaica, and between the ages of 18 and 41, be liable for military service during the period of the war. Mr. Simpson's resolution was carried unanimously, and a Committee was subsequently appointed to frame the Bill, which passed its second reading on March 29th. The Bill as it stands also provides for the registration of every male between the ages of 16 and 41 years. So far the only opponents of the measure have been Messrs. Esson, Smith, Fleming, and Evans. For various reasons, but more especially on account of the prohibition of certain imports into the United Kingdom, among which are several of our staple products, various extra taxation which would otherwise have been remitted at this session has been reimposed, but exactly how these taxes are to be distributed has not yet been determined upon. The active War Funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Red Cross Fund	8,012	8	2
Blue Cross Fund	280	19	10
Suffering Jews in Poland	2,601	3	10

The Archbishop Nuttall Memorial Fund has now reached £995 ss. 8d.

TURKS ISLANDS—The Caicos Cotton Industry.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—On March 30th Mrs. E. R. Spencer died of paralysis, at the age of 73. She belonged to one of the oldest families of the Dependency, and had resided at Grand Turk from childhood.

The salt industry has been active, nearly all the proprietors have been raking this season's crop, and from reports to hand they will find a ready sale at an improv-

ing price, fishery or ground salt being in greater demand than in previous seasons. With the increased number of freight boats of the Clyde Line, which call at Grand Turk for labourers, there has been no excuse for any of the labouring class not being employed. A shipment of 219 bales of fibre has been made to the United States during the month, and a consignment of 25 barrels of conch shells.

Over 11,000 lbs. of raw cotton have been received from growers in the Caicos Islands during February and March. The industry has now passed the experimental stage, so far as the people of the Caicos group are concerned. They are satisfied that a good quality will grow in the Caicos Islands, and are convinced that the Government means to deal fair with them, and are now extending the cultivation rapidly, and in a year or two it is hoped that cotton will take a prominent place among the exports of the Dependency.

A new shipping pier is to be built at Grand Turk as soon as weather and tides permit. The pier is to be 80 feet long and 12 feet wide, built on piles of reinforced concrete. By the erection of this pier one of the most miserable and primitive systems of loading salt into the lighters will be done away with. The labourer will no longer have to work all day in water at times up to his knees and at others to his shoulders, carrying the salt on his head. It is to be hoped that this is only one of the primitive methods of handling the staple of the Dependency that is doomed, and that in the near future things may be worked on more live and up-to-date methods, which cannot help but decrease the cost of handling.

MARRIAGES.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Bryden—Chandler.—Married on April 12th, at St. Michael's Cathedral, Barbados, Myra Margaret Lubbock Chandler, fourth daughter of Sir William Kethuan Chandler, Kt., C.M.G., M.A., LL.D., to Arthur Spencer Bryden, eldest son of Mr. A. S. Bryden, Barbados.

Nourse—Tomkins.—On the 19th May, at Christ Church, Sutton, Surrey, by the Rev. Courtney Gale, Vicar of the Parish, Captain Leonard Francis Nourse, Royal Marines, second son of Colonel A. H. and Mrs. Nourse, of 32, Wilbury Gardens, Hove, Sussex, to Margaret Emily, daughter of Jocelyn W. Tomkins, of Gloucester House, Sutton, Surrey.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1916, show a profit of £737,972, as compared with £803,312 for 1915. After making provision for depreciation and all taxation and transferring £200,000 to the Reserve Fund, and £25,000 to the Superannuation Fund, the Court recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the Preference Stock, and a dividend of 5 per cent., less Income Tax, on the Ordinary Stock, making 7 per cent. for the year (as compared with 6 per cent. for 1915), and leaving a balance of £52,502 to be carried forward. The expenses of working the steamers have been further increased, and there has again been serious delay at the ports, causing extra expenditure. Considering the circumstances, the court of directors feel that the results may be regarded as satisfactory. A large proportion of the company's fleet continues under charter to the Admiralty, and practically the whole of the remainder of the tonnage has recently been requisitioned by the Shipping Controller. The business, for the time being, is thus passing under the control of the State, but the Court gladly continues to afford all possible assistance to His Majesty's Government.

West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

Presiding at the eightieth ordinary general meeting on May 6th, Sir Alexander Freeman King said that the

The consumption figures are as follows, in metric tons :

	1914	1915	1916
U.S.A.	71,550	85,590	97,414
Canada	3,181	2,689	4,579
Great Britain	29,053	47,267	38,798
France	26,015	35,269	37,172
Italy	2,275	6,154	6,744
Spain	6,910	6,721	7,504
Holland	32,091	20,955	20,019
Switzerland	10,073	17,249	16,000
Sweden	1,779	2,670	2,500
Denmark	1,967	2,950	2,800
Norway	1,443	1,761	1,200
Russia	4,247	5,634	4,200
Belgium	3,865	88	—
Germany	50,000	45,000	15,000
Austria	6,000	3,000	500
Other Countries	5,400	5,700	6,000
Total	255,900	288,900	260,400

It will be seen from the above that, as regards production, the increase from British Colonies in the last few years has been considerable. This increase, however, is practically entirely due to the outputs of the Gold Coast, Lagos, and Trinidad. Of the other producing sources, Ecuador, Brazil and San Domingo and Surinam show the greatest tendency to increase. It will, however, be noticed that the percentage of increase is greater in British countries than in those of the outside world.

In respect to consumption, increase is mainly noticeable in the Allied countries; but on the whole the consumption at the present time is considerably less than the production.

No less than 25 per cent. of the Cacao produced comes from the Gold Coast, and here Messrs. Vasmer and Co. point out that the quality of the Cacao from that source is considerably below that of St. Thome Cacao. This they attribute to the soil and climate on the Gold Coast being different from that of St. Thome, from which the seeds of the Gold Coast Cacao originally came. Probably a contributory cause is the neglect of the older trees by the natives, which has had the effect of giving rise to considerable disease in them. The Gold Coast Government are, however, doing what they can to combat the evil. The great increase in the Brazil output is attributed to the unremunerativeness of rubber in that country.

Stocks in London on May 19th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	27,733	22,222	5,225 bags.
Grenada	22,891	13,112	5,141 "
Total of all kinds	273,163	181,145	59,973 "

RUM is firmer. Jamaica, new, 5/2 to 5/8 for coloured, with 5/3 to 5/8 for white. Jamaican of two years and upwards is worth 6/6 to 8/6 per gallon. Demerara is dearer at 4/2 to 4/3 per proof gallon.

Pending a further Order-in-Council as to the liberation of rum of less than three years of age, the Customs have decided to allow rum 18 months old to be taken out of bond—that is to say, rum of 15 months age after landing.

Stocks in London on May 19th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,856	4,371	4,474 puns.
Demerara	8,838	11,831	8,292 "
Total of all kinds	31,405	28,460	19,407 "

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that West Indian cotton continues to be inquired for, and is eagerly purchased at full quotation prices. The quantity of British West Indian cotton imported for the present year up to May 24th was 1,879 bales.

COFFEE. The market is quiet. A small quantity of Jamaica sold at 88/- for bold colour, 71/6 to 73/6 for medium sized. A considerable shipment of Jamaica has been detained by the Customs until the question of its date of shipment in relation to the Prohibition of Imports Order has been settled.

COPRA. The market continues steady on the basis of maximum prices. We quote fine West Indian

£45 15s. to £46, c.i.f., delivered weight, nett cash instead of 2½ per cent. discount as usual previously.

ARROWROOT. Steady, with fair business. Quotations, which are nominal, are from 5d. to 6½d. per lb.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice. Raw no change. Concentrated unchanged. No business done since last Summary. Lime Oil. Hand-pressed firm, with small business done at 16/-. Distilled neglected. No further shipments to be advised at present.

SPICES. Ginger Demand slow, and only a small business done at steady rates. Fair common, small, may be quoted 90/- to 92/6; good to fine bold, 110/-. Pimento: No improvement in rates, and no demand owing to difficulty in obtaining import licences. Value for fair, 4d. Nutmegs are quoted at 10½d. to 1/-, 110's to 68's. The value of Mace is 1/6 to 2/3 for red to good pale.

RUBBER. Market very quiet for Plantation kinds. Crepe is valued at 3/-; Smoked Sheet, 3/0; Fine Hard Para is firm at 3/2.

BALATA. The market is unchanged since our last, with possible buyers of Venezuela Block at 3/2, c.i.f. Panama Block is valued nominally at 3/0½. West Indian Sheet is firm at 4/-, landed terms. Forward values, 3/9 to 3/10, nominal.

FRUIT. Bananas, £35 per ton, f.o.r. (truck loads). Coco-nuts, 32/- per bag (100's).

HONEY. At auction, out of 1,500 packages offered, only one-third sold; fair to fine set Jamaica, 85/- to 105/-; liquid dark, 87/6; and old, off colour, 75/- to 80/-.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. John T. Meic
Mr. E. C. B. Bonnyun	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Miss Moseley
Prof. F. Carmody, F.L.C., F.C.S.	Mrs. E. Haynes	Dr. Frank Oliphant
Mr. H. S. Cox	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. Paul Cressall	Hon. E. C. Jackman	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Hon. E. Laborde	Mr. D. G. Pile
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Mr. E. K. Lane	Mr. C. M. Rolston, M.D., C.M.
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Mr. A. Marsden	Capt. J. B. Saunders
Mr. M. A. French, J.P.	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. M. J. Taurel and
Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. Albert Mendes	Mr. F. H. S. Warneford
	Mr. Alfred Mendes	
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.		
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W.		

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present *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.3. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, JUNE 14th, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

June 14th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT.

A NOTABLE expansion in the work that is being done by the West Indian Contingent Committee is shown by the report and accounts for the half-year ended December 31st last, which were adopted at a meeting held at the West Indian Club on June 5th. Formed with the primary object of providing for the welfare of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, the Committee is now equally concerned and busily occupied in looking after the many men who have come over independently, or as members of private contingents, to serve their King and Empire. The difficulty of getting into touch with such individuals is gradually being overcome as the aims and objects of the Committee become better known in the West Indies and here, and the daily letter bag and the number of visitors to the Committee Rooms afford ample evidence of the extent of the work that is being accomplished. The Commanding Officers of the British West Indies Regiment, which is now distributed over practically all the seats of war, are

periodically invited to state the requirements of their respective battalions, and these have been invariably met by the Committee, whether the demand has been for games, musical instruments, or creature comforts. In England, with the thermometer standing well over 80° Fahrenheit, it is not so easy to think of Christmas as it may be in the West Indies, with their equable climate; but it is wise to take time by the forelock, and we would like already to commend to the notice of our friends overseas the desirability of making their gifts for the next "festive season" as general and as early as possible. Apart from the difficulty of tracing individual units which may be moved to another destination whilst their gifts are in transit, it has been found that many heartburnings are saved where presents are distributed generally throughout battalions instead of among groups of men in those battalions. Such, at any rate, we understand to be the experience of the Commanding Officers. It will be noted from an extract from a letter from COLONEL WOOD-HILL, published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR, that in the case of certain gifts sent out to the Grenada men in his battalion last winter, the Grenadians very willingly acquiesced in a suggestion that all their comrades should participate in the distribution. We would further urge our friends in the West Indies to acquaint the Committee with their wishes as regards the despatch of Christmas gifts as early as possible, and in no circumstances later than to reach England before the end of October, and even sooner in the case of units very far afield; and we would remind them that experience has shown that by far the most satisfactory arrangement is for the various organisations in the West Indies to entrust the Committee with the money for the purchase of gifts, thereby saving valuable freight space and labour. To revert to the report of the Contingent Committee, it may be mentioned that the central body and the Ladies' Committee—which, under the chairmanship of LADY DAVSON, and with the indefatigable MISS MOSELEY as Hon. Secretary, continues to do excellent work—are now practically amalgamated, the headquarters of the latter having been transferred to 15, Seething Lane. Subscriptions continue to be received towards the Contingent Fund, the total of which, including sums earmarked for special purposes, now stands at £8,300. Of this, £6,050 has been expended; but provided that the forthcoming West Indian Flag Day proves as successful as we hope it may do, there should be no need for a further general appeal for some time to come. Still, it is

certain that good use can be made of all the money subscribed, and in this connection it must be borne in mind that when the happy day comes on which our warriors can revert to "civvies," as mufti is now called, the cost of suitably fitting out our friends for their homeward journey will have to be met, the Government grant being generally inadequate for that purpose. Board and lodging, too, will have to be provided for many men between the dates of their discharge and repatriation. Elsewhere we give some particulars of the arrangements made with regard to the Flag Day, which will be observed in all the islands without exception, from the Bahamas to Trinidad, and in British Guiana, and we are glad to notice that it is proposed to invite the local Committees who are organising the "Day" to act as representatives of the West Indian Contingent Committee in the West Indies.

THE VALUE OF MUTUAL CONTROL.

THE letter from MR. ROBERT CATTON, which we publish elsewhere, on the subject of mutual scientific control of West Indian sugar factories emphasizes what we have already stated in these columns as to the advantage to be derived from collaboration in respect of records of manufacturing results. The West Indian crop is now practically over, and we trust that before another commences some steps will have been taken towards initiating a system which is recognised in modern sugar work as being of the greatest value in the direction of improvement of manufacture. Our correspondent points out that we were in error in stating that such a system was on the point of being adopted by the Hawaiian planters. It has, it seems, been in operation some years, although the circulation of the records of the manufacturing results, unlike those of Java and Mauritius, has been strictly confidential. This fact, however, gives additional emphasis to what we have said on the subject. There is, however, one weak point in the Hawaiian system, and that is its confidential character. If advantage accrues to the Hawaiian planters as the result of the dissemination among them of certified manufacturing records, how much greater would be the advantage from a systematic knowledge of the results obtained elsewhere in the cane sugar-producing world! In other words, a mutual scientific control system should be international and not local. The secrecy observed as to their results is a bad feature of the Hawaiian system. It suggests that the Hawaiian planters either think that they have nothing to learn from the working of other sugar-making countries, or else prefer to trust to the magnanimity of others for a knowledge of what is going on elsewhere, while they keep their results to themselves. In other words, the Hawaiian planters, as a body, are doing exactly what the West Indian proprietors have been doing individually. It is not a question of divulging processes, but of comparing results, and if advantage is derived, which undoubtedly is the case, by individuals of a particular branch of the industry, from a mutual comparison of manufacturing results, surely

the comparison of the results of the world's sugar-makers would be of benefit to the interests of a particular country or countries. In the meantime we may say that, so far as the West Indies are concerned, the Executive of the West India Committee have decided to ask the sugar proprietors to supply them with their crop control figures with a view of their being tabulated, and are thus taking a distinct step towards the establishment of a definite system.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Fifteen New Members elected.

The following were elected members of the West India Committee at a meeting held on Thursday, June 14th, Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman, presiding:—

Name.	Proposer and Seconder.
Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G.	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Rev. H. H. Morton (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Edgar Tripp. { Mr. J. J. McLeod.
Mr. N. Macleod Balden (British Guiana)	{ Mr. Edward R. Davson. { Major Ivan B. Davson.
Mr. Cecil Farrar (British Guiana)	{ Mr. Edward R. Davson. { Major Ivan B. Davson.
Hon. E. C. Fraser, C.M.G. (Mauritius)	{ Sir Hesketh Bell, K.C.M.G. { Hon. A. Grannum, C.M.G.
Mr. W. Briggs Clarke, M.B., C.M. (Barbados)	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Sir William Trollope, Bt.
Mr. Julian M. Iles (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Edgar Mortimer Duke. { Miss Moseley.
Mr. H. P. Sewell (Jamaica)	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Northside Sugar Plan- ters' Assn. (Jamaica)	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Miss Carrington	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. F. Windridge	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. Edward R. Davson.
Mr. George Parrott	{ Mr. G. M. Frame. { Mr. Harold Carey.
Mrs. Molineux- Montgomery	{ Rt. Hon. The Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O. { Sir W. H. Trollope, Bart.
Mr. Ernest B. Jago (Trinidad)	{ Mr. F. H. Hammond. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. A. Lewis Iuniss (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Edgar Tripp. { Mr. H. W. Braithwaite.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,572.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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. 3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the West Indian Club on Tuesday, June 5th, to consider a Draft Report and audited Accounts for the six months ended December 31st last.

Sir Everard in Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chairman, presided, and those members also present were:—Col. Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B.; Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G.; Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G.; Mr. A. Elder, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Hon. Secretary).

In moving the Report and Accounts, the Chairman stated that the former, though necessarily formal, represented much steady, hard work on the part of the Staff and Ladies' Committee, which he believed was not only appreciated by the Officers and men from the West Indies, but also by their relations and friends. All now realised that the War had of necessity to be carried on under a veil of secrecy, and this unobtrusiveness of the machinery of the Great War prevailed also in the hard work of the Committee. When the time came for a report of the complete work to be presented it would, if he were not very much mistaken, prove to have been a valuable factor in alleviating the strain and hardship inalienable from the lot of those who had come from the West Indies to join in the fight for the Empire. There might be some who were a little impatient that greater publicity had not been given to the valuable work performed by the British West Indies Regiment; but it must be remembered that of all units in the now innumerable Forces of the Allies, it was only given to a few to have the good fortune of doing some great and brilliant thing which was made conspicuous by mention. If it had not yet been the fortune of the West Indian soldiers to achieve such fame, this was, it might be assumed, only because they had not had the opportunity. Meanwhile they had quietly and steadily done their duty, and were doing it so well that those in authority had said that the more West Indians like those already at the Front who came over, the better it would be. Sir Everard then proceeded to give the numbers of the Contingent and details as to casualties, etc. He then dealt with the work which the Committee was doing for the large numbers of men who had come over more or less independently to enlist in various British regiments, mentioning in this connection the Barbados Citizens' Contingents and the Trinidad Merchants' Contingents, with the members of which they were now in close touch. In conclusion, he moved that the Report and Accounts be adopted and circulated among the subscribers to the Contingent Fund.

The Resolution having been seconded by Mr. R. Rutherford and carried unanimously, a vote of thanks was passed to Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. for acting as Hon. Auditors to the West Indian Contingent Committee. Some arrangements as to the West Indian Flag Day having been given, the Chairman moved that the Local Committees ap-

pointed to make the arrangements in this connection be invited to act as Committees of the West Indian Contingent Committee in the West Indies. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and the General Purposes Committee having been moved by Mr. Goode and carried unanimously, the proceedings were then brought to a close.

The Committee's Half-Yearly Report.

The full report of the Committee is given below :

The Committee begs to submit to subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund the Audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the six months ended December 31st, 1916.

During the period under review further donations to the amount of £697 16s. 8d. were received, bringing the total of the Fund to £5,006 6s. An additional sum of £645 14s. 7d. was received for expenditure in accordance with the specific directions of the donors, bringing the total amount thus earmarked to £1,620 8s. 1d. On December 31st the balance to the credit of the Contingent Fund was £3,433 7s. 7d., apart from sums received for special purposes.

On October 16th the West Indian Contingent Committee was duly registered by the Common Council of the City of London under the provisions of Section 1 of the War Charities Act, 1916.

Since the last report was issued the work of the Committee has greatly increased, and has been extended in several directions. The Committee has received great assistance from the Ladies' Committee, whose Hon. Secretary, Miss Moseley, has been indefatigable. Through the work parties and individual effort, and with the help of the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations and the Jamaica Contingents Fund, the Committee has been able to distribute many hundreds of anti-verminous garments, socks, mufflers, etc., which have been in constant demand.

Games, musical instruments, and comforts were provided for each of the new battalions of the British West Indies Regiment as it was raised, and cigarettes, socks, mufflers, etc., were sent to individual men in the field and in hospital when needed.

The King was graciously pleased to accept a specimen of the cap badge which was presented by the Committee to the Regiment. It had been the intention of the Committee to present a specially designed box of chocolates bearing the regimental badge to each officer, non-commissioned officer and man of the Regiment. But whilst the boxes sent to France safely reached their destination, those despatched to Egypt failed to do so, since they were in a vessel which was mined. These chocolate boxes were, however, salvaged, and it is hoped that they will eventually reach the battalions for which they were intended.

The Committee was successful in getting into touch with many of the men who came over independently or with the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents. Besides assisting these men with advice where needed, it has been the policy of the Committee to provide them with board and lodging at the Peel House Club, the

Victoria League Overseas Club, the Union Jack Club, or the Y.M.C.A. when on furlough or after discharge from hospital.

The Committee was authorised to act, and has since been acting, as a Central Authority for the control and distribution of dutiable gifts to men from the British West Indies serving in British regiments stationed in this country. Full directions as to the despatch of gifts to officers and men overseas were circulated in the West Indies, and at Christmas the Committee arranged for the purchase of gifts on behalf of representative bodies in several of the Colonies.

The Committee desires to record its thanks to the West India Committee for continuing to place its organisation and offices at its disposal, and to Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. for having kindly consented to act as Hon. Auditors to the West Indian Contingent Fund.

EVERARD IM THURN, *Chairman.*

FREDERIC M. HODGSON, *Deputy-Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Hon. Secretary.*

The West India Committee Rooms,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C. 3.

June 5th, 1917.

The accounts for the six months, which have been signed by the Hon. Treasurers, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., and Mr. R. Rutherford, show that during the six months further donations to the extent of £697 16s. 8d. were received, together with £645 14s. 7d. earmarked for special purposes. The total outgoings amounted to £1,548 13s. 8d. The balance carried forward is £3,433 7s. 7d.

THE WEST INDIAN FLAG DAY.

Many Thousands of Flags Shipped.

All the flags for sale overseas on our West Indian Flag Day, which is to be held on behalf of the



A SILK B.W.I. FLAG.

West Indian Contingent Fund, have now been despatched. Some should by now have already reached their destination, while the remainder will, it is hoped, soon be out of the danger zone. The flags,

one of which is reproduced—though not in colours—on this page, consist of small silken Union Jacks charged with the arms of the British West Indies Regiment. These are for sale at the minimum price of 3d. each (gold and notes will not be refused), while for purchasers with more slender purses, cardboard badges of the Regiment will be offered for sale at 1d. each—this always providing the 132 and odd cases containing them have eluded the vigilance of enemy submarines.

It will hardly be credited by those who have not visited the West India Committee Rooms in the last few weeks how large the flags, collecting-boxes, etc., bulk; but it is a fact that for some days the spacious offices were almost blocked up with the packages containing them.

Committees have, as already stated, been formed in all the islands and in British Guiana to make the local arrangements, and everything points to the West Indian Flag Day—or days, if it is not found possible to hold them simultaneously—being a complete success.

For those at home—and we use the word in its accepted sense—a goodly supply of flags has been reserved, for it has occurred to the organisers that many folk connected with the West Indies will like to purchase flags as souvenirs. The Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee (15, Seething Lane, E.C.) would be glad to hear from any member willing to help in disposing of these flags among their friends!

THE FUTURE OF THE WEST INDIES.

By ANDREW T. DRUMMOND, LL.D.

We are indebted to Dr. A. T. Drummond, of Toronto, for the following article on "The Federal Union of the British West Indies and Commercial Union with Canada," which first appeared in the "Queen's Quarterly."

Whilst the term British West Indies is, perhaps, with many people, associated only with the numerous islands belonging to Great Britain and surrounding the Caribbean Sea, yet, so considerable is the identity of interest between these islands and the neighbouring mainland Crown Colonies of British Guiana and British Honduras in climatic conditions, products of the soil, trade outlook, character of the people, and system of government, that in considering questions affecting their political and commercial future, it is the more fitting course to comprehend them all under the one term of British West Indies. Any proposals of advantage to some of them would, in a relative measure, be equally advantageous to the others, whether these proposals involved constitutional changes, were productive of increased internal development, or would result in extensions of trade. Excepting those of the Bahama Islands, which are opposite Florida, all of these colonies are within the tropics, and whilst the physical conditions existing on some islands lead to more cultivation of certain products than on others, practically all American tropical plants of commercial interest can, under modern scientific methods, be successfully grown almost everywhere throughout the British West Indies.

A Guiding Hand Needed.

What strikes the attention of the ordinary observer are the enormous agricultural possibilities of these colonies, requiring only capital, abundant suitable labour, and a larger guiding hand of Anglo-Saxons, to result in such abundant returns as to make the Empire almost independent of foreign countries in all the numerous American tropical fruits, and furnish a great source of supply for such important products as sugar, coffee, rice, cocoa, oil-producing nuts, hemp, rubber, cotton, and various tropical structural, cabinet, and dye woods, whilst there is, on the savannahs of British Guiana, and in, it is claimed, British Honduras, an important future for cattle. At present, only about one per cent. of the 99,600 square miles of territory which these two mainland colonies include, is under cultivation, whilst, on nearly all of the islands, the respective Governments have large areas of land available for disposal. In the old days of slavery, there was great prosperity among the planters, but, on its abolition, difficulties began, immediately, with labour. Even wages did not induce—and, too often, do not now—the free negro to overburden himself with continuous work, and this resulted, particularly in British Guiana and Trinidad, in coolie labour being introduced from India under circumstances somewhat trying at first. Following on this was the inability of the planters to compete with the sugar produced in slave-owning countries, and, later on, with the bounty-fed beet sugar of Continental Europe, and, in both cases, the refusal, for so many years, of the British Government, wedded to Free Trade, to adopt countervailing duties in Great Britain, which would have prevented the ruin of large numbers of planters and the virtual abandonment on some of the islands of sugar production, and would have averted what was almost the bankruptcy of the British West Indies. Added to these troubles, the climate, until recent years, has not had an enviable reputation among the people of temperate climes; but now, with the enforced sanitary regulations, proper care of the person, and the war on the mosquito breeding places, the climate has altogether lost the more serious objections raised to it. The richness of the soil on both the islands and the mainland; the semi-tropical and tropical heat, counterbalanced nearly always by an abundant rainfall; and the ample opportunities afforded to the planter for insular and for mainland situations, for alluvial flats, hilly outlooks, or broad savannahs, all present a diversity of conditions conducive to great luxuriance of growth, and to a great variety of important products in common use being cultivated on a commercial scale.

The Mineral Resources of Guiana.

Whilst agriculture will always be the leading feature of the islands, there are in British Guiana valuable mineral resources, including gold, and some iron, mercury, antimony, plumbago, and even diamonds, all of which are known in general terms, and await more definite prospecting, and the necessary capital for development; whilst in British Honduras the belief is prevalent that ex-

ploration in its back country will result in finding important minerals. In these two mainland colonies there are also dense forests with many woods valuable for engineering, agricultural, and cabinet purposes, and splendid waterfalls which are easily rendered available as power in working up these woods into marketable products, and in operating railways and the various mills and factories which are now or can be constructed for crushing the cane, separating the rice, extracting the oil from the cocoa and cohune nuts, and other manufacturing purposes, as well as in electric lighting, and in facilitating the drainage, ploughing and other operations on the large plantations, the acreage of some of which runs into the thousands.

The differing attitudes maintained by some of these colonies towards questions of preferential duties and of markets for West Indies products, arise, in part, from their imports being limited so largely to food-stuffs and articles for domestic use or personal wear, and, in part, to the fact that whilst sugar continues to be the larger output of the West Indies, each colony now specialises in certain products which have been found by experience more permanently profitable, or more suited to its particular conditions of soil, moisture, or elevation above the sea. Thus, whilst British Guiana exports sugar, rum, rice, and balata, Jamaica depends more on bananas, coffee, logwood and cocoa, Trinidad chiefly on sugar and cocoa, Dominica on limes, and the Bahamas on sisal hemp and sponges. The United States, by its proximity to the West Indies, and through being a very large consumer of tropical products, has always offered a favourable market, of which Jamaica, Trinidad, British Honduras, and the Bahamas have especially taken advantage, and this has naturally led to correspondingly large importations, in return, from there, and to the development of frequent and quick steamship services between the West Indies and New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. These facts have an important bearing on the possibilities of enlarged trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies.

Scattered Colonies must be Grouped.

Under the conditions brought about by the War, it has become suggestively important, whenever the situation is favourable, to have the scattered colonies and dependencies of Great Britain politically grouped for the purpose of increased financial strength, mutual help and defence, and internal development. The cable, wireless telegraphy, and quick transportation by land and by water have greatly facilitated this. Thus, the British West Indies, to which might, probably, be added Bermuda, impress us as being a conveniently situated group of fifteen Colonies which should, in their own best interests, as well as those of the Empire, be politically united under one Government. The subject is here discussed with a knowledge of the obstacles which Royal Commissions on the West Indian situation in past years have found in the way of a federal union, but under the belief that with the throwing open freely of the rapidly enlarging Canadian markets to British West Indian

raw products, the groundlessness of the fear entertained in Jamaica and other islands that the United States might retaliate were much reciprocal freedom given, and the new spirit of optimism with which we, since the War began, have approached all Imperial problems, such obstacles will largely, perhaps entirely, disappear. Under these more promising convictions, the suggestions now made have been placed before both the Imperial and the Canadian Governments.

The Advantages of Federal Union.

Federal union of these colonies can be viewed from the standpoints of concentration of authority, external trade, internal development, and, to some extent, strategical importance to the Navy, but these standpoints are somewhat interdependent. With their affairs at present administered by fifteen Governors, Administrators, and Commissioners, and two to three score of high officials appointed to the Executive and Legislative Councils, a federal union, whilst probably leading to some economy of administration, would result in a concentration of authority, and an ease of control and of internal co-operation, which do not now exist; would better attract intellect, population, and capital for the development of its resources; would have a much higher status and much better opportunity than the individual colonies have now in trade and other relations with the different parts of the Empire and with foreign nations; and, as a new unit in the Empire, with large resources and future promise, would be an added strength to Great Britain. In securing the development of its resources, the greater financial and economic strength and the prestige of a federation can necessarily accomplish what the individual colonies would be quite unable to effect. It can, at any time, successfully concentrate its efforts on any needed public developments in any part of the federation, whether, as in this case, on such necessary objects as harbour works, river channels, railways, dykes, drainage works, forest highways, or water transport; or whether it be in dealing from its broader standpoint, with education, public health, agriculture, forest conservation, or inter-imperial or foreign trade. The aggregate export and import trade of these colonies probably does not at present exceed in value one hundred and fifty million dollars, but the possibilities of vastly increasing these figures by co-operative and concentrated effort are no longer a dream.

The much greater proximity of the islands than Bermuda, the present Naval base, to the Panama Canal, the immensely preponderating use of which by British shipping is shown by recent returns, and the enlarging steam services, both for inter-insular communication and for external trade, which would result from federation, suggest the importance of having great coaling stations and Naval bases here. Even now, the United States Government has established what its officials term "ideal naval strategic bases" at Culebra, an island off the east coast of Porto Rico, and at Guantanamo Harbour, on the south-east coast of Cuba, which Captain Mahan, the United States naval expert, considers can become to that country in the Carib-

bean Sea what Gibraltar and Malta are to British interests in the Mediterranean Sea.

Responsible Government should be aimed at.

The Crown Colony system of government at present prevailing in the British West Indies is not, in its details, the same in all of these colonies, but covers the one general principle of government administered by the Crown acting through a Governor and Executive Council appointed by it. In some of the colonies, the people are represented in a House of Assembly, or, in the case of Jamaica, in a Legislative Council—which has legislative powers, but no part in the administration, whilst all enactments are subject to the approval of the Governor and, through him, of the Colonial Office in London. In the case of a federal union, what kind of Government would, conceivably, be suitable? It is necessary to remember past political and trade experiences in the British West Indies, and their connection with the character and the respective numerical strengths of the different classes of the population. Probably, with the greater prosperity now, the difficulties of the past will never again recur, and, with some important exceptions, will never recur again, but the, as yet, small English speaking white population, and, with some important exceptions, the intellectual condition of the negroes and of the East Indian coolies, who, with some Portuguese, Chinese, Spanish, and native Indians, form the large remaining population, may not yet warrant the granting of responsible government. That, however, should be the object in view, whenever, in process of time, conditions become favourable, and, in the meantime, the preferable method appears to be the centralising of the Government at one selected point, under a modification of the Crown Colony system, with the *executive side* represented by the Governor and the necessary executive officials, appointed by the Crown, forming the Executive Council, which should have the administrative authority, and the *legislative side* represented by an elective House of Assembly with larger membership than now, relative to the numbers of the Executive Council having seats *ex officio*, and with larger powers of criticism and suggestion, but with the right to the Crown to veto any legislation. Considering the character of the population, qualification of electors should include a satisfactory literary test in English, as well as land ownership or rental. There are municipal and parochial systems already in force in some of the colonies, and these would form a basis for enacting general legislation under which municipal councils would be created throughout the colonies for dealing with roads, streets, bridges, water, light, police, and other such local objects, and for administering under the federal laws, education, public health, agriculture, local transportation, etc., whilst the civil and criminal laws now existing in each colony would continue in force until amended, and all laws consolidated, under federal legislation. Further, all existing debts of each colony would be taken over by the federation, which would have wide powers to incur obligations for the purposes of development, whilst

the municipal councils would, under federal authorisation, have limited borrowing powers for local purposes.

Commercial Relations with Canada.

The present preferential agreement between the British West Indies and Canada, which is effective for ten years from 2nd June, 1913, and in which Jamaica, British Honduras, and the Bahamas did not join, provides for a reduction of one-fifth in the duties on certain scheduled articles; preferences given in sugar, molasses and flour; and remission of duties on cocoa, beans, limes, and lime juice. These concessions have not, since then, appeared sufficiently important to attract much attention in Canada generally, under the conditions prevailing here, where the field, fruit, and forest products have found large, convenient markets in the United Kingdom and the United States, and manufacturers were almost entirely engrossed with the profitable home market. Much more was required to be done, not only in making attractive concessions, but in facilitating frequent and quick transportation from producer to consumer, and in disseminating information as to markets and methods among the mercantile community, which in Canada was somewhat unacquainted with the foreign trade. The war has, however, unexpectedly thrown open to us a large foreign business, and there is more eagerness on the part of our manufacturers and merchants for expansion in that direction. The time is therefore opportune for considering how enlarged trade with the West Indian possessions can, with mutual advantage, be promoted. Except in the case of sugar and molasses Canada is not at present a very large direct importer from the British West Indies, and these colonies look, in turn, more largely to the United States than to either the United Kingdom or Canada for most of their ordinary requirements. A phase of commercial union, under which the internal development of each country would be stimulated, appears to be the most reasonable course. If Canada has, however, to deal with fifteen separate Governments now embraced under the term British West Indies, each with its own distinctive views, it is very clear that commercial union will scarcely be possible, but it would be within measurable range if the negotiations are conducted with a federal government with its broader views of the needs and capabilities of the Federation as a whole.

What Canada has to Offer.

The most obvious consideration is that, as each federation would have important natural products which the other requires, the initial line of freedom of trade between them lies there, and that Canada should admit, free of Customs duties, unrefined sugar, molasses, raw cotton, cocoa beans, coconuts, copra, cohune nuts, coffee beans, oranges, shaddock, lemons, limes, raw lime juice, pineapples, bananas, ginger, nutmeg, pimento, sisal hemp, chicle, sweet potatoes, yams, rice, raw tobacco, asphalt, unmanufactured lumber and dyewoods, raw rubber, balata, raw hides, and minerals in the ore and matte, with a special duty equal to the bounty against bounty-fed products of other

nations; whilst the British West Indies should similarly admit free of duty, wheat, oats, and other grains, flour, apples, and other northern fruit, whether natural, dried or canned, peas, beans, potatoes, and other vegetables, whether natural, dried or canned, coal and coke, smoked, dried or canned fish, condensed milk, butter, cheese, fertilisers, unmanufactured lumber, and machinery for the development of the country, including agricultural and mining machinery and implements, and material and machinery for dredging, railway construction and operating, water and steam power *delegislative side* represented by an elective House of light, heat, and agricultural and manufacturing purposes. All other articles, unless already admitted free, imported into either federation from the other, should be charged at very low rate of duty, provided that that rate is, in turn, very much less than that charged against the imports from foreign nations. Included in this free list are some articles, like fish, fruit and vegetables in the dried and canned states, and even unrefined sugar, molasses and flour, which are important contributors to the Customs revenue of some of the governments, and about which there may be some division of opinion. Whilst they are not absolutely raw products, they can be regarded as, in a sense, partially prepared in order to meet transport or climatic conditions, or to suit the requirements of the manufacturer at the place of consumption, or of the consumer, as the case may be. Questions may also arise in regard to these and other products, in connection with any system of preferences within the Empire which Imperial Conferences may adopt, but these would not affect the general principle of commercial union between these two federations.

It may be said, in general terms, of British West Indian products, and of Canada's capacity to absorb them, if the proper arrangements are effected, that—taking 1913, before the War, as a normal year—Canada imported, from all countries, towards twice the value in the coffee, more than twice it in the rice, one and a half times in the sugar, and about an equal amount in the aggregate value of the bananas, oranges, lemons and limes, which were exported to all countries from the British West Indies: that although the latter's exports of cocoa were more than three times what the Dominion appeared then to require, the consumption of this article, like sugar and coffee, is on the large increase: that whilst pineapples and coco-nuts have not, as yet, entered largely into our Canadian requirements, importations are yearly advancing, and now aggregate in numbers towards nine millions: that tea and raw tobacco, for both of which the climate and soil of some parts of the British West Indies are well suited, together represent a sum in the Dominion's Customs entries nearly equal to the entire sugar exports of these tropical colonies: that our requirements in raw rubber probably in value now equal, if they do not exceed, the whole exports of sugar from British Guiana, where the Para rubber trees are destined to find a home as suitable as has for so long a time been experienced by the sugar cane: whilst of

American raw cotton, of a grade, it is believed British Guiana could grow, Canada takes annually about forty thousand tons.*

The official trade returns of Canada do not at all indicate the true relations of its business with the British West Indies, as, except in the instances of sugar and molasses, much the larger proportion of West Indian products are purchased by our merchants in the New York and Boston Markets. This is chiefly due to the absence of frequent and quick transportation facilities at sea, and of fast express, through freight trains between Ontario points on the one hand, and Halifax and St. John on the other, timed to meet the steamships. The slow service has had an equally deterrent effect on the shipment of Canadian products from the interior cities of the country to the British West Indies. If commercial union is to be a success, a great improvement in these transport services is necessary, and it is suggested, as conducing to this, that the advantage of freedom from duties should only be conceded to direct importations.

Canadian Capital in Enterprise.

That Canadian capital and Canadian personal activity will be directed in a large measure to plantation, lumbering, mining, railway, water power, electrical and suitable manufacturing enterprises in the British West Indies, as a consequence of their federation and commercial union with Canada, there can be no question. This would mean large and continuous shipments of machinery and other material from Canadian factories to aid in this development. And the effects would be even more extended, as the much better facilities and the broader markets, would also largely increase the business of the distributing centres—in British Guiana for Dutch Guiana, French Guiana, and Brazil requirements, in Trinidad for the Venezuela traffic, and in British Honduras for Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico needs.

The heavy financial demands which the war has made, will cause governments to pause before parting with any present important resources of revenue, but, in this instance, not only are concessions inevitable, if an agreement is to be reached, but both countries could well afford to make them in the interests of the greatly larger business which federation and commercial union would develop between them, and of the expansion which would follow in agricultural and other production in the British West Indies. Should compensation in revenue be necessary, there are numerous other sources from which it could be derived, including the continued importations from abroad which would follow a larger production and consumption, and the newer methods of raising revenue which the war has brought about.

Apart from the material aspect, there is, in the accomplishment of both of these suggested proposals, a broader imperial view. Federation of

* We fear that Dr. Drummond has been misinformed as to the ratio of production of various West Indian products to the consumption of them in Canada. Thus, the quantity of cacao imported into Canada in 1913 was 6,613,083 lbs., the quantity shipped from the British West Indies 83,000,000. The quantity of bananas imported into Canada the same year was 2,145,423 bunches; shipped from the West Indies, about 12,000,000 bunches.

these now separated colonies would not only mean greater concentration of effort in the development of their resources, but it would add one more Dominion to the Empire; and one more unit in its financial and business strength and prestige, whilst in the launching of the federation on its career as this new imperial unit, Canada, in conceding commercial union, would give direct practical aid in further cementing the Empire.

The complete federal union of the British West Indies with Canada has been suggested, but, whilst the sea barrier is now of less importance, race and trade problems would arise. Out of a population of about 2,100,000, the white people in these tropical colonies are represented by less than five per cent., the remainder being chiefly blacks, and East Indian coolies, but including some Chinese and native Indians. With federal union, all of these would become citizens of Canada, and entitled to establish themselves throughout the country. More than this, for the further development of some of these colonies, a largely increased immigration of East Indians and probably of the Chinese, is necessary. Are we prepared in Canada for more race problems? Again, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Trinidad, Jamaica and British Honduras depend in trade very largely on the extensive market of the United States, and are aided in this by frequent and effective steamship services. Under a federal union with Canada, these colonies would lose some of the facilities of this almost unlimited market close at hand, and probably, would be further disturbed by the adoption of the Canadian customs tariff. Commercial union would leave this United States market still open to them, unhampered by the effects of Canadian tariffs, whilst offering the same additional market here, which, in view of the great possibilities of British West Indian development, would prove most valuable.

[We publish the above article as showing the attitude of the thinking Canadian towards the relationship between the Dominion and the West Indies, and we should be pleased to publish the views of our readers regarding it.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

The Times on June 15th published a message from its Ottawa correspondent stating that the question of the Federation of the British West Indies with Canada had been discussed in the House of Commons there on that day, and that Sir George Foster had intimated that the Dominion Government was favourable to such a step, adding, however, that any movement in this direction must come from the West Indies rather than Canada. He further stated that the growing friendly sentiment would result in closer commercial relations between the two countries. Mr. Lemieux thought that what was more pressing and likely was the union of Newfoundland with Canada. A report of the Debate will be awaited with interest; but the existing restrictive Legislation in Canada against coloured races must put the question of the West Indies in the federation outside the realm of practical politics for the present. It will be noted that Dr. Drummond, in his article published above, favours commercial rather than political union.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for publication.

The International Socialist Conference, which is to meet at Stockholm, is being engineered by Germany for her own purposes. Her tool is Herr Schiedemann, who has been busily enlisting sympathy for the movement amongst Pacifists in neutral and belligerent countries. The idea is to discuss peace without reparation—a process which will suit Germany alone. The United States and France have declined to issue passports to their Nationals desiring to attend the Conference, and M. Ribot, in a speech which was at once lucid and dignified, has, on behalf of France, stated why. She cannot permit individual citizens to consider peace on her behalf anywhere, still less at a Conference in which enemy influence predominates. When it was understood that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and some of his friends were given passports for Stockholm in deference to Russian opinion, the Seamen's Union announced that no ship carrying such persons would be worked by British merchant sailors, and have kept their word.

The best answer of the United States to Germany's intrigue was the enrolment of ten million men, who answered the call of duty, in one day. Conscription is a complete success.

A New Thrust Near Lens.

On June 2nd the British made a new thrust at Lens. Attacking by night, they fought their way to the electric power station immediately south of the Souchez River, a position which was literally packed with machine-guns. In spite of the effects of devastating artillery fire, it was still a formidable fortification, out of which its last remaining occupants were driven at the point of the bayonet. Unfortunately, the Canadians were not able to consolidate their gains before the enemy launched a series of determined counter-attacks, aided by undisturbed nests of machine-guns. But even with this advantage he had to beat back the Canadians foot by foot as they tried to knock out the machine-guns behind and around them. In this they must have been fairly successful, since the following day the power station was theirs again. Such fierce struggles for a small objective have been common all through the War—for instance, the sugar works at Souchez and the Butte de Warlencourt.

On the western slopes at Greenland Hill, fresh progress has been made on a front of about a mile. This important position lies between Gavrelle and Roeux, and marks a further crumbling of the Hindenburg line.

The Battle in Flanders.

As on the Somme and the Scarpe, General Haig has taken the initiative from the enemy in Flanders, thereby anticipating any designs the German High Command may have had in launching another offensive in the direction of Calais. For a month the most careful and systematic preparations were made for an attack on the Messines-Wytschaete ridge, the highest point on the Bel-

gian front, and one that has, since October, 1914, checked our advance. So elaborate were the preparations, indeed, that the battle was rehearsed, and the artillery cannonade sustained night and day for over a fortnight, our barrage, as in the battle of Arras, preventing the enemy from moving freely in the rear of their lines. His nerves, besides suffering from loss of sleep and scanty food, were further shaken by the explosion of a huge mine, which had taken a year to construct, just before the British advanced, the whole German defences on a front of several miles having been blown up with the force of an earthquake. Artillery, infantry, airmen, tanks, and engineers all played their part like clockwork, and in their sweep forward carried position after position with comparatively small loss. Not only have our men occupied the villages of Messines and Wytschaete, but the village of Oostaverne as well, shortened the Allied line, and loosened the enemy's hold on Lille, besides capturing 7,000 dazed prisoners. Thus has the New Army started a new battle in Flanders, and recovered the ground which must for ever be sacred to Britons, as there the Old Army saved Europe by its unconquerable spirit. With inferior artillery and numbers it hurled back wave after wave of the flower of the German Army, platoons fighting companies, companies fighting battalions, battalions fighting régiments. The Old Army died in the retreat and in Flanders, but it lives in the New Army, and is avenged.

Japan's Naval Aid.

During the early stage of the War the Japanese Navy played a considerable part in the operations by which the German cruisers in the Pacific were rounded up and destroyed, and ever since has assisted the British Navy to patrol the South Pacific and Indian Ocean east of Colombo. It was, however, not generally known until lately that Japanese cruisers in 1916 helped the Allied cause by extended cruises in the North Pacific. The performance of such duties was provided for under the Anglo-Japanese agreement of 1902, which has twice been renewed. But the announcement that Japanese light craft are co-operating with the naval forces of the Allies in the Mediterranean is a sign that Japan is voluntarily taking upon herself fresh tasks in fighting the outlaws of the sea. It was her destroyers which saved the survivors of the *Transylvania*.

Enter Brazil.

As "U-boats" continue to sink Brazilian merchantmen without reparation, the Republic has revoked its former declaration of neutrality, and ranged herself with the United States on the side of the Allies. The help she can render is considerable. Her Navy, though small, consists for the most part of new ships, which will probably co-operate with the American Fleet in patrolling South American waters, besides providing American ships with bases for refitting and supply. There are 50 German vessels interned in Brazilian ports, and all of them undamaged, so that they can be turned to Allied purposes without any undue de-

lay. The population of the Republic numbers 26 millions, which will afford a reserve of raw material for armies, should the War be prolonged. Her entry into the War cannot but be regarded as a blow by Germany, since in Brazil many flourishing settlements have been built up by Germans, and much German capital is locked up in the country.

The War in Palestine.

General Murray's forces in Syria have destroyed twenty miles of the railway south-east of Beersheba to El Auja, on the Turco-Egyptian frontier. This dashing piece of work began with the blowing up of the bridge, and proceeded with such thoroughness that repair is impossible without complete reconstruction. As the Turks are already short of railway material, that will be a difficult matter for some time. While the engineers and mounted troops, specially trained for the purpose, were engaged in smashing the line, the cavalry made a strong demonstration against Beersheba, driving off two Turkish cavalry brigades.

The War at Sea.

The discussion which has been going on for some time amongst experts as to whether or not our naval policy has been sufficiently permeated with the spirit of the offensive may have been a sign of coming change. At any rate, there have been sustained, well-organised, and combined attacks on that part of the Belgian coast which has been allowed to remain in enemy hands for nearly three years. Zeebrugge, Ostend, St. Denis, and other military centres have been bombed, on the first, Mr. Bonar Law has told us, thirty tons of explosives having been rained during the past two months. So hot was the firing last week, indeed, that enemy destroyers and light cruisers in the harbour were forced out to sea, and tried to escape northwards. A British naval force, under Commodore Tyrwhitt, sighted them, and promptly gave chase. In the running fight that ensued, one of the enemy destroyers, S.20, was sunk, and another was severely damaged.

One of the reasons why a more vigorous naval policy is not pursued on the Belgian coast is that it would require the British Fleet to take over the naval defences of north-eastern France. But that is possibly a difficulty which may yet be overcome.

Another Air Raid.

If in the Folkestone raid our airmen were hampered by lack of intelligence, they had it all their own way four days later, when a large squadron of enemy aeroplanes, eighteen in all, visited the Medway. A naval machine from an air station on the Kentish coast drove down two. Ten naval pilots from Dunkirk met the returning raiders off Ostend and destroyed another two, while driving down out of control four, two of which are believed to have been destroyed. The squadron was sighted directly it put to out to sea, chased to England,

where many fights took place in the Thames estuary, driven back again, on which it suffered its severest losses—a fine record of defence work.

British monitors, a type of craft first used on the Belgian coast in the first year of the War, are doing good service in assisting the Italians by bombarding the Austrian communications with Trieste and by enfilade fire on the Hermada ridge. The enemy tries to deal with them from the air, as apparently his surface ships dare not operate in or near the Gulf of Trieste.

The seventh British hospital ship, the *Dover Castle*, has been sunk. She was twice attacked without warning in the Mediterranean. Fortunately, with the exception of six members of the crew, who were killed by the explosion, all on board were saved. The enemy had the effrontery to offer to the Allies a guarantee for the safe transport of sick and wounded from Salonika to Gibraltar. It was treated with the contempt it deserved.

Piracy Statistics.

The returns for the fortnight ended June 3rd justified a note of optimism in the recent speeches of British and French Ministers. The number of British vessels under 1,600 tons destroyed showed a marked decrease. In the week ended June 10th the figures were, however, again rather higher, including twenty-one vessels of 1,600 tons and over, and nine under 1,600 tons, against fifteen and three respectively in the preceding week.

Air Raid on London.

The East-end of London was attacked and bombed by hostile aeroplanes on June 13th. Numerous bombs were dropped in rapid succession in various districts in the East-end. One bomb fell in a railway station, hitting an incoming train. Seven persons were killed and seventeen injured here. Another bomb fell on a school, killing ten and injuring about fifty children. A number of warehouses were damaged and fires caused. The raiders were engaged by the guns of the East London defences, and a large number of aeroplanes of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service were sent up as soon as the enemy was reported off the coast. Several engagements took place in the air, but only one raider is officially reported to have been bagged. The death-roll has been heavy.

Another Zeppelin Down.

The Secretary of the Admiralty made the pleasing announcement on June 14th that Zeppelin L.43 had been destroyed that morning by our Naval Forces in the North Sea. Soon after being attacked she burst into flames fore and aft, broke in two, and fell into the sea. No survivors were seen. This is the third Zeppelin brought down this year, and the twenty-second definitely reported to have been wrecked during the War.

(To be continued.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Value of Mutual Control.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Your CIRCULAR of April 5th, received, via Grenada, this week, is a most interesting number to one who, like myself, has been among sugar-cane for more than half a lifetime and has just returned from a five months' trip to the West Indies.

Your article on "The Value of Mutual Control" is a most valuable one and I can corroborate, from recent personal observation, what you say about the jealous care with which the West Indian factories guard the publication of results. You are in error, however, when you imply that the planters of Hawaii have, as yet, no definite system of comparing results. As a matter of fact, the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association was founded over thirty years ago and has been carried on, as a mutual benefit society, with constantly increasing advantage to its members. During crop time, each one receives a "Confidential" weekly report of the factory results from between thirty and forty plantations. It will be no breach of confidence on my part to send you, enclosed, a copy of an old report from one of those estates, with the hope that it may be of some service towards the institution of mutual control in the West Indies. It is interesting to compare parts of it with the figures you publish from Antigua, St. Kitts and Trinidad, and most encouraging to find that such good work is being done in those West Indian factories. I noticed the Trinidad figures, in the CIRCULAR for November 16th, 1916, included the tonnage of cane per acre, which is just a little more than half the yield of the fields in Hawaii, and I am reminded of a planter's axiom I used to hear in the West Indies, forty years ago, "The sugar is made in the field, the boiling-house only shows the yield"; an out-of-date adage that should not be altogether neglected.

Another first-rate article is headed "The High Price of Sugar. By an Occasional Correspondent." I agree with every word of it and can assure the reader that the extraneous fuel question has been solved without having to send "bagasse to the furnace of a 5 per cent. sucrose content." I have before me the Mill Report of a Hawaiian Plantation, for the crop of 1916, in which sucrose and moisture in the bagasse are given at 1.087 and 37.77 per cent. respectively, and I know that the use of extraneous fuel has, for years, been "the exception that proves the rule," out there.

During my recent visit to the West Indies, I was much struck by the apparent lack of co-operation not only in sugar making, but in business matters generally, and particularly by the patience with which the lack of shipping facilities is borne. Consider the system of coaling steamers in Carlisle Bay and the waiting on the bar, for the tide to rise, off the mouth of the Demerara River!

I am glad to see that "Harbour Improvements" were not neglected at the West Indian Conference recently held in Trinidad.

But to return to our sucrose! Is it not practicable to carry out further the Central Factory idea which obtains, I presume, in connection with the three up-to-date factories already referred to? I experienced so much kind hospitality in Barbados that it would ill become me to indulge in anything approaching a sarcastic account of my "saccharine" impressions, but I did a little compiling from the Barbados Handbook (if that's the name of it) for 1914, and found that there were then 110 estates with steam mills, 209 with wind mills and 52 with no mills, the average area of the 371 estates being 235 acres, and the size of the largest individual property 1,169 acres. There had evidently been some amalgamation since 1914, but surely there is room for much more. Think of the increased efficiency if one factory were capable of handling the cane from four to six thousand acres, the cane being hauled to the mill by a light railway in place of a fleet of cattle, mule, and donkey carts. I saw several such areas where the installation of railways would be easy enough. I also saw several factories where multiple crushing and evaporation in *vacuo* were practised, and that is a long way in advance of the picturesque windmill which ships its product in puncheons!

Is it not practicable for three or four owners of West Indian estates, in Barbados or elsewhere, even if non-resident, to get together and capitalise their properties, up-to-date—say £250,000; sell part of their stock to the public, and make cane-growing nearly as popular as sugar-candy?

ROBT. CAYTON.

New York,
May 26th, 1917.

REPORT OF WEEK ENDING

First Expressed Juice	Brix	18 13
"	Polarization	15 95
"	Purity	88.
Last Mill Juice	Brix	2 8
"	Polarization	2 11
"	Purity	75 3
Mixed Juice	Brix	15 02
"	Polarization	12 88
"	Purity	85.8
"	Tons	4,973 9
"	Tons Sugar	640 7
Clarified Juice	Brix	16 10
"	Polarization	14 04
"	Purity	87 2
"	Lime used ... lbs.	4,000
Syrup	Brix	59 37
"	Polarization	52 03
"	Purity	87 6
"	Increase in Purity	1 8
Press Cake	Tons	120
"	Polarization	1 32
"	Lime used ... lbs.	—
"	Tons Sugar	1 59
Final Molasses	Brix	85 5
"	% Total Solids	81.27
"	" Gravity	—
"	" Sucrose (Clerget)	30.65
"	True Purity	37 71
"	Gravity	35 85
"	Ash	—
"	Glucose	—
"	Tons	111.07
"	Tons Sucrose	34 04
Commercial Sugar ...	Tons	638.29
"	Polarization	96 34
"	Moisture	1 08
Actual Grinding Time	... hours	138.2
Time lost by delays		1 25
Actual Grinding Time % of Total Time		98.99
Tons Cane per hour		35 83
Tonnage Ratio		1 72
Gross Cane	% Sugar	13.33
"	% Fibre	13 9
"	% Field Trash	—
"	Tons	4,957.15
"	Tons Sugar	660 82
Bagasse	% Sugar	1.66
"	% other Solids	0 54
"	% Moisture	40.96
"	% Fibre	56.84
"	Sugar % Cane	0.41
"	Tons	1,212.32
Dilution % of Normal Juice		20 7
Extraction % Cane ...		12 92
"	Sugar in Cane	96 96
Extraction Ratio		0 22
Milling Loss		2 92
Extraction Machinery employed	1 Crusher and 4 3-roll Mills	

Arrowroot Recipes.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.
Sir,—With reference to "Dartmoor's" enquiry in your last issue as to the use of arrowroot for biscuits and cakes, the following recipes may be of service:—

Cakes.—Put into a well-oiled saucepan a cupful of

arrowroot (sifted), a full tablespoonful of butter, a full tablespoonful of caster sugar, a tablespoonful of grated lemon peel, and a well-beaten egg. Boil together, stirring quickly all the time, until they are light and thick; drop on a greased tin and bake.

Biscuits.—Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ pint sifted arrowroot with $\frac{1}{2}$ pint sifted flour, mix in with your fingers $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fresh butter until it is like ants' eggs, add $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. caster sugar and a beaten egg, and put cream enough to make a soft dough; then add the grated rind and juice of a lemon and a grated half-nutmeg. Roll them and cut in rounds. Lay these in slightly floured tins, prick, and bake.

Further recipes on this subject can be found in Mrs. H. Graham Yearwood's excellent *West Indian and other Recipes*.

BARBADIAN.

OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Mr. Davson's Successful Tour.

Mr. Edward Davson, President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, reached London on Saturday last after a visit to the West Indies and Guiana extending over five months. It will be recalled that the main object of Mr. Davson's tour was to attend the inaugural Conference of the Chamber at Port of Spain in February last. He re-visited each of the West Indian Islands with the exception of Antigua, where he was unfortunate enough to call at night only; and he also spent a few days at Bermuda, where he addressed a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

To a representative of the CIRCULAR on his return, Mr. Davson said that the Conference had been in every way a complete success. The disappearance of that tendency to insularity which was once so noticeable in the West Indies was most gratifying, and he was pleased and impressed with the readiness with which all classes now welcomed suggestions for closer combination in industrial, commercial, and even political matters. He felt that the Chamber had come into existence at a most opportune moment, as the West Indies were entering upon a new era, their success in which must so largely depend on initiative and enterprise from within. There was much to be done before the West Indies could reach that place in the Imperial system to which they ought to attain, but the Associated Chamber had indicated some of the groundwork, and the ready appreciation of the West Indian community of the possibilities of development gave him every confidence that it would leave nothing undone to achieve success.

Asked what he thought were the most important problems which had been the subject of discussion, Mr. Davson said that undoubtedly trade relations within the Empire and the possibility of a Customs Union within the West Indies; the better utilisation of the existing labour supply and the development of the peasant proprietary with the attendant questions of land settlement, agricultural banks, etc., and also the improvement of communications stood in the forefront. It was proposed to hold the next meeting in Barbados at the end of the War, and meanwhile Mr. Edgar Tripp, who had proved a most able Hon. Secretary, was maintaining a correspondence with the individual Chambers on those matters which needed further consideration before the next meeting.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

It should again be emphasised that, generally speaking, the men in the British West Indies Regiment can only be dealt with collectively, in view of their increasing numbers and of the fact that they are already well provided for.

* * *

Acknowledging gifts purchased and despatched by the Contingent Committee at the request of Mr. C. F. Renwick, on behalf of the Grenada Popular Subscription Committee, Colonel Wood-Hill wrote:—

"The gifts that were sent out by the people of Grenada were most liberal and generous; and I can assure you their gifts were much appreciated by the whole of this Battalion amongst whom they were shared. The Grenadians were asked if they would like to share their gifts with the men from the other islands, as these men had done with them on previous occasions, and they willingly assented to this. I so arranged it that the Grenadians each got a Christmas card, writing pad, cigarettes, and a pair of socks; the tobacco, sweets, preserved fruits, etc., were shared amongst everyone. I sent a cable to the Governor thanking him, also a letter from myself, and several letters have gone from the men."

The men of the 6th Barbados Citizens' and 4th Trinidad Merchants' Contingents, who arrived in England on May 16th and 18th respectively, consigned to the care of the West India Committee, have now all joined up. Their names and units are given below:—

BARBADOS CITIZENS' CONTINGENT.

Arthur, H. A., *Inns of Court O.T.C.*
Bayne, E. G., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Cheeseman, E. G., *Royal Garrison Artillery.*
Greaves, H. F. K., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Leslie, H. H., *The Artists' Rifles.*
McLeod, F. L., *1st Life Guards.*
Williams, P. E., *The London Scottish.*

TRINIDAD MERCHANTS' CONTINGENT.

Barslett, Frank, *The Artists' Rifles.*
Grell, M. G., *Honourable Artillery Company.*
Herrera, J. A., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Lazzari, R., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Maingot, C. E., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Marryat, F. E., *The Artists' Rifles.*
Scott, A. A., *The Artists' Rifles.*

* * *

The work parties at 20, Ennismore Gardens will be held only fortnightly instead of weekly in future, and it is hoped that the members will work at home as well so as to keep up the supply of comforts, especially socks, which are in great demand. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Mrs. J. B. Saunders: 3 prs. socks.
Lady Sendall: 3 prs. socks.
Miss Levey: 6 helmets.
Mrs. Dixon: 1 pr. mittens, 1 scarf, 4 pr. socks.
Mrs. Anderson: 6 prs. socks.
Mrs. E. L. Atkinson: 4 mufflers.
Mrs. Amos: 2 prs. socks.
Lady Grey-Wilson: 8 prs. socks.
Mrs. Arthur Johnson: Magazines, socks and muffler.
Mrs. Edwin Giles, Grenada: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. R. Rutherford: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. S. Henderson: 2 prs. socks, 2 prs. mittens, 1 helmet.
Mrs. G. Alleyne: 3 mufflers, 2 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
Mrs. Crum Bwing: 3 prs. socks.
The Ladies of St. Mark's and St. John's, Grenada, per Mrs. Brodie: 59 prs. socks.

Ladies' West Indian Committee, Trinidad and Tobago Branch: 7 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens, 1 muffler, under-clothing, and creole chocolate.

* * *

Some more extracts from letters received by the West Indian Contingent Committee are given below to indicate the kind of work that is being done, and as an incentive to relatives and friends of men from the West Indies to put them in touch with the Committee:—

"Thanks ever so much for articles sent me, for which I am very grateful. They have been more than useful and quite a comfort to me."

"Thanks ever so much for all the articles you sent. I can assure you I feel greatly indebted to you and your committee."

"Thanks very much for the gift you sent me (anti-vermin shirts and pants). I have been using them from the day they came up to now and find them rather comfortable. Up to now nothing has troubled me, so I think they are of great use against those little devils."

"I am indeed thankful for the gift (reeds for clarinet), and am much indebted to you for your kindness. I am still at the front doing my bit, and when there is a bit of rest I find it quite pleasurable to myself and comrades playing favourite tunes on my clarinet."

"Thanks very much for your letter and the parcel you sent me. You should have seen all the eyes bulge when I dished out the sugar. It made me about the most popular man in —."

"I distributed the gifts to the best of my ability and I have no doubt that they contributed somewhat towards a little more cheerfulness."

"Thanks very much for the underclothes, socks and handkerchiefs, which arrived safely. It was very kind of you to think of sending socks as they are most useful."

AT WESTMINSTER.

West Indian Sugar Vindicated.

On June 5th, Sir H. Dalziel asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food if raw sugars from Demerara, Jamaica, and other Colonies were regularly distributed for grocery and other purposes without passing through any other refinery in this country; if so, could he explain to the House what difference there was in general appearance and quality or in analysis between such sugars and the Cuban and Java sugars which the Food Controller insisted on being refined before distribution to the public; and could he state if any complaints had ever been made regarding the presence of lice, beetles, and lizards in the raw sugars he had permitted to be used.

Captain Bathurst: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The sugars which were not refined in this country are prepared in their country of origin for direct consumption. The Cuban and other raw sugars which are not allowed to be issued in their raw state are prepared much less carefully with a view to subsequent refinement. I have already informed the hon. Member the causes which render such sugars unsuitable for direct consumption. The answer to the last part of the question is in the negative, but animal ingredients such as those mentioned by the hon. Member have been found in the sugars which he apparently desires to have issued to the public without refinement. It is not long since a lizard arrived here alive in one of the bags of raw sugar from Cuba. I may add that Cuban raw sugars are packed in bags weighing 3 cwt. each and are often bagged hot, with the result that they arrive as a solid mass which can only be broken up with a sledge hammer. This is a further objection to any proposal to issue such sugar direct to the grocery trade.

Government Sugar Purchases.

Captain Bathurst, at the request of Mr. Butcher, M.P., has issued the following return of purchases of sugar in 1916 by the Sugar Commission.

PURCHASES OF RAW SUGAR.

Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	Price.	Con- ditions.
TONS.				
Jan. 17	Mozambique	30	16/9	c. and f
31	Peru	200	18/-	c. i. f.
Feb. 14	Brit. W. India	5,000	16/3	f. o. b.
Mar. 13-20	Java	600	11.25fl.	Store
13-20	"	500	11.25fl.	f. o. b.
18	"	6,000	11.13fl.	"
18	"	2,500	10.25fl.	"
April 12	"	2,400	10.50fl.	"
12	"	5,000	10.50fl.	"
12	"	9,000	10.75fl.	"
12	"	3,000	10.25fl.	"
12	"	2,400	10.37fl.	"
13	"	7,500	10.75fl.	"
13	"	4,500	10.25fl.	"
13	"	3,000	10.25fl.	"
13	"	6,000	10.75fl.	"
13	Cuba	40,000	4.65c.	"
13	"	16,000	4.65c.	"
14	"	6,000	4.65c.	"
14	"	6,400	4.65c.	"
14	Java	16,500	10.50fl.	"
14	"	4,500	10.75fl.	"
14	"	10,000	10.75fl.	"
14	"	6,000	10.35fl.	"
15	Cuba	4,500	4.65c.	"
15	Java	7,000	11.00fl.	"
15	"	11,000	10.75fl.	"
17	Cuba	2,900	4.65c.	"
17	Java	1,200	11.12fl.	"
17	"	9,000	10.75fl.	"
17	"	3,000	10.75fl.	"
17	"	9,000	11.00fl.	"
18	Cuba	700	4.65c.	"
19	Java	41,200	11.72fl.	"
25	Cuba	1,300	4.65c.	"
May 3	"	50,000	5c.	"
3	"	20,000	5-20c.	"
13	Java	5,500	11.50fl.	"
13	"	3,000	12.25fl.	"
13	"	6,000	12fl.	"
13	"	3,000	12fl.	"
13	"	9,000	12fl.	"
13	"	3,000	12.25fl.	"
13	"	1,200	11.75fl.	"
13	"	10,500	12.25fl.	"
13	"	2,500	12.25fl.	"
13	"	9,000	12.50fl.	"
13	"	6,000	12.50fl.	"
13	"	6,000	12fl.	"
13	"	15,500	11.75fl.	"
13	"	1,800	balance	"
31	Cuba	18,000	4.90c.	"
June 2	"	3,000	4.8988c.	"
3	"	3,857	4.8988c.	"
7	"	10,000	4.90c.	"
9	"	15,000	4.95c.	"
14	"	300	5.10c.	"
20	"	25,000	5c.	"
20	"	12,000	5.20c.	"
22	"	15,000	4.95c.	"
23	"	15,000	4.95c.	"
26	Peru	5,000	19/6	"
July 7	"	2,200	25/6	c. i. f.
8	Cuba	20,000	5.10c.	f. o. b.
11	Java	20,000	12.75fl.	"
11	Peru	1,000	19/6	"
14	"	1,200	19/6	"
14	Java	6,000	12.87fl.	"
14	"	3,000	12.62fl.	"
14	"	1,000	12.50fl.	"

Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity. Tons.	Price.	Con- ditions.	Date.	Country of Origin.	Quantity. Tons.	Price.	Con- ditions.
July 15	Cuba	30,000	5c.	f.o.b.	April 12	America	6,000	6.00c.	Store.
" 20	"	20,000	4.90c.	"	" 12	Canada	5,000	6.00c.	"
" 25	Java	15,000	13fl.	"	" 13	America	5,000	6.10c.	"
" 27	Peru	600	19/-	"	" 13	"	6,000	6.10c.	"
" 27	"	1,600	19/-	"	" 13	"	10,000	6.10c.	"
" 27	"	3,000	19/-	"	" 13	"	3,500	6.03c.	"
Aug. 5/7	Cuba	5,000	4.70c.	"	" 13	Java	2,500	11.75fl.	"
" 7	"	5,000	4.65c.	"	" 14	America	100	6.10c.	"
" 9	Peru	2,500	18/6	"	" 14	"	143	6.60c.	"
" 9	"	2,250	18/6	"	" 15	Java	1,800	12.00fl.	"
" 9	"	1,200	18/6	"	" 17	"	600	12.25fl.	"
" 15	"	300	18/9	"	" 17	"	15,000	12.25fl.	"
" 17	"	110	18/6	"	" 17	"	40,000	12.25fl.	"
" 23	"	700	18/6	"	" 17	"	4,200	12.25fl.	"
" 23	"	1,250	18/6	"	" 17	"	1,000	12.25fl.	"
" 28	"	4,000	18/-	"	" 17	"	30,000	12.50fl.	"
" 28	"	300	18/-	"	" 18	America	5,000	4.40c.	"
" 29	Brazil	1,000	21/6	c.i.f.	" 19	Java	4,500	13.00fl.	"
Sept. 28	Peru	2,900	16/3	f.o.b.	" 19	"	3,000	12.50fl.	"
" 28	"	2,000	16/3	"	" 19	"	2,500	13.00fl.	"
" 28	"	1,100	16/3	"	" 19	"	1,500	12.50c.	"
" 29	"	2,250	16/3	"	" 19	America	5,500	6.20c.	"
Oct. 2	"	1,500	16/3	"	" 19	"	1,100	6.10c.	"
" 2	"	1,000	16/3	"	" 19	"	10,000	6.15c.	"
" 2	"	1,500	16/3	"	" 19	"	6,500	6.20c.	"
" 5	Brazil	8,000	21/-	c. and f.	" 19	"	3,000	6.20c.	"
" 6	Cuba	3,500	4.75c.	f.o.b.	" 20	"	5,000	6.30c.	"
" 21	Peru	1,000	18/-	"	" 20	"	3,000	6.30c.	"
" 24	"	300	18/-	"	" 25	Java	3,000	12.25fl.	"
" 24	"	2,500	18/3	"	" 25	"	6,000	12.75fl.	"
" 24	"	800	18/3	"	" 25	"	4,000	12.50fl.	"
" 26	Java	22,000	12.25fl.	"	" 25	"	1,200	12.62fl.	"
" 26	"	10,000	13.25fl.	"	May 13	"	12,000	13.25fl.	"
" 26	"	10,000	13.75fl.	"	" 13	"	3,000	13.25fl.	"
Nov 21	Cuba	6,000	3.60c.	"	" 13	"	9,000	13.25fl.	"
Dec 2	"	100,000	3.60c.	f.o.b.	" 13	"	16,000	13.25fl.	"
" 2	"	100,000	3.60c.	"	" 13	"	8,000	13.25fl.	"
" 8	B.W.I.	5,500	16/6	"	" 16	Canada	300	6.40c.	"
" 8	Cuba	5,000	3.50c.	"	" 16	Java	3,800	13.04fl.	"
" 15	"	5,500	3.60c.	"	" 16	"	8,000	19/4	"
" 27	Demerara	5,500	15/9	"	" 22	America	32	6.40c.	"
RETURN OF PURCHASES OF WHITE SUGAR, 1916.									
Jan. 6	America	5,000	4.35c.	"	" 23	"	1,400	6.40c.	"
" 6	"	6,000	4.35c.	"	" 23	"	2,000	6.40c.	"
" 10	"	2,000	4.35c.	"	" 25	"	2,200	6.35c.	"
" 18	"	20,000	4.50c.	"	" 25	"	2,250	6.35c.	"
Mar. 4	"	46,500	Exchanged for raw.	"	June 2	"	650	6.45c.	"
" 11	"	5,500	5.50c.	f.o.b.	" 13	"	6,300	6.30c.	"
" 14	Canada	1,500	5.55c.	"	" 13	"	2,500	6.30c.	"
" 14	"	3,500	5.60c.	"	" 14	"	3,700	6.40c.	"
" 15	America	5,000	5.80c.	"	" 14	Canada	7,500	6.40c.	"
" 15	"	5,000	5.90c.	"	" 14	America	120	6.30c.	"
" 15	"	3,000	5.85c.	"	" 14	"	12,000	6.40c.	"
" 15	"	2,000	5.93c.	"	" 14	"	16,000	6.40c.	"
" 15	"	1,000	5.93c.	"	" 15	"	4,000	6.40c.	"
" 16	America	2,100	5.90c.	f.o.b.	" 15	"	500	6.35c.	"
" 13-20	Java	6,000	12.25fl.	Store.	" 16	"	700	6.45c.	"
" 13-20	"	1,500	12.25fl.	"	" 17	"	1,000	6.35c.	"
" 18	"	6,000	12.25fl.	f.o.b.	July 11	"	20,000	6.35c.	"
" 18	"	500	12.25fl.	Store.	" 11	Java	3,900	13.07fl.	"
" 21	America	318	5.75c.	f.o.b.	" 12	America	10,000	6.35c.	"
" 21	Java	900	12.25fl.	Store.	" 12	"	1,000	6.35c.	"
" 23	"	500	12.37fl.	f.o.b.	" 14	"	7,000	6.35c.	"
" 24	"	8,500	12.25fl.	Store.	" 20	"	20,000	6.30c.	"
" 25	America	724	5.75c.	f.o.b.	" 20	Canada	5,000	6.29c.	"
" 27	"	893	5.75c.	"	" 20	"	4,000	6.25c.	"
" 27	"	2,500	5.90c.	"	" 21	Mauritius	158,478	18/2	"
" 27	"	2,500	5.90c.	"	" 22	America	10,000	6.25c.	"
" 27	"	2,500	5.90c.	"	" 24	Canada	1,000	6.25c.	"
" 27	"	2,500	5.90c.	"	Aug 29	America	850	5.65c.	"
" 27	"	2,500	5.90c.	"	Sept 8	"	4,000	5.00c.	"
" 27	Canada	4,500	5.90c.	"	" 12	"	5,000	5.00c.	"
" 29	America	4,000	6.00c.	"	" 30	"	6,800	5.70c.	"
" 29	"	2,000	6.00c.	"	Oct. 7	"	1,700	5.75c.	"
" 29	"	161	5.75c.	"	" 9	"	1,500	5.80c.	"
" 29	"	500	5.90c.	"	" 17	"	300	6.85c.	"
" 30	"	6,000	6.00c.	"	" 17	"	300	6.85c.	"
" 30	Java	1,500	12.25fl.	Store.	Dec. 31	Java	5,200	12.52fl.	"
" 31	America	1,400	6.00c.	"	[Previous returns will be found in the WEST INDIA COM- MITTEE CIRCULARS, Nos. 434 p. 223, and 457 p. 131.]				
April 4	America	125	5.90c.	"					

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. J. P. SANDS, President of the Legislative Council of the Bahamas, received the honour of Knighthood on the King's birthday.

WE have been requested by the West India Produce Association, Ltd., to state that they are carrying on business as usual at 14, Creechurch Lane, E.C. 3.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER, who received a C.B. on the King's birthday, has been appointed Assistant Comptroller and Auditor in the Exchequer and Audit Office.

AMONG the fellow-passengers of General Pershing in the *Baltic*, which arrived last Saturday, were Mr. E. R. Davson, Hon. D. S. De Freitas, and Hon. G. S. Seton-Brown, of Grenada, and the Hon. A. De Boissiere, Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad.

SIR WILLIAM GREY WILSON, Governor of the Bahamas from 1904 to 1912, has succeeded the late Mr. Harry Cust as Chairman of the Central Committee for National Patriotic Associations, which was formed in 1914 as the outcome of a letter in the Press signed by Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour, and others.

As part of the policy to encourage the growing of fruits and vegetables on the Isthmus of Panama, the stewards of the Canal restaurants have been instructed to save the seeds of the papaws consumed at the hotels and to forward them to the authorities for distribution to employees who desire them for planting.

THE Secretary of the West India Committee would be glad to hear from members resident in this country who would be interested in an increase in the statutory percentage under the Excess Profits clauses of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, in respect of coco-nut cultivation in the hurricane zone of the British West Indies and British Honduras.

COMMODORE J. C. BARR, who has just retired from the Cunard Line after thirty-two years' service, was shipwrecked on three occasions. In 1882 he was mate of the barque *San Fernando* when she was lost on the Morant Cays on a voyage from St. Thomas to Honduras. He reached Jamaica in a ship's boat in time to see half Kingston destroyed by fire, and he returned to England as a distressed British seaman in the R.M.S.P. *Moselle*, which was then commanded by the late respected Captain Jellicoe.

MISS MAY G. WOOD, for several years a member of the staff of the West India Committee, was married on June 9th, at St. Mary's, The Boltons, to Lieutenant Stanley Woolrych, who for some time acted as assistant to the Secretary. Shortly

before the War, Miss Wood went to France to study French, and, being in Paris at the outbreak of hostilities, she offered her services to the British Embassy, where she has since been working. Mrs. Woolrych, who showed much organising ability, was well known to visitors to the Committee Rooms, who will join with us in congratulating the happy couple.

THE Rev. Edward Arthur Dunn, Rector of St. Michael's, Quebec, since 1912, has been appointed to the Bishopric of British Honduras, which has been vacant since the resignation of the late Bishop Farrar in 1915. The Bishop-elect is a son of the late Bishop of Quebec, and is a late Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Bell University Scholar. He graduated as Thirtieth Wrangler in 1892, and was ordained in 1894. All his clerical life has been spent in Canada, and from 1901 to 1907 he was Professor of Pastoral Theology at Bishop's University, Lennoxville; and from 1905 to 1907 Professor of Mathematics. He has also done missionary work, and from 1895 to 1901 was editor of the *Quebec Diocesan Gazette*.

LORD ABINGER, who died in London on May 23, was a descendant of Francis Scarlett, captain of a merchantman, who was with Penn and Venables at the capture of Jamaica in 1655, and was given land in St. Andrew's and elsewhere for his services. Scarlett sat in the Legislative Assembly for St. Andrew's, and having no children devised his estate on the Wag Water to his brother's eldest son William Scarlett, who emigrated to Jamaica on his uncle's death. From him, William Scarlett, lineally descended Robert Scarlett of Duckett's Spring, one of whose sons, by his wife Elizabeth Wright (a widow and daughter of Philip Anglin of Paradise Estate), was Sir William Anglin Scarlett, Chief Justice of Jamaica from 1821 to 1832.

LORD ABINGER once told the writer of an uncanny experience he underwent in Jamaica on one of his several visits to that island. In the course of a motor tour he stopped at Mandeville, and just about nightfall he happened to be standing near the gate of the churchyard when his attention was attracted by repeated flashes of light in the windows of the old Parish Church. He endeavoured to enter the building to discover the cause, but finding the doors locked, he came to the conclusion that a cleaner must have locked herself in and was moving about with a candle. Next evening he again saw the mysterious lights and he accordingly walked round the church to find some point of vantage from which he could look in at the windows. Coming across an old tomb conveniently situated for his purpose he climbed up on to it and looked into the church. He saw nothing suspicious and returned to his hotel greatly puzzled. Next morning out of curiosity he traced his footsteps through the rank grass to the tomb on which he had stood overnight, and to his astonishment he found that it was the last resting place of his ancestor, Sir William Scarlett, of the whereabouts of which he had been quite ignorant.

NATURE NOTES.

THE ability of a cow to yield milk is intimately connected with the nervous organisation of the animal, and it is not generally known that the more highly the nerves of the animal are strung, the greater is the power to yield milk. As the *Agricultural News* of Durban points out, the "holding up" of milk with a cow is due entirely to ruffled nerves, the milk ceasing to flow until a calm state of mind supervenes. Cows should, therefore, be treated calmly and not crossly—petted and not maltreated.

* * *

NO. 2 of Vol. XVI. of the *West Indian Bulletin* contains a note of the lime requirements of soils for partial sterilisation purposes, by Dr. Tempary. The author considers that the laboratory method of Hutchinson and MacLennan, in which the quantity of lime required to make the soil distinctly alkaline is used as a basis, is satisfactory with the addition of a simple device for ascertaining the end point by means of the relative turbidity of the supernatant soil water.

* * *

By the same author, in the same journal there is published the results of an investigation into the "gall patches" noticeable in Antigua—that is to say, small areas in otherwise well-growing fields of canes in which the canes wither and die. As the result of the investigation, Dr. Tempary found that the cause is due to the presence of carbonate of soda, resulting from the sodium chloride of low depths of sea water being brought up into contact with the calcium carbonate of the Antigua soils.

* * *

THIS is the day of waste products, and one of the latest utilisations is that of coffee grounds. According to the *Tea and Coffee Journal*, the grounds, in an air-dried condition, contain 1.99 per cent. of nitrogen, 0.36 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride, and 0.67 per cent. of potassium oxide. A ton of air-dried grounds, therefore, would, at the present high price of fertilising ingredients, be worth from £2 10s. to £3.

* * *

THE Society of Siberian Engineers is turning its attention to beet sugar production in Siberia, and trial growings of beet for the purpose have, says the *Journal* of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, been started. The experiment will cover three years, and the best grades of seed from European Russia have been obtained for the purpose.

A USEFUL article on the cockroach has recently appeared in the *Lancet*. As the result of experiments on the method of destruction of the pest, it would appear that many of the substances which have been supposed to kill the cockroach really act by driving it away and leading to its disappearance. For actual, quick destruction, stoving with bromine or sulphur dioxide is apparently best; but for domestic application powdered sodium fluoride is recommended, which has the effect of effectually driving away the cockroach, and which at the same time will keep indefinitely.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA—Gallant Sailors Entertained.

Captain Falconer and the officers and crew of the Direct Line s.s. *Crown of Grenada* were entertained at a public reception held in the Town Hall, Georgetown, on April 16th, and presented with tokens of the colony's appreciation of their gallantry in successfully repelling an attack by an enemy submarine on their last outward voyage, after a thrilling duel in the Atlantic. The Mayor of Georgetown presided at the reception, and the presentations were made by His Excellency the Governor. Mr. E. R. Dawson recently delivered an interesting address to the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, on the history of the West Indies and the Federation of the British colonies in the Caribbean and on the main land. Sir Wilfred Collett, K.C.M.G., the new Governor, who has accepted the position of Vice-Patron of the Society, was present at the meeting.

GRENADA—Increased Exports of Lime Juice.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, MAY 10th.—An influential meeting of the Popular Subscription Committee, which controls the Grenada Contingent Fund, was held on April 27th to endeavour to raise further sums for gifts, etc., for those of our men who are on active service. An amount of £1,095 has already been expended on comforts and luxuries.

A Gymkhana and Pony Race Meeting is to be held at Queen's Park on Whit-Monday. The net proceeds will be handed to the Grenada Contingent Fund for the benefit of Grenada soldiers. The programme is attractive, and, given a fine day, the Fund should greatly benefit.

The Hon. D. S. De Freitas has just heard that his second son, Dudley, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Gloucester Regiment, was wounded on March 31st on the Tigris. He leaves to-day for England, and also the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, who leaves the colony for good after 33 years' residence. A bridge and supper party was arranged at the St. George's Club as a farewell.

A representative tennis team, consisting of Messrs. Mignon, Gull, H. Gentle, Geo. Kent, McCowan, and Brisbane, went to Trinidad to meet a team there. After many hotly-contested sets, Trinidad won. We hope to see the Trinidad team here at a future date.

The final of the Richmond Hill Tennis Tournament was played at Government House, when Mr. Kentish and Miss May De Freitas beat Mr. Gordon Porter and Miss Sharpe by 10-7. Some handsome prizes were given by His Excellency the Governor. Two cricket matches have been played, on April 19th and 26th—ladies v. gentlemen. The ladies won, Mrs. Brisbane making top score with 40. Grenada beat all comers. The gate money, and also the result of the raffle of a large cake presented by Mrs. David Slinger, which was raffled for £10, will go towards the Contingent Fund.

The town of St. George's is gradually being improved; the old dusty and stony roads are now being levelled and oiled, much to the comfort of those who work and live in town.

We have had a visit from an American cruiser. The weather has been hot, windy, and dusty, but since the full moon we have had some nice showers. Shipments of cacao to date are 65,753 bags, as against 65,615 last year. Lime juice, 3,276 hogs-heads, as against 1,042. The last shipment of cacao to London was by the *Serrana*—2,999 bags.

TOBAGO—The "Rain-bird" in evidence

MR. ROBERT S. REID, APRIL 25th.—Rains are badly needed. Sugar-making is in progress. The cacao crop is holding better than was expected, and this should compensate somewhat for the fall in prices. Coco-nut properties are reaping a fine harvest.

MAY 2nd.—Weather still very dry. The rainfall for April was .87 inches, with 22 dry days. The land will be none the worse for this if rain comes shortly, and there is every indication of it; not only the "rain-bird," but clouds and a heavy haze over the sea are all in evidence. By last Belize quite a number of Trinidad visitors arrived, and the

"new arrivals" were delighted with the scenery and the fine roads; most of the local motor-cars were in active service. I regret to note so many bush fires, thoughtlessly set, and often doing serious damage. The fire fiends are hard to catch, although the police are continually on the hunt for them. We are all earnestly on the outlook for home mails. Last letters received here were dated March 17th!

ST. LUCIA—The Colony's War Contribution.

The people of St. Lucia have now contributed over £5,700 towards various funds connected with the War, among the sums remitted being:—

Chocolate for Army and Navy	2,000
National Relief Fund	1,000
Red Cross Day, 1916	965
Red Cross Day, 1915	671
Red Cross Fund, 1914	621
French Red Cross	490
Belgian Relief Fund	350
St. Lucia Contingent	138
Blue Cross Fund	70
For Disabled Soldiers	61
Tobacco Fund	47
For St. Lucians who died in H.M.S. <i>Good Hope</i>	35
Gnava Jelly for Wounded	32
For Blinded Soldiers	8

Mr. A. S. Duff appears to be a standing Hon. Treasurer for all assistance funds in the island according to the information supplied to us by a correspondent.

TRINIDAD—A Compliment to the United States.

MR. EDGAR TRUFF, MAY 10th.—The entry of the United States into the War is to be suitably celebrated in the island, and a special committee with the Hon. D. E. Prada, Mayor of Port of Spain, as Chairman, and the American Consul as Vice-Chairman, has been appointed to carry out the arrangements. A public meeting is to be held, which is certain to be large and enthusiastic. We have quite a large and influential American colony here, principally connected with the Asphalt Co. and the oil-fields, and the very best relations always have and do exist between them and ourselves. His Excellency the Governor will preside at the meeting, and will submit the following resolution:—

"That we, the inhabitants of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago, in unison with the whole British Empire, greet with profound satisfaction the entry of the United States of America into the War on the side of the Allies. We are the more gratified because of the close ties of commerce, of friendship, and of sympathy which have happily existed for over a century between the people of the British West Indies and the people of the United States, and we joyfully recognise the important influence on the successful termination of the present world struggle and triumph of the cause of humanity and civilisation which must result from the active co-operation of the great American Nation."

We have all been sorry to hear of the indisposition of Mr. Walcott, who has managed to fill his somewhat difficult position for several years to the satisfaction of the mercantile body and the community generally, and who personally enjoys a high measure of popularity. However, we hope soon to see him back quite restored to health. In the meantime, the Acting Collector, Mr. Cutler, has been winning golden opinions by his unflinching courtesy and evident desire to facilitate business without in any way sacrificing the efficiency of the department and proper protection of the revenue.

We have been quite gay lately with one successful entertainment after another in aid of War Relief Funds. Mrs. Eliza Stollmeyer organised and carried out a very successful fair, followed by a dinner, at which hundreds sat down at small tables in the large hall of the Prince's Building, the while a concert provided by some of the best of local talent proceeded on the stage. This was for us a novel form of entertainment, and proved a great draw. Every table was engaged. But the most

satisfactory and creditable feature in connection with the fair was its result. The total receipts were \$2,886.93, whilst the expenses were only \$78.45, leaving a net balance for the West Indian Contingent Fund of \$1,404.24, and an equal sum for the Blind and Disabled Soldiers and Sailors. Another attractive and successful show was given in the grounds of the St. Augustine Recreation Club, about ten miles out of the city. It was a lovely moonlight night. We dined in the open, again listening to sweet music, and watched graceful creole dancers on a temporary stage beautifully arranged and lit. And still another most pleasant evening was passed at the Prince's Building, at a delightful patriotic concert, under the name of "Hommage à Jeanne d'Arc," etc., provided by the French section of the community for the French Red Cross Society, when a full house agreed that everything presented was charming, and beautifully staged.

The drought continues; rain is very badly wanted now.

MAY 21st.—Before Mr. Davson left on the 10th inst., he attended a meeting of the Agricultural Society and put forward the suggestion that steps should be taken to form a Trinidad Cacao Association for the purpose of furthering the interests of cacao in the Imperial markets, this Association to affiliate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation. The proposal was warmly received and it was resolved to refer the matter to the Cacao Committee with a view to their communicating with and obtaining the views and co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce and other bodies, and giving effect to the scheme. The Governor, who was in the chair, took the opportunity of voicing the opinion of the members as to the value of the public services rendered to the West Indies by Mr. Davson, and their appreciation of it. At the same meeting further strong remonstrances were made with regard to the difficulty of putting even existing legislation into force in connection with the great evil of praedial larceny, and it was decided again to address the Government on the subject, now that the necessity of producing food locally is becoming so acute.

It is satisfactory to report that the Government have at last seen their way to allot a considerable acreage for the cultivation of rice, which may help the situation to an appreciable extent. The drought has become very serious. Sanferuando is in worse want than ever, some of the decent houses being restricted to about a bucketful every alternate day. The people there are truly long-suffering, and from no fault of their own. Official incapacity was originally to blame, but this should have been atoned for years ago. An interminable dispute is and has been for ever so long waging between the Government and the Borough Council with regard to taking over the existing defective system and improving it. Neither side will give way. Meanwhile the unfortunate inhabitants suffer, each year more severely than the last. A great meeting was held at the Princes' Building, on the 14th, when the Governor presided, and resolutions were carried with great acclamation welcoming the entry of the United States into the war.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	1,066,054
B.N. America	334,494
France	1,797,024
United States America	9,284,337
Total for April	12,511,909
Shipped previously	31,512,350
Total from 1st January	44,024,259
To same date, 1916	27,960,101
" " 1915	30,704,080
" " 1914	41,344,691
" " 1913	27,503,212
" " 1912	30,702,105
" " 1911	23,699,791
" " 1910	25,498,039
" " 1909	25,101,356
" " 1908	29,558,790

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd

The net profit for the year ended December 31st last, after adjusting the 1915 Balata, amounts to £28,551 14s. 3d., making with the sum of £1,217 1s. brought forward from 1915, £29,768 15s. 3d.

The Directors recommended the payment (less tax) of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum to the Preference Shareholders for the year, absorbing £16,558 8s. 7d., and the payment (less tax) of interest, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the Dividend Funding Warrants for the nine months ending December 31st, 1916, absorbing £1,153 3s. 6d. A balance of £12,057 3s. 2d. remains to be carried forward subject to any reserves required for writing off Preliminary Expenses, Redemption of Dividend Funding Warrants, Inland Revenue Taxation, and other purposes. The Directors record with great regret the deaths of Mr. Henry Shield, Director, and Mr. James Edwards, Secretary. Mr. Thomas Hammond, who for many years was associated with the late Mr. Edwards, has been appointed Secretary. New offices have been secured at 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co

At the annual meeting on June 6th, Sir Owen Philipps said that the Board was pleased to be able to recommend a moderate increase in the dividend, and to add again £200,000 to the reserve fund, thus bringing the total of the reserve and insurance funds to practically one million sterling. Although this was the highest figure at which the reserves had ever stood in the history of the Company, it was still a very moderate amount when compared with the amount of the Debenture, Preference, and Ordinary stock, which was nine-and-a-half millions sterling. The Company's home port of Southampton, where their workshops, engineering plant, laundry, etc., were situated was still closed to them. The Company's claim for losses incurred through the closing of the port which stood adjourned at the time of the last annual meeting, was presented to the Defence of the Realm Losses Commission by eminent counsel, but, unfortunately, the decision of that Commission was adverse to the Company. It was held that, as the closing of the port was an order of general application, and did not operate solely against the Company, the terms of reference of the Commission would not permit of their awarding any compensation in such a case.

The Company and its allies had brought from overseas vast quantities of chilled and frozen meat at an average rate of about 1d. per pound. Many of their vessels had been under charter to the Admiralty, and now the Ministry of Shipping had requisitioned the remainder of their fleet. So far as the Company's restricted resources allowed they maintained throughout the year regular mail, passenger, and cargo services to and from South American ports. They had continued to run an occasional passenger steamer to and from the West Indies direct, although the number of people travelling was infinitesimal. They had also maintained their regular West Indian cargo service. Notwithstanding the increased difficulties they had been able to keep up their regular passenger and cargo service between Canada and the West Indies. With the revival of the sugar-growing industry—which, he hoped after the war, would be permanently re-established on a sound commercial basis—he was pleased to say there are signs of a general increase in prosperity in the British West Indian Colonies.

Dealing with the future Sir Owen said: "Last year I gave evidence before a committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the position of British shipping after the war. I then took occasion to draw attention to certain grave disabilities from which British owners had suffered in the past in competition with foreign lines. The extensive emigrant traffic from Europe to the North and South American continents was a particular case in point. Germany, by means of so-called "controlled stations" on the frontiers, succeeded in diverting to German steamers the bulk of the emigrant traffic from Europe to the North and South American ports. I maintain that our Government

should protect us from unfair competition on the part of foreigners, especially when assisted—as was Germany—by the resources of their Governments. At the same time may I utter a word of warning against the loose talk heard in some quarters about "nationalisation of shipping." Whatever may be the merits or demerits of nationalisation as applied to internal transport, such as railways, I hold strongly that shipping, with its ramifications in and between all parts of the world, could never be nationalised with advantage to this country. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, I would go farther, and say that the adoption of such a policy would prove fatal to our continued supremacy as the premier ocean-carrier of the world, as the sea is open to all, and shipping will always be subject to the keenest international competition. (Hear, hear.) I hold that only by the untrammelled enterprise, enthusiasm, and energy of British shipowners, as in the past, can our future as a maritime nation be secured."

The resolutions for the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, for the half-year, making 7 per cent. for the year, were adopted.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

WALTER WALFORD RAINER, Honourable Artillery Company, killed on active service, April 1st, 1917, aged 22, was son of the late Mr. C. O. Rainer, of Georgetown, British Guiana. He was employed at the War Office previous to joining up last year.

HONOURS.

LIEUT.-COLONEL H. M. DAVSON, Royal Horse Artillery, has been awarded the D.S.O.

REV. FATHER S. J. LEBROS, a Belgian by birth, but a member of the English Province of Jesuits, formerly connected with the Roman Catholic Mission in British Guiana, has been awarded the Military Cross for devoted services amongst the wounded in the Gallipoli campaign, where he acted as Chaplain to the Forces.

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.

De Boissiere, 2nd Lieut. George (elder son of Major Armand de Boissiere, Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad and Tobago), Royal Flying Corps.
Hendy, Trooper C. O. F. (of Trinidad), 2nd Life Guards.
Morales, Gunner C. M. L. (of Jamaica), Royal Garrison Artillery.

THE Chief Commissioner of Assam has issued an encouraging report on the prospects of sugar cultivation in that Province. The crop on the Government experimental farm which was cut in April, showed a yield of saccharose averaging 15 per cent. on the weight of cane. It was of exceptional purity, the co-efficient varying between 90 and 95 per cent. The outturn of cane per acre, in spite of the crude cultivation which the breaking up of jungle land necessitated in the first year, averaged well over 20 tons, and in places where it was possible to cultivate more thoroughly, it was 25 tons, while it promises to be still higher when the area is placed under a proper rotation. The Commissioner claims that it has now been proved to demonstration that the best cane can be grown in Assam on a commercial scale by the use of steam cultivating tackle and with a minimum of labour. There is a large tract in the neighbourhood of the Government Farm which is suitable for sugar cane, and this will be leased out in due course to those desiring to start factories.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E C 3
June 13th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from April 8th. The 3½ per cent. War Loan is quoted at 86½, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 92½, and the 5 per cent. War Loan at 94½. Consols stand at 55 s.d.

SUGAR. In the absence of the appointment of a Food Controller in the place of Lord—now Viscount—Devonport, no new regulations as regards the rationing and distribution of sugar in the United Kingdom have been promulgated. Though there are still waiting queues of purchasers in the poorer localities, the distribution appears to have been conducted on better lines than heretofore, although complaints of "no sugar" in out-of-the-way towns still obtain. Stocks in the United Kingdom on May 31st, amounted to 102,400 tons as against 83,450 tons on the 30th of April.

The time for lodging applications for sugar for jam-making is over, and it is said that the applications number 750,000.

Although there is no chance of a shortage of sugar in the United States, a scheme of distribution is being evolved by the Food Committee of the Council of National Defence, a body which will also, in this connection, control the exports of sugar to this side. *Facts about Sugar* considers it extremely likely that the Council will take steps so to apportion the stocks of the United States as to allow of a sufficient amount being available to relieve the pressing wants of the European Allies.

The 10 per cent. ad valorem duties to be applied to war purposes in the United States, should the new Revenue Bill become law in its present form, will be assessed on the import values, and is not an increase of 10 per cent. in the duty. It applies only to foreign imports, and thus Cuban sugar will be affected, while Porto Rico and Hawaiian sugar will not, by the new tax.

Messrs. Willett & Gray give some interesting details regarding the factories constituting the United States beet sugar industry. Those engaged in taking off the 1916-17 crop numbered 83, the total slicing capacity being 79,660 tons per diem, or 960 tons on the average for each factory. There are fifteen new factories in course of construction for the 1917-18 crop of a total capacity of 10,600 tons per diem, an average of a little over 700 tons each. The three Canadian factories sliced 3,100 tons of beet per diem, or a little over 1,000 tons each. The biggest United States factory, the Spreckels Sugar Company, in California, had a capacity of 4,500 tons per diem, the biggest Canadian, 1,500 tons.

The shipments of sugar from Java of the 1916-17 crop up to the end of January were 1,284,000 tons. Of these, 546,000 tons went to the United Kingdom, 69,500 tons to France, 112,000 tons to Hong Kong, and 335,000 tons to British India.

The annual report of the American Beet Sugar Company for 1916-17, according to Willett & Gray, showed \$6,126,676 profits.

In the year 1915-16, according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, 518,676 tons of sugar were imported into France, as against 155,971 tons in the pre-war year 1913-1914. Of the 1915-16 imports, 84,219 tons only came from the French Colonies. The balance consisted of 201,663 tons of foreign raw cane sugar, 6,710 tons of foreign raw beet sugar, and 226,084 tons of foreign refined. It is of note that the French Colonial imports were considerably less than the 1913-14 imports of 111,311 tons from this source.

As regards foreign raw cane sugars, the Dutch East Indies contributed 32,416 tons, the British West Indies and British Guiana 27,875 tons, the United States 83,305 tons, Cuba 109,041 tons, Peru 7,325 tons, San Domingo 2,082 tons, and Egypt 1 ton. Other sources supplied 15,674 tons. Of the imported raw beet sugars, practically the whole, 3,387 tons, came from Denmark.

Turning to refined imports, 166,768 tons came in 1915-1916 from the United States, 28,514 tons from the Dutch

East Indies, 7,934 tons from Egypt, and 3,346 tons from Holland.

The French Government has permitted the use of saccharin as a substitute for sugar in wines, liqueurs, and mineral waters, except where this product is needed for medical use. The restriction of use laid down by the French Government is due to the report of MM. Brouardel, Pouchet, and Ogies, in 1888, who, as the result of investigation, concluded that the employment in food of saccharin suspended or retarded the transformations of starchy or albuminous bodies in the digestive canal. Preparations of saccharin in food; the report went on to state, produce profound digestive troubles.

The trouble between the Queensland planters and the Australian Government with regard to the Dickson labour award, to which reference has frequently been made in the CIRCULAR, has been got over by the price of raw 97° sugar being raised to 22/9 from 18/- per cwt.

The new flat rates for sugar are in operation in this country. These are: Cubes 53/9, refiners' crystals and granulated 46/9, British West India crystallised 46/9, British West India muscovados 44/6, and syrups 42/3.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to June 2nd are as follows:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	21,117	18,771	17,462 tons
Deliveries	22,947	22,417	16,055 ..
Stock (June 2nd) ...	6,185	7,459	7,410 ..

The New York market has remained fairly steady during the fortnight. 96° duty paid sugars are quoted at \$5.89, with average granulated at \$7.40.

CAOAO Market quiet, with steady demand for Trinidad and Grenada. At auction yesterday, 2,995 bags Trinidad were offered, of which 1,500 bags were sold at 86/- for good quality. 3,379 bags Grenada were mostly sold at 68/- to 82/6.

At auction sales on the 5th, 8,000 bags were disposed of. Grenada was 1/- to 3/- higher. 520 bags of Trinidad were disposed of, good quickly fetching 86/-, 4,000 bags of Grenada were sold, common to fine, 68/6 to 82/6.

The West India Committee has been engaged during the fortnight in negotiating with the Foreign Office as to the shipment of 3,000 tons of Trinidad cacao to France. No British steamers are available for direct transport from Trinidad to France, and calling at two ports is not now allowed. It is hoped, however, that the French Government will either waive the surtax on cacao transhipped to France, and thus permit of the cacao being shipped to the United Kingdom and transhipped to France, or else provide the tonnage for direct shipment.

According to the statistics compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce of the United States, for a resume of which the Summary is indebted to the *Tea and Coffee Journal*, 243,232,000 lbs. of cacao were purchased abroad during the fiscal year 1916—50,000,000 lbs. more than in 1915, and double the purchases of 1914 for consumption in that country. This increase is accounted for by the growing taste for chocolate and cocoa, especially the former, among the inhabitants of the United States.

Instead of shipping through Europe, some of the producing countries are now shipping direct to the United States. Thus in 1916, 25,000,000 lbs. of cacao were shipped from British West Africa direct, imports from that country having formerly been shipped through England. There were, also, marked increases in the amounts of shipments from Brazil, Portugal, and French Africa, corresponding to a marked decline in those from the United Kingdom.

The quantity of cacao imported into the United States in 1916 amounted to 243,232,000 lbs., as against 192,306,000 lbs. in 1915.

The amounts from the principal sources of supply were:—

	1916	1915
	lbs.	lbs.
Dominican Republic	48,991,000	46,620,000
Brazil	45,657,000	19,709,000
British West Indies	39,933,000	40,729,000
Ecuador	31,913,000	33,419,000

	1916 lbs.	1915 lbs.
British West Africa	25,063,000	17,000
Venezuela	16,749,000	15,299,000
United Kingdom	13,408,000	21,063,000
Portugal	7,532,000	3,517,000
French Africa	2,824,000	—
Cuba	2,606,000	4,006,000
Dutch Guiana	1,460,000	—
Chili	1,327,000	—
Haiti	1,183,000	—
Dutch West Indies	1,146,000	—
Dutch East Indies	831,000	—

A homeward mail has brought a report of the Trinidad Cacao Planters' Association, the first annual meeting of which was held on May 4th. That body, formed to secure for its members all the advantages derived from co-operation in disposing of their product, now controls seventy-eight estates.

The stocks in London on June 2nd were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	27,701	25,435	9,791 bags.
Grenada	27,497	16,749	3,252 ..
Total of all kinds	291,594	196,467	69,698 ..

COFFEE. The market has been quiet. The value of first-class Santos is 62/-.

RUM. In consequence of the extension of the period by six months during which rum must remain in bond, there has been a good demand for parcels which are near the required age, and an advance of several pence is noticeable for Jamaica, which may be quoted at 5/8 to 5/9 for ordinary. Demerara is quoted at 4/3.

The stocks in London on June 2nd were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,836	4,565	4,422 puns.
Demerara	10,208	12,365	7,972 ..
Total of all kinds	31,830	29,500	19,653 ..

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that no business has been done in West Indian Sea Island cotton since their last report, but that quotations are raised a further 1d. per lb.

The value of medium fine is 40d., with extra fine at 44d. The import of West Indian into the United Kingdom for the present year up to the 7th of June has been 1,879 bales.

COPRA. The market for West Indian is quietly steady, with value £45 15s. to £46, c.i.f. delivered weights, no discount.

ARROWROOT. A good business has been done at 5d. to 5½d. Quotations, 5d. to 6½d.

FRUIT. Bananas, £41 per ton (truckloads).

HONEY. The market is extremely dull. Nearly all the Jamaica and Cuba offered at last week's auction had to be withdrawn, only isolated lots selling at about 2/6 decline.

SPICES. The demand for *Ginger* is extremely limited, prices being nominally unchanged. *Pimento*: The market is depressed by cheap offers for re-sale. Importers ask 3½d. but there are very few buyers.

LIME PRODUCTS. *Lime Juice*, raw, no change; concentrated very firm and in good demand. *Lime Oil*, distilled, neglected, consignments not being obtainable. Handpressed, firm with further sales at 16/-.

RUBBER. Market dull and easier. The value of crepe is 2/9½; of smoked sheet, 2/9½; and of fine stored Para, 3/1.

BALATA. The market keeps dull, with fair arrivals of Venezuela block quoted at 3/1½ c.i.f. value. Panama block, nominal at 3/- to 3/1. Sheet unchanged, 3/11 to 3/11½ spot.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua	Barbados	British Guiana to 28 Apr.	British Honduras to 15 Apr.	Dominica	Grenada to 15 Apr.	Jamaica to 5 May	Mont- serrat to 15 Apr.	St. Lucia to 30 Apr.	St. Kitts- Nevis to 31 Mar.	St. Vincent to 15 Apr.	Trinidad to 30 Apr.
Arrowroot Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,544,370	—
Asphalt Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,101
Balata Lbs.	—	—	400,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas Bchrs	—	—	—	270,514	—	—	51,186	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters Galls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,569
Cacao Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	8,076,603	1,727,152	2,118	872,535	—	75,586	41,015,546
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,800	76,501	—
Coco-nuts No.	—	—	741,968	1,274,561	—	—	9,153,600	—	—	—	—	2,296,690
Coffee Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coupa Lbs.	—	—	22,960	14,561	—	—	—	—	4,730	—	—	1,613,313
Cotton, M. Galante Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	—	51,515	—	—	—	—	—	173,936	—	188,479	—	—
Cotton Seed Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	165,313	—	794	—	—
Diamonds Carats	—	—	4,263	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyewoods Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,307	—	—	—	—	—
Gold Ozs.	—	—	9,821	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs & Hls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	805	—
Honey Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	45,637	—	—	—	—	—
Lime juice, raw	—	—	—	—	—	20,550	—	70,499	12,177½	—	—	—
.. concid. ..	—	—	—	—	—	4,000	—	319	2,268	—	—	—
.. Oil ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) ... Lbs.	—	—	4,480	—	—	—	—	22,064	—	—	—	—
Lorwood Tons	—	—	—	2,705½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lumber Feet	—	—	40,310	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—
Mahogany Tons	—	—	—	1,986,401	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak Tons	—	15,175	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,528	17,639	51,650	—	219,303
Oranges No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	334,000	—	—	—	—	314,620
Oils, Essential ... Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum ... Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	12	—	—	27,373,739
Pimento Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,436	—	—	—	—	—
Rice Lbs.	—	—	13,927,949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,357
Rum Galls.	—	26,264	1,377,738	1,040	—	—	299,532	—	—	1,352	—	425
Shingles No.	—	—	676,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar Tons	—	20,695	35,025	—	—	—	12,333	—	68	1,784	2,121	24,910
Timber Cubic Feet	—	20,695	8,265	4,210,732	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,460

St. Kitts-Nevis to hand.

St. Vincent to hand.

The West India Committee Circular

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Some Officers and Men of the B.W.I. Regiment
in the Near East facing p. 244

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SEETHING LANE,
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June 28th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

AN IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

THE recent decision to admit India to representation at all future Imperial Conferences will strengthen the hope that eventually these meetings may be truly Imperial, and that the present select coterie of statesmen from the overseas Dominions, which meets periodically in London, may be extended to include representatives from every part of our far-flung Empire. Until the decision was tardily arrived at to invite India to our councils the position with respect to the Conference was truly anomalous. Of the total population of the British Empire, amounting to 372,127,000 souls, 18,882,000 only of his Majesty's subjects were represented, the remaining 353,245,000 being altogether left out in the cold. The inclusion of India, with her vast population of 315,086,372, has entirely altered the balance; but setting that great Empire on one side, we fail altogether to see why those colonies other than the Dominions which have a

population of 38,158,448, or more than twice as great as that of Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Newfoundland combined, should not be permitted to have their say in matters of common concern to the Empire. Why should Ceylon, with a population of over 4,000,000, be unrepresented, whilst New Zealand, with one only just exceeding 1,000,000, is, and why should the British West Indies, with a population of 2,000,000, be outside the pale whilst Newfoundland, with one of under 250,000, is within? There are many important questions which affect both the Colonies and Dominions, such as emigration, the employment of coloured labour, preferential trade, coinage, etc., which are ripe for discussion. In the House of Commons on February 25th last the Secretary of State for the Colonies said that he himself would attend to the interests of the "Crown Colonies" at the Imperial Conference, but we have searched the published extracts from the minutes of the proceedings in vain for any reference by MR. WALTER LONG to the needs and requirements of the colonies other than the Dominions round which the discussions constantly revolved. We admit that there would be difficulties in arranging for the representation of our many scattered colonies without making the Conference unwieldy or the Dominions in danger of being swamped; but may not the solution lie in the establishment of an Empire Parliament? Mention was made of this in the discussion on the resolution regarding the Constitution of the Empire which is to form the subject of a special Imperial Conference to be summoned as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities. MR. MASSEY expressed the confident belief that an Imperial Parliament "dealing purely with Imperial questions and leaving local matters . . . to be dealt with by local legislatures" would develop in course of time. SIR JOSEPH WARD said that he was a strong advocate of such an arrangement, adding that he had studied the matter from every aspect, and that he believed that "if you want to prevent a weakening of the Empire in the years to come" the establishment of such a Parliament would be essential. In the Imperial Conference we see already the nucleus of such a Parliament. Indeed, all that seems needed to bring such a body into existence is to extend invitations to the colonies at present outside to attend it to arrange for it to meet more frequently. This would probably be better than a kind of Imperial Senate in more or less constant session. We can only claim to speak for the West Indies, and we recognise in those colonies a steadily growing feeling in favour of representation, and we feel convinced that the

best means of securing this lies along the path of federation in the widest sense, that is to say, to combination of all the British West Indian colonies without exception which collectively could speak with a powerful voice.

AGRICULTURE IN BARBADOS.

THE seedling cane experiments, conducted in Barbados are so well known and appreciated, that, in noticing the Report of the local Department of Agriculture, it is unnecessary to refer at length to the results achieved. A notable fact which stands prominently out from the mass of statements is that B 6450, the cane which has given so much satisfaction during the last few years in Barbados, still holds its own, giving, on the black soils, no fewer than five tons of canes per acre more than the standard cane, the White Transparent, which is equivalent to over half a ton of sugar. This is a greater increase than occurred with any of the other seedlings experimented with. As regards the cotton industry, the experiments in the direction of the improvement of the quality and of the increase in quantity of Sea Island cotton were continued. The report of the cotton experts on this side on some of the experimental cottons was most satisfactory, these being stated to be of a quality which could compete with some of the best cottons of St. Vincent and St. Kitts, and in this connection we must recall that Vincelonians have justified their claims to produce the finest cotton in the world. The yield, however, is stated to have been poor on account of want of sufficient manure. The cultivation of cassava, obtained from Montserrat, Trinidad, and Panama, together with local varieties, was continued. This is an extremely important subject, in view of the necessity for the greater self-support of the West Indies as regards food products. This also holds good of the economic *Colocasia*, such as Eddoes and Tannias, of various *Leguminosae*, such as beans and peas, and of yams, the experimental cultivation of which were continued. "Arbor Day," coincident with the August Bank Holiday, was celebrated, 1,737 plants being distributed for the purpose. Naturally, insect pests and fungoid diseases occupied much of the attention of the officers of the Department, especially in connection with sugar. The two principal pests to which their special attention was given were the root-borer *Diaprepes abbreviatus*, L., and the brown, hard-back *Phytalus Smithi*, the latter particularly associated with Mauritius. The most troublesome sugar-cane disease for the year was the pine-apple disease, *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* (*ethiopicus*), which was responsible for a bad spring on many of the estates. A new sugar-cane disease was also investigated of a fungoid nature, similar to the *Cephalosporium sacchari* of India. As regards the 1915 crops of the Island, 19,874 tons of vacuum pan crystals, 9,970 tons of Muscovado sugar and 54,707* puncheons of molasses were shipped. Practically the whole of the "crystal" sugar was for refining purposes, and the molasses included 3,782,851 galls. of "fancy" molasses, equivalent to about 9,955 tons of Muscovado sugar. The cot-

ton exports amounted to 303,681 lbs., reaped from 2,323 acres, the yield of lint being 131 lbs. per acre, as compared with 96 lbs. in 1914.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive, held this afternoon, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Names	Proposers and Seconders.
R. R. Mole (Trinidad)	{ Mr. W. A. Wolseley. { Mr. Gregor M. Frame.
The Clyde Cane Sugar Agency.	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
The Glebe Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. Gregor M. Frame
Furness, Witly & Co., Ltd.	{ Mr. E. Boynes. { Mr. E. R. Davson.
Lieut. G. P. Boon, R.F.A. (Montserrat)	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. H. D. Spooner.
Major Max Smith (Trinidad)	{ Mr. Thomas Boyd. { Mr. H. F. Smith.
Mr. Charles Dede (Trinidad)	{ Mr. M. Hamel Smith. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Sydney Hamel Smith	{ Mr. M. Hamel Smith. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.

Members of the West India Committee are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing eligible candidates for election, and by patronising the firms advertising in the columns of the CIRCULAR. We may remind readers that 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.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

Mr. G. M. Frame and Mr. W. A. Wolseley have been elected to the Executive of the West India Committee by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter.

Both those gentlemen are well known to many members, having already served many years on the Executive, and we are glad to welcome them back. Mr. Gregor M. Frame is senior partner of the firms of Frame & Co., 21, Mincing Lane, E.C., and Frame, Leaycraft & Co., 64, Wall Street, New York, founded by him in 1888 and 1892 respectively. He received his early training in the old West India house of Gregor Turnbull & Co., and on the death of his uncle, Mr. Gregor Turnbull, Mr. Frame opened an office in Glasgow, removing to 21, Mincing Lane two years thereafter. Having made a life-long study of cocoa, both as planter and merchant, his appointment to the Executive should enable the West India Committee to keep in closer touch with the needs and requirements of those connected with the premier industry in Grenada and Trinidad. Besides representing the interests of sugar planters in Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara to the extent of over 10,000 tons, his all-world trading experience and grasp of finance will be of service to us in the work now beginning, and in which we intend to take our full share, for the safeguarding of our general interests after, and as a result of, the war.

Mr. Wolseley is a well-known British Guiana Estates' proprietor, being part owner of Plm. Lusignan, on the East Coast of Demerara, of which he was manager for some years.

THE WEST INDIAN FLAG-DAY.

It should be possible to give in an early issue of the CIRCULAR some further particulars about the West Indian Flag-day, which is being organised throughout the West Indies on behalf of the West Indian Contingent Fund. A complete list of the ladies who are so kindly giving their help has not yet been received, but from the information already received it is clear that the matter is being taken up with enthusiasm. Most of the flags and badges have reached the West Indies safely, though we regret to state that those shipped to Jamaica have gone to "Davy Jones' Locker."



A B. W. I. ID. BADGE.

The picture of one of the silk flags, which was published in the last CIRCULAR, is now supplemented by a reproduction of one of the cardboard badges.

As already stated, it is not proposed to observe the Flag-day officially on this side of the water, but a goodly supply of flags has been reserved for disposal among friends at home, it having occurred to the organisers that many folk connected with the West Indies would like to purchase flags and badges as souvenirs. In this connection readers are reminded that the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee (15 Seething Lane, E.C.) would be glad to hear from any who may be willing to help in disposing of these flags. The note to this effect published in last CIRCULAR has already brought in several applications, one lady sending £10 for flags, which augurs well for the success of the appeal.



A SILK B. W. I. FLAG.

The supply of sulphate of ammonia is a serious problem for colonial agriculturists at the present moment, existing supplies being drawn upon first for home purposes. An additional source of this valuable manurial agent, however small, would therefore be hailed with pleasure. In a paper read at the Society of Chemical Industry, the subject of the utilisation of soldiers' worn-out boots was dealt with, and among the products obtained from them was sulphate of ammonia.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Passed by the Press Censor for Publication.

Germany's peace diplomacy is not working out as she hoped. It has merely had the effect of setting the aims and objects of the Allies in higher relief than ever, and revealing her real design, which is to restore the *status quo ante* by bargaining with the territories she has devastated and destroyed. But, as Mr. Wilson pointed out, it was in such conditions that the present war was engineered. So that what America insists upon is a continuation of the conflict until such terms can be exacted as will prevent its recurrence. M. Ribot, for France, cleared the air of the dust raised by the "no annexation, no indemnity formula," with special reference to the Stockholm Conference, which has had so much of its thunder taken from it that it is not likely to meet at all. He said that to allow individual citizens to discuss peace terms at Stockholm or Petrograd would be an abdication of the Government as the depository of power in a matter vital to France, and as such would unsettle public opinion and undermine its confidence. The only road to peace is victory in the field. As for the Allies, none of them want any annexations of territory except in the way of restitution, or indemnities except as compensation and reparation. If Germany thought she was going to divide the Allied countries by Socialist intrigues, she has failed.

A Lesson to Neutrals.

The Russian Government has acted with promptness and decision in exposing a Swiss manoeuvre to bring about a separate peace as between Germany and Russia. The agent was M. Robert Grimm, a member of the Swiss National Council, though M. Hoffmann, who is practically Foreign Minister in Switzerland, and M. Odier, Swiss Minister in Petrograd, are involved. A communication in connection with Germany's proposal that she would undertake no offensive so long as there was a chance of Russia coming to terms with her was forwarded to M. Hoffmann by M. Grimm through M. Odier, but was intercepted and deciphered. M. Grimm was thereupon expelled from Russia. The Swiss Government, which cannot dissociate itself from responsibility, seems to be unaware that it has been committed to a course of unneutrality in the matter, apparently regarding the "purity" of the sentiments of M. Hoffmann, who, while a Swiss Minister, acts as a German agent, as a sufficient explanation of his conduct.

On the Western Front.

Hard fighting continues, with varying success, though the net result is in favour of the Anglo-French armies. The British have gained Infantry Hill, near Monchy, and held it against heavy counter-attacks. Several outposts had later to fall in, but they have since been re-established. The French in Champagne have made themselves masters of a system of enemy trenches which formed a salient between Mount Cornillet and Mount Blond. These incidents stand out in a daily record

of fighting all along the Allied front, which indicates a steady nibbling at the Hindenburg line.

In the meantime the Haig despatches giving an account of the Battle of the Ancre have been published, and ending up in the hope that a war of movement may soon be initiated. For a brief interval it was fulfilled. But as it was then, it depended upon the German retirement on prepared positions without stiff fighting. The new line, though not so strong as the old, nor rendered so formidable by labour and science, was stronger than any the enemy is likely to create when once the Hindenburg system crumbles under Allied pressure, for he will not be given the time. As he falls back his defences are weaker, and between each battle for their possession there is a shorter interval. Moreover, each one is crowned with success for the Anglo-French Armies, as if it were inevitable. The Messines, Vimy, and Albert ridges were believed by the German High Command to be impregnable, and all of them are now in British hands, only one of them involving the preparation of years. The enemy knew its object and character, and about when the blow would strike. But, though he massed men and guns in the Messines sector for weeks before the British offensive was launched, he was no better able to turn it than he was the advance at Vimy. The conclusion is that no defences he can prepare can withstand the attacks of Anglo-French troops. The only advantage remaining to him over the Allies is his position in interior lines. He has no longer a monopoly in organisation, and his superiority in numbers is a thing of the past. Even in co-ordination of effort the Allies have learned in his school. No wonder Sir Douglas Haig looks forward with hope to open warfare in the near future.

America and the War.

The President is paving the way for measures to control America's food supply, so that it will, in the main, be available for the needs of the Allies. Until it is organised the problem in England is rendered difficult, as the authorities do not know what stocks they can rely upon as coming from the States. Since the corn crop ripens earliest in the East and South, and latest in the Canadian North-West, to save profiteering and speculation the boundary-line between Canada and the United States has been temporarily removed where this crop is concerned, so that in cutting and gathering in the harvest, not to speak of putting it on the market, the two countries will be as one.

On the purely military side, America will probably be first felt effectively in the air. Realising its importance, and that her pilots, like those of England and France, have an advantage over the German in adventurousness and initiative, she is prepared to spend £120,000,000, in addition to the £12,800,000 already voted, to provide a great Flying Corps for the Western Front. As her manufacturers during the past two years have been working strenuously to profit by the lessons of the War, her aircraft industry may be expanded with comparative ease. Moreover, an engine—the weak point of

American machines so far—has been developed which is believed by experts to be equal to the best in Europe.

Italy's New Thrust.

The Italians, while consolidating and extending their recent gains from Castagnavizza, at the edge of the Carso, to Bagni, on the coast, and further unmasking the great fortress of Hermada, which guards Trieste, have made a thrust in the Trentino. They have forced their way through the Agnella Pass on the frontier and captured nearly the whole of Monte Ortigara, which is nearly 7,000 feet high, following up this success by seizing other formidable positions in the same area, and all of them dominating the Austrian line of communication in the valley of the Sugana. Thus did the Italians turn the tables on the enemy, who initiated the operations by trying to dislodge our Allies from Hill 2,101—an effort in which he was unsuccessful. Because a part of the Austro-Hungarian army was overwhelmed by the Russians in 1915, it has been underrated ever since in this country. Therefore the value of the indirect aid given by Italy to the Anglo-French forces on the Western Front, by preventing large additions to Germany's strength being drawn from the Italian front, is not as fully appreciated as it should be.

In the Balkans.

At last the Allies have acted with decision, backed by military force, and deposed King Constantine, who, with his family, has left Greece, his second son, Alexander, reigning in his stead. The broom of M. Jonart, the Allied Commissioner, will, however, not pause at the threshold of the palace. It is sweeping away the German and pro-German intriguers who have for so long had the Greek Government in their toils. That the kingdom will enter the War is unlikely, as the ex-Sovereign had popular support for the main feature of his policy, which was to save Greece from the fate that has overtaken Belgium.

Another Zeppelin Raid.

Another Zeppelin raid has taken place. One machine, which damaged a Kentish town, dropped bombs with great deliberation, repeatedly stopping her engines to ascertain her bearings before dropping her projectiles. The other, a Zeppelin of the latest construction and design, L48, which travelled north to East Anglia, was brought down in a combined attack, the anti-aircraft guns winging her, and an aeroplane finishing her. The fall in flames of the great machine in a cornfield was witnessed by an enormous crowd, roused from bed by the deafening noise of the bombs she dropped.

The total casualties from the air raid over the East-end of London on June 13th are now officially given as under:—

	Killed.	Injured.
Men	91	222
Women	24	110
Children	42	100
Total	157	432



SOME OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE B.W.I. REGIMENT IN THE NEAR EAST.

In consequence of recent raids, there is a strong demand for reprisals, not in revenge, as sickly sentimentalists seem to think, but as a preventive measure, for while we in this country are not terrified by such raids, the Germans would be, the enemy High Command assuming that their psychological reading of their own people, which is correct of them, is also correct of us. Therefore reprisals would serve a military purpose by keeping German aircraft at home for defence.

The War at Sea.

The Navy has scored in a new form of fighting. A drifter, while on patrol duty, encountered a group of five enemy seaplanes, and engaged them with such effect that one was destroyed and another so badly damaged that it sank while being towed into harbour. The pilots were taken prisoners.

The British transport *Cameronian*, once the German *Kamerun*, with troops on board, has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean with a loss of 60 lives.

Shipping Losses.

The returns for the two weeks to June 17th showed an increase in the destruction of British tonnage by submarine warfare over the previous two weeks. Moreover, there is a decline in the number of small vessels sunk. Evidently the enemy is concentrating his deadly efforts on ships of 1,600 tons burden and over. For last week the figures showed an improvement. Here are the figures for the past five weeks :

	1600 tons and over.	Under 1600 tons.	Fishing Vessels.
May 27 ...	18	1	2
June 3 ...	15	3	5
June 10 ...	24	10	6
June 17 ...	25	5	0
June 24 ...	20	6	0

(To be continued.)

The Hon. Gideon Murray, Administrator of St. Lucia, and Mr. E. R. Davson, President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, were entertained by the West Indian Club at luncheon to-day. The members and their friends present included :—

Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. J. Bastiaans, Mr. Harry Berger, Mr. J. W. Clarke, His Honour Chief Justice Collier, Mr. E. H. C. Craig, Sub. Lt. P. M. Davson, Major de Boissiers, Hon. D. S. de Freitas, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. Algernon B. Aspinall, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. F. J. Goodwin, Mr. G. C. Hampton, Mr. A. Hirsch, Dr. John Hutson, Mr. Laurence Keir, Mr. A. H. Martin-Sperry, Capt. G. B. Mason, Mr. A. J. Messer, Mr. F. F. C. Messum, Mr. D. McDonald, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. A. E. Nicholls, Dr. O'Neale, Mr. G. Perch, Mr. S. C. Pontifex, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Capt. H. Rigaud, Mr. R. Rutherford, Hon. G. Seton-Browne, Capt. Shaw, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. J. A. Shoemith.

It is hoped to publish a report of the speeches in next issue.

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.

LABOUR IN SAN THOMÉ.

Mr. W. A. Cadbury, on behalf of Cadbury Bros., Ltd., has issued a leaflet in which he criticises the incomplete fashion in which H.M. Consul-General in Angola presented facts and figures in his report which induced the Foreign Office to advocate the withdrawal of the boycott against Portuguese cacao.

The report, writes Mr. Cadbury, is issued at a time when the Foreign Office is engaged with vital questions connected with the greatest war the world has ever known, and has doubtless no time to abstract and digest a series of complicated figures dealing with a subject with which probably no member of the staff is personally familiar. It is more difficult to understand how our accredited Consul-General, living on the spot, selected no doubt because of considerable personal ability, and with all the power and authority attached to this important office, can collect and hand on the interesting but disconnected figures as published in the local "Boletim Oficial" without a strong desire on his own part to tabulate them and present his chiefs with a concise summary that will enable them to visualize and judge the whole situation in an hour of concentrated attention. Another course is adopted, and the only summary is made in a letter of running comment and general conclusions.

Mr. Cadbury has now successfully attempted to make good the omission by tabulating the figures given. In doing so he arrives at the conclusion that the death-rate is higher than it is made to appear. The Consul-General in his final dispatch says that the death-rate among labourers is about 5 per cent., but he does not mention the excessive death-rate among the children. He adds :—

"The number of deaths is lamentable, but perhaps not unlike what is found to occur in other parts where natives are employed away from their own country." Letter to the Editor.

This statement Mr. Cadbury challenges, quoting the rate in other parts of the world, including Trinidad's 2.13 per cent. among immigrants.

The actual death-rate in San Thomé cannot be even approximately given, owing to lack of reliable figures of population. There can be, however, no doubt that in the past 23 years among the contract labourers and their children it has exceeded 10 per cent.; it has far exceeded that figure if, according to one estimate of the Consul-General, 35,000 be the present population.

Mr. Cadbury goes on to say :—

"The promise given by us in good faith on April 19th to purchase again the product of these islands, has been withdrawn pending an explanation from the Foreign Office. We heartily welcome the evidence showing that slavery should soon be extinct in the two islands of San Thomé and Principe, and congratulate the Portuguese on the extermination of sleeping sickness in Principe. It is not our wish as a private firm to pillory a friendly nation by formal boycott because they are unsuccessful or unfortunate in this part of their Colonial administration. On the other hand we ask in justice to a subject native race, that we in England who are to be

consumers, and the people of the Portuguese Republic, who are the responsible governors of the colony, should know the simple facts in connection with the contracting of native labour for the cocoa estates of San Thomé."

In conclusion, Mr. Cadbury writes: "We were, and are, prepared to purchase San Thomé cocoa again if the Consul-General's statement of a reduction to 5 per cent. death-rate can be proved. In the meantime we shall hope to supply our requirements by direct support of the free native proprietors in the Gold Coast, and by market purchases from other parts of the world."

THE SICILIAN LEMON INDUSTRY.

How the Trade is Financed.

According to a report by the United States Consul at Palermo, it is estimated that there are now between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 lemon trees in Sicily. Statistics for June, 1916, show that there were 88,797 acres planted in lemons, oranges, and mandarins, the larger proportion being lemons. The production of these fruits in all Italy in 1915 was 560,500 metric tons, while of lemons alone it was 534,300 tons.

Very few of the lemon growers export their own crop. As a rule, the grower sells his lemons on the tree to a shipper or buyer for a factory. There is no organisation of the proprietors, and each one sells when and where he deems best. The shippers, as a rule, buy a whole orchard at so much per thousand, and then gather the crop as they think opportune. Sometimes the different crops are sold separately. If the crop is sold as a whole, the buyer usually does the harvesting, but if each picking is sold, the work is done by the proprietor.

In general, when the shipper buys a crop, he pays one-third of the price at the time of making the contract, one-third at the time the gathering is begun, and the remainder when the gathering is completed. When the fruit is shipped the banks advance a certain sum on account on presentation of the shipping documents. This sum varies according to the shipper or according to advices from London. If the lemons are shipped on account of the exporter, the bank usually advances 40, 50, or 60 per cent. of the value, but if the exporter has credit at the bank, the entire value may be advanced. If the shipment is made for account of any importer in New York or in London, the local bank will advance only on advice of a bank in New York or London.

Lemons are sold at auction in all countries except Russia, where they are shipped on order. Auctions are maintained in normal times in New York, London, Hamburg, Cologne, Berlin, and Budapest. Efforts have been made at times to form a combination of the shippers in Sicily and to establish the business on a firm basis, but these have always resulted in failure. It has been the desire of some of the exporters to sell the fruit on order, as is done in Russia, and as oranges are sold in other countries; but there are too many small shippers engaged in the business to form a combination that would prove effectual.

There is an association of fruit exporters (Lega Agrumaria) to which a majority of the shippers belong, but this organisation has never attempted to change the method of transacting the lemon business. It has protected the shippers in various ways and looked after their interests. It has had charge of the shipping, and all space for cargo on ships must be obtained through the Lega. That is, if the members of the Lega have sufficient lemons to take up all the space on a ship, the shipping company cannot take the cargo of others. In this way the Lega might be said to have a monopoly; but it is understood that this is seldom, if ever, exercised, and in general, space is assigned to the first applicants.

There is little difference in the packing for different countries, except that the English market takes a large-sized case as well as the regular size. Also the English market prefers the large-sized lemons, whereas the American prefers the small fruit. The Russian market requires a medium-sized fruit, but of best quality. Other markets take first and second and sometimes third grade lemons. The average for the American market is 330 to 360 lemons per box.

THE CACAO DUTY.

According to the report of the Commission of Customs for the year ended March 31st, 1916, the net receipts from the cacao duty in 1915-16 were £698,000, as against £354,000 in 1914-15. This increase of nearly 100 per cent. was due partly to forestalments at the end of 1915-16, and partly to the extra duty imposed on 22nd September, 1915, but there was a remarkable rise in consumption, which is attributed by the Commissioners largely to the consumption of chocolate by members of the new armies, both at home and abroad, since much of the chocolate sent as presents to the expeditionary forces is duty-paid.

The quantities of cacao imported and retained for consumption and the net receipts of duty are shown in the following table:—

Year ended 31st March.	Quantity paid, less over-entries	Duty Retained for Consumption	Net Duty received.
		£	£
1907...	40,843,006	—	170,283
1908...	46,539,530	—	193,932
1909...	51,029,001	—	216,385
1910...	49,276,891	—	205,374
1911...	51,514,660	—	214,647
1912...	58,739,764	—	244,553
1913...	63,609,795	54,998,088	229,182
1914...	63,472,004	54,719,859	228,009
1915...	73,022,433	63,878,984	266,162
1916...	114,144,271	101,412,204	555,836

The West India Committee's Map of the West Indies should be in every West Indian businessman's office. It is indispensable. The reduced price of the Map to members of the West India Committee and the education authorities in the West Indies is 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.

SUGAR AFTER THE WAR.

A Letter to the Prime Minister.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation has addressed the following letter to the Prime Minister on the subject of the future of the British sugar industry.

Sir,—In June last we presented to His Majesty's Government, by a Deputation representative of Sugar Producers from every part of the Empire, introduced by Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, our recommendations for the development of sugar production within the Empire.

We were received on behalf of His Majesty's Government by the Rt. Hons. A. Bonar Law and Lewis Harcourt, who gave us a sympathetic hearing and stated that the Government would give full consideration to our recommendations.

We urged the necessity of immediate action in the direction of offering security to the Industry by means of preferential treatment to the extent of not exceeding 1d. per lb. below the General Tariff rate for Refined Sugar, which we consider essential in order to attract the Capital required for development.

We have since refrained from further representations pending some declaration as to the future policy of the Government. Now that the adherence of the Government to the principles of Imperial Preference, and their intention to carry out the policy laid down in the resolutions of the Paris Economic Conference has been publicly announced as the result of the recent deliberations of the Imperial War Cabinet and Conference, we desire again to press upon you the necessity of immediate action in order—

- (a) To avoid the risk of a serious crisis in our sugar-producing industry at the end of the War; and
- (b) To develop the production of the Empire as rapidly as possible with a view to its becoming self-supporting.

We estimate that the excess over pre-war values paid to certain foreign countries in respect of the increased quantities of sugar purchased from them since the commencement of the War to the end of 1916 amounts to between £40,000,000 and £50,000,000, which has been mainly spent in improving and developing their production. On the same basis, some £6,400,000 has been paid to British Producers to end of 1916, of which approximately £5,000,000 is absorbed in Excess Profits and Income Tax.

Further, British Producers' interests have suffered owing to the following necessary measures:—

- (1) Prohibition of Export of Sugar and Sale to the Government at below market prices, at the commencement of war.
- (2) Immense increase in cost of supplies and freights.
- (3) Depletion of Administrative staffs and Labour for the Army.
- (4) Prohibition on Import of Rum.
- (5) Prohibition of Export of Sulphate of Ammonia.
- (6) Loss of Labour in the West Indies due to high wages current in Cuba.

We submit that the above give the Producers a strong claim on the attention of His Majesty's Government.

The preferential treatment which we ask can be granted without fresh legislation. Its effect would be to give stability and security to the industry, and so to justify immediate expenditure on efforts to increase production.

If nothing is done to the end of the war, the competition from foreign countries will be so severe as to endanger the development of the industry in the British Empire.

Finally, we would respectfully point out that His Majesty's Government have already given security in various directions.

- (a) To Agriculture by fixing prices of wheat, etc., for a series of years.
- (b) To Agricultural Labourers by a minimum wage.
- (c) To Sugar Beet growing in U.K. by financing the purchase and development of the Ketham Estate and Factory, the success of which so far as can be anticipated depends upon the adoption of our recommendations.

We earnestly hope that you may see fit to recommend to His Majesty's Government that immediate effect be

given to our recommendations by granting the preference asked for a period of not less than ten years, in order that steps to develop the industry may commence forthwith.

We also respectfully submit that if it be found desirable that the Government should continue to control, through the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies, the import, distribution, and price of sugar for a period after the declaration of peace, it is essential that the personnel of the Commission be composed of men who are known to be in sympathy with the development of Empire production. There is reason to believe that at present this is not the case.

We respectfully suggest that the Commission should include representatives engaged in Sugar Production within the Empire.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servants,
(Signed) C. SANDRACH PARKER, *Chairman*,
The Rt. Honble. David Lloyd George, M.P.

CENTRAL FACTORIES IN JAMAICA.

Sir F. Watts' Proposals Summarised.

Sir Francis Watts has returned to Barbados from Jamaica (*via* New York and Grenada, the only available route!), where he has been discussing with the leading planters proposals for the erection of Central Sugar Factories, and the following official statement will show how matters now stand in this connection.

For some little time a strong desire has made itself manifest in Jamaica, as in other parts of the West Indies, for the development of the sugar industry. Under modern conditions, however, it is necessary if effect be given to this desire, to consider the introduction of thoroughly up-to-date and progressive measures, which involves the establishment of modern factories of considerable size, linked up with comparatively large areas producing sugarcane. To ensure the success of a modern factory it is essential to have contracts for the performance of various services extending over long periods of time; these are more likely to be entered into with confidence when the Government is actively concerned. In accordance with this idea the proposals put forward in Jamaica have involved the principles of direct Government financial aid and co-operation.

The preliminary paragraphs outlining the proposals describe the relationship that it is desirable to establish between the Government, the contracting planters and the Board of Directors. The principal idea is that a limited liability company should be formed to operate the factory, financed by Government Debentures, and controlled by Directors appointed by the Government and by the Associated Contracting Planters. The following is a précis of the proposals put forward by Sir Francis Watts, and approved by the Governor and Legislative Council on April 5th, 1917:—

It is sought through the medium of an agreement to give effect to the proposals that the Government may, on business lines, afford assistance in developing the Sugar Industry of Jamaica. The agreement provides that the cane growers of a district shall associate themselves together under contract to cultivate a sufficient acreage in sugar-canes to keep a sugar factory employed and shall form a company, the shares of which will be assigned to the Govern-

ment, to be held by the Government as security for the Government interest in the factory, and that on this being done the Government will advance to the company a sum agreed upon for the erection and working of the factory.

This sum will be secured by debentures of the company bearing interest at six per cent. per annum and redeemable by a sinking fund of four per cent., whereby it is calculated that the debentures may be redeemed in about twenty years, but they may be redeemed earlier. During such time as any debentures are outstanding the Government shall, in addition to the interest on the debentures, receive one-half of the net profits of the factory, and for five years after the debentures are redeemed the Government shall receive one-fourth of the profits of the factory.

At the expiration of that time the Government is to transfer the shares back to the company and the company is to distribute them to the cane growers, who have entered into contracts under this agreement, in proportion to the canes delivered by each contractor to the factory. The shares are only to be held by those who continue to grow canes for the factory. The shares are not to receive any interest and only entitle their holders to vote in connection with the election of directors or in other similar matters. The cane growers bind themselves by this agreement to maintain in cultivation in sugar-canes the acreages stipulated by each, thus ensuring an adequate supply of canes for the factory. Provision is made for safeguarding the interest of the factory from default of the cane growers.

The cane grower binds himself to supply canes to the factory for the whole period above mentioned during which the Government interest remains in the factory, including the five years during which the Government receives one-fourth of the profits. The provisions of the agreement and of the Central Factories Law of 1902 afford security to the company, and thus to the Government, for the proper performance of the contract. The contracting cane grower is to receive for his canes the local value of five pounds of grey crystal sugar of 96° test for each hundred pounds of canes delivered, this is equivalent to 1/- per ton of cane for each one pound per ton, in local value of sugar. Thus if sugar is worth £12 per ton, the canes are paid for at the rate of 12/- per ton.

In addition to this payment the contracting cane grower is to receive his proportion of one-half of the profits of the factory until such time as the debentures are paid off, after which, for a period of five years, he is to receive his proportion of three-fourths of the profits. Finally, after this last-named period, he is to receive his proportion of the whole of the profits. Until the interest of the Government in the factory ceases the management of the company is to be entrusted to directors, one-half of whom are to be nominated by the Government and the other half by the contracting cane growers.

HON. G. E. GRABHAM writes from British Honduras that a Commission has been appointed to enquire into the question of the development of Agriculture in the Colony, for which ample land is available.

SUGAR IN PERU.

Recently published statistics on the production of sugar in Peru, says the *Journal* of the Society of Arts, show that in 1914 the average production per hectare of 2.471 acres was 10.193 metric tons (of 2204.6 lb.), equivalent to 4.547 short tons per acre, while in 1915 this average had increased to 10.378 tons (4.629 short tons per acre), due, no doubt, to the introduction of improved machinery on several of the larger plantations. In the Santa Valley, where the production of cane per hectare is as good as, or better than, that of many other sugar regions of Peru, the sugar yield is but 7 metric tons per hectare (3.123 short tons per acre). This is probably due, says the United States Commercial Attaché at Lima, to the fact that in the Santa Valley there is still being used an old mill which was erected in 1874, and which has been but little improved since that date. In the Chicama Valley, where are located the fine modern mills of Casa Grande, Cardavio, and Laredo, the production reaches the unusual figure of 13.506 metric tons per hectare (6.025 short tons per acre).

The area suitable for the growing of sugar cane on the west coast of Peru is limited only by the available supply of water for irrigation. It is understood that several projects for the irrigation of sugar lands are being studied, especially in the Santa and Jequeteneque valleys; while in the Chicama Valley the supply of subterranean water has been tapped, and the use of centrifugal pumps for bringing it to the surface has made it possible to increase the area under cultivation.

During the years 1914 and 1915 the sugar of Peru was disposed of to the following countries in the proportions indicated:—

Destination.	1914.	1915.
Chile	29.51	35.93
United States	9.99	21.69
Great Britain	29.30	17.80
Canada	6.65	—
Spain	—	4.17
Bolivia	1.02	1.68
Consumed locally or Stored	23.53	18.73
Total	100.00	100.00

An official review of the sugar industry of Peru for the five years 1911-15 discloses an advance of 47 per cent. in production and one of 78 per cent. in exports during the half decade. The figures are:—

Year.	PRODUCTION IN METRIC TONS.			Total.
	White and Granulated.	Muscovado	Chanaca.	
1911	128,071	21,936	1,026	178,533
1912	—	—	—	192,754
1913	153,568	28,775	1,611	183,954
1914	200,005	27,492	557	228,054
1915	232,616	28,259	1,965	262,840

Year.	EXPORTATION IN METRIC TONS.			Total.
	White and Granulated.	Muscovado	Chanaca.	
1911	104,763	18,927	—	123,690
1912	—	—	—	147,410
1913	121,031	20,495	1,375	142,901
1914	152,381	24,026	264	176,670
1915	195,100	24,227	930	220,257

The exportation of such a large proportion of the total production (69 per cent. in 1911, 76 per

cent. in 1912, 77 per cent. in 1913 and 1914, and 84 per cent. in 1915) has led to efforts by the Constitutional Party to secure legislation limiting the shipment of all kinds of sugar to 75 per cent. of the annual output, it being claimed that 66,000 metric tons a year are needed for domestic consumption. (This is more than 2 ounces a day per caput on a basis of 3,000,000 population.) It is thought that such action would result in the lowering of the present high price of sugar in Peru.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

Major W. H. C. Thorne, of Barbados and the British West Indies Regiment, has been appointed Commandant of the Military Police in Cyprus.

Captain R. C. Waters, of the British West Indies Regiment, is at present at Lady Dudley's hospital at Droitwich undergoing treatment for rheumatism.

Some further extracts from letters from our friends on active service are published below in order that subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund may know that good use is being made of their kind contributions:—

"I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the box forwarded to you by my mother. I am also glad to inform you that I received everything safe and good. I feel so happy when I think that I have a friend in England who will assist me at any time. I cannot express my thanks sufficiently in writing."—(From a British Guiana Man).

"I need not here state what a rarity such articles are where we are at present situated. It's true that there is an issue weekly, but only a few packets, so most of us were doubly thankful for your welcome present."—(From a Trinidadian in Mesopotamia.)

"I can hardly express my gratitude to you for all you have done for me. I can assure you it is a perfect boon to have a Committee in London to look after the boys from the West Indies. I do not know how I should have got on without your help."—(From a British Guiana man.)

"I want to thank you ever so much for the beautiful basket of fruit you sent me. Am getting on famously but won't be able to use my right hand for some time."—(From an officer from Trinidad.)

"I thank you very much for the safety razor, the air pillow, and the handkerchiefs. The air pillow makes my bed much more comfortable and I am sleeping better since I have got it."—(From a Vincentian.)

"The contents of the parcel were prime and I enjoyed every scrap."—(From a Bahamian.)

"I got the parcel from the Committee all right, and I want to thank you so much. Everything was good—just what a soldier wants. I am rather lucky to be a West Indian-Canadian."—(From a Bahamian in France.)

"I am in receipt of your parcel and must thank you very much for same. I feel sure that the underclothes will be a success, as the other W.I. fellows here say that they have had some and they have been quite successful. I must say that your Committee is very useful to the West Indian soldiers out here, and they all speak very highly of the keen interest it takes in each and every one of them, and the Committee and its work does great credit to the West Indies."—(From a Trinidadian in France.)

"It is a grand treat to be able to repay you all a little for the many letters and parcels you have been so kind to send us all."—(From a Bermudian in France.)

"Many thanks for your letter and the parcel which were greatly appreciated. The W.I. Contingent Committee must be very helpful to the fellows over from the W.I."—(From an officer from Tobago in France.)

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Trinidad Ladies' W.I.C. Committee, per Mrs. Gordon Gordon (including £292 10s., half proceeds of a bazaar organised by Mrs. Stollmeyer)	350	0	0
"Our Boys' Comforts Fund," per H. Astley Berkeley, Esq. (for Grenada men)	100	0	0
Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons (further donation)	10	10	0
Mrs. Seymour-Kane	10	0	0
Amount collected in St. Vincent (per Thos. Osment, Esq.)	6	2	0
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:—			
Per month:—		March.	April.
Hon. C. Richards	10	0	10
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	10
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	10
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	8
J. E. Blackman, Esq.	5	0	5
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	3
A. L. Gallizeau, Esq.	2	0	2
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	2
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	1
Kingstown Club	1	6	0
			7 12 8

Chas. W. Doorly, Esq. (quarterly subscription)	2	2	0
Mrs. Alleyne (Flag Day Fund)	1	0	0
Mrs. Leslie	10	0	0
H. M. Hayward, Esq. (St. Vincent)	4	2	0
Miss Scott	2	6	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. 3, or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

Through the kindness of a correspondent we are able to give below the scores in a cricket match played on May 12th between the 3rd Echelon and the British West Indies Regiment at Mex, Egypt, and which ended in a win for the B.W.I.R. Sergt. Small took 7 wickets for 20 runs, Sergt. Clairmonte 3 wickets for 11 runs.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Captain Reed, c Pull, b Ormaudy	19
Pte. Strachan, c Davis, b Stevenson	22
Sgt. Pierre, c Davey, b Stevenson	24
Sgt. Small, c & b Meyers	7
Captain Eccles, not out	18
Sgt. Clairmonte, not out	25
Extras	5

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Innings declared.—Major Gaue, Lieut. Grant, C.O.M.S. Stockhausen, Sgt. Demetrius and Cpl. Harrison did not bat.

3RD ECHELON.

Cpl. Stevenson, c & b Small	2
S. M. Meyers, b Small	0
Pte. Lucas, b Small	2
Pte. Davis, b Small	6
Sgt. Davey, b Small	3
Pte. Montague, b Clairmonte	0
Pte. Pull, not out	18
Cpl. Bryce, b Clairmonte	0
Pte. Day, b Clairmonte	0
Captain Wallace, b Small	0
Pte. Ormaudy, b Small	0
Extras	6

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A correspondent writes from Egypt that the British West Indies Regiment in its spare hours continues to do well on the cricket field, having so far not lost a single match. Only one team has scored more than 50 runs against them. The photograph reproduced on another page was taken in April, before Lieut. Phillips, about the best bat in Demerara, joined the battalion. The names are: Second Lieut. J. O. Mills, Sergeant Clairmonte, A. C. Stockhausen, W. J. Turner, Sergeant de Metrius, Captain Reed, Major Gane, Captain Eccles, Sergeant Small, Pte. G. Strachan, Second Lieut. L. M. Duff, and Lance-Corporal Johnson.

Another photograph shows some Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants who came over with the 1st Jamaica Contingent, and were "snapped" in Palestine. The two small photographs are described by the sender as "Washing day at some old Turkish wells somewhere in the desert," and "Five minutes' breeze."

From the *Gazette*, June 16th:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp. Capt. A. J. Gamblen to be temp. Maj. and to relinquish apt. of Adjt. (Jan. 16th).

The following temp. Lts. to be temp. Cpts.:—O. D. Harris, G. H. Dawson (Nov. 20th, 1916); P. S. Bacquie (May 4th).

The following temp. Sec. Lts. to be temp. Lts.:—F. K. Isaacs, R. F. Galloway (Nov. 21st, 1916); A. S. J. C. Heduan (May 5th).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The proposed procession of babies through London has been wisely abandoned in view of the danger from the air, but a Baby Saving Week is to be observed all the same. It is to be hoped that it may give the cue for similar demonstrations in the West Indies, where infantile mortality is still quite deplorably high. Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes in his report on the births, marriages and deaths in Barbados in 1916, states that the number of burials of children under the age of one year was 1,420, which gives a rate of 242 per thousand births as against 193 per thousand for the year 1915, and 403 per thousand for the year 1914. The following table shows the infantile mortality for each parish of the island for the last three years:—

Parish	1916.	1915.	1914.
St. Michael	289	244	418
Christ Church	217	121	407
St. George	196	204	413
St. Philip	271	192	495
St. John	199	152	309
St. James	288	247	407
St. Thomas	264	240	437
St. Peter	212	143	428
St. Lucy	242	136	403
St. Joseph	227	166	363
St. Andrew	82	108	214

Of the 1,420 burials of children under the age of one year, 992, or 69.8 per cent., were illegitimate.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE *Botanical Journal* attributes the pre-eminence of St. Jan in the production of bay oil to the fact that the Lemoncillo, or false bay tree, does not grow there.

THE engagement is announced of Miss Mildred Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Alston, of Rosemount, Chislehurst, and Mr. Charles Martiu, a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery.

AN admirable presentment of Mr. Audley C. Miles in his uniform as Commander of the Headquarters Central Detachment of the Metropolitan Special Constabulary is published in the *Sketch* of June 14.

COMMANDER W. H. COOMBS, R.N., formerly Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago, and now Transport Officer at Cardiff, has been granted a Naval pension of £50 a year for his long and good service.

CAPTAIN J. D. HILL, M.C., Scottish Rifles, son of Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill, of British Guiana, was married to his cousin Miss Lena Hill, daughter of Mr. James Hill, on June 18th. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. J. Bastiaans, late Manager of Plu. Lusignan, Demerara, as best man.

SAID the *Produce Markets Review* recently:—

"There is no change in the Raw market and were it not that West Indian continues to be in good supply, there would be an actual dearth of sugar."

We hope that the fact that successive sugar crises have been averted by the West Indies will not be forgotten after the war!

LORD ARINGER, who succeeded his brother, the fifth baron, last month, and is descended from the Jamaica family of Scarletts, was married on June 26th to Mme. de Serignae, whose romantic history as Mme. Steinheil was the talk of Europe some years ago, when she was acquitted of the charge of murdering her husband and her mother.

At the annual election of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, Mr. William Gillespie, Hon. Treasurer of the West India Committee, polled 1,041 votes, a figure only exceeded by those scored by that popular statesman, Sir George Reid, who headed the poll. Mr. Gillespie thoroughly merits the compliment thus paid to him.

IT is not too much to say that Mr. W. A. M. Goode, of the West Indian Club, has done a great work in connection with the fund for the Relief of Belgium. The National Committee, of which he is Hon. Secretary, collected in two years no less than £2,400,000 in Great Britain and British Dominions (the West Indies contributing £8,478), and he well deserved the encomiums showered on him at the second annual meeting which was held at the Mansion House on June 15th.

NATURE NOTES.

THE recent experiments of O. de Vries on the coagulation of latex by acetic acid and by sugar show that the difference between the rubber produced by the two processes is very slight. Tensile strength, "slope," and viscosity nearly all the same, while but a small difference was noticeable in the rate of cure, sometimes in favour of acetic acid and sometimes sugar. In three series of experiments, the uniformity from day to day with sugar coagulation was equal to that of rubber produced by the acetic acid process. Sugar coagulated rubber appeared to possess good keeping qualities.

THE *International Sugar Journal* publishes an abstract of a paper by Mr. James W. Tocher, giving the results of experiments made at the Scotland College of Agriculture with Professor Bottomley's bacterised peat. The experiments were conducted on potatoes and turnips, and the general results showed that a dressing of one ton per acre of bacterised peat was much inferior to a dressing of one cwt. per acre of sulphate of ammonia. In some plots treated with unbacterised peat the returns were quite as good as from those with peat which had been bacterised. Further investigations are being conducted.

In the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for May 14th Mr. J. G. McBeth gives an account of long and interesting experiments on the subject of the transformation and distribution of soil nitrogen in the nutrition of citrus plants. In view of the fact that the total nitrogen content of citrus land is frequently low, the natural processes of nitrification soon becomes inadequate for the needs of citrus plants, unless an effort is made to maintain the nitrogen supply by the addition of commercial fertilizers, cover crops and manures.

THE principal conclusions Mr. McBeth arrives at are (1) that when one per cent. of dried blood is added to semi-arid soils, as much as 50 per cent. of the nitrogen added may be lost during an incubation period of six weeks. As the soils frequently give off a strong ammoniacal odour, this loss is probably due to the formation and volatilisation of ammonia. Green manures are very suitable on account of their rapid nitrification, furnishing a valuable source of energy for the nitrogen fixing organisms.

MR. McBRIDE condemns the furrow system of irrigation in citrus cultivation. It produces an unsatisfactory distribution of the soil nitrates, and frequently causes the formation of nitre spots. Much nitric nitrogen is also lost in citrus lands from mulching. A winter cover crop for the soil, and the basin or overhead system of irrigation is, therefore, recommended. A constant mulch of organic matter such as nitrogen, should be avoided, so as to provide an excess of nitrates for the trees.

THE manufacturing axiom that canes should be ground as soon as possible after cutting has received a blow at the hands of Mr. J. H. Barnes, the Agricultural Chemist at the Punjab Agricultural College. Experimenting on the changes which take place in the sugar cane after cutting, when exposed to various conditions, this scientist has concluded that an actual increase in sugar content takes place on storing cut cane, but that the length of time canes may be stored before degradation of sugar content steps in varies according to climatic condition. He considers that the question of the after cutting ripening of the cane is an important one to sugar makers.

M. HELEN KEITH has been taking up the subject of vegetarianism, and as the result of experiments has concluded that a meat-free diet is not so safe as a diet containing meat. While recognising that animal and vegetable foodstuffs are in many ways interchangeable, the author states that "it may be said that the narrow restriction of the diet to cereals leads to serious injury." This word of warning is peculiarly appropriate to the present time, when apostles of vegetarianism are rampant.

IT is stated that manganese sulphate applied at the rate of 100 lbs. per acre increased appreciably both ammonification and nitrification. In amounts between 100 and 2,000 lbs. per acre, ammonification was slightly increased, but no alteration was found in the nitrification. Above 2,000 lbs. adverse results were obtained in each instance. Manganic nitrate lowered the rate both of nitrification and ammonification. Manganic chloride in small quantities gave a distinct advantage in nitrification.

DE JONGE has been experimenting with the use of certain fertilisers in the cultivation of cassava rice and citronella grass. He has found that cassava plants take up nitrate of soda more readily than sulphate of ammonia. With rice, lime nitrogen was quite as effective as sulphate of ammonia, while molasses gave negative results. Insoluble and super-phosphates were equally effective as fertilisers for rice. Volcanic rock used as fertiliser produced no effect on citronella grass, but a complete fertiliser application gave a large increase.

AN interesting contribution to the knowledge of the relation of fertilisation to bacterial development of the soil has been made by Mr. S. A. Waksman. He has found that the bacterial numbers were smaller in soils where protozoa were present than in the corresponding soils when they were absent. Further, that heating the soil to 180 deg. Fahr. for five hours destroyed the protozoa in all instances but one, and also greatly reduced the bacterial number. When, however, the natural proportion of water was restored, and the soils allowed to incubate for thirty days, the bacterial numbers increased to three times those that were present in the soil before heating.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Germans in Crown Colonies.

Mr. Stewart, on June 21st, asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Germans after the War would be free to re-enter our Crown Colonies, especially those where there was a large native population, in view of the risk of a repetition of hostile German intrigue, which was used so much to our detriment in the past in India, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and elsewhere.

Mr. Long, in reply, said that the question raised matters of future policy on which he preferred not to express an opinion at that moment. He added, however, that his hon friend might rest assured that the matter, of which this was only a part, was engaging his anxious attention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Federation and Canada.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In response to your invitation asking for the views of your readers on the article by Dr. A. T. Drummond, republished in the CIRCULAR of June 14th, 1917, I would like to say that I agree with most of his points, but I am not prepared to accept any plan for the federation of the West Indian Colonies of a detailed character at present. I think that political federation of the British West Indies should precede any attempt at commercial union with Canada. The united British West Indies should be free to bargain with Canada, or any other Dominion under the British Crown, by reciprocity, or in any other way, as may seem best to them, without surrendering their independence in any way. Political federation with Canada is entirely out of the question, as Dr. Drummond practically admits. Let West Indians agree first, that federation is desirable, and as I think, an absolute necessity after the War. They won't be long in settling the details, once the principle is accepted.

In my article on the consolidation of the British West Indies, published in the *Empire Review* for June, 1912, will be found a review of the whole subject.

I am, etc.,
G. B. MASON.

Cambridge, June 25th, 1917.

Venezuela's 30 per cent. Surtax.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I read the letter of Mr. Taurel in your issue of May 3rd with much interest. I had the pleasure, last year, of travelling through the islands with Mr. Taurel, and could not fail to be impressed with his intimate knowledge of all of them, of their men, their manners, their politics and their business. It may truly be said that what he does not know in a practical way about this part of the world is not worth knowing. I agree with most of his views, although we differ where he still hankers after a renewal of the time-worn theories of the old Manchester School. What he now says with regard to the flour trade and steamship communication with Venezuela is palpably true, although I think he underrates the extent of the German influence in the Republic. Personally, I think we have to thank the gentle Hun more than any President of the Republic for the fact that the atrocious 30 per cent. surtax still stands as a barrier to the increased trade we could and should do with our friends in the neighbouring Republic. Mr. Taurel's suggestion that the settlement of the matter should be entrusted to a delegation of business men from the Chamber of Commerce is an excellent one. In this connection, it may be said that the only claims against Venezuela which have been settled promptly and satisfactorily in the last thirty or forty years were two which were taken in hand and negotiated by business men. I refer to the cases of the vessels *Lydia Peschau*, and the *Josephine and Henrietta*.

Yours truly
EDGAR TRIPP.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

A Mechanical Unloader in Mauritius.

Mr. Henniker Heatou, Acting Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, in his report on the Blue-book of the Colony for 1915, states that the total output of the local sugar factories for the 1915-16 crop-year was 214,520 metric tons. The weight and monetary value of the crop for the last five years is shown below.

Years.	Total Produce Tons (metric).	Monetary value/unit Rs 1,000,000.
1911-12	169,550	32.9
1912-13	213,059	29.8
1913-14	249,703	34.5
1914-15	277,360	62.8
1915-16	214,520	50.4 (estimated)

Of the 1915-16 crop, over 143,000 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 about 225 tons of high-grade vesou sugar. Attention was given during the year to improvements in machinery of factories. Some new mills were imported and considerable changes were effected in the "furnace" department with a view to reducing fuel consumption, and in the "evaporating" department. Crystallisers-in-motion were again increased in number, and a large number of Weston type centrifugals installed. Labour saving was effected by some factories in the "sugar-bagging" department. A trial with the Hoist system of mechanical unloader, having given satisfactory results, further orders have been placed for the coming crop.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA.—The Weather Hot and Too Dry.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, MAY 18th.—I regret to have to report the death of Mr. J. Gomes, which took place suddenly on 11th inst., in Montserrat, where he was spending a holiday. Mr. Gomes, who was only forty-four years of age, was the son of the late Mr. Manoel Gomes. He carried on a business in St John's and enjoyed the esteem and respect of all who knew him. The body was brought from Montserrat in a sailing vessel which was unfortunately becalmed, and for some time it was feared that burial at sea would be necessary. The vessel reached port, however, at 10 p.m. on Sunday, when a remarkable scene was witnessed. An immense concourse of people singing "Nearer, my God, to Thee" and other hymns.

The weather conditions are again very dry and hot, with the result that the young cane crop is not coming forward as it should. Greater interest is being shown in the cultivation of food crops.

GRENADA—Empire Day Celebrated.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, JUNE 5th.—Empire Day Demonstration was celebrated by crowds of children from all parts of the Parish of St. George's, marching to Queen's Park, carrying banners and headed by the Police Band. Then they marched past His Excellency and Lady Haddon Smith. Two songs, "The Flag of Britain" and "We will never let the old Flag Fall," were sung. The rest of the afternoon was given up to refreshments and enjoyment.

The Pony and Gymkana Meeting at Queen's Park was a great success on Whit Monday, and it is to be hoped the sum of at least £100 will be handed over to the Grenada Popular Subscription Fund.

Great credit is due to Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, the honorary secretary and other gentlemen for their assistance. Mr. A. Hayward of Hubbard & Co., left for England on leave by the Canadian mail.

JAMAICA.—The Cultivation of Foodstuffs.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Professor J. C. Monaghan, United States Consul, has left to take a post elsewhere. He was much interested in everything Jamaican and will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends in the island. Mr. J. G. Kieffer has been confirmed in the appointment of Divisional Manager of the United Fruit Company in Jamaica. The death took place on the 8th of Inspector W. M. Adams of the Jamaica Constabulary.

The question of the growing of food stuffs in Jamaica has been receiving much attention, and every effort is being made to render the island as independent as possible of imported foods. To this end it is proposed to lay out a sewage farm near Kingston and to utilise convict labour for the purpose. Private landowners have been urged to grow all provisions they can and the Government is rendering assistance. Experiments in rice growing have also been carried out with some success, but so far on only a small scale. The prevalence of praedial larceny is a great obstacle in the way of planting, and steps to put this down by drastic methods are being urged upon the Government. Immediately following the declaration of war by the United States a heavy increase in freight rates took place, and prices which were already high, soared as a consequence. The Rio Cobre Hotel at Spanish Town, will shortly be reopened as a home for indigent children of members of the Jamaica Contingents. The Legislative Council, after passing practically unanimously, the Bill providing for compulsory registration and military service, and various other measures, notably one on the lines of recommendations put forward by Sir Francis Watts, for Government assistance, by advancing funds under certain conditions, to be used for the erection of Central Sugar Factories, adjourned on the sixth.

The Archbishop Nottall Memorial Fund now stands at £1,003; the Red Cross Funds at £8,223 7s. 1d; the Blue Cross Funds at £286; and the other funds as last reported.

TRINIDAD. Splendid Rains follow Drought.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JUNE 5th.—The best news since I last wrote, on 21st ult., is of the ending of the drought. Splendid rains have since fallen and the parched, dust stricken country once again smiles in the beauty of its wonted verdure. The cane crop was harvested just in time, and I hope soon to have returns in hand which will justify the anticipations I have ventured to make as to its abundance.

Under the auspices of the Queen's Park Cricket Club there was held, on the King's Birthday, a most successful Athletic and Cycle Meeting. Additional interest was lent to the occasion by the presence of three competitors from Demerara, one of whom carried off two of the shorter events, but in the longer cycle races Trinidad men were easily first. About 5,000 of the public filled the ground and stands. The Governor and Lady Chancellor were present, the latter having kindly consented to distribute the prizes.

At the last meeting of the Legislative Council a message was read from the Governor stating that it will be requisite that importations into the West Indies by steamer should be restricted to absolutely necessary articles, and that he proposed to consult the leading members of the commercial community with a view to obtaining their assistance in preparing a list of non-essential articles the importation of which will be prohibited. His Excellency further called upon all sections of the population to exercise a rigid self denial in order that the essential supplies for the troops on active service may be maintained. The Chamber of Commerce have already been addressed in the matter, and the Committee will meet to consider it to-morrow.

On the morning of the 24th (King's Birthday) a magnificent Pontifical Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for the repose of the souls of the men from Trinidad who had fallen at the front. The musical accompaniment was the Requiem by Verdi, an ambitious effort which some had predicted was beyond satisfactory accomplishment in the colony. No one privileged to be present could deny that abundant justice was done to the great work of the great composer. And the whole beautiful ceremony was in keeping with this

principal item, leaving an impression which will long linger in the minds not only of the Catholics, but of the many others of all denominations who received the courtesy of an invitation to be present.

On the 2nd inst., Mrs. Perez presented her long looked-forward-to Eastern Musical Phantasia, "In Burmahland." Every seat in the Prince's Building had been booked weeks before, and the same may be said of a repeat performance to be held to-morrow night. It is but attempting to paint the lily to speak again of these beautiful productions with which Mrs. Perez now and again delights her crowded audiences. I will only say, therefore, that "In Burmahland" was another, and perhaps the greatest, of her triumphant histrionic successes. War Funds, it need not be added, will benefit to no small extent.

TURKS ISLANDS. Progress of the Cotton Industry.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The engagement is announced of Miss Winnie Rigby and Mr. Howard P. Harriott, sole surviving member of the firm of Messrs. D. F. & H. P. Harriott, of Salt Cay. The first quarterly meeting of the Turks and Caicos Islands Agricultural and Industrial Society has been held at Grand Turk. The attendance was very poor, but reports indicate that the Society is making some headway in the Caicos Group.

Owing to heavy rain in April, the raking of salt at Grand Turk, which was in full swing, had to be abandoned. Business generally has been somewhat above the average. With the increased number of labourers on the Clyde steamers, there has been plenty of employment for the labouring class, who have caused a certain amount of trouble during the month by so-called strikes among those employed in the shipment of salt. The extracting of fibre was stopped at Grand Turk owing to the drought previous to the recent rains. Quantities are coming up from East Caicos and other parts of the Caicos Islands, for shipment to the United States. Further shipments of sponge and lobster have been made to the United States during the month. The Commissioner has a large quantity of cotton on hand ready for ginning. He has just imported a 1½ horse-power Racine-Sattley gasoline engine, which on a trial run worked splendidly. He expects to have about eleven bales ready for shipment very soon. This is a great boon to the Caicos people, who may be seen daily arriving with their consignments of the raw material, and shows every sign of becoming a recognised industry of the Dependency.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates.**

The position of this Company, which operates in British Guiana, has shown steady improvement in the last few years. Presiding at the annual meeting on June 8th, Mr. Reginald Tayler said that in 1913 the profits amounted to £262, in 1914 to £11,978, in 1915 to £15,589, while in 1916 they amounted to £28,551. The balance-sheet showed that the financial position which obtained at the end of the year was decidedly strong. They had cash and Treasury bills amounting to £26,401; sundry debtors, £56,905—almost the whole of which amount had since been collected; and stocks of balata sold but not delivered, £14,252. These sums together amount, in round figures, to approximately £97,500, from which, if bills drawn against shipments, amounting to £12,500, and sundry creditors, £10,102 were deducted, it would be found that the Company had approximately £75,000 of liquid resources. Then they had stores in hand available for the 1917 operations standing at £7,838, and expenditure on account of 1917 amounting to £9,930, so that they really commenced the present year with about £87,000 to credit. With regard to the current year the Company was getting a fairly large spring crop, and all expeditions for the summer tapping had been properly organised. The prospects looked promising, and if the weather was favourable he hoped to obtain good results for the year. As to rubber-growing, they had continued the policy of

planting, but he regretted to have to say that the plantations had been severely attacked by leaf disease and had had a serious setback in consequence. They hoped to be able to overcome this trouble, which was one that had also affected all other rubber plantations in the colony. As an immediate result of the disease, they were only able to produce 6,846 lbs. of rubber, as it was necessary to suspend tapping in view of the widespread and destructive character of the disease.

In conclusion, Mr. Taylor moved the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, less tax, and interest of 4 per cent. per annum on the Dividend Paying Warrants.

The resolution was seconded by Major S. Collard and carried unanimously.

Replying to questions, the chairman said it was impossible to make any forecast as to the future of the Balata industry, which was subject to hazards of various kinds. Either floods or drought might at any time hinder the collection of balata, and it had to be remembered that as it became necessary to work at a greater distance from the base the cost of collection tended to increase. The balata grants, as a matter of fact, must be looked upon as a wasting asset, and it was in order to secure a continuation of the Company's operations in British Guiana that rubber had been planted. They had now about 700 acres of rubber under cultivation, mainly freehold, so that if the balata should fail in any particular year, any deficiency that might occur in that connection would in this way be made good. Since the commencement of the war the demand for balata had increased, considerably, its use, particularly for belting in connection with machinery being greatly extended.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM BEARDMORE STEWART, of the Royal Field Artillery, who was killed in action on May 24th, was younger son of the late Mr. Duncan Stewart, the well-known sugar machinery engineer, and Mrs. Stewart, Auchentree, Cardross, Dumbartonshire.

WOUNDED AND PRISONER.

LIEUT. J. R. ACKERLEY (son of Mr. A. R. Ackerley, of Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.), East Surrey Regiment, has been wounded in the leg and is a prisoner in Germany.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. E. C. BECHER (son of Major E. F. Becher, of Sneywood, Dominica), Royal Field Artillery, is at the Hall Walker Hospital for Officers, Regent's Park, having been wounded in France.

LIEUT. GREGORY P. BOON (of the Montserrat Civil Service, grandson of the late Captain A. Roger, I.S.O., of St. Kitts), Royal Field Artillery, has been wounded a second time (in the leg).

CYRIL DOYLE (son of Dr. R. Gaynes Doyle, D.M.O., of San Fernando, Trinidad) has been wounded.

LIEUT. J. F. B. KAYE (younger son of Colonel A. B. R. Kaye), Shropshire Light Infantry, has been severely wounded in the right arm and foot.

LIEUT. HERBERT C. RYLAND (Manager of Messrs. Aston W. Gardner & Co., of Kingston, Jamaica), Gloucestershire Regiment, has been wounded in the right hip (fractured).

LIEUT. JOHN STEVEN (formerly in the employ of Messrs. Bookers Bros., McConnell & Co., Demerara), West Yorkshire Regiment, has been wounded. Lieut. Steven, who joined as a private, was promoted sergeant and eventually won his Commission in the field. He went through the Gallipoli campaign.

HONOURS.

LIEUT. EDWARD LYON BERTHON, R.N., younger son of Mr. Claude T. Berthon, has been awarded the D.S.C.

MAJOR S. A. BODDAM-WHETHAM, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Field Artillery, formerly A.D.C. to the Governor of the Bahamas, has been mentioned in despatches for the fourth time during the present war.

LIEUT. GUY PURCHAS (son of Mr. C. H. Purchas, Inspector Jamaica Constabulary), Canadian Field Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross.

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.

Clarke, M.B., C.M., Lieut. R. B. (of Barbados), Royal Army Medical Corps.

Connell, J., Jun. (son of Mr. J. Connell of Messrs. Law & Connell, Barbados) Inns of Court O.T.C., Flying Section.

Skinner, C. I. (son of the late Mr. Irving S. Skinner, M.C.P., of Barbados), Royal Flying Corps.

PROMOTIONS.

LIEUT. NORMAN DANIEL DALTON (son of the late Mr. Goring Evans Dalton of British Guiana), Machine Gun Corps.

TROOPER RICHARD HALE (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Household Battalion, has been promoted to the rank of Corporal, and appointed Instructor in charge of Lewis guns in his Company.

TROOPER GEORGE W. HODGE (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Household Battalion, has been promoted to the rank of Corporal.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:

ANTIGUA.

Lieut.-Corpl. E. W. Branch, Royal Fusiliers, Edinburgh.

BAHAMAS.

Pte. G. M. Cole, Plymouth, Lieut.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilts. Regiment, Maidstone.

BARBADOS.

Lieut. F. C. Archer, R.N., London; Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Bathbourne.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Pte. G. B. Phillips, Canadians, Bromley.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. N. Calder, R.F.A.; 2nd Lieut. Ryland, Gloucester Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Walton-on-Naze.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. G. H. Laughlin, Royal Berks Regiment, London; 2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., London; Pte. Pierre de Vertenil, I.L.A.C., Weybridge; Trpr. J. Roche-ment, Trpr. S. Daly, Household Battalion, Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London.

DOMINICA.

2nd Lieut. E. C. Becher, R.F.A., London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Capt. P. St. L. Baquie, Lieut. Dougall Musson, London; Pte. Graham, London.

MARRIAGES.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

HILL HILL.—On 18th June, 1917, at St. Martin's, Acton Hill, by the Rev. C. Sergeant, Vicar, Jacobus Darrell, Captain, The Cameronians, only son of J. K. Darrell Hill, Puisne Judge of British Guiana, to Lena Boughton, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Hill, of 46, Birch Grove, W.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.

The net receipts in 1915-16 from the Customs duties on sugar, etc., entering the United Kingdom were £8,848,000, compared with £3,204,000 in the previous year. This increase of £5,644,000 was due entirely to the large addition, about 400 per cent., to the duties in September, 1915. It may be of interest to say the Commissioners of Customs in their report for 1915-16 summarise the course of sugar prices and consumption, since the outbreak of war in August, 1914, put an end to the supplies from Germany and Austria-Hungary, which had provided over half of the sugar imported into the United Kingdom. In July, 1914, the ordinary retail price of granulated sugar was 2d. per lb. In August, 1914, it rose to 4½d., but, owing to the action of the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies, the price was reduced to 3½d., and, at the end of October, 1914, to 3½d. per lb. On the increase of the duty from 1s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per cwt. in September, 1915, the Royal Commission, which had complete control of supplies, added only ½d. to the price, raising it to 4d. per lb., but by March, 1916, it had reached 4½d. This rise in prices caused a considerable fall in consumption. Over the whole twenty months of war, from August, 1914, to March, 1916, the decrease, as against the corresponding twenty months of 1912 to 1914, is about 7 per cent. In normal circumstances there would have been an increase in the later period. In the latter part of 1915-16 the fall became greater still.

The general course of consumption since the year 1906 can be seen from the following table.

Calendar Years	Quantity retained Cwts.	Average Annual quantity retained per head of the population* lbs.
1906	29,863,332	75.61
1907	30,797,690	77.77
1908†	30,427,709	78.92
1909	32,050,000	78.62
1910	31,276,640	79.59
1911	32,437,939	79.16
1912	32,234,551	80.80
1913	33,835,383	80.65
1914	32,803,345	79.99
1915‡	32,108,697	—

* The figure opposite each year represents the average of that year, the previous year, and the following year.

† Duty reduced from 4/2 to 1/10 the cwt. on refined sugar exceeding 98° polarization, and on other kinds in proportion, from May 18th, 1908.

‡ Duty increased from 1/10 to 9/4 the cwt. on refined sugar exceeding 98° polarization, and on other kinds in proportion, as from September 22nd, 1915.

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present 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.3. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. 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 PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
June 27th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from April the 5th. The 5 per cent. War Loan is quoted at 94½, the 4½ per cent. War Loan at 94, and the 3½ per cent. War Loan at 86½. Consols, 54½.

SUGAR. The appointment of Lord Rhonda to succeed Lord Devonport as Food Controller has not, up to now, been productive of any new regulations as to sugar. As regards the sugar specially set on one side for domestic jam manufacture, it is understood that the sugar supplied will be American granulated, which is quite suitable for the purpose, and that the applicants will probably receive 75 per cent. of the quantity requisitioned. The wholesale price will be 53/9 per cwt., and the retail 6½d. or 7d. per lb., according to distributing circumstances.

Captain Rathurst, speaking at a Food Economy Exhibition at Cheltenham on Saturday, referred to the sugar position, and held out no hope of improved supply. He mentioned that two months ago 40,000 tons of sugar were sunk by submarines in ten days. He did not, however, say anything about the stocks, which have been gradually increasing since the beginning of the year. On the 31st of March the stocks in the United Kingdom were 78,300 tons, on the 30th of April 83,450 tons, and on the 31st of May 102,400 tons.

The Commission is unable, as it had hoped, to provide any sugar for private individuals for the purpose of making jam from purchased fruit.

The Revenue Bill of the United States, to which reference was made in the last Summary, duly passed the House of Representatives with the 10 per cent. *ad valorem* sugar clause unchanged, and was sent on to the Senate. The Finance Committee of the latter body, however, unanimously decided to strike out this clause from the Bill, and have substituted an Excise tax of ½ cent. per lb.

Mr. J. T. Crawley, the Director of the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station, gives some interesting particulars in *Facts about Sugar* regarding the damage to the Cuban sugar output as the result of the insurrection. Central Florida, near Camaguey, lost heavily from fires, and also, on the 24th of May, had between thirty and forty thousand tons of cane still to be reaped, owing to the interruption of harvesting operations. Central Punita Alegre has lost about 12,500 tons of canes. In connection with Central Agramonte, in the neighbourhood of Florida, thousands of acres of burnt canes were still standing for want of labour to harvest. Central Senada has lost 31,000 tons of sugar, the damage done being so great in the early days of the revolution that it was not considered worth while to attempt to recommence operations. Central Jobabo, belonging to the Cuba Railway Company, lost practically everything except the factory, and the sugar which happened to be in the store. The visible production of Cuba up to May 19th is given by Messrs. Willett & Gray as 2,377,760 tons, as against 2,634,000 tons to the corresponding date of last year, and it is pointed out that the present crop is thus continuing its present progress and catching up with the 1916 output. It is therefore extremely probable that Willett & Gray's 3,000,000 ton estimate will, after all, be reached. The value of 96° Cubans f.o.b. is in the neighbourhood of £20 per ton.

It is understood that nothing will be done as to erection of the proposed beet sugar factory, by the British Beet Growers' Society Ltd., at Kelham near Newark, until "after the War." The Government loan of £125,000 will bear interest at 5 per cent., and be repayable in two years. The area of the estate purchased will not be sufficient to supply the proposed factory with the full amount of roots, and the neighbouring farmers are expected to grow beets for this purpose. The farm itself will be a centre of instruction in the art of beet growing.

The Argentine 1916-17 crop has turned out at 84,669 tons as against 149,299 tons in 1915-16 and 335,936 tons in 1914-15.

The Mauritius Almanack gives the average prices

of Mauritius sugar, f.o.b., as rising from £8 16s. per metric ton in 1907 to £16 8s. per ton in 1917.

The prices of sugar in the United Kingdom have not changed since the recent increase. For casters and cubes, 53/9; crystals and granulated, 46/9; British West Indian crystallised, 46/9; muscovades, 44/6; and syrups, 42/3, all flat rates.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to June 16th were:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Imports	22,445	21,323	19,957	Tons.
Deliveries	26,682	25,073	17,426	"
Stock (June 16th) ...	3,778	7,355	8,540	"

The New York market has been steady. 96° sugar, duty paid, is quoted at \$6.02, with granulated at \$7.40.

RUM. The market for Jamaica rum has been very strong, and spot rates have been extreme in order to secure the few lots remaining in importers' hands, as much as 7/- per gallon having been paid. First-hand stocks of proof rums are quite exhausted.

The full text of the Order issued by the Customs House, on May 19th is as follows:—

"Pending further instructions rum may, on and after the 20th instant, be delivered for home consumption if it has been warehoused for a period of eighteen months, subject to payment of the appropriate additional duty, instead of twelve months as at present."

The appropriate additional duty referred to is that applicable to rum between one and two years old, viz. 1/6 per proof gallon, or 16/7 full duty. If, however, the age falls between two and three years before the clearance the addition will be 1/-, or a full duty of 16/1 per proof gallon.

The following figures on rum consumption in the United Kingdom are taken from the Report of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise for the respective years ended March 31st:—

Year ended March 31st.	Quantity retained for Consumption.	Net Duty received, including Local Taxation Duty.	Increase or Decrease on quantity retained in previous year.
	Proof Galls.	£	Per Cent.
1907	4,304,291	2,439,099	+ 8.53
1908	4,239,884	2,402,587	- 1.49
1909	4,109,881	2,328,936	- 3.06
1910	2,430,811	1,709,865	-40.85
1911	3,003,833	2,294,737	+23.57
1912	3,040,619	2,293,127	+ 1.22
1913	3,166,582	2,368,121	+ 4.14
1914	3,428,550	2,585,691	+ 8.27
1915	4,334,343	3,268,747	+26.42
1916	4,262,385	3,443,258	- 1.66

The stock of rum in the United Kingdom on May 31st was 12,710,000 gallons, as against 9,988,000 gallons at the same date in 1916, and 5,977,000 gallons at the same date in 1915.

The stocks in London on June 16th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,705	4,840	4,125 puns.
Demerara	10,376	13,619	7,248 "
Total of all kinds ...	31,771	31,431	19,183 "

CACAO. At auction sales on the 19th, the only sales made were of Grenada, most of which was damaged. Out of the 1,680 bags offered, 1,500 sold at prices varying from 65/- to 80/6. On the 26th there was little change. Trinidad was bought in. Grenada sold at 70/- to 81/6.

The West India Committee has succeeded in arranging with the Shipping Controller for a steamer to load in Trinidad, taking about 6,000 tons for Havre. The congestion in Trinidad will thus be remedied.

Stocks in London on June 16th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	29,184	24,774	11,306 bags.
Grenada	30,028	14,836	2,736 "
Total of all kinds ...	291,400	191,309	74,101 "

The stock of Cacao in the United Kingdom on May 31st, 1917, was 134,848,000 lbs., as against 87,148,000 and 81,584,000 at the same date in 1916 and 1915 respectively.

COFFEE. Market quiet.

The stock of coffee in the United Kingdom on May 31st amounted to 158,480,000 lbs., as against 112,000,000 lbs. on May 31st, 1916, and 67,872,000 lbs. on May 31st, 1915.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that all Sea Island cotton continues to be in demand, and prices remain very firm at full official quotations. Values 41d. to 45d. medium fine to extra fine. Imports of West Indian into the United Kingdom up to the 21st June, 1,879 bales.

The Board of Trade Returns for May show that 93,626,900 lbs. of cotton were imported into the United Kingdom during the month, as against 143,106,100 lbs. in May, 1916, and 320,647,100 lbs. in May, 1915. The total imports for the four months of the present year are 752,569,100 lbs., as against 985,108,300 lbs. and 162,211,800 lbs. for the corresponding periods of 1916 and 1915 respectively. The exports, foreign and colonial, amounted to 6,522,200 lbs. for the month of May, against 32,238,800 lbs. and 21,499,300 lbs. for May, 1916 and 1915, respectively. These make, for the four months of the year, 97,078,500 lbs., 153,619,200 lbs. and 162,221,300 lbs. for the years the same date in 1916 and 1915 respectively.

COPRA. The market continues steady at £46 c.i.f. terms net cash.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 3,645 tons were imported into the United Kingdom during May, as against 6,832 tons in May, 1916, and 3,645 tons in May, 1915. For the first four months of the years 1917, 1916, 1915, the imports were 22,308 tons, 30,201 tons and 63,868 tons, respectively.

RUBBER. Market weak. Crepe is quoted at 2/51, smoked sheet at 2/5, and fine hard Para at 3/-, all spot terms.

The quantity of rubber imported into the United Kingdom during May was 16,104,900 lbs. as against 13,108,500 lbs. in May last year, and 161,049 lbs. in May, 1915. For January-May, 1917, 1916, and 1915, the imports were 92,926,500 lbs., 71,488,100 lbs. and 87,126,000 lbs. respectively.

The export of foreign and colonial rubber for May was 13,996,800 lbs., as against 12,511,200 lbs. in May 1916, and 17,625,900 lbs. in May, 1915. For the year to May 31st the exports were 69,721,700 lbs., 49,204,300 lbs., and 66,521,700 lbs. for 1917, 1916, and 1915, respectively.

BALATA. The market here continues dull. Venezuela block, 3/4 spot sellers, 3/2½ nominal, c.i.f. Panama block, 2/10 c.i.f. sellers, 2/9; c.i.f. buyers. Spot 3/1 value. West Indian sheet steady at 3/10½ to 3/11½ spot.

SPICES. Nutmegs are steady; 68's, 1/2; 75's, 1/1; 95's, 11d.; 110's, 10½d.; wormy and broken, 7d. Mace is firm; pale 2/- to 2/3, red 1/8 to 1/10, broken 11d. to 1/- per lb. Ginger: Demand slack, and no change in last quotations. Stock of West Indian in London, 3,437 packages, against 2,434 in 1916.

Pimento: Market quiet, with few transactions. Value, 3½d. per lb.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, no change. Concentrated is very firm and in good demand. Lime Oil: Handpressed is scarce, and worth 16/- per lb. Distilled is neglected. Citrate is firm.

ARROWROOT. Nothing fresh to report. Quotations nominally 5d. to 6½d.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. John T. Moir
Mr. F. C. B. Bonyn	Mr. Frank Goodwin	Miss Moseley
Prof. P. Carmody, F.R.C.S.	Mr. Albert T. Haummond	Dr. Frank Oliphant
F.O.	Mrs. E. Haynes	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Mr. H. S. Cox	Dr. M. H. C. Irving	Mr. T. Orde
Mr. Paul Cressall	Mr. E. C. Jackson	Mr. D. G. Pile
Mr. H. J. Crowe	Hon. E. Laborde	Mr. C. M. Rolston, M.C.
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	Mr. E. K. Lane	C.M.
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Mr. A. Marsden	Capt. J. B. Saunders
Mr. C. V. A. Espeut	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Hon. G. Seton-Browne
Mr. C. Flanagan	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. R. B. Short
Mr. M. A. French, J.R.	Mr. Albert Mendes	Mr. M. J. Tauriel and
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. Alfred Mendes	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., 38, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.		
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Burtowgate Road, Chiswick, W.		

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXII.

THURSDAY, JULY 12th, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CANIB, LONDON.
July 12th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

THE further rise in prices of staple articles of imported goods, which followed the entry of the United States into the war, has emphasised the importance of extending the cultivation of provision crops throughout the West Indies. From the information before us, less appears to have been done in this direction in those islands, whose climate and soil are, in normal seasons when there is no drought, so admirably adapted to the speedy growth of such satisfying products as yams, sweet potatoes, tannias, eddoes, etc., than in the United Kingdom. Residents in the British Isles were slow in realising the extent of the submarine menace and the demands of tonnage for military purposes; but once they awakened to the imperative need of making themselves more independent of imported food-stuffs in the early months of the pre-

sent year, they set to work with a will, and the results of their labours are already apparent. Apart from an enormous increase in the acreage under grain, every available acre round, and in many cases in, our towns and villages, are now a network of allotments which, besides giving healthy exercise to the town dwellers working on them, are already yielding liberal crops of potatoes, beans, peas, etc., that are going far towards relieving a situation which two months ago was viewed with concern. As an example of what has been done, it may be mentioned that potatoes, which for weeks were almost unobtainable, have reappeared on the board at the hotels, clubs and restaurants, and can be purchased at as low a figure as 1½d. per pound. Similar progress will, it is to be hoped, soon be recorded in the West Indies, though the prevalence of prædial larceny or theft of the growing crops is undoubtedly deterring many people from embarking on small cultivation. Small holders are naturally disinclined to extend their cultivation when they know that they are almost certain to be deprived of the fruits of their labours by thieves. Prædial larceny has been the curse of the West Indies for too long, and steps should be taken to stamp it out once and for all. The Royal Commission of 1897 called attention to its prevalence and expressed the belief that it would not disappear until it was universally condemned by local public opinion. Possibly the great increase in this form of crime may lead to bracing up public opinion on the subject, but we believe that nothing short of the most drastic penalties will stamp out the crime. Flogging is undoubtedly a degrading punishment, but it is to be feared that nothing short of the "cat" will act as a deterrent to those pests in the communities who decline to recognise the difference between meum and tuum. We are glad to notice that this view is now becoming more widely shared. Thus the *Barbados Globe* recently said: "We found ourselves reluctantly persuaded to endorse the sanction given by the local legislature a few days ago to the infliction of the 'cat' for the proven theft of growing crops in this island." In Jamaica there are also signs of an awakening of public opinion. But the introduction of legislation will not alone suffice. The law must be rigorously carried out, and we trust that, at a time like the present, when it is imperative to plant the necessities of life with a view of preventing a positive shortage of food, the magistrates should strictly enforce the penalties which they are empowered to impose on persons guilty of a despicably mean and demoralising form of crime.

THE NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

WITH the object of calling public attention to the need of saving infant life a National Baby Week has just been held in this country. A child's welfare and mothercraft exhibition was opened by the Queen on July 2nd, and no effort has been spared to bring home to parents, municipal authorities, societies, school children, and the general body of citizens, by meetings, lectures, leaflets, exhibitions, competitions, cinematograph films, and, in a score of other ways, the vital importance of mobilising for the prevention of infantile mortality, and the preservation of the health of mothers and babies. We wish that similar propaganda could be set in motion in the British West Indies, where the loss of life among infants, owing to ignorance, apathy and neglect, is simply deplorable. As we showed from the report of Mr. W. LINDSAY HAYNES in last CIRCULAR, the number of burials of children under the age of one year in Barbados alone, in 1916, was 1,420, or 242 per 1,000 births, while in the parish of St. Michael the infantile death-rate was no less than 289 per 1,000 births. Mr. HAYNES puts his finger upon one of the chief causes of this serious state of affairs, when he points out that of the 1,420 infants who were, so to speak, cradled in their coffins, no fewer than 992 were illegitimate, a truly sad state of affairs in a Christian community which is the Sec of a Bishop. In many cases as a result there is no home-life, and consequently complete indifference on the part of the parents as to the fate of their offspring. As we have shown before, infants are too often left to look after themselves as soon as the mother is well enough to return to work and are fed by well-meaning, but ignorant folk upon such highly unsuitable food as potatoes, yams, or salt fish, and are often given tea where pap should prevail. Generally speaking, the record of the other West Indian Colonies is equally grim. In British Guiana and Trinidad the question of infantile mortality is specially pressing, in view of the cessation of immigration for the period of the war. British Guiana, in particular, with a population of 3.3 only to the square mile, can ill afford to spare a single life, and we are glad to recognise again in this connection the admirable work that is being done by the Baby Saving League in that colony. Founded in 1914, with SIR JOSEPH GODFREY as first president, and with LADY EGERTON, who still takes a keen interest in its welfare, as patron, the League is doing practical work. Branches and clinics have been established in the principal districts of the colony, and nurses and trained midwives have been appointed, who can substantiate the claim to have saved the lives of many infants, and to have checked untold pain and suffering of children. The League, by getting into touch with thousands of people in their homes, leaves behind an influence which cannot be estimated, but which will gradually in the future, by bringing about healthier and cleaner conditions of living, produce a stronger, hardier and richer people. We read with astonishment that this deserving organisation received in the last year for which statistics are available a revenue from subscriptions and donations to the extent of \$884.16

only, which was supplemented by the modest grant-in-aid of \$1,500. As an insurance for the future proprietors would do well to give a greater measure of support to the League, which will, we hope, be the forerunner of similar organisations in each one of our West Indian colonies. The question of infantile mortality is altogether too serious a one to be almost overlooked—and incidentally we would suggest the desirability of statistics regarding its extent being tabulated on a uniform basis in respect of all the West Indian colonies, either in the Blue-books or elsewhere. On the principle that the infant of to-day—who survives the present rigours of alimentation—is the labourer of to-morrow, the baby-saving movement should command support, and we would commend to the notice of our readers the reports of the functions held in connection with the very successful Baby Saving Week, which should form the model for similar celebrations in the West Indies.

THE WEST INDIAN FLAG DAY.

The members of the 7th Barbados Citizens' Contingent, whose arrival is recorded elsewhere,



inform us that the West Indian Flag Day was being observed in Barbados when they left, and was proving a great success thanks to the admirable arrangements made by Lady Probyn and other kind friends.

Further particulars will be awaited with interest. We would again remind our readers that the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3 would be glad to hear from any who may be willing to help in disposing of these flags among their friends.

During the year to date 72 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	15	Montserrat	1
Jamaica	7	Turks Islands	1
British Guiana	6	Mauritius	2
Dominica	3	Canada	2
St. Kitts-Nevis	3	India	1
Antigua	2	Surinam	1
Barbados	2	London	11
St. Vincent	1	Country	14

Members are invited to introduce eligible candidates for election. Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

SUGAR ESTATE ECONOMY.

We are indebted to a correspondent for a copy of a circular letter, which has been addressed by Colonel the Hon. R. Stapleton Cotton and Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co. to their estates' managers in the West Indies. Believing that it would be of general interest we obtained permission to publish it. The letter is as follows:—

18, Laurence Pountney Lane,
London, E.C.4.
24th April, 1917.

Dear Sirs,

It has been a great satisfaction to us to learn from the letters from the Estate Managers that the labourers have been well pleased with the increased rates of pay, and that they are working well and are happy and contented.

It has always been, as you know, our desire to improve the circumstances of all on our estates when the revenues permitted, but, on the other hand, the opinion of many managers and others in the West Indies was that if the labourers were given increased rates of pay they would only do less work, that they had no wish to earn a larger sum in the week, no wish to improve their own condition and rise in the social scale. Whatever truth there may have been in this in the past, we gather from the reports received that higher pay and better work are now going forward together. It has also been a pleasure to us that the Estate revenues have made it possible to give bonuses to the managers and overseers sufficient to render their circumstances comfortable for the present, and at the same time to enable them to invest something for the needs of later years.

In the case both of these bonuses to managers and overseers and in the increase in labourers' wages, it has to be understood that they cannot be repeated or continued if the revenues fall back again. The revenues depend on two things, viz.: the price of sugar and the crops produced. Sugar may continue above the average price for some time, but before very long it will in all probability drop back again. In the past the rule has been that high prices have been soon followed by very low prices. They have led to increased production until the supply has exceeded the demand. Already the recent high prices have led to large developments of sugar growing. So far these have been in places outside the British Empire, and an Imperial Tariff Preference would save us from suffering from further developments in such quarters; but on the other hand it would lead to very large developments in sugar within the Empire, in Africa and India, where there is abundance of suitable land, plentiful labour supply and very low wages. There is also the probability of beet sugar being produced in England on a large scale. So, while an Imperial Preference may be a safeguard to the home consumer, making him in time independent of foreign supplies, and while it would undoubtedly benefit British Africa and India, it is likely that before many years, we in the West Indies would suffer at times from the supply within the Empire exceeding the demand as much as we

have suffered in past times when the outside supplies have exceeded the demand. In our opinion, the reasonable view to take of prices is that they will, after some little time, rule much about the average level of the last ten pre-war years, which was £11 per ton f.o.b. for 96 deg. Grey Crystals. Whenever the price has gone over that it has soon fallen below it again, and whenever it has gone below, it has soon recovered again.

Now £11 per ton does not, with the past average crops, admit of continuing the present higher pay. In England there is general agreement on the part both of employers and employees in the leading industries that there shall be no return to the old low level of rates of pay, and further it is agreed by all on both sides that the only means of securing this is by *increased production per man or woman*. "The problem of wages is the problem of production. They are bound up together. Unless after the war we can increase our production per man or woman employed above the pre-war standard, the rate of wages cannot be maintained at their present level. And it is of great importance that they should be maintained." These words are quoted from one of the many articles that have been written recently on the Reconstruction of Industries in England after the War. And everyone is looking forward with hope, we might say with confidence, to the industrial production being increased, and to the higher wages being made permanent. The pressure of war production has revealed what can be done. "Women at machine tools are turning out 200 per cent. more actual production than the pre-war output of skilled men." The change has come about by better direction of labour, better methods, better machines, and, above all, by everyone doing his utmost without fear that his pay will be reduced if he turns out more work.

In agriculture at home a similar change is looked forward to. In Germany in the years just before the war, they had increased their production of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and hay by 60 per cent. per acre as compared with twenty-five years earlier. The increase was due to better farming, better cultivation of the soil, no more labourers employed but more work done, Credit Banks, crops more skilfully manured, and the drainage of the land improved. In Britain, during the same period, there was only a trifling increase, probably because at the earlier date the production was already high, nearly as high as it was in Germany after its 60 per cent. advance. But the climate and soil of Britain are more favourable for agriculture than those of Germany, so there is scope for a marked advance in the yield per acre, and there is every prospect of this being accomplished. Cannot a similar advance be made in sugar plantations in the West Indies? If not, we see no hope of a continuance of the present higher pay to the staff and the labourers. Increased production per man, whether manager, overseer or labourer, is the only means of securing this. It will be difficult, but we believe it can be accomplished if everyone does his utmost, and gives his whole mind and energies to the work, not going on in the old routine but looking out continually for a chance of introducing some improvement here or there.

We give the following as our ideas of how the change may be brought about:—

- (a) Every estate to run a stock farm in combination with cane growing and to make the stock farm pay.
- (b) The best methods of raising pen manure to be adopted, including the covering of pens.
- (c) Liquid manure to be as carefully conserved and used as in Belgium.
- (d) Silos to be built for making ensilage from cane tops.
- (e) Liming of fields to be carried out at regular periods.
- (f) Additional ploughings to be done and frequent harrowings. Subsoil ploughing to be done on all ratoon fields as soon as the crop is reaped.
- (g) When final ratoons are reaped, the fields to be given at least twelve months in rotation crops, partly in root crops to help the local food supply, but as much as possible in edible peas or beans, such rotation crops to be made to pay.

The establishment of a stock farm on a sound basis on each estate, with the manure resulting therefrom, and the introduction of rotation crops, along with more liming and more tillage, will, we believe, lead to the improvement of the condition of the soil to such an extent that it will yield a very large increase in the cane crops.

We are quite prepared to consider applications for expenditure required for additional live stock, alterations in stables and cattle sheds, silos, lime kilns and motor-driven implements for the lighter tillage, so that the additional tillage may not necessitate an increase in the numbers employed on the estates. Our aim is to keep the numbers who are at present employed and to continue the present advanced pay, each one of them in his own sphere to do his utmost to increase the production of the land, so as to make this possible.

We send you by this post a copy of the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture for March, with an article on "The Management of Liquid and Solid Manure in Belgium." You will see how careful the Belgians have been in regard to this, also that they even carted liquid manure in tanks from France into Belgium. It has been to a considerable extent owing to their care in this matter that they were able to convert so much of their land into garden soil. The figures show that from each cow there can be obtained in the year, with a full system of conservation, the equivalent of as much nitrate of soda as is customary to apply to three acres of canes, as well as a valuable quantity of potash and phosphates. This is assuming the stock are kept in the yard all the time, but even if they are only in at night, there would be sufficient liquid manure on many estates, if it were all conserved, to take the place of the usual nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia—a great relief in such a year as the present, when these cannot be got. And when these fertilizers can again be

obtained, it would still be a question whether it would be worth while to add them.

It must be borne in mind that we are only prepared to develop stock farms if all the fodder is raised on the estate. Turning part of the cane-tops into ensilage will help towards this, but the chief help will come either from raising better grasses on land that has now only abandoned pastures, or from raising fodder crops on fields that are thrown for their year's rotation out of cane.

We send you also by this post another pamphlet issued by the Board of Agriculture, on "The Recent Development of German Agriculture." We have referred above to some points therein, but perhaps the most striking point is that while there is not a very great difference between the German and the British production per acre, yet the Germans feed 50 per cent. more persons from each 100 acres of cultivated land than the British. This is because of their ploughing up and cropping so much more of their grass than is done in Britain. The term "cultivated land" includes arable and grass land, but excludes mountain and heath lands used for grazing. On many of our estates there is much poor pasture land, a great deal of which is probably capable of being used to better purpose in some other way, as has been done with the poor pastures in Germany.

We will be glad if you will give us your views on the above, with any suggestions that may occur to you.

Yours faithfully,

R. S. COTTON,

HENCKEL DU BUISSON & Co.

WASTEFUL CANE CULTIVATION.

The British Vice-Consul at Santa Cruz (St. Croix) gives the following description of the method of cultivation of the sugar cane in that now American island:—The land is cleared and the undergrowth burned, the tree trunks that cannot be made into firewood being left to rot in the ground. The planting is done by jabbing oblique holes with a long sharpened stake, about three feet apart, and inserting a short piece of sugar cane. The cane soon sprouts, after which the ground has to be cleared of weeds. The weeding must be repeated until the cane is tall enough to smother the weeds. The ground is never ploughed or irrigated; the cultivation consists of simply destroying the weeds, which is all done by hand labour with the small native pushing hoe. In about ten months the cane is ripe and ready for cutting. Two or three weeks after cutting the cane leaves are dry enough to burn, when fire is applied and the whole field burned off. The cane roots soon sprout again, and the same weeding operations have to be gone through as in the previous year. This process is continued year after year, until the field has to be replanted; this replanting is repeated three or four times, when the ground becomes exhausted, and the field is then abandoned and the planter changes to new ground.

JAMAICA'S FOOD SUPPLY.

Mr. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture of Jamaica, has, at the instance of the Governor of that colony, prepared a valuable memorandum on the local food supply in relation to the great war.

He gives a table showing the average food imports into Jamaica for a year and their composition and value, which is summarised thus:—

	lbs.	Protein Tons.	Fat Tons	Carbo- hydrates.	Million Calories.
Flesh foods ...	24,290,616	3,213	926	...	21,763
Fats ...	2,178,133	...	981	...	9,191
Dairy Products ...	4,078,000	142	577	670	8,716
Cereal foods ...	84,306,000	3,871	562	28,755	139,214
Total ...	114,852,749	7,226	3,046	29,425	1,171,881

Total Quantity 51,274 tons. Composition—Protein 14.1%, Fat 5.9%, Carbohydrates 57.4%, Albuminoid Ratio—1: 5.1

"As a question of shipping," he writes, "this 51,274 tons is not a serious demand, for one ship per month would suffice to bring this amount of supplies to Jamaica. Provided the people of Jamaica can pay the higher prices demanded for food-supplies due to the present stringency, there is no reasonable ground to expect that absolute lack of tonnage would prevent us from obtaining what we require. In any case an embargo on luxuries and articles of import not vital to the life of the Colony, would serve to secure the requisite space for the necessities in the form of food. It must be admitted that the total suspension of imported food stuffs into Jamaica would be a very serious matter for the people of this island. The 10,000 tons of fish-stuffs, containing over 3,000 tons of protein, are of vital importance and it would not be possible immediately to replace this source of protein in an adequate manner by native-grown products. The 2,000 tons of dairy products are also of prime necessity, for our dairy industry in Jamaica is so backward that we are at present unable to supply our needs in this respect. Then, again, we import 37,000 tons of cereals, of which 25,000 tons represent wheat flour, which can not be adequately replaced by any cereal product grown in Jamaica.

"We are unable to grow wheat or rye in a tropical country and for the purposes of making leavened bread are unable to produce any grain with a content of gluten capable of yielding a leavened dough. Owing to the abnormally poor harvest of wheat in Canada and the United States in 1916, the losses of wheat cargoes in transit by enemy attacks, the increased demand of the armies in the field and the reduction of European harvests through lack of labour, the visible supply of the world's wheat is insufficient for normal requirements. Our demands on the wheat supply of the world in Jamaica can undoubtedly be reduced to a considerable degree by all or any of the following measures:—

- (a) Substitution of 80 per cent. flour for the present 70 per cent. grade, as has been done in the United Kingdom.

- (b) Adoption of 'War-bread' prepared from a flour composed of 80 per cent. wheat flour and 20 per cent. corn meal.

- (c) Reduction of the consumption of bread by resort to native 'bread-kind.'

"It has been shown that while '80 per cent. flour' is not so digestible as '70 per cent. flour,' yet at least half the total gain of protein and calories from the coarser flour is a gain to the human body and the adoption of 'standard bread' is therefore a good economical procedure when a shortage of wheat has to be faced by a bread-eating community. I have had experimental loaves of 'war-bread' baked by Messrs. Powell, of Halfway Tree, and the 20 per cent. corn meal loaf was found to be quite satisfactory. The adoption of this standard of 'war-bread' would save 50,000 barrels of flour per annum, and Jamaica might assist the Mother Country by foregoing this amount in her requirements of wheat-flour and consigning it to the United Kingdom through agents in Canada and the United States. In every household in the island the consumption of bread might easily be reduced to one-half by a more generous use of native 'bread-kind' or ground provisions. These vegetable foods are not precisely equivalent in food-value to bread, but, in mixed diet, they are effective sources of energy, and the sweet potato, yam, breadfruit and tannier are all to be commended as bread-substitutes in a mixed dietary."

After recommending that in view of the serious shortage of milk in the United States and the urgent conditions in Europe, the importation of condensed separated milk be permitted at the same duty as that for unskimmed or ordinary condensed milk, provided that the tins are marked "*Skimmed Milk Unsuitable for feeding Infants.*" he proceeds:—

"Assuming that the present population of Jamaica is 900,000 and that allowing for children and young persons, the population is equivalent to 700,000 adults in food requirements, it would appear that the food imports of Jamaica would suffice for the protein requirements of the population for 103 days, and the energy requirements expressed as calories for 76 days in the year, or in other words, we import 28 per cent. of our total requirements of protein and 21 per cent. in total food values. This calculation is based on the British standard of 100 grams of protein and of 3,400 calories per man per diem, and a reduction of 23 per cent. on the total population to correct for the reduced demands of juveniles."

NATIVE FOODS.

"In any consideration of the comparative value of native foods so as to meet the present critical conditions, the factor of yield of food per acre is the one we should put in the most prominent position, as it is this that dominates the question of the home-production of foods in times of scarcity."

He then gives the list overleaf of the chief native foods, showing the average yield per acre obtained in Jamaica, the period of growth of the crop, the tons per acre of protein, fat and carbohydrates and the total food value per acre expressed in millions of calories.

Native Jamaica Foods.

Food.	Yield per acre.	Period of growth.	TONS PER ACRE.			
			Protein.	Fat.	Carbo-hydrates.	Million Calories per acre.
Roots and Tubers—						
Sweet Potatoes	8 tons	12 months	0.160	0.024	2.296	10.30
Cassava (Bitter)	5 "	15 "	0.055	0.010	1.830	7.82
Cassava (Sweet)	4 "	12 "	0.044	0.008	1.520	6.49
Cocoas	4 "	12 "	0.080	0.004	1.040	4.63
Yams	4 "	12 "	0.108	0.012	0.800	3.84
Irish Potatoes	4 "	3 "	0.080	0.004	0.800	3.65
Arrowroot	1 "	12 "	0.023	0.003	0.206	0.86
Grains—						
Corn (Native)	1/2 "	6 "	0.075	0.034	0.506	0.70
Guinea Corn	1/2 "	12 "	0.060	0.023	0.347	1.88
Rice	900 lbs.	12 "	0.032	0.005	0.303	1.30
Legumes—						
Black-eyed Peas	900 "	4 "	0.088	0.012	0.196	1.30
Congo Peas	600 "	12 "	0.054	0.003	0.166	0.93
Red Peas	600 "	3 "	0.064	0.005	0.149	0.87
Fruits—						
Breadfruits	6 tons	Perennial tree	0.140	0.024	2.484	10.98
Coco-nuts	5 "	12 months	0.064	0.480	0.090	5.10
Bananas	5 "	15 "	0.085	0.010	1.115	5.01
Plantains	2 "	18 "	0.027	0.010	0.574	2.47
Sugar Cane	20 "	12 "	0.200	—	2.600	11.48

MEANING OF TERMS USED IN THE TABLE.

"Protein" signifies the highest order of plant substance which contains nitrogen in addition to the usual carbon and water of which vegetable materials are composed. It serves to supply the "wear and tear" of the bodily tissues and is therefore the first necessity for the nutrition of the human body and cannot be replaced by any other kind of plant material. In the tropics there is reason to believe that a much lower standard than the European standard of 100 grams of protein per man per day can suffice and the dietary of the labouring classes in Jamaica would indicate that adequate nutrition can be maintained on, perhaps, three quarters of this amount of protein.

"Fat" is concentrated fuel for the human body and is of high value for the supply of bodily energy. In a cold climate the demands for fat are much higher than in

the tropics, fat is useless as a substitute for protein but can itself be replaced by a large proportion (21 times by weight) of carbohydrates. In the tropics a low standard of fat can be effectively balanced by a higher consumption of carbohydrates.

"Carbohydrates." These are the "carbon and water" substances such as starch and sugar and are principally employed as fuel for the human body. They are valuable sources of energy and in the tropics represent the chief ingredient of a normal dietary.

It is important to note, however, that carbohydrates are quite unable to reinforce bodily growth or to supply material for the building up of the tissues of growing children. The chief problem of dietary in the tropics is that of securing an adequate proportion of protein to balance the excessive amount of carbohydrates which characterise the chief staples of home-grown food.

In the two following tables Mr. Cousins arranges the foods in the order of their total food value and their protein content per acre.

MILLION CALORIES PER ACRE.	
1. Sugar Cane	11.48
2. Breadfruit	10.98
3. Sweet Potatoes	10.30
4. Cassava (bitter)	7.82
5. Cassava (sweet)	6.49
6. Coco-nuts	5.10
7. Bananas	5.01
8. Cocoas	4.63
9. Yams	3.84
10. Irish Potatoes	3.65
11. Corn (native)	2.70
12. Plantains	2.47
13. Guinea Corn	1.88
14. Rice	1.30
15. Black-eyed peas	1.30
16. Congo peas	0.93
17. Red peas	0.87
18. Arrowroot	0.86

TON PROTEINS PER ACRE.	
1. Sugar Cane	.200
2. Sweet Potatoes	.160
3. Breadfruit	.140
4. Yams	.108
5. Black-eyed Peas	.088
6. Bananas	.085
7. Irish Potatoes	.080
8. Cocoas	.080
9. Corn (native)	.075
10. Red Peas	.064

11. Coco-nuts	.064
12. Guinea Corn	.060
13. Cassava (bitter)	.055
14. Congo Peas	.054
15. Cassava (sweet)	.044
16. Rice	.032
17. Plantains	.027
18. Arrowroot	.023

FOOD VALUES PER ACRE.

Mr. Cousins then proceeds:—

"(a) *Sugar Cane* is the most efficient protection against absolute starvation that we can grow in Jamaica. An acre of sugar cane, yielding 20 tons of ripe canes, is equal to 11½ million calories. A million calories would serve to support the life of one man for one year. An acre of cane, therefore, is capable of affording sustenance to 11½ men for a year. It is admitted that sugar cane is not a well-balanced material for human sustenance, owing to the excessive content of sugar in proportion to the protein, but as an economical source of bodily energy for the people it stands in the very highest position.

"(b) *Breadfruit*. Although this is a perennial crop and a good many years are required to establish a breadfruit tree in good bearing, it must be accepted as the most economical source of food available to the people of Jamaica. Every encouragement should be given to the planting of breadfruit trees in the holdings of the peasantry, as the returns of food

are so high and the nutritive value of the breadfruit so remarkable. The drying of the surplus breadfruit is a matter that requires some missionary effort. In seasons of plenty, thousands of breadfruit are allowed to waste, owing to lack of means of preserving them as meal.

"(c) *Sweet Potatoes*. The quickest anti-starvation crop we can grow is the sweet potato. The value of this food, in combination with peas and beans, was well illustrated after the hurricane of 1903, when the writer advocated this as the most effective means of securing a supply of food after that serious disaster. ('The Hurricane and Some Chemistry,'—*Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, 1903, pp. 365-368.) A return of over ten million calories per acre, or food for ten men for a year, is obtainable from two crops of sweet potatoes grown in succession within a year on one acre of land. This food is mainly composed of starch and sugar and requires reinforcement with a material rich in protein, such as peas or beans, or salt fish or meat, in order to afford a balanced ration.

"(d) *Cassava* (bitter and sweet). The aboriginal inhabitants of Jamaica lived mainly on cassava and fish. The cassava plant is a great drought resister and is of astounding value in such areas as Southern Manchester and Southern St. Elizabeth. The manufacture of farine would be a valuable means of securing a stored supply of cassava to meet times of scarcity.

"(e) *Coco-nuts*. These are a valuable reserve of food if necessity arises. The fat of the coco-nut is capable of replacing butter, while the flesh of the nuts is highly nutritious.

"(f) *Bananas*. The banana is about one-half as effective as the sweet potato as a source of food for the people. It consists mainly of starch and sugar, and requires the addition of protein to serve as a balanced food. Our waste bananas are a valuable asset, and the people are well advised to cultivate this crop, even when the markets are unsatisfactory for export fruit. The plantain is only half as efficient as the banana as a food crop, and is, in fact, rather a luxury than otherwise. The plantain is intrinsically superior to the banana in feeding value, but owing to its longer period of growth and greatly reduced yield per acre, as compared with the banana, it can be regarded as an economical food crop for conditions of stringency.

"(g) *Cocoas*. In districts favoured with good rainfall the cacao or tanager is a valuable food crop of easy growth. The composition of the tanager is characteristically that of the carbohydrate root crop.

"(h) *Yams*. This food is indeed a type of native luxury. The average returns are greatly below those of the sweet potato, but owing to its edible attractions it holds a high place in the esteem of the people, and is sold at a price in accordance therewith. The yam can not be recommended as an emergency food-stuff, but its cultivation is so profitable in districts suitable to its growth that there is every inducement for its production.

"(i) *Irish Potatoes*. These are mainly grown for the use of the well-to-do households in the island

and are sold at far higher prices than in Europe and America. The potato is an adaptable plant, and is a quick crop, giving returns under the most unfavourable conditions of climate and of soil.

"(j) *Native Corn*. The high prices now ruling for American corn should encourage a large increase in the output of the native product. This crop is rather variable and it is difficult to strike a true average of the crop obtainable under average conditions of season and soil. As a starvation food, corn is not an efficient staple and cannot be recommended for that purpose in competition with other food crops.

"(k) *Guinea Corn*. This was a staple bread stuff in Jamaica in the olden days, but the returns are not very high and the grain is troublesome to handle. It is doubtful whether this grain can be recommended for general cultivation in Jamaica. It affords a valuable silage crop and is perhaps most effective when used for this purpose and converted into milk.

"(l) *Rice*. In the swamp areas of Falmouth and Savanna-la-Mar rice has been grown with some measure of success, but there are difficulties to be faced in establishing a large industry in rice which it is hoped may be removed in the near future. As a starvation food rice holds a very low place on the list, owing to the relatively small returns per acre under average conditions in Jamaica.

"(m) *Pulse*. The red peas, black-eyed peas and Congo peas are particularly valuable on account of their rich content of protein. The growing of native pulse as a catch crop should be encouraged in every possible way. The Congo pea is particularly valuable in the dry districts, and is unapproached as a means of production under unfavourable conditions of rainfall. The red pea is a somewhat speculative crop and is often a failure, but where it succeeds is a very profitable and satisfactory pulse crop. The black-eyed pea is harder and of more general utility than the red pea.

"(n) *Arrowroot*. This stands quite at the bottom of list and is a luxury material and not recommended as an emergency food crop."

DAIRYING IN JAMAICA.

"The Colony spends £100,000 per annum in the importation of dairy products. At the present moment these are very scarce and dear. The difficulties that have to be faced in order to establish a reliable and productive local dairy industry are the following:—

- (a) Lack of reliable dairy cattle.
- (b) Difficulty of providing succulent feed during periods of drought.

"These difficulties can be solved as has been demonstrated at the Government Farm at Hope, by the importation and acclimatisation of productive dairy cattle and the infusion of one-eighth of Zebu blood into the European cattle so as to render them hardy and suitable for productive life under tropical conditions, while the growing of guinea corn and other fodder crops and converting them into silage is a satisfactory solution of the difficulties due to the periods of drought. It is to be regretted that the financial stringency due to the war has prevented

a more active development of the dairy in the island. The prospects for a native dairy industry are most encouraging and there is room for considerable developments on sound business lines. Of all branches of animal husbandry, that of dairying involving the conversion of food into milk, is the most efficient and considering the assured local market for dairy products in Jamaica it is a matter that demands immediate attention.

"Native Beef. The recent general introduction of Zebu blood into the old-fashioned herds of native beef cattle into Jamaica has had a remarkable effect in increasing the hardness of our native cattle and in making them more productive. The general introduction of dipping tanks would enable a considerable economy to be effected in the time required to prime an ox for the butcher. At least six months saved out of thirty-six months previously required to grow a steer fit for market could be relied on if the penkeepers of Jamaica were to adopt the practice of dipping their cattle. The use of sprays and spraying machines is valuable, but it can only serve to control the ticks, as each tick that escapes the spray serves to propagate 2,000 more to continue the pest. The complete immersion of the cattle in a dipping tank is the only effective way of exterminating ticks altogether. Remarkable results from the dipping of cattle have already been obtained in Jamaica, and all cattle breeders are strongly urged to give this matter their immediate attention.

"Native Small Stock. Goats, pigs, poultry and rabbits are all of great importance in the food of the people. Practical efforts during the past twenty years have effected great benefits and the small stock of Jamaica now shows marked improvement. Fresh blood of the Angora breed for improving the mutton goats and of the Anglo-Nubian for improving the native milch goat should be obtained at the first favourable opportunity. Good results have followed from such introductions in the past and the matter should be followed up. Fresh breeds of pigs, such as the Berkshire, Red Jersey, Poland, China and large British Black should be imported, while the local breeds of poultry require constant importations of fresh blood to preserve them from deterioration."

Mr. Cousins finally summarises his conclusion as follows:—

"Jamaica is fortunately adapted for the production of a variety of foodstuffs and can obtain very large yields per acre of food reserves in case of emergency. We are, however, greatly dependent on imported fish-stuffs, bread-stuffs and dairy products that are not replaced under present conditions and can not be dispensed with without serious inconvenience to the people. Although prices may rise and supplies may be somewhat restricted there is no reason to fear that the necessary minimum of imported food will not be available. Every encouragement should be given to the production of native food stuffs. Given a favourable season a large output for 1917 can be safely relied on, as very large plantings of food stuffs have been made in all parts of the island."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

On the British Front.

The defences of Lens, one of the great bastions of Lille, are gradually falling into British hands, some of them with comparatively little fighting, like the well-prepared positions at La Coulotte; others again, like those on the outskirts of Avion, after stubborn fighting and fierce counter-attacks. Evidently, the enemy has no intention of trying to recover any of the positions he has lost on the right bank of the Souchez River, or he would not have destroyed the bridge at Eleu-dit-Leauvette. It is possible, too, that he has no intention of holding on to any part of Lens but the fringe, as he does at St. Quentin. For he has done all the damage he can to the roads and railway sidings, undulating the low ground between Avion and the River. As for Lens itself, it has been systematically reduced to a heap of ruins. But whether or not he means to fight for the ruins he has made, stone by stone, is a question only the immediate future can decide. It was in that way he resisted the British advance on the Somme. But after the capture of Beaumont Hamel and, with it, the high ground, he made little attempt to defend the line he had prepared from Ablainsville to Le Transloy. Then came the "Hindenburg" line, which was just pivoted on Arras and the Chemin des Dames, and when these gave way on Vinny and Monchy. When these in their turn were carried, Bullecourt and Lens found the main positions of yet another line, and Bullecourt is already ours and the fall of Lens depends not on the German intention to hold it, but on ours to take it. The question is are we to win it cheaply or dearly, and that only the German High Command is able to answer.

On the French Front.

The French, who have had to deal with severe German attacks along the Chemin des Dames at Verdun, where some ground has been yielded on Mort Homme and in Champagne, against the Crown Prince, have been relieved of their positions in the region of the mouth of the Yser by the British. That is why Lombartzyde now appears in British bulletins. The intensity of the German attacks, especially at Vauxaillon, is accounted for by its position. The village itself is in French hands, but to the east of the slope on which it stands, the plateau bulges out to the north, throwing the Ailette Valley into a bold curve concave to the south, and half of this expanse is French and half German. If the enemy loses the whole of it our Ally would command the whole of the Ailette Valley. Hence the obstinate fighting to prevent it. In none of these attacks do the Germans gain more than a temporary advantage, but owing to their tactical skill and their pertinacity they have so far prevented the French from making any striking advance since they gained a footing on the edge of the plateau. But the offensive the enemy launches, only to end in failure, must have, in the long run, a depressing effect on the enemy's moral.

Russia Moves.

Russia is resuming operations in Galicia, where she left off last year when Rumania entered the war, and fighting developed on a large scale further south. It will be remembered that after Count Bothmer had been driven over the Strypa and Zlota Lipa, and the Naraiowka, he was strongly reinforced, compelling the Russians to take up a position on the east bank of the Naraiowka, with their right thrown back by Brzezany towards Koniuchy. Similarly they retired over the Stokhod in front of Kovel, after they had defeated Boehm-Ernolli at Dubno and occupied Brody. It is in this front that they have launched a new offensive—British armoured cars leading—occupying Koniuchy, in the Brzezany sector, and carrying strong positions as they advance in the direction of Zloczow, a road and railway junction on the Lemberg-Tarnopol line. At the same time they have re-crossed the Stokhod. In two days' fighting they captured 17,000 prisoners and many guns. An interesting point about these recent Russian victories is that the enemy was prepared for activity on the Eastern front, and in Galicia. For a week before the battle began orders were given that no further troops were to be taken from the Western front. The effect of a continued offensive in Galicia must have considerable moral effect in Russia herself and military effect on the Italian front, in which Austrian pressure must relax. There is nothing accidental in the fact that the South-Western Armies have been the first to move. Under General Brussiloff their spirit and discipline suffered less than the Russian forces elsewhere, because they were less amenable to the influence of wily German agents. Some time ago their able commander declared that they were ready to take the field.

American Military Aid.

In February last the Germans boasted that submarine warfare would have starved England into the consideration of peace, or so have hampered the Allied offensive on the Western front that it could be turned before the United States could place any troops in the field. But the vanguard of the American Army has landed in France, with all its food, munitions, arms, equipment, and all that is necessary for soldiers in the field. Moreover, it is of fine quality, as the German High Command would be the first to admit, consisting, as it does, of part of the American Permanent Forces. The new armies the United States is organising will be to it what Kitchener's Armies are to the Regular Army, which sacrificed itself in the summer and autumn of 1914. But she has an advantage over us in the possession of a large body of intelligent, resourceful and adventurous population, and, while she does not possess such a strong officer class, it must be remembered that West Point is a national training school as well as a military school. There is no reason then why she should not, within a few months, despatch considerable forces to France, and of good military quality. Even more disillusioning to Germany than the landing of an American Contingent on the Western front is the fact that it was transported across 3,000 miles of ocean "without a hitch."

The "U" boats which ventured to attack it were beaten off with the loss to the enemy of at least one. At a time when submarines are terrorising the world's merchant shipping this demonstration of surface sea power is highly significant.

The Mesopotamia Report.

The publication of this important document has aroused deep feeling in the country, perhaps because it was felt that after the Gallipoli disaster a disaster in Mesopotamia should have been impossible. But the one was the sequel to the other. A spectacular advance was to be made on Bagdad to retrieve in some measure the failure to force the Dardanelles. In itself this was a laudable aim. The trouble was that weak and incompetent men were entrusted to carry it out, and that the politicians, in a panic, ordered the soldiers to get them out of a bad situation without playing their part in supplying the necessary means. The want of adequate transport and reinforcements ended in the surrender at Kut, the want of medical stores in the infliction of horrible suffering on the wounded, the want of co-ordination, imagination, and ordinary business methods in the administration of the Mesopotamian Expedition were such that even British soldiers and officers could not win their way to victory in spite of it. Sometimes it is the system and not the men which is responsible for military disaster, but in this case it is the men. Here, as in so much that is humiliating in the present war, the source lies in the pacifist leanings of the British Government before the war.

Enter Greece.

M. Venizelos has returned to power, and, with his presence in Athens a new spirit has been breathed into the Greek Government. Consequently, diplomatic relations with the Central Powers have been broken off, and steps are being taken to re-organise the Greek naval and military forces. Since the discipline of these has been sapped by the past three years of intrigue and counter-intrigue in Athens the task will take some time to carry through. But as there is good fighting material in Greece the General Staff may accomplish as great a transformation in the Army as they did after the disastrous defeat at Domokosby Edhem in 1897. For in the Balkan Wars, 1912-13, the Greek Army gave an excellent account of itself. But in the meantime the support of Greece will be largely moral. Strategically there is considerable gain, for the Allied forces in Salonika are relieved of the anxiety caused by the presence on their flank of a potentially hostile Power, and any hope the Germans may have entertained of help from the south is destroyed.

Harwich Air Raid.

On July 4th a German squadron of fourteen machines attacked Harwich about seven in the morning, and as they were promptly engaged by our aircraft and anti-aircraft defences, the raid only lasted a few minutes; after dropping their bombs, which resulted in 50 casualties, the enemy aeroplanes turned seaward for home, but were intercepted by Allied seaplanes before they reached the

Belgian coast. Two were brought down in flames, and one other was damaged. This is the fourth aeroplane raid on a large scale since May 25th last.

London again Raided.

On July 7th London was again attacked by a squadron of over 20 hostile aeroplanes. Approaching London from the north-east, they then turned north and west and crossed the Metropolis from north-west to south-east. Bombs were dropped in various places, and our casualties were 34 killed (including four women and three children) and 139 injured. The enemy, owing to the size of their machines, appeared to fly at a low altitude; but they were really never lower than 12,500 feet. They were well plastered by our anti-aircraft guns and chased out to sea by the R.N.A.S., who brought down two machines and saw a third fall in flames. Meanwhile our airmen from Dunkirk (also R.N.A.S.) accounted for three enemy seaplanes and drove down two aeroplanes.

This fresh attack on London has aroused much indignation, but when it is urged that reprisals should take place in kind, it is forgotten that, unlike the enemy machines, which have only to fly across the North Sea from the Belgian coast, ours would have to fly double and treble the distance over the enemy's lines. Again, it is not so easy to give general warning of an approaching raid, as aeroplanes travel at the rate of 90 miles an hour, and can cross the sea to England in two hours.

In East Africa.

Now that the season admits of military operations the Allies are exerting combined pressure on the enemy in East Africa with success. In the extreme north the Belgian forces from the Congo have effected a junction with ours, and are engaged in rounding up a small German force in the Ikoma sector. Near the coast the enemy's strongly-held positions south of the Ngaura River have been evacuated owing to our advance from Kilwa, and he has fallen back astride the tracks leading to Sindi Siwale, and Massassi, in all of which sectors our forces are active in pursuit. The German detachments which entered Portuguese territory have been driven back to Mwembe by combined British and Portuguese operations. As a rule Germans fail in transforming the raw material of native races into soldiers, but they have succeeded in Central Africa. Hence, General Smut's warning that, as a great Black Army was one of the means by which Germany intended to put her yoke upon the world her colonies should not be returned to her.

Piracy Statistics.

Only twice since February 25th last has the British loss in large ships by mine or submarine been so small as that recorded on July 1st, viz., 15, or less by six than the figures recorded the week before. The latest return is even better. The figures for the last three weeks are as follows:—

	1600 tons & over	Under 1600 tons.	Fishing vessels
July 8	13	3	6
July 1	15	5	11
June 24	20	6	0

(To be continued.)

THE DECIMAL SYSTEM.

The Bankers' Institute in Favour of It.

Residents in most parts of the West Indies so instinctively convert dollars into sterling and *vice versa*, owing to their having so many dealings with the United States and Canada that the adoption of the decimal system of currency would be to them a comparatively small step.

In the local stores, for example, if a customer is puzzled when he is told that an article costs 4.80, the salesman is at once ready with "a sovereign," and so on. In this connection the recent report of the Committee of the Institute of Bankers which has been adopted by the Council is of particular interest.

"Your committee," it runs, "are of opinion that the existing system of weights and measures in this country is an obstacle in the way of the extension of our foreign trade, and more especially of our export trade. This is, indeed, one of the main considerations which has influenced your committee in recommending the adoption of a decimal coinage, as they hope that it may be the first step towards the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures in this country.

"Your committee are convinced that no decimal system of coinage which is not based on the pound sterling can possibly be accepted by the bankers of this country, and that the present pound sterling, unchanged in weight and fineness, must remain the unit in value. The pound sterling is universally recognised in the settlement of international transactions throughout the world, and any abandonment, even in name only, of its use as our standard unit, would be fraught with risks which your committee consider it would be unwise to incur. Your committee have therefore decided to recommend a decimal system based on the pound sterling, to be divided into a thousand parts, called mils, the coinage to be as follows:—

		£
Gold	Sovereign	1 000 = 1,000 mil.
	Half-sovereign	0 500 = 500 ..
	Double florin (or four shilling piece	0 200 = 200 ..
	Florin (or two shilling piece	0 100 = 100 ..
Silver	Half-florin (or shilling)	0 050 = 50 ..
	Quarter-florin (or six-pence)	0 025 = 25 ..
	Ten mil piece	0 010 = 10 ..
Nickel or some other metal or alloy. To be scalloped.	Four mil piece	0 004 = 4 ..
	Two mil piece	0 002 = 2 ..
	Mil	0 001 = 1 ..
Bronze		

"The use of the term 'cent,' borrowed from other coinage systems, is, in the committee's opinion, undesirable and likely to lead to confusion, owing to the fact that our subsidiary coinage would not correspond in value with that of any other country.

"A standard unit of so high a value as the pound sterling involves the use of three places of decimals, and this may be thought to be an objection to the proposed system as compared with the systems prevailing in other countries. This objection vanishes

on examination, because the extra figure to the right of the decimal point is compensated by one digit less to the left of the point. Thus, taking a system in which the florin is the unit of account, and comparing the method of expressing sums in the two systems, we get :—

	£	s	d	=	£	s	d	=	Fl.	s	d
	£26	17	6	=	£26	875	=	Fl.	268	75	
	1	11	6	=	1	575	=	"	15	75	
	16	4		=	0	816	=	"	8	16	

"If the proposed system be adopted, there will be no change in the gold coinage. The existing silver coins will continue (in some cases under new names), with the exception of the crown, half-crown, and threepenny piece, which it is proposed to discontinue. The half-crown could, if it were thought necessary, be made to fit into the new decimal coinage as 125 mils. There will be no room, however, for the threepenny piece, as this would involve four places of decimals; but, as a substitute, the committee recommend the coinage of a 10-mil piece having a scalloped edge, made of nickel or some other similar metal or alloy.

"The committee feel confident that as regards the gold and silver coinage the transition to a decimal system will not present any serious difficulties. As regards the bronze coinage, a change in the value of the coins is necessary, and some disturbance in the small every-day monetary transactions is unavoidable.

"The sovereign is at present divided into 960 farthings; under the proposed decimal system it will be divided into 1,000 mils. The four mil piece will be the nearest coin to the penny, being 4 per cent. less in value. If, therefore, a four mil bronze piece is coined to take the place of the penny, the wage-earner will obtain 10 more of these pieces for every sovereign in his weekly wages. If a five mil piece were coined (which would be the logical result of the adoption of a decimal coinage), the wage-earner would, for every sovereign, obtain 200 of such pieces, as against 240 pennies. The penny is a common measure of value in small retail transactions, and the committee feel that to substitute the five mil piece for the penny would arouse widespread hostility to the change, and the risk of this taking place would be much greater if a five mil piece, as well as a four mil piece, were coined. They, therefore, recommend that, for the present, at all events, no five mil piece be coined. They believe that the difference of four per cent. in the value of the bronze coin will be quickly adjusted, especially as the decrease in the purchasing power of the penny during the war has accustomed the public to such adjustments."

The Committee recognise that certain standard charges, such as the penny-a-mile railway fee, will have to be adjusted, and that calculating machines, etc., will have to be altered; but they do not consider these difficulties insuperable, and have already drafted legislation which they feel should be adopted without delay.

The report is signed by Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith (Chairman), Mr. Mackenzie D. Chalmers, Mr. Harold Cox, Mr. F. Hyde, Mr. Fredk. Huth Jack-

son, Mr. R. Martin-Holland, Mr. T. H. Whitehead, and Mr. Ernest Sykes (Secretary).

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

The prospectus of the British Trade Corporation, the objects of which, as defined by its Charter, have already been summarised in these columns,* has now been published. The capital is £10,000,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares of £10 each, of which 100,000 had been already subscribed and allotted at par. 150,000 further shares were offered for subscription. The Governor is Lord Faringdon, and the Directors include Mr. Dudley Docker, President of the Federation of British Industries, and Sir Algernon Firth, President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. The Manager is Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, and the Head Office is at 13, Austin Friars, London, E.C.

It is stated in the prospectus that :—

"The British Trade Corporation has been incorporated by Royal Charter with a view to carrying out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade appointed 'to consider the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the War as regards financial facilities for trade.

"The Corporation will specially devote its energies to the development of the Trade of the British Empire in every part of the world. It will provide financial facilities, the currency of which may extend over a longer period than is covered by the usual advances made by bankers, and it will be prepared to assist in opening up new channels for enterprise where it is demonstrated that financial aid can be afforded without undue commercial risks. Upon the conclusion of the War it is believed that there will be an extension of the spirit of British enterprise which will only require financial help to accomplish good work for the Empire.

"There exists to-day no large British financial institution possessing an industrial department or any organisation for study and research into new ideas or inventions, which is specially equipped to examine and nurse new schemes or developments until sufficiently proved and ripe for public investment. The Corporation will make this a special feature of its business and will aim at becoming a link between British industry and the British investor. It will take a lead in the formation of Syndicates to deal with business of promise and importance, and it will associate with itself other banking and financial institutions which care to participate in its operations.

"The Corporation proposes to appoint representatives in the chief cities of the world who will be domiciled with the bank holding the Corporation's agency, and various arrangements for such agency have been provisionally negotiated. Where similar arrangements are not practicable it is intended to open Branch Establishments in important centres abroad. The appointment of such representatives should prove beneficial to British manufacturing and industrial interests and effect an extension of business.

"The Corporation will establish Information Bureaux to collect reliable data upon openings for foreign trade, new contracts, State and other loans and issue proposals, and generally upon all matters relating to foreign trade and the status of merchants and traders. As a result of the information thus gained it will be in a position to determine what particular schemes it will be desirable to promote and support.

"The Corporation will open a Credit Department for the issue of credits at home and abroad, and generally will

* WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 487, p. 205.

seek to render to the commercial community any of the services contemplated in the report of the Departmental Committee above mentioned."

It will be recalled that the Corporation met with much hostile criticism in the House of Commons, and from merchants and others who were apprehensive of State-aided competition, and that the Corporation consequently filed a Declaration as to its aims. This Declaration was published with the prospectus, and is in the following terms:—

"The British Trade Corporation hereby declares that it has sought and accepted the Charter on the footing that according to the true intent and meaning of the Charter, the following are provisions thereof—namely:

"That the fundamental object for which the Charter has been granted is the giving of financial assistance to British traders and manufacturers, especially in connection with overseas trade, and that the Corporation is under an obligation to give full effect to such object, and will be accessible to the business public for the purpose of consultation and otherwise; that the Corporation is not intended to be, nor will it operate as, a competing contractor, merchant or trader, and that its enterprises shall be directed to the furtherance of its aforesaid fundamental object that the powers and privileges given to the Corporation by the Charter are intended to be and are the machinery by which the Corporation will effectuate its said fundamental object, and will be exercised for the purpose, as a means of, and with a view to the carrying out or furtherance of the same, or so as to enable the Corporation to deal with situations arising by reason or in consequence of such carrying out or furtherance, and that nothing in the Charter has the effect of conferring the exclusive privilege on the Corporation as regards access to Government information or of placing it in any preferential position as regards the representation of British trade or finance, or of conferring upon it the right of acting as Agent of the Government except upon appointment in each case, or of excluding the Government from selecting other agents in cases in which they see reason for so doing."

THE PROLIFIC MONGOOSE.

We are indebted to the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Trinidad and Tobago, in whose "Proceedings" it appeared, for the following article by Mr. R. R. Mole on the Mongoose or Mongoose.

Everyone knows of the mongoose, some by repute, also how he was introduced here to kill rats on cocoa estates. His advent in the West Indies is attributed to Mr. W. Bancroft Epeut, who brought four males and five females from India to Jamaica in 1872, with the idea that they would decrease the number of rats which infested the sugar plantations, causing a loss of £100,000 a year. In ten years the rats were much fewer, and it was estimated that £45,000 had been saved to the planters. Then the dark side of the picture appeared. The mongoose has omnivorous habits. The young of nearly all kinds of the smaller domestic animals fell victims to it. It killed poultry, native game birds, and birds which nested near the ground, and all the harmless and beneficial reptiles (there were no noxious ones in Jamaica) and land crabs. In addition to these things, it destroyed bananas, pineapples, young corn, avocado pears, sweet potatoes, coco-nuts—though how it reached these latter, not being a climbing animal, we do not know. The balance of nature was upset, and pests became prevalent, and legislation was devised to meet the evil. The damage done far exceeded that caused by the rats.

In 1898 it was declared that Nature had begun to right matters, and while the fauna had been modified, both native and introduced species were gradually accommodating themselves to the new changed condition—in fact, a new Balance of Nature was being established. Here in Trinidad we suffer grievously from the mongus, but we have such a large native fauna that the effects of its ravages have not been generally felt. On some estates, however, those very useful creatures, the ground lizards, disappeared entirely. In one or two instances a vigorous warfare has been waged on the mongus, and the lizards have been obtained elsewhere and re-established at considerable cost, and the result has been satisfactory. But such examples of self-help and independence of outside assistance are not frequent. The curse of slavery and Crown Colony Government has deprived the majority of the people of initiative. They look to the Government to help them in everything, and never think of helping themselves. They have not learned the lesson of Æsop's fable of the waggon sunk in the mud. It is nothing unusual for a man in England who finds a dangerous hole in the road near his property to go out and mend it on his own account. A barrow of gravel, etc., and a half-hour's work, and the thing is done. His own cart-springs are saved, and so are other people's. Here all the countryside write letters to the press and petition authority if a hole happens to appear in the road surface. That is one of the results of slavery and the paternal form of Government which we call "Crown." It dissipates all ideas of helping oneself.

The Pig-Eating Mongoose.

When the Government here offered rewards for killing mongus, a large number were destroyed, but there was some idea in officialdom that all was not quite square. Eventually the rewards were stopped. Since then there is constant complaint about the ravages of the mongus. Only this last week we received a letter declaring the mongus destroys crops, canes, provisions. The writer says that he saw one in the centre of a village raiding poultry. On another occasion, a few weeks back, one attacked some young pigs. All this is perfectly in accordance with the habits of the mongus. But why don't folks help themselves? Why leave it all to the Government? If people could catch and kill large numbers of mongus when rewards were being offered by the Government, why can't they do so now—that is, if they are really suffering from the depredations of the mongus? That they do not do so makes us doubt the sincerity of their complaint. Why should people want rewards for benefiting themselves? In Australia, when the rabbits get too numerous, the people for miles round assemble and organise a great rabbit drive and kill thousands. In the Western United States we have read of similar wholesale hunts of the jack rabbit. In England, small rat-killing parties are not infrequent. When it was erroneously believed that sparrows were an unmitigated nuisance, without any redeeming qualities, there were sparrow clubs.

Why should there not be mongoose drives in Trin-

dad? Instead of spending every public holiday in the conventional manner, why not organise a mongus drive? Let a line of men, armed with sticks, traverse a mongus-infested tract of country and round the animals up and kill them. They take refuge in impregnable, rocky places, says someone. "Never heard of carbon bi-sulphide?" we reply. Another objector says: "But the Trinidadian's idea of hunting is to get something to eat. *Si sandole te bon viand li pa le ke drive.*" Quite so. But many people here consider both the mat and the iguana dainty dishes, and they are lizards, and their meat is very delicate. Probably the ground lizard is too small, or he would be killed for the table. But who says the mongus is not fit for human food? The people of Martinique think otherwise. They say mongus is very good eating. If they don't eat it themselves, they say it makes excellent food for chickens—which is just retribution, for the mongus considers chicken a most desirable delicacy. At any rate, one would as soon dine off a mongus as off fried gru-gru worms. When we remember that the old Trinidadians discovered the gastronomic merits of the fat gru-gru, we must admit that when their descendants have neglected the mongus it looks as if we have lost the appetite for original culinary dishes which characterised our fathers. Jove told the waggoner and his boy to put their shoulders to the wheel and help the oxen to drag the waggon out of the mire. It is an excellent receipt. We are told to suffer fools gladly, but we are not exhorted to take our difficulties lying down, our only protest being to the Government, which stands in the place of the Ruler of the Lightning.

We suggest to the sufferers to start mongus clubs, paying for every mongus destroyed in a given area. Once or twice a year they should have a regular organised mongus hunt. Perhaps if this was done, help might be forthcoming from the Government or the Agricultural Department, or the Agricultural Board, or the Agricultural Society, or all three. But what people should do is to try to help themselves, and when they do that they will find in this mongus difficulty, as one finds in all others, that a determined attempt is more than half the battle.

Barbados declares War.

The House of Assembly of Barbados adopted on May 24th a report of a Select Committee on the Mongoose presented by Dr. Hallam Massiah, who was appointed chairman. The Committee found that the mongoose which, was first introduced in 1879 had become a serious pest, and attributed the increase of insect pests to its depredations among the feathered kind. They believe that the diminution in the number of rat-eaten canes found in late years is due to the hard rinds of the new disease-resisting varieties now raised, which prompt the rats to seek food elsewhere.

Friendly relations seem to have been established between the mongoose and the rats, for instances have been frequently mentioned of mongoose and rats being confined together in a cage and living peaceably together, until the factor of hunger made

its appearance. It was only then that the mongoose ate a sufficient number of the rats to appease their hunger and then continued to live peaceably with the remainder.

The foregoing, taken in conjunction with the result of the examination by the Rev. N. B. Watson of the stomachs of 59 mongooses, in which only one contained anything resembling the remains of a rat will, in the opinion of the Committee, go to prove that the mongoose has ceased to be a rat hunter; but prefers to satisfy his hunger with more easily caught prey, such as chickens, young guinea fowl, frogs, lizards, birds, and even in one well authenticated instance, young sucking pigs.

The Committee express surprise that no attempts have been made by those responsible to carry out the provisions of the Mongoose and Rat Destruction Act of 1909. They regard it as significant that on the year following the Report of the Mongoose Commission of 1911, which recommended that a stop should at once be put to the destruction of the mongoose and the Mongoose Destruction Act repealed, a recommendation which was not carried out by the Legislature, the payment of money from the Public Treasury dwindled down to £4 1s. (as against an average of about £145 per annum paid during the previous eight years) and has since ceased altogether.

They therefore recommend that steps be at once taken to make it generally known throughout the island that the Act is still in operation; and that the sum of 3d. for the head of every mongoose is still payable from the Public Treasury; and to invoke the aid of the Vestries. They further suggest that the mongoose be in future paid for at the rate of 1d. per head, and that the Police Sergeants be added to the lists of persons to receive and pay for the heads.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Mr. Murray and Mr. Davson at Lunch.

As briefly announced in last CIRCULAR a luncheon was given by the West Indian Club to the Hon. Gideon Murray and Mr. Edward Davson on June 28th.

Mr. A. R. Messer, late of British Guiana, proposing the toast of the guests in a felicitous speech, referred to the work they had done in their respective spheres towards bringing the West Indies into closer union. It was now an open secret that not only had Mr. Davson formed and presided over the West Indian Chamber of Commerce, but had also seen to it that it did not lack ways and means.

Responding to the toast, which was received with enthusiasm, Mr. Murray referred to the present conditions and future possibilities for development and settlement provided by St. Lucia. He pointed out that a vigorous policy of road and agricultural expansion was being conducted by the Government and community, and that the colony was preparing herself to play a much bigger part after the War in the economic existence of the West Indies. Like the other West Indian Colonies, St. Lucia had given freely and to the best of her ability both men

and money in the prosecution of the severe struggle in which we were engaged, and, in common with the rest of the Empire, had in this darkest hour proved her fitness as a member of the British Commonwealth.

Mr. Murray, continuing, referred to the pleasure it afforded him to be the joint guest with Mr. Davson, to whose labours chiefly was due the formation of the West Indian Associated Chambers of Commerce, a body which could not fail to make a great impression upon West Indian commercial affairs. Commercial union of the West Indian Colonies now having been accomplished, he ventured to suggest that political union should be the next step, and that this should be approached upon a basis of the political co-ordination of the common affairs of those colonies entering into it. Recently, however, this subject had become more complex, as a proposal had been made in the Canadian House of Commons and elsewhere that there should be political union of Canada and the West Indies. His personal opinion was that this might be an ideal to work for ultimately, but that at present it was impracticable. Having regard to the vast increasing resources and riches of Canada and to the large potentialities in tropical products of the West Indies and British Guiana, much closer relationship was to be aimed at, but for the present only in a commercial sense, until the West Indies were in a position, through a political union of their own, to negotiate as one entity with Canada on such an important matter. Upon Mr. Murray suggesting that perhaps the Bahamas—who had been flirting with Canada—and Jamaica might enter into political union with Canada, there were several dissenting voices. Continuing, he said that this brought him to the subject of the closer political union of the West Indian Colonies. "In dealing with this problem," he remarked, "let us get away from theory and academic discussion—let us get down to a practical solution, let us realise that there are some colonies who will come in, and some—like Jamaica, possibly—who will stay out. Let us make a commencement in the Eastern West Indies, leaving a loophole, as in the Canadian Constitution, for those colonies to adhere later who do not at present see their way to do so. Do not let us say we will have the whole or we will have nothing, for if we do, this West Indian Federal Union will be indefinitely delayed, and without it the West Indies cannot hope to occupy an effective place in the Empire. And let me further suggest—and this I do with all diffidence in the presence of the Chairman and Secretary of the West India Committee—there never was a time when it was more important and more necessary for the West India Committee and those in London interested in the West Indies to keep in touch with the views and opinions of the people in the West Indies. These are times of kaleidoscopic changes in thought and advances in ideas. Sympathy with and understanding in London of these changes in the West Indies is most essential if after the War our West Indian Colonies are to achieve their full force and to be enabled to play that economic and important part in the affairs of the Empire which their resources and potentialities and their position as the oldest colonies under the British Crown demand and deserve."

Mr. Davson, in responding, spoke of the work of the West Indian Chamber of Commerce in Trinidad and to the hospitality extended to the delegates in that island. He referred to various schemes of commercial development which had been indicated by the Chamber, all of which schemes had but one end in view—viz., the development of a community of thought and interest throughout the West Indies. This development must lead by logical sequence to political as well as commercial unity, and he therefore agreed with Mr. Murray that some form of central control or Federal Council must eventually be evolved. As regards the suggestions which had emanated from Canada regarding the advisability of the West Indies federating with that Dominion, it seemed to him that a necessary preliminary was that the West Indies should first of all federate themselves, so that they as a single and self-contained unit of the Empire could deal on fair terms, and with a full knowledge of their needs, with any other unit. He also felt that, at a time like the present, when they knew that the future relations of the component parts of the Empire were to be greatly changed from what they were in the past, the time was not opportune to consider establishing special relations with any particular part without being able to

consider their relations with other parts, and to view the problem as a whole. It was at present impossible to say on what lines imperial development would take place, except that they already knew that as a result of the War a new Empire would be built up, greater, stronger, and more united than ever before, and it was for the West Indies to strive to raise themselves to such a status as to let them play a worthy part. The keynote to success in this was unity of thought, of purpose, of action; and it was the aim of the West Indian Chamber—and, he ventured to think, of all those who had the interest of the West Indies at heart—to try to make them worthy both of their traditions of the past and of the Empire of the future.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Major (temporary Lieut.-Col.) C. Wood-Hill and Lieut. (temporary Captain) L. H. Tinney, of the British West Indies Regiment, are mentioned in Sir Archibald Murray's despatches regarding the operations in Egypt from October 1st, 1916 to February 28th last. We congratulate these two gallant officers and their regiment.

We have also to congratulate Sergeant R. V. Ennever, of the British West Indies Regiment, who has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at another seat of war. Sergeant Ennever hails from Jamaica, whose people will feel justifiably proud at this distinction conferred upon one of her men.

A seventh Barbados Citizens' Contingent arrived in London on July 10th, and is being looked after by the West India Committee. Pending enlistment the men, who are in excellent health and spirits, are staying at the Peel House Club, Regency Street. Their names are E. D. Redman, William Boxill, C. F. Cave, B. A. Culpeper, C. A. Farmer, S. J. Foster, C. E. Murphy, C. I. Proverbs, H. O. Ramsey, and A. Tudor.

Referring to the West Indian Contingent Fund, the *Financial News* of July 7th said:—

"It is an old story that the West Indies are never behind when there is any call to rally to the Imperial cause, and the West Indian community at home does not fail to do its share. The accounts of the West Indian Contingent Fund for the second half of 1916 have now been issued, and show donations of £688 for general purposes and £646 for special objects. The general fund was thus brought to £5,006 and special donations to £1,620. Many gifts of necessities and the modest luxuries dear to soldiers have been distributed to the British West Indies regiments; the Christmas gift of chocolate sent to Egypt went down, as the vessel carrying it was mined, but the boxes were salvaged. The Committee watches over the interest and needs of men from the West Indies who came over and enlisted independently. The success of the work is doubtlessly largely due to the fact that it had the established organisation of the West India Committee put at the service of the fund, and that organisation has always been alive and energetic."

The team of the British West Indies Regiment which successfully "took on" the 3rd Echelon in Egypt recently, as recorded in last CIRCULAR, has since defeated a team of the Eastern Telegraph Company by 181 runs. The scores were as follows:—

EASTERN TELEGRAPH CO.

Cheesman, b Small	8
Harrison, b Clairmonte	13
Brightly, b Clairmonte	19
Symonds, c Breen, b Stockhausen	8
Besly, c Small, b Clairmonte	16
Wallich, c Cezair, b Stockhausen	4
Cowling, c and b Small	2
Stoucham, c Stockhausen, b Clairmonte	13
Humphrys, c Stockhausen, b Small	7
Cleaver, b Clairmonte	0
Sauvage, not out	0
Extras	9
Total	99

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Pte. Strachan How, Besly	13
Capt. Reed, run out	7
Major Gane, b Cowling	54
Sgt. Small, c Stoneham, b Besly	68
Capt. Eccles, not out	33
Sgt. Demetrius, c Humphrys, b Besly	6
Pte. Cezair, not out	6
Extras	13
Total for 5 wickets	200

Sgt. Breen, C.Q.M.S. Stockhausen, Sgt. Clairmonte, and Cpl. Johnson, did not bat.

* * *

Extracts from some more characteristic letters received by the West Indian Contingent Committee are published below as a further indication of the nature of the work that is being done.

"I have a request to make of you which though an extremely tall one, I hope you will be able to favour. Could you possibly send me a mandoline and a few strings? I had one which I brought from Trinidad and it was the only one in the battalion. In the shift last February, the mule on which it was, stumbled and, of course, the result doesn't need guessing. All the lads of our company miss the tingling of the old mandy and the most I can do is to look at the music and regret the loss. I should feel grateful indeed if you would be instrumental in getting me another." (Through the courtesy of Mrs. Leslie, the W.I.C.C. was able to accede immediately to the writer's request.)

"I cannot adequately thank you for the cigarettes and tobacco which I received through Pte. Goldflakes are a treat out here and the lot was distributed among the boys of the platoon of whom eleven are Trinidadians. Need I say the English boys appreciate them as much as we do?"

"This is to thank you for the smokes you sent me for the boys of the 2nd Merchants' Contingent in the Devon Regt. now serving in Mesopotamia. They came as a boon and a blessing to us, for sometimes cigarettes are as scarce as good gold."

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of gifts through Pte. —, for which I am much obliged, and can assure you that the interest shown by you and the members of the West Indian Committee is greatly appreciated by the boys."

"Just a few minutes ago we received a few parcels of cigarettes which you have sent to us and we were all glad, for such a thing as English cigarettes are not often seen in this part of the world, so I must thank you very much for your kindness."

"Just a line to thank you for the good things you sent me especially the sugar."

"I am writing to thank you very much for the socks that were sent. I got them at the right time, just after we had come out of the line."

"Thanking you very much for parcel sent with flannel bands which I received yesterday O.K., I close with much gratitude."

The West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with cordial thanks the following gifts received by the Ladies' Committee:—

Mrs. Alleyne: 7 prs. socks, 1 sweater.
The Bahamas Junior League of the Cross of Geneva: 57 face washers, 22 handkerchiefs.
Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.: magazines.
Miss Hosack: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Arthur Johnson: 3 prs. sleeping socks, 3 prs. mittens, magazines.
Ladies' West India Committee (Trinidad and Tobago Branch), per Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon: 250 comfort bags, 2 prs. mittens, 1 pr. bed socks.
Mrs. D. Pile and Miss Sealy: 2 prs. socks.
The Anglo-South American Central Depot and Club, per Lady Davson: 500 prs. socks.
Mrs. Leslie: mandoline.
Lady Sendall: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. R. Rutherford: 5 prs. socks.

* * *

From the *Gazette*, July 10th:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT. —Capt J. V. Kirkland to be temp. Maj., and relinquishes the appt. of Adjt. (April 27).

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

WOUNDED.

2nd LIEUT. E. P. McL. WALCOTT (son of Hon II. R. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs of Trinidad and Tobago), Black Watch, has been wounded.

PROMOTIONS.

CAPTAIN W. H. OWEN, R.N.R. (Marine Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) has been promoted to be Captain.

MAJOR WYRIOTT OWEN (son of Captain W. H. Owen, R.N.R.), Welsh Regiment, has been promoted to be Major and is now acting as Brigade Major to an Australian Brigade.

CAPTAIN H. H. BOWEN (son of Major A. S. Bowen), Royal Flying Corps, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

HONOURS.

COMMANDER F. H. CUSTANCE, R.N.R. (a Commander in the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company), has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

CAPTAIN L. M. GREENWOOD (Brother of Mr. Thomas Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), Durham Light Infantry, has been awarded the Military Cross.

2nd LIEUT. C. PACKER BAILEY, of the East Surrey Regiment, who came over with the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, has been awarded the Military Cross.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

2nd LIEUT. G. R. WILLIAMS, 5th North Staffordshire Regiment (eldest son of Mr. Geo. Williams, Chairman of the Castries Town Board, and Merchant of Castries, St. Lucia), who was reported seriously wounded and missing on March 14th last, is now officially reported to be wounded (right thigh fractured by shot) and a prisoner of war in Germany.

TROOPER A. DAVENPORT (of Dominica), King Edward's Horse, who was seriously wounded on March 23rd, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

CAPTAIN R. A. EAKIN (son of Major J. W. Eakin, V.D., M.D., of Trinidad) has been restored to the establishment of his regiment, the Shropshire Light Infantry, after a long illness from wounds, and has been seconded as Adjutant of a Division of the Royal Flying Corps.

TROOPER P. S. SCOTT (son of Mr. Fred. E. Scott, of Trinidad) who served two years as a trooper in the 2nd Life Guards, has passed his Cadet's examination.

2nd LIEUT. J. A. HADLEY (of St. Vincent), 4th Barbados Citizens' Contingent, has received a commission in the Royal Field Artillery.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. MAYSON M. BERTON has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Newfoundland Forestry Corps, which has just been formed.

THE Governor of the Leeward Islands has assented to an Ordinance constituting a Cadet Corps in St. Kitts of boys between 14 and 17 years of age.

THE Colony of Mauritius has presented fifteen aeroplanes to the Royal Flying Corps and fifteen to the Royal Naval Air Service—a truly handsome gift.

IT is officially announced that letter mails from British Guiana posted probably on March 23rd and 24th; and mails from Jamaica, containing correspondence posted probably between May 12th and 15th, as well as parcels from that Colony posted between May 2nd and 15th, have been lost at sea.

MR. F. H. COLLIER, the popular Chief Justice of St. Lucia, is doing important war work at the Ministry of Food, whose headquarters are the Duke of Westminster's London house. Mr. Collier, who took a double First at Oxford, where he was President of the Union in 1890, was called to the Bar in 1893.

MR. JAMES TORRANCE HAYNES, of Thorpe's Plantation, Barbados, who died in that island on June 5th, was an old and respected member of the West India Committee. The son of Mr. Henry Haynes, of Bath and Bush Hall, he went out to Barbados as a young man to manage the last-named estate. Returning to England, he remained here for ten years, but the call of Barbados was strong, and he again went out to the island and acquired the estate on which he died. He was married to Miss Catherine Reece, who, with three sons and daughters, survives him.

THE British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, of 14, Victoria Street, S.W., announce that they are about to appoint a manager for their Kelham estate, Newark, and intimate that applications for the post must be received on one of their own forms by July 21st. They state that the property extends to several thousand acres, which are to be managed as one large farm for the production of sugar beet as the main crop. None but those who are accustomed to direct control, and who have farmed successfully on a large scale, should apply.

"I. C. S.," whom we take to be our old friend, Mr. I. C. Stewart, proprietor of the *Maritime Merchant*, of Halifax, N.S., in an instalment of an entertaining article, entitled "Six Weeks in the Tropics," appearing in that paper, writes:—

"There was much talk when we were in Trinidad about the case of a Coolie boy, a son of well-to-do parents, who had been on his way to Canada to learn the trade of

apothecary, when the Immigration Department at St. John turned him back, and Ottawa, it was said, upheld the action of the St. John official. We have no desire to criticise the Immigration official, who probably did as the law dictated, but there is no doubt of this, that if we have ambitious to extend our export trade, we cannot afford to slap the face of a foreign customer. If we are really in earnest about increasing our West Indian business, we must not stop at the securing of a tariff preference in that market, or of subsidising steamships and sending out our best salesmen. Something must be done to remedy existing immigration restrictions even though Pacific coast labour do violently protest."

THE Hon. William Sayer Commissiong, K.C., C.M.G., Member of the Executive and Legislative Council of Grenada, was, on May 15th, the recipient of an Address on the completion of his fiftieth year of practice at the local Bar, to which he was called on April 17th, 1867. In the absence of the Hon. D. S. De Freitas, who had left for New York, the presentation was made on behalf of the representative committee by Mr. George Paterson. The Address bore the signatures of Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Mr. Alfred Hayward, Hon. N. Julian Paterson, Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. A. Wellesley Lewis, K.C., Mr. R. L. Ferguson, and Mr. M. E. H. Martin.

AT WESTMINSTER.

The British Sugar Industry.

On July 9th, Brigadier-General Croft asked the Prime Minister whether this country at the outbreak of hostilities was practically dependent upon Germany and Austria for its supply of beet sugar; whether the British Dominions could with encouragement produce as much cane sugar as was previously imported by the enemies of the Empire; and what steps had been taken to encourage the developments of the potential supply in the interests of British consumers and Empire development.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Long): The United Kingdom undoubtedly drew a large portion of its supplies of sugar from Germany and Austria prior to the outbreak of War; how far the British Empire could produce all the sugar which it needs depends on various considerations, and not least on the capital available and the supply of labour in the localities where sugar can be grown. As my hon. and gallant Friend is aware, the last question is at present surrounded by special difficulties which are now under discussion. I may add that steps are being taken in certain Colonies to increase the output of sugar by the erection of improved factories.

Brigadier-General Croft: Is it not a fact that if the Government in 1914 had encouraged these Protectorates to produce sugar there would have been no famine at the present moment? May I also ask whether any steps are being taken now to deal with this question on a large scale, so that there need not be any sugar famine next year?

Mr. Long: Everything is being done that can be done. Brigadier-General Croft: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware with regard to the labour difficulty that labour is actually leaving the British Islands and going to Cuba and other United States possessions?

Mr. Long: My hon. and gallant Friend knows what the difficulties are. It is not only the labour difficulty. The main difficulty is the question of tonnage.

[The official replies to the enquiries made by the West India Committee in 1915-16 showed that with the existing labour supply the production of cane sugar throughout the Empire was capable of very great expansion. It cannot be said that the Government has shown the least disposition to encourage the development of the British sugar industry.—ED.]

NATURE NOTES.

NATURAL waters frequently contain iron or manganese in organic combination, which give them a yellow or brown colour and an inky taste. The iron or manganese may be removed by treating the water with a quantity of permanganate insufficient to precipitate the total iron or manganese, and by passing it over oxide of manganese the balance is deposited on natural or artificial zeolites.

THE fourth international egg-laying contest took place in the United States last year. Fifty hens on the regular rations (beef and fish) laid 7,380 eggs, and 50 hens on the milk ration 8,350 eggs. To give this result the milk-fed hens consumed 2,000 quarts of milk, valued at \$20, and those on the regular ration 350 lbs. of beef and fish scraps, at a cost of \$9. In another contest it required an average of 4.27 lbs. of mash and grain to produce 1 lb of eggs.

R. A. GORTNER has been experimenting at the Manchester Experiment Station on the subject of the organic matter of the soil. He comes to the conclusion that the "humus" extract of soils and peats is not a typical soil product, formed in the soil by the action of bacteria and fungi, for a similar pigment was obtained from the unchanged vegetable materials or the acid peats, which was intensely black, while containing a relatively small amount of soil nitrogen.

MR. T. B. McCLELLAND, in the *Porto Rico Station Record*, gives an interesting account of the work of Government Department of that Island on the subject of the cultivation of coffee. In the course of fertilizer experiments large increases in yield were obtained as the result of the use of nitrogenous manure. A planting of seedlings from a coffee tree which had both variegated foliage and green leaves indicated that the variegation can be transmitted, although the green foliage is dominant in the offspring.

THE evil effect of the protozoa of the soil on the soil bacteria are generally recognised, but recent researches of Sherman do not bear out this view. In the first place he found that the treatment of the soil with the ordinary amounts of volatile antiseptics did not reduce the protozoa. Then again, he found that the maximum number of bacteria in partially sterilised soil was not found when the protozoa were suppressed, but after they had again returned to their normal level. Mr. Sherman concludes that the results of the foregoing experiments appear to establish quite definitely that the protozoa in the soils which have been studied do not have a detrimental effect upon the bacterial flora.

THE world's record for milk production is given by a Jersey heifer in New Zealand. This precocious animal began milking at the age of 1 year and 346

days. In one year, according to the *Agricultural Journal* of New Zealand, it produced nearly 5½ tons of milk—equal to about 3½ gallons a day, which contained 663 lbs. of fat.

A MANURE styled Sterilised Animal Meal has been used on tea estates in North-East India during the last eight or ten years. According to the *Quarterly Journal* of the Indian Tea Association, the materials consist wholly of animal products, each of which have been treated at least to a temperature of 212° Fahr. The material has been largely derived from whole carcasses, and in the process of preparation meat and bones are extracted by means of steam under pressure, which removes the oil and glue.

MESSRS. FORD & GRANT have been studying the growth and nitrogen fixing power of red clover, alfalfa and soy beans in silt loam soils under influence of liming and inoculation. Inoculation and liming produced striking increases in plant growth, half enough lime to neutralise the soil acidity being sufficient for the production of good crops. The benefit of lime alone was much less pronounced than with inoculation alone.

THE presence of binocide of manganese in pineapple soil in Hawaii has had a very detrimental effect on the cultivation of this fruit, and Messrs. Wilcox and Kelly have found that the toxic effect is due to a depression in the assimilation of the iron. The treatment of plants suffering from this cause appears to be the spraying of the leaves with iron, the necessary absorption of this apparently essential material being thus secured.

At the West Indian Club luncheon to Mr. Gideon Murray and Mr. E. R. Davson on June 28th the following letter was read from Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, who was unavoidably prevented from being present:—

Dear Messer,—I much regret my inability to be present to-morrow at the luncheon over which you are to preside, to the Hon. Gideon Murray and Mr. Edward Davson. Mr. Davson seems to me to be deserving of the grateful acknowledgment of all who are connected with the West Indies and British Guiana for his personal and active influence in the operations of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies. This work facilitates the trading relations with the United States and Canada.

Some who think the West Indies and British Guiana are prejudiced in international relations by not being organically united as one province should refer to the Tariff (1909) of the United States wherein the separate West Indian Legislature were enabled to qualify for the United States minimum tariff by themselves, severally and independently of each of the others. Such qualification was immediately recognised by the Customs Authority of the United States. The Proclamation of the President of the United States placed the minimum tariff within the independent power of every legislative body in the whole West Indies.

With every congratulation to each of our Club's guests to-morrow.

Believe me, etc.,

WALLWYN FOYER B. SHEPHEARD.

THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

The Governor presented to Sir Francis Watts the insignia of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the Council Chamber on May 21st.

The *Advocate* of May 29th reported that the long drought was broken up by good rains on Wednesday 23rd, which were fairly general although the extreme north was not benefited. Good showers had since fallen daily; and already the pastures which were withered and dried up were looking green. Opportunity had promptly been taken by landowners of all classes to put in a large amount of corn, and potatoes were also being planted. The Committee appointed under the Vegetable Produce Act, comprised Sir William Chandler, Messrs. G. L. Pile, A. P. Haynes, H. W. Reece, K.C., G. E. Seely, H. A. Pile, and T. S. Skeete, who had already entered on their duties.

Empire Day was marked by a meeting under the auspices of the local branch of the League of the Empire which was addressed by the Governor Sir Leslie Probyn, Mr. F. H. Wilkins, I.S.O., and Hon. T. E. Fell.

Mr. F. B. Smith, I.S.O., has resigned from the position of Provost Marshal after thirty-five years service. The obituary includes the names of Dr. T. Sinclair Browne, for many years Parochial Medical Officer of St. Michael, and Mr. C. D. Harris, manager of Grazeette plantation, who was killed by a fall from his horse.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society held on June 1st, a resolution of deep regret at the death of Mr. W. D. Shepherd and of sympathy with Mrs. Shepherd was passed on the motion of Mr. J. R. Bovell, seconded by Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque and supported by Hon. G. L. Pile, the Rev. J. R. Nicols, and the President, Sir Frederick Clarke. Mr. Shepherd was a member of the Society for thirty-seven years, during thirty of which he was on the Council or Committee of Management. He was a staunch advocate of modern sugar factories and was an assiduous worker for the prosperity of Barbados.

The obituary also includes Mr. James Torrance Haynes of Thorpe's plantation, who died on June 5th at the advanced age of 80 years.

OUR LIBRARY.

Who's Who in Jamaica, 1916. Compiled and published by Stephen A. Hill, Kingston, Jamaica.

This volume, which follows the lines of Messrs. A. and C. Black's well-known English work "Who's Who," will prove a valuable work of reference, and a place in its pages will be the ambition of every Jamaican. It bears every evidence of careful compilation and tells us all that is worth knowing about the elect of our largest West Indian island, from the date of their birth to their recreations. In order to make the record of distinguished sons of Jamaica complete, the compiler has added particulars of the careers of the most prominent people connected with the colony who have died during the past ten years, a special memoir of Archbishop Nuttall from the pen of Archdeacon Simms calling for special notice in this connection. The book is admirably printed by the Gleaner Co., but the illustrations might with advantage be dispensed with as they are hardly up to the high standard reached in the production of the reading matter. "Who's Who in Jamaica" is to be brought up to date every two years and we wish Mr. Hill, who modestly omits his own career from its pages, the full success in his venture which he undoubtedly deserves.

Milestones on my Long Journey. Memories of a Colonial Governor. By Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G. 1 vol., Crown 8vo., Cloth. 5/- net. Glasgow: Robert Maclehose & Co., Ltd.

Since he retired after filling successively the positions of Governor of British Guiana, 1885-93, the Windward Islands, 1893-97, and Mauritius, 1897-1904, Sir Charles Bruce has already given us the "Broad Stones of Empire" (1910), and the "True Timber of Empire" (1912). His present volume is more personal. In an introductory chapter he traces the evolution of the social environment of his home life and in the following one he gives a brief summary of his colonial service which extended from

1868 to 1903. In the second part of the book he records his return to the environment of his youth and his experiences in advocating Imperial policy. In the Civil Service examination he passed Greek, Latin, French, German, Spanish and Sanskrit, among other subjects—a unique record one would imagine for a future Colonial Governor, and he has an amusing story to tell of how he floored an examiner by addressing him volubly in German—a language which the examiner could not understand although he was a "Professor" of it. In his chapter devoted to British Guiana and the Windward Islands there is one paragraph of which the meaning is not quite clear. "At the time of my arrival" he writes, referring to the former colony, "the developed area covered less than 100,000 acres. After eight years I was to leave it extended to an area of over 100,000 square miles." This we do not understand, for of British Guiana's present 90,277 square miles only about 275 can be said to be really developed. On immigration the author touches only briefly, recalling the visit of Dr. Comins and the vindication of the Consolidatory Immigration Ordinance for which he, Sir Charles was responsible. Many letters from celebrities, which bring to light the inner life of a Governor, are now published for the first time, and the author also reproduces several letters which he wrote to the *Times* on a variety of subjects, including the question of "air reprisals" in respect of which he pleaded for "War with Honour" as a corollary to the prayer for "Peace with Honour." We wish Sir Charles had been more reminiscent regarding his West Indian sojourn, but we hope that he will pass many milestones yet and that some day he will tell us more of his experiences across the Atlantic before he reaches Jordan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Archbishop Nuttall Memorial.

Sir.—The members of the Church in Jamaica have decided to commemorate the long Episcopate and the splendid imperial services of the late Dr. Enos Nuttall, Archbishop of the West Indies. For this purpose they have chosen the task of completing the endowment of the Bishopric, that is, the provision of a capital sum sufficient to produce the present modest Episcopal stipend in perpetuity. There is no intention of increasing the stipend, but Archbishop Nuttall himself made some progress with such a scheme, so that a portion of the stipend is already secured. The balance must at present be raised by the various congregations of the Island according to their ability, which is only too often restricted by sudden disaster.

A sum of £10,000 is required to effect the endowment of the balance, and we earnestly hope that English friends of the Jamaica Church and all who hold the late Archbishop in high esteem will join with the Church people of the Island in the effort to promote this Memorial. The object is one that was near the Archbishop's heart, and it is eminently appropriate as a memento of one who to his spiritual power added a remarkable ability in finance and a far-seeing statesmanship which were of inestimable value to Jamaica and to the West Indies alike in calamity and in prosperity.

Donations should be addressed to Walter G. Klein, 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W. 3., who is the Hon. Treasurer of the Jamaica Church Aid Association. Cheques should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Hampstead Branch," and may be sent if preferred to this Bank for "The Archbishop Nuttall Memorial Fund."

RANDALL CANTUAR.	R. H. PEARCE,
	(Committee).
COSMO EBOR.	W. OSBORN B. ALLEN.
A. P. LONDON.	C. P. LUCAS.
HANDLEY DUNELM.	R. A. DE PASS,
EDW. WINTON.	Chairman Jamaica Standing Com., W. I. C.
EDGAR ALBAN.	JOSEPH RIPON.
C. H. ISLINGTON.	ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
HERRERT BURY.	Sec. W. I. Committee.
	WALTER G. KLEIN,
	Hon. Treas. Jamaica Ch. Aid Assn.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
July 12th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from April the 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan is quoted at $94\frac{1}{2}$, 4½ per cent. War Loan at $94\frac{3}{4}$, 3½ per cent. War Loan at $87\frac{1}{2}$, and Consols at 55.

SUGAR. The view that the Cuban crop has not suffered to the extent anticipated is gaining ground. Messrs. Willett & Gray estimate the visible production of Cuban sugar up to June 9th as being 2,644,275 tons, as against 2,770,000 tons to the corresponding period of last year. As at that date 62 factories were still grinding as against 25 at the same date last year, there would still appear to be much sugar to be made. The 18 out of the 19 factories which had finished grinding had made a crop of 314,800 tons against an estimate of 316,000 or 5 per cent less. This estimate was that of Guma, who placed the total 1917 crop of Cuba as 3,600,000. It may therefore be considered as established that the 3,000,000 ton estimate of Willett & Gray will be realised.

Messrs. Himely, under date June 11th give the export of sugar for the current crop as being 443,583 tons to the United Kingdom, 28,419 tons to France, 17,399 tons to Spain and 6,593 tons to other European ports, in all 455,994 tons. These figures on account of the trouble with the insurrection are not quite complete.

A considerably increased crop is expected in Mauritius. Messrs. Willett & Gray are responsible for the statement that 300,000 tons will be reached.

The shipments from Java to the United Kingdom from the 1916-17 crop up to the 28th February amounted to 1,333,002 tons. Of this 546,323 tons went to the United Kingdom, 69,509 tons to France, 64,206 tons to other European countries, 30,068 tons to Port Said, for orders, 6,900 tons to Vancouver, 121,525 tons to Hong Kong, 6,980 to China, 49,312 tons to Japan, 362,555 tons to British India, 12,851 tons to Australia and 63,859 tons to Singapore, etc.

The total receipts of New Orleans and the Atlantic ports up to June 13th, is given as 1,851,259 tons as against 1,819,635 tons in 1916. The stocks are 379,954 tons as against 238,882 tons.

The next beet crop of the United States is estimated at approaching 900,000 tons, which is a record figure, and brings up the United States domestic and territorial production to 2,200,000 tons, leaving under 1,600,000 tons to be provided from outside sources. Gradually increasing quantities, therefore, of the Cuban crop is becoming available for the world's purposes.

The complaints of the public as to the want of sugar continue. It is still failing to realise that only 8 ozs. of sugar are allowed per week per head, or 1 1/7 oz. per day. In the distant past of pre-war days a pound of sugar contained from 80 to 84 moderately-sized lumps. A day's allowance for all purposes, including cooking as well as direct use would therefore be six lumps. Few realize what this means in a day's consumption.

The Food Controller has announced that applicants for sugar for preserving purposes who are not *bona fide* growers will render themselves liable to prosecution. In this connection it may be noticed that 7,500 tons of sugar has been assigned to small fruit growers for domestic jam making.

He has also fixed the price of fruits to be sold to wholesale jam makers so that there may be no profiteering on the part of the growers.

The shipments of sugar from Mauritius for the crop 1916-17 from August 1st, 1916 to April 20th, 1917, amounted to 190,962 metric tons. Of this quantity, 7,965 tons went to London, 163,777 tons to France, 17,680 tons to India and 166 tons to Hong Kong, 388 tons to South

Africa, and 1,011 tons to other places. It will be remembered that the *vesou* sugar was bought by the Royal Commissioners and sent to France, by the mutual arrangements between the two Governments.

The dependence of the Zululand plantations upon the Uba cane is exciting some anxiety in South Africa, and the proprietors have recommended that the Government supply an expert to report and advise as to the organisation of an agriculture research department.

The Government restriction on the sale of sugar in South Africa has been removed. Sugars were at once sold by open competition, the price rising to 34s. per cwt.

Dr. Geerligs writing in the *Louisiana Planter*, speaks of the Dutch crops of 1917-18 as likely to be only a nominal one. Beet seed, he says, is scarce, the fertilisers used are held up in British ports, breadstuffs and potatoes are necessary, and he therefore does not think farmers will run the risk of growing beet even if they can get the seed. The supply of coal and limestone is also inadequate. Dr. Geerligs places the 1917 Russian crop as being 1,250,000 tons, which means a big shortage for that country.

The price of sugar in the United Kingdom remains unchanged. Cubes are quoted at 53/9, crystals and granulated at 46/9, British West Indian crystallised 46/9, British West Indian muscovados 44/6, and British West Indian syrups 42/3.

West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to June 30th are:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	31,689	22,765	24,261 Tons.
Deliveries	30,528	28,622	19,391
Stock (June 30th) ...	9,176	5,248	11,079

The New York market has remained at a high level during the fortnight and 96° sugar is now quoted at \$6.33, with granulated at \$7.90.

RUM. The market having been closed of parcels in first hand there is nothing to report.

The stocks in London on June 30th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,523	5,167	4,430 puns.
Demerara	10,561	14,149	6,059
Total of all kinds ...	31,651	32,924	18,124

As the outcome of representations made by the West India Committee, permission has now been given for alcohol sold to the Ministry of Munitions to be shipped by cargo boats after prescribed cargo has been provided for. This should relieve the congestion brought about by the prohibition of rum imports.

In this connection it may be well to contradict the rumour—which we can do emphatically—that Cuban rum is being imported at the expense of British. As a matter of fact, no Cuban rum has been imported since the prohibition order came into force, and the Ministry of Munitions has neither purchased nor received any Cuban alcohol.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that there is no change in the value of Sea Island cotton. Medium fine is quoted at 41d., with superfine at 45d.

The amount of West Indian cotton imported up to June 28th included 1,879 bales British West Indian.

HONEY. There is no improvement to report in the demand and the tendency of values is easier.

CACAO. The market is quiet.

No auction sales took place on the 3rd. Yesterday about 13,000 bags of all descriptions were offered. Trinidad was sold at a decline of 1/-, 1,484 bags being disposed of at prices varying from 85/- to 87/-. 150 bags of St. Lucia were sold at from 66/- to 81/6. No Grenada was offered, but its value may be taken at from 66/- to 81/6.

The stocks in London on June 30th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	29,206	28,220	10,302 bags.
Grenada	28,853	17,423	3,746
Total of all kinds ...	286,116	198,210	78,204

Permission has been obtained by the West India Committee for a vessel to take a full cargo, or about 6,000 tons, of cacao direct to France. This should relieve matters for all the cacao islands.

COPRA. The market continues quietly steady at the maximum price fixed by Government of £46 c.i.f. net cash terms.

ARROWROOT. There has been rather more enquiry, resulting in moderate sales at 5½d. to 5½d. The St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association has now raised the price 1d. per lb. Quotations 5d. to 7½d.

RUBBER. Market steady for plantation. Crepe is worth 2/5½, smoked sheet 2/5½; hard fine Para is valued at 3/0½.

BALATA. Market slow. West Indian sheet is quoted at 3/9 spot value. There is a little business doing in Venezuelan block for c.i.f. at 3/1½. Spot value 3/8½ landed. There have been spot sales of Panama block at 3/- to 3/1.

SPICES. Nutmegs are steady. Ginger is very quiet. About 350 packages of Jamaica ginger at auction, but nearly all withdrawn without suitable bids. Values nominally unchanged. Pimento: Only retail transactions on the spot at 3½d. per lb.

WOODS. Messrs. Churchill & Sims report sales of Mahogany (Honduras) at 10½d. to 1/11½ per foot (this was the mahogany not suitable for the Government), and Cedar, also from Honduras, at 1/2 to 2/6 per foot. Business in Ebony and Satinwood is at a standstill. Stocks of Lignum Vitæ are low.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: There is no change in raw. Concentrated is prominent in good demand. Lime Oil: distilled is neglected, and further consignments cannot be recommended. Hand pressed is scarce. There have been small sales at 16/- . Citrate is firm.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA. Thanks to the West India Committee, permits for the export of certain quantities of sulphate of ammonia to the British West Indies are now being granted. Prices have been agreed on with a group called the Sulphate of Ammonia Export Traders, set up to control the export trade in this essential manure.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. W. Abbott | Mr. Robert Gill | Mr. Alfred Mendes |
| Mr. E. C. B. Bonyun | Mr. Frank Goodwin | Mr. John T. Moir |
| Prof. P. Carmody, F.R.C.S. | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Miss Moseley |
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- 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.
 The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W.

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.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua	Barbados, to 26 May	British Guiana, to 31 May	British Honduras, to 31 May	Dominica, to 31 May	Grenada, to 18 Apr.	Jamaica, to 9 June	Montserrat, to 15 May	St. Lucia, to 15 May	St. Kitts-Nevis, to 30 Apr.	St. Vincent, to 15 May	Trinidad to 15 May
Arrowroot Lbs												2,413,930
Asphalt Tons												14,952
Balata Lbs.			432,251									6,523
Bananas Bches.				340,422			205,507					
Bitters Galls.												
Cacao Lbs						8,076,603	318,072	2,528	880,070		82,578	48,546,639
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.							100			8,900	81,589	
Cattle No			341									
Coco-nuts No			932,348	1,660,179			11,202,991		56,011			3,232,985
Collee Lbs.			208,477				3,866,904					
Copra Lbs.			45,168	14,561					5,566			1,613,313
Cotton, M. Galanté lbs		53,975										
Cotton, Sea Island lbs.												
Cotton Seed ... Tons								173,936		186,479	28,298	
Diamonds Carats			5,896					1653,311		126	16	
Dyewoods Tons												
Dyewoods Ext. Phgea							20,430					400
Ginger Lbs.							11,386					
Gold Ozs.							218,664					
Grape Fruit... Phgea							9,156					
Ground Nuts Bgs & Aris										35	173	
Honey Galls.							103,037		64			1,461
Horses No.							4					
Lime Juice, raw Galls						20,550		70,499	12,1774			2,835
" " concd. " Oil ...						4,000		519	2,258			
Lime (citrate) Lbs			4,480					22,061				
Logwood Tons				2,705½					350			
Lumber Feet			44,344									100
Mahogany Tons				2,183,256								
Manjak Tons												
Molasses Galls.		21,14										
Mules No.		45,379	85,500					4,529	17,639		1,467	24,443
Oranges No.							351,800					327,930
Oils, Essential Galls.									72			
Oil, Petroleum Galls												26,913,053
Pimento Lbs.							4,276,320					
Rice Lbs.												
Rubber Lbs.				1,143								3,858
Rum Galls.		49,043		1,640						1,778		425
Shingles No			1,018,000									
Sugar Tons		27,175	39,023				19,352	143,378	2,226	6,336	375	28,854
Timber Cubic Feet			21,029	4,210,732								17,313
Tobacco Leaf ... Lbs							11,253					
Cigars Lbs.							60,954					
Cigarettes ... Lbs.							3,055					

The Official Returns to hand

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The West India Committee Circular

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July 26th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

A COMING TRINIDAD SALE.

THE largest sale of Trinidad real estate since the famous Turnbull properties changed hands in the 'nineties is to take place in London on September 27th next. On that day MESSRS. JENKINSON, BRINSLEY, & JENKINSON, who have long since established their position as the foremost—if, indeed, they are not the only—estate agents handling West Indian properties, will offer for sale at the Mart, near the Bank of England, the enemy cacao estates of F. A. NEUBAUER, of Hamburg, and the cacao estates and town properties of the Trinidad Properties, Ltd. The latter company, though English in name, is, or was, also controlled by NEUBAUER, of which German concern we have good grounds for hoping that the last has now been seen in Trinidad. The local Chamber of Commerce, at any rate, have taken a very determined stand on that subject, and have even gone so far as to suggest that aliens of any

country should not be allowed to hold real property in the island, and that this prohibition should apply not only to individuals, but also to companies or corporations in which aliens possess a controlling interest. Meanwhile we are glad to note that the properties now to be offered will only be sold to British subjects, and that every purchaser will be required to make a solemn declaration as to his British nationality. The NEUBAUER properties, which bear names well known in cacao circles and are situated in the Wards of Cumuto, Tamana, Guanapo, Moruga, Montserrat, Caura, Oropuche and St. Joseph, are to be offered in ten separate lots, while the estates, offices and stores of the Trinidad Properties, Ltd., will form one lot which, if no purchaser is found, will then be divided into separate lots. Apart from the town properties, the estates comprise nearly 6,000 acres in extent and have over 780,000 cacao trees upon them. The estates will change hands as going concerns, having been under the management of the Liquidating Committee, and, in two cases, of the mortgagees, and purchasers will thus have the benefit of acquiring the properties in full running order. There has, we are aware, been some difference of opinion as to whether these properties should be offered for sale locally or in London, and we are glad that the views of those who favoured the London sale have prevailed for the opportunity will be a favourable one for interesting outside capitalists in our most prosperous West Indian colony, and new blood is always an advantage to any community.

ELECTRICITY AND AGRICULTURE.

THE subject of the application of electricity to agriculture is one which has attracted much attention during recent years. It has been recognised that electricity probably plays an important part in plant growth; indeed, the intense activity of vegetation in northern regions during summer has been attributed to electrical influences, and this suggests that the intensity of tropical growth may be attributed to the same cause. As far back as 1750, when the science of electricity was in its infancy, the ABBE NOLET placed seeds on insulated trays, and found that their germination was quicker than under ordinary conditions. It was, however, LEMSTRON who first experimented systematically in the direction of the application of electricity to agriculture. His experiments started in 1885, and continued for nearly twenty years. A high-voltage current was used, and was distributed by means of wires, with projecting points, running at a certain height from the ground. Staple agricultural crops,

as well as vegetables, were experimented with. LEMSTROM'S results were variable; one important fact from them was that moisture was indispensable to success. More recently, NEWMAN, at Bitton, in Gloucestershire, continued the experiment, a point brought out by his researches being that the LEMSTROM wires were too near the ground. The most marked of NEWMAN'S results gave an increased yield of 30 per cent. in the case of wheat upon the electrified area. A feature of the Bitton experiments also, from the point of view of the sugar planter, was the increase in the sugar content of beets as the result of the treatment. Later on, BOMFORD, with the assistance of SIR OLIVER LODGE, carried out experiments in the same subject in 1907 at Salford Priors. A current of 100,000 volts was used. Promising—although not constant—results were obtained. Much had now been learnt in the manner of arranging the wires in relation to the ground and to the crops, and the experience gained was utilised in experiments of a most striking description carried out at Lincluden Manse Farm, Dumfries, during 1915-16, an account of which is given in the *Electrical Review* of the 11th of May. The crop was oats, the area experimented on an acre, with two half-acres as control plots for the purpose of comparison. The crop was sown on the 27th of March. As soon as growth appeared above ground, the electric discharge was started, on the 14th of April, and continued until August 17th, during the daytime. The electrified area gave an increased yield over the unelectrified of 49 per cent. of grain and 88 per cent. of straw. The cost of the energy used was only 11/- for the acre treated, and an interesting point brought out by the experiments is that the subsequent crop of clover was greater on the area which had been electrified than on that which was non-electrified. There have been numerous theories evolved as to the *modus operandi* of this high-tension process, Stimulation of the plant by its forming a line of communication by means of which the electric nitrifying bacteria of the soil, and the formation of chlorophyll in the leaves, leading to a considerably increased production of starch; stimulation of the nitrifying bacteria of the soil, and the formation of nitric acid in the air from the electric discharges are theories which have all been brought forward to explain the increased growth obtained. SIR OLIVER LODGE, who has been intimately connected with the subject, writing to us in this connection, says: "It does not seem to me that we have arrived at a definite solution concerning the way in which electrical action stimulates the growth of plants. I doubt whether the nitrifying idea is sufficient. I think it quite possible that there may be many causes at work, and that plants normally make use of those causes, since leaves can discharge negative electricity under the action of light. This is the same thing as receiving positive, and that is what artificial electrification generally tries to bring about." No experiments in the direction of the application of electricity to plant growth have, so far as we are aware, been carried out in the West Indies in connection with the sugar-cane. Most factories nowadays have their electric generating plant, and at a small cost—a high-pressure trans-

forming set may be obtained from the Agricultural Electric Discharge Company, Ltd., of Belgrave Road, Gloucester, England, for a comparatively small sum—estate experiments could be conducted. The Agricultural Stations in the British West Indies are also mostly provided with current, which could be utilised for the purpose of experiment. The moist atmosphere of the tropics during the growing period is distinctly in favour of successful results. We understand that this matter has already been brought to the notice of the Governor of Trinidad by MR. R. WARNER.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Many New Members Elected.

"*Vires acquiritur eundo*" might be the motto of the West India Committee, whose membership continues to increase. At a meeting of the Executive, held this afternoon, the following were elected:—

Candidate	Proposer and Secunder.
Mr. Frank J. De Freitas (British Guiana)	Mr. John Brummell. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. Thomas A. Siddall	Mr. Allen Campbell.
Messrs. J. B. Sheriff & Co. Ltd.	Messrs. J. K. Gilliat & Co. Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. G. M. Frame.
Mr. Edwin U. Wing	Mr. F. Evans.
Mr. George Fraser (St. Vincent)	Mr. C. Sandford Elvey. Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.
Mr. William H. Orrett (Jamaica)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Messrs. J. H. Rayner & Co.	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Messrs. Wilson Smithett & Co.
Mr. F. W. Hudson (Grenada)	Hon. W. Grahame Lang. Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. D. Thompson (Grenada)	Hon. W. Grahame Lang. Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. T. E. Noble Smith (Grenada)	Hon. W. Grahame Lang. Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. F. S. Noel (Grenada)	Hon. W. Grahame Lang. Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. Chas. Harold, M.E. (Grenada)	Hon. W. Grahame Lang. Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. Edward Pratt (Jamaica)	Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Mr. Charles Hutson (British Guiana)	Mr. E. N. Richards. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mrs. Mary C. Garnett (Cuba)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mrs. M. G. Arnusby (U.S.A.)	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. M. Garnett.
Mr. Wm. Aubrey Gaskin (Trinidad)	Mr. M. A. French. Mr. W. W. Arnott.
Mr. Geo. H. Champion	Messrs. James Nourse, Ltd. Mr. G. C. Hampton.
Mrs. Centeno.	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.

With the above election the total membership of the West India Committee is raised to the record figure of 1,600.

Members are invited to introduce eligible candidates for election. Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). The CIRCULAR is sent to members fortnightly post free.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The War Cabinet has been strengthened by the inclusion of Sir Edward Carson, as it was by the inclusion of General Smuts a few weeks ago. Both these able men owe their elevation to a place in the highest councils of the nation entirely to their merits, for to vision, judgment, decision, and force they unite courage, a rare quality in your democratic statesman. Though the War Cabinet is enlarged by their presence on it from five to seven, it now possesses three members with a military mind, instead of one, as heretofore. With the vital energy of Lloyd George, Milner, Carson, Smuts, should constitute a potent combination for the conduct of the War. Sir Eric Geddes, who succeeds Sir E. Carson at the Admiralty, is one of the few business men who have made good as statesmen since August, 1914. It was he who reorganised the transport system of the British Expeditionary Forces in France. His appointment as the civilian head of the Navy is something of an experiment, which it is hoped will be successful. These frequent changes at the Admiralty are a sign of a certain instability of policy that should, after three years of war, be at an end.

The British Reverse on the Belgian Coast.

The Germans have won their first real success on the West since the British offensive on the Somme was launched over a year ago. The scene was that part of our line which was recently taken over from the French—the Nieuport-Lombartzyde sector; but compared to the British operations at Arras and Messines, the scale was small, for the entire front of the attack did not embrace more than a mile and a half nor include more than a brigade of British troops. As for the conditions, they were all in favour of the enemy. The flanks of the attack were covered, one by the sea, the other by the inundations on the Belgian front. The weather, in preventing aerial reconnaissance, also prevented the location of concealed enemy batteries, which would otherwise have been quickly silenced by our men. As it was, these and the heavy coast batteries which the Germans have established for the protection of their submarine bases, were able to level the defences, and, owing to the mist, the guns of the Fleet could take no hand in the engagement. The incident—for it was little more—only serves to prove what everyone knew before: that given certain conditions, attack by the concentration of artillery and masses of men can destroy any fixed trench defences. The enemy, however, paid the once contemptible British Army the compliment of reproducing at Nieuport, down to the smallest detail, the British operations at Arras—probably the rehearsal, as it were, of a future big offensive somewhere else. The object thereof may have been twofold. There has been much discussion in England on the necessity of vigorous amphibious operations for the recovery of that part of the Belgian coast in German hands, and so the German High Command has resolved to get their "blow in first." Moreover, since things were not going any too well in the Fatherland, a tonic in a success against the best-

hated enemy was desirable, and none was calculated to be so popular as one on the coast. But the tactical advantage is small, because it merely makes the enemy's line a little more secure at a certain point, as it does ours. He has made much of our failure to make counter-attacks except at Lombartzyde, where we recovered our lost ground. But as he had destroyed the bridges across the Yser, counter-attacks there were impossible. Compared with the tactical success of the British at Vimy, and the strategical success at Messines, the success of the Germans at Nieuport was a minor operation.

French Successes.

On the National Fête day, July 14th, the French made a local gain of great importance on the Moronvilliers heights, which command the plain of Champagne from Beine almost to the Argonne. For weeks past the enemy had been preparing for an extensive attack on a five-mile front between Mont Cornillet and the valley of the Suipe so as to recapture the positions already captured by the French in this sector. To aid him he still retained part of the western slope of the Mont Haut, and the saddle, which unites Mont Blond, east of Mont Cornillet, to Mont Haut, and which was transformed by the Germans into a strongly fortified observation post. To circumvent the enemy's plans, the French carried out a smart little piece of work, which gave them possession of both positions. But these are so important that the Germans promptly delivered a counter-attack, in the course of which they recovered some of the lost ground. The French, in their turn, did the same, and up to the present are in possession.

On the left bank of the Meuse our Allies have scored another success in a dashing attack west of Hill 304. Not only have they retaken all the positions which the enemy captured at the end of June, but, on a front of about a mile and a half, continued their advance to a depth of something under a mile. In their course the French occupied the first line of German trenches, elaborately organised for defence, as well as the second line. This notable achievement has been won on part of the ground rendered immortal by the defence of Verdun.

On the Eastern Front.

The Russians, whose dramatic capture of Halicz so rudely awakened Germany from her dream of lengthened quiescence on the Eastern Front, followed up their initial victories by carrying Kalusz, the Austrian headquarters. Then came three days of torrential rain, which, by hampering the movements of Korniloff's armies, enabled the enemy to recover from the first effects of Russia's unexpected blows. The idea was, he saw, that, pivoted on Halicz, a movement on the south could be extended so as to threaten Dolina, a big railway centre, and ultimately to form part of an enveloping movement to cut off Lemberg by closing the Wyszkwow Pass, the only practicable outlet from Hungary between the Jablonitz and Uzok Passes for forces of any importance. To avert such a disaster, the Germans have been hurrying up reinforcements, which have compelled the Russians, "weak in number, but strong in courage," to withdraw from Kalusz to

the other side of the river Lomnica, where, for the present, they remain on the defensive. Further north, owing to mutiny, the Russians have been obliged to retire from the territory they won during the past fortnight. Even Tarnapol has been evacuated, and the new line runs parallel with the eastern bank of the Sereth.

The further advance of Brussiloff's armies will largely depend on the situation in Petrograd, where a stable Government has not yet been established. The best thing that could happen to Russia would be the formation of a dictatorship under M. Kerensky. With the Ukraine, the one disciplined division of Russia, threatening to secede, and riots disturbing the peace of the capital, not to speak of general, political, social, and industrial unrest, it is not possible for the military requirements of a great offensive to be properly met. The southern armies have done magnificently during the past fortnight, but they must have their country behind them if they are not to lose the rewards of their valour.

The United States and the Blockade.

The nerveless conduct of the Allied blockade of the Central Empires has come to an end now that America is getting into her stride as a belligerent. She does not believe either that Germany is self-supporting, or that it is difficult to cut off the enemy's sea-borne supplies because of intervening countries adjacent to him. In the one case, she knows that German agriculture largely depends upon fertilisers, which can no longer be obtained from Russia, and are not produced by any other neighbour; in the other, that she herself found no difficulty in preventing Mexico, in her own Civil War, from acting as the Scandinavian countries and Holland are acting to-day. Hence the embargo on American exports to neutrals which came into force on July 15th. The list is a long one, ranging from maize to copper, but does not include cotton, of which a large quantity is still finding its way into Germany as of American origin. Since it is an essential to the manufacture of explosives, for which no effective substitute has yet been found, there is every reason to believe that it will be included in the next list of commodities exported under licence. While the United States has no more desire than ourselves to risk undue interference with the legitimate trade of neutrals, she is less inclined to enable them to profit at our expense. Her aim is to conserve her food supplies and raw materials (1) to supply her national needs, (2) to play a part in the War adequate to her resources. At present there are many leakages in the blockade due to American connivance, and if in closing them up she offends neutrals, it will not trouble her so much as a continuance of the traffic by which German man-power is nourished and German armies helped to maintain their resistance in the field. It is to be hoped that the arrangements the British Foreign Office has made with Holland and Denmark will not hamper the United States in her efforts to strengthen the blockade, or prevent her from exerting pressure on the British War Cabinet to end the scandal by which the British Empire indirectly supplies the enemy with large quantities of foodstuffs, raw materials, and fertilisers.

The War at Sea.

Another area has been mined in the North Sea to prevent the misuse by Germany of neutral waters. For some time previously certain routes had been busy with traffic serving her interests, but already, owing to the recent measures taken to close the area they frequented, thirty vessels have been laid up.

Another sign that the blockade is being more vigorously pursued close up to Dutch territorial waters was the capture by British Naval forces of four German steamers, two others having been driven on shore. Had the enemy been given the same opportunity, he would have sunk them all and murdered the crews. As it was, these were saved, and four merchantmen added to the Allies' tonnage.

The "Dreadnought" *Langward* has been sunk in harbour by an internal explosion, with a loss of 800 lives—the fourth ship lost in this way since the War began. The others were the *Bulwark*, *Natal*, and *Princess Irene*. What is the reason? Our Navy is the only one which seems to suffer these particular disasters. The *Liberté* was, indeed, sunk in Toulon Harbour last year, but that was due to defective ammunition.

Our losses of mercantile tonnage from the opening of the unrestricted warfare season have been as under:—

Week ending	1,000 tons and over.	Under 1,000 tons.	Fishing Vessels	Unsuccessful fully attacked.	Arrivals and sailings.
Feb. 25	15	6	4	12	4,541
Mar. 4	14	9	3	16	5,005
Mar. 11	13	4	3	16	3,944
Mar. 18	16	8	21	19	5,082
Mar. 25	18	7	10	18	4,747
April 1	18	13	6	17	4,680
April 8	17	2	6	14	4,773
April 15	19	9	12	15	4,710
April 22	40	15	9	27	5,206
April 29	38	13	8	24	5,406
May 6	24	22	16	34	4,873
May 13	18	5	3	19	5,120
May 20	18	9	3	9	5,423
May 27	18	1	2	17	5,487
June 3	15	3	5	17	5,335
June 10	22	10	6	23	5,589
June 17	27	5	0	31	5,880
June 24	21	7	0	22	5,789
July 1	15	5	11	16	5,591
July 8	14	3	7	17	5,696
July 15	14	4	8	12	5,748
July 22	21	3	1	15	5,582
Total	435	163	144	410	114,227

East Coast Air Raid.

On July 22nd enemy aeroplanes, about 20 in number, raided Harwich and Felixstowe. The anti-aircraft defences were so effective that only a few bombs could be dropped, and the invading squadron's formation was broken up into single units, which were pursued out to sea and heavily engaged by our aeroplanes. But, owing to low visibility, only one was brought down. There were 37 casualties, but little material damage was done. The raid was notable, because, for the first time, all London was successfully warned that the raiders were coming by an organised system in which sky-rockets and the police played a part.

(To be continued.)

FEDERATION WITH CANADA.

Debated in the Dominion Parliament.

During the discussion in Committee in the Canadian House of Commons on June 13th, on the vote for \$340,666.66 for the "Steamer Service between Canada and the West Indies or South America, or both," mention was made of the possible union of the West Indies and Canada. Mr. Marcell asked if anything had been done to bring about a closer rapprochement between those two parts of the Empire after the War, and if any feeling had been manifested on the subject by Canadians. He referred to Mr. Macaulay's letters on the subject, and wished to know if the matter was still the subject of academic discussion.

Sir George Foster said that Mr. Macaulay had written some very excellent articles, and was a very firm believer in a closer connection with the West Indian Islands. He continued: "I have my own thoughts about that, but I have not put them before the public, because I think that it is a great deal better that the West Indian Islands should come to us rather than that Canada should take the position of seeking to influence sentiment in the West Indies. This much I know—that there is a growing friendly sentiment between the two countries induced by intercommunication, and a very excellent influence in that direction has been the extension of the banking facilities of Canada to the West Indian Islands." He concluded, "There are, of course, questions that have to be taken into consideration when any union between the West Indies and Canada is considered. Those will now be heard, maybe, when the proper time comes for discussing such matters."

Mr. Lemieux, who continued the debate, said that he, too, had read Mr. Macaulay's able articles. No doubt the West Indies, since the construction of the Panama Canal, had become of great strategic value to the British Empire. There had been objections raised to the scheme for bringing the West Indies into the Canadian Federation. He had discussed the matter some years ago with two members of the Campbell-Bannerman Government, and one said: "The United States have their colour problem; do you think that the Dominion of Canada would absorb the West Indies with the colour question looming up so seriously in the neighbouring republic?" He (the speaker) thought that the union of Newfoundland with Canada was more feasible and more practical and urgent.

The Contract Steamer Service.

Earlier in the debate Sir George Foster said that as a result of the reciprocity treaty with the West Indies, there had been a satisfactory increase of trade. In 1912 the value of cargoes of Canadian origin going over the Canada—West Indies route was \$2,325,000. In 1914 it was \$2,618,000, in 1915 \$3,507,000, and last year \$4,698,000. The rise in prices had to be taken into consideration; but the increase was gratifying. The chief increase was in exports from Canada, though last year, owing to the increase in the quantity of sugar imported, the imports showed a large increase.

Mr. Sinclair suggested that as the shipping com-

pany was getting so much more business, the subsidy should be reduced; but Sir George Foster spoke of the difficulties of conducting a steamer service with the West Indies. Only one or two of the West Indian ports allowed vessels to get up to the dock. They had a system of lighterage everywhere, and long distances between the ports, and a not over-abundant passenger list, which was the paying part of the service. Some parties advocated a faster service of 15, 17, or 18 knots, mainly for passengers; others favoured cargo boats only. At present a cross between the two were being used. As close a tab as possible was being kept on the rates, and an investigation was always made before an advance was allowed. They had had a pretty severe struggle to keep the vessels on the route, and within the last three or four weeks the vessels came very close to being requisitioned owing to the necessities of the Mother Country, but they had been able to keep them on. If they were taken off at that particular juncture it would practically cut off connection between Canada and the West Indies.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Some frank criticisms of the Imperial Institute are made in the final report of the Dominion Royal Commission. Founded in 1888 as a memorial of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria with a grandiose programme of Imperial activities, that body got into financial difficulties within ten years, although its funds originally amounted to £429,000, and in 1899 it was taken over by the Government and a part of its magnificent building at South Kensington was assigned to the University of London.

In 1902 the management of that Institute was transferred by Act of Parliament to the Board of Trade, and the present Exhibition galleries were established and a research department formed.

Contributions from the Dominions and colonies were solicited, and in 1907 the control was transferred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who, since 1916, has been responsible for the work of the Institute, whose principal objects are:—

1. To illustrate, by means of collections in the public galleries, the present condition, industries, and natural resources (mineral, animal, and vegetable) of the various parts of the Empire.

2. To provide for the scientific and technical investigation of raw materials, more particularly those produced within the Empire, with a view to their commercial utilisation, and to supply information respecting the production, commercial employment, and value of such materials.

With regard to the Colonial Collections, the Commissioners find that while the Canadian exhibit is remarkably complete, and that of South Africa, recently remodelled, and the Australian exhibit, about to be modernised, the remainder, in some cases, are considerably out of date, and they complain that there appears to be no definite arrangements for the provision of materials which have recently assumed economic importance, for the periodical replacement of obsolete exhibits and for the provision of better show cases. They also think that better arrangements should be made for duplicating exhibits, so that they can be shown at different local centres for short periods.

Touching on the work done in the investigation of raw materials, the Commissioners are less caustic and admit that the Institute does good service to India, the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, with respect to which it is assuming the position of a technical laboratory. They add, however, that the services which the Institute can and does render to the Dominions are of less value.

The Administration of the Institute is also criticised, and the Commissioners hold that the officers of the Institute should not be members of its governing body, and that Administration functions should not be combined with the duties of research. They find that the present scale of salaries and the absence of any pension arrangements precludes the best men being permanently attracted.

Coming to their recommendations the Commissioners express the belief that an unofficial body would be much more likely to take care of the exhibits and to maintain them at a high level, even than the best of official bodies, and they warmly advocate the transfer of the galleries to the Royal Colonial Institute, "whose splendid enthusiasm and close connection with all parts of the Empire overseas make it eminently fitted for work of this character. The Charter of the Royal Colonial Institute provides for the maintenance of a museum, but it has so far been found impossible to give effect to this provision."

They even go further and suggest that the name "Imperial Institute" might be transferred to the Royal Colonial Institute, and that the existing research department should confine its functions to work for India, the Crown Colonies and Protectorates.

An interesting report has recently been issued by the Directors of the Trinidad Cacao Planters' Association. This body was formed a few years ago to induce planters to join together to make the best cacao they can, to prepare it as much as possible in a uniform manner, and to grade and bulk it in Port-of-Spain and thus meet the requirements of manufacturers by supplying them in the quantities they require, and at the same time to endeavour to re-establish the reputation of Trinidad cacao.

The Association now controls 78 estates and has received from these 18,267 bags of cacao and disposed of 2,985 bags on commission, a total of 21,252 bags. The cacao received from members was disposed of as follows:—

England	6,810
America	6,666
France	2,424
Halifax	20
Locally	2,347
	18,267

On the 30th June, 1916, the cacao delivered by members was credited to them for the purpose of the balance sheet made up to that date, at the rate of 15 dollars 77 cents. per fanega,* but the actual result has been 16 dollars 17½ cents. per fanega from completed sales, accounts for which had been since received.

*The old Spanish "fanega" equals 110 lbs. avoirdupois.

JAMAICA'S OPPORTUNITY.

Harbour Improvements Imperative.

The final report of the Dominions Royal Commission contains a recommendation the adoption of which would be of considerable importance to the West Indies generally and to Jamaica in particular.

Dealing with steamship communication, they say:—

"We are of opinion that there would be considerable Imperial advantages in developing the route to New Zealand and Australia via Eastern Canada, Jamaica and the Panama Canal. We are convinced that the route via the Panama Canal will become increasingly used for traffic to and from Australia and New Zealand. It is not, however, generally realised that, whereas the distance from England to Colon, via Jamaica, is roughly 4,560 nautical miles, the distance to the same point via Halifax, Bermuda and Jamaica only amounts to 4,960 nautical miles; in other words that the additional calls at Halifax and at Bermuda only add 400 nautical miles to the total distance.

"We do not think that, at present, it would be possible to use this route for vessels of high speed, such as those contemplated for the new routes already proposed, but we are strongly of opinion that an intermediate service of, say, 16 knots speed should be developed on this route.

"The following table shows the distances and times for a 16-knot service:—

	Distance. Nautical Miles.	Speed per Hour.	Time Hours
London to Liverpool, 201 miles =	175	50 miles	4
Liverpool to Halifax	2,509	16 knots	157
Halifax to Bermuda	753	"	47
Bermuda to Kingston	1,142	"	71
Kingston to Colon	560	"	35
Panama to Tahiti	4,490	"	281
Tahiti to Auckland	2,215	"	139
Auckland to Sydney	1,274	"	80
			814
		<i>Stoppages.</i>	
		Halifax ...	12
		Bermuda ...	6
		Kingston ...	6
		Panama Canal	24
		Tahiti ...	6
		Auckland ...	6
			874
			= 36 days 10 hours

"The creation of a service by this route, even though relatively slow, would give an opportunity for the conveyance of mails to New Zealand in 33 days, *i.e.*, several days less than the normal time at present via the Suez Canal. It would have the advantage of further developing trade between Australia and New Zealand on the one side and Eastern Canada on the other. At present there is only a slow outward service from Eastern Canada to Australia and New Zealand.* It would also have the very considerable merit of developing a better service between the United Kingdom and Canada on the one hand, and Bermuda and Jamaica on the other. The service from the United Kingdom to the places

*It is subsidised by the Canadian Government to the extent of £29,000 per annum.

last named has been sadly deficient since the termination of the Imperial Direct West India mail service, whilst Canada and Jamaica have long felt the need of improved ocean communication.

"Lastly, we feel sure that many travellers between Australia and New Zealand and the Mother Country would welcome the opportunity of coming by this route, which would give them a chance of seeing something of Eastern Canada, as well as of the West Indies."

Elsewhere in the report statistics are given showing the depths already available or being made available in the approach channels and the quays and docks on the various ports on the Panama route. Jamaica makes a poor showing in this respect, the minimum depth in the approach channel at Kingston being 36 feet 6 inches only, and the maximum depth available alongside quays being only 24 feet, figures far lower than those of any other ports on the route. The Panama Canal, as the figures show, is able to receive vessels drawing 38 feet, and the same remark applies to Tahiti, where they can already lie at the anchorage and will be able to lie at the wharves when the operations now in progress are completed. In Jamaica, on the other hand, the time needed to dredge the channel in order to receive suitable vessels for the Panama route to Australia, is estimated at two years, but no figures are available as to cost. The cost of providing wharf accommodation is estimated at £60,000, and the time at eighteen months. To sum up, in order to provide accommodation on this route for vessels of 38 feet draught, action is needed in the case of Liverpool, London, Kingston (Jamaica), and Auckland, and the port at present requiring most attention is probably Kingston. This matter should receive the early attention of the authorities in Jamaica if their island is not to be omitted from the itinerary.

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The twelfth annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association shows that the total capital subscribed is £476,920, of which £468,459 has been allotted in the form of shares. The balance of capital yet to be raised amounts to £23,080, towards which £13,000 has been promised conditionally on the whole of the capital being subscribed, leaving a net balance of £10,080 still to be found. Owing to the war further efforts to raise the balance of the capital have been suspended.

Attention is called to the great increase in the consumption of cotton in the United States. In the five years ended 1905 America consumed just over 4,000,000 bales, and in 1906 to 1910 they took 4,600,000 bales, while in the five years ending 1915 their average consumption rose to 5,300,000. This points to the extreme importance of increasing the production of Lancashire's raw material within the Empire. The Council therefore express regret that the Government decided not to renew the grant of £10,000 per annum, which expired on March 31st, 1916.

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.
1911	27,673	£ 373,583
1912	40,084	507,122
1913	47,466	661,227
1914	38,694	456,147
1915	48,087	627,763
1916	40,730	788,061

With regard particularly to the West Indies, the Council state that owing to the low prices paid by spinners for Sea Island cotton in 1915 there was a considerable reduction in the acreage, and the exports for the year ending September 30th, 1916, only amounted to 1,008,288 lbs., as compared with 1,823,956 lbs. in 1915. There were also exported 397,993 lbs. of Marie Galante cotton, giving a total of about 3,500 bales of 400 lbs. each, and a value of £85,978.

The price of Sea Island cotton has increased very considerably during 1916 and the beginning of 1917, and the cotton which has come forward has been sold readily at remunerative prices, but unfortunately many of the planters have found it impossible to ship their cotton, owing to the shortage of steamers, more especially in some of the smaller islands. Reports have been received stating that the acreage under cotton cultivation has been increased in a number of the islands, and with some improvement in the shipping facilities the outlook for cultivators of Sea Island cotton is much better than it has been for many years.

SILK IN THE WEST INDIES.

Some Hints from Mr. Maxwell Lefroy.

It will be recalled that in 1912 Mr. H. Maxwell Lefroy, the well-known entomologist, read a paper at the West India Committee Rooms, in which he warmly advocated the establishment of silk production as a minor industry in the British West Indies. His lecture was subsequently published by the West India Committee and widely circulated, and last year the CIRCULAR was able to record the results of an examination of silk produced in Trinidad by Mr. C. Glander, who had imported silk-worms into the island as far back as 1868 and, after Mr. Lefroy's lecture, again introduced the Eri silk-worm.

Mr. Maxwell Lefroy is still confident that a successful silk industry can be established in the New World, and has communicated to us the following remarks on the subject:—

The present prices of all silk raw products are so extraordinarily high that attention may again be drawn to the question of cultivating silk in the West Indies. With prices high, and pretty certain to remain high for at least two or three years more, there is practically no risk of any financial loss on properly conducted experiments, even if the silk yield is not at first very high. Eri cocoons are being sought for at over double the usual price; mulberry cocoons are not worth shipping probably, owing to bulk, but raw silk (i.e., reeled silk) and waste silk (i.e., unrookable material) are both fetching extremely high prices.

The attention of any readers interested may be drawn to the very remarkable race of silk-worm (mulberry-feeding) which was produced by Monsieur Brangeon in Madagascar, and transferred thence to India. This is a French race of the very best kind which does not require cold to hatch the eggs, the eggs hatching normally in ten days or so. It is the ideal race for the conditions of the West Indies, as it gives six or seven broods a year, and yields excellent cocoons which reel into very high quality silk. The cultivation of this race in India is increasing, and one of the big new developments there is the substitution of this race for the existing inferior races in Bengal and Mysore.

It is to be hoped that some further trials will be made with silk, and it should be possible to obtain a good many-brooded race, such as the Madagascar, from France. It is also necessary to remember that to grow leaves for these races, mulberry is best grown as small pruned standards about eight to ten feet high, which make excellent roadside and boundary trees, and yield leaf whenever required. As a cultivation for poor soils where there is a light, well-distributed rainfall, mulberry for feeding silk-worms is a very paying proposition when one can get a succession of broods, as in the ideal West Indian climate. It is not every plant that will yield a crop worth over £100 an acre and require women and child labour only for the most part; and there is an opening for some planter willing to put a few acres of land under mulberry and to attempt the cultivation of a really good race of silk-worm.

CACAO MULCHING.

Mr. W. R. Dunlop has recently summarised the results of the manurial experiments with cacao which have been conducted in Dominica since 1902. They demonstrate the value of mulching in that island, one mulched plot showing an estimated annual net gain per acre of 233s.—a very substantial increase. The value of the cacao, per acre, in the case of the control is 584s., so that the total amount to be secured under conditions of mulching is 817s., less the cost of mulching. In the Trinidad experiments, the average yield of the control plots on the different estates is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 700 lb. cured cacao per acre, worth at 6d. per lb., 350s. In the British Guiana experiments, the average yield in the case of the controls is about 400 lb. worth, at 6d. per lb., 200s. These comparisons show the very high productivity of the mulched plots in Dominica, the mere increase due to mulching being greater than the yield of an ordinary 1-acre of cacao in British Guiana.

Mr. Dunlop, in his report, which is published in the *West Indian Bulletin* (Vol. XVI., No. 2), says that it is stated in British Guiana that the sole objection to the use of heavy mulching for cacao is the expense, four years' mulching costing \$66 per acre. As a matter of fact, it is not the expense but the low return that is the trouble in British Guiana. Sixty-six dollars per acre for four years is \$16.50 per acre annually, which compares very favourably with \$19.20 per acre per annum in Dominica, where

mulching has been shown to be remunerative. But in Dominica, the average annual gain in cured cacao by mulching is 626 lb. compared with 124 lb. in British Guiana.

The question arises as to whether allowances ought to be made for the apparent lower natural yield of the control plot (No. 1) in the Dominica experiments. As already pointed out, this yielded at the beginning of the experiments some 300 lb. of cured cacao per acre less than the mulched plot before the effect of mulching was felt by the trees. If allowance is made, the increase from mulching will not be 233s. but 233s. less 150s. equals 83s. If we off-set against this (a) the fact that trees were replaced in the control, and (b) the fact that the mulched plot suffered more from storms, one is disinclined, from a practical stand-point, to make such a rigorous reduction. Moreover, one cannot be certain that the mulching did not affect the trees to the extent of increasing the yield by 300 lb. per acre in the first year of the experiments, though it seems unlikely, in view of the fact that in the recently started manurial experiments on limes the mulched plot showed no increased yield over the control until the second year. It is a matter on which it is difficult to come to a decision, and it emphasises the importance of knowing the natural yield of the plots before the manurial treatment is started.

Taking everything into consideration, one is inclined to the opinion that the monetary gain from mulching in the Dominica experiments may be regarded as not less than 150s. per acre, and the other plots in proportion.

CITRUS CULTIVATION IN AFRICA.

£100,000 to be spent on Irrigation.

Some years ago the British South Africa Company embarked upon citrus fruit cultivation in pursuance of its policy of leaving no stone unturned to develop its great territory, by encouraging agricultural as well as mineral industries. In their report for the year ended March 31st, 1916, the directors now state that considerable and satisfactory progress has been made at the Premier, Mazoe, and Sinoia Estates, which are being developed as citrus fruit estates. Nursery work is now concentrated on the Sinoia estate, where citrus and forest trees are reared to supply the large and increasing demands of the company's groves, and to provide the public with acclimatised budded stock. A recent report by Mr. I. M. Baikie, who is in charge of the citrus nurseries, states:—

"With all my experience and knowledge of citrus cultivation in Natal, Rustenberg and Barberton, I have not come across finer citrus propositions than those at Mazoe, Marandellas and Sinoia, and I see no reason why fruit produced under favourable conditions on any of the above estates should not equal that which is produced down South."

During the last planting season 25,000 citrus trees have been planted out in the groves, which now cover a total area of 500 acres. There are 20,000

budded trees ready for planting next August, and the seedlings in the nursery ready for budding number 80,000. During 1916 1,334 cases of oranges were sold in London at an average gross price of 22s. 7d. per case, and a trial shipment of grape-fruit realised 30s. 4d. per case.

At the annual meeting of the Company on July 5th, Sir Starr Jameson said that the progress of the industry had thoroughly come up to expectations. The various citrus plantations had been steadily developed. The restriction of expenditure had not affected them. It was true that the largest estate, or what would be the largest estate, in the Mazoe Valley, required large irrigation works, and that they had hesitated up to now about undertaking those irrigation works, but in view of the financial position, and seeing that in the third year of the growth of the trees the water from these irrigation works was absolutely necessary, they had now given out the plans for large irrigation works, costing somewhere about £70,000 to £100,000, to ensure the citrus industry in the Mazoe Valley.

WAR AGAINST PESTS.

The enterprising firms of Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., and Curtis, Campbell & Co. have for some years past employed the services of Mr. Harold Moore, an entomologist, to wage war on the insects on their estates in British Guiana. Mr. Moore's reports, which have been periodically noticed in these columns, usually contain many points of general interest besides useful recommendations for combatting such pests as the moth-borer, both great and small, the frog-hopper, etc.

His latest memorandum, which deals with operations undertaken during 1916, is no exception to the rule. At the outset, Mr. Moore gives some useful advice.

It cannot, he says, be too often stated that the only way by which the pest can be kept under control, or prevented from increasing, is by persistently attempting to destroy as many moths and grubs as possible, but more so the grubs. The gangs should be large enough to go through every field cut before it begins to spring, no matter how slight the infestation on an estate. Suppose a gang be not large enough to get through all the cropped fields on an estate which is slightly infested, it may indeed happen that some fields left over have infestation which, in a year's time, may assume alarming proportions. If every field be not attended to, it is practically impossible for an estate to say exactly how it stands at any particular moment.

Working against a living organism, such as an insect, is not like digging a canal or building a house, where one can say "I'll stop work for two or three weeks or whatever time I choose, and then start off again where I left off." One does not start off at the point left off, for in the interval the insect has not been inactive, but has been busy doing its utmost to increase in a geometrical progression of which the multiplying factor is large. Since it is only at the croppings that the grubs can be got at, the most should be made of such occasions. No infestation should be regarded as being so slight that

it can be neglected, but should be attended to even if the price per grub has to be increased so as to enable the members of the gang to earn a fair day's wage. Whatever interrupts the work of procuring the grubs, gives the pest an advantage which may cost an estate dearer in the long run. Particular attention should be given to the stools in the old banks of young plant-fields.

Caught in the Act.

At Cane Grove in June Mr. Moore chanced to observe a moth oviposit in one of the fields. The insect alighted on a young shoot, slid down backwards, elevated its wings at an angle, extended its abdomen, pushed its ovipositor into the earth at the base of the shoot, and then flew off to a nearby blade, where, had it not been disturbed, it might have rested until ready to lay again. This was the second occasion on which he observed *Castoria* oviposit. On the first the egg was placed under the clasping base of a cane blade.

It is to be regretted that egg-collecting has not yet been taken up on all estates, and that on some where it is done, the collected clusters are not dealt with as they should be, so that in certain cases more harm than good may even be the result of the collecting. Just as on some estates there is an egg-gang regularly at work, and the collected clusters are properly dealt with by a man specially employed to do so, one would fancy the same things should be possible of accomplishment on all estates. Egg-collecting is certainly attempted on nearly all, but in most cases there is invariably some drawback or combination of drawbacks, quite avoidable by the regular employment of a suitable man and an adequate gang, preventing the work from being carried through in the manner conducive to the attainment of the best results.

On all estates visited in December, which is for most the last month of the long grinding, the small moth-borer was rapidly increasing in the young fields. On some estates, especially where little or nothing was being done to check it, infestation was already severe, not only in the several fields cut at the beginning of the grinding but even in some quite recently cut and with, as yet, hardly any spring on them. Mr. Moore is rather inclined to fancy that the terrible damage the small moth-borer does, and is capable of doing, is not sufficiently realised, otherwise it seems scarcely possible, not even excluding the serious labour question, that year after year it would be allowed so much latitude at the long grinding, which is just the time when control measures would tell to best advantage. An insect pest that strikes off from a crop sugar to the tune of at least, hardly less than one-third ton per acre, certainly deserves to be viewed with the utmost gravity.

A New Moth-Borer.

During his researches Mr. Moore came across a new small moth-borer, or, at least, one new to him. Its very wide distribution proves, he believes, that it has been a cane feeder for long, as it is impossible, it would seem, to conceive that it would take to the cane simultaneously in the three counties. Conditions during the year were probably so favourable

to it as to lead to its becoming abundant enough to have been pretty easily discovered.

The caterpillars are very readily alarmed, and are wonderfully frisky, thumping about like fishes out of water. This trait constitutes a further difference between them and those of the other borers. There is another difference also in the readiness with which they leave their borings, when the shoots are cut out.

The caterpillar, which is a good deal smaller than that of the other two small moth-borers, is not quite an inch in length. It is green, with nine irregular longitudinal reddish or pale brownish rosy lines, extending from the middle of the third segment to the end of the body, and somewhat blurred or run together towards the posterior border of the segments. The first segment has a lateral brown spot and a dark brown dorsal plate divided in the middle by a green line. In younger caterpillars the green is not so pronounced. They are rather whitish green, while the longitudinal lines are much more distinctly reddish or rose. The pupa form is not assumed in the boring, but without, in a slight whitish cocoon.

The two sexes of the adult moths differ in colour. The forewings of the male are grey with a large dull yellow area stretching from the base to the outer border, while the forewings of the female are either grey with hardly any yellow, or are a plain dark grey. The hind wings of both sexes are hyaline white with a slight brown border. The antennae or feelers of the male have a tuft of scales at the base, while in both sexes the frenulum and retinaculum are similarly formed.

Nearly 5,000,000 Frog-Hoppers Caught.

Our old enemy the frog-hopper continues, unfortunately, to be *en evidence*. At Plantation Ogle there was a severe attack, which lasted from June till well into September, the season having been unduly prolonged owing to heavy rains continuing throughout the month of August. The areas involved, however, were practically the same as they were two or three years ago, and Mr. Moore urges that every effort be put forth to confine and control it in these localities. On the advice of Mr. Williams, the expert who had been specially sent out from England to study frog-hoppers in the West Indies, British Guiana, and Central America, boys were put through the worst infested fields to sweep the drains with wide-mouthed nets. In this way several thousand adults were caught daily, while nymphs at the same time were being collected by another gang. The number of nymphs and adults recorded as having been destroyed during the season was 4,198,704. At Plantation Non Parcel during the same months there was a moderate outbreak in a few fields, and nymphs and adults to the number of 283,900 were collected. In some fields of Plantation Cane Grove, too, the insect was fairly plentiful, but no collections were made. Plantations Lusignan, La Bonne Intention, and Vryheid's Lust recorded the destruction of 3,650, 28,930, and 3,977 nymphs and hoppers respectively. At Plantation Ogle, after very careful and prolonged search, eggs were found deposited in dry grass or cane-blades, or between dry cane-blades and the earth.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The 5th Bahamas Contingent for the British West Indies Regiment left Nassau for Jamaica in June.

* * *

Mr. T. H. Irving, of the British West Indies Regiment, who has been promoted to a Captaincy, is a son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, late of the British Guiana Medical Service.

* * *

The Chaplain-General of the Forces has requested that six clergymen from the West Indies may be sent forward for service with the British West Indies Regiment at the front.

* * *

The Contingent Committee's gift of chocolate boxes have at last reached Egypt. It will be recalled that 69 cases containing them were in the *Poona* when she was mined, and that they were salvaged and eventually forwarded to their destination by another vessel.

* * *

In an account of the visit of the King and Queen to the Armies in France, Mr. Philip Gibbs, Special Correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, wrote:—

"After having tea the King drove back through denser crowds of soldiers, receiving uproarious cheers from a battalion of coloured men from the West Indies, whose enthusiastic loyalty broke all bounds, so that they laughed and shouted in ecstasy."

* * *

Mr. Beach Thomas, in the *Daily Mail*, was equally emphatic as to the enthusiasm of the B.W.I.'s.

"On the journey home the King was met and cheered at many places, and none cheered more loudly than a large gathering of West Indian troops, under officers looking very tropical in their yellow sun helmets. The West Indians had not before seen the King, but made up for lost time by cutting him off twice during the day and giving fullest vent to their loyalty with voice and with life and drum."

* * *

The work parties at Lady Davson's house, 20, Fennimore Gardens, S.W., which have been so numerously attended since the first week in April, were brought to a close for the season on Wednesday, July 19th, when the following ladies were present: Lady Davson (Chairman), Lady Cameron, Lady Hodgson, Lady Sendall, Lady Grey-Wilson, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. John Bromley, Miss Daly, Mrs. Darroch, the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Grahaue, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Gordon Leggatt, Miss Levey, Mrs. Messervy, Mrs. Paine, Mrs. Stafford, and Mrs. Wright. The following ladies have also been very constant in their attendance: Lady Hayes Sadler, Lady Le Hunte, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Miss Mann, Mrs. Napier, the Misses Peterkin, Mrs. Singleton, Miss Hamel-Smith, Miss Thorne, and Mrs. Cathcart Wasou. Lady Davson, whose unflinching courtesy and generous hospitality have contributed largely to the success of these meetings, has kindly consented to hold similar gatherings when she returns to London in the autumn and a notice as to date of re-assembling will appear in due course in the CIRCULAR.

* * *

The work accomplished, both at the meetings and

by the ladies in their homes, has been very satisfactory. Between April 4th and July 17th, 1917, no fewer than 568 pairs of pants have been made, of which 172 pairs were made at the work parties and 396 pairs at home; and 24 pairs of pyjamas (6 at home and 18 at the work parties), while 98 pairs of socks, 4 helmets, 16 woollen cuffs, and 3 mufflers have been made from wool supplied by the Committee. Ladies are requested to send any finished work during the recess to the Secretary, Ladies' West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3, enclosing a card for identification.

From the Gazette:—

July 14.—B.W.I. REGIMENT.—Sec. Lts. (B. W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Sec. Lts.—L. R. Twose, J. R. Anderson, G. D. Owen, A. Hopkins, A. A. Cipriani, A. F. Clarke, F. L. Johnson, W. Knaggs, J. J. Johnston, J. R. Phillips, H. St. C. Duncan, A. B. MacFarlane, C. H. Breen, C. G. Bushe, K. L. Grant, F. T. Essex, J. Burslem, H. Hahn, L. G. Perkins (March 30).

July 21.—Surgeon Captain W. D. Neish relinquishes his command on account of ill-health (July 15).

July 23.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Lt.-Col. C. W. Long (W. India R.) to command a Battalion (July 9, seny. July 8, 1915).

* * *

A further Trinidad Merchants' Contingent (the seventh), carefully selected by Mr. G. F. Huggins and his friends, followed close on the heels of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent whose arrival was recorded in last CIRCULAR. Like the Barbadians, they are a fine lot of men. Their names are: Percy Knox (in Command), Ernest Eccles, Leon Agostini, H. Littlepage, Vernon Collins, Ralph Wharton, Edmund Maingot, Frank Gibbon, Desmond Pogson, Donald Campbell, Luis Maingot, and H. P. Murray. With regard to the Barbados men, Redman, Boxill, Cave, Culpeper, Farmer, Foster, Murphy, Ramsay, and Tudor have joined the Artists' Rifles, while Proverbs is on the high road to enlisting in the Canadians, in which his brother is already serving. Both Contingents were consigned to the care of the West India Committee.

* * *

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

Miss E. Carrington	£	s.	d.
Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent	2	0	0
For month of May:—			
Kingstown Club	1	8	0
Hon. C. R. A. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	
James H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
Ryan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	3	12	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. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

We publish below some further extracts from letters received by the West Indian Contingent Committee:—

"I would be greatly obliged if you would convey my very sincere thanks and deep appreciation of the parcel of fruit which your Committee sent to me yesterday."—(From an Officer of the B.W.I. Regiment in hospital.)

"Thanks very much for the parcel containing cigarettes which I received yesterday. They are becoming rather scarce out here and cannot always be procured from the canteens."—(From an Officer from Barbados.)

"I have much honour in sending you this letter, by which you will be informed that we are in receipt of your beautiful presents which you have sent us as a New Year and Christmas gift, of which we are quite proud. Please to accept many thanks for your kindness. Glad am I to say that the presents which you gave us are highly appreciated by the boys of the B.W.I. Regiment. Oh, you should see how we all rushed when we got our New Year gifts. It made all the boys merry; it was quite admirable to see them. If you were anywhere about our camp to see you would think it was the cry of victory. May I give thanks for all your loving greetings. Please to accept same, and I hope that our futures will be prosperous." (From a man in the B.W.I. Regiment in Egypt on receipt of the West Indian Contingent Committee's gift chocolate box.)

"Please permit me to render most grateful thanks to you for remembering us so officiatingly. I have taken the liberty of submitting this form of thankfulness to you upon myself, of which I ask you most humbly to accept—please do so. I do not know if anyone has done it, but if even they do not I consider and think that it is someone's duty to render this gratitude to our home authorities who are so kind to us also and our home government. Sirs, I am not directed by anyone to do this, and hope you will not take it as a part of intrudism. We, as soldiers, doing our bit as far or as much as we are permitted to do, in this great struggle for Freedom, do hereby render our most grateful thanks to you, if for only reminding us that we are not altogether forgotten or entirely left alone. We look at this gift as a very, as it is, great treat, doesn't matter how small it is, only bearing the name that we received it: we can't express our feelings. We feel no less than a colonial should and quite proud of it. I again assure you, sir, that we all are very much pleased, and quite appreciate our present, of which we have got the honour to enjoy on July 1st, 1917."—(From a Trinidad man in the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt, on receipt of the West India Committee's gift chocolate box.)

In the House of Lords, on July 26th, Lord Rhondda said that the present distribution of sugar based on 1915 requirements, was not satisfactory, and required considerable alteration. The arrangement which the Food Control Committees would be asked to administer was designed to remedy the present inequalities in distribution, and, incidentally, to secure information which would be of much value for the purpose of adjusting the regulation of other foodstuffs. Arrangements would be made to ration hotels, restaurants, and manufactures, and every householder would be invited to apply to the Local Food Committee for a sugar card. The householder would be asked to take his card to the retailer from which he would like, in due course, to obtain his sugar, and to register with him. This would enable the retailer to apply for sugar to meet his customer's requirements. It would, however, be some little time before these sugar cards would be issued to the public, and the new scale of distribution could not come into complete working order for several months. He had deliberately decided against the introduction of any system of rationing by sugar tickets.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

We give below a list of casualties in the British West Indies Regiment in France. It furnishes ample evidence that our gallant men are performing important duties at the front, and we have reason to believe that before long an official communiqué may be issued to tell of the sacrifices which the B.W.I.'s, in common with other contingents from overseas, are making for the great cause. The men of the B.W.I.'s whose names are now published are all from Jamaica.

KILLED IN ACTION.

8056 Anderson, S.	3484 Jones, H.
3273 Brown, H. G.	2915 Mannings, H.
3163 Cook, W.	6816 McDermott, W.
3596 Dunn, Actg. Corpl.	3365 McKenzie, C.
F. L. A.	3483 Palmer, E. N.
3046 Gluis, V. G.	3475 Richards, V.
4138 Grant, L. Martin.	7140 Ricketts, D.
5825 Harrison, N.	2920 Smith, Albert Chas.
5820 Hudson, L.	3506 Willis, J. S.
4414 Ingraham, Lester S.	

DIED OF WOUNDS.

6203 Barnes, C.	2915 Mannings, Henry V.
3273 Brown, Lee.-Corpl.	6816 McDermott, N.
Herbert George.	7394 McNaught, R.
3339 Clayton, L. A.	3722 Pottinger, F.
3517 Cover, H.	3494 Preston, Harold.
3288 Fletcher, W. S.	3422 Stewart, W.
3481 Henry, S. A. G.	3382 Williams, R. S.
4223 Martin, Charles.	

WOUNDED.

4215 Bailey, S. R.; 8078 Barton, J.; 3457 Barrett, E. A.; 6228 Baxter, J.; 2834 Brown, E. A.; 2889 Clarke, U.; 3326 Coward, Sergt. P. H.; 5753 Crawford, T.; 3451 Act.-Corpl. DePass, V. G.; 3344 Douvers, N.; 2731 Douglas, Lee.-Corpl. C.; 2900 Foster, D. E.; 3556 Francis, A.; 2943 Francis, Lee.-Corpl. R. N.; 5782 Fox, R.; 2848 Graham, A. T.; 2961 Halliburton R. C.; 3623 Henry, J.; 5531 Hodges, Edgar; 2963 Hylton, H. P.; 2971 Lynch, N.; 2769 Manton, Act.-Sergt. R. O.; 3050 Maschke, Corpl. G. O.; 3009 Matthews, E. A.; 2861 McKnight, J.; 2857 Mitchell, W. L.; 5857 McPherson, S.; 2864 Parkes, Lee.-Corpl. P. A.; 2978 Phinn, B. A.; 1155 Phipps, B.; 3011 Plummer, R.; 2704 Rudd, C. L.; 3100 Russell, H. A.; 3258 Sharpe, C.; 7152 Smith, N.; 3479 Stephens, J. A.; 2873 Thomas, J. E.; 7164 Williams, E.; 3022 Williams, H. G.

SECOND LIEUT. DUDLEY A. DE FREITAS (son of Hon. D. S. De Freitas of Grenada), Gloucestershire Regiment, attached Lancashire Regiment, is wounded and in hospital in India.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ANDREW J. BERNARD, Royal Warwickshire Regiment (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been seriously wounded in the thigh, leg and arm. He is in hospital in Boulogne, and is making favourable progress.

SECOND LIEUTENANT KENNETH M. REID, Highland Light Infantry (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has received a scalp wound, and is in hospital in London.

SECOND LIEUTENANT P. SHERLOCK MAINGOT, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been slightly wounded.

SECOND LIEUTENANT R. H. QUESNEL, Loyal North Lancashire Regt. (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been slightly wounded.

SECOND LIEUTENANT C. E. DURUTZ, Royal Warwickshire Regiment (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded.

PROMOTIONS.

SERG. S. C. FARRINGTON (of the 1st Bahamas Contingent B. W. I. Regiment) has been granted a Commission in the British West Indies Regiment.

CADET COLIN F. ARTHUR (youngest son of the late Mr. Robert Arthur of Barbados) has been gazetted 2nd Lieut. in the Royal Garrison Artillery (S.R.).

FLIGHT-COMMANDER ELIOT ARCHIBALD DE PASS (son of Mr. E. A. de Pass) has been promoted to be Flight Commander.

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.

Fillan, Second Lieut. T. Douglas (nephew of the late Hon. J. Cox Fillan of Dominica), Royal Field Artillery.
Otway, Rupert C. (Warden of the Windward District, St. Vincent), London University O.T.C.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

SECOND LIEUT. O. B. SWAIN (son of the late Mr. A. C. Swain, Commissary, British Guiana), Machine Gun Corps.

CADET E. LINDSAY ARMSTRONG (of Barbados), late King's Royal Rifle Corps, has been granted a Commission in the Worcester Regiment.

PTE. CYRIL ARMSTRISTER (son of the late Hon. W. E. Armbrister, C.M.G., President of the Legislative Council, Bahamas), who has served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force for over two years, and was recently awarded the Military Medal, has been granted a Commission in the Canadian Army.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Enemy Patents in War-time.

Mr. Peto, M.P., asked the President of the Board of Trade on July 18th, whether patents during the War were still granted to alien enemies under Rule 2 and 3 of the Designs and Trade Marks Temporary Rules, 1914; whether under these rules a patent specification, 103,722, applied for March 6th, 1916, was accepted February 8th, 1917, and complete specification filed by James Yale Johnson, patent agent, on behalf of the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik, of Ludwigshafen-on-Rhine; whether this patent was for a new fertiliser and was likely to become a master patent controlling a new industry; and whether any decision had been arrived at as to the position of such patents on the termination of hostilities.

Sir Albert Stanley replied: No, sir. No Letters Patent have been or will be granted to alien enemies during the War. Applications for the grant of Letters Patent are received from alien enemies and are proceeded with down to and including the acceptance of the complete specifications; but the granting of any patent rights on these applications is entirely suspended. In accordance with this practice the application on behalf of the Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik for a patent of a "New and improved compound for use as a fertiliser and process or method of fertilising" has been accepted and the invention published. If the invention is one of such importance as the hon. Member suggests it is open to any person to apply for an Order of the Board of Trade, under Section 6, of the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act, 1916, vesting the benefit of the application in the Public Trustee, when the patent would be granted to him and licences could, if necessary, be granted to any person who desired to use the invention.

The question of the treatment to be awarded to patents owned by alien enemies on the termination of hostilities is under consideration.

Preference for Colonial Sugar.

Brigadier-General H. Page Croft asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies on July 18th, whether any intimation had been definitely conveyed to the sugar growers of the Empire that on the cessation of hostilities they would be granted a preference in the market of the United Kingdom over sugar produced in Germany and Austria.

Sir Albert Stanley, President of the Board of Trade, who replied said, I am not aware that any definite intimation of the kind referred to has been conveyed to sugar growers.

General Croft : Is it not time to let the Dominions know that they will receive this definite preferential treatment over Germany and Austria at the end of the War? Sir A. Stanley : That raises a great question of policy. **General Croft** : Are we on the side of the Colonies or on the side of the Germans—that is what I want to know?

Mr. Flavin : As sugar is such an important article of food, is it not time that this Government should take steps to have sugar beet grown in the United Kingdom?

San Thome Cacao Plantations.

Mr. E. Harvey, M.P., on July 18th, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a reply had yet been received from Consul-General Hall as to the discrepancy which appeared in the White Book (Cd. 8479, see Circular of May 3rd, page 172) in regard to the number of deaths among the labourers at San Thomé cacao plantations, estimated by him at 5 per cent. per annum, but which worked out on the basis of the figures furnished in the White Book at over 10 per cent. per annum.

Mr. Balfour : Mr. Hall has expressed his regret for the mistake in the calculation of the percentage. **Mr. Harvey** : Is the Foreign Office in communication with the Portuguese Government as to this high mortality? **Mr. Balfour** : Perhaps the hon. Member will put a question on that point?

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts :

ANTIGUA.

Liee.-Corpl. E. W. Branch, Royal Fusiliers, Brondesbury Park.

BAHAMAS.

Liee.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilts Regiment, Maidstone.

BARBADOS.

Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Eastbourne.

MONTSERRAT.

Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Pte. G. B. Phillips, Canadians, Brounley.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. N. Calder, R.F.A.; 2nd Lieut. Ryland, Gloucester Regiment, London; Lieut. Douglas Wright, Gordon Highlanders, London.

St. Kitts.

Pte. O. L. Daisey, Royal Fusiliers, Walton-on-Naze.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. Kenneth M. Reid, Highland Light Infantry, London; 2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., London; Pte. Pierre de Verteuil, I.I.A.C., Weybridge; Trpr. S. Daly, Household Battalion, Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London; Pte. J. R. Thavenot, King's Royal Rifles, London.

DOMINICA.

2nd Lieut. E. C. Becher, R.F.A., London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Capt. P. St. L. Bacquie, Lieut. J. N. Musson, Corpl. Maschke, London.

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 SUGAR OF HAWAII.

The report on the cane sugar industry just published by the Department of Commerce, says *Facts about Sugar*, contains the most extensive statistical study of sugar production in Hawaii that has been made by the Federal Government. Approximately one-half the report is devoted to the sugar industry of this one territory. As the authors of the report point out, the books and records of the plantations were thrown open to them and every bit of available information relating to sugar production was placed at their disposal. This action followed the consistent policy of the Hawaiian sugar producers of giving full publicity to their operations and co-operating with the governmental authorities in ascertaining essential facts and conditions governing sugar production. The elaborate records kept by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association and the managements of the various plantations made it possible to compile unusually complete statistical tables showing various elements entering into the cost of production.

The most striking general conclusion to be drawn from the facts set forth in the report is that the planters of Hawaii, working with a soil of no exceptional natural fertility and contending against many unfavourable conditions, have been able, by the thoroughgoing applications of the most scientific methods of cultivation and milling, to raise their industry to a plane of efficiency unexcelled in any other part of the world.

"In the application of scientific methods and in the securing of results," says the report, "the cane sugar industry of the Hawaiian Islands will bear comparison with any agricultural or mechanical industry in the United States."

In the average yield of cane per acre and of sugar per ton of cane Hawaii leads Cuba and the other cane-growing sections of the United States. On the other hand the costs of fertilizing, irrigating, planting, cultivating and harvesting are all higher in Hawaii than in any of these other sections. Sugar cane in Hawaii is a two-year crop, requiring an average of twenty-one months for its maturity, while in Cuba and many other cane countries a crop is taken off every year.

As a result of these combinations of conditions the cost of producing sugar in Hawaii and transporting it to the United States, according to the figures given in the report, was approximately a cent a pound higher in 1914 than the cost of producing and marketing Cuban sugar. This difference, it will be observed, almost exactly equals the existing import duty on Cuban sugar.

The removal or appreciable reduction of the present tariff rate, therefore, would make it impossible for Hawaii to compete under normal conditions in the only market open to it. The present duty falls far short of covering the difference between costs of production in Cuba and in Porto Rico and Louisiana, as the expenses of production in the two latter are higher than in Hawaii. This is an effective answer to the claim that the domestic cane industry does not need the protection afforded by the customs duty in periods of low prices.

Another interesting point brought out by the report is the preponderant position of sugar production among the industries of Hawaii. In the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1914, the value of exported sugar and its by-products was 85 per cent. of the total value of all agricultural products exported. Of the remaining 15 per cent. pineapples formed by far the larger part. An extensive quotation from a report made to Governor Pinkham in 1915 on the agricultural resources of the territory shows that no other crop is available to take the place of sugar.

In view of the importance to the people of the United States of producing every possible pound of sugar from our own soil it is a fortunate thing that American enterprise and ingenuity have combined to bring the sugar industry in this small group of Pacific islands to its present high state of efficiency so that from an area about equal to that of Massachusetts it produces more than one-seventh of all the sugar consumed by the American people. No stronger argument for the preservation and continued encouragement of the domestic sugar industry can be presented than is contained in the results obtained in this one field.

THE PROSPECTS OF GRENADA.

An Interview with Mr. Seton-Browne.

Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne, who has left Grenada after thirty-two years of residence in that island will be a welcome addition to the West Indian community at home.

He was a member of the local Executive and Legislative Councils and Chairman of the St. Andrew's District Board for over ten years. He was also a Main Road Warden of the Eastern District and Chairman of the St. Andrew's Racing Club, and was closely identified with the public and social life of the colony. On his retirement he was presented with an illuminated address and a piece of plate by the St. Andrew's District Board.

Interviewed by a representative of the CIRCULAR soon after his return to this country, Mr. Seton-Browne expressed the deep regret he felt at severing his immediate connection with an island which had so long been his home. As to the present condition and prospects of Grenada he said that the planters had enjoyed a fairly prosperous time since the outbreak of war, in spite of the increase in freights which appeared to many to be considerably greater than was necessary—as shown by Mr. Bonar Law's recent admission in Parliament. The planter had, however, liberally contributed to the increased Government expenses and had made a voluntary offer, which had been accepted, to pay increased export duties during the continuance of the war.

Asked his views as to the cost of living, Mr. Seton-Browne said that this had undoubtedly risen and though wages had also been increased the rise bore heavily on wage earners and those in receipt of fixed incomes. Owing, however, to many members of the agricultural community having joined the Colours, the better class of labour was hard to get in many places. There were plenty of women but able bodied men were scarcer than usual and those who remained seemed disinclined to work at present rates of pay.

To a question as to how those who did not work managed to live, Mr. Seton-Browne replied significantly that that must be left to the imagination. What was disconcerting was the number of young loafers who were knocking about the various villages and could be persuaded neither to join the Contingents nor to work.

Mr. Seton-Browne went on to say that the really poor labouring classes were really deserving of sympathy since they were feeling the pinch of the hard times. Most proprietors were, however, doing their best to render the condition easier for their labourers, and the Government was watching the situation closely. Only recently, indeed, an increased wage had been given to labourers employed on the roads.

On the subject of the reduction of imports of Grenada cacao into the United Kingdom, Mr. Seton-Browne said that this would undoubtedly affect the peasant proprietors, in particular, most injuriously. The majority of that class lived from hand to mouth, and the situation which would arise in November would call for most careful consideration on the part of the Government.

THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

The Local Salt Industry.

A Report has recently been issued by the Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of the salt industry of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and announces the intention of the Authorities to carry out the recommendations made whenever possible.* This marks another step taken by the progressive and active Commissioner, which will lead to the advancement and betterment of this Dependency of Jamaica.

All the Salinas were examined by the Committee and their conditions fully investigated. Evidence was taken from the interested parties, and the opinion that the refund of the royalty during the past five years in the three-sevenths and four-sevenths has resulted in material benefit to the salt estates as a whole, although in many instances commensurate results have not been obtained for the expenditure incurred by reason of ill-digested plans or incompetent work.

The Committee's recommendation that a permanent officer be appointed supervisor and inspector, to work in conjunction with the local Salt Pond Boards, quickly materialised by the selection of Mr. W. R. Tatem, who will make a quarterly report to the Governor and Commissioner, and upon his reports will depend the question of payment of a rebate of the four-sevenths of Royalty in future years.

The Committee's opinion is that the industry and development of the property is still in an immature stage, and suggest certain measures as will improve the collection and for the sale of a product which is of prime necessity for the future welfare of the islands. Although the output has increased, and arrangements for the sale of twice the quantity which the Salinas are capable of producing, the prime necessity of making suitable arrangements for its disposal must be undertaken by the appointment of a "Commercial Agent" to promote sale as well as the elimination of local jealousy and conflict, leading to competitive reduction of prices, and as to absentee landlords and the lowering of the standard of labour and consequently overseers. It is the opinion of the Committee that the smaller proprietor should be encouraged and his salvation secured by the strengthening of the whole industry along the lines foreshadowed in the report, and by the establishment of a banking system to regulate

* *Turks and Caicos Islands Gazette*, No. 38.

financial difficulties, which are not only the main factor of his downfall, but directly harmful to the whole industry, by encouraging cut-throat competition.

The recommendations are summarised as follows:—

1. The establishment of a Commercial Agent to promote the sale of salt.
2. The necessity of co-operation.
3. The appointment of a supervisor and inspector.
4. The introduction of a banking system.
5. The erection of sheds to avoid wastage of the product.
6. The improvement of shipping facilities.

NATURE NOTES.

MESSRS. GEEDR & SWART have been experimenting in connection with the subject of the coagulation of *Hevea* latex. The authors of the article embodying their results conclude that if latex with an addition of 0.3 per cent of sugar is allowed to stand over night, coagulation occurs by lactic acid fermentation, but that no putrefaction occurs. The coagulation of latex by means of small quantities of acetic acid is also caused from bacterial growth.

IN order to get complete coagulation by the sugar process, the authors recommend the addition of 20 to 25 per cent. of water to undiluted latex of normal strength, and to prevent the formation of a coloured layer on the rubber it is stated that it is advisable to pour water on its surface as soon as coagulation sets in. The sugar process, however, can only be used in preparing crepe, as gas bubbles are produced during the fermentation.

CONSIDERABLE economy is practised in cow feeding in Italy by the use of the by-product from decorticated rice for the purpose. The Italian Government have recently been experimenting as to its value in this direction, and the results of the experiments show that this product is not injurious to cows, provided that not more than 3½ to 4½ lbs. per head are given daily, as a larger amount causes a cough. The quality of the milk is not affected.

BROWN AND ALLISON have been experimenting in this direction at the Iowa State College. With sandy loam treated with lime it was found that ammonification and azotification were considerably increased by the addition of dry horse manure, cow manure, oat straw, timothy hay, cowpea hay, and clover hay in the maximum quantities used in farming. The leguminous green manures exerted somewhat greater effect upon nitrification than the animal manures.

QUITE recently Professor W. B. Bottomley has investigated the subject of "auximones," the growth-promoting substances present in plants. He found that a scum was always formed on the surface of the liquid whenever the "auximone" was

added to a crude nitrifying culture prepared from soil. The auximones increased in proportion to the scum. Professor Bottomley found auximones in the root nodules of leguminous plants, and that they were obliged to obtain their nitrogen from ammonium salts.

A RECENT number of the *Journal* of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists contains an article by Mr. H. S. Maclean Jack on the development of the petroleum industry in Assam, and in the course of the article he refers to special surface shows of oil which are locally known as "pungs." There are open spaces in the jungle to which the wild animals resort. These furred animals lick the soil, whilst elephants, buffaloes and such-like roll in the mud which they have churned up by trampling. Every one of these pungs is in some way connected with surface shows of oil. Oil is always traceable somewhere close at hand; there are usually exposures of rock, and, besides actual oil seepages, there are very often fairly strong blowers of gas.

AT Namchik, where there is one of the largest of these groups, there are numerous paths all kept just as clean and beaten as any path over one of the common round London, made entirely by wild animals. On one side of the pung are some sandstone rocks, and some of the paths lead through gaps in these. The gaps are very narrow, and the rock on each side has acquired a surface-polish from the constant passage. It may be taken for granted that the oil does the animals good.

THE subject of the ratio of nitrogen to carbon in soils is attracting considerable attention in connection with their fertility. In the case of damp soils, experience, says the *Monthly Bulletin*, has shown that if the ratio narrows down beyond a point of about 1 to 10, the crop yield is decreased, while if the ratio is 1 to 12 or above, bacterial activities increase, larger amount of soluble plant food are produced, and a better crop is obtained. The question therefore arises whether a soil showing a nitrogen-carbon ratio below 1 to 10—which means that it is deficient in fresh organic matter—can be improved by the addition of material of the widest nitrogen-carbon ratio.

THE importance of peanuts in the world's food economics is not generally realised. In 1912 over 120,000 tons of peanuts in the shell and 240,000 tons of shelled nuts were crushed at Marseilles alone, 15,500,000 gallons of edible oil and 23,000,000 gallons of inedible oil being thus obtained. In order to obtain a very high-grade edible oil, says the *Monthly Bulletin*, the peanuts should be thoroughly cleaned, shelled, blanched, and degermed before they are ground between mills and rollers and pressed. The first pressing should be made cold, in order to obtain a high-grade edible oil; the second after regrinding and heating the cake from the first pressing. Peanuts contain about 50 per cent. of oil, and will yield about 730 lbs. to the ton of cake, which is an excellent cattle food.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. LUKE M. HILL, who has been taking a course of brine baths at Droitwich, has returned to Cheltenham in improved health.

WE regret to announce that Mr. Alfred Chapman, Director of Messrs. Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd., of the Phoenix Foundry, Liverpool, died at Birkdale, in Lancashire, on July 11th.

MR. A. WATERFIELD, formerly of Phi. Hampton Court, British Guiana, was in the *Mongolia*, en route for the Straits Settlements, when she was mined. He was saved, but lost all his baggage and effects.

IT can now be authoritatively stated that the immediate danger of a reduction in the number of steamers on the Canada-West Indies route is at an end. It is, however, impossible to say what the future may bring forth.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Captain E. R. Davies, R.E., and Doris, elder daughter of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, late of the British Guiana Medical Service, and Mrs. Irving, of 10, Nevern Mansions, Earl's Court.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will take place in July at Kingston, Jamaica, between Walter Alexander Martin, Sub-Accountant, Colonial Bank, Jamaica, and Dora Geraldine, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Falconer Anton, of "Rose Hill," St. Paul's, Grenada.

MR. GEORGE S. HUDSON, who is paying a flying visit to this country, has been a member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia since 1912. He represented the colony at the meetings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies, and is closely interested in the movement for securing the federation of those colonies.

MR. GEORGE M. PERCH, who, we regret to learn, died on July 16th, was a popular member of the West Indian Club. He entered the Colonial Bank in 1866, and rose to be Accountant of that institution in Demerara in 1890. Thirteen years later he was appointed to local manager of the bank, a position which he held until his retirement in 1912.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN JOHN HUTSON, of Barbados, who has made two voyages to Egypt as medical officer in transport and has been back to the West Indies again in charge of invalids, has now returned to England to take up work for the War Office as a civilian practitioner. We are glad to have this popular officer amongst us, and hope that his work will not take him too far from London!

LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD, who, we regret to state, is missing, was a great favourite in Barbados, where

he was Colonial Secretary from 1907 to 1909. He joined the Grenadier Guards in the early days of the war and after being wounded he acted for some time as Private Secretary to Lord Wimborne in Ireland. It was only recently that he returned to the front.

THE Dermatine Co., Ltd., wish to emphasise the importance of the fullest details being specified when indenting for Dermatine valves for vacuum and air pumps, as invariably, owing to insufficient details as to whether valves are required to work against flat or curved guards, maximum temperature and pressure, etc., orders have to be referred back.

MR. WALTER LONG, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has accepted an invitation to lunch with the members of the West India Club on a date which will shortly be announced. It is understood that Mr. Long will take the opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the Government for the part which the West Indies are playing in the War, with special reference to the work of the British West Indies Regiment.

THE Grenada Registrar General's Report shows the estimated population of the colony on the 31st December last to be 73,056, an excess of 1,322 over the estimated population for the previous year; the registered births in 1916 were 2,602 and the deaths 1,280. Arrivals in the colony exceeded departures by 167. St. Andrew's is the most populated parish, having 17,770 inhabitants. St. George's is next with 17,164, while St. Patrick's has 11,450, and in the other parishes the numbers vary between 8,070 and 3,904. There were for the year under review 415 marriages, an excess of 158 over last year. The birth rate was 35.60 per 1,000.

MR. F. A. C. COLLYMORE has now collected no less than £4,700 for the Barbados Motor Ambulances and their upkeep. This, one imagines, must constitute a record as far as personal effort in the West Indies is concerned. The latest contribution, amounting to £500, has been forwarded through the West India Committee to the British Red Cross Society, who have sent the following letter of acknowledgment:—

"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 12th instant enclosing a cheque for £500, the same being a further contribution from the people of Barbados, per Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, towards the upkeep of their two motor ambulances.

"I note this brings the total contributed to £4,700. Will you please again convey to Mr. Collymore and the kind subscribers generally, our most grateful appreciation and thanks for their continued generous and valuable help. It is indeed most kind of the people of Barbados helping us in this magnificent way, and we are extremely grateful to them and to Mr. Collymore for this splendid effort.

"I have pleasure in enclosing the official receipt herewith.

"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ERNEST M. CLARKE,
"Director, Motor Ambulance Department."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—The West Indian Flag Day.

MR. J. H. WILKINSON, June 26th.—The crops for this year are fast coming to a close and there are now only a few factories working. The young crop to be reaped in 1918 is somewhat backward owing to prolonged drought, and this is particularly noticeable in the parishes of St. John and St. Thomas, as a rule so favourably treated as regards rainfall. I am glad to say, however, that during the last ten days good showers have fallen throughout the island, varying from 1½ to 2½ inches, and already the difference can be noticed in the young crops.

An Act has recently been passed to assure a certain amount of provisions being grown locally. Every estate is compelled to plant a certain number of acres of potatoes and ground provisions in proportion to the arable acreage of the estate. By the S.S. —, which left last Saturday, the Citizens' Contingent Fund sent forward a further ten men, making a total of sixty-two sent by this Committee. Last Friday, 22nd, was recognised as the West Indian Flag Day in aid of the West Indian Contingent Fund, and judging by the energy displayed by the ladies, must have proved a great success. The total amount collected has not yet been announced.

GRENADA—The Island Fresh and Green.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, June 25th.—After a rather prolonged drought the rains have now commenced and the island is beginning to look fresh and green again. Shipments of cacao to the United Kingdom are at a standstill, our licence is exhausted, and until February next year no more will be exported unless some arrangements are made.

On June 13th a concert in aid of the West Indian Contingent was held on the tennis court at "Trevellain," kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. George Gentle. The great features were the tableaux "Sleeping Beauty," and "On the Field of Honour." Mrs. Leonard Kent contributed a great many times to the programme as "Mary" and "The Gay Parisienne." About £30 will be probably realised.

Dr. E. F. and Mrs. Hatton leave for Canada by the *Maraval*, on 26th inst., he having retired from the post of Colonial surgeon. Many individual entertainments were given in their honour. An address and presentation were also made by the medical men of the Colony and some of the Doctor's and his wife's friends. Recruiting is in progress for another contingent. R.M.S. *Towey*, one of our two coastal steamers, has been taken over for naval purposes.

JAMAICA—Messrs. Lindo Bros.' Central.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Mr. Griggs, the locomotive Superintendent of the Government Railway, died, after a very short illness, on May 20th. Mr. C. L. Latham has arrived to take up the duties of United States Consul, relieving Prof. J. C. Monaghan.

Nearly every week brings news of the deaths of prominent sons of Jamaica on the various battle fronts. Among the latest of these was Lieut. Berry King, who lost his life in an aeroplane combat on the Western front. Several thousand men have already left Jamaica in the various contingents and several thousand more are following in their footsteps. Jamaicans who left the island for Colon and Panama during the canal construction period are flocking back to join the colours, as are also those from other points and when, in a happier time, peace is once more restored, Jamaica will not be ashamed to look back on the part she played in assisting towards final victory. A general registration of all males between the ages of 16 and 41 will commence on the 1st of June, but in the meantime recruiting is progressing apace. A women's campaign has been started and a demonstration held on the 24th to inaugurate same.

Messrs. B. A. Issa and Bro. have acquired the business lately carried on by C. M. da Costa. The fruit trade has been considerably brighter this month with presence in the field of two or three firms buying bananas for the American market. On account of the high and soaring prices of foodstuffs the Government have appointed a commission to control same. Preparations

for the Kingston Sewage Farm are also being pressed forward, and it is hoped that a definite start will be made soon.

Messrs. Lindo Bros. are about to erect a Central Sugar Factory at Halfway Tree Pen, St. Andrew, which should prove a boon to planters in that district. Messrs. Grace, Ltd.'s plan to erect a factory in St. Catherine has fallen through, on account of the failure to obtain sufficient guarantees of canes in the district.

Prædial Larceny is still causing great concern coupled with the food growing movement, and a special session of the Legislative Council will be held in July to enact special measures to deal with this evil. The local ban on the exportation of cocoa, coffee, fruit and honey has been removed. Railway receipts for the month of April show a general decrease, chiefly under the heads of "goods and cattle," and "wharf dues." This has been attributed to lack of fruit shipments and absence of shipping. The labour situation, consequent upon the departure of so many men with the various contingents, and the stoppage of supply of Coolies, is causing some concern, and this subject also may be brought up at the coming special session of the Legislature.

The annual report of the Registrar General, just published, shows the population of the island on December 31st last as 897,196 (estimated) and of Kingston as 59,319, excluding St. Andrew.

The entry of the United States into the War on the side of the Allies, was celebrated throughout the island this month and a meeting held in the Ward theatre at which the American Consul was the guest of honour. A message was sent to the President, Mr. Wilson, from the people of Kingston, to which a reply of thanks was received by the Mayor. Rev. R. J. Ripley and Rev. J. J. Graham have been made Canons. The sum of £1,000 has been donated to Calabar High School for scholarships. The 46th shipment of war gifts from the people of Jamaica has been sent forward.

The Jamaica Red Cross Fund has reached £8,339 10s. 10d. The Flying Corps Hospital Fund, £151 2s. 6d.; and the Belgian Orphans' Fund, £172 17s. 6d. The other funds remain as last reported.

TOBAGO—A Banking Epidemic

MR. ROBERT S. REID, June 8th.—The weather is now most favourable, light showers and frequent, and planting and supplying are now in active progress. Estates work is rather retarded in consequence of the natives being all busy in their own gardens, which is exasperating as usual at this season. No doubt our turn will come in due course.

There is quite an epidemic in banks this month. The Royal Bank of Canada is opening its Scarborough Branch, and both Leeward and Windward are inaugurating Agricultural Banks. These are good indications of the awakening prosperity of our little island. We just require a newspaper to air our grievances, which are many, and more especially the darkness in which officialdom keep the Island in respect of taxes collection, movements of officers in our districts, and everything in the way of public matters of interest. For instance, not a word was known in this district about the visit of Mr. Freeman, Acting Director of Agriculture, and meeting to inaugurate an Agricultural Bank at Roxburgh, four miles distant from here, which I would gladly have attended as well as many others besides had the meeting been advertised. With wireless and telephones, there is no excuse for this neglect.

TRINIDAD—Demerara Firm's Enterprise.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, June 20th.—The annual Consular Dinner took place at the Queen's Park Hotel the other evening, and was fully attended. The Dean of the Body, Mons. Paul Serre, Vice-Consul for France, presided. There was a reception concert afterwards, attended by the Governor and Lady Chancellor, and numerous friends of the Consuls. The whole function was very enjoyable and successful, and his colleagues owe much to their Dean for the personal attention given by him which ensured this result.

The extensive premises known for many years as the

Caledonian House, formerly occupied by the late Hon. George Goodwille and his partner, the late Mr. Tertius Wilson, were purchased some time ago by the well-known Demerara firm of Fogarty & Co., Ltd. They have been thoroughly renovated, repaired and improved, and have now received an enormous and valuable stock of dry goods which bids fair to render the establishment one of the finest in every respect in the West Indies. The opening day will be very shortly, and as, no doubt, the same enterprise and ability which has secured the firm success in Demerara will be exercised here, a prosperous career in Trinidad may be anticipated. A good impression has been already made by Mr. Fogarty's selection of local candidates for employment, not only in the junior but in the higher positions. In the latter connection there will be associated in the management a gentleman for many years favourably known in the business, Mr. J. R. Metivier, whose intimate knowledge of the trade and wide circle of well wishers will, I am sure, prove an asset of much value.

At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce a Minute by the Governor, addressed to the Legislative Council, conveying the instructions of the Secretary of State regarding limitation of imports and minimum tonnage for conveyance of exports, was submitted for the observations of members, and a report drawn up by the Committee on the subject was adopted. I enclose all documents, by which you will see that, in the opinion of the Chamber, whilst freight room required for foodstuffs may be increased by the prohibition of such articles as cement from the United States, no useful purpose would be served, but rather the reverse, by limiting imports from United Kingdom, whence, as it is, many steamers already arrive with little more than ballast cargoes. I am glad, however, to report that the long unheeded warnings of possible shortage of food supplies are at last being appreciated to a substantial extent, and the planting of ground provisions may now be said to be general. The praedial larcenist will probably have the time of his life, but, incidentally, he may also be taught a useful lesson or two by the "cat," the application of which in the circumstances will, it is hoped, prove not so objectionable as hitherto to the tender feelings of the authorities fortified by a long series of apparently stereotyped despatches on the subject periodically turned out from Downing Street. It is satisfactory to report that, yielding to the representations of all classes, the Governor has recently extended the application of the Act dealing with the crime of praedial larceny to several new districts.

The anomaly, often referred to but so far unrectified, that an agricultural community such as this should have all its principal Departments represented on the official side of the Legislative Council except the Department of Agriculture, was the subject of debate the other day at a meeting of the Agricultural Society. We are all agreed that the present acting Director of Agriculture, who, it is presumed, will be confirmed in the permanent berth, as he well deserves to be, would be excellently fitted for the position. Mr. Freeman has proved himself to be a most hard working, conscientious, and able officer. He knows his work, and he is able to express its needs with facile tongue and pen. His services to the Agricultural Society, of which he is joint Vice-President with Mr. Henry Warner, have been whole hearted and valuable, and he has done more than any man in the Colony to heal the absurd friction which unhappily existed some years ago, owing to the ill-conceived action of a few misguided persons, between the different bodies representing agricultural interests. To-day they are all working together for the common good. His promotion to the position of Director of Agriculture will therefore be a justly correct and popular one, and it is hoped that it will be accompanied by a seat in the Legislature.

Some further serious complaints against the railway were dealt with at the same meeting of the Society, but the Governor threw oil on the troubled waters by excusing the management on the ground that they were doing their very best in the absence of sufficient plant which was now unprocurable. In this matter, as in most others, Sir John Chancellor's personal influence at once had its effect, and the matter dropped. But what about the disgraceful starvation of this valuable Government under-

taking during all the fat years, culminating in the raising of a loan locally to build a new terminus and devoting the money to other purposes. The parsimony which allowed the plant and material of the Government Railway to run down year after year until to-day it is unequal to requirements which should certainly have been foreseen, is one of the blots on the more recent administration of the Colony, and is in any case not creditable to those responsible.

TURKS ISLANDS Cotton supplies still coming in.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Heavy rain has proved disastrous to the salt industry, a large quantity of salt having been lost.

Mr. Edmonds, of the Baptist Mission, after struggling hard to keep his flock together, has eventually had to give up in despair and has left for Jamaica. A public meeting has been held in the Baptist Church during the afternoon, for the purpose of explaining to the people the seriousness of the situation, the shortness and high prices of supplies.

Supplies of raw cotton are still coming up from the Caicos Islands. The so-called farmers at Grand Turk have not got over the talking stage yet, and have made no pretence of planting any. That being ginned now is of a very good quality. The Commissioner hopes to make a good shipment early next month. Consignments of sponge and sisal have been made to the United States during the month. Negotiations are now under way between local parties and the Cay Company, London (Mr. Holdsworth), for the purchase of the West Caicos property, and from what I can learn from the parties interested, the terms being favourable, they will take over the property and take out all the fibre. In local hands this property should be a paying concern. It is estimated that a quarter of a million sterling has been spent in this property since a Mr. Winter first took it over. All the companies working this property have failed.

BIRTHS.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Foster.—At "Concord House," Lafortunee Estate, Trinidad, on June 10th, the wife of John R. Foster of a son.

Frame.—On the 20th July, at 11, The Chanoury, Old Aberdeen, the wife of Lieut. Ian Macgregor Fraue, Gordon Highlanders, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

Furness Smyth.—On the 10th July, 1917, at St. Peter's, Dublin, Captain R. H. Furness, British West Indies Regiment, Registrar General of British Honduras, second son of the late R. P. Furness, of Preston, Lancs., to Helen, eldest daughter of Major A. C. Smyth, R.M.L.L. (retired) of Ballintemple, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry.

WANT.

Barbadian (white), discharged from H.M. Forces on account of wounds, seeks civil employment for duration of the War. Educated at Combermere School. Apply C. G. S., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

The monthly report of the British Empire Producers' Organisation now appears under the suggestive caption "Production." The July issue contains reports of the speeches at a luncheon given to Mr. Nabokoff, the Russian Minister in London, on June 14th, and to Mr. W. A. Hohman, the Premier of New South Wales, on June 28th. A stirring letter is published from Mr. A. W. Farquharson, who calls to the colours of the B.E.P.O. every merchant, trader, professional man, tradesman, and labourer who should be vitally interested in the movement. It is announced that at the Executive Committee on June 28th it was decided to form an Empire Sugar Research Association. Among recently affiliated Associations are the British Guiana Planters' Association and the Chamber of Commerce of British Guiana.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Decimal System.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—With all due respect to the Committee of the Institute of Bankers, I think they rather went out of their way to introduce the "milreis" from South America, when the decimal system prevailing amongst the Anglo-Saxon races of the northern continent and the West Indies, was at hand for general adoption without any insurmountable difficulty. Let the gold sovereign be reckoned as five dollars of 100 cents, each, as is now almost universally done in conversion of currency throughout the West Indies and North America, and the difficulty is solved! A shilling will then, as in Canada now, be counted as 25 cents, a florin 50 cents, or one-tenth of a pound, a half-penny a cent, as at present, 100 of them going to the dollar, which will be represented by our double florin, or four-shilling piece, and 500 of them to the sovereign a system much more understandable by everybody than that proposed by the Bankers' Committee, involving no change of coinage whatever, and tending to consolidate the grand Anglo-Saxon Alliance as an outcome of the Great War.

"WEST INDIAN."

The Mongoose in the West Indies.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In Mr. R. R. Mole's article on the "Mongus," reproduced in last CIRCULAR, it is stated that "Its advent in the West Indies is attributed to Mr. W. Bancroft Espeut, who brought four males and five females from India to Jamaica in 1872." This must be a mistake, as I remember on my first voyage to the West Indies in October, 1870, on board the old R.M.S. *Nile*, Capt Rivett, we had a few pairs of these animals, consigned to the Administrator of St. Lucia, being introduced there to deal with the deadly snakes abounding in that island; and these were probably the first of their kind brought to the West Indies. Early in the following year (1871) I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bancroft Espeut in Jamaica, when he may have contemplated the introduction of the mongoose for rat killing purposes; but it certainly had not yet made its appearance there.

Yours truly,

LUKE M. HILL.

Cheltenham, July 20th, 1917.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. Robert Gill	Mr. Alfred Mendes
Mr. E. C. B. Bonyun	Mr. Frank Goodwin	Mr. John T. Moir
Prof. P. Carniody, F.I.C.,	Mr. Albert T. Hammond	Miss Moseley
F.R.S.	Mrs. E. Haynes	Dr. Frank Olyphant
Mr. H. S. Cox	Hon. G. S. Hudson	Mr. T. W. O'Neal
Hon. D. S. de Freitas	Mr. E. C. Jackman	Mr. D. G. Pile
Mr. A. W. Duncan	Hon. E. Laborde, I.S.O.	Mr. C. M. Rolston, M.D.
Mr. C. V. A. Esneut	Mr. E. K. Lane	C.M.
Mr. C. Planagin	Mr. A. Marsden	Capt. J. B. Saunders
Mr. M. A. French, J.P.	Mr. T. M. Marshall	Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne
Mr. Edgar Garnett	Mr. A. L. McColl	Mr. R. B. Short
	Mr. Albert Mendes	Mr. M. J. Tauriel
Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.		
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lansdowne Place, Hove.		
Lieut-Col. J. H. Collins, V.D., 38, Compton Road, Wineham Hill N.		
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W.		

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

July 25th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 5th April. The 5 per cent. War Loan is quoted at 94 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan at 94 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan at 87 $\frac{1}{2}$; Consols at 55 $\frac{1}{2}$.

SUGAR. The Cuban crop is practically over and a good idea can be obtained of the amount of the world's sugar available for the next six months. The position is a difficult one to deal with. It is not simply a question of supply and demand in relation to production and wants, but of supply and demand modified by shipping disabilities and official restriction of consumption. The shortage of production on the Continent is a serious one from the consumers' point of view. Leaving out of the question the enemy countries which, certainly as regards sugar, are on their own resources, there are the poor Russian, Dutch and French crops to consider. The fact that the continental beet crop comes in at the end of the year will, of course, not make the shortage of crop felt in regard to the consumer up to the end of the year, although, of course, it must react on prices. On the other hand the cane crops of which the sugar comes into the period promise well. This is especially the case with the most important of these, that of Java, which is such a factor in sugar supply in the latter half of the year, and whose 1917 crop is spoken of as likely to reach 1,700,000 tons. The extended beet crop, also, of the United States will also help supply. But the dominating note is that of shipping. The extra sugar, for instance, in the large Java crop is of no use unless it can be shipped, while scarcity of sugar in Russia will have no effect on prices unless there is tonnage to take sugar there. In fact the economic law of supply and demand has become crippled in operation from want of transport facilities.

At the present rate of the world's consumption, there is bound to be a position of things in the world's sugar supplies which will tend to maintain the present level of prices, unless the Food Control Act which has just been passed in the United States does something in the direction of reducing sugar consumption in that country. It must not be forgotten that it is proposed to place an excise tax on sugar \$1.00 per 100 lbs. It is presumed that the consumer will have to pay this, in which case the reduction of consumption should be automatic. But high prices have not had an appreciable effect in reducing consumption in the United States. In the year 1913, the consumption was 3,743,000 tons; in 1914, 3,760,000 tons; in 1915, 3,801,000 tons; and last year, 3,658,000 tons. The consumption has, therefore, not materially increased, in spite of the increased cost of sugar, and it is extremely unlikely that additional tax will have an effect in this direction. It is however possible that the Food Committee will restrict the consumption of sugar in the United States, which stands at a higher figure. The present consumption is about 86 lbs. per head, and a reduction of this even to 60 lbs. would mean 1,000,000 tons available for the world's purpose, which is now consumed in the United States. The present domestic and territorial supply of the United States is about 2,200,000 tons per annum and a restriction to this amount would be a reasonable step in the direction of reduction of consumption, and would liberate a still larger quantity for the world's use.

The *Daily Commercial Report* of yesterday quotes Brazil sugar basis 78° as having been sold—of course to the Sugar Commission, as the issue of licences for this sugar is suspended—at £29 c.i.f.

Great dissatisfaction continues to be expressed at the way in which the domestic jam sugar was distributed. But when it is remembered that in many, probably the most number of cases, the distribution was through small

country grocers, under considerable difficulties, it may be considered that the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply has got through the business well.

As regards the ordinary distribution, Lord Rhondda has under consideration a new and more workable method, the outlines of which are given on page 287 in this issue, which is expected to come into force shortly.

Stocks of sugar in the United Kingdom remain at much the same figure as last month. On June 30th they amounted to 109,000 tons, consisting of 2,500 tons of foreign refined, 17,800 tons of home refined, and 98,700 tons of unrefined. Last month the stocks were 102,400 tons, and on June 30th last year 156,000 tons. As the Board of Trade no longer publishes the import figures these cannot be given, and consequently no statement of consumption can be made.

A State monopoly of sugar is proposed in Russia. Under the proposed law all Russian sugar will be bought by the State at a price based on the cost of production, and will be sold at a fixed Government price.

The Cuban receipts have reached 2,850,000 tons for the present crop while the weather has been most propitious for next crop.

The price of sugars in the United Kingdom remain unchanged. Cubes are quoted at 53/9, granulated and plantation whites 46/9, British West Indian crystallised 46/9, grocery muscovados 44/6, syrups 42/3

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to July 14th are given below:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Imports	38,152	30,248	30,570	Tons.
Deliveries	35,132	31,442	21,292	..
Stock (July 14th) ...	11,039	9,911	15,287	..

The New York market has remained steady, the value of 96° sugar is \$6 54, with granulated at \$7.90.

RUM. There is nothing to report, importers' stocks being exhausted.

The stocks in London on July 14th were:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Jamaica	8,415	5,889	4,378	puns.
Demerara	10,640	13,998	5,576	..
Total of all kinds ...	31,279	33,558	18,296	..

The total stocks of rum in the United Kingdom on June 30th were 12,162,000 gallons, as against 10,778,000 gallons on June 30th, 1916.

CACAO. Market quiet.

The only auction sales were held yesterday. 4,075 bags were offered, of which only 236 bags were British West Indian. There were practically no sales of West Indian, only 70 bags of damaged Trinidad and 60 of kiln-dried Grenada being sold.

The stocks in London on July 14th were:—

	1917	1916	1915	
Trinidad	28,654	27,660	10,374	bags.
Grenada	27,038	15,547	3,507	..
Total of all kinds ...	279,209	200,711	77,517	..

It is persistently rumoured that negotiations are proceeding for the importation of San Thomé cacao. We can, however, definitely state that they are quite without foundation as far as the Import Restriction Department of the Board of Trade is concerned. The West India Committee is closely watching this matter.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report that owing to the absence of arrivals, there is no business to report in West Indian Sea Island cotton, but that there are plenty of enquiries, and quotations are very firm at 41d. to 45d. The quantity of West Indian cotton imported into the United Kingdom for the year up to July 19th was 1,879 bales.

Imports into the United Kingdom of raw cotton of all

sorts for the month of June were 71,967,500 lbs. as against 155,699,400 lbs. for June last year. This makes 824,536,600 lbs. and 1,140,807,900 lbs. for January-June of 1917 and 1916 respectively. The exports of raw cotton for June was 8,889,500 lbs as against 38,635,900 lbs. in June last year, and for the six months 10,576,700 lbs. and 182,253,100 lbs. for 1917 and 1916 respectively.

COFFEE. Market quiet. At auction sales yesterday, 310 bags of Jamaica were bought in. The value of prime Santos is 63/-

COPRA. The market continues steady, but quiet at unchanged rates, value £46 c.i.f., terms net cash.

The imports of copra into the United Kingdom were 4,589 bags for June, making 26,897 tons for the six months.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: No change in raw. Concentrated firm and in good demand. Lime Oil: There is no demand for distilled and consignments cannot be advised. Hand-pressed is scarce and selling at 16/- Ctrate is firm.

SPICES. Nutmegs are firm. Two cases of West Indian, slightly wormy, have been sold at 10½d. Mace: firm. West Indian of good quality sold at 1/3. Ginger is very quiet. Only small sales of Jamaica have been made at about 2/6 per cwt. decline from recent top prices. Pimento is lifeless. Importers are selling at 3½d., but second-hand lots are quoted rather below this figure.

HONEY. There is very little enquiry generally and hardly any transactions to report. Next auction to-morrow.

ARROWROOT. Only small business in second-hands at firm rates reported. Quotations nominally 5d. to 7½d., although nothing would be obtainable at the former price.

RUBBER. Market firm. For plantation kinds the value of Crepe is 2/7½. Fine hard Para is worth 3/2½.

The imports of rubber for the month of June amounted to 17,196,300 lbs as against 11,478,000 in last June, making 110,122,800 lbs. for the six months. The exports were 10,990,300 lbs as against 10,284,600 lbs. for June last year. For the six months the exports were 8,071,200 lbs.

BALATA. Market steady. Business has been done in Venezuelan block at 3/1½ c.i.f. Spot quotation is 3/4½, landed. Panama block, buyers at 2/9 c.i.f.; sellers, 2/10½ c.i.f., or 3/- spot. West Indian sheet is worth 3/10½ to 3/11 landed.

The following gifts have been forwarded to the West India Committee by Mr. John Barclay, of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, for distribution:—

Ten bags of sugar (2,617 lbs.) from Mrs. D. Henderson, for the Y.M.C.A. and Methodist Soldiers' Canteens at Blairgowrie; clothing for destitute Belgian civilians from St. Michael's Branch of the Mothers' Union per Mrs. C. O. Magnan and the Spanish Town Branch of the Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. E. E. Taylor; Clothing for the Serbian Relief Committee from Mrs. Rhodes; Case of cotton (30 lbs.) for Blue Cross Fund from Mr. J. E. Owen; clothing, bandages, cushions and pillows for Princess Mary's Needlework Guild, from the Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne; hospital bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien's Hospital Bag Fund, from the Mandeville Ladies' Working Association and the Upward and Onward Society, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne; garments and pillows for the British Red Cross Society, hospital bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien, and clothing for Belgian Destitute Civilians, from the Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. Branch; 18,000 White Seal Cigarettes for the 2nd West India Regiment from the Officers of the 1st West India Regiment, per Lieut. A. H. Vince; and 1 ton of sugar for British Prisoners of War from first sales of Jamaica Gift Book, per Miss Edith Clarke.

The West India Committee Circular

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August 9th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

WHEN the West Indian Club was founded in 1898, the experiment of establishing a social headquarters for West Indians in England was regarded as a doubtful one. Many attempts had been made to maintain clubs for visitors from various parts of the King's Dominions, but all had failed. The West Indian Club, however, was established on eminently sound lines. It was registered at the outset as a limited liability company, the liability of its members in the event of its being wound-up—a contingency which will, we hope, never arise—being limited to a purely nominal sum. The original signatories were the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, MR. ARTHUR N. LUBBOCK, MR. R. RUTHERFORD, MR. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD, CAPTAIN HARRIS, and DR. G. B. MASON, the actual founder, all men respected in the West Indies; and the Committee has always been a very representative one which has faithfully carried out the objects of the

Club. The principal of these objects are to bring persons interested in the West Indies and British Guiana together, in order to promote the discussion and consideration of questions affecting those Colonies, and to afford facilities for organising in connection with the West Indies and British Guiana annual cricket matches and other kindred amusements recognised by our English Universities and Public Schools. A glance over the file of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, in which the proceedings of the Club have been recorded, will show how faithfully these objects have been and are being carried out. The result is that, whilst many London Clubs have found themselves in difficulties since the outbreak of war, the experience of the West Indian Club has been altogether different. It is, we are glad to learn, in quite a flourishing state, and at the present moment it is still in the unique position of being the only institution of the kind with London premises of its own representing any individual Colony or Dominion—and we like to regard the West Indies as a single Colony, though it is not so in a strictly constitutional sense. This afternoon, in pursuance of their primary object, the members of the Club entertained at luncheon MR. WALTER LONG, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who delivered a speech which will be read with great satisfaction throughout the West Indies, and on those battle fronts on which the West Indian Contingents, of which we are so justly proud, are serving, for he expressed in no measured terms, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, 'great appreciation of the work which is being done by the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment. Further, he foreshadowed the publication of an official report upon the prowess of that unit, whose casualty lists, which we are publishing in our columns, alone tell their story of gallantry under fire. As MR. RUTHERFORD, who presided at the luncheon, rightly said, the West Indies, for their size and relative importance, are doing as much in the Great War as the Dominions, and it must not be thought that because less is heard of our West Indian friends and their doings, their splendid effort is not valued to the fullest extent. In passing, MR. LONG paid a compliment to the West Indian Contingent Committee, whose Committee are ungrudging in their labour for the welfare of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, and of others connected with the West Indies who are fighting for their King and Empire. In the course of his remarks, which struck a strong Imperial note, MR. LONG made no direct reference to such questions

as Imperial Preference or Federation, but said that it would be impossible that the future of the Empire could be at all like what it had been in the immediate past; and MR. RUTHERFORD'S statement that the West India Committee was making enquiries of the various Chambers of Commerce in the West Indies as to their views on the subject of Federation was received with applause. MR. LONG also took the opportunity of paying a well-deserved compliment to MR. DAVSON for having brought the various Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies together into one central body. His speech was received with enthusiasm by the members and their guests, and the thanks of the West Indian communities are, we venture to think, due to the West Indian Club for securing the ventilation of West Indian affairs by entertaining so prominent a statesman as the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE TRADE OF DOMINICA.

ELSEWHERE in the present CIRCULAR we publish an article by a correspondent on the Trade of Dominica, which, as we foreshadowed, has not suffered so severely from the two devastating storms which have visited it since the outbreak of war as was anticipated. The total trade of the island during the last financial year amounted in value to the comfortable figure of £420,498. The exports of the island are varied in their nature, but out of a total value of £212,301, lime products are responsible for no less than £172,056, which points to the urgent need of the development of subsidiary industries, to which, we are glad to learn, the local Agricultural Department is paying constant attention; and it is satisfactory to learn that coco-nuts are being planted very extensively on the coast-land. Efforts are also being made to render the island more self-supporting in regard to its food supply; but, as usual, these are being hampered by the prevalence of prædial larceny, a form of crime to which we only recently referred in these columns. On the occasion of the introduction of a Bill to cope with this evil by the infliction of corporal punishment, MR. A. W. MAHAFFY, the Administrator, had some trenchant remarks to make. That the crime was a very serious and very prevalent one was, he said, agreed to on all hands; that it was very deeply implanted in the nature of the inhabitants of all West Indian Islands was perfectly well recognised; that it could ever be wholly eradicated was more than doubtful. He continued: "It is our duty to devise some means by which this very unfortunate state of affairs can be modified. You know that a law, of the kind that you will have before you presently, was recently passed in Trinidad, and the consensus of opinion in these islands seems to be that the infliction of corporal punishment on the thief will prove a useful and effective method for at least checking the volume of this crime, which is almost certainly on the increase. At a time when the planting of food crops is of the greatest importance to us all, on account of the very serious and increasing shortage of the world's supply of grain and other necessaries, which must, if we are to survive, be largely supplemented by home-grown pro-

ducts, I find that it is actually a fact, vouched for by every class of the population—ministers of religion, planters, peasant proprietors, and, moreover, proved by the great number of convictions for prædial larceny—that the unfortunate planter of provisions is actually deterred from this necessary industry by the certainty—for it almost amounts to that—that he will never reap what he has sown, but that his produce, often before it reaches maturity, will be stolen by one of the rogues' gang of garden thieves." MR. MAHAFFY went on to say that the existence of this state of affairs was a disgrace to any community, and a wide and dark blot on the fair fame of the island—a sentiment with which all law-abiding citizens must be in agreement. As to remedies, he said: "I am told by those who know these people well that corporal punishment will certainly reduce the crime of prædial larceny; my own experience leads me to agree that among certain of the lower kinds of men it is the *ultima ratio*, the final appeal, and that it is generally successful. Let us, then, try it, since no other form of punishment or appeal to the better feelings of this class of scoundrel seems to have any effect; and let us hope that the infliction of that punishment will prove a deterrent from at least some portion of the crime of theft, which disgraces and humiliates us all."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The fourth year of the War finds the Allies faced by an antagonist staggering a little perhaps, but determined, resourceful, and, in spite of carefully prepared appearances, as united as ever. The collapse of Russia is to a certain extent counterbalanced by the entry of America into the War. But since her military strength is not likely to be felt until next year, Great Britain and France must rely upon themselves for another six months, at least. Peace in Germany and Austria is continuously discussed because they both desire it now. But the substitution of Dr. Michaelis for Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg indicates that they want it on their own terms. The only difference is that the fact is proclaimed with less arrogance than of yore, and the demand for indemnities is dropped. But no one can doubt that if the War ended in a draw, the demand would be revived again. What the enemy realises very well is the strategic and economic strength of his position between the North Sea and Constantinople, particularly as, so far, he has been able to use the territorial waters of Holland and Scandinavia both for military and commercial purposes. This is incomprehensible to our French and American Allies—at any rate, where Holland is concerned—and recently the British danger zone was brought up close to Dutch territorial waters, just off Texel, so as enormously to increase the risks of the contraband trade. Now that seven ships have been destroyed by our light Naval forces, and about thirty vessels held up, we are told that the new British danger zone is suspended while Holland awaits a reply from Germany as to the suggested alteration of the "safe channel." How long will that be?

Even more heartening to the enemy is the meeting of Socialists in Paris, attended by Mr. Henderson, a member of the British War Cabinet, Mr. Wardle, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, with reference to the representation of Allied Labour men at the Stockholm Conference, which is to take place in September. It is understood that in this matter the French and British Governments and Labour organisations in France and England were complying with the wishes of the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates in Petrograd against their better judgment. But what has this body done for Russia or for the Allied cause that such consideration should be shown to it?

The Offensive in the West.

By this time last year the enemy had begun to learn that the New Armies were carrying on the splendid traditions of the incomparable Expeditionary Force with which we began the War on land. Now he knows that they can take any position, however formidable nature and science together make it, following up the hard-won victories on the Somme and Ancre with the brilliant successes of Vimy and Messines. That the British offensive which began so well last spring achieved less than was expected of it was, so far as one can judge, partially due to a certain want of adaptability in the Anglo-French Armies in meeting the new German tactics, which consist in withdrawing from one line to another directly the Anglo-French Armies get familiar with it. On the Chemin des Dames, where these tactics are impossible, General Pétain, who has taken General Nivelle's place, has adopted Fabian methods, seizing his opportunity to deliver heavy blows at isolated points when he can take the Germans at a disadvantage, and so countering his best prepared massed attacks. The losses of the French in the struggle for the California, Casemates, and Craonne plateaux are large, but the losses of the Germans are much larger.

The Third Battle of Ypres.

For some time past a new British offensive has been anticipated, the recent German coast attack having been designed to counter it. But instead of Artois being the scene, as was expected, it is Flanders. For weeks before the actual thrust, every kind of missile was systematically rained on the enemy's defences. So intense was the fire, indeed, that its effects were felt as far away as Hampstead. It was the culmination of this form of attack. The line of advance, facilitated by our aviators, who acted as cavalry corps, extended from the Yser on the north to the Lys on the south, the French carrying Steenstraete, Bixschote, and other positions on a front of two and a half miles; the British, Pilkem, St. Julien, Frezenberg, Verlorenhoek, Hooge, Westhoek, Hollebeke, and La Basse Ville. The names have all been rendered familiar by the valour of the Regular Army and its Territorial reinforcements in the first and second battles of Ypres. In spite of the most stubborn resistance of the enemy, the Allies have been able to consolidate their gains except at one point, between St. Julien and Westhoek, where he gained a footing, though next day

he was driven out again. This sector was the scene of the first gas attack by the Germans, and of the gallantry of the first Canadian Contingent, which prevented a break in the British line. In truth the Ypres front is the most hallowed ground on the Western front for British and Germans alike.

Our usual ill-luck in weather on the morrow of a big offensive still pursues us. In ordinary times the Flanders terrain is so intersected by canals, lakes, rivers, and ponds, that on a military map it looks as if it were half water, but with the torrential rain of the past week it is a quagmire of mud, which permits many of the German concrete shelters and gun emplacements to be overturned by our artillery fire. As for the troops engaged, they are frequently up to their knees in slush. The most dramatic result of the new Allied advance is the release of Ypres—now a heap of ruins—after nearly three years of torment. The immediate objectives of the Allies were the Ypres and Pilkem ridges, of which we have captured the edge. The battle is being continued round Hooge and Bixschote.

The Russian Retreat.

What the Russians contemptuously call "politicking" has in a few short months destroyed the *moral* of at least two of the armies on the Eastern Front. By surrendering Tarnopol, an important railway junction and the administrative centre of the Russian military forces in North-eastern Galicia, a local retreat became a general one on a wide front. For, though the Seventh Army opposed the enemy's advance on the successive lines of defence offered by the Zlota Lipa, the Strypa, and the Sereth, they could not hold out on any, because of the danger of being outflanked. In the same way Trembowla was evacuated before a converging attack from north and south made by hostile forces which had broken through at Loszniow and Podhajczyki. South of the Dniester priceless positions which have been in Russian hands for a year or more have also fallen—Stanislaw, Nadvorna, Delatyn, and the railway from Marmaros Sziget, in Hungary, to Halicz, and with the loss of Czernowitz and Kimpolung nearly the whole of the Bukovina has gone, which may have unfortunate effects in Rumania. In the meantime, Russian officers, besides forming regiments of themselves to stay the retirement, and taking drastic measures against deserters, have made strenuous efforts to create a diversion in the Vilna and Dwinsk sectors, and with some success. In Rumania the fighting reported may be the beginning of a big attack, and the German admission that the Russo-Rumanian forces have already won "local advantages" is encouraging.

It is worthy of note that the rot in the Russian armies began at the point where the Russians were farthest in Austrian territory. In the Dwinsk and Riga regions, where the Russians are on Russian soil, there are fewer signs of disorganisation. Apparently under the belief, inculcated from Petrograd, that if the soldier only retired from Austrian territory the Germans would retire from him, he has rapidly retired. But, whatever were the ideas at the root of the indiscipline which has so deeply affected whole masses of Russian troops, the result

is the same. The "Revolutionary Armies" have abandoned in about ten days nearly all the ground which was won at great cost by the Imperial Armies last year in the course of four months' determined fighting. It is to be hoped that a strong Government will soon be established, as without that it is not easy to see how, in a country like Russia, the Army is once more to be reorganised and re-inspired into a potent instrument of the national will. Discipline, which depends so much on spirit and tradition, once lost, entails a long and difficult process before it can be restored. General Brussiloff has resigned his position of Commander-in-Chief. His successor is General Korniloff.

The War at Sea.

Our losses through "U"-boat activities continue to be large. In the week ended 22nd July, 21 vessels over 1,600 tons were sunk, and three under; in the following week the figures were 18 and 3, and last week 21 and 2 respectively. As the total tonnage is never given, it is difficult to form a clear idea of the situation. But the appeal of Admiral Jellicoe to the shipbuilding trade, the statement of Sir Joseph Maclay, the Shipping Controller, and the assurances of the Prime Minister last week are not calculated to allay public misgiving. For they all refer to construction for the mercantile marine, as if it depends upon factors which are not yet under State control. However necessary aeroplanes, munitions, and other military necessities may be, new ships are more important than any of them.

On July 22nd the armed merchant cruiser *Otway* was sunk by a "U"-boat, with a loss of ten men, and submarine C 34 with the loss of all on board save one, a stoker, who was taken prisoner. An old cruiser dating from 1895, the *Ariadne*, has also been lost. The explosion killed 38 men, but fortunately all the rest of the ship's company were saved.

In East Africa.

The rounding-up of the Germans in the south-eastern corner of East Africa is a protracted business, due to several causes. The terrain is extraordinarily difficult; it is pestilential, and it is at a great distance from the Central Railway. Before General Smuts left for England he reported that 90 per cent. of the horses were lost in one short march, and so heavy was the death-rate amongst Union troops that, to supplement them, native levies were raised and trained. Moreover, the country is hundreds of miles in extent, and the Germans within its limits are skilfully led and operating in interior lines. It is to be hoped that before the rainy season comes round again, General Vandevanter will have secured the surrender of Germany's largest and last remaining colony.

(To be continued.)

It is hoped that those comparatively few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year will do so without delay. This is especially important in view of the great increase in the cost of production of the CIRCULAR. Subscriptions may be sent direct or, preferably, paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Mr. Walter Long Entertained.

Mr. Walter Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was entertained at luncheon by members of the West Indian Club on Thursday, August 9th. Mr. Robert Rutherford presided, and the company present included:—

Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., M.P., His Honour Chief Justice Collier, Major de Boissière, Major H. Max Knox-Niven, Captain G. B. Mason, Captain Rigoud, Commander W. Coombs, R.N., Sub-Lieut. Percival Davson, Hon. D. S. de Freitas, Mr. Shirley Benn, M.P., Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Algernon B. Aspinall, Mr. Harry Brittain, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. de Valda, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. G. D. Laborde, Mr. D. R. Fraser, Mr. G. A. G. Paterson, Mr. L. W. Gwyn, Mr. A. H. L. Martin-Sperry, Mr. J. Bastiaans, Mr. J. K. D. Hill, Mr. E. H. C. Craig, Mr. S. C. O. Pontifex, Mr. J. F. Mann, Mr. Thomas G. Nicholson, Mr. S. S. C. Messum, Mr. Robert Duff, Mr. E. A. Robinson, Mr. R. A. Swan, Mr. M. S. Moody-Stuart, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. H. B. G. Austin, Mr. E. C. Jackman, Mr. B. Bonyun, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. H. M. Graham, Mr. S. J. Rowle, Mr. S. W. Rowlestone, Mr. G. S. Maskell, Mr. H. S. Batterbee and Mr. W. A. M. Goode.

Mr. Rutherford, proposing the health of Mr. Walter Long, explained briefly the objects of the Club. It was, he said, non-political, although naturally members had their own views on such subjects as Imperial Preference and Federation. Their real objects, however, were to extend hospitality and promote good fellowship, and to encourage the sports and pastimes recognised by our Public Schools and Universities, and it would no doubt interest their guest to hear that they had on two occasions been the means of bringing cricket teams from the West Indies to this country, and had also aided in sending English teams to the West Indies, thus helping to keep up the traditions of that grand old English game, a game the Germans could not play, either on the field or in any other sphere.

Very cordial relations existed between the Club and the West India Committee, of which body he had the honour to be Chairman. The Committee watched over the business interests of the West Indies; the Club offered social amenities, and was in the unique position of being the only Club, in the accepted sense, representing a single Colony— if the West Indies might be described as that. (Applause.)

At the last Club luncheon a good deal was heard about federation, a subject of which more would no doubt be said in the not distant future, and it might be of interest to their guest to learn that at their last meeting the Executive of the West India Committee unanimously decided to ascertain the views of the members of the various agricultural and commercial societies throughout the West Indies regarding the subject, in respect of which they were all, he thought, agreed that the first move must be made in the West Indies. Meanwhile they had a notable example of Union in the West Indian Contingent, of which West Indians were so justly proud. There was not a single colony in the British West Indies—to say nothing of our mainland possessions in Central and South America—which had not contributed its quota

the British West Indies Regiment. In this connection he would, he knew, be voicing a general feeling in expressing, as he did, the hope that the rather discouraging veil of secrecy which had obscured the work of our gallant men, who were now so widely distributed throughout practically every seat of war, might be raised to some extent.

The West Indian Club had thrown open its doors, not only to West Indians, but also to Canadians, and, together with the West India Committee, was co-operating with the West Indian Contingent Committee, an organisation established by Mr. Long's predecessor, Mr. Bonar Law. That Committee, which was being so well handled by its Honorary Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, now had under its wing not only the British West Indies Regiment, but also all officers, non-commissioned officers, and men from or connected with the West Indies—who numbered many hundreds—who were fighting for King and Empire, and he must mention specially, in this connection, the splendid young men who had come over independently at the expense of the merchants and citizens of Trinidad and Barbados. The West Indies could claim a V.C.—that won by the late Frank Alexander de Pass, of the Poona Horse, the son of an honoured member of the West Indian Club—and several Military Crosses and Medals, and they were satisfied that the record of her sons would be an honourable and glorious one when it came to be written. He would also like to say something of what the West Indies had furnished in money and in kind towards the prosecution of the War; but if he were to do so, he would embarrass the company with figures, so many had been these gifts to the Imperial Government, the National Relief Fund, the Red Cross, aeroplanes, ambulances, etc., and also to the Belgian Relief Fund, so ably organised by the Hon. Secretary of the Club, Mr. Goode. He was confident that for their size and relative importance the West Indies had done and were doing as much in this great War as the Dominions, whose splendid efforts had their greatest admiration.

Mr. Walter Long on the B.W.I.'s.

Mr. Long, replying to the toast, which was cordially received, reminded the company that it had fallen to his lot, as President of the M.C.C., to entertain the West Indian Cricket XI, and he was glad to meet its Captain, Mr. H. B. G. Austin, again. He said that the West Indies had responded to every call for men which had been made upon them. They had, indeed, actually provided more men than it had been possible to convey to the seat of war. The West Indies battalions had fought everywhere except Salonika, and he had already taken steps to lift the veil on the performances they had accomplished. Wherever they had gone they had shown themselves fit and worthy representatives of the best traditions of the British Army—and what higher tribute could be paid to them than to say that? He wished also to pay tribute to the valuable work which was being done by the West Indian Contingent Committee.

The West Indies had not confined themselves merely to the provision of men; they had helped us in the provision of munitions, and they had been munificent in the gifts they had made to the bur-

dens which the War entailed. In this War our distant possessions had played a part which had won for them eternal honour, which had made its mark upon the conduct of the campaign, and rendered it impossible that the future of the Empire could be anything at all like what it had been in the past. The fundamental error of the British Empire had been, in the first place, the inability to realise and recognise its enormous powers, and the immense addition our distant possessions could make, and would make, if they were given the opportunity to defend the Empire.

We were not only unprepared in a military sense, but we were unprepared to take advantage of the almost unlimited possessions which the Empire enjoyed. If there had been a bureau in London provided with this information, our task would have been infinitely easier. And if, in addition, there had been machinery for its utilisation for our immediate needs, our strength would have been greater, and, he believed, the duration of the War would have been shorter. Those were practical lessons which everyone must now have learnt. He welcomed the formation of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies, whose President was beside him, believing that its meetings would be of the utmost value to Imperial and Colonial commerce. (Applause.)

We were sometimes told that commerce and politics should be separated. He was an old Parliamentary hand and an old party man—and he had a firm belief in and admiration for the principles of his party—but the moment had come when we must reconsider our position. This War had brought to us fellow-citizens from the most distant parts of the Empire, with whom we were in closer community of thought than ever before, and out of this surely something would come which would make the Empire for our children and grandchildren an even greater possession than it was when it came to us. Those sentiments would, however, lead to nothing unless every one made up his mind that responsibility for the future lay on him individually, and that he must throw his whole energy into the work of re-casting the Empire. This would not be done if we relied on political parties.

In re-casting the Empire, the needs of our distant possessions must be borne in mind. We must remember that the Empire was a great Empire. It was no longer sufficient to talk as if we were a European Power only; it was no longer sufficient to think of the balance of power in Europe; we had got to look at the British Empire spread all over the world. We must never let ourselves be caught unprepared again; and whether it be in the West Indies, or in any other part of the Empire, he hoped that thoughtful men would realise that one result of the War must be, if we were to make proper use of our opportunities and advantages, to make the British Empire more united and more completely self-supporting and capable of preserving the peace of the world than it had ever been before.

Mr. Rutherford having responded to the toast of his health, which was proposed by Mr. Davson, the members adjourned to the morning room of the Club.

FEDERATION.

A Bristolian's Views.

The following article from the pen of a correspondent who veils his identity under the initial "X" is published in the Year Book of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute which has just been issued.

During the last half-century we have seen three great Federations formed within the British Empire. In 1867 Canada was established a Dominion; in 1900 the Australian Commonwealth was erected; whilst in the year 1910 was established the Union of South Africa—all Federations which have tended to concentrate British ideals, and to enlarge the Imperial horizon and scope for development. It is not unreasonable, therefore, that in this active and widespread atmosphere of State Federalisation, an atmosphere which is in addition rapidly, perceptibly, and increasingly permeating our every-day affairs and business interests, students in Empire politics should consider whether there are not other portions of His Majesty's possessions which could with advantage to those possessions and the Empire be welded together in one political whole.

In West Africa a commencement has very recently been made by the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria into one Protectorate, under the able control of that capable administrator, Sir Frederick Lugard. This amalgamation is extremely interesting as indicating the adoption by His Majesty's Government of the policy of Federalisation in the concerns and constitutions of Crown Colonies. It is particularly important from the standpoint of these colonies not possessing responsible Government, which from their geographical situation and from their community of interests might similarly be regarded as prepared for some form of chosen union.

A glance at those parts of the map marked red will show that the West Indian Colonies are obviously designed for some form of Federation amongst themselves. Clustered together in the sea over a comparatively small area, stretching on the east from the Virgin Islands to the Island of Trinidad in the south, and some 350 miles still further south to that great undeveloped territory (90,000 square miles in extent), British Guiana, situated on the mainland of the South American Continent, these Colonies to-day are scattered units of insignificant political and commercial importance. Collectively, however, they assume some weight in the trade deliberations of the Empire—for we find that exclusive of Jamaica, which lies by itself, they have an expanding total trade of £15,000,000; that their area is 93,000 square miles, and that their population is a little over 1,000,000 souls. On investigation we discover also that they have numerous interests in common, more especially those interests created by the tropical products which they so fruitfully produce and export, and by the resulting trade and shipping.

We observe, moreover, that the various Colonies deem it necessary from time to time to hold Conferences through selected representatives to consider the problems arising out of these trade and

shipping questions. Similar Conferences, we are aware, formed the jumping-off ground of our large Dominion Federations. It was, indeed, by means of such Conferences that the States in Canada, Australia, and South Africa first clearly recognised the necessity for closer organisation of their interests, and for some form of Union which would regularise those Conferences, and place them on such a footing as would constitute them parliamentary assemblies with legislative powers.

Canadian-West Indian reciprocity, to which all the West Indian Colonies—except Jamaica—have given their adherence, is the factor most calculated to force Federation upon the West Indies to-day. Already this reciprocity Treaty has been the cause of one Conference, and as the bonds, commercial and otherwise, created by that Treaty become more numerous, so will the problems arising out of them assume larger proportions and importance; so will concerted action become more and more essential on the part of the West Indian Colonies; and so are other Conferences bound to follow, which will tend, we hope, to awaken further that spirit of mutual co-operation and nationalism upon which all Federations have necessarily been founded.

In this respect mention cannot be omitted of the Panama Canal, an important waterway which seems bound to revolutionise shipping conditions in our West Indian Colonies. It is improbable that the extent of possible resulting development in the West Indies can be gauged with any degree of accuracy for several years after the Canal has been operating, but it is incontrovertible that certain British West Indian islands lie right on the direct line of probable fresh steamer routes, and that others are situated not inconveniently far off those routes. Thus, granting that proper harbour facilities are provided, it is not unlikely that in course of time most of the islands will benefit from the increased shipping activity which may be expected. And if so, the West Indian Colonies may once more loom as large in the Imperial outlook as they did in the old sugar days, when they formed a continuous bone of contention between the French and British nations, and a constant source of wealth to whoever were the temporary victors.

But, in any case, we can well believe that problems will arise in connection with the Panama Canal which will necessitate continued deliberation and action amongst the British Colonies that form the screen to the Canal, and that, therefore, the opening of the Panama Canal constitutes another factor for Federation with which West Indians have seriously to reckon.

Now let us consider for a moment what form of political union would be suitable to apply to the conditions existing in the West Indies. It is admitted to-day by many thinking people in those Colonies that some form of closer association is desirable, but at the same time it is universally agreed that any constitution should definitely provide that all affairs of purely local interest—including taxation—should remain untouched and under the complete control of the local Executives and Legislatures, and that no colony would brook any interference with what it regards as its local

interests. The fear of any breach of these conditions leads many West Indians to fight shy of any measure of federation whatsoever, and unless these fears can be allayed, or circumstances overwhelm the consequent opposition, there will apparently always be a strong hostile section of opinion in the West Indies against Federations. But if we were to assume that some form of federation is regarded as desirable, and is demanded by the inhabitants of this beautiful and fertile chain of Colonies, surely some method can be devised of overcoming the obstacles to union presented by any interference with local affairs and taxation, and a measure found to provide a solution for their political co-operation.

(To be concluded.)

A JAMAICA COCOA WALK.

The West India Committee has acquired by purchase a well-preserved copy of the second edition of Oldmixon's work, "The British Empire in America, containing the History of the Discovery, Settlement, Progress and State of the British Colonies on the Continent and Islands of America." (London: 1741.)

It is full of interesting reading, and we extract from it, for the benefit especially of readers interested in the production and sale of the "Golden Bean," the following account of a Cocoa Walk in Jamaica.

Oldmixon writes: "There is more Cocoa comes from thence than from all our Colonies. But it is now no longer a Commodity to be regarded in our Plantations, tho' at first it was the principal Invitation to the peopling Jamaica. For those Walks the Spaniards left behind them there when we conquered it, produced such prodigious Profit with little Trouble, that Sir Thomas Modiford and several others, set up their Rests to grow wealthy by it, and fell to planting much of it, which the Spanish Slaves who remained in the Island, always foretold would never thrive, and so it happened; for tho' it promised fair, and throve finely five or six Years, yet still at that Age, when so long Hopes and Care had been wasted about it, it withered and died away by some unaccountable Cause, tho' they impute it to a black Worm or Grub, which they find clinging to its Root.

"The Manner of Planting it is in Order like our Cherry Gardens. They place a Plantain by every Tree, and when it is grown up, it resembles a Cherry Tree. It delights in Shade, and for that Reason has the Plantain set by it. The Cocoa Walks are kept clear from Grass by Hoing and Weeding. The Trees begin to bear fruit at three, four, or five Years old; and did they not almost always die before, would come to Perfection at 15 Years Growth, and last till 30; which renders them the most profitable Trees in the world, one acre of them having cleared above 200 l. in a Year: But the old Trees planted by the Spaniards being gone by Age, and few new thriving as the Spanish Negroes foretold, little or none now is produced,

worthy the Care and Pains in planting and expecting it. Those Slaves ascribe its not coming to Perfection to a superstitious Cause, many religious Rites being performed at its planting by the Spaniards, which their Slaves were not permitted to see: But it is probably that wary Nation, as they removed the Art of making Cocheneal and curing Veneloes into their Island Provinces, which were the Commodities of the Islands in the Indians Time, and forbad the opening any Mines in them, for Fear some maritime Nation might be tempted to conquer them; so in transplanting the Cocoa from the Caraccas and Quatamela on the Continent, they might conceal wilfully some Secret in its Planting from their Slaves.

"Cocoa grows on the Trees in Bags or Cods of greenish, red or yellow Colours, every Cod having in it three, four or five Kernels, about the Bigness and Shape of small Chestnuts; which are separated from each other by a very pleasant refreshing white Substance, about the Consistence of the Pulp of a roasted Apple, moderately sharp and sweet, from which its Nuts are taken when ripe, and by drying cured.

"The Body of a Cocoa Tree is commonly about four Inches Diameter, five Foot in Height, and above 12 from the Ground to the Top of the Tree. These Trees are very different from one another, for some shoot up in two or three Bodies, others in one. Their Leaves are many of them dead, and most discoloured, unless on very young Trees. A bearing Tree generally yields from two to eight Pound of Nuts a year, and each Cod contains from 20 to 30 Nuts.

"The manner of Curing them is to cut them down when ripe, and to lay them to sweat three or four Days in the Cods; which is done by laying them on Heaps. After this the Cods are cut, the Nuts taken out and put in a Trough, covered with Plantain Leaves; where they sweat again about 16 or 20 Days. The Nuts that are in each Cod are knit together by certain Fibres, and have a white Kind of Pulp about them, very agreeable to the Palate, as has been hinted before. By the Turning and Sweating their little Strings are broken, and the Pulp is imbibed and mingled with the Substance of the Nut. After this they are put to dry three or four Weeks in the Sun, and then they become of a reddish dark Colour. The Cods grow only out of the Body or great Limbs and Boughs, at the same place there are Blossoms and young and ripe Fruit.

"The greatest Crop at most of the Cocoa Walks in Jamaica, is in December or January; but at one of Col. Modiford's Walks they bear most in May, yet it is not above five Miles from those Walks that bear in December always; but those that bear then have some Fruit in May, as the others have in December. 'Tis planted first in the Night, always under Shade. Some set them under Cassave, others under Plantane Trees, and some in their Woods. The Spaniards used a certain large shady Plant, called by them Madre di Cocoa, the Mother of Cocoa. The English use the others only. It must always be sheltered from the North East Winds.

"The People at Jamaica seldom transplant it, only where it falls, as it does often in open, poor and dry Lands; for this Tree requires to have a flat,

moist, low Soil, which makes them to be planted commonly by Rivers and between Mountains. 'Tis an observation, that it is ill living where there are good Cocoa Walks. In a Year's Time the Plant becomes four Foot high, and has a Leaf six Times as big as an old Tree, which as the Plant grows bigger falls off, and a lesser comes in its Place. The Trees are almost always planted at two Foot Distance, and sometimes at three Years old where the Ground is good and the Plant prosperous, it begins to bear a little, and then they cut down all or some of the Shade. The Fruit encreases till the 10th or 12th Year, when the Tree is supposed to be in its Prime. The Root generally shoots out Suckers, that supply the Place of the old Stock when dead or cut down, unless any ill Quality of the Ground or Air kill both.

"Cocoa was originally of these Indies and wild. Towards Maracaço are several Spots of it in the Mountains, and it is said the Portuguese have lately discovered whole Woods of it up the River Maranon. The Cocoa passes for Money in New Spain and the Silver Countries.

"The following Account is a Calculation of the Charge and Profit of a Cocoa Walk, as it was drawn up by Sir Thomas Modiford, Bart., who had the best in Jamaica.

	l.
For the Patent of 500 Acres of Land, when the Country was first conquered	10
For three Men and three Women Negroes, at 20 l. a Head	120
Four White Servants, their Passage and Maintenance, at 20 l. a Head	80
20 Hatchets, 20 Pick-Axes, and 20 Spades	5
The Maintenance of six Negroes six Months, till Provisions can be raised for them	18
For an Overseer, 40 s. a Month	24
	257

"These Men must begin to work the first Day of March, and build themselves Huts, plant Potatoes, Corn and Plantains, and when the Plantation is ready to receive them, there must be bought five Negro Men and five Negro Women more at 20 l. a Head, 200 l. And at the latter End of March the Planter must plant his Cocoa, either in the Nut or Seed, between Rows of Plantains of six Foot high. Twenty one Acres will be proper to be planted every Year, and by the first of June in the following Year, the Walk will be full of Cocoas; which in four Years' Time will bear Fruit, and in the fifth be fit to gather. Every Acre will produce 1000 Weight yearly, which was then worth 4/- a Hundred in the Island. Thus every 21 Acres will every Year produce to the Value of 840 l. Sterling.

"The Charges of Gathering and Housing the Fruit is inconsiderable, a few Bags, and some other odd Things which in all amount to 43 l. 10 s. So that the whole Expence is but 500 l. and the Charge lessens every Year, but the Profit encreases according to the Number of Acres planted. 'Tis to be observed that this Calculation was made when the Place was first settled, but it will serve to give the Reader some Idea of the Advantage of such a Walk at this time, for in most Things it holds the same. Land and Negroes are dearer, but the latter

is a temporary Scarcity, and the former not so hard to be come at, for enough may be had in the Northern Precincts on easy Terms."

THE CLASSIFICATION OF SUGARS.

The West India Committee have received a letter, of which a copy is given below, from the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply regarding the classification of sugars:—

3rd August, 1917.

Gentlemen,—I am directed to inform you that this Commission has decided to simplify the present classification under which the various qualities of sugar are sold, by combining the two classes c and d into one class, No. 3, for:—

West Indian Muscovado (moist), Raw Brown Cane Crystals, Pieces (other than white), West Indian Grocery Syrups—44/6 per cwt.

It has further been decided to limit the minimum standard of colour for Pieces and West Indian Grocery Syrups, as follows:—

CLASS 2.—White Pieces (moist).—Not inferior to No. 23 Dutch Standard (1916).

CLASS 3.—Other Grocery Pieces (moist).—Not inferior to No. 11 Dutch Standard (1916).

CLASS 3.—West Indian Grocery Syrups.—Not inferior to the standard at present taken as a basis by the West Indian Brokers' Committee.

CLASS 4.—Jellies, Knots, Lumps, West Indian and other British Colonial Syrups for sale to manufacturers only.—No limit of quality or colour, the price of 39/6 per cwt. being the maximum.

The following is therefore the revised classification, to come into force on 7th August, 1917:—

- (1) Cubes, Lumps, Cut Loaf, Chips, Caster, Icing—53/9 per cwt.
- (2) Granulated, Crystals, Dry White Sugar, West Indian Grocery Crystallised, Yellow Crystals, White Pieces (moist)—46/9 per cwt.
- (3) West Indian Muscovado (moist), Raw Brown Cane Crystals, Pieces (other than white), West Indian Grocery Syrups—44/6 per cwt.
- (4) Jellies, Knots and Lumps, West Indian and other British Colonial Syrups, for sale only to manufacturers.—39/6 per cwt.

I am, etc.,

C. S. REWCASTLE,

Secretary.

We take the following interesting announcement from the *Irish Times*, and we extend our hearty—the pun is unintentional—congratulations to the gallant Colonel concerned:—

HART AND GARSTIN.—July 23, 1917, very quietly, at Zion Church, Rathgar, by the Rev. W. F. H. Garstin, M.A. (brother of the bride), assisted by the Rev. W. J. Clarke, D.D., and the Rev. R. Northridge, M.A., Major John George Vaughan Hart, West India Regiment (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel British West Indies Regiment), eldest son of W. B. Hart, Esq., J.P., Kilderry, Co. Donegal, and grandson of the late Commander G. V. Hart, R.N., D.L., of the County Donegal, to Katherine Georgina May, daughter of the late Venerable William Fitzroy Garstin, Archdeacon of Raphoe, and Mrs. Garstin, 8, Victoria Terrace, Terenure Road, Dublin.

SUGAR DISTRIBUTION.

Lord Rhondda, the Food Controller, has now outlined his proposals for the distribution of food. He appeals to the nation on the grounds that to ensure victory, supplies must be conserved, and that supplies must be shared equally by rich and poor, and prices must be kept down. The main features, as far as sugar is concerned, are as follows:—

- (a) No sugar will be sold retail except by retailers registered by a local Food Control Committee.
- (b) Every household will be entitled to obtain from the local food office a sugar registration card, to cover all members of the household not in receipt of Government rations. A portion of this card will be deposited by the householder with the registered retailer selected by him. It will be a condition of the retailer's registration that he must accept sugar cards tendered to him. The retailer will, when the scheme has come fully into operation, be required to give preference to registered customers—i.e., those in respect of whom cards have been deposited with him.
- (c) Caterers of all kinds will have their supplies regulated after consideration of the number of meals they ordinarily serve and the sugar they normally use.
- (d) Institutions will have their supplies regulated according to the number of residents, or, where meals are served to non-residents, the number of meals so served.
- (e) Manufacturers will have their supplies of sugar regulated in accordance with any restrictions imposed upon their use of sugar.
- (f) Registered retailers will have their supplies of sugar regulated in accordance with the number of their registered customers and the quantities of sugar any caterers, institutions, or manufacturers are authorised to buy from them.
- (g) Sugar will be obtainable by caterers, manufacturers, and registered retailers only on surrender of vouchers issued by a local food office.
- (h) Wholesalers will have their supplies of sugar regulated in accordance with the quantities which registered retailers, caterers, institutions, and manufacturers or other wholesalers are authorised to obtain from them.
- (i) Severe penalties will be prescribed for false statements and other offences under the scheme.

Complete regulation of the distribution will not be effected until December 30th next, but registration will commence on September 15th.

Those readers who do not file their CIRCULARS are requested to post them to the Officer Commanding 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 HAWAII SUGAR ESTATE.

The substantial profits made by Hawaiian sugar-producing companies in 1915 were exceeded last year. Thus the Onomea Sugar Company paid 55 per cent. on a capital of \$1,500,000. The Pepeecko Sugar Company distributed 50 per cent. on \$750,000, the Hawaiian Agricultural Company 40 per cent. on \$2,000,000, and the Hawaiian Sugar Company 35 per cent. on \$3,000,000.

There are free dealings in the shares of all these companies at Honolulu, and the following figures regarding the Onomea Sugar Company, supplied to the CIRCULAR by Messrs. Harry Armitage & Co., of that town, may be of interest to readers in view of the various schemes now under consideration for the introduction of capital into the West Indies for the erection of central sugar factories.

The capital of the Onomea Company, which operates in the Hilo district, is \$1,500,000 divided into 75,000 shares of \$20 each, which was increased from 1,000,000 in 1912 by a 50 per cent. stock dividend. The crops during the last eleven years were as follows:—

Year.	Acreage.	Estimated Crop.	Crop Actually Harvested	Tons of Sugar per Acre.
1906	4,127	11,435	13,980	3.37
1907	3,539	10,219	12,434	3.51
1908	4,410	11,045	17,006	3.85
1909	3,823	12,159	14,417	3.77
1910	4,430	11,916	12,843	2.90
1911	3,982	13,055	16,229	4.08
1912	4,529	14,266	17,457	3.85
1913	4,184	13,500	16,884	4.03
1914	4,222	15,941	19,600	4.64
1915	3,772	17,025	21,320	5.65
1916	4,140	18,780	18,730	5.11

For 1917 the estimated crop is 19,798 tons produced from 544 acres of plant canes, 1,223 of first ratoons, 982 of second ratoons, and 1,125 cultivated by outside planters. The profits and dividends paid have been:—

Year.	Net Profit.	Net Profit per Ton.	Dividends Paid.	Per Cent.
1906	114,820	8.24	215,000	21½
1907	160,142	12.88	270,000	27
1908	488,789	28.74	280,000	28
1909	303,519	21.05	345,000	34½
1910	228,083	17.76	270,000	27
1911	462,830	28.43	280,000	28
1912	383,962	21.94	290,000	28
1913	167,717	9.93	180,000	12
1914	426,329	21.75	270,000	18
1915	813,870	38.17	450,000	30
1916	809,498	43.23	825,000	55

The carry forward has varied very considerably, the figure for 1916 being \$15,412, as against \$363,870 for the preceding year. In 1916 the price of the \$20 shares varied from \$46.50 to \$60.50, the pre-war year figures being \$15.50 to \$33.

The Hon. G. S. Hudson, who is enthusiastic about his West Indian Federal League, hopes to return to St. Lucia towards the end of the present month. His health has greatly improved since his visit to England.

THE TRADE OF DOMINICA.

AT WESTMINSTER.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

During the financial year 1916-17 the imports amounted in value to £208,197, and the exports to £212,301, showing a total trade of £420,498, which is very satisfactory considering war conditions, and in view of the fact that the hurricane season brought with it two devastating storms.

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to £55,366, from British North America £34,205, and from the United States £70,992. Whilst the value of the exports to the United Kingdom was £91,621, and to British North America £3,705, to the United States it was £106,153. The disproportion between the imports from British North America and the exports thereto is very noticeable. One of the arguments against confederation with Canada is that, whilst we import a good deal from the Dominion, she practically takes nothing from us.

The Exports.

The varied list of the exports is very interesting and instructive. At one time sugar was the main staple of the island, whilst during the year only 23 cwts. were exported, to the value of £25. Amongst the exports one notices bay leaves, citrate of lime, copra, cacao, coffee, drugs, various tropical fruits (both fresh and pickled), fruit juices (both raw and concentrated), vanilla, essential oils, and woods. Some of these products are sent away now only in small quantities, but the catalogue is indicative of the capabilities of the country and its adaptability for the prosecution of diverse industries.

The lime is the mainstay of the island, and when the late Dr. Inray introduced the cultivation many years ago, even he had no idea that it would dethrone "King Cane." Sugar is now imported into Dominica for local consumption, and last year the value of the exports of lime products amounted to £172,056, made up as follows:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Lime Juice, raw	574,109 gallons ...	£50,452
" concentrated	152,603 " ...	44,855
Citrate of Lime	2,956 cwts. ...	9,244
Lime Fruit, fresh	38,916 barrels ...	47,852
" pickled	415 " ...	415
Essential Oils of Limes... ..	6,184 gallons ...	19,238

Coco-nuts are now being planted very extensively in certain parts of the coast lands. Some of the trees are coming into bearing, and before long they will make a large item in the list of exports. Last year, although the storms destroyed much fruit, nearly half a million nuts were exported. The Dominica nuts are very fine large ones, and they meet with a ready sale.

E. A. G. BRANCH, son of the Ven. Archdeacon Branch, of the Grammar School, St. John's, Antigua, B.W.I., has won the Sutherland Gold Medal for the best examination in Chemistry. Mr. Branch is in his fourth year of Medicine at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Colonial Bank.

The Colonial Bank Bill which, *inter alia*, empowers the Bank to establish and carry on the business of bankers in Great Britain or in any Colony, State or Dependency of the British Empire, passed its third reading in the House of Commons on July 30, without a division.

Mr. King, M.P., criticised the measure on the grounds that it gave largely increased powers to financiers, and that a charter for a bank given eighty years ago for the special purposes of one set of Colonies ought not to be indefinitely extended.

Mr. Whitley, Chairman of Ways and Means, said that he could not quite understand what the Hon. Member desired. What was known as the Unopposed Bill Committee, of which he, Mr. Whitley, by virtue of his office was Chairman, gave the most careful attention to the Bill and examined it very thoroughly, and did not pass the Preamble until it was fully satisfied that a case had been made out for it. It, of course, was not within their province, nor, was it within the province of the House, to consider any large question affecting banking as a whole in connection with a single private Bill. The case put before the Committee with which in the end it was satisfied, was simply that it was desirable, in the interests of British trade now and after the War, that the area in which the bank might establish its branches should be enlarged. There was no question of giving a special privilege to this bank amongst any other banks, but they had, of course, to consider this proposal from the point of view that this bank, like a few other banks, worked under statutory authority. In the first instance, it was founded by Royal Charter. Later on it came under Parliamentary authority, and one of the reasons why it had to act within statutory authority was that it had a special right and duty in connection with the Note issue in the West Indies, and that was one of the reasons why, in his view, it was desirable that a Committee of the House should very carefully investigate the proposals which were made. After a very full hearing before the Committee, in which he was assisted by two very capable colleagues from the House in addition to Mr. Speaker's Counsel, the Committee was unanimous in passing the Preamble. It thought it right to introduce into the Bill a restriction as to the proposed increase of capital which would compel the bank in the course of a few years to come back to Parliament if it required any further extension, so that Parliament might still keep under review the manner in which it exercised the powers which the present Bill proposes to grant. Perhaps that, and the fact that the Committee was unanimous in its decision on the Bill, would satisfy the House that it might properly be given a Third Reading.

Mr. King having expressed himself satisfied with the explanation, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

San Thome Cacao again.

Mr. Edmund Harvey, M.P., asked on July 26th whether, as the corrected death rate amongst contracted labourers in San Thome was now stated to be 10 per cent., this result was considered satisfactory; whether the Government desire British cacao manufacturers to purchase cacao grown under these conditions; and whether it was proposed to take any further action with a view to bringing about a reduction in the death rate.

Lord R. Cecil: The attention of Consul General Hall has been called to the corrected death rate and he reports that even allowing for this correction he considers as the planters have made great efforts to improve the conditions under which labour is done on the plantations including the provision of new and hygienic living accommodation and a new and well equipped hospital, it would not be fair to condemn them on the strength of this figure alone. The answer to the second part of the question is therefore in the affirmative, and to the last part that the conditions on the island will be carefully watched.

for the future. In the meantime the attention of the Portuguese authorities will be called to the high figure of the death rate.

Cacao Imports.

Mr. Edward Strauss asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer on July 26th, whether any preparations of cacao had been imported into the United Kingdom since the Royal Proclamation prohibiting such imports, dated February 23rd, was issued; if so, from what countries such imports had been received; and why His Majesty's Commissioners of Customs and Excise had discontinued supplying information relating to such imports to British manufacturers.

Mr. Bonar Law replied: No preparations of cacao imported since February 23rd have been admitted into the United Kingdom for home use except under licence or other authority from the Board of Trade. I do not think it would be desirable to publish the information asked for in the second part of the question.

[As a concession to the retail confectioners permission has been given for the importation of 150 tons of chocolate from Switzerland every month. The fact that this chocolate is probably made with foreign cacao and almost certainly with enemy sugar can hardly have been overlooked.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

Sugar Production.

On August 6th Mr. W. Thorne asked the President of the Board of Trade if he could state the total production of cane sugar in all countries for 1911-12; what was produced in India and Cuba; if he could say what was the total production of beet sugar for the same period; and what was the total production of both cane and beet sugar for 1916?

Mr. Roberts: The total quantity of cane sugar produced throughout the world in the sugar season of 1911-12 may be estimated at about 9,000,000 tons, to which India contributed about 2,450,000 tons and Cuba 1,896,000 tons. The total quantity of beet sugar produced in the same period was approximately 6,800,000 tons. In the sugar season of 1915-16 the total quantity of sugar produced may be put at about 16,500,000 tons, of which about 5,900,000 tons consisted of beet sugar.

1911-12 was a specially bad year for the Continental beet crop. The German crop being 1,000,000 tons and the Austrian 400,000 tons short of the previous year's results.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Trinidad has now four men in the Tanks, namely, Wm. Robinson, Cecil Gooch, Egbert Govia, and Andre Stone.

* * *

Major A. de Boissiere, Protector of Immigrants of Trinidad, who came over to England recently, has been granted a Commission in the British West Indies Regiment, and has proceeded to France.

* * *

Lieut.-Col. A. E. Barchard returned to France yesterday after short leave of absence, which he spent in this country. Other officers on leave have been Second Lieut. S. McF. F. Binns, from France, and Lieut. R. C. Ratty, who is to be married on Saturday to Miss Lily Bonham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bonham, of the Rowans, Granville Park, Blackheath.

The members of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent referred to in last CIRCULAR have now joined up. Percy Knox, Ernest Eccles, Leon Agostini, Ralph Wharton, Edmund Maingot, Frank Gibbon, Desmond Pogson, Luis Maingot, and H. P. Murray have been accepted by the Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps, H. A. Littlepage by the Royal Engineers, and Vernon Collins by King Edward's Horse. Campbell did not come over after all. Littlepage has been passed as a skilled surveyor. Two more Trinidad men, Donald Belgrave and Edwin Threadkell, have since arrived, and have joined King Edward's Horse.

* * *

Citizens of Nassau, New Providence, are following the example of those of Bridgetown and the Merchants of Trinidad, and are raising a fund for sending over young men to join the Forces. The Bahamians, however, will proceed to Canada to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, which most of the young men who left the island have joined. A contingent of twenty-five men is, it is understood, being recruited. This, however, is not really the first, for it will be recalled that the first contingent for the British West Indies Regiment was raised and equipped by private subscription.

* * *

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Dr. Norman Dalton				2	2	0
Per the Colonial Bank, Dominica:—						
Mrs. Woolward (sale of songs)	1	0	4			
L. T. Etienne, Esq.			2	0		
R. H. Shillingford, Esq.			2	0		
J. O. Gachert, Esq.			2	0		
W. A. Dallport, Esq.			2	0		
A. R. C. Lockhart, Esq.			2	0		
L. J. Charles, Esq.			1	0		
				11	4	
E. H. G. Dalton, Esq.				3	1	0
Mrs. Craigen, per Mrs. Bromley				1	0	0
Messrs. Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd., per Otto Rohrs, Esq.				10	10	0
Sale of Flags in Committee Rooms, to June 7th				3	4	6
Messrs. Benekendorff, Berger & Co.				2	2	0
Sale of Flags in Committee Rooms, to July 11th				1	2	4
Mrs. Alleyne				1	0	0
W. Smith, Esq. (Jersey)				1	0	0
Miss F. H. Dalton						5
Hon. Donald McDonald						5
Mrs. Fanny Hayes						2

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. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

From the Gazette, August 9th:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp Lieut. W. S. Spinney, from Notts and Derby R., to be Temp. Lieut. (May 13, seny. Feb 2, 1916).

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

Since the last list of casualties in the British West Indies Regiment generally was published, the following have been officially reported on various dates:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

BAHAMAS.

6164 Sparkman, Lance-Sergt. C. S.

JAMAICA.

7286 Campbell, L.	3365 McKenzie, C.
8141 Francis, E.	3493 Palmer, E. N.
7605 Grey, W.	3903 Reynolds, C.
3891 Ireland, C.	3495 Richards, V. A.
7389 Kemist, J.	3433 Simmonds, D. J.
5549 Knight, J.	3787 Simmonds, F.
7219 Lewis, S.	8261 Smith, H.
7429 Matto, U.	

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.

3855 Crooks, Lce.-Cpl. E.	5646 Stevenson, J.
3801 Ennis, A.	9432 Stewart, W. L.
5578 Mitchell, C. A.	3780 Thanks, G.
5623 Reid, C.	

KILLED ACCIDENTALLY.

TRINIDAD.

291 Alexander, Lucien.

DROWNED ACCIDENTALLY.

BARBADOS.

5640 Sealy, G. S.

MISSING.

JAMAICA.

8056 Anderson, S.	3484 Jones, H.
3463 Cooke, W. H.	3506 Willis, J.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BAHAMAS.

6007 Hanna, Edmund.	2567 Saunders, Jeremiah
2520 Moss, Thomas.	6166 Thompson, W.

BARBADOS.

794 Aske, Stanley E.	1471 Lynch, Dudley S.
9316 Bovell, S. F.	4895 Phillips, C.
849 Goddard, Evans.	988 Vaughan, James A.
9317 Ishmael, —.	

BRITISH GUIANA.

26 Bunbury, Ernest W.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

1614 Diamond, Pte. J. E.

GRENADA.

6416 Arnold, C.	6501 Richards, J.
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JAMAICA.

Silvera, 2nd Lieut. L. G.	7092 Downer, S.
Young, 2nd Lieut. L. B.	3281 Duffus, R. A.
7006 Anderson, T.	8596 Dunn, F. L. A.
6937 Appleton, T.	5182 Evans, J.
2609 Badley, P.	7585 Finn, H.
6203 Barnes, E.	4986 Fletcher, C. H.
3335 Barrett, R.	8546 Fowles, L.
5967 Barrett, S.	3137 Gordon, C.
6582 Bennett, E.	8601 Grant, J.
3768 Bennett, L.	7631 Haughton, J.
5745 Blake, W.	4040 Henry, J. A.
2779 Brooks, R. V.	6550 Henry, R.
2664 Brown, A. B.	7622 Hill, J.
5968 Brown, W.	3264 Hines, C. A.
3224 Clarke, J.	3483 Howell, A.
7389 Clayton, R.	6080 James, L.
4154 Dale, J. I.	6022 Jones, J.
2718 Davis, Sergt. D. S.	8044 Kerr, C.
3228 Davis, U. H.	7237 Llewelyn, L.

5861 Moss, Clarence.	3317 Snaith, C. P.
3915 Peart, H.	6284 Stevenson, W.
6336 Ramsay, C.	9280 Thompson, L.
6409 Redwood, J.	7362 Tucker, S.
5918 Ricketts, I.	7241 Williams, D.
6156 Rickman, O. G.	6569 Williams, J.
5850 Scarlett, C.	2823 Wilter, J. T.
3318 Simpson, H. A.	2937 Wynter, J.
5927 Smith, J.	8024 Young, L.

TRINIDAD.

6630 Ainslie, C.	441 Finder, Edward.
8315 Onslow, L.	9004 Scarborough, E. V.
1493 Patrick, Abraham.	

ENLISTED IN ENGLAND.

4910 Farquharson, James	4902 Pinkney, Phillip.
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WOUNDED.

BAHAMAS.

6004 Bowe, H. B.	6063 Hall, L.
5433 Brennan, N.	6078 Hamilton, A.
3816 Butler, A.	6098 Lightbourn, A. H.
6028 Cooper, O.	

BARBADOS.

4135 Stevenson, J.	5465 Daniels, J.
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JAMAICA.

Donald, 2nd Lieut. H. F.	3777 Hay, J.
Musson, 2nd Lieut. J. M.	5520 Hextall, L.
3457 Barrett, E. A.	7378 Hibbert, C.
4736 Barton, S.	5531 Hodges, E.
3814 Brown, C. S.	3941 Howard, C. S.
8033 Brown, Sergt. D.	7379 Hudson, P.
3871 Brown, R.	5547 Johnson, F.
6246 Campbell, E.	5542 Johnson, J.
3856 Carnegie, L.-Cpl. W.	5546 Johnson, H.
3879 Cooper, A.	8130 Kelly, N.
5460 Corinthian, A.	5558 Lee, F.
5465 Daniels, J.	1395 Lewis, J.
5461 Denton, M.	3894 Lewis, S.
7299 De Pass, E.	3895 Linton, R.
3451 De Pass, Cpl. V. G.	4223 Martin, C.
6252 Dixon, E.	1509 Riggan, A.
6375 Doyley, E.	7456 Robinson, N.
3751 Dryden, Sgt. C. L. T.	5659 Standford, S.
4367 Edwards, J.	3907 Stewart, A.
3884 Ferron, J.	7970 Stewart, J.
7326 Forbes, J.	3432 Stewart, W. L.
7356 Francis, A.	5669 Telford, J.
7131 Francis, C.	4186 Thomas, J.
7321 Francis, S.	5956 Thompson, J.
3997 Graham, J.	6177 Wiggan, E.
5502 Green, J.	7491 Williams, D.
5506 Griffiths, J.	7499 Williams, D.
3830 Hall, D.	3964 Williams, S.
7374 Hamilton, S.	3913 Wilson, D.
4192 Hart, C. E.	

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. GUY PONSENBY, Essex Regiment, son of the Hon. Arthur Ponsenby, has had his right arm fractured and is now in hospital at Leicester.

SECOND LIEUT. C. E. DURRITY, Royal Warwick, who was slightly wounded, has returned to duty.

SECOND LIEUT. L. C. TRESTRAIL, Lancashire Fusiliers, has been gassed, and is on short leave.

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.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

GUNNER CHAS. S. RATSON (of Barbados), Canadian Field Artillery has received a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery.

CADET ROBERT A. CURRY (son of Mr. R. H. Curry, Nassau, Bahamas) has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

HUGH MARRYAT, Artists' Rifles (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent) has received a Commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

JOHN O'CONNOR, of the Trinidad Customs, who enlisted in the Queen's Westminster Rifles in November, 1916, has passed through an Officer Cadet Battalion at Cambridge, and is awaiting his Commission.

L. C. TRESTRAIL, Artists' Rifles (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent) has received a Commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

THE MOON AND AGRICULTURE. An Old Theory Revived.

In a paper which he read recently before the members of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. G. H. Nunez dealt with the influence of the moon on agriculture. "If our satellite is the cause of the rise and fall of the tides, why should it not also be the cause of the rise and fall of sap?" he asked. "Plants, as we all know, possess a solid and a liquid part. The liquid part, otherwise called the sap, being less resistible than the solid part, readily yields to the moon's attraction. All experienced agriculturists have noticed that the circulation of the sap corresponds with the movements of the moon, the sap having an upward tendency at the time of the new moon onward to the first quarter, and a downward tendency from the full moon to the last quarter. This action of the sap can be quite understood by everyone, for the moon at its new phase is under the line joining the earth and the sun, and as its movement toward the first quarter is of an upward tendency, it attracts or pulls upward everything in its train; and so likewise from the full it has a downward course, and everything then takes a downward tendency until it crosses the ecliptic.

"To further exemplify this action, take the case of pruning. Should a tree like our cacao be pruned, say, three days after the new moon, for every twig cut, the upward circulation of the sap will cause many more to appear; whereas if the tree be pruned after the full moon, or when the sap is descending, no shoots, or very few, will be seen to appear after the operation.

"Then, again, in the cutting of trees for timber purposes: If a tree be felled after the new moon, or when the sap is in the wood, it quickly rots or is eaten up by the insects which the sap breeds, whereas if the tree be cut after the full moon, or when the sap is down, it lasts for a considerable length of time. Or if, again, a tree is required to be killed, by barking it at the 'full,' or when the sap is 'down,' it is sure to die. The same thing happens in cutting carat for thatching purposes if the moon's phases be disregarded. Next, in planting: if a seed, like our cacao seed, be put in the soil with the new moon, the result is that an extremely tall tree grows from it with a very short root, and as soon as the wind happens to blow at an extraordinary rate it topples over, and is naturally a source of loss to the planter. Contractors endeavour to dupe the inexperienced agriculturist by sowing their cacao seeds on the new moon, so as to have tall trees to obtain the full price at the end of five years; but woe to the owner so duped. In such cases, however, though unnoticeable, Nature intervenes, and so helps to save the situa-

tion; for while the trees are in this horizontal position, shoots and roots are thrown out at the correct phases of the moon, and if such shoots be encouraged, these renew, take the place of the parent tree, and in time adjust the loss in crop.

"So also during the picking operation, trees picked at the full moon yield beans of a much larger size when dried than those picked at the new moon. But when trees are picked at the new moon, another difficulty has got to be faced, and that is, the stems bleed profusely, take a longer time to dry than at the full moon, and in so doing are apt to become diseased and infect other trees. Of course, the question might be asked, When are we, then, to pick? This can be answered by letting you know that the most appropriate time is between the full and the new moon.

"So, then, to minimise such evil effects, I think it behoves you to give some consideration to the influence of the moon. And yet again, I am sure you all have noticed that there is a difference in the size of the grains of corn upon a cob which has been picked from a tree planted in the full moon. The grains are fewer and larger than the ordinary, and this can be explained from the fact that the sap then is almost stationary or at the change. At least it is undergoing a physiological revolution which has not up to now been understood by the little; if sown a day or two after the full moon, the beans are found when dried to weigh heavier than those picked at the new, for the same reason as explained above.

"Dr. Macdonald, the great American scientist, in his information with regard to planting, states: "Things that grow above ground, such as tomatoes, cabbages, beans, and grain, should be planted when the moon is increasing in size, which is new or light moon. Things that grow in the ground, such as yams, potatoes, tannias, and root vegetables, should be planted when the moon is decreasing in size, which is old or dark moon. Peas, if sown on a day following the new moon, will grow quickly and with abundant flowers and yield; those sown immediately after the second quarter will bear but little; if sown a day or two after the full moon, blossom and fruit in abundance, but no yield; if sown just before the new moon is out, they will little more than break through the ground."

In conclusion, Mr. Nunez drew attention to the effect of the moon on humanity, with special reference to the violence of lunatics when the moon is at the full.

The late Mr. John Hinchley Hart held the opposite view. In his work "Cacao"* he wrote: "The time for pruning the cacao-tree is a subject of frequent discussion, on account of the influence which the moon is supposed to have upon the flow of the sap, etc. Such discussions are interminable. Some assume that the sap, like the blood of an animal, courses through the vessels of a plant periodically, and that the moon has direct influence upon the flow. Some, again, conclude that a tree has more sap in its branches at full moon than at other times, while others declare that insects attack the trees

* "Cacao: its Cultivation and Curing." London: Duckworth & Co.

more at full moon than at other times. In nearly all these cases the premise is erroneous, and therefore the conclusion cannot be a correct one.

"If the moon has any influence, the writer may at once confess that in all his practice he has never discovered it. He would ask those who assert that the moon has influence on the condition of a cacao-tree to prove it by something more than mere assertion, and to allow him the privilege of dissent until such proof is made known. The writer does not desire anyone to accept his opinion, viz., that the moon is entirely a negligible quantity, unless he may choose to do so, but he objects entirely to be forced to accept the opposite conclusion. If it pleases certain planters to waste time and money (in his opinion) in waiting for certain phases of the moon before commencing to prune their trees, to gather their crop, or to sow their seed, that is their affair; but he cannot for a minute sanction or teach such a doctrine, as he believes it to be incapable of proof. The writer knows many planters, for whom he has the greatest respect, who regulate the work of their estates, in some part at least, by the phases of the moon; but he cannot see that it would be right on that account to dispense with the call for scientific proof of the theory they adopt, as without this proof the theory is to be regarded as one upon which it would not be safe to rely.

"Whether the moon has any influence or not, had better for the present be left an open question, not that the writer has any personal doubt upon the matter, but still the question is one which, take it as one will, has little or no influence upon the progress of cultivation, as each individual may adhere to his own pet theory without being placed at any great disadvantage. In over forty years' practical work in the temperate zone and in the tropics, the writer has carried out hundreds of experiments bearing on the subject of the moon's influence on plant life, and yet in none of these has he found anything to support the conclusion that the moon is a controlling power over the operations of the agriculturist."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership reaches 1,600.

The total membership of the West India Committee has now reached the substantial figure of 1,600—the highest yet recorded. The expansion of membership is specially gratifying in view of the conditions arising from the War, which have resulted in an actual falling-off in the numbers of members of some similar organisations. But the membership is still far below the figure which it should reach having regard to the importance of the West Indian Colonies, and it is to be hoped that those already on the roll will introduce eligible candidates for election, and so help to raise the total to 2,000, which should be the next objective. Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

NATURE NOTES.

NODULE bacteria of leguminous plants require for their growth, says P. Kalantarov, a minimum moisture content of 30 per cent.; the growth of *B. radiculicola* increased when the moisture content was greater. Studies of a number of bacteria isolated directly from the soil led to the conclusion that only one of these could be placed with certainty in the *B. radiculicola* class.

THE oil of the Cohune nut saponifies easily and furnishes an oil which may prove to be useful in the manufacture of fine soap. If, says the *Monthly Bulletin*, factories are created to extract the oil from the kernel it may be worth while to extract the fats from the pericarp as well, which also contains oil. The average yield of one tree is 1,000 nuts per annum, and 40 per cent. of oil is extractable from the kernel.

DE VRIES has experimented with various methods of drying tobacco in Java. The sheds used there were small, warm, ventilated brick buildings, where temperature and humidity were under continual control. Generally speaking, it was found that rapid drying gives certain advantages, and further experiments in this direction are being carried out. Artificial drying was found to give very superior results in the quality of the finished product.

The results of experiments on the subject of soil inoculation by Makrinus appear in the *Monthly Bulletin*. The experimenter concludes that the chief factor on which success in soil inoculation depends is the quality of the bacterial preparation—that is to say, the activity of the bacteria. Mineral fertilisers greatly contributed to increase the effect of soil inoculation, especially lime, basic slag, etc., and superphosphates also. Superphosphate should only be applied as a fertiliser either alone or with the addition of potash salts.

THE study of the nature, action, and equilibrium of reserve substances in trees has led to important results, in some cases quite opposed to theories and accepted ideas. Messrs. Anteys and Ernst have been experimenting in this direction. The two divisions seem to be trees with fat and trees with starch. In the former, all the starch disappears and changes to fats, and in some degree to glucose. In the latter, towards the end of autumn, only the starch in the bark disappears, whereas that contained in the wood remains intact.

FISCHEK states that the transforming of starch into fat serves to preserve the protoplasm against low temperature. In trees of the same species the process of transformation becomes more and more complete as the north is gradually approached. The greater resistance of trees during winter may be explained by the presence of fats. The commencement of the circulation of the fat and the reappearance of the starch in spring are closely connected with the course of the biological factors.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE marriage arranged between Captain O. L. Hancock, D.C.I., Staff Officer, Barbados, and Miss Agnes Morritt will take place in the West Indies in September.

WE cannot recall having seen more than an occasional basket of imported strawberries or cherries on sale even in the Bahamas—which are only a four days' voyage from New York. Yet we read that 6,000 quarts of the former fruit and a large shipment of cherries recently found a ready market in Ancon (Panama).

MR. DOUGLAS MCGAREL HOGG, who has just "taken silk"—or, in other words, has been appointed a King's Counsel—is the son of the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee. Before practising at the Bar he worked for a while as an overseer on a sugar estate in British Guiana.

MR. GIDEON MURRAY, who was believed to be destined for a labour battalion when he left St. Lucia, has just been appointed Food Commissioner for the West of Scotland. The counties within his dietetic jurisdiction are Argyll, Dumbarton, Renfrew, Lanark, Bute, Ayr, Dumfries, Kirkcubright and Wigton.

THE marriage took place in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, N.S., on June 1st, of Helen Dorothy Adams Armitage, second daughter of the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Armitage, of Halifax, N.S., to Kenneth Carstairs Arnell, second officer of the R.M.S.P. *Caracuet* (Canada—West Indies Mail Service), son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arnell, of Richmond, Surrey, England.

THE marriage took place in St. Paul's Church, Toronto, Ontario, in May, of Marie Louise Spencer, daughter of Mr. Henry Agassiz Spencer, of St. Lucia, B.W.I., to Captain Paul Goforth, of the 17th Battalion Nova Scotia Highlanders, and late Adjutant of the Canadian Base Depot, Havre, France, son of the Rev. Jonathan Goforth, D.D., Canadian Presbyterian Mission, Honan, China.

MR. R. H. VERNON, late manager of the Spring Hill Hotel at Montego Bay, Jamaica, who came over in 1914 and joined the Sportsmans' Battalion, has been discharged on account of wounds after many months service at the Front, and has been appointed secretary and assistant manager of the Elysée Restaurant in Coventry Street, which is now managed by Mr. E. Campenhout.

LETTER mails for the British West Indies, British, French, and Dutch Guiana, the Dutch West Indies, the Virgin Islands of the United States (with specially addressed correspondence for Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama), and parcel mails for Barbados, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Venezuela, and the

Dutch West Indies, containing correspondence and parcels posted between July 20th and 27th, have been lost as a result of enemy action.

AT a library sale in New York recently, George D. Smith paid \$3,650 for the "Buccaneer's Atlas; or, South Sea Waggoner," published at Wapping about 1684 by William Hack, who obtained the necessary information for the work from Captain Bartholomew Sharpe, commander of a party of buccaneers in the Caribbean Sea and South America. Mr. Smith also obtained for \$3,100 the original account of Sir Francis Drake's famous West Indian expeditions, published at Leyden in 1588, and in binding by Bedford.

MR. W. A. M. GOODE, Honorary Secretary of the West Indian Club, has been paid a high and well-deserved compliment by the late Director-General of Food Economy. In his letter of resignation Mr. Kennedy Jones wrote:—

"I venture to suggest to you that the present requirements of the Department could be admirably discharged by Mr. W. A. M. Goode. In a purely honorary capacity Mr. Goode has rendered the most loyal and complete service. As the late hon. secretary of the Belgian Relief Committee, which was presided over by Mr. Hoover, the American Food Controller, he was able to bring to the Food Economy campaign a knowledge and experience possessed by few Britishers."

THE following timely warning, which has been communicated to cotton planters in St. Vincent by Mr. W. N. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent, should be taken to heart in all our cotton islands:—

Besides the destruction of native food plants of the cotton stainer it is necessary for planters to give attention to the following in order to prevent the pest from entering young cotton fields at an early date.

(a) Search old cotton fields for any stalks that may have been overlooked and destroy them.

(b) Destroy any cotton stainers that may be found in the vicinity of cotton houses and collect and destroy all seed refuse on which the insects may be feeding.

(c) On estates where cotton seed meal is used see that the meal is carefully covered over with soil and any cotton stainers that may be attracted to it in store or otherwise destroyed.

THE following additional "Mentions" for war services were published by the War Office on August 7th:—

GRENADA.

Slinger, Maj. D. L., Grenada Vols. (deceased); Thomas, Sgt. J. W., Grenada Police Force.

ST. LUCIA.

Harris, Maj. A. E. R., Can. Arty.; Patterson, Staff Sgt. G., St. Lucia Police Force.

ST. VINCENT.

Bonadie, Col. S. H., St. Vincent Vols.

WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Smith, Maj. G. W., King's Own Scottish Borderers.

SUGAR manufacture is now the largest industry of Formosa, and its growth has been very rapid. Production prior to 1902 had never reached

1,000,000 piculs (1 picul equals about 133 lbs.), but by 1906 it had risen to 1,280,000 piculs, and by 1910 to 3,775,000 piculs. In 1916 all records were broken, the estimated output being 6,200,000 piculs of centrifugal sugar and 700,000 piculs of brown sugar. The first charter for the erection of a modern sugar-mill in Forniosa was granted in 1901, and there are at present fourteen companies owning thirty-seven crushing factories, with an aggregate crushing capacity of 27,240 tons per day of twenty-four hours. The total paid-up capital of these companies amounts to 56,175,000 yen. Although the export of sugar from the island to foreign countries was at first considered to be a matter of secondary importance, attention is now being turned to the export trade, the supply having overtaken the home demand.

* * *

GENERAL SIR JAMES WILLCOCKS, Governor of Bermuda, in an article in the July number of *Blackwood's Magazine* on "The Indian Army Corps in France," gives the following account of the gallant deeds which won for Lieutenant Frank Alexander de Pass the Victoria Cross:—

"Another Victoria Cross was won by Lieutenant de Pass of the 34th Poona Horse, who crawled up a German sap from which a galling fire had been kept up on to a gap in our trenches. Finding that this fire proceeded from a loophole in a sand-bagged traverse, this brave soldier crept on, stealthily placed a charge of gun-cotton in the loophole and fired it, blowing the traverse to atoms; he fortunately escaped a bomb which was thrown after him. Next day, in broad daylight, with a trooper of the 7th Dragoon Guards, he carried in a Sepoy of the 58th Rifles who was lying seriously wounded a long way out, and again escaped the fire of the enemy during the whole operation. But such gallant spirits do not recognise danger, and a day later he was killed in the same sap he had destroyed by a sniper who had been picking off our men, and whom de Pass was trying to stalk."

* * *

The following figures are taken from a table issued by Mr. Chester Harding, Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, showing the extent of Panama Canal business in the month of June last:—

	Cristobal.	Balboa.	Total
Ships making transit of Canal from	62	106	168
Net tonnage of ships through Canal			
from	181,289	340,728	522,017
Cargo carried through Canal from tons	194,002	421,101	615,103
Nationality of ships through the Canal from:			
United States	18	36	54
British	14	36	50
Norwegian	10	7	17
Chilean	4	6	10
Dutch	3	4	7
Peruvian	3	4	7
Danish	2	4	6
Japanese	2	3	5
Costa Rican	1	1	2
Mexican	1	1	2
Spanish	1	1	2
French	1	1	2
German	1	—	1
Panamanian	1	—	1
Russian	1	—	1
Tolls earned on ships entering Canal			
from	\$162,189.67	\$306,408.69	\$468,598.26

DR. GEERLIGS, writing in the *Louisiana Planter* from Amsterdam, says: "We are in a terrible plight with two bad crops after another, and now of almost no supply from abroad. Our Eastern neighbours have nothing to spare, and our Western ones do not allow foodstuffs, fertilisers, cattle-food, etc., to pass over a scanty contingent, in order to prevent us from

sending things over to Germany. We have no coal, no coke, no gasoline, no kerosene oil, the use of gas and electric light is considerably reduced, and we are told by our authorities that during next winter nobody will be allowed to use more coal for heating and cooking than is sufficient for two stoves at the most. That means that we shall have to light the kitchen fire and only one fire in a room and crowd together at the place where the fire burns. Notwithstanding this, we find in foreign papers complaints of the good times which the neutrals are enjoying by the War, and suggestions to stop that by preventing every exportation to those sybarites."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—An Accident to Dean Shepherd.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JULY 1st.—I regret to have to record a very serious accident to Dean and Mrs. Shepherd. Whilst out driving their horse shied at a motor bicycle and they were thrown out. The Dean sustained a fractured hip and was badly bruised and shaken. There is no one so much respected and loved in the Island as the Dean and his wife with whom much sympathy is felt in their fresh trouble, and it will be recalled that they have already lost two sons in the War.

The weather has been cloudy and showery; but there has not been enough rain to do any good.

BARBADOS—A Patriotic Legacy.

The *Barbados Advocate* of July 10th, reports that rain fell on nearly every day of the fortnight. The telegrams had reported a disturbance moving south of Barbados, and there was much natural anxiety as to its ultimate course, but fortunately it passed without approaching too near and the weather is again normal. Crops of all kinds continue to benefit from the present beneficent conditions. With the end of the reaping season, the continued scarcity of native food stuffs, and the prevailing high prices of imported food, come reports of thefts from the few fields of potatoes still kept on some plantations. It is evident that better wages have enabled the peasantry to prepare to face the period of scarcity with comparative equanimity. A little corn is already being reaped at some places; and it is also satisfactory to note that the price of Demerara rice is lower than it was a month ago.

The Session of the Legislature closed on July 10th. The obituary includes Mr. Alexander Ashby of Sherbourne, proprietor of Haggatt Hall and Castle plantations. He left his properties, which are estimated to be worth £40,000, to the Secretary of State for War to be expended as he thinks fit. Visitors to the island include Sir Charles and Lady Major and Mr. Justice M. J. Berkeley.

BRITISH GUIANA—Sea Defences Report.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, MAY 22nd, JUNE 18th, and JULY 9th.—Flag day had been most successful, \$3,000 having been already received. The report of the Special Committee in connection with the Essequibo Coast Sea Defences had been furnished and recommended the carrying out of the Case scheme. The expenditure is proposed to be financed during construction by a rate of 87 cents per acre. The total estimate is \$303,779 to be spread over four years. The directors of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund reported a deficiency of \$54,149.

A meeting has been held to consider the proposal of the Foodstuffs Committee that 2 per cent. of the cultivated area on sugar estates should be devoted to the cultivation of ground provisions. The weather on the whole had been favourable, although in some districts more rain would do good. Mr. C. F. Wieting had resigned his seat on the Combined Court, and Mr. C. Martin-Sperry had been requisitioned to fill the vacancy.

JAMAICA—The Registration of Americans.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The dust nuisance in Kingston grows yearly worse and worse, and is likely to continue to do so until some serious effort is made to repair the roads of the town and St. Andrew in a modern and scientific manner instead of the present happy-go-lucky way of throwing soft stone into the worst holes, to be immediately ground to powder or washed out by the first shower of rain. If this were carried out there is no doubt the health of the city would benefit to no small degree. It is announced that certain changes are to be made shortly in the routes and time-tables of the West India Electric Company's car service, and as these appear to be in the line of restrictions of service and in many instances will also entail increased fares, the announcement has been received with considerable bitterness by the Press and public generally. The new time-table has been approved by the Governor for a period of six months only in order to test its effects, but it is asserted that on account of the wording of the licence and decisions obtained upon same, the Governor is not empowered to reject the proposals. The whole matter will probably be taken up and dealt with at the approaching session of the Legislative Council.

All male citizens of the United States between the ages of 21 and 30, resident in Jamaica, have been called upon to register at the local consulate. His Honour, Mr. C. H. Yorke Slader, will shortly proceed to Turks Island to preside at a coming sitting of the Grand Court of the Dependency. The death occurred on June 26th of Mr. C. P. Lazarus, at the age of 87. Mr. Lazarus was a well-known figure in Kingston and Jamaica generally. Mr. George Hart and Mr. C. F. Duff, both of the Jamaica Post Office Telegraphs, are now on leave and will probably retire on their pensions at the conclusion of their leave. In the meantime Mr. T. J. Guilfoyle has been appointed to assume charge of the department. The fruit business has been a little brighter this month but the quantity of fruit moved has never reached anything like its old level. Prices paid have been fair however. Various proposals for sugar centrals continue to receive attention; but except in the case of Messrs. Lindo Bros.' factory at Half-way Tree Pen, little actual progress is seen.

Mr. E. A. H. Haggart has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Parish of Kingston. The work of dismantling Waterloo House, lately occupied by Messrs. G. W. Young & Co., is proceeding apace and little remains of the once prominent building. As soon as the debris can be removed the work of erecting the new bank building for the Royal Bank of Canada will commence.

The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica Red Cross Fund	8,451	12	2
Jamaica Blue Cross	307	0	0
Jamaica Belgian Orphan Fund	175	15	2
Jamaica Contingent Amusement Fund	254	2	0
Royal Flying Corps Hospital Fund	372	18	11

Others remain as last reported.
Archbishop Nuttall Memorial Fund has reached a total of £1,047 10s. 6d.

TRINIDAD—Record Cacao Exports.

MR EDGAR TRIPP, JULY 7th.—The efforts of the West India Committee to secure for this Colony the urgently required freight room for the Continent are much appreciated. The steamer placed at the disposal of our shippers will relieve the congestion in respect of cacao to a considerable extent.

Some rather ill-considered charges of profiteering having been made against importers of provisions into the Colony, the matter was taken up by the Chamber of Commerce, who appointed a Select Committee to enquire into the matter. The following resolution was subsequently passed by the Chamber:—

"That this Chamber adopt the Committee's report and take immediate steps to discredit in whatever direction is judged necessary, the charges of profiteering which appeared in public print and made against our wholesale merchants, and that it make a public pronouncement upon the subject of food values, telling the people the truth, and exactly what to expect."

As is unfortunately customary here, a good deal of anonymous criticism of the report has followed in the papers, but none with any responsible or experienced signature attached. Competition among importers who are now very numerous in comparison with former times, is quite sufficient to insure a fair limit of profit being demanded at any time. As a matter of fact, owing to somewhat large arrivals and a happily overstocked market, from the public point of view, flour is being sold to-day at over a dollar per barrel less than in New York or Canada.

Much satisfaction has been expressed and felt at the decision not to remove two of the contract boats from the Canadian West Indian trade. Once more we are indebted to the Canadian Ministry, to whose influence, no doubt, this concession to the manifest requirements of the Islands and British Guiana is due.

The proceeds of Mrs. Perez' production of "Burnahland" amount to the handsome sum of \$1,950.94, net \$1,703.29, which sum is divided amidst the several War Funds.

The success of the West Indian Flag Day was unfortunately marred to some extent by very inclement weather, but this did not damp the ardour of the Ladies' West India Committee and their numbers of fair assistants who charged down all the streets of the town and hounded every store until due tribute was paid in the purchase of flags. The principal event of the day was a procession of decorated motor cars, led by those representing the Allied Nations, as follows:—Lady Lucy Smith, England; Mrs. Gordon Gordon, Scotland; Mrs. John Wilson, Wales; Mrs. Slynne, Ireland; Mrs. Hancock, Serbia; Mrs. Frank Agostini, France; Mrs. Hutchinson, Russia; Mrs. Rapsey, Belgium; Mrs. Vincent Brown, Montenegro; Mrs. May, Japan; Mrs. Huggins, Italy; Mrs. Fernandez, Portugal; Mrs. Alston, Rumania; Mr. Baker, U.S.A.; Miss Lee Lum, China; Mr. Dominguez, Brazil. An open air concert was to have taken place in the Royal Botanical Gardens in the evening, but weather conditions caused this to be transferred to the Prince's Building.

Somewhere on the seas another contingent of nearly 500 men, equal if not superior in drill to any previously sent, and forming the fourth public contingent, are on their way to help in the good fight. To what part of the fighting area they are bound is not disclosed, but they may be relied on, I am sure, to hold their own wherever it is.

The weather has continued very wet for the past fortnight, but a good soaking of the soil will no doubt be beneficial. Cultivation all round is looking as well as could be desired. The wonderful output of cacao to date is more than satisfactory. There seems no doubt that the returns to end of July, viz., for seven months, will exceed those of any previous twelve months in the history of the Colony. Another encouraging feature is the improvement of late in the local market rates for this product.

The shipments of Trinidad Cacao during the Month of June were as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
United Kingdom	314,784
Other British countries	109,760
B.N. America	95,360
Argentina	112,000
United States of America	3,781,197

Total for June 4,413,101
Shipped previously 50,658,992

Total from 1st January 55,070,093

To same date	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
	37,662,970	39,346,826	54,323,618	37,161,054	35,494,269	35,100,943	39,277,689	34,472,394	29,725,362

As will be seen by these figures, actual shipments of

Trinidad cacao, notwithstanding shortage of required freight room have amounted for the six months to date to 55,070,098 lbs. being more than the total shipments of any previous twelve months excepting 1910 and 1914. The prohibition of the export of more than 50 per cent. of the quantity sent last year to the United Kingdom would not therefore appear to have borne with any special hardship upon planters. What has affected the market is not the quantity it is permitted to ship, but the difficulty experienced in finding bottoms to carry produce on order for London and the Continent, especially the latter.

An increasing demand for Trinidad oil is in evidence, and with the excellent facilities for shipment of the large stocks now offering further large development of this important item of export may soon be looked for. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to note that in the past six months the shipments have amounted to about 80,000 tons. The two principal Companies, The Leaseholds and the United British, are, of course, primarily to be credited for this promising result, but others, notably the Trinidad Central, have contributed appreciably, and greater activity is noticeable of late in the operations of some of the minor companies.

WANT.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 8d. for every additional line.

Gentleman, ineligible, 43 years, seeks employment, £150 £200 p.a. 26 years' experience various branches Colonial Civil Service. Address "T. F." c/o the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Wisdom from the Ranks.

No. 10 Convalescent Depot,
G Company,
Reault, France,

July, 3rd 1917.

To the Messrs. of the West India Committee, England.

Sir,—A letter to my friends and comrades at home. Please state it:—A letter from one of the B.W.I. soldier in France on active service. He is from the 4th Batt. and in 17 months service. A well-known member of St. Stephen Church, Portland, St. Margaret's Bay. One of the unfortunate boys that was frostbitten in Halifax.

Dear Friends and Comrades,—I must needs say I have only got five months experience in France and five in Egypt. But for the little time in France I have no time to regret. It gives me a more happy heart when I look around and see how the boys are doing their best and how we are fancied out here. The black are fancied anywhere they go. Dear friends, the tree that all the nations are trying to fall is now dropping on our side. We have a good old chorus to sing on our march from one front to the other which says "I am going to pack my grip and take a trip to a good old southern town." So I would advise you boys all at home to pack your grip and take a trip to the good old soldier camp. You will all experience more just as I do than to sit at home like a bit of log. Be like a true born Britisher. Just fancy we have Japanese fighting on land too; let your little Island be looked upon as a true Colonie of the Mother Land. Be not like cowards, don't give them the trouble to conscript you boys, Volenteer is the best. There is it again if we should all live and come home after the war some will be speaking French language some Egyptian and you are going to say I wish I was over there too I would catch some of those language. And again when we come home you all will want to see the medals of the different country that we have been,

you are going to wish for one. For the next man won't give you, we are going to say you should all come and get for yourself. Boys, take my advice and come, it will be pleasant when coming over.

I remain, yours truly,
Lance-Corporal WILLIAMS, No. 5977,
B.W.I.R.,
British Expeditionary Force
France.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, Chairman of the St. Dunstan's Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, has addressed a letter in the following terms to Mrs. Eliza Stollmeyer, who recently forwarded to him, through the West India Committee, the handsome sum of £302 6s. 8d., being half the proceeds of a Fair organised by her on behalf of that Fund and the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

Dear Madam,—I have received through the West India Committee, London, E.C., a most generous contribution of £302 6s. 8d., which I understand represents the half-proceeds of a fair organised by yourself in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, for which I enclose an official receipt.

We are, believe me, deeply appreciative of this very practical manifestation of sympathy with what we are doing here for the gallant men under our care, on whose behalf I hope you will accept yourself, and convey to all who contributed to the undoubted success of this effort, an expression of most sincere and cordial thanks.

We are allocating this sum to our After-Care Fund, of which particulars are enclosed. This scheme, for which the National Institute for the Blind has made itself responsible, forms essentially the most important part of the work of St. Dunstan's whereby we ensure that the training given will not be wasted, but that our men will receive that future supervision and assistance so necessary in the case of the blind worker.

You will, I am sure, be interested to know that the re-education and training of these men is proceeding in a manner that surpasses the most sanguine expectations I had formed when St. Dunstan's was started, and that those who have left us are, with scarcely an exception, taking up their lives anew with a confidence and ability that seemed quite impossible to them in the early days of their handicap.

With the prolongation of the War, the numbers of those who have been called upon to join the "Dark Regiment" are increasing with sad rapidity, and to properly train and equip each one of these brave fellows to fight life's battle under so great a disadvantage as the loss of sight, will entail a very heavy expenditure.

Such generous assistance as you have given to our Funds is, therefore, most encouraging, and very deeply appreciated.

With renewed most cordial thanks,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ARTHUR PEARSON.

Chairman, Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee.

It is hoped that the publication of this letter may induce others to exert themselves on behalf of the "Dark Regiment," as Sir Arthur Pearson not only calls our blinded soldiers and sailors.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
August 8th, 1917.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 5th April. The 5 per cent. War Loan is quoted at 94½, 4½ per cent. War Loan at 96, and 3½ per cent. War Loan at 86½; Consols at 56.

SUGAR. The general impression as to Lord Rhondda's sugar distribution scheme, the particulars of which are given elsewhere in this CIRCULAR, is on the whole favourable.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has simplified the present classification, putting West Indian muscovado (moist), raw brown cane crystals, refiners' pieces other than white, and West India grocery syrups into one class at 44/6. The minimum standard of colour has also been limited. White pieces will be taken as not lower in colour to No. 23 Dutch standard. Other grocery pieces not inferior to No. 11 Dutch standard, and West Indian grocery syrups, as not inferior to the standard at present taken by the West Indian Brokers' Committee.

The letter of the Royal Commission on the subject is published on another page.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States have just published the report of their special agent on the several American cane sugar industries. The following figures for the 1913-14 crop are given in *Facts about Sugar*. The weights are presumably in short tons:

In Hawaii the average cane production per acre harvested for mill was 43.92 tons; in Porto Rico, 20.45 tons; in Louisiana, 18.29 tons, and in Cuba, 21.32 tons. In Hawaii an average of 8.14 tons of cane were required to produce one ton of sugar; in Porto Rico, 9.01 tons; in Louisiana, 13.98 tons, and in Cuba, 8.68 tons.

In Hawaii the average yield of sugar per ton of cane harvested for mill was 245.63 lbs.; in Porto Rico, 221.87 lbs.; Louisiana, 143.26 lbs., and in Cuba it was 229.07 lbs.

In Hawaii the average cost of cane at mill was \$4.66 per ton; in Porto Rico, \$4.62; in Louisiana, \$4.27, and in Cuba, \$2.37.

The average price paid to outside planters or colonos for purchased cane in Hawaii was \$3.82; in Porto Rico, \$3.89; in Louisiana, \$4, and in Cuba, \$2.02.

In Hawaii the average cost of the cane used to make 1 ton of sugar was \$37.95; in Porto Rico, \$41.68; in Louisiana, \$60.18, and in Cuba, \$20.56.

In Hawaii the average cost of production f.o.b. factory per ton of sugar was \$44.59 with a minimum cost of \$34.26 and a maximum of \$68.26. Porto Rico had an average cost of \$52.29, with a minimum of \$44.02 and a maximum of \$67.02; Louisiana had an average cost of \$79.50 with a minimum of \$59.95 and a maximum of \$99.28. Cuba had an average cost of \$28.92, with a minimum of \$22.35 and a maximum of \$43.77.

For Hawaii the average marketing cost from the factory to delivery in the United States was \$9.34, for Porto Rico \$4.27, and for Cuba \$5.46 per ton of sugar.

Per pound of sugar delivered in the United States, the average cost of Hawaiian sugar was 2.697 cents, for Porto Rico 2.828 cents, for Louisiana 3.975 cents, and for Cuba 1.719 cents, exclusive of duty. Adding the rate of duty paid on Cuban sugar, or 1.0648 cents per lb., the cost of Cuban sugar delivered in the United States was 2.7238 cents per lb. For the year of these costs, 1914, the average wholesale selling price of 96° raw sugar was 3.84 cents; of refined granulated, 4.71 cents; while the average retail price was 5.9 cents per lb.

Fertilising of cane in Hawaii on all plantations cost an average of \$42.62 per acre and 95 cents per ton of cane. In Porto Rico the average cost was \$8.28 per acre and 35 cents per ton of cane. In Cuba the average cost was \$2.43 per acre and 12 cents per ton of cane.

Irrigating cane in Hawaii for all the plantations require

ing it cost an average of \$67.91 per acre and \$1.42 per ton of cane. In Porto Rico irrigation cost an average of \$15.76 per acre and 63 cents per ton of cane for plantations using it. In Cuba irrigation upon the small number of plantations using it cost \$2.13 per acre and 8 cents per ton of cane.

Planting cane in Hawaii cost an average of \$17.75 per acre and 40 cents per ton of cane. In Porto Rico it was \$14.40 per acre and 61 cents per ton of cane. In Cuba it was \$4.24 per acre and 20 cents per ton of cane.

Cultivating cane in Hawaii cost an average of \$30.09 per acre and 67 cents per ton of cane. In Porto Rico it cost an average of \$13.82 per acre and 59 cents per ton of cane. In Cuba it cost an average of \$7.85 per acre and 36 cents per ton of cane.

Harvesting cane in Hawaii cost an average of \$36.53 per acre and 82 cents per ton of cane. In Porto Rico it cost an average of \$16.05 per acre and 69 cents per ton of cane. In Cuba it cost an average of \$24.53 per acre and \$1.13 per ton of cane.

In Hawaii the period of growth of cane from its planting or cutting back to its harvesting averages about 640 days, or over 21 months. In Porto Rico about two-thirds of the cane has a twelve months' growth, and one-third eighteen months' growth; in Louisiana it has a nine months' growth; in Cuba a twelve months' growth.

It is reported that a trust has been formed in Java to keep up the price of f.o.b. sugar. It is difficult to see how this could operate satisfactorily in view of the shortage of transport which will of itself compel large stocks being held up in that country.

The total beet sowings in the United States is expected to reach some, according to Willett and Gray, 808,888 acres as against 672,116 acres last year, an increase of 136,773 acres. 95 factories are expected to operate and the yield is estimated by these authorities as being 895,000 tons. In Canada the sowings are not expected to exceed 19,000 acres with a sugar output of 17,500 tons.

The same authorities give the consumption of all sugars in the United States as being 2,360,542 tons for the six months, or 10.7 per cent. increase on the first six months of last year.

The *Daily Commercial Report* gives the Cuban crop deliveries to all ports at 2,651,777 tons up to the 28th July.

The following prices for sugar in Great Britain came into force on August 7th: Cubes, 53/9; granulated and crystals, 46/9; muscovado, raw brown crystals, and syrups, 44/6; and British Colonial syrups for sale to manufacturers, 39/6.

The West India sugar statistics in London from January 1st to July 28th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	40,150	31,796	30,998 Tons.
Deliveries	40,653	34,817	23,336
Stock (July 28th)	7,812	8,084	13,671

RUM. There is nothing doing in spot transactions as all first hand supplies are exhausted, and there are no new arrivals owing to prohibition of imports.

The stocks in London on July 28th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,243	6,933	4,978 puns.
Demerara	10,759	13,755	5,125 ..
Total of all kinds	31,436	34,968	18,905

CACAO. Market fairly steady. No auction sales have been held this week. Trinidad may be quoted at 83/- to 86/-; Grenada at 68/- to 82/-; Jamaica at 65/- to 81/-; and St. Lucia at 67/- to 82/-.

The stocks in London on July 28th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	27,328	28,059	11,672 bags.
Grenada	26,676	17,550	3,612
Total of all kinds	273,016	213,541	85,246 ..

In reply to an enquiry put to them by the West India Committee, the Foreign Office state with regard to the

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 5642 CENTRAL
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

August 23rd, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50 40s.

COLONIAL AFFAIRS.

IN introducing the Colonial Office vote in the House of Commons on August 14th, Mr. WALTER LONG made two important pronouncements. Dealing with the resolutions of the Allies' Economic Conference, held in Paris in June, 1916, which we were almost beginning to fear had been pigeon-holed, he stated that the policy of giving specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufacture of other parts of the Empire and our Allies, which was the main recommendation, called for immediate consideration; and he added that the Prime Minister had appointed a Committee, consisting of Ministers representing all the Departments concerned, to report upon the methods and machinery by which effect could be given to the resolutions. Of that Committee the Secretary of State for the Colonies would be Chairman. This brings us a definite step nearer the adoption of the policy of Imperial Preference, which is becoming every day more essential in view of the competition

which our Dominions and Colonies will have to face in the future with those parts of the world which have not been subject for three complete years to disabilities of trade, due to the war, but have been piling up reserves. Mr. LONG's second announcement, which will be read with particular satisfaction in British Guiana, had to do with the question of immigration. He expressed the hope that the representation of India at the Imperial Conferences would result in the finding of a *modus vivendi* with respect to the difficult question of providing labour for some of our Crown Colonies, and he stated that a Committee, which had gone very fully into the matter, had arrived at a decision, of which he had approved, which he hoped might lead to an improvement in the matter. For this we are profoundly thankful, for any cessation in the influx of immigrants into British Guiana, which affords such splendid openings for East Indian settlers, as statistics and reports have shown would be simply disastrous, and would completely wreck all prospects of the development of the interior, which we hope to see vigorously pursued after the war.

Among other matters, Mr. LONG had a good deal to say about the present import restrictions which have been—generally speaking—so loyally and patiently borne by the Crown Colonies, no less than by the Dominions, though they necessarily involve much interference with trade. Though the statistics as to the sinkings by submarines show an improvement from our point of view, and though Mr. LLOYD GEORGE has been in a position to make an optimistic statement as to our food supplies, it is clear that the entry of America into the war must make a further call on tonnage for military purposes, and it is to be feared, therefore, that no immediate relaxation of the import restrictions can be looked for—at any rate Mr. LONG held out no hope in this connection. In the debate which followed, little of real importance was said. LORD HENRY CAVENDISH BENTINCK strongly urged the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the resources of our Crown Colonies and dependencies, and advocated the establishment of Agricultural Colleges in the East and West; but it cannot be said that other Members rose to the occasion and availed themselves of the one opportunity in the session of ventilating Colonial questions.

AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

A HOMEWARD mail has brought us an account of the half-yearly meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which was held at the Collegiate Hall, Kingston, on July 27th. Formed in

1895, during the Governorship of SIR HENRY BLAKE, the Society came of age last year and is, perhaps, the most virile of the many agricultural bodies in the West Indies, for it has now no fewer than 166 branches, with 6,756 members, distributed throughout the island, which are doing admirable work in disseminating information and encouraging the improvement of cultivation and breeds of stock, and in watching over the interests of agriculture generally. Since the commencement of the War the Society has been particularly active. It has collected, packed, and despatched to the West India Committee for distribution among wounded sailors and soldiers an immense number of packages of fruit, besides gifts of many kinds, and its efforts to increase the production of foodstuffs locally bear promise of most successful results. In this connection, SIR WILLIAM MANNING, who presided over the meeting, sounded a timely note of warning. He reminded his audience that the food supply of the world was in a very precarious condition, and that the world would have chiefly to depend upon America for food in the near future. Though at present Jamaica was able to import certain articles of foodstuffs, the time would come when the island would have to rely on what it could produce. He was gratified to know that the foodstuffs now being produced in Jamaica were even in excess of the requirements of to-day, but the requirements of to-day would be different from the requirements of to-morrow, and he strongly advised all to continue to plant foodstuffs. It would be infinitely better to have too much than to have too little. This is eminently sound advice, which should be taken to heart throughout the West Indies, and where sufficient food is already being produced we should like to see an extension of the system of kiln-drying and storing maize, which has proved such a success in Antigua and elsewhere. The Society has also done valuable work in distributing seed to make good the destruction of cultivation caused by two successive hurricanes, and the handling of 1,112 bushels of cow peas, red peas, seed corn, etc., besides 445 barrels of seed potatoes and 3,000 ounces of vegetable seeds can, we know, have been no light task. Meanwhile, the regular work of giving advice and assistance to agriculturists has been maintained without relaxation by Mr. JOHN BARCLAY, the capable secretary, and his well-trained band of instructors, whose duties are becoming yearly more exacting. Besides visiting cultivations, giving demonstrations, and attending branch meetings, the instructors have to be constantly on the alert to detect and report diseases of plants and insect pests, and to give instructions how these should be dealt with; they have also to send up specimens of plants and insects for the Microbiologist and Entomologist. In conversation with a gentleman lately returned from India who has had experience there and also in the West Indies in agricultural affairs, we gathered that the planters in the West Indies compare most favourably with those of India in the matter of their readiness to accept advice and to adapt themselves to modern conditions. For this state of affairs we have to thank such enthusiastic bodies as the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Germany is still busily endeavouring to create an atmosphere favourable to peace negotiations, and with some success. Even if the Stockholm Conference, as seems probable, never meets, but a division opens up on the subject in any of the Allied countries, she will regard her labour as not altogether in vain. Unfortunately, England is the only country in which there is the remotest chance of such a contingency happening. For the circle of mischief described by Mr. Henderson in going to Paris with Mr. Ramsay Macdonald on a peace mission is widening. According to the published correspondence between him and the Premier, he deceived his colleagues on the War Cabinet as well as the Labour Party, which, on his advice, voted for British representation at the Stockholm Conference, thereby reversing the judgment of January last. The truth is, no man can be a member of the War Cabinet as a member of a party, and so Mr. Henderson has resigned. His place has been taken by Mr. Barnes, who, it is to be hoped, will be guided as his colleagues are, by national and not by party considerations. Otherwise he will fail, as his predecessor has done. What exactly is going to happen with regard to labour, no one seems to know, though there are rumours that the situation is such that it may force a General Election. What Mr. Henderson forgot was that the call to power in Russia of M. Kerensky, and the decline of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council of Delegates altered the Russian standpoint, and that his escapade might embarrass M. Kerensky, who is as averse from entering the Stockholm mouse-trap as the British, French, Italian, and American Governments, all of which will refuse passports to delegates.

The Pope's Peace Note.

Just as Germany has used the pro-Germans in Allied and neutral countries in her peace manoeuvres, and drawn a member of the British Cabinet in the process, so she has been able to draw the Vatican. In a note to the belligerents the Pope evidently takes at the face value the professions of the Wilhelmstrasse and Ballplatz designed to sow dissension in Allied countries. Up to the present he has made no protests against the horrors perpetrated by Germany in defiance of law and humanity, but thinks that his holy office justifies him in proposing a peace without annexations and indemnities, except in the particular cases of Belgium and Serbia; that Alsace, the Trentino, and Trieste should be dealt with according to the aspirations of the people concerned in so far as "they are compatible with the general situation"; that Germany should have her colonies returned to her in return for the restoration of Belgium and the occupied portions of France. His Holiness also advocates "freedom of the seas, no economic war after the War, general disarmament, and the promotion of a league of nations. Only that this new peace note has been fathered by the Pope, one might have thought that it had

been drawn up by the German High Command. That is why it is generally condemned in Allied countries.

On the Western Front.

Heavy fighting is more or less continuous all along the Western Front, and in Flanders and the Chemin des Dames attacks at short intervals are of a desperate character. Sometimes the enemy regains a little ground, as in Glencorse Wood and about Lens last week—but only temporarily, and at frightful cost. As a German newspaper put it, the Anglo-French advance in Flanders threatens the basin of Germany's industrial and military activity, as well as her hold on the coast, and therefore of Belgium, for the possession of which she has lost her soul. That is why massed attacks have been revived, and the most famous German regiments, such as the "Cockchafers" and Prussian Guards, hurled against positions which the British have taken and stubbornly keep.

On August 15th the Canadians captured Hill 70 and a portion of the adjoining defences on the north of Lens on a front of about 2½ miles, penetrating the enemy trench system for nearly a mile at one point. The operation recovers a position rendered memorable by the gallant stand of Scottish troops in the Battle of Loos two years ago, and further helps to release the collieries, of which Lens is the centre. Their valuable products are not now of much use to the Germans, as our guns almost entirely dominate the entire district; and, while the British are driving back the enemy step by step from Lens, the French are preparing for re-starting the mines on their complete liberation. In the earlier phases of the attack the Canadians did not experience much hard fighting. Indeed, Hill 70 was taken with comparative ease, because the Prussians were confused by an intensive bombardment followed by a deluge of burning oil. But when they rallied they put up a stiff resistance, and their airmen aided them in the air with a new intrepidity. When one realises that Lens is a network of defences as formidable and labyrinthine as any British troops have yet encountered, the achievement of the Canadians in driving so far into this important fortress is seen in true perspective.

Further north, fighting has been extended on a fifteen-mile front in a vigorous Anglo-French offensive, which has pushed the Germans from another notable position, Langemark, and a mile beyond, besides enabling the French to occupy the triangle between the Yser and the Martjevaart, together with the bridgehead of Dreigrachten. Such value does the enemy attach to these positions that the Prussian Guards have been decimated in counter-attacks without gaining their objectives. Thus one by one the tentacles of the German octopus in Belgium are being hewn away.

Meantime, the French have launched a new offensive on a wide front on both banks of the Meuse, which is developing satisfactorily owing to the withdrawal of German troops to reinforce Mackensen's forces, which are being held by the Russo-Rumanian armies on the Sereth and on the Dniester fronts. The Italians, too, have resumed

the offensive on the Julian front, suspended since last June. So that if the Austrians have been induced to pursue the Moldavian adventure by weakening their Isonzo lines, they are likely to think better of it.

On the Eastern Front.

There is not much to record from this front, except the remarkable recovery of the Rumanian Army since the disastrous campaign of last autumn. Only for the retreat of the Russians, the offensive which the Rumanians launched in conjunction with the Russian advance in Galicia might have caused the Austrian forces under the Archduke serious trouble. At present the Rumanians and Russians are gallantly fighting along the line of the Sereth to bar Mackensen, who has been reinforced by German troops, and threatens Pastzani, the vital point on the Allied line of communication with Jassy. A battle still rages between the Trotus and the Putna, on the result of which depends the fate of Aguidu, at the junction of the two main lines of railway in Moldavia. Should the Allied forces be compelled to retire, the positions in the Trotus Valley would collapse. But, as Mackensen himself is in danger of attack—not from Fundeni, which he has probably rendered secure from attack in order to safeguard his communications through Foesani, but from the Buzau, further south, where the Russians retain a bridgehead near the confluence of that river with the Sereth—it is not likely that there will be great developments in this theatre of the War in the near future. The Russians must wait for the restoration of discipline in their armies, and the Germans for reinforcements, which they dare not take from the West.

In the north, the Germans have captured the Uexkull bridgehead, one of the pivots of the Riga defences, and one they have made numerous futile efforts to re-capture during the past two years.

The Safety of Hospital Ships.

Whether or not Germany has a sinister design behind the proposal to safeguard hospital ships passing between Salonika and Gibraltar matters little. The great thing is that, provided each one carries a Spanish naval officer, to guarantee that there are no troops or munitions on board—as if there ever were—hospital ships will be immune from "U"-boat attack. It is probable that we owe this concession partly to the good offices of Spain and partly to Germany's desire to extricate herself from a position which is doing her great harm without any military compensation.

The Entry of China.

After long deliberation, the last considerable Power in the world has joined the Allies. The strenuous efforts made by Germany to prevent it are suggestive of the blow it is to her alike from the naval and military point of view. Not only have enormous sums of money been sunk in Shantung, but much German capital has found an outlet in Chinese railways, mines, etc. Then the payment of the instalments of the large indemnity which Germany exacted from China consequent

on the Boxer Rising will cease, a matter of some moment to Germany, labouring under her present financial strain; and at least 18,000 tons of enemy shipping interned in Chinese harbours are being taken over. As for Chinese man-power, it is of good quality and practically inexhaustible. It could not only double the permanent-way of the Trans-Siberian Railway, but make most of the munitions which Russia requires, besides providing labour to meet various other Allied necessities. It should be remembered, too, that China is rich in minerals and raw materials of all kinds.

The Shipping Position.

The latest returns of losses are smaller than any issued for some time. In the three weeks ended August 19th, the losses of big ships have been 20, 14, and 14, and those of smaller ships 3, 1 and 3 respectively. From a semi-official review recently published, it is possible to get a rough idea of how we stand with respect to shipping. It appears that we have 14,000,000 tons available for the trade of the United Kingdom, and 1,000,000 for trade abroad. Of the 14,000,000 tons, 6½ millions are employed in the service of the Army and Navy, our Allies, and the Dominions. As this is a lower estimate than has yet been given with official sanction, it is clear that economies in space have been made to some purpose. By adding together the number of big ships sunk since February 1st, and taking 5,000 tons as the average tonnage, while allowing for smaller vessels, say, 1,000 tons each, it will be easy to compute the inroads on our 14,000,000 tons due to submarine depredations as the weekly returns of losses come out. What no one knows exactly is the total of our output in new construction, or what tonnage the Government has got together by purchase, recovery from naval and military service, combing out from our coastal service, etc. But the review gives one the impression that things are not so bad as some people would like us to believe.

More Air Raids.

After an interval of three weeks, a squadron of about twenty enemy aeroplanes attacked the East and South-east coast on August 12th. They were first reported off Felixstowe, whence they skirted the coast to Clacton, where they apparently divided, part going to Margate and part to South-end. This latter town suffered most, though our aviators and anti-aircraft defences promptly attacked the raiders, one of which—a Gotha—was destroyed on the return journey, while a seaplane was driven by one of our airmen down to the water off the coast of Flanders. When it turned over he observed a survivor clinging to the tail, whereupon he threw down to the German his own lifebelt. There were 75 casualties due to this raid.

A Zeppelin was brought down by our naval forces off Jutland on August 21st. Next day ten enemy aeroplanes approached the Kentish coast, and bombs were dropped at Dover, Margate, and Ramsgate. Two raiders were brought down. An abortive Zeppelin raid on the Yorkshire coast has also to be recorded.

British Chase in the North Sea.

A spirited little action has taken place in the German Bight, in which our light naval forces damaged an enemy destroyer and at least two enemy mine-sweepers. But, as usual, the German ships ran to cover as soon as possible, this time on the right side of a mine-field. There were no losses on our side, though both during and after the action our ships were attacked by a submarine.

(To be continued.)

THE WAR ANNIVERSARY.

Sir Douglas Haig's Stirring Message.

On the anniversary of the declaration of War against Germany, the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent the following cabled message from Sir Douglas Haig to all Overseas Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates:—

"Our Armies in France, drawn from every part of the British Empire, bring to the fourth year of the War a steady confidence justified by their past achievements. Unflinching in their resolution to complete the task to which they have put their hands they will fight on until the enemy is finally overthrown."

The following cablegrams, among others, were received at the Colonial Office:—

GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS:—

On the third anniversary of a righteous war the House of Assembly, as representing the people of Barbados, recorded their inflexible determination.

OFFICER ADMINISTERING GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH HONDURAS:—

Following resolution unanimously passed to-day by Legislative Council:—"To ask his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to convey to His Majesty's Ministers on behalf of this Council and of the Colony on this the third anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war the ever-present conviction of this Council and Colony of the justice of the cause in which the forces of the Empire are engaged the inflexible determination of this Council and Colony to do all that (in their power) to assist His Majesty's Government in the prosecution of the war, and the ever-increasing confidence of this Council and Colony that a glorious success will finally crown the efforts of the Imperial arms and of our splendid Allies."

ADMINISTRATOR OF DOMINICA:—

On the occasion of the third anniversary of declaration of war against Germany and on behalf of your Majesty's most dutiful and most faithful servants of the Executive Council and Legislative Council of the Presidency, together with the whole people of Dominica, I desire to express with their humble duty their most faithful determination to continue to do all that in them lies for the safety, honour, and welfare of your Most Gracious Majesty and the Empire to which it is their high privilege to belong.

GOVERNOR OF WINDWARD ISLANDS:—

His Majesty's loyal subjects of the Windward Islands request me to ask you to convey to Sir Douglas Haig their confidence in, and also their admiration for, the brave Army he commands, and to assure him that they are determined to do their duty as a part of the great Empire in providing their quota to help the Commander-in-Chief to complete his task, which, although difficult, is assured owing to the determination and valour of the officers and men under his command.

SEA TRAFFIC AFTER THE WAR.

An Imperial Mail Service Advocated.

In the House of Lords on August 16th, Lord D'Abernon asked His Majesty's Government what measures they had taken or contemplated for the provision of safe, economical, and rapid sea communication within the Empire after the War; whether the enlargement or reconstruction of harbours along the great ocean routes had been or would be considered in this connection; and, if so, by what Department. He said it could not be made too clear that size and deep draught were essential both for speed and economy. Under the stress and pressure of war a large number of standard vessels were now being pressed forward for completion in order to meet the exigencies of the submarine menace. These ships, almost certainly the best that could be constructed in the circumstances, would surely prove inadequate to the requirements of the great ocean routes after the War. The public were apt to expect too much from mere standardisation; it was obvious that its real merit was what they standardised on. An antecedent condition to devising suitable ships was the proper condition of the harbours along the great ocean routes of the Empire. A comparatively small expenditure now on scientific lines on the harbours of this country and the Dominions and Colonies would repay itself many times in the interests of the Empire by increasing the safety, economy, and speed of Imperial communications. For instance, a maximum expense of £5,000,000 on the great route from the United Kingdom to New Zealand and Australia, via the Cape, would fundamentally alter the capabilities of that route, so that the cost of transport could be largely reduced and the speed of vessels considerably increased, with a consequent increased immunity from attack. The route from Australia and New Zealand via the Panama Canal, by an expenditure of less than £250,000, could be made much more practicable for large and fast vessels, so that liners using the Cape route to Australia could complete their voyage round the world, calling at Jamaica and Halifax. On those lines it would be easy to create a new Imperial mail service round the world, connecting the United Kingdom with South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, and Canada. When improvement of this kind was feasible, it was folly not to put the matter in hand at once. Every day's delay meant loss of money and loss of efficiency. He hoped the Government would take steps to have the problem considered promptly, and that consideration might lead to rapid and effective action on broad, far-seeing lines. (Hear, hear.)

Earl Curzon, in reply, said no one could fail to realise the importance of the means of communication between the several parts of the Empire, and the provision of suitable harbours along the routes, either by the construction of new harbours or the enlargement of those existing, would be of even greater importance when the War came to an end. The Royal Commission over which Lord D'Abernon presided visited almost every part of the Empire in years preceding the War, and their report was

one of the most important contributions to Imperial solidarity that had emanated from any source within the last decade. That report clearly demonstrated to what an extent the life of the Empire depended upon its communications, and that the development of sea routes would give a great impetus to Imperial trade and add to the strength and cohesion of the Empire by strengthening the links and accelerating communication between the parts. The Imperial Conferences of 1907 and 1911 had passed resolutions on the subject, and at the recent Imperial War Conference in London a resolution was passed, on the motion of Sir R. Borden, relating to improved means of transport. The matter could not be dealt with by the British Government alone; it must be considered in conjunction with the Dominion Governments. In its purely British aspect, it would come within the purview of the Minister of Reconstruction. The subject would not be lost sight of.

FEDERATION.

(Continued from page 303 and concluded.)

The following article from the pen of a correspondent who veils his identity under the initial "X" is published in the Year Book of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute which has just been issued.

We have so many different forms of federation in the world to-day that none can be said to be stereotyped. All States that have hitherto federated have been guided by their own special needs, and have, subject to certain basic principles, framed Constitutions suitable to their own requirements. Some of these Federations have been of a closer, some of a looser nature, but whereas all have been willing to profit by the experience gained in the formation and the actual working of other Federations, none have been willing to sacrifice local conditions to theory, nor to apply details taken from other Constitutions obviously unsuited to the situation then in course of solution. And so the West Indies can by precedent deal with their position unfettered by any considerations but those of utility and local environment. It has been suggested—and this seems to be a reasonable solution of the West Indian situation—that the West Indies should for a start, at any rate, federate for common purposes only, and that this might be achieved by the constitution of a Federal Council with certain variations, on the lines of the Australian Federal Council Act of 1885. It has been proposed that this Federal Council, to which members should be elected from the various Legislatures of the Colonies concerned, should be invested with legislative as well as deliberative powers over certain objects defined by statute, and of obviously common interest. It has, furthermore, been proposed that as such a Council would be powerless to carry out directly any projects which involved expenditure, unless funds were placed at its disposal, each federated colony should contribute a fixed percentage of its annual revenue towards the maintenance of the Federal Council and its objects.

As this scheme does not interfere with the con-

trol of the local Government over their financial and other arrangements, it has not met with any decided opposition in the West Indies, at the same time, for the present, not gaining any universal marked approval. The main reason for this apathetic attitude probably is that the people of the West Indies will not study the question. Perhaps it is that, except in Barbados, and in a lesser degree British Guiana, they take little direct part in the Government of their Colonies—for which they have not yet been considered ripe—and that they have, therefore, hesitated to tackle seriously a problem involving many technicalities with which they are unfamiliar and expert considerations with which they are unable to cope. Perhaps they are waiting for a lead, or for the psychological moment when like a cataclysm of nature they will, figuratively speaking, find themselves hurled into each others' arms in a close embrace of political co-operation. In the meantime they are content to meet together through their representatives from time to time when the necessity arises in Conferences "ad hoc" and to discuss amicably and usefully the questions submitted for consideration and incidentally to testify to the world at large, and to themselves, that they have mutual interests and that they can work together in harmony, and that in combination their influence is very much more powerful than as individual units, each independent of the others, seeking to fashion his own path and to find his own salvation. As single units they will, and can never be regarded as factors of any importance in Imperial politics. They are merely small colonies whose individual interests are comparatively insignificant—interests that may or may not be infringed upon by the Imperial Government, be overlooked, and if federated they would undoubtedly receive a consideration which has hitherto been lacking, and which would come as a rare and refreshing fruit to people who for many years past have perforce had to remain content with the sparse fare of the foundling child.

From the Imperial point of view it cannot be gainsaid that any step tending to strengthen or to develop the resources of any portion of the Empire—and every Federation which has been created in modern times has been fruitful of development and trade expansion—must necessarily redound to the credit and add to the prestige and power of the rest of the Empire.

The West Indian Colonies arc amongst our oldest possessions. Around their shores was built up a naval supremacy which has never faltered. For that reason alone the Empire owes them such a debt of gratitude as is hard to repay. For is it not owing to that naval supremacy that it has been possible to create a commerce which is the envy of all nations, and to build up and maintain an Empire upon which, as has been truly said, "the sun never sets."

And West Indians, too, must remember that they have their responsibilities, and that as part of that Empire they must be "up and doing," and that if they desire to render themselves worthy of their Imperial citizenship and to justify their demands for representation in the Imperial

Councils, they must seriously cope with the question of Federation and by combining constitute their Colonies a political integral part of the British Empire.

Mr. T. J. Lennard, Chairman of Council of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute, adds the following note:—"British Guiana, the largest of the West Indian Colonies, has a branch of the Royal Colonial Institute. Dominica was the first of our Colonies to present an aeroplane for the War. Trinidad and Jamaica followed suit. The following figures will show that if federated the United West Indies would be more important than New Zealand in area and population.

	Square Miles.	Population	Date of Census.
British Guiana (3 times the size of Ireland)	90,277	309,936	1914
British Honduras	8,599	41,543	1911
Jamaica	4,450	231,363	1911
Trinidad	1,754	1,868	333,552
Tobago	114		1911
Bahamas	4,403	55,639	61,254
Turks and Caicos Islands	169	4,572	5,615
Dominica		291	33,063
St. Lucia		253	48,537
Barbados		165	176,397
St. Vincent		150	46,979
Grenada		133	6,836
Antigua		108	31,394
Barbuda	62		871
St. Kitts and Nevis	150		49,303
Anguilla	35	217	4,075
Montserrat	32		12,196
Virgin Islands	56		5,552
	111,083	1,887,833	£24,006,206 (1914-15)

Compare the above with the two areas below:—

New Zealand	103,961	1,099,692	1915
United Kingdom	121,633	46,089,900	

An Interview with Mr. G. S. Hudson.

The Hon. G. S. Hudson, Secretary of the newly-formed West Indian Federal League, left for America *en route* to St. Lucia on Tuesday last. Interviewed by a representative of the CIRCULAR shortly before his departure, he said that the new organisation comprised a small nucleus of unofficial gentlemen resident in the various West Indian Colonies who were endeavouring to influence public opinion in the direction of federation. He fully agreed with the attitude of the West India Committee that the first move in the matter must come from the Colonies themselves.

Asked what the programme of the League would be, Mr. Hudson said that while influencing public opinion it would endeavour to get resolutions passed by unofficial public bodies in favour of a purely unofficial conference which, he hoped, would shortly be held to discuss amicably a very loose form of political union between all the British West Indian Islands and British Guiana. If this proved successful, the Secretary of State for the Colonies would probably be asked to permit officials to attend a further and more formal conference.

The League would endeavour to work on popular grounds, and it was fully realised that in view of certain earlier proposals which had been quite unacceptable, it would be dangerous to talk of federation without explaining what kind of union was contemplated. The West Indies had many common matters for consideration which could only be properly handled by some form of Federal Council. "Without some such concentration of opinion and energy the West Indies cannot be adequately represented in the Empire Council after the War, and this is a matter of some urgency. Again we must speak with undivided weight on such matters as mail and steamship contracts including freight and passenger rates after the

War, and also as to Trade Treaties : it is impossible for us to exact fair terms from other Dominions and countries unless we bargain with the whole bulk of West Indian trade behind us."

Asked what the position of the existing legislatures would be with especial reference to those comprising representative institutions, Mr. Hudson said that no interference whatever was contemplated where purely local affairs were concerned, such as internal legislation, taxation and expenditure, and there would be no question of placing one Colony in a position of subservience to another.

To a question as to what propaganda would be issued, Mr. Hudson replied that it was proposed shortly to publish a pamphlet which had been compiled after discussion with men well versed in West Indian affairs, and would offer tentative suggestions as a preliminary basis for discussion. "What we want is for the unofficial West Indies to get together and in a friendly way to work out a loose scheme of union that will benefit all and hurt nobody, and I believe there will be very little difficulty in attaining this if one may credit the genuineness of the almost universal opinion expressed by thoughtful and leading West Indians in favour of such a union."

Touching on other matters, Mr. Hudson said that he was also much interested in the formation of a Central Land Mortgage Bank on Prussian lines (he was sorry to have to say it but the efficiency and success of these lines was incontrovertible), with branches and sub-branches in each colony. "In common with many others, I believe that such an organisation would be of immense benefit to the West Indian land owner and agriculture generally. It is not a wild cat scheme of lending money indiscriminately, and spreading it right through the West Indies would increase its stability immensely. A short explanation of the idea is published in the proceedings of The Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce, 1917."

SEA DEFENCES OF BRITISH GUIANA

At the request of the Colonial Government, Mr. Gerald O. Case has made further reports on the sea defences of the Essequibo and Corentyne coasts of British Guiana. His recommendations follow very closely on the lines of his previous reports on the East Coast and West Coast defences, with which we have already dealt. Mr. Case strongly condemns the use of stone wave-breakers in front of the sea dams and of vertical sheet-piling on the face of the dams, both systems, in his opinion, being harmful and tending to create, or increase, erosive action, deepening the foreshore and resulting in destructive rough wave action against the dams. He advocates, instead, the erection of low training groynes at regular intervals along the foreshore, at, or approaching, right angles to the line of the sea dams, for the encouragement of deposits of shell, sand and mud along the foreshore, thus tending to build the attler up to form a sloping beach on which the action of the waves will be gradually expended before reaching the more or less permanent defence works at the back, sea dams or sea walls, as the case may be.

Similar groynes, erected on the East and West Coast, have already produced beneficial results in this way. The cost of the works recommended are estimated at \$303,779 for Essequibo and \$58,275 for the Corentyne district; and methods of financing the respective schemes have been approved by Committees of the Combined Court, appointed for that purpose. In face of the considerable opposition by members of the Court against their services as contractors, Messrs. Case & Henni-

bique advise that the works be executed by contract advertised for by the Government from amongst persons other than themselves. In the event, however, of the Government failing to secure a reasonable tender, within the limits of Mr. Case's estimates, from outside contractors, they have expressed their willingness to reconsider their decision, if asked to do so.

THE HISTORY OF RICE.

During the potato famine, which is now, happily, over, rice, cooked in the form of croquettes or plain boiled, was one of the most popular substitutes for the absent tuber. How many consumers and producers, too, for the matter of that, are aware of the origin of rice as a staple food?

Some interesting information under this head was given recently in the *Rangoon Gazette*. From this it is interesting to note that Europe is indebted for its first acquaintance with rice to the Arabs, who carried the plant into Spain in the seventh century of our era, under the name *aruz*, which became *arros* in Spanish, *rizo* in Italian, and from which is derived our name rice.

Rice was first cultivated in Italy, near Pisa, in 1468. It was not introduced into America until 1700 and then, it was said, by accident into Carolina, and at one time the Southern States of America furnished the largest proportion of rice imported into England. There are said to be far more varieties of rice than of any other of the farinaceous grains used for food in Europe, and the Burmans enumerate several hundred kinds. But a considerable number of the names given for varieties are founded on distinctions which are unappreciable by Europeans, such as variations of times of sowing, and ripening, of soils and modes of culture. Such minute differences may perhaps point to antiquity in the culture of rice, which, though not mentioned in the Bible, is in the Jewish Talmud. There is no evidence of the existence of rice in Egyptian remains, nor is there any trace of it as a native plant among the Greeks, Romans, or ancient Persians, but there is proof of its cultivation in the Euphrates valley, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, several hundred years before the Christian era.

Crawford, on philological grounds, considers that rice was introduced first into Persia from Southern India. Other writers think that rice was first grown in China, where a ceremonial ordinance was established by the Emperor Chinung in the year 2800 n.c., in accordance with which the Chinese Emperor for many centuries participated himself yearly in the sowing, whilst the seeds of four different kinds were at the same time sown by four princes of the Imperial House. This Chinese ceremony, at any rate, shows that over 4,700 years ago it was already the food of many millions of the most civilised race then existing in the world. During the Irish potato famine in the last century rice was substituted for potatoes in some of the workhouses and was reported some months afterwards to have produced cases of scurvy in some of the inmates. But that may be greatly owing to the effect of the sudden

change to an accustomed diet and partly, no doubt, to the deficiency of mineral matters characteristic of this grain. It suggests, no doubt, the utility and wholesomeness of a mixed food. No other grain is more easily digested, but it is not by itself a complete and perfect food, requiring the addition of some more nitrogenous material, such as is found in meat, lentils, milk, or eggs. Starch, a necessary of life, enters more largely into the composition of rice than it does in wheat, oatmeal, Indian corn, potatoes, or bananas.

MAPLE SUGAR.

Canada, as a whole, produces annually, according to recent statistics, says the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, about £400,000 worth of maple products. Of the total yield during the five years 1908-12 the United States took 99 per cent. of the sugar and 50 per cent. of the syrup. In that period the aggregate export was 8,685,000 lbs. of sugar and 20,000 gallons of syrup, the Province of Quebec being the chief producer.

In the Maritime Provinces, the value of the maple tree, save as a factor in the lumber industry, has hardly yet begun to be appreciated, and the making of maple sugar and syrup has never been undertaken in a systematic manner. Nevertheless, there are a few farmers who find the unfelled maple a source of profit. One of these has furnished to the U.S. Consul at Moncton, New Brunswick, the following particulars with regard to the maple areas and the making of maple sugar and syrup in the County of Cumberland (Nova Scotia).

The Cobequid Mountains, from near Parrsboro to Londonderry and Westchester, extend for about forty miles, with an average width of hardwood lands of perhaps fifteen miles. Of this hardwood it is safe to say one-third is maple. There are probably not more than one hundred sugar-houses in this whole area of 600 square miles. Practically all of these are equipped with modern evaporators. An outfit of buckets, tanks, evaporator, and buildings will cost from £80 to £120 for woods of 1,200 to 2,000 trees (a fair average in the county). In normal seasons the yield is about 1½ lb. per tree, or 1,500 lbs. for 1,200 trees. At the same ratio, one hundred farms would produce 150,000 lbs. of sugar.

The Nova Scotian maple sap is made into hard sugar, cream sugar, wax, and syrup. Compared with Quebec's sugar woods, those in Nova Scotia do not yield as much per tree; but whether this is due to the soil and the size of the trees has not yet been determined.

DR. PARRY, Bishop of Guiana, has been offered, but has declined the See of Trinidad. His lordship has now been nominated Primate of the West Indies, in succession to the late Dr. Nuttall, Bishop of Jamaica, and in the room of Dr. Swaby, the late Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands, who filled the position of Archbishop for only a few days prior to his lamented death.

RUM FOR THE NAVY AND ARMY.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office on the subject of the prohibition of the imports of rum into this country:—

The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C. 3.

August 2nd, 1917.

Sir, — On February 1st last, we called the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the great increase in quantities of Cuban rum imported into the United Kingdom.

2. We pointed out that before the War the total imports of rum into this country averaged approximately 5,000,000 gallons per annum, towards which total the British West Indies and British Guiana contributed nearly 4,000,000 gallons against Cuba's 700,000 or 800,000 gallons. Owing no doubt to the rise in prices which followed the outbreak of war, Cuban exporters increased their shipments into the United Kingdom from 802,000 gallons in 1914, to 2,834,000 gallons in 1915, and, as we are informed, to a still higher figure last year.

3. We pointed out that the freight space taken up by this Cuban rum and the puncheons in which it was shipped was very considerable, and we added that the imports of Cuban rum, represented a value of approximately £500,000 in the year 1915, and that payment for this rum had to be made in a foreign country, thus adversely affecting Exchange. We urged, therefore, that the imports of foreign rum might be prohibited.

4. In view of the urgent need of economising tonnage, and having regard to the ample stocks of rum then in this country, the importation of that spirit into the United Kingdom was totally prohibited on February 23rd last, and it will be within your recollection that in consequence of the then gravity of the situation the West India Committee pledged their support to the Government in their policy of temporarily restricting imports.

5. We have, however, to look to the future and we are somewhat concerned at the prospects of unequal competition with the rum produced in foreign countries not subject to excess profits duty and other disabilities resulting from the War, and, in the circumstances, we beg that you will represent to the Departments of His Majesty's Government concerned the desirability of the present embargo being removed from British Colonial rum only and not from foreign spirit when it is found possible to relax the prohibition order.

6. We would further ask you that you will request the Admiralty and Army Council when purchasing rum for His Majesty's forces to meet their requirements from British Colonial spirit.

We have the honour, etc.,

R. RUTHERFORD,

Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary

The Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., etc., etc., etc.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

August 14.

The Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.

Sir, — I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd August, and to state that representations are being made to the Departments concerned with regard to your suggestion relative to the preferential treatment of British Colonial rum.

I am, etc.,

H. J. READ.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

In connection with the West India Committee's request that the requirements of the Admiralty and Army Council in respect of rum may be met from

British sources, it is of interest to note that history is again repeating itself.

It may be recalled that at a meeting of the West India Committee held at Wright's Coffee House, Soho Square, on June 26th, 1805 (Trafalgar year), Lord Penrhyn presiding, the following report of a Sub-Committee was approved:—

"Your Committee have to report, in pursuance of the reference made to them by the Resolution of the Standing Committee at a meeting held on the 12th instant, that the very depressed state of rum in the British market requires that certain regulations for extending relief to the importers of that article should be adopted without loss of time.

"We have to observe that the consumption of rum has diminished to an alarming degree; and we submit that in all contracts for supplying His Majesty's Navy with spirits, a decided preference should be given to rum. Many important reasons occur in recommending the use of rum, one of the staples of the British Colonies, instead of promoting the consumption of imported brandy, which encourages the agriculture and commerce of foreign countries, and occasionally adds considerably to the resources of our enemies."

At a further meeting, held at New City Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, on March 25th, 1806, Mr. James Chisholm in the chair, Mr. Lyon reported "that the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations, having taken into consideration the various applications made to His Majesty's Ministers, for the purpose of obtaining relief for the importers of rum, have agreed to recommend to the Lords of the Treasury to direct, that whenever it shall be necessary to purchase spirits for the use of His Majesty's forces, free from duty, a preference shall be given to rum, so long as the price of that article shall not exceed the price of foreign brandies by more than 1/- per gallon."

It will be noted that in those days the competition was between British rum and foreign brandy, but the principle is the same. The Admiralty still purchases British rum exclusively, while the War Office usually shows a preference for the product of our Colonies. It should be added that, in making their latest representation, the West India Committee received the support of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

The total membership of the West India Committee has now reached the substantial figure of 1,600—the highest yet recorded. The expansion of membership is specially gratifying in view of the conditions arising from the War, which have resulted in an actual falling-off in the numbers of members of some similar organisations. But the membership is still far below the figure which it should reach having regard to the importance of the West Indian Colonies, and it is to be hoped that those already on the roll will introduce eligible candidates for election, and so help to raise the total to 2,000, which should be the next objective. Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E. C. 3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or 5s per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

AT WESTMINSTER.

The Colonial Office Vote.

In asking the House to vote the Colonial Estimates on August 14th, Mr. Walter Long said that he did not propose to deal in detail with the position which the Dominions and the Crown Colonies had taken up during the War, not because His Majesty's Government were any the less conscious to-day of the fine part which all parts of the Empire had played in that great conflict, but because really the part that they had played required no description in the House. Members had already been told of the contributions in men, money, and munitions that had been made, and that tale was only altered by the extent to which those contributions, which were steadily growing, had increased. Referring to the suggestion that an attempt had been made to claim for the Dominion troops a greater share of honours and credit than was claimed for the soldiers of the King who came from this country, he said that, if there had been any appearance of undue prominence given to the deeds of those gallant men, it had been due to no act of theirs; and, speaking as Colonial Secretary, he ventured to suggest that, if there was to be an alteration, it should not be in the direction of less mention of the deeds of our men from overseas, but rather of increased mention of the men who came from the United Kingdom.

THE PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS

Passing on to the hardships caused by the prohibition of imports, Mr. Long said that he doubted whether many hon. members realised how great had been the sacrifice imposed upon the Dominions by the enforcement of the regulations, and he bore testimony to the goodwill with which they had been accepted. The same might also be said with perfect truth of all the Crown Colonies. The regulations as to imports had caused the greatest interference with daily life and trade. Sometimes almost piteous appeals had been made for the regulations to be altered, but it was only possible to do certain things. The result had been that in many cases there had been goods lying waiting for transport to this country which could not be brought over, and that naturally meant loss to many of those who were engaged in the trade. In these cases of the Crown Colonies, as in those of the Dominions, these additional burdens of the War—trying burdens as they were—had been borne with a patience, a resignation, and a goodwill such as we could not possibly desire a better exhibition of should similar conditions arise elsewhere. It had, he said, been occasionally suggested that the Crown Colonies had not been ready to provide all their strength; that they might have found more men than they had done; and the suggestion had been made in some cases that they had not by any means made their full contribution. He begged the House to believe there was no foundation for any criticism of that kind.

After dealing with the campaign in German East Africa, Mr. Long spoke of the hardship experienced by men in the Colonial Civil Service who were anxious to go to the Front, but could not be spared. He assured the House that he did not allow a man to be kept in Colonial service who could be spared, and who, he thought, would be of assistance to the Empire by joining the forces in France or elsewhere. On the other hand, the Government of our Crown Colonies and Protectorates had to be maintained. After touching on the work of the Land Settlement Committee, Mr. Long referred to the Imperial Conference and the advantages derived from the representation at it of the Indian Empire.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

Mr. Long went on to say: "I hope that one result of this will be to find a *modus vivendi* in regard to the difficult question of labour provided by India for some of our Crown Colonies. This was discussed among other questions. We had a Committee which went very fully into it, and we have now come to some conclusion, of which I have approved, and I hope that this may lead to an improvement in that very important question of providing labour for some of our Crown Colonies."

THE PARIS RESOLUTIONS.

Continuing, he referred to the resolution passed by the Conference calling for the encouragement of the development of Imperial resources with a view to making the Empire independent of other countries in respect of food supply of raw materials, and urging, with this end in view, the granting of "specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufacture of other parts of the Empire and our Allies."

"This question was a very difficult one before the War, and it has not been rendered less difficult by the War and by the fact which is referred to in the resolution that any policy of this kind obviously must be so framed as to meet the views of our Allies. That policy is one which does call for our immediate consideration. It is a very difficult question, but it is urgent that the Government should consider how best it can be given effect to. The Prime Minister has appointed a Committee consisting of Ministers representing all the Departments concerned, and he has asked me to preside over that Committee. He has entrusted us with the duty of inquiring into and reporting upon the best methods and machinery by which to give effect to the resolution. I need hardly say this is not a very easy or a light task, but it is one which I am confident that the Government ought to approach, and we ought to at once begin examining it, so as to find the best method and machinery for the purpose. This, at all events, is an earnest of what I have already said—that we do not intend these resolutions to lie in the pigeon-holes, and that we are taking all the steps we can to give effect to them so far as it is possible to take any steps while the War is going on.

In the debate which followed, Colonel Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., urged the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the resources of the Crown Colonies and Dependencies. It should, he said, be composed of men capable of appreciating the intimate connection between a high rate of production and human welfare. As we had spent a great deal upon our Army and Navy, we were entitled to exact contributions from our Crown Colonies and Dependencies, but we must frankly recognise that the native, whether black or brown, was a citizen of this great Commonwealth, and was entitled to be treated as such just as the white man was. There was no better proof of what confidence in the mind of the native would do than the phenomenal increase of production in West Africa, where the rights of the natives to their land were frankly recognised by the Government. Ordinances had declared that the lands, whether occupied or unoccupied, were all native lands. They were the property of the natives, and the Governor held them in trust for the natives alone and entirely for their benefit. What had been the result? You had a phenomenal increase of production both on the Gold Coast and in Nigeria. About twenty years ago the Gold Coast only sent one bag of cacao of the value of £4. Now their exports were worth over £4,000,000.

COLLEGES OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

After advocating the establishment of two agricultural colleges—one in the West and the other in the East—he said that the Commission might also enquire as to whether it would be possible to get an adequate supply of labour by treating the native as a potential citizen, and allowing him, after he had served, say, three or five years on a contract, an opportunity of bringing over his wife and family and settling down and becoming a producer himself. The experiment had been tried in the West Indies by Sir Norman Lamont, and it would be very interesting to know whether it had been a success and whether it was possible to extend that system. It would also be very interesting to know what was the secret of the enormous production of rice by Indian natives in British Guiana. He was told that they supply the whole continent of America with their rice. He would like to know whether that system was not capable of extension by British Indians and other natives in other parts of our Empire, which were now being supplied by indentured and contract labour.

Saccharin Production.

Replying to Sir William Collins, M.P., on August 15th, Mr. Clynnes said that negotiations were still proceeding

with a view to increasing the production of saccharin in this country, and that it was hoped that supplies would presently be available for sweetening beverages, etc., with the view of releasing sugar for more purely nutritive purposes.

Sugar for Preserving.

Mr. Clynnes, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, replying to questions asked by Sir John Jardine on August 10th, made a detailed statement as to the arrangement which had been made for the supply of sugar to private individuals for preserving their fruit.

In view of the shortage in sugar supply early this year and the impossibility of forecasting what tonnage would be available, it was decided, he said, that applications for the home preservation of fruit could not be considered until the fruit preserving season was at hand. In May arrangements were made to purchase special supplies of white sugar from America, as it was not considered that any sugar could be spared from the ordinary supplies held by the Royal Commission. There was then no time for setting up regular machinery for distribution, and a summary method was adopted as follows: On May 25th a notice was issued to the Press inviting persons who grew their own fruit to apply to Mr. C. S. R.ewcastle, c/o J. V. Drake & Co., Mining Lane, E.C., and to enclose a stamped addressed envelope. On June 2nd a further notice was issued giving June 11th as the latest date for receiving applications. An immense number of letters were thereupon received, and these were dealt with by a staff employed by Messrs. Drake. The staff were instructed to extract from the letters the stamped addressed envelopes and to enclose in them forms of application to be handed to grocers. A large number of the letters contained no stamped envelope, and these were destroyed. The Press announcement distinctly stated that in no circumstances could correspondence be entered into on the matter. The stamped envelopes were often not addressed or wrongly addressed; in some cases they were addressed to the Secretary of the Sugar Commission. The difficulty of dealing with the correspondence might be gathered from the fact that on one day alone seventy-eight mail bags of letters were received. Some 750,000 letters in all were estimated to have been received, and it was inevitable that in some instances mistakes were made and persons who may have complied with the instructions did not receive application forms.

The quantity of sugar which was allocated for the special purpose was 11,000 tons. The whole of this quantity had been distributed amongst those persons who applied before June 11th, and therefore there was no sugar left to meet the cases of those persons whose applications were unanswered, even if it were otherwise possible to re-open the matter. In any case all the correspondence had now been destroyed, and it would not be practicable to meet any of the individual cases brought under notice without opening the door to a great number of applications from people who rightly or wrongly consider they had a grievance in regard to the matter, and whose grievance could not be met.

State Sugar Weights.

Replying to Mr. Needham, M.P., on the same day, Mr. Clynnes said the Sugar Commission had for a long time past sold the sugar imported by it on average weights, instead of using the labour and time and quay-space necessary to weigh each bag. Before the average was ascertained care was taken to exclude all damaged or slack bags. No doubt in some cases grocers obtained slightly over and in others slightly less than true weight, but there had been no serious complaint in regard to which the claimant had been able to establish that the sugar was sold short by the Commission. There was always the possibility of weight being lost by pilfering, which had no doubt been considerable.

MISS DAIS MOODY, daughter of the Rev. W. J. Moody, M.A., Rector of New Amsterdam, Berlicse, is driving a motor ambulance for the French military authorities in the neighbourhood of Rheims.

OBITUARY.

MR. EDGAR AGOSTINI, K.C.

We regret to state that Mr. Edgar Agostini, K.C., died in Trinidad on August 8th.

Mr. Agostini was the son of Mr. Simon Agostini, and his mother was a Giuseppi, both families being of Corsican origin. During the dark days of 1870 the Agostinis were in Paris, and there can be no doubt that the subject of this memoir owed much of personal charm and good nature to his having been brought up in that city to which he maintained a devoted affection to the end. When he went out to Trinidad with the intention of practising at the Bar, such lawyers as the Hon. Charles Warner, C.B., the Hon. Frederick Warner, the Hon. Maxwell Philipp—names to conjure with—shared the chief practice of the capital, and Mr. Agostini therefore went to the country districts, where he at once established himself as a great favourite. His popularity was particularly marked in Couva and Chaguana, where he enjoyed the esteem and confidence of the East Indian population. He returned to Trinidad at about the time when Sir John Gorrie went to the island, and he was one of the committee which was instrumental in getting the Commission established which rid the island of that judge. Mr. Agostini was made Solicitor-General in 1904, and his appointment as Attorney-General in 1905, during the Governorship of Sir Henry Jackson, was hailed with very general satisfaction. In 1911, during the Presidency of Mr. Mack, the concessionaires of the Pitch Lake, the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, recognising Mr. Agostini's ability, offered him the position of their counsel for a period of ten years at a salary of £2,000 a year with a permission to retain private practice. This offer was accepted and general regret was expressed when Mr. Agostini relinquished the post of Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago which he had filled with consummate ability and tact. Mr. Agostini was for many years Chairman of the Queen's Park Hotel Company, and he was also closely interested in many local petroleum companies and cacao properties. He was a member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club, and if evidence were needed of his popularity it would be found in his having been chairman of the Trinidad Union Club. He was also a member of the Savanna Club, the Queen's Park Cricket Club, and the local golf club. He was married to Annie, daughter of J. P. Zepero, of St. Joseph, a member of one of the old Spanish families in the island, and his children by that marriage are Mrs. H. Henderson and Mrs. Jim McLelland. He married a second time to Emmie, daughter of F. J. Scott, of the Hermitage, Port of Spain. His family by his second wife were Mrs. Percy Taylor and the Misses Mabel and Evelyn Agostini, Horace, a Lieutenant in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (lately wounded at the front) and now at Newcastle, and Bernard and Alfred who have left Stonyhurst for Trinidad. Mr. Agostini was in every sense of the word a sterling good fellow, whose place both in the political and social life of Trinidad will be hard to fill.

CAPTAIN CYRIL HAMMOND ELGEE, F.R.G.S.

We regret to state that Captain Cyril Hammond Elgee, F.R.G.S., died suddenly in London on August 17th.

Captain Elgee, who was 46 years of age was eldest son of the Rev. W. F. Elgee, Otterbourne, Hants. He was formerly a captain in the Bedfordshire Regiment, and saw service in the Chitral and Ashanti Campaigns of 1895 and 1900. He acted as A.D.C. and private secretary to Sir W. MacGregor, Governor of Lagos, West Africa, 1900-2. He resigned his commission in 1904. For many years he was British Resident of Ibadan. He also acted as Commissioner of Montserrat, resigning from the Colonial Service in 1916.

The circumstances of his death were particularly sad. At the inquest which was held in London on August 23rd, Captain R. A. Elgee, said that during the last two years

his brother had been in bad health. He had suffered from tropical diseases, malaria being the original cause. Formerly an 11st. man, he had fallen in weight to 8st. 6lbs. He started taking drugs to alleviate sciatica and mental distress. According to diaries he had left this became a habit two years ago. He suffered much pain, the result of sleeping in the damp on the river Amazon, and it was there that he first took drugs. All his records were in hieroglyphics. The capital letters "M" and "C" most frequently occurred, meaning, the witness believed, morphia and cocaine. The figures indicated very large doses. The witness said he had done his best to break his brother of the habit. He had never threatened suicide and had no troubles. He had lived in a tropical climate for twenty years. Dr. R. S. Trevor, who made a *post mortem* examination, said he found a very large number of puncture-marks all over the body caused by hypodermic syringes. The spleen was soft, but did not give one the idea of malarial spleen. Death was due to comatose asphyxia following the taking of an overdose of a narcotic poison. The witness suspected morphine and cocaine. The jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:

ANTIGUA.

Lieut.-Corpl. E. W. Branch, Royal Fusiliers, Brondesbury Park.

BAHAMAS.

Lieut.-Corpl. C. P. Bethel, 1st Wilts Regiment, Maidstone.

BARBADOS.

Gunner H. S. Phillips, R.G.A., Eastbourne.

MONTSERRAT.

Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. N. Calder, R.F.A.; 2nd Lieut. Ryland, Gloucester Regiment, London; Lieut. Douglas Wright, Gordon Highlanders, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Walton-on-Naze.

ST. LUCIA.

Rfln. Burgess, Rifle Brigade, Bethnal Green.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., 2nd Lieut. R. B. Quesnel, London; Pte. Pierre de Verteuil, H.A.C., Wandsworth; Trpr. S. Daly, Household Battalion, Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, Mitcham; Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London; Pte. J. R. Thavenot, King's Royal Rifles, London; Cadet F. F. Marryat, R.F.C., Chisleton; Ptes. R. A. Wade, C. Emery Maingot, Artists' Rifles O.T.C., London; Rfln. J. H. Llanos, K.R.R.C., Birmingham.

DOMINICA.

2nd Lieut. E. C. Becher, R.F.A., London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Cov. Sergt.-Major Hamilton, Ptes. Francis and Hamilton, Bethnal Green.

2nd Lieut. Kenneth Reid, I.L.I., is now convalescent, and has gone to Eaton Hall, Cheshire.

Those few members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are still outstanding are requested to forward them without delay, or to pay them into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Yet another 'Trinidad Merchants' Contingent arrived at the West India Committee Rooms on August 16th, after being at sea for no fewer than six weeks! Their names are: John Macpherson, Roy Laurie, Joseph Ache, Henry S. Harris, and Ray Farfan. Harris has already joined the Royal Engineers as a motor-cyclist.

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks by the Ladies' Committee:—

Mrs. Amos: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 3 prs. socks, 2 prs. mittens.
Mrs. Donald McDonald: 2 mufflers.
Mr. Donald McDonald: cigarettes and magazines.
Mrs. Arthur Johnson: 2 mufflers, 2 prs. sleeping socks, 1 pr. socks, and magazines.
Miss Hollings: 1 pr. socks.
The Hon. Mrs. Davson: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Amos: 4 prs. socks.
Miss E. B. Shepherd: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Rutherford: 12 prs. socks.
Mrs. Darnell Davis: 4 mufflers.

Socks are still in constant demand.

From the *Gazette*, Aug. 4th, 10th, and 23rd:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.—Temp. Lieut. W. S. Spinney to be temp. Capt. (May 13). Second Lieuts. (B.W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Lieuts.:—H. K. Samuel, L. R. Andrew, A. H. C. McCormack (March 30th). Second Lieuts. (B.W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Second Lieuts.:—J. D. Mills, E. N. Mais, J. E. R. Braham (March 30th).

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.—Temp. Second Lieut. F. G. Pearson to be temp. Lieut. (November 23rd, 1916).

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.—Temp. Maj. R. E. Willis to be temp. Lt.-Col. while comdg. a Bn. (March 30); Temp. Sec. Lt. R. P. Johnstone to be actg. Capt. while comdg. a Co. (April 5); Temp. Sec. Lt. P. L. Johnson to be temp. Lt. (March 30). Sec. Lts. (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Sec. Lts.:—R. E. Collins, D. G. Archer, E. H. Draber, A. V. Fisher, H. R. Pacey, H. H. Kohler, L. R. Andrews (March 30).

Referring to the paragraph in our last issue stating that four Trinidadians were in the Tanks, the following men of the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, who have been serving overseas with the King Edward's Horse, have recently been transferred to the Tank Corps: Wilfred Knox, Maurice de Verteuil, Leo de Verteuil, Numa Sellier, Dandey Sorzano, and Stanley Radcliffe-Clarke. W. L. Meggs, of St. Kitts, and S. S. Dias, of Jamaica, are also in the Tanks.

The Overseas Club, whose energies have been the frequent subject of favourable comment in these columns, have just published an admirable little map and guide for the use of overseas sailors and soldiers. The various clubs and the West Indian Contingent Committee's offices are clearly marked, and so, too, are places of interest and amusement. We shall be pleased to send a copy of this map free of charge to any West Indian soldier or sailor desiring to have one, on receipt of a postcard or letter addressed to 15, Seething Lane, London, E. C. 3.

A further selection of extracts from letters re-

ceived by the West Indian Contingent Committee are given below:—

"That air-pillow you gave me is a God-send. I don't know how I would have managed without it."—(From a *Trinidadian in France*.)

"The cigarettes, clothes, etc., have all arrived safely, and have been handed around. They were more than acceptable as they arrived at a good time while we were on trek." (From a *Trinidadian in France*.)

"I can't express my humble thanks to you for your welcome parcel received yesterday. Give my thanks to all concerned. The socks and air pillow I value very much."—(From a man in the *B.W.I. Regiment*.)

"Nothing gave me more pleasure than when I got that parcel as I knew at once that there was something nice in it, and it is great when parcels and letters come in. You ought to see us all anxiously awaiting them."—(From a *Bahamian in France*.)

"Just a few lines to thank you for the cigarettes and socks which I received about a week ago. I can assure you that the cigarettes were very welcome. They arrived just when ——— and self were broke, so you can imagine how we enjoyed them."—(From a *Trinidadian*.)

"Thanks very much for the socks, handkerchiefs and air pillow which you sent me. They are very useful and all the more welcome. I think men from the B.W.I. are very lucky to be so well looked after by the fine W.I. Committee, and I am very grateful for your kindness."

"Very many thanks for the parcel which reached me safely. I am very pleased you sent some of the carbolized underwear and I gave a pair to ———. I think the others would be pleased to have some as well. They begged me to mention this when I was writing."—(From a *Barbadian in France*.)

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, June:—						
Kingstown Club	1	1	0
Hon. C. B. F. Richards	10	0	0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	0
A. L. Gillezeau, Esq. (including May)	4	0	0
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	0
Evan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	0
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	0
				3	1	0

W. L. Haynes, Esq.	...	...	...	1	0	10
Collection by Sergt. Soso, per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent	...	...	...	14	4	0
Miss Ida Rose	...	...	...	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. 3, or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

THE Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown, British Guiana, are advertising in the technical journals for a Municipal Engineer and Town Superintendent; with reference for information in regard to local conditions, duties, etc., to Mr. Luke M. Hill, M.Inst.C.E., who formerly filled the position for 30 years, up to the time of his retirement in 1910. In view of the war service of many of our younger engineers, it is feared that there may be some difficulty in finding a suitable man for the vacancy at the present time.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

LIEUT. CECIL SCOTT, of the Essex Regiment, who was killed on July 31st last, was the second son of Mr. Edward Joseph Scott, of Port of Spain, Trinidad. Born in that island on April 9th, 1896, he was educated at St. Mary's College, and, after leaving school he entered the service of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company. When the War broke out Cecil Scott had already made his mark with that firm, but he answered the call of King and Empire and came to England in November, 1915, with the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent. Joining the Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps, he received a Commission in the Essex Regiment in July 1916. He went overseas in August, 1916, and was attached to the Hertfordshire Regiment with which he was serving when he was killed. He came safely through seventeen distinct engagements besides much incidental fighting; but was eventually shot dead as he was leading his men in an action in which his Colonel, Major, and many of his brother officers were killed. In spite of heavy losses the Regiment gained its objective and the name of young Cecil Scott will find a worthy place on Trinidad's Roll of Honour. Captain Leslie Gold, who commanded his company, wrote to Mr. E. J. Scott: "I was not in the attack on July 31st, but have obtained all possible information from your son's men. He was killed instantaneously while most gallantly leading his men about 300 yards from the final objective. Our brigade, which had the hardest task, came under very heavy fire when about 400 yards from the objective, and it was shortly after this that your son fell. The battalion did wonders, but unfortunately many of our officers were killed including the Commanding Officer and Adjutant. You have the very deepest sympathy of all ranks in this Company. His men loved him and rightly so as he would do anything for them and was always thinking of their welfare. I cannot tell you how much I miss him, he was always so cheery under all circumstances, and I have lost a very great friend indeed."

PRIVATE J. O. THORNHILL, of the Royal Berkshire Regt., who was killed in action on the 29th April, was formerly in British Guiana.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUT. JOHN OMOND SMELLIE died at Sir John Ellerman's Hospital, Regent's Park, N.W., on August 8th at the early age of 21 years. His body was interred with full military honours at Sutton Cemetery, Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, on August 11th. Many handsome floral tributes were sent by relatives and friends. Lieut. Smellie obtained his Commission in the King's Own Royal Lancasters in September, 1914, was attached to the Machine Gun Corps in November, 1915, went over to France with his regiment early in 1916, was engaged in the Somme battles from 1st July, 1916, was slightly wounded in his arm in the latter part of September, but continued on duty, and received his fatal wound in the neck from a piece of enemy shrapnel on October 1st, 1916, while leading his men in the attack.

He was brought over from France to the Royal Red Cross Hospital at Netley, on October 8th, and received the greatest surgical skill and attention from the medical and nursing staff, and everything possible was done to alleviate the condition of paralysis which resulted from the wound to the spine. He was removed to Sir John Ellerman's Hospital in June last. Lieut. Smellie (Jack) was the second son of Mr. W. G. Smellie of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., and nephew of Mr. J. C. McCowan of British Guiana. He was born in Georgetown and educated by private tuition in that city, and at Cranleigh Public School, Surrey. He represented Cranleigh in 1913 and 1914 in fencing at the O.T.C. Public Schools' Competition at Aldershot, and was in the semi-finals in the second year. It is said of Lieut. Smellie that "in action he knew no fear" and he exhibited the same brave spirit in his long and trying illness, which he bore without murmur or complaint. His father and mother came specially from British Guiana in November, 1916, to visit him, and they were both with him till May,

when Mr. Smellie had to return to the Colony, but his mother was able to be with him until the last, and their presence was a great comfort to him. Lieut. Smellie's elder brother, who is a Lieut. in the Dorset Regiment, was unable to be present at the funeral owing to his being on active service at the Front.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. W. S. JAMIESON, British West Indies Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps (of Jamaica), has been wounded.

SECOND LIEUT. B. F. KING, attached to the 22nd Territorials, son of Mr. Jos. A. King, Crown Solicitor of British Guiana, has been severely wounded in France, shot by a bullet in the shoulder and arm.

SECOND LIEUT. L. E. PRADA, East Lancs. Regiment (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded in the head.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. MALCOLM THEODORE MAXWELL, R.F.A., Special Reserve (son of Sir Frederick Maxwell, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, and of Lady Maxwell) has been awarded the Military Cross for an act of gallantry described officially in the following terms:—During an attack, communication between battalion commander and his brigadier was cut by enemy fire. On his own initiative he gained the battery O.P., passing over heavily-shelled ground, and was able to telephone back clear reports."

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.

Lord, Gunner L. N. (of the British Guiana Artillery) Royal Garrison Artillery.

Mason, Mrs. G. B. (wife of Captain G. B. Mason, R.A.M.C., of Barbados, and sister of Mr. Carter Rey of Anguilla) has been appointed V.A.D. Nurse at the 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge.

PROMOTIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

LIEUT. G. B. MASON (of Barbados) was promoted Captain in the R.A.M.C. on March 1, and is now Medical Officer in charge of troops at Cambridge.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

COL. E. N. RICHARDS, Royal Engineers (of Jamaica), has received a Commission in the British West Indies Regt.

TROOPER W. S. ROBINSON, Life Guards (of Trinidad), has received a Commission in the Hussars.

WE gather that some disappointment is felt among planters in Grenada that the concession which was recently obtained through the West India Committee from the Shipping Controller of allowing a vessel to load with a full cargo of cacao for Havre direct was not also extended to Grenada. It should be pointed out, however, that the Committee were acting at the request of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, and that no similar request was preferred from Grenada. The position has been fully explained to the Hon. D. S. De Freitas, the President of the Grenada Agricultural Society, who now fully appreciates the reasons why Grenada was left out of the arrangement. It may be mentioned that a meeting of cocoa proprietors is to be held at the West India Committee Rooms on Tuesday next to consider the entire position with regard especially to the arrangements in respect of the coming Grenada cacao crop, at which Mr. De Freitas, who has expressed regret that the Grenada planters were not given an opportunity of shipping cacao to France on this occasion, will be present.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

AN export duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. has been imposed on sisal in the Bahamas.

THE Hon P. J. Dean and Mrs. Dean have left Grenada for a five months' visit to the United States.

EXPERIMENTS are being made in Cuba with the cultivation of malva, a plant which yields a useful textile fibre.

FREIGHTS from Calcutta to the United Kingdom rose from 20/- in February, 1914, to 290/- in the same month of this year.

MR. CLIFTON FLANAGIN, Warden of Arima, Trinidad, has retired from the Civil Service, and proposes to take up his residence in this country.

A COMMITTEE of Enquiry, representing the Foreign Office, Board of Trade, and the commercial community, has been appointed, with offices at 39, Parliament Street, London, S.W., for the promotion and advancement of trade and commerce between the British Empire and Belgium.

WE much regret to have to announce the death of Miss M. R. Berkeley, a member of the West India Committee, which took place on August 2nd. Miss Berkeley was a sister of Mr. H. Astley Berkeley, of Grenada. She was buried at the Crystal Palace District Cemetery, Elmers End, on the 4th inst.

ON the recommendation of Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture, and Chairman of a Special Committee appointed for the purpose, the Government of British Guiana is about to erect in Georgetown a trial factory for the milling of flour from rice, maize, guinea-corn and similar products.

MR. A. H. BREBNER, of the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada, British Guiana, who has been temporarily attached to the London office for the last year and a half, has been appointed Manager of a new branch of that Bank recently opened at Montserrat, and sails for there during the first week in September.

THE West Indian Produce Association—the pioneer of the cane sugar movement—invites its customers to forward to it at 14, Creechchurch Lane, London, E.C.3, their Registration Cards (which they will receive under the State Sugar Distribution Scheme), if they wish the Association to supply them with sugar next year.

THE Government of British Guiana has intimated that, acting on the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, no concessions for the mining of Bauxite in the colony will be made, or

promised, until after the war. The whole question will then be considered in connection with the subjects of Imperial Trade and Defence.

MR. GILBERT FOX, of Messrs. Edward Grey & Co., the well-known Liverpool sugar merchants, and Mr. Cunliffe Owen, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of the British American Tobacco Company, have been appointed Directors of the Colonial Bank. On August 14th a branch of the bank was opened in Castle Street, Liverpool, under the management of Mr. Frank Edmondson.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Colonel A. E. Barchard, British West Indies Regiment; Major A. de Boissiere, 2nd Lieut. F. O. Rooks, Trpr. D. C. Belgrave, Trpr. E. Threadkell, Cpl. G. A. Roberts, 2nd Lieut. L. Cornish Trestrail, Cadet P. Lauge, Trpr. Maurice de Verteuil, Gunner E. L. Govia, Gunner André Stone, Trpr. Ralph Herrera, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Pte. M. G. Grell, Pte. J. A. Herrera, Pte. J. P. de Verteuil, Gunner S. Radcliffe Clark, Trpr. P. Geofroy, 2nd Lieut. John O'Connor, Lee-Cpl. C. B. Scott, Pte. P. J. Knox, Rupert Dunn, Carlos Schjolseth, Henry Harris, J. McPherson, J. E. Aché, R. Laurie, R. A. Farfan, J. A. Hernandez, J. Taitt, Gunners F. Sorzano, Leo de Verteuil, N. Sellier, W. S. Knox, Trpr. C. O. P. Hendy, Bdr. R. Pegus, 2nd Lieut. Geo. Booth, 2nd Lieut. A. M. A. de Nobrega, 2nd Lieut. G. E. Laughlin, Trpr. O. Hamel-Smith, Pte. L. F. Maingot, and Pte. E. Eccles, of Trinidad; 2nd Lieut. S. Binns, 2nd Lieut. R. C. S. Rutty, Captain P. St. L. Baquin, 2nd Lieut. F. N. Richards, Trpr. Louis de Roux and A. R. Nunes, of Jamaica; Pte. C. C. Leach, Pte. P. B. Williams, Pte. W. A. Proverbs, Pte. C. I. Proverbs, Pte. F. H. Tyrrell, 2nd Lieut. A. W. Boyce, Pte. P. E. Honychurch, 2nd Lieut. W. A. Yearwood, 2nd Lieut. E. Lindsay Armstrong, Cadet H. C. Phillips, Pte. E. D. Redman, Geo. C. Boxill, C. G. Seale, and E. C. Collymore, of Barbados; Sgt. J. A. McKinney and Pte. J. H. Knowles, Bahamas; Pte. C. W. B. Parratt, Gunner L. Neilson Lord, Sergt. L. S. Davis, British Guiana; 2nd Lieut. J. R. F. Branch, Antigua; C. D. Vivian Hadley, St. Vincent; Gunner W. L. Meggs, St. Kitts.

New and additional export duties have been imposed in St. Vincent (Ordinance No. 11, 1917) to June 30th as under:—

	Under Ordinance No. 5 of 1916.		New or Additional Duty under Ordinance No. 11 of 1917	
	Per cwt	% d.	Per cwt.	% d.
Sea Island seed cotton	0 9	0 2		
Marie Galante seed cotton	0 6	0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Cotton: Sea Island	2 0	2 0		
.. Marie Galante	1 0	1 0		
Cotton seed	0 3	—		
Arrowroot or other starches	0 3	0 4		
Cocoa	0 6	—		
	Per ton.	Per ton.		
Sugar	—	5 0		
	Per 100 galls.	Per 100 galls.		
Molasses and syrup	—	1 6		
Rum	—	1 6		

MARRIAGE.

Davies-Irving.—At St. Philip's Church, Kensington, on 11th inst., by Rev. Leslie Keith, Eric Ramsbotham Davies, Captain R.E., third son of late Captain R. W. Davies, R.N., and Mrs. Davies, Rotley, Hants., to Doris, elder daughter of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, British Guiana Medical Service, and Mrs. Irving, 10, Nevern Mansions, Earl's Court, London, W.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Prædial Larceny Question.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, JULY 13th.—The climatic conditions are very unsettled, the weather is very gusty and heavy showers are falling. Dean Shepherd is making good recovery, and his many friends are glad to see him about though he is still lame. His son "Hall" has been appointed vicar of St. Paul's.

To-day is our West Indian "Flag Day" which promises to be a great success. We are very concerned as to the appointment of a magistrate. Though the Agricultural Society has asked over and over again that legal men might be appointed, a layman has been selected which has caused indignation. The following resolution was carried at a meeting of the society to-day:—

"Whereas on January 18th, 1915, a report was presented to His Excellency on Prædial Larceny by a deputation from the Agricultural and Commercial Society, recommending the necessity for the appointment of a legal man as magistrate. And whereas a petition, signed by all classes of the community, was presented on the 12th of April, 1917, requesting that a legal man should be appointed to the office of magistrate for District A. and B. (the petition being followed up by a deputation urging upon His Excellency the necessity of granting it.) And whereas in a letter received from the Colonial Office, dated 4th July, the petitioners were informed that the post had already been given to Mr. Kortright Dyell. And whereas very considerable dissatisfaction is expressed by all classes at such appointment, and whereas all other magistratal vacancies in the Colonies have been filled by qualified legal men. Be it resolved that the Agricultural and Commercial Society places on record its protest against the aforesaid appointment, and urges on His Excellency to place before His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, the views of this Society regarding this appointment, namely, in their opinion it is not suitable or acceptable to the members thereof, or to the community generally, as shown by the petition referred to. And this Society respectfully asks His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to reconsider the appointment; and that His Excellency be asked to forward a copy of this Resolution, with its preamble, to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies."

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Mahogany Industry.

A correspondent writes from Belize under date July 12th. This has been a most successful year for the mahogany cutters. We had very heavy rains last month, which has brought out the season's wood. The Belize river was blocked several days with logs. It is estimated that there are seven or eight thousand now being got ready for shipment from the Belize river alone.

TOBAGO—A Visit from the Governor.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JUNE 27th.—Daily showers are promoting growth of all crops as well as weeds and grass, and the troublesome "brushers" will have a busy time when their gardens permit them to resume regular work on the estates. The cacao trees are laden with flowers, giving the promise of good crops in November and December, but very little is expected before these months. It is hoped that the restriction of exports to the United Kingdom will be removed by that time, as planters are now selling under the cost of production and serious times may be expected, especially where estates are heavily mortgaged, which unfortunately is the rule rather than the exception. Coco-nuts, are also promising well, but the picking is a slow process in this wet weather and copra drying is rather a problem. Instead of the old-fashioned climbing of trees like monkeys to pick coco-nuts, the pickers use ropes which go round the trees as well as their bodies and thus the feet play the most important part and the hands are used only to raise the ropes as the climbers move up the tree. This prevents damage to the flowers and young fruit, which was inevitable when the pickers had to perch on the trees to enable them to cut down the bunches of ripe nuts. Nuts are cut for copra with the cutlass, the nut being held in the hand, and to now come it appears to be a dangerous process, but the "choppers" are remarkably active at it and accidents are rare. Experts can chop 2,000 and over per day and smart women can extract four barrels of copra per day. The price of copra makes it more attractive than shipping nuts as fruit in these days of war freights.

Tobago has been honoured by a visit from our Governor, Sir John Chancellor, Lady Chancellor and daughter and Captain Davidson, A.D.C., who are now enjoying a quiet holiday at Government House, Scarborough. Their residence is in a delightfully picturesque spot with fine views of land and sea and being over 400 feet above sea level, it must be cool and pleasant even at this season of the year. It is hoped and believed that they will frequently come to Tobago for a holiday rest. Fortunately motor cars (now eight of these in the island) enable them to enjoy sea bathing and sight seeing with comfort and speed. We were pleased to see His Excellency and Captain Davidson at Speyside, where they visited Little Tobago and Sir Wm. Ingram's birds of Paradise. These lovely birds are very shy, but it is hoped that curiosity incited them to have a look at the Governor. A later visit was also made to Roxburgh and most, if not all, of the motorable roads have been visited by His Excellency, who will always be a welcome visitor to our little island.

By last mail we heard that Lieut. J. T. Miller, R.F.C. (late manager of Kendal Place) and Mr. George Wilson, brother of Mrs. Orde, "Louis D'Dor," had been killed in action. Mr. Wilson was the son of the late Mr. Geo. Wilson, owner of the Aranguez Sugar Estate, Trinidad, until Sugar Bounties ended its existence as a sugar plantation. Mr. Wilson emigrated to Canada and joined a Canadian Regiment and now adds one more to the many heroes from the Dominion who have died for their country.

I read with interest your concise War Notes in the CIRCULAR, but it is useless commenting on them. We are all proud and pleased that there is vigorous and successful action all along the Western front, and, indeed, all fronts, excepting the Russian, which may ere long redeem its good name. Socialist spoutings are not much of a substitute for military action in war time.

TRINIDAD—The Industrious Indians.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JULY 18th.—The best news is that good soaking rains, such as the soil has been waiting for some years, have fallen during the past fortnight, without being too heavy and resulting in floods. Cultivation everywhere is promising, especially for next year's cane crop. Rice has also been planted extensively in the past few weeks, and a bounteous return is looked for in September. There are now three rice mills here, so that competition to secure paddy for grinding will ensure full rates for the producer. The Industrious Indian is once more the colony's creditor for useful progressive work. Quite off his own hat he started planting rice, and was content to mill it in his own primitive fashion until capital was found by others to establish proper factories. There is practically an unlimited quantity of land suitable for rice and not much else, so that this cultivation is doubly welcome and valuable. It will be some time, however, before the large local demand can be satisfied, and meanwhile, in the absence of former supplies from India, we are receiving fair quantities from Demerara, where the production is now considerably above local requirements, and export under certain restrictions is still permitted.

A very interesting meeting of the Agricultural Society was held on the 13th, when Mr. Broadway, curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and a most enthusiastic officer, addressed the members on the subject of the Citrus Industry, which in his opinion was neglected, but would prove remunerative if seriously undertaken. In connection with this subject, Mr. Henry Warner moved that Government assistance should be requested to establish a co-operative lime juice in the same way as successfully done in St. Lucia. This was generally approved and ultimately adopted, the only opponent being the Hon. Adam Smith, who was opposed to what he described as "grandmotherly" legislation. No doubt he is right in a general way. Governor Robinson once said that people here expected to be brought into the world at the expense of the Government, doctored by the Government, provided situations by the Government and ultimately buried by the Government, and there was a good deal of truth in it, but none the less it had been found elsewhere in these latitudes by able men, such as the recent Administrator of St. Lucia, that much may be done without loss to the revenue by helping the peasantry to help themselves.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

August 23rd, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. War Loans: 5 per cent., 94½; 4½ per cent., 97½; 3½ per cent., 87½; Consols, 58. The Government has decided to ask the House of Commons to appoint a Select Committee to consider the desirability of making an issue of premium bonds. The Committee cannot, however, be set up until after the recess.

SUGAR. For consummate impudence, a recent memorial addressed by the Union of the German Sugar Industry to the Chancellor, would be hard to beat. Virtually they urge the continuance of the Brussels Convention on its original basis so that after the War German beet sugar may be placed on the same footing as British Colonial cane in the markets of the United Kingdom. Our German enemies evidently fail to appreciate the temper of our people, or that the Brussels Convention is as dead as the proverbial door nail.

Meanwhile it is reported that the French Government has definitely decided to denounce the Brussels Convention, which will be done in the near future. This, however, would seem to be a work of supererogation, as the Paris Economic Conference decided (Recommendation B II.) that the War has put an end to all the treaties of commerce between the Allies and the Enemy Powers.

The latest estimates of Willett & Gray for 1916-17 show a world's cane crop of 11,168,658 tons against 10,667,743 tons actual for 1915-16, and 10,288,656 tons for 1914-15. The European beet crop, on the other hand, is given as 4,764,449 tons for 1916-17, 5,077,760 tons for 1915-16, and 7,583,215 tons for 1914-15. The United States beet crops for the same periods are shown as 734,577, 779,756 and 646,257 tons, and the Canadian beet crops as 12,500, 17,641 and 13,979 tons respectively. The grand total of the world's sugar crop is thus estimated at 16,680,384 tons, a figure which compares with 18,617,985 tons in 1913-14, the pre-war year.

The New York market continued to improve until on August 9th Cubas were quoted 6.75 c. and f. the highest point reached since the outbreak of war.

Since then the market has receded to 6.37½, the fall being probably due to Mr. Hoover's activities as Food Commissioner in the United States. How much he will interfere with the normal course of the market remains to be seen, but he has already suspended all dealings in futures and has fixed the price of beet granulated at 7 c.

The Cuban crop to July 28th was 2,849,003 tons against 2,917,516 on the same date in 1916. On that date sixteen Centrals were grinding as against eight on the corresponding day in 1916.

During April and May last 1,127,792 cwts. of sugar were imported into India, the chief contributors being Java with 800,171 cwts. and Mauritius with 157,115 cwts. The Indian crop is estimated at 2,626,000 tons against 2,634,000 tons actual last year, the total area in care in 1916-17 being 2,414,000.

Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P., was appointed Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on August 14th, in succession to Viscount Devonport, who has resigned. The quotations of the Commission remain unchanged at the figure which came into force on August 7th, viz.:—Cubes, lump and castor, 59/9; granulated, W.I. grocery crystallised and yellow crystals, 46/9; W.I. muscovado, raw brown cane crystals and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and W.I. and other British Colonial syrups for sale to manufacturers, 39/6.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to August 11th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	47,345	37,452	33,327 Tons.
Deliveries	45,301	37,525	25,517 "
Stock (Aug. 11th)	10,059	11,032	13,819 "

RUM. With a growing belief that further imports of rum will be necessary and with bargains at higher prices, there is no eagerness on the part of proprietors to accept the prices offered for alcohol for munition purposes, and

only very small shipments have been made to the Ministry. It is reported that sales have taken place on the basis of a price per gallon of rum in bonded warehouse in country of manufacture.

The stocks in London on August 11th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,383	8,442	4,778 puns
Demerara	10,452	13,407	5,195 "
Total of all kinds ...	31,300	36,309	19,394 "

CACAO. In auction on August 14th the small supplies were mostly sold at given prices. 515 out of 933 bags, Trinidad, good to fine, at 86/- to 87/-; 950 out of 1,202 Grenada, ditto, at 81/- to 82/6; 50 hags Dominica, fine, at 81/6; and 318 bags Jamaica, good, at 81/-; 695 bags of St. Thome, fine, in prize, fetched 82/6—83/-; 13 bags of St. Lucia were bought in. On August 21st Grenada sold at 1/- to 2/- advance, 4,487 bags fetching, fine 83/- to 85/-, good, 80/- to 82/-, and common 69/- to 71/-; of 69 bags Trinidad, 29 sold, good 87/-.

The special shipment of Trinidad cacao to Havre, to which reference was made in a recent summary, amounted to 37,737 bags, and the West India Committee have received a cordial letter of thanks for their action in the matter which was taken at the request of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. In certain quarters it has been suggested that this shipment has been to the detriment of Grenada and St. Lucia; but this is obviously not the case. No doubt it would have been advantageous to Grenada if her 3,000 bags surplus could have been sent to France; but it cannot be said that the island has been prejudiced. On the other hand it is reasonable to assume that if the Trinidad cacao had not been shipped to Havre it would have gone to New York and have tended to depress the market there still further, and this would have been disadvantageous to Grenada. The pity is that no representations whatever were made by the Grenada planters to the West India Committee.

A disturbing feature has been the pending decision of the French Government to limit the importation of cacao to 36,000 or 42,000 tons, licenses for which it is said will be granted as to 70 per cent. to French manufacturers and 30 per cent. to importers. A special meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in cacao will be held at 15, Seething Lane, E.C., at 3 p.m. on August 28th, to consider the situation, and representations will no doubt be made on the subject in the proper quarter. It is hoped that all members interested in cacao will endeavour to attend.

Stocks in London on August 18th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	29,649	29,648	13,566 bags
Grenada	29,924	16,840	2,459 "
Total of all kinds ..	276,346	238,359	105,246 "

COFFEE. At auction on August 21st there was a good demand, and the tone is firm.

LIME PRODUCTS. Citrate £33 per 6 cwt. Concentrated, £30 per pipe. Lime Oil: neglected. Hand-pressed, 17/6. Thanks to the intervention of the West India Committee, Priority Certificates, which were at first refused owing to a departmental misunderstanding, are now being granted in approved cases for the special crated tins which are now used for the shipment of lime and orange-oil to this country.

ARROWROOT. The market is quiet with very little business doing. Quotations are 51d. to 63d.

COCO-NUT OIL. The following official maximum prices have been fixed: Crude, £20; refined, £85.

COPRA. The market continues steady but slow. West India may be quoted £46 c.i.f. London, and sales have been made at £45 c.i.f., Liverpool.

HONEY. Small sales have been effected privately at 75/- to 85/- for dark liquid to palish.

RUBBER. Market steady. Plantation crepe, 2/5. Hard Para, 3/3.

BALATA. Quiet. Block spot, 3/4½. Sheet, 3/11 (a.g., forward, 3/8 nominal).

SPICES. Sale of a few hundred bags of Pimento have been made at 31d. There is nothing doing in Jamaica sorts of Ginger. Values are numerically unaltered.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 15, SEETHING LANE,
6641 CENTRAL. LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams :
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September 6th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

" ASSISTED IMMIGRATION."

THROUGH the courtesy of the Secretary of State for the Colonies we are able to publish in the present CIRCULAR a summary of the main features of the scheme for the assisted colonisation of Indians in British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Fiji, drawn up by the Inter-Departmental Committee, of which LORD ISLINGTON (better known in the West Indies as SIR JOHN DICKSON-POYNDER, of the Royal Commission of 1910), Under-Secretary of State for India, was President, and SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND, M.P., the principal representative of the Colonial Office. In accordance with the pledge given by LORD HARDINGE, indentured immigration is totally abolished, and none of the Colonies are to receive East Indians under the new system of free and assisted immigration, which is to be substituted for it, until they have cancelled their existing Immigration Ordinances. Under the proposed arrangement the interests of the immigrant are so perfectly safeguarded and the terms are so generous that even

those publicists who would have stopped their countrymen from leaving India at all could hardly take exception to them. All that is asked of the East Indian is that, in his own interests, he shall work for a selected employer for a probationary period of six months, to enable him to learn colonial ways of life and work and colonial methods of agriculture, and at the expiration of that period he will be perfectly free to go where he will, being encouraged to work for the ensuing two and a half years in agricultural industries by the offer of important benefits. The principal of these is the grant of five acres of land after three years employment or alternatively one-half of the cost of a return passage to India, which, after seven years, he will be entitled to receive in full—if he does not prefer to take land and become a permanent colonist. Other advantages which he will enjoy under the new system will be a guarantee of a minimum wage, which will be subject to revision every five years and proportionate to the cost of living, married quarters if he has a wife, a garden plot, and full medical attendance, it being proposed that the present medical arrangements, which could hardly be improved upon, shall be maintained. He will be encouraged to bring his family with him and a wise provision for the moral welfare of the new colonists generally is that no person under eighteen years of age, nor women, will be assisted to emigrate if they are unaccompanied by their families. From the Indian emigrant's standpoint the new arrangement would appear to be quite admirable. From that of the planters it is obvious that the cost of Indian labour will be greatly increased. The immigrant will be entirely free of any financial liability connected with the cost of his introduction into the colony. The outlay incurred is to be met not by individual employers, but by the Government of each colony concerned out of a common fund raised by rateable contributions from the employers either (1) of all Indian immigrants other than those locally born, or (2) of an immigrant during the first three years of his residence, or (3) during the period laid down as necessary to qualify him for a free return passage. Indian immigration will become more conspicuously than ever a system of colonisation. The benefit to British Guiana and Trinidad, as a whole, as distinct from their main industry, will be, therefore, still more pronounced. The Colonies concerned, therefore, should bear a larger proportion of the cost of introduction. While Indian labour has been associated almost wholly in the public mind with the maintenance of sugar cultivation, other trades and industries have profited by the presence of time-expired immigrants. More-

over, under the new system there is no restriction of these immigrants to any particular form of activity. There is little question that the movement, stimulated by the war, for the development of Imperial resources will extend to the interior of British Guiana, and the rest of the Empire will benefit by the largely increased export of timber and balata, gold and diamonds. Years ago, SIR ALEXANDER SWETTENHAM, the Governor of that period, predicted that in such development the Indian labourer would play a leading part. In a despatch to MR. CHAMBERLAIN, in 1903, SIR ALEXANDER wrote: "I wish that instead of 150,000 Indians we had ten times that number." The system now to be inaugurated will encourage the flow of immigrant labour towards a sphere in which it has achieved many notable successes, and in which it is doubtless destined to render fruitful service in more varied forms.

THE CACAO INDUSTRY.

WE commend to the notice of those of our readers who are interested in the West Indian cacao industry the report of an important meeting, held at the West India Committee Rooms, which is published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR. At that meeting, by a resolution, moved by Mr. C. M. Frame, and seconded by Mr. J. E. Munro, a Grenada Estates' proprietor, it was decided to constitute a Standing Committee of the West India Committee to watch over and protect the West Indian cacao industry, and to co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation, and other kindred bodies, where matters concerning the welfare of the cacao industry of the British Empire as a whole are concerned. This resolution will come before the Executive for confirmation at their next meeting. Apart, altogether, from the manifest advantages which will be derived from closer co-operation with organisations concerned with the cacao industry in other parts of the world, this new departure should commend itself particularly to planters in the West Indies, who, we understand, are sometimes prone to think that they do not always receive sufficient representation on our councils. Hitherto the practice has been for the Executive to deal with any questions concerning cacao which have arisen—and so prosperous has the industry been that they have been remarkably few—sub-committees having been periodically appointed *ad hoc*. But the new system now about to be inaugurated will have many advantages, not the least of which will be the opportunity which will be afforded to the planter of voicing his views, and it should be mentioned that all producers of cacao who are members of the West India Committee will *ipso facto* become members of the Cacao Committee, and will be invited to attend meetings when they are in this country.

It is hoped that those comparatively few members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are still in arrears will forward them direct or pay them into the Colonial Bank without delay.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

America and the Pope's Peace Note.

President Wilson's reply to the Peace Note of the Vatican is the finest statement of the Allied position which has been written or spoken since the War began. It is courteous in tone, terse in language, and extraordinarily concentrated as to matter. Never has the pith of the indictment against Germany been put in smaller compass, or expressed in such telling phrase. Even more important is the inflexibility of purpose which impregnates every line. All wish, President Wilson says, to take the path of peace; but it would be folly to take it if it does not in fact lead to the goal, which is to "deliver the free people of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an irresponsible Government, which now stands baulked, but not defeated, the enemy of four-fifths of the world." He further emphasises that "to deal with such a Power by way of peace upon the plan proposed by his Holiness the Pope would . . . involve recuperation of the strength and renewal of that policy." An enduring peace "must be based upon justice and fairness and the common rights of mankind," and as a guarantee of it, we "cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany." The Note, while directly addressed to the Vatican, is indirectly addressed to the Kaiser, to the German people, and to pacifists everywhere.

On the Western Front.

At one and the same time the enemy is being pressed at all the most vital points of the Western Front, Champagne, Verdun, Lens, and along the Menin road, with which is bound up his hold of the Belgian coast. He has had no success to his credit this year, except the purely local advantage he gained at Nieuport, and has undertaken no big offensive. How long will he be able to maintain the defensive? In Flanders he is fighting tenaciously for every inch of ground, in the first place to hold the net work of redoubts below the Zonnebeke ridge beyond Ypres; in the second place, to hold Lens, which is the strategic key to Belgium. Farm by farm, wood by wood, and hamlet by hamlet, the British have advanced all along the part between the Ypres-Roulers railway and the St. Julien-Poelcappelle Road, until they are now astride of it. Unfortunately, operations have been hampered by torrential rains and high gales.

To the south the British pincers are closing on Lens, which the enemy is straining every nerve to keep, or so much of it as yet remains in his possession. The fighting here, as in Flanders, resembles the grim struggles for every heap of ruins and every fold of ground which characterised the Battle of the Somme. The most dramatic incident recorded for some time occurred nearly a fortnight ago, when the Germans anticipated an attack from the Canadians. Uncertain when it was due they determined to forestal it, and leapt out of their trenches. The Canadians, with the same idea in their minds, also advanced, the adversaries meeting in No Man's Land.

But the Germans, though they were in superior numbers, lost their heads, whereas the Canadians, coolly sized up the situation, and rushed to the attack. It was the "thin red line" against the "mass," which has given so many glorious chapters to British military history. The Germans, though they rallied after their first surprise, proved no match for the Canadians, who took many prisoners and seized the trenches which they had just left. Thus do the soldiers from Britain overseas carry on the traditions of the race.

Verdun Itself Again.

The German High Command has been persuading the public at home that the French are at the end of their resources. That while maintaining a grim hold in the plateau of the Aisne and Moronvillers heights, besides taking a distinguished part in the Flanders offensive, they have been able to deal the German forces in front of Verdun a heavy blow, has, therefore, come as a disagreeable surprise. In one day's fighting our Allies had advanced the centre of their line up to, and in places beyond, the positions to which they had fallen back on the third day of the Crown Prince's offensive last year. A few days later this brilliant victory was followed up by the capture of Hill 304 and Mort Homme, two positions fiercely contested in the tremendous struggle for Verdun, which stirred the whole world. The French have further advanced, until they are now in possession of all the ground the Germans won at such prodigious cost, and are on the outskirts of the village of Beaumont, stubbornly resisted at every yard. For the enemy has never made any secret of the fact that Verdun is the gateway of France and to the Briey basin, with its rich mineral deposits. That he should have been driven from the Meuse heights, which dominate it, is surely the handwriting on the wall.

On the Julian Front.

The brilliant success of the Italian offensive must be a cause of depression to the Austrians. For, after the surprise attacks in May last, when they lost Gorizia and the edge of the Carso plateau, they provided more adequate reserves of infantry and otherwise adopted tactics to meet the altered conditions, as determined by General Cadorna. But he has circumvented the enemy again in a new surprise thrust, which, so far, has proved the greatest dealt them. From Plava to the sea the Italians engaged in what has turned out to be a turning movement, to secure a mighty barrier before assaulting Hermada, the formidable fortress, which guards Trieste. The Isonzo was bridged in fourteen places, a remarkable feat in itself—the troops of our Ally crossing to the west bank of the river and advancing to the attack of the Bainsizza positions from the north beyond Anovo. At the same time a frontal assault was made upon them from the point reached and held in the Rohot Valley, when they were nearly won during the May offensive, but proved untenable under the concentrated fire of the enemy. By the recent combined movement, however, the stronghold of Monte Santo has fallen, and San Gabriele, the adjoining height, is likely soon to share the same fate, while

in the rear Italians are consolidating their hold on the Bainsizza plateau. It is thus evident that the Austrian defences on the front, north of Gorizia, have not only been penetrated, but shattered. With an unexpected reserve of strength the enemy has thrown fresh troops at the danger point, but in none of the determined counter-strokes he has made to recover the lost positions has the grip of the Italians been shaken. With the possession of Gorizia, Monte Santo and the other heights, which connect with the Bainsizza plateau by a saddle, and that wooded tableland which has enabled the Austrians to move their troops and supplies with impunity, all assured General Cadorna's next objective will be the reduction of Hermada, a tremendous task, that is not likely to be undertaken seriously this year. In the achievement which has lent fresh lustre to Italian arms, a meed of praise is due to the air service and to British monitors, which, as in May, took part in the fighting without drawing the Austrian Navy.

The Greek White Book Revelations.

The most sensational of these involves not only the honour of King Constantine, but the competence of Allied diplomacy. For documentary evidence is given that on August 4th, 1914, Germany entered into a secret alliance with Turkey and the Greek King into an understanding, which abrogated the Greco-Serbian Treaty. Not an inkling of the facts was communicated to our Foreign Office by its agents until the end of October, and during that time the Allies were relying upon the support of the moderate party in Constantinople, which, in the circumstances, could never have power. Hence the escape of the *Goeben* and the *Breslau*, which could have been captured by the British Navy, and the omission to send a squadron of ships to Constantinople for the purpose of keeping open the Dardanelles. By thus allowing Germany to control a vital point in the communications of the Allies, their outer lines, already long, were enormously extended; Turkey and Bulgaria were forced into the War against us; and large areas, rich in food resources and raw materials, opened up to the Central Powers. In trying to retrieve a situation, which the superior intelligence and foresight of the enemy had turned against us, we lost a squadron of ships, 100,000 lives and untold treasure, not to speak of the continued paralysis of the Salonika Expeditionary Force.

Chaos in Russia.

There has been another Russian retreat in the Riga sector, which constitutes the gate of Petrograd, and, near Cernowitz, positions have been given up without fighting. More than a month has elapsed since the Provisional Government restored the death penalty in the Army, but, so far, no other adequate measures have been taken to restore order at the front or in the rear. At the recent Moscow Conference General Korniloff warned his countrymen of their danger. The Bukovina and Galicia have gone, Mackensen is progressing up the Western bank of the Sereth so as to menace the Rumanian forces, which have fought so gallantly in the Trotus Valley; the rich grain areas of Russia as well as the

Capital are threatened, and the army will, in two months, be starved alike in food and munitions. What General Korniloff advises is the curtailment of the powers of the Commissaries and Regimental Committees, who create dual authority in the army, and, practically, martial law everywhere in Russia, while General Kaledin, the leader of all the Cossacks, urges the elimination of all politics in the army. M. Kerensky, unfortunately, proposed nothing to meet the situation, whose only promising feature is national unity as against a premature peace. It is to be hoped that, as the season for military operations is coming to a close on the Eastern front, Russia will, before next spring, have brought order out of her present chaos. In that stupendous task she will have the sympathy and practical help of all her Allies.

The War at Sea.

There has been another little naval "scrap," in which armed German vessels were engaged. They were caught by British destroyers while interfering with our minefield in the North Sea, and chased into Danish waters, losing four on the way. "U" boats and seaplanes took part in the action.

Our losses from submarine attacks still show no important diminution. The revised figures for the last two weeks are as under:—

Week Ended.	1,600 tons and over.	Under 1,600 tons.	Fishing vessels.	Unsuccessful attacks.
August 26 ...	20	5	0	7
September 2 ...	18	2	0	4

On the evening of the 4th a submarine fired 30 rounds at Scarborough, killing 3 people and injuring 5.

Activity in the Air.

During the fortnight there has been a succession of air-raids on the coast, and on the night of the 4th an attack was made on London by 20 aeroplanes. The anti-aircraft guns attacked the Gothas, one of which is reported to have been brought down in the sea. On the preceding night the raiders had reached Sheerness, and one of their bombs struck a Naval Barracks, killing 107 Naval ratings by a lucky shot. In the London Raid the casualties were 11 killed and 62 injured, but the material damage was comparatively slight, though fully 40 bombs appear to have been dropped. The attitude of the public could not have been better, and it is perfectly clear the Huns cannot hope to terrorise the British public.

British and German Prisoners.

With regard to this subject the War Office has issued some significant figures. Between April 9th, when the spring offensive began in the Battle of Arras, and August 22nd, the British captured 46,155 prisoners, the French 43,723, the Italians 40,681, and the Russians 37,222 (mostly Austrians)—total 167,780. Since the beginning of the War the British have lost 56,500 men as prisoners to the Germans, while these have lost 102,218 men as prisoners to the British.

(To be continued.)

IMMIGRATION.

The West India Committee have received a letter in the following terms from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of East Indian immigration:—

Downing Street,

31st August, 1917.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to transmit to you a copy of a telegram which has been sent to the Governors of British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Fiji, summarising the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Conference on assisted emigration from India to those Colonies.

2. You will observe that the recommendations of the Conference are under the consideration of the Government of India and that that Government has as yet come to no decision as regards the recommendations.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary,

West India Committee.

[ENCLOSURE.]

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governors of British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Fiji. (Telegram sent 1.30 p.m. 31st August, 1917):

"Following is summary of recommendations of Emigration Conference which are now under consideration of Government of India. Begins:

"1st. Indentured system to be abolished.

"2nd. In future emigration to be under entirely free system of aided colonisation. Immigrant to be in no way restricted to service under any particular employer, except that for his own protection a selected employer to be chosen for him for the first six months. Expenses of introduction to be borne by Government out of common emigration fund raised in each Colony by rateable contributions from employers.

"3rd. Land settlement to be essential feature of the scheme. Steps to be taken to ensure that land not exceeding five acres may be made available at once in simplest and cheapest manner for any immigrant who may desire it after completion of three years' work with approved employers. Grant to be subject to reasonable annual rent in case of leaseholds. A Government department to be responsible for provision of sufficient land to meet all bona fide applications and for rendering it suitable for agriculture where this is considered necessary by the Department.

"4th. Conditions of employment. Selected employment to be found for immigrants for first six months, but Protector always to retain power of transfer. After six months the immigrant to be at liberty to move from one employer to another upon one month's notice, but to be encouraged to work for first three years in agricultural industries by offer, should he do so, of benefits subsequently as colonist. Immigrant to be under no indenture or contract.

other than above. Breach of engagement to entail no criminal penalty, and immigrant only to be proceeded against by civil suit in ordinary course of law. Minimum wage to be fixed, subject to revision every five years and proportionate to cost of living. For a year after arrival children under eleven to receive free rations and children under five free milk ration. Pregnant and nursing women to receive free rations for at least six months. Provision of married quarters separate from single quarters to be made compulsory upon all employers of more than twenty adult male immigrants and to be insisted upon as far as practicable in case of all other registered employers. Small garden plot to be granted to adult male immigrants. Present regulations for medical treatment to continue.

"5th. Persons wishing to employ assisted immigrants during their first three years to apply to Protector of Immigrants to be placed on register of approved employers. Approved employer to be any employer who is deemed qualified by Governor in Council to offer proper conditions of wages, labour, medical attendance, housing, and has received and paid for licence. Persons not fulfilling above conditions found employing immigrant to be liable to fine.

"6th. Arrangements in India for supervision of intending emigrants to be revised and improved.

"7th. No fixed proportion of single men to families, but emigration of whole families to be encouraged and non-working dependants of immigrant not to be rejected medically merely on ground of physical incapacity to work or on score of age. No fixed proportion of women, but persons under eighteen and women not to be assisted if unaccompanied by families.

"8th. After three years immigrant and dependants to receive half return passage, after five years three-quarters, after seven years whole passage, but acceptance of grant of land under special conditions outlined in three to be taken as extinguishing claims to return passage. Immigrant granted free or assisted passage to have no further claim to such passage if he returns to Colony. Six months' previous notice to be given of intention to claim free or assisted passage. Protector of Immigrants to have right, subject to approval of Governor in Council, to grant at any time free return passage in full in any cases where he deems repatriation desirable.

"9th. Until Colony passes Ordinance cancelling all existing indentures, no emigration to that Colony to be allowed. Option of remaining under existing terms of repatriation or of coming under new terms allowed to all immigrants whose indentures are thus cancelled. For purpose of calculating service qualifying for passage first five years' residence will, in case of latter alternative, be excluded. Questions of marriage, divorce, educational facilities, and political rights also dealt with. Ends.

"Despatch follows by mail, with full text of report, which has been published in India. As explained in despatch, employers will be expected to place at disposal of Department suitable land for settlement of Indians on conditions specified, but Colony must be ultimately responsible for provision of land.

"LONG."

THE CACAO POSITION.

A Cacao Committee Formed.

A meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in the cacao industry was held at the Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, London, at 3 p.m., on August 28th. Mr. R. Rutherford presided, and those present included Mr. Harding Brown, Mr. Harold Carey, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. David Delbanco, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. H. Hamel Smith, Mr. E. A. Robinson, and representatives of J. V. Drake & Co., Van der Meden & Co., Lewis & Peat, Paines & Reid, Rayner & Co., Ross & Norton, and C. M. & C. Woodhouse, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary.

Mr. Rutherford, at the outset, said that those present would recall that on August 8th the members of the West India Committee interested in cacao were called together to meet Mr. F. M. B. Fisher, who gave them an interesting address regarding the aims and objects of the British Empire Producers' Organisation. It was now proposed to form a standing committee, comprising planters, merchants, brokers, and manufacturers, to watch over and protect the interests of the West Indian cacao industry, and to co-operate with that and other bodies, where wider interests were concerned. He would now call upon Mr. G. M. Frame to move a resolution to that effect, and if that resolution commended itself to the meeting the proper procedure would be to submit it to the next meeting of the Executive for confirmation.

Mr. G. M. Frame then moved:—

That the members of the West India Committee interested in the West Indian cacao industry, either as planters, merchants, manufacturers, brokers or otherwise, be constituted a standing Sub-Committee to watch over and protect the interests of that industry, and to co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organisation or kindred bodies where the interests of the cacao industry of the British Empire as a whole are concerned.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. John E. Munro (Grenada), it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Rutherford then said that the advantages of co-operation had been shown only recently, when the West India Committee had been able to render a signal service to Trinidad by obtaining permission from the Shipping Controller for a full cargo of cacao to be lifted at Port of Spain for France. It had been suggested in certain quarters that their action in that connection, which he might mention had been taken at the urgent request of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, had been detrimental to Grenada and other cacao growing islands. But that was not the case. On the other hand, if the 37,737 bags of Trinidad cacao, which had been shipped to France, had not been sent there, they would, undoubtedly, have gone to America, where they would have depressed the prices still further, which would have been detrimental to Grenada. On the whole, therefore, it might fairly be argued that the other

cacao growing islands had derived indirect benefit from the West India Committee's action. He wished to add that while the Committee had received very urgent representations from Trinidad, they had received none whatever from Grenada, which pointed to the desirability of the Agricultural and Commercial Society in that island, in their own interests, co-operating with them more closely in future.

With regard to the future, those present were, he believed, aware that when the import restrictions were first imposed in February last, the West India Committee, realising the gravity of the situation arising from the depredations of enemy submarines and the urgent need of tonnage for military purposes, decided to support the Government, and they could now hardly ask for any general relaxation of the embargo without incurring the charge of being thoroughly inconsistent.

At the same time the situation with regard to stocks of cacao had undergone some modification in the past six months, and in view of the fact that the cacao crops in the West Indies would be coming forward towards the end of the present year, it would be very desirable to discuss the situation which would arise in respect of that commodity, which rapidly deteriorated in a hot climate, and to endeavour to induce the Government to make such arrangements as would obviate the loss which would inevitably result if the crop could not be marketed before February next.

Mr. Frame said that as the bulk of cacao crop would be coming forward between September and January, there would be serious congestion, and planters would be compelled to dump their produce on the American market, which was not profitable—the stocks there already amounting to 400,000 bags, as compared with 100,000 bags, the normal figure. He suggested that possibly the shipping companies might be empowered to fill up surplus space with cacao for the United Kingdom whenever possible.

The Secretary said that Mr. De Freitas had called and expressed regret that, owing to unavoidable circumstances, he would be prevented from attending the meeting at which he had hoped to be present. He, Mr. De Freitas, regretted that Grenada had not participated in the concession recently obtained for Trinidad. He thought that an endeavour should be made to induce the Government to allow the new crop to be shipped before February 23rd next, as the crop would be coming forward at the end of September, and that it would speedily deteriorate. To have to ship to the New York market was a special disadvantage to Grenada, as a charge of \$1 was made for every mark, whether the consignment consisted of one bag or fifty, and Grenada cacao was shipped under many marks, owing to much of it being grown by peasant proprietors. He thought that an endeavour should also be made to get permission for cacao to be shipped to the United Kingdom after all prescribed goods available had been loaded, as he had been informed that ships were sometimes leaving without full cargoes.

Mr. Browne said that Grenada cacao had been realising particularly good prices in the United States, and he added that the crop was now prac-

tically all marketed. In Grenada it was with regard to the coming crop that the great anxiety was felt.

Mr. Frame, at the request of the Chairman, then outlined the position with respect to the French market. It was, he said, understood that the French Government proposed to limit the importation of cacao to 36,000 or 42,000 tons, licences for which would be granted as to 70 per cent. to French manufacturers and 30 per cent. to importers.

After further discussion the following gentlemen were appointed a Sub-Committee to make representation to the proper Government with regard to both matters which had been under consideration: Hon. D. S. De Freitas and Mr. E. A. Robinson (planters), Mr. G. M. Frame and Mr. W. Gillespie (merchants), Mr. Blencowe, and Mr. Woodhouse (brokers), Mr. Vasmer (importer), and Mr. Hamel Smith.

COCOA-BUTTER OR POWDER?

Is Chocolate Bilious? No!

In a letter to their clients, dated August 28th, Messrs. Theo. Vasmer & Co., call attention to the present surplus of cocoa-butter. They point out that the Home Trade demand is poor, and exports have practically stopped. The cocoa-powder trade has come to a certain deadlock. "Personally, we consider that the sale of cocoa-powder has been pushed too much of recent years, and that it would be much better from the public point of view if our stocks of raw cacao were turned into good plain chocolate, with a minimum of sugar. When once the public have learnt to use chocolate instead of the powder in the cup, they will find they are using a far more palatable and nutritious article. Many people argue that chocolate is bilious, but this is surely a fallacy. Everyone who has travelled in Spanish-speaking countries will know that the first thing the catholic priest takes after saying Mass is a cup of chocolate. The reasons for the large supplies of butter are due directly to causes arising out of the war, principally lack of sugar. Cocoa-powder was first introduced by Van Houten in 1821, the resulting butter in confectionery and chocolate making, and the production has steadily increased. A few years ago Swiss Milk Chocolate was introduced, and quickly a big public demand sprang up for this article, resulting in a very large demand for butter. German and Austrian sugar being dumped here at such low prices, manufacturers were tempted to take two parts of sugar to one of nibs (the resulting chocolate being purely a luxury sweet), causing a further demand for butter. From these various causes, the demand for butter increased so largely that instead of it being looked upon as the by-product of the bean, it became the main product. The power and strength of the presses were continually increased, and more and more butter taken out of the powder. Instead of containing around 30 per cent. fat, most powders were lowered to 18-22 per cent. In fact in the end several firms turned out powders containing 12-15 per cent. Although these were puffed by a big

advertising campaign, we believe even the public began to realise that there was little food value in such fatless powders.

"Cocoa-butter has largely been experimented with, but it seems difficult to find other uses for it than for confectionary purposes. For soap-making the price is too dear, for margarine work it is not satisfactory, and it seems as if its chief virtue, 'its hardness,' tells against it at the present abnormal time.

"Germany and Holland were the principal producers of cocoa-butter before the war, and exported some 9,000 odd tons in 1912 and 1913, the greater part of this going to Great Britain, the United States, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria and Russia. Since the outbreak of war, the United States has become self-supporting, Holland's exports dropped to 3,077 tons in 1916, and this country now has a considerable surplus production."

AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

Largest Sugar Crop for 32 Years.

One has been so used to thinking of the banana as "king" of Jamaican products that it is almost with shock we read of its temporary dethronement. The news is conveyed in the most interesting report of the Director of Agriculture (Mr. H. H. Cousins) for the year ending March 31st. Owing to a second year of hurricanes, the exports of bananas fell to three and a half million stems, or about one-fifth of the normal. Shipping difficulties also contributed to this restriction. Then, too, the war (writes Mr. Cousins) "is affecting our premier industry very seriously, and until normal conditions again obtain there is no possibility of the banana industry attaining its former dimensions and success."

On the other hand the war has brought prosperity to many other staples. So much so that Jamaican exports for 1917 were more than £2,750,000 in value, or an increase of £600,000 over those for the previous year. This compares quite favourably with pre-war records. But for the hurricane Jamaica would have attained the highest point yet reached in the value of her exports. To this success sugar makes a notable contribution. The crop was the largest exported since 1884. Totalling 28,000 tons, its value was £500,000. Nor is this all. The export was accompanied by 18,000 puncheons of rum, worth £350,000. The sugar industry thus accounted for £850,000 of the sum total of the exports, or more than five times that recorded for sugar and rum in the year preceding the war.

In view of this result it is not surprising to record that Jamaica is alive to the advantage accruing "from having a larger proportion of safer crops than the banana." Most people will agree with the Director that "the outcome of the past year has been a remarkable illustration of the stabilising effects on our island's trade resulting from a prosperous sugar industry." The short-sighted policy of former years of "placing all the eggs in one basket" has been deplored by only too many West Indian islands. It is believed, however, that as regards Jamaica the

banana will still serve as the chief source of the island's wealth.

The lessons of the past year in reference to sugar are being taken to heart, nevertheless. The spirit of enterprise is at work. Projects for the establishment of a large sugar factory at Spanish Town are under consideration, and other schemes are being favourably regarded by planters. The latter find further encouragement in the evidence already furnished, that local canes are capable of yielding good returns with modern machinery. Mr. Cousins mentions with satisfaction that a return of one ton of sugar from 8½ tons of canes has been obtained on Moreland's Estate, with a recovery of one gallon of rum at 40 o.p. for every 18 lbs. sugar in the waste sent to the distillery. Mr. Cousins adds: "Such a result would indicate that the returns recorded for the Antigua and St. Kitts Central Factories can be equalled in Jamaica in factories less than a third of their capacity."

The Future of Rum.

Planters regard the reports of the Balfour Commission as a favourable omen for Imperial preference and the establishment of a profitable market in England for Colonial sugar after the war. They are indisposed, however, to "plunge," or to make any large investments in machinery until after-war conditions have been disclosed. They desire to see the position established as regards the future security of the sugar industry.

Mr. Cousins points out that—

"One of the difficulties to be faced in some cases is that of the future of rum. Under conditions of efficient management 1 ton of sugar will yield 140 gallons of rum 40 o.p. Fancy rums selling at 8s. 6d. to 8/- per gallon are therefore equivalent to sugar at £24 to £56 per ton. It is a crucial question for a small estate with a limited output of canes, which has hitherto depended on its rum crop, to decide whether 'after the War' it will pay better to continue the old system of rum manufacture or to centralise with the neighbouring estates and to co-operate in the manufacture of sugar on a larger scale with one-fourth proportion of 'common, clean' rum. It is doubtful where there is anyone capable of predicting at the present moment with any certainty as to the prospects of fancy rums from Jamaica after the War and in such cases I have advised the policy of 'wait and see' before a decision is made."

Coco-nuts Booming.

Despite the hurricane the export of coco-nuts was maintained at the same standard as that of the previous year, viz., 27 million nuts, while the value shows an improvement of 75 per cent. This industry attained its first high water-mark in 1903, before the great hurricane of that year, with an export of 23,600,000 nuts. The value of coco-nuts, however, was in 1916, more than two and a half times that of 1903 and stands as the record for this industry in the history of the trade of the island. There is reason to believe (says Mr. Cousins) that the demand for coco-nut material will continue to exceed the supply and that the future for the coco-nut industry is a bright one.

Despite the embargo on the importation of coffee into the United Kingdom, exports of this product showed a small increase in quantity and of £25,000 in value.

War time conditions notwithstanding, the work of the Microbiologist and the Entomologist has been continued. Education and experiments in agriculture have been carried on, although financial stress has reduced the number of students at the Farm School.

DOMINICA'S LIME INDUSTRY.

The following article is extracted from Mr. Joseph Jones' valuable report:—

The crop for 1916, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4.55 cubic feet, amounted to 384,298 barrels or 6,160 below that of 1915, and 6,909 below the record crop of 1913. It is remarkable that such satisfactory results should have been achieved in spite of bad weather conditions. The lime crop for the past five years, calculated in barrels of fruit, is recorded below:—

1912	...	...	...	370,000
1913	...	...	...	391,000
1914	...	...	...	388,000
1915	...	...	...	396,000
1916	...	...	...	384,000

The following table, calculated on the usual basis,* shows the disposal of the crop under the various heads:—

Product.	Barrels of fruit.	Approx. percentage of total crop.
Concentrated juice	228,904	59.5
Raw juice	76,584	20
Fresh limes	38,916	10
Citrate of lime	39,315	10

Comparison with the figures of last year's disposal of crop shows that concentrated juice and fresh limes continue to maintain the same position. In the case of raw juice there was a fall from 26.5 to 20 per cent., and citrate of lime rose from 3.5 to 10 per cent. The amount of fruit required to carry on the business in pickled limes and lime juice cordial was only 615 barrels.

For the second year in succession, the climatic conditions proved unfavourable. On the evening of August 28th a hurricane of much greater intensity than that experienced during August, 1915, passed over the island and inflicted considerable damage on lime cultivations.

Shortly after the hurricane, His Honour the Administrator approved of the suggestion to forward circulars to all planters in the island requesting information under various heads in order that the aggregate losses sustained by agricultural interests might be tabulated and recorded. In all 120 circulars were sent out, and 95 answers were received. The thanks of the Agricultural Department are due to those planters who so kindly furnished the detailed information required.

The figures received show that the premier industry suffered considerably. This is to be expected as lime trees are susceptible to overturning by wind, and even a gale may at times account for some

damage in this respect. Fortunately, the lime tree when blown over exhibits, under sound treatment, great powers of recovery, and the actual loss by deaths owing to storms probably does not average more than 2 or 3 per cent. In the present instance the high percentage of total loss in proportion to trees blown over is due to floods and landslides, and to some extent to the effects of large forest trees falling upon the cultivations. The number of lime trees totally lost on estates is stated in the returns to be 23,000, and those blown over, but likely to recover in the course of two or three years, reach the high figure of 83,000. These trees are planted at varying distances apart, but if we take an average of 200 per acre, this means that 115 acres of trees have been destroyed and 415 acres blown down. The latter will recover in the course of several years, but their productive capacity practically ceases during that period.

The loss of crop is stated to be 118,000 barrels of fruit. Except in very sheltered positions, practically all the fruit, mature and immature, on the trees was blown off, and in turn much of this was swept away by the rush of water through the fields. Further losses were experienced owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour in emergencies of this kind. In this respect it was fortunate that a large proportion of the crop ripened before the end of August. As there has been no advance in the lime crop of Dominica during the past four years, observers confidently expected an increase of crop of close upon 100,000 barrels. This expectation was not realised owing to the hurricane. It is evident that a large increase of crop would have been recorded but for the adverse weather conditions. The above figures do not include losses sustained by peasant proprietors. That these were considerable is undoubted, and if they could be expressed in figures would form an important addition to the estate losses given above.

The question of dealing with fallen trees is discussed in another section of this report. It is hoped that planters will apply sound methods in carrying out this work. Well directed efforts to this end, combined with the application of a sound system of manuring, are the best and quickest means of effecting a speedy recovery, both agriculturally and financially, from the most severe set-back which the lime industry in Dominica has experienced.

Concentrated Lime Juice.

The shipments during the past five years were as follows:—

1912	...	...	...	Gallons, 141,318
1913	...	...	...	158,974
1914	...	...	...	148,179
1915	...	...	...	153,292
1916	...	...	...	152,603

The chief point of interest has been the production in increasing quantities of carefully prepared juice. For many years past planters have been advised to pay more attention to this matter and to ship a high-grade product. A number of planters followed this course, which proved to be a profitable one. Now that first-class juice can be obtained in quantity, buyers in London severely penalise the

* Note.—50 gallons of concentrated juice represent 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice represent 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits.

low-grade product. It is hoped that within a short time nothing but juice of the highest class will be shipped from this island.

Raw Lime Juice.

The exports during recent years were as follows:—

	Gallons.
1912	508,766
1913	336,728
1914	379,875
1915	777,064
1916	574,109

The heavy shipments made during the past two years are due in a large measure to the requirements of the Allied Armies and Navies. Of the quantity shipped during 1916, 474,250 gallons went to the United Kingdom, 20,500 gallons to Canada, and 79,359 gallons to other countries.

Citrate of Lime.

The exports of this product have fluctuated considerably during the past five years, as the following table shows:—

	Cwt.
1912	3,910
1913	4,753
1914	5,191
1915	1,102
1916	2,956

This has been largely due to varying market conditions, prices for high-grade concentrated juice having on various occasions ruled higher than those for citrate of lime. This has led to the establishment locally of what may be termed dual product factories in which steam concentrated juice and citrate of lime may be turned out with equal facility, as demanded by market conditions. These factories represent the highest efficiency yet attained in the manufacture of the two products.

Green Limes.

The shipments since 1912 have been as follows:

	Barrels.
1912	37,038
1913	43,832
1914	45,283
1915	41,494
1916	38,916

During the past two years, a period of unparalleled prosperity in New York and other large cities, the shipments of this fruit to the United States have fallen off to the extent of 6,000 barrels. This decrease cannot be placed to lack of shipping facilities, the Quebec Line steamers having been run as usual; the only change of importance being the need of securing space for this cargo seven or eight days in advance of sailing. As it is unlikely there is any falling off in the demand in the United States, the cause of the decreasing shipment is probably due in part, to competition of other countries. Porto Rico, Cuba and Florida, all share in this trade, while the West Indian islands of St. Lucia, Grenada, and Trinidad will from the present take an increasing part in it. The New York market is mainly supplied by Dominica during the spring months. At this time prices rule high and a good deal of inferior fruit is forwarded by speculators, which has the

effect of lowering the standard of Dominica limes. To the present no definite steps have been taken by those most interested to organise matters on a general scale with a view of preventing shipments of fruit of inferior quality.

The fruit shipped by leading business firms and estates is of the highest quality, but these efforts to build up a sound trade creditable to the island are largely discounted by the irresponsible action of others with no permanent interests in the business, who ship low-grade fruit during the time high prices rule in the market. At the close of the year His Honour the Administrator, in response to representations by the leading shippers, laid the following proposals before the newly-formed Chamber of Commerce, with a view of affording assistance in organising a system for the inspection of fruit before shipment.

What we want to secure.

1. The placing on the New York market of a good standard lime (green) with a Government guarantee that it has been inspected and passed before shipment.
2. The preventing of the shipment of bad, immature or damaged fruit.
3. The maintenance of the high standard of our fruit.
4. The stopping of the haphazard or rush shipping at the time when the fruit is in highest demand and brings the best prices.

(a) As to inspection. That need not present any insuperable difficulties. We can appoint some inspectors paid by the levy of 1d. per barrel on the fruit shipped. This tax would be paid to the Treasury, which would then pay the inspectors.

(b) No one would be allowed to ship any fruit unless it had been inspected and bore the mark of the inspector and the date of inspection on every barrel in a conspicuous place.

(c) Everyone wishing to ship green limes would be required to give a week's (?) notice to the inspector that they have fruit for inspection.

(d) Some central place would be appointed in Roseau for inspection, but visits could be made by the inspectors to places near Roseau for the purpose of inspection of shipments.

(e) Every shipment not fulfilling the standard of quality would be at once condemned and either refused the mark or an option offered of repacking or repicking the shipments to the satisfaction of the inspector.

(f) All shipments which did not satisfy the inspector would be prohibited, and any person shipping barrels without a mark would be liable to prosecution and to a severe penalty on summary conviction.

(g) The principal importers in New York would be informed by circulars that steps have been taken to ensure a standard quality of fruit, and asked to accept no fruit save that under Government guarantee.

I shall be much obliged if your Chamber will make any further suggestions which may occur to you, remembering that it is absolutely necessary to prevent the shipment of bad fruit, which can only result in the decrease and ultimate extinction of one of the most important activities of the Presidency. It is one which is likely in the near future to meet with active business-like and intelligent competition from other lime-growing countries.

Lime Oils.

Shipments of essential oil showed a considerable increase over the previous year's exports, whilst those of otto of limes showed a decrease. The pro-

duction of lime oils during a period of five years is given below :—

Otto of Limes.		Essential Oil of Limes.	
	Gallons.		Gallons.
1912	1,057	1912	4,150
1913	1,805	1913	5,970
1914	1,619	1914	3,984
1915	974	1915	4,108
1916	680	1916	5,504

Prices for these products again ruled high, as a reference to the export value will show.

When the island's crop of limes is considered and allowance made for the green lime and raw juice trades (although in the latter instance the lees of the bulk of the shipments are returned to the island for the recovery of oil) it will be seen that the production of these valuable products is much below what it might be. This is partly explained by the fact that estates with young cultivation seldom possess the equipment for distilling during the early years of production. Also during the height of the crop it is only possible to deal with a portion of the fruit by means of *écuellage*. Apart from this, the yield of oil on estates with the necessary equipment is often low, but may be accounted for by the rush of work during the period of maximum crop, and in some cases owing to inadequacy of equipment. Under the stimulating effect of good prices, it is hoped that measures will be taken to recover a larger portion of these valuable oils than formerly. The exports of lime products during 1916 were as follows :—

Product	Quantity	Value, £
Concentrated Lime Juice	152,603 gallons	44,379
Raw Lime Juice	574,109 "	50,452
Raw Juice Cordial	5,000 "	772
Green Limes	38,916 barrels	47,852
Pickled Limes	415 "	415
Citrate of Lime	2,956 cwt.	9,244
Essential Oil of Limes	5,504 gallons	16,803
Otto of Limes	680 "	2,435
		£172,352

Compared with the previous year there was a total decrease in values amounting to £2,052.

TRADE INTELLIGENCE.

An official memorandum has just been published, dealing with the question of the collection and dissemination of commercial intelligence. In this it is stated that the Board of Trade have obtained the sanction of the Treasury for a large development of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and for a wide expansion of the system of Trade Commissioners within the Empire, which was originally established by the present Prime Minister when President of the Board of Trade. The Foreign Office has also elaborated schemes for strengthening and developing the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services and of increasing their utility to British trade.

Difficulties having arisen in defining the exact responsibilities of the Board and the Foreign Office in this connection, a Committee was appointed in January by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Board of Trade, consisting

of Lord Faringdon as chairman, Mr. Dudley Docker, President of the Federation of British Industries, Mr. Pennefather, M.P., representing the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, Sir William Clark, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. Wellesley, of the Foreign Office. The Committee, however, failed to come to a unanimous agreement.

After further consideration by the Departments concerned a *modus vivendi* has now been arrived at.

A System of Dual Control.

An enlarged Commercial Intelligence Department will be created on a scale adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of British trade after the war. Parliamentary control over the Department will be exercised through a new Parliamentary Secretary, who will occupy the position both of Additional Parliamentary Secretary at the Board of Trade, and also Additional Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. This Parliamentary Secretary will be responsible to the President of the Board of Trade for all matters within the competence of that Department, and responsible to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for all matters concerning the Foreign Office. By matters concerning the Foreign Office is meant all questions concerning the direction and organisation of the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services and the commercial work of officers of the services, and of the Diplomatic Service, so far as these matters are not dealt with by the Vice-Consular or other Departments of the Foreign Office, and also matters concerning the *personnel* of the Foreign Office and of the above services who may be temporarily attached to the Department, and any matters arising out of the work of the Department involving questions of foreign policy. All instructions issued to Commercial Attachés or other Diplomatic or Consular Officers will be issued in the name of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. On all other matters the responsibility will lie with the Board of Trade.

The Commercial Intelligence Department will eventually comprise the existing Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Trade Department of the Foreign Office; and will take over such of the staff and records of the War Trade Intelligence and Statistical Departments as may be available and required.

The official head of the Department will be an officer appointed jointly by the President of the Board of Trade and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, working under the new Parliamentary Secretary. The appointment and control of the Trade Commissioners within the Empire will, as at present, rest with the Board of Trade, and the appointment and control of the Commercial Attachés and Consular Service with the Foreign Office, but the work of the new Department will comprise all matters dealing with commercial intelligence, and, so far as is necessary for that purpose, it will give directions to the oversea services and make the necessary arrangements for keeping them in close touch with the commercial classes in this country.

The Department will be assisted by an Advisory Committee of business men, and it is hoped that it

will be possible to arrange for a sub-committee of this Committee to meet at frequent intervals in order to advise the Department on its current work.

It is understood that the British Trade Commissioner for the West Indies will have his headquarters in Trinidad.

FEDERATION.

The West Indian Federal League.

The pamphlet referred to in the interview with the Hon. G. S. Hudson, the Hon. Secretary of the newly formed West Indian Federal League, in last CIRCULAR, has now been published. Its main features are reproduced in full below:—

1. The West Indian Federal League was formed on March 3rd, 1917, at a meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad, of several of the delegates to the Associated Chamber of Commerce Conference, which had on the previous day concluded its sitting. It was thought advisable not to include any resolution on the subject of Federation on the Agenda of the Conference, but to deal with it as a separate matter, as many delegates had no instructions from their different colonies on the subject, and they, therefore, met as private individuals interested in and desiring to further a cause they believed to be urgently desirable for the common good of the West Indies. Mr. E. R. Davson presided, and Mr. G. S. Hudson acted as Secretary.

2. The meeting was unanimous in desiring the formation of a League to promote Federation of the above colonies (and their dependencies). Since the War the necessity for the establishment of some form of Federation has become more urgent, having regard especially to provision for representation of the West Indies at the Imperial Parliament and Imperial Conferences at Westminster and elsewhere. It was obvious to all present that this could only be attained by a system of federation, and that as separate units the West Indian Colonies would remain a voiceless and unrepresented cypher in the British Empire. It was equally obvious that the matter was one calling for immediate action, otherwise the end of the War and the commencement of the new regime of Overseas representation would find the West Indies still a conglomeration of obscure units with no organised voice for themselves or their neighbours, and probably represented at the Empire Council by the Colonial Office.

3. It was decided that every effort should be made to avoid this. There are also many other grounds on which a loose form of Federation, based on mutual action in common interests, could not fail to appeal to the common sense of the West Indies as being not only desirable but practically unassailable in theory and practice, and the lessons taught by history of similar movements.

4. It was the opinion of all those present that any features which might be deemed detrimental or objectionable to the interests of any of the interested Colonies might, without difficulty, be eliminated and altered to meet such prejudices, if the matter was frankly and amicably discussed at a Conference consisting of unofficial delegates from each Colony, and that such a Conference, even though if in the first instance it failed to attain its entire object, could only do good in thoroughly ventilating the views of the several Colonies.

5. The necessity of strong and united action by the West Indies in such matters among others, of Mail Steamship contracts, where the interests of the West Indies may come into collision with that of very powerful combines, was touched upon, for it was noted that the action of the Associated Chambers of Commerce could only, after all, be advisory, as contrasted with the definite power wielded by the West Indian Federal Council.

6. The possibility of any single colony refusing to join the Federation need not necessarily invalidate the combination of the rest of the West Indies. In this connection it may be mentioned that although the whole of the West

Indies was not represented at this meeting, a very large proportion of the Colonies were represented, and each delegate was personally canvassed on the subject without meeting one dissentient voice, although naturally there were one or two very cautious and non-committal ones.

7. As a main upshot of the meeting the Secretary was instructed to—

(a) Arrange for local Secretaries and Organisers in each Colony, and

(b) Through the good offices of these gentlemen, endeavour to get resolutions passed by the principal public bodies in each Colony in favour of a West Indian Unofficial Conference to discuss a loose form of Federation to deal only with matters of common interest, but not to interfere with affairs of purely local concern in each Colony.

(c) And generally to promote public opinion in favour of such a Scheme of Federation.

8. Appended is a brief *resumé* of the Hon. Gideon Murray's suggestions regarding West Indian Federation.

9. It must be clearly stated that the West Indian Federal League do not as a body necessarily follow blindly all the suggestions put forth in The Hon. Gideon Murray's publication; but suggest that the scheme be regarded as a useful basis for preliminary discussion at the proposed Conference. At such a Conference it will be quite open to delegates to put forward and discuss any reasonable amendments to it, or even to submit other proposals. The League has one definite aim—the greatest good to the greatest number of West Indians by methods of combination.

10. To the question "Are you in favour of West Indian Federation?" most persons will reply "My answer depends entirely on what you mean by Federation."

11. This little publication has endeavoured to throw more light on what is meant by Federation. There is no "whole hogger" class in the West Indies relating to Federation. Any suggestion of pooling revenues or equalising tariffs with a Lord High Somebody in authority over the whole West Indies would be resented by every Colony.

12. Unfortunately there exists a class in the larger Colonies who associate the word "Federation" with the curtailment of the undoubted right of each Colony to legislate for itself in internal matters, tax for itself and spend its revenue on its own needs. It is necessary to disabuse the minds of these people that Federation (whatever it may have meant in the past) means none of these things now-a-days. Just as an individual State in the United States of America may be financially prosperous or otherwise, may be, in temperance matters, "wet" or "dry," may legislate in favour of, or against, female votes, and a hundred other matters while still belonging, and sending representatives, to the Federal Council of the United States to register its vote on matters common to the whole United States of America, so may the West Indian Colonies, each retaining their own dearly valued independence, yet combine together on unobjectionable and desirable lines to deal with matters in which we are all equally interested, thus presenting to the world a strong concerted front in matters where our united interests are threatened or overlooked.

13. So evident are the beneficial effects of combination of States in every country that has tried it—Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, South Africa, United States of America, etc., etc.—that it is really superfluous to argue its efficacy, and this again must not be regarded as a purely political matter not affecting the every day man obsessed in earning his living; commerce has invariably been dependent for its stability on political strength—it is not possible to regard commerce and politics as things apart.

14. Finally, efficient unofficial political representation for the West Indies in the Empire's Councils is impossible without Federation.

15. One sometimes hears that official circles would not welcome such a scheme. The answer to this is the following extract from Mr. Murray's book:—

"Mr. Harcourt, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply to Mr. G. B. Haddock, M.P., said—Various proposals for federating the West Indian Colonies have from time to time been put forward for discussion. I need hardly say that any scheme that

meets with the general approval of the communities concerned will command my most attentive consideration."

16. Again, as recently as the 10th August, 1917, Mr. Walter Long, the present Secretary of State for the Colonies in a speech at the West India Club, said:—

"We must never let ourselves be caught unprepared again; and whether it be in the West Indies or in any other part of the Empire he hoped that thoughtful men would realise that one result of the War must be, if we are to make proper use of our opportunities and advantages, to make the British Empire more united and more completely self-supporting, and capable of preserving the peace of the world than it had ever been before."

17. This is not polite word-mongering by Ministers. Their expressions voice the settled policy of the British Empire as embodied in established acts.

18. There can exist no doubt as to the feasibility of the West Indies arriving at a scheme "that meets with the general approval of the communities concerned" if an unofficial conference is arranged and the matter freely and amicably discussed.

19. *That is all the League asks for at present.* Later on, if the unofficial Conference made clear the wishes of the inhabitants of the West Indies towards some form of closer union, then the Colonial Office might be confidently approached with the request for a second Conference, at which their officials might add unofficial delegates in working out the preliminaries of a loose form of West Indian Federation.

20. Important resolutions have recently been passed (Empire Day, 1917) by the British Guiana Chamber of Commerce in favour of greater unity in affairs of common interest (including Imperial representation) to the West Indian Colonies and British Guiana.

The Organising Committee of the League is composed as follows:—

Antigua, Mr. A. P. Cowley; Barbados, Mr. E. I. Jeeza; British Guiana, Mr. C. Martin-Sperry; Dominica, Mr. T. Rose; Grenada, Mr. John Barclay; Montserrat, The Hon. W. L. Wall; St. Lucia, The Hon. Geo. S. Hudson; St. Kitts and Nevis, The Hon. A. M. Reid; St. Vincent, Mr. J. Elliott Sprott; and Trinidad, Mr. Edgar Tripp; with Hon. Geo. S. Hudson of St. Lucia as Hon. Secretary.

SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

A Committee was appointed by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom and the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, in March, 1916, to advise as to the measures requisite for the maintenance of a British mercantile marine adequate to the Empire's interests in peace, as well as its needs in war. The principal conclusions arrived at by this Committee, whose report has now been issued, are as follows:—

The victorious termination of the war is the first essential to the formation of a successful trade policy after the war. An incomplete victory can never be perfected and an insecure peace can never be made stable by means of any form of trade policy. The objects for which the Empire and its Allies are fighting—reparation for the wrongs done, restitution so far as is possible for the losses sustained, and security for the future—must be attained. The peace of the world can never be secure so long as Germany has a military system at home and colonies abroad from which to carry into execution a policy of piracy and murder on land and sea against the

world at large. It is only through the complete defeat of the enemy that these ends can be reached and the purpose of the war accomplished, and when that has been done our trade policy will of necessity be a peace policy.

With regard to the question of State control the Committee report:—

In determining upon trade policy to be adopted after the War, the first care of the State must be to do nothing to imperil the pre-eminent position the United Kingdom holds in the international trade of the world. Our manufacturing power, our commerce, and our shipping have been established for the world's trade, and no smaller field can provide scope for their employment. To maintain that position the nation must, with the utmost possible speed after peace is restored, bring back its fighting forces into productive industry, so as to re-establish its manufacturing power and to replace the war wastage in its shipping; and it must adjust its trading operations to meet the altered conditions in international exchange resulting from the prodigious war borrowings and war lendings between the nations. To accomplish these ends the greatest asset of the nation will be the energy and enterprise of its individual citizens; an asset which could never be replaced by either State assistance or State control.

The ruling principle of our trade policy after the War should therefore consist in the maintenance for each individual citizen, be he producer or consumer, manufacturer, trader, banker, underwriter, ship owner, employer or workman, of the fullest possible opportunities for the exercise of his energies and enterprise in the markets of the world, subject only to such restrictions as may be imposed in the interest of national safety. We are satisfied that so far as shipping is concerned, apart from any exceptional case for establishing a new trade, it can only hold its own in competition with the world free from State control, and therefore free from State assistance, and that speaking generally State intervention can most profitably be directed and limited to increasing the trading efficiency of the nation as a whole.

OBITUARY.

MR. G. F. FRANKS, M.A., F.G.S.

We regret to state that Mr. G. F. Franks died at Georgetown, Demerara, on July 28th, after a painful illness.

British Guiana has lost one of her most popular colonists in the person of Mr. G. F. Franks, M.A., F.G.S. The name of Mr. Franks is synonymous with that of Queen's College with which he had been identified for many years as second master. By successive generations of boys, however, he was regarded not merely as a tutor, but as a genial friend. Eminent and approachable, he won the confidence of his pupils both in and out of school hours. His warm-hearted *bouhounie* also secured for Mr. Franks the lasting esteem of friends beyond the confines of the college. Among sportsmen he won fame as a shot, and among golfers he more than held his own. Mr. Franks was born sixty-four years ago at Cambridge, Oxford, however, his *alma mater*, and it was as a student of Balliol that he took his B.A. in 1876 with honours. After experience as a classical master in England, Mr. Franks went out in that capacity to Harrison College, Barbados, in 1890, thus initiating a connection with the West Indies which has extended over a period of twenty-seven years. After fourteen years' residence in "Bimshire," Mr. Franks crossed over to British Guiana, there to enter upon that fruitful period of service to Queen's College which was terminated only by his death. A remarkable tribute to Mr. Franks' efficiency is on record. When the standard of the Guiana scholarship was raised some years ago, it was feared that the scholarship would lapse. The very next year, however, it was won by a classical scholar. Mr. Franks was one of those Englishmen who adapt themselves admirably to colonial life. He became at home in

the atmosphere of the Caribbean, and West Indian manners and customs appealed strongly to him. The Governor (Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G.) attended the funeral, which took place at the Lodge Cemetery, in the presence of many friends, the body of the late Mr. Frauks being interred near that of his old friend Mr. Potbury, the late principal of Queen's College. The bearers were Messrs H. W. Sounce, T. A. Pope, A. Leechman, E. O. Pilgrim, R. May, and Ward.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUT. HERBERT PACKER BAILEY, M.C., who first appeared in the casualty lists as "Wounded and Missing" was, on August 28th, reported killed in action. The son of Mr. E. S. Bailey, of Belleville, Barbados, manager of the local Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, Packer was educated at Harrison College. A keen cricketer, he played for the first XI of the Pickwick Cricket Club and was also an enthusiastic tennis player. He left the Island with the first Citizens' Contingent, of which he was indeed in command, in July, 1916. Immediately after his arrival he joined the Artists' Rifles, into whose Cadet School he was transferred in July, 1916. He was eventually gazetted to the East Surrey Regiment with a battalion of which he was serving when he received his fatal wounds on July 31st last. He went to the front in September, 1916, and it was not until ten months later that after a desperate and successful "push" he came to England on ten days' leave. During that period he received the intimation that he had been awarded the Military Cross for a feat of gallantry which he modestly refrained from describing, but which was officially recorded—after Packer's death, alas!—as follows:—"He displayed the greatest gallantry in handling a Stokes gun, following the first line infantry up to the final objective, where he consolidated later in the day. He showed great judgment, and was instrumental in repelling an enemy counter-attack by the skilful use of his gun." The good news was at once cabled to Barbados by the Contingent Committee, who had the satisfaction of learning that Packer had received, as a result, cablegrams of congratulation from his family and his local cricket club before the end came. On July 28th Packer wrote:—"To-morrow I will be taking part in another push, which, no doubt you will read all about. . . . Will send you a field card to say if I come out of it." That card never came, and we have to mourn the loss of another very gallant gentleman.

SECOND LIEUT. WILLIAM GLOSTER GARRAWAY, of the London Regiment, who was killed on August 17th, was the younger son of the late T. S. Gartaway, of Barbados. He was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, won the island classical scholarship, and was an exhibitor of New College, Oxford. His Commanding Officer writes:—"I personally feel his loss very greatly, as he always showed splendid soldierly qualities, and was always cheerful and much liked by all his comrades."

LIEUT. MYLES WILLIAM VON WINCKLER, who was killed in action on August 1st, was the only son of Dr. William J. von Winckler, M.R.C.S.E., of the British Guiana Government Medical Service, and of Mrs. Amiable von Winckler (née Pairaudenau), formerly of British Guiana and now at 16, Harts Grove, Faling Common, W. 5. Born in 1893 at Plu. Nismes, West Bank, Demerara, where his father was then District G.M.O., Myles came to England in 1900 and was educated at St. Paul's School and Wadham College, Oxford. From there he passed to Sandhurst, and was eventually gazetted to the Middlesex Regiment, with which he was serving when he was killed. He was a very fine cricketer and he made many a century for St. Paul's. He was Captain at Fives, and in a word an all-round athlete. His Colonel wrote that Myles "was acting in command of his company, and not only showed conspicuous leadership but great skill and gallantry. After having consolidated the positions won, he beat off most successfully the German counter-attack, and only a few hours before his company was relieved, he was shot by a

sniper," and adds "his death is a great loss to the army as he was one of the most fearless and gallant young officers whom I have met, and greatly respected and liked by all, and could ill be spared." Dr. von Winckler, with whom as with Mrs. Winckler much sympathy will be felt, is shortly returning to England prior to his retirement.

SECOND LIEUT. MCF. KELLY-LAWSON, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who was killed in action on August 9th, was son of Mr. D. O. Kelly-Lawson, of Hampden Estate, St. James', Jamaica, and grandson of Dr. P. J. Kelly and of Mrs. Kelly, daughter of Dr. G. McF. Lawson Custos, of St. James', in that island.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT. H. T. CLARE (son of Dr. Henry L. Clare) R.G.A., was wounded in the left elbow by shrapnel and is at present at a convalescent hospital at Blackpool.

SECOND LIEUT. E. C. BECHER, R.P.A. (son of Major E. F. Becher, of Dominica), has been discharged from hospital.

SECOND LIEUT. S. SCUDAMORE (of Jamaica), London Regiment, has been reported wounded.

MISSING.

SECOND LIEUT. C. D. YEARWOOD (of Barbados), King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, has been reported "Missing believed Wounded."

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. HAROLD STOCKLEY (son of Mr. A. H. Stockley, of Elders and Pyffes, Ltd.), Leicestershire Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross.

PROMOTIONS.

SECOND LIEUT. M. H. PATTINSON, British West Indies Regiment, has been promoted Lieutenant.

Since the last list of casualties in the British West Indies Regiment generally was published, the following have been officially reported on various dates:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

BAHAMAS.—6079 Ingraham, C.
JAMAICA.—8056 Anderson, S.; 3463 Cooks, W. H.; 4426 Dyer, A.; 3484 Jones, H.; 3506 Willis, J

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BAHAMAS.—3816 Butler, A.; 3821 Charlton, D.
JAMAICA.—6043 Edwards, F.; 8432 McDermott, W.; 8651 Roberts, Lee, Sergt. R.
TRINIDAD.—1514 Rojas, F. A.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BAHAMAS.—5836 Johnson, J.; 6144 Rolle, D.; 6157 Saunders, J.; 6187 Wallace, G.
BRITISH GUIANA.—76 De Silva.
DOMINICA.—1137 Drake, V.
JAMAICA.—7519 Allen, E.; 8664 Allen, S.; 8245 Bailey, N.; 7459 Barrett, T.; 7033 Bent, W.; 3123 Bruce, C.; 7714 Campbell, C.; 7555 Codrington, C.; 6879 Davis, J.; 6043 Edwards, A.; 6732 Forbes, A.; 7854 Foster, A.; 3229 Foster, J. R.; 7919 Goodwin, A.; 7882 Grant, A.; 3235 Haughton, P. A.; 5514 Hawkins, D.; 7140 Jackson, E.; 5371 Kelly, A.; 7681 McGlashan, G.; 8027 Morris, U.; 4614 Palmer, C.; 12139 Parkes, W.; 7187 Peddy, E.; 7417 Powell, G.; 11020 Russell, W.; 7418 Samuels, T.; 5944 Samuels, W.; 11679 Small, C.; 7963 Thompson, N.; — Todd, N.; — Vassell, L.; 7958 Williams, E.; 5984 Williams, W.; 7510 Wilson, T.

WOUNDED.

Second Lieut. W. S. Jamieson (attached R.F.C.).
BAHAMAS.—6125 Petty, R.; 5639 Sands, R.
JAMAICA.—1553 Adamson, R.; 5182 Brown, Sergt. D.; 4411 Burrowes, G. R.; 4574 Church A.; 4466 Cleghorne, V.; 7564 Davis, Sergt. W.; 7588 Forbes, N.; 4544 Graves, H.; 3880 Hall, D.; 7374 Hamilton, G.; Harging, Acting C.S.M. H. V. (Border Regt.); 7379 Hudson, P.; 3801 Innis, A.; 4044 Jacobs, C.; 5542 Johnson, H.; 7359 Lewis,

J.; 3858 Llewelyn, Z.; 8156 McPherson, A.; 5578 Mitchell, C. A.; 757 O'Riordan, Cpl. W.; 8181 Palmers, —; 7509 Rigan, A.; 3101 Roberts, Cpl. J. L.; 7456 Robinson, N.; 7978 Sibbert, C.; 7152 Smith, N.; 4517 Sterrett, A.; 4450 Stewart, F.; 2873 Thomas, J. A.; 7742 Troupe, O.; 8525 Walker, D.; 6287 Walsh, H. (?A.); 4021 Williams, S.; 3806 Woodcock, J.; 8504 Wright, H.

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.

Burnside, John (son of Mr. Nigel B. Burnside, Auditor of Public Accounts, Bahamas), has joined the Canadian Forces.

Brown, Fred. (son of Captain Christopher Brown, Bahamas), Canadians.

Brown, Christopher (son of Captain Christopher Brown, Bahamas), Canadians.

Mr. G. S. Hatton, son of Dr. E. F. Hatton, late Colonial Surgeon of Grenada, and of Mrs. Hatton, a sister of Mr. G. S. Seton Browne, has just gained one of the four Commissions in the Royal Engineers given from the R.M.C., Kingston, Canada.

Jellicoe, Harold Vincent, of the Bahamas, Cadet Royal Flying Corps, Canada.

Knowles, Ralph, of the Bahamas, Cadet Royal Flying Corps, Canada.

Lighthourn, Charles (son of Mr. William Lighthourn, Bahamas), Canadians.

Payne, Second Lieut. R. H. (son of the late Mr. C. L. Payne, of Demerara) R.F.A.

Rae, Fernley (son of Mr. James M. Rae, Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, Bahamas), Cadet Royal Flying Corps, Canada.

Sherwood-Smith, A. D. (late private secretary to His Excellency Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Bahamas), Inns of Court O.T.C.

Solomon, Eric V. (Member of the House of Assembly, Bahamas), Officers' Training Corps, Canada.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Sergeant F. W. Holland and Private D. L. French, both of the British West Indies Regiment, have been awarded the Military Medal.

* * *

It is hoped to publish in an early issue of the CIRCULAR a report by the General Officer Commanding the troops in Egypt upon the work of the British West Indies Regiment.

* * *

At a meeting of the General purposes Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, held on September 3rd, it was decided, subject to confirmation by the Executive, to present a special gift to each officer, non-commissioned officer and men of the British West Indies Regiment on active service on Christmas Day next.

* * *

From the *Gazette*, September 1st:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.—Sec. Lts. (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Lts.:—K. M. Cocking, I. C. G. Bevan, A. M. Henderson (May 31). Sec. Lts. (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Lts.:—K. M. Cocking, I. G. C. Bevan, Iock, M. G. Heron, I. R. Augell, L. L. de Cordova, L. G. Hairs, J. M. Hall, I. D. McNish, M. H. Pattinson, F. H. Farquharson, A. F. Thelwell, E. J. Gordon (May 31).

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Ladies' West India Committee (Trinidad) per			
Mrs Gordon Gordon	127	7	4
Captain Wm. Godsal	10	0	0
C. Gideon Murray, Esq., C.M.G.	5	5	0
Rev. Canon Rea	2	0	0
Miss Edith Peterkin	2	0	0
Edmund R. Brauch, Esq.	0	16	0
West Indian Club, Ltd. (sale of flags in club)	0	14	6
The Misses Peterkin (per Mrs. Browley)	0	10	0
Miss F. H. Dalton (2nd donation)	0	5	0
Lt. R. P. Gallway	0	1	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. 3, or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

UNITED STATES WAR TARIFF.

Fresh Taxes on Sugar, Cacao and Coffee.

The Senate Committee inserted into the United States' War Revenue Bill several items of importance to the West Indies, namely, consumption taxes on sugar, cacao and coffee, which, with a tea duty, are expected to yield \$86,000,000. They also recommended the repeal of the provision for a drawback on exports of refined sugar. Their recommendations in respect of the above commodities were as follows:—

Your committee recommends as a temporary war measure, excise taxes as follows: Upon coffee or substitutes therefor, 2 cents per pound; upon tea, 5 cents per pound; upon crude cocoa, 3 cents per pound; upon prepared cocoa and chocolate, imported, 5 cents per pound; upon sugar, 4 cent per pound; such taxes to be paid by the manufacturer, producer or importer.

Your committee recommends that these taxes be imposed not only upon the articles hereafter manufactured, produced or imported but also upon those already manufactured, produced or imported but not yet sold to the consumer when the Bill shall go into effect. A reasonable exemption, however, is allowed in the case of a retail dealer who does not sell these articles at wholesale.

As before stated, the House Bill proposes a tax of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* upon practically every article enumerated in the present tariff law, whether upon the free or dutiable list, including coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar. Your committee, while recommending that these all embracing consumption taxes be eliminated from the Bill, provides that in the place of the customs tax proposed in the House Bill, there be substituted these moderate excise taxes.

As coffee, tea and cocoa are not produced in this country, of course the total amount collected from consumers by the tax upon these articles will inure to the benefit of the Treasury.

The excise tax on sugar, whether imported or domestic, will likewise all find its way into the Treasury, whereas the 10 per cent. *ad valorem* tax proposed on sugar in the House Bill would have inured in part to the benefit of the Treasury and in part to the benefit of the sugar producer and refiner, the consuming public paying the part accruing to the producer and refiner as well as the part accruing to the Government.

If every dollar of the excise taxes imposed by the Senate amendment upon these articles was passed on to the consumer it would amount to a tax of little more than

75 cents per annum *per capita*, a sum so small it would scarcely be felt by the consumer. It is by no means probable, however, that the whole of these excise taxes will be passed to the consumer. A considerable part is likely to be absorbed by producers and dealers and the final charge upon consumers cannot be burdensome.

Outside of the internal revenue taxes imposed in the Bill upon whiskey, beer and wines and upon tobacco and its products the consumption taxes retained in the Bill after the changes made by your committee will be comparatively small.

The taxes imposed by your committee upon coffee, tea, cocoa and sugar will yield the Government a fairly good revenue. They are small compared with similar taxes imposed by practically all belligerent countries, are easy of collection and your committee can see no reasonable objection to their imposition.

SUGAR DRAWBACK.

It is recommended that paragraph 4 of section 4 of the Act of October 3, 1913, so far as it relates to the granting of a drawback upon sugar, be repealed.

The drawback provision of existing law allows the repayment, upon the exportation of any article manufactured in the United States, in part or wholly of imported materials of 99 per cent. of the customs duty that was actually paid and collected upon the importation of these materials.

Because of the War our Allies, who formerly received large amounts of beet sugar from Germany and Austria, are now importing large amounts of refined sugar from the United States, principally sugar grown in Cuba and refined in the United States.

All of this sugar being refined from the imported article receives upon exportation 99 per cent. of the customs duty originally paid upon it.

The following table shows the amount of drawback paid upon the exportation of sugar for the fiscal years:

	Dollars
1912	1,364,085
1913	1,420,937
1914	647,740
1915	5,401,173
1916	13,771,181

England is the principal purchaser of this sugar, and is not now refining enough sugar for her own consumption, even if she could procure sufficient raw sugar for that purpose. The United States at the present time seems to be the only country that can supply the English demand for this sugar.

Before the war England refined about 700,000 tons of sugar and imported about 1,000,000 tons of refined sugar to supply the domestic demands of Great Britain. These importations were chiefly from the countries now at war, and having for this reason ceased to be exporters of sugar, leaving the United States as the only market upon which Great Britain depends for that part of its demand which it cannot supply, amounting to somewhere near 1,000,000 tons annually.

This, of course, accounts for the large increase in our exports of refined sugar. Strong representations were made to your committee to the effect that through the manipulation of the drawback now allowed by law, domestic refiners have been enabled unduly to increase the price of sugar to American consumers.

The drawback allowed by law is intended to relieve the exported product from the burden of any customs tax that may have been imposed upon the raw material out of which the finished product is made to the end that the exporter might be able to meet competition in foreign markets upon equal terms.

It was strongly argued by representatives before your committee that because of the alleged fact that the American exporter of sugar had no competition and would have none during the continuance of the War in the foreign markets in which he now sells his product, this drawback becomes a bounty and that the effect has been to increase the price to American consumers of refined sugar by approximately the amount of the bounty.

The answer of the refiners to this contingent was not satisfactory to your committee, and it is believed that the

withdrawing of the drawback would not affect the price at which sugar is sold by American refiners to our Allies, and that by allowing the drawback it would in all probability increase the price of the refined sugar to the American consumer.

There can be little doubt that under prevailing conditions the shortage of sugar in Europe will continue to be supplied by American refiners, notwithstanding the repeal of the drawback, so far as the quantity of raw sugar available for the purposes can be secured. It is not believed that, under these circumstances, the repeal of the drawback at this time will materially affect the exportation of refined sugar.

Under the circumstances your committee, while divided upon the question, feels constrained to recommend the repeal of the drawback allowed under existing law upon the exports of refined sugar.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

DR. HENRY L. CLARE, late Surgeon-General of Trinidad and Tobago, who has been in Jamaica since his retirement, has returned to England, and is at present living at Edgbaston.

THREE of Messrs. Sproston's steamers, the *Purini*, *Parika*, and *Essequibo*, employed on coastal and river service in British Guiana, have been requisitioned by the Admiralty for Imperial war purposes.

MR. CUNNINGHAM CRAIG is now Senior Geologist in the Petroleum Research Department, under Sir Boverton Redwood. At his charming house at Beaconsfield, he and Mrs. Craig have been more than kind in entertaining young officers from Trinidad.

AN engagement is announced between Mr. A. D. Sherwood Smith, son of the late Major Henry Sherwood Smith, 63rd Regiment, and Mrs. Sherwood Smith, and Margery Priscilla, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Williams, Warleigh Lodge, Wimbledon Common.

DR. NORMAN DALTON, of 125, Harley Street, and King's College Hospital, who is the son of the late Mr. E. J. E. Dalton, Postmaster of British Guiana, was, before the war, a Lieut.-Colonel, *à la suite*, of the Territorial Forces. Since the war began he has served at No. 4 London General Hospital at Denmark Hill.

THE sale of Trinidad Estates, announced by Messrs. Jenkinson, Brinsley & Jenkinson to take place at the Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, has been postponed for eight weeks, to November 22nd (at 2 p.m.), in order to give investors in Trinidad and other Colonies further time for making their financial arrangements.

WEST INDIANS generally, and his friends in British Guiana in particular, will congratulate Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker upon the distinction conferred upon him by the King. For his services as a member of the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, Mr. Sandbach Parker has been created a Commander of the new Order of the British Empire.

CHAIRMAN of the Demerara Company, the new Commander was for many years partner in a firm established in British Guiana more than a century ago. The name of Sandbach Parker & Co. ranks among the highest in planting circles. Nor is this the first honour to be conferred upon the family. The late Mr. Charles Stuart Parker, of Fairlie, Ayrshire, held a Privy Councillorship. Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker has long been a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. The War has made him known to a wide circle as Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

* * *

WEST INDIAN SEA ISLAND cotton comes within the scope of a new Order issued by the Minister of Munitions. All persons having in their possession or under their control, any stock, sold or unsold, of yarn spun from West Indian Sea Island, Carolina Sea Islands, or Sakelarides cotton, were required to furnish a return thereof within fourteen days to the Director of Contracts at the Admiralty.

* * *

DEMERARA has a direct interest in the latest of London plays. Miss Tennyson Jesse, joint-author of "Billeted," now playing at the Royalty, is a daughter of the Rev. Eustace Tennyson D'Eyncourt Jesse, who was curate of St. George's Cathedral, Georgetown, some years ago. As the name suggests, Miss Jesse is a member of a Lincolnshire family closely allied with that of the late Poet Laureate.

* * *

We are glad to learn that Dr. H. A. Tempany has arrived safely in Mauritius, after a voyage of over ten weeks from London. He was detained for three weeks at Natal, owing to the vessel in which he was to have proceeded to his destination having been torpedoed, and during his visit there he investigated the local cane cultivation conditions on behalf of certain planters, with the consent of the Mauritius Government.

* * *

It is for his services to the Colonies that the late Earl Grey will be remembered. His early experience in South Africa paved the way for his successful administration as Governor-General of Canada. To our fellow subjects in the Colonies generally his name was familiar as that of President of the Royal Colonial Institute. Some of our readers may recall that the first Earl, General Sir Charles Grey, won the family honours for military services in the West Indies more than a century ago.

* * *

BARBADOS will never forget the time when the island was governed by one of "Wellington's men"—Field-Marshal Viscount Combermere. It is not so generally remembered that at the period a daughter of "Little England," married to an English officer, gave birth to a son destined to live in history as Field-Marshal Lord Napier of Magdala. That lady was Catherine, daughter of Codrington Carrington of Blackman's. The fact is recalled by the marriage the other day of a son of Lord Napier to a

daughter of another famous Field-Marshal—Sir George White.

* * *

MR. FISHER UNWIN has published a new edition of "The Gathering of the Clans," by Mr. J. Saxon Mills. This little booklet presents, in brief, a record of the contributions to the Imperial Cause by the Dominions and Crown Colonies. There is no reason to complain of the space allotted to the West Indies. One would have wished, however, that in a new edition, the information had been brought up to date. The gifts from the Caribbean at the present date are more numerous and representative than would appear from Mr. Saxon Mills' summary. The use of the word "natives," moreover, is apt to be misleading.

* * *

MR. E. D. LABORDE, I.S.O., Treasurer of Grenada, now in London, has just contributed an interesting letter to the *Times*. From several points on the south coast of England come reports of hearing the sound of gun-fire in Belgium. Mr. Laborde furnishes a parallel from the West Indies. Recalling the activity of La Pete in Martinique and of La Soufriere in St. Vincent, in 1902, he says that great noise, as of cannonading, was heard in Barbados—lying about 100 miles to windward of the islands mentioned. Remarkably, however, "the noise was not heard in St. Lucia, an island lying within view of both volcanoes."

* * *

MR. C. D. ELPHICK, Acting British Consul at San Juan, in a special report to the Board of Trade, states that during 1916 encouraging experiments were made with regard to the cultivation of rice in Porto Rico. The experiments have demonstrated the practicability of growing rice profitably on the lowlands, and afford ground for the hope that the island may become self-supporting with respect to its requirements for this staple article of food. The importance of developing the native cultivation of the cereal may be inferred from the fact that the value of imports of rice into Porto Rico amounts to over £1,000,000 per annum.

THE Governor of the Panama Canal Zone publishes the following statistics regarding the Panama Canal for the month of June. (Those published in the CIRCULAR for August 9th were for May, and not as stated).

Item.	Cristobal.	Balboa.	Total.
Ships making transit of Canal from Net tonnage of ships through Canal from ..	86	89	175
Cargo carried through Canal from ..	276,855	268,809	545,664
Nationality of ships through the Canal from:	315,394	325,706	640,899
British ..	36	34	70
United States ..	17	28	45
Norwegian ..	13	10	23
Chilean ..	4	4	8
Danish ..	5	3	6
Dutch ..	2	3	5
Peruvian ..	3	—	3
Japanese ..	—	—	—
Spanish ..	—	2	2
Costa Rican ..	—	1	1
French ..	—	1	1
Mexican ..	—	1	1
Panamanian ..	—	—	—
Swedish ..	—	—	—
Tolls earned on ships entering Canal from ..	\$266,579.65	\$254,583.56	\$521,163.21

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—The Cotton Growers' Association.

The first annual report of the Committee of the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association, which was formed in May, 1916, as the outcome of a resolution moved by the Hon. R. Warneford at the St. Kitts Conference in the preceding March was received by the Antigua Agricultural and Commercial Society on July 13th.

Early in the season the Association took up the question of supplying pedigree cotton seed to cotton planters, and seed was obtained from Vepton's Estate and, after selection, distributed to growers. By this means peasants and others had a good strain to plant from as the cotton grown on the estate mentioned above had been subjected to selection by officers of the Agricultural Department for several years past. In some cases growers were allowed to have seed on the understanding that they would pay for it when their crops were reaped. The quantity of seed handled amounted to 1,600 lbs. After selection, 1,344 lbs. were sent out for planting purposes, this amount being distributed among some thirty-five people.

Early in the season arrangements were made to purchase clean seed cotton at 5 cents per lb., but owing to an advance in the market price of cotton this was subsequently increased to 8 cents per lb. for clean seed cotton and 4 cents per lb. for stained. The purchases were made under an agreement that the Association should retain all seed and 25 per cent. of any profit made when the lint was sold. A total of 7,249 lbs. of cotton was purchased.

The clean lint after ginning was sold locally for 2/8½ per lb. and the stained lint for 1/- per lb. When distributing second payment this fact, and the difference in the amounts originally paid for stained and clean seed cotton, were taken into consideration. The growers obtained for payment 5½ cents and 1½ cents for each pound of clean or stained seed cotton sold to the Association.

BARBADOS—A New Motor-bus Service.

The House of Assembly has voted a subsidy of a sum not exceeding £200 a year for a motor-bus service between the Leeward Parishes and Bridgetown. The former bus service proved a failure, but it is hoped that with new and suitable buses the present venture may prove a paying proposition.

BRITISH GUIANA The Colonial Bank's Success.

A correspondent writes that remarkable success has attended the branch of the Mahaic, a branch of the Colonial Bank, established some eighteen months ago. Initial aloofness from a new institution, evinced both by East Indians and black people, has vanished. They have become alive to the advantages accruing from the existence of such an establishment on the East coast. The bank is getting more and more into direct touch with rice cultivators and every one knows the increasingly important part which rice is playing in the economic life of the colony.—British Guiana is the traditional home of the tiger cat, but it is not every day that one is seen. Two East Indians, however, have successfully netted one on the Corentyne Coast. A few days later the same men shot two other tigers.—A respected member of the East Indian community has passed away in the person of Mr. Donald Gravesande, aged seventy-two. A native of the Madras Presidency, he resided in the Colony for sixty years. Adopted by a planter named Gravesande, whose name he took, the young East Indian rose to be a prosperous merchant of sterling character.

The Commissioners of the East Demerara Water Supply in their report for the half-year ended June 30th last, state that the rainfall during that period amounted to 40.22 inches, compared with 46.78 inches in the corresponding half of 1916. The heaviest fall was in January which stands highest of the six months with 11.80 inches; rain descending on sixteen out of the thirty-one days. The expenditure of the Commission amounted to £1,193.

DOMINICA—Prædial Larceny.

A Correspondent writes.—At the last meeting of the Legislative Council the Agricultural Produce Protection Amendment Ordinance, 1917, was passed in all its stages

without amendment, and it was assented to by the Acting Governor on July 6th. The object of this law is to add whipping as a penalty for prædial larceny, with a proviso that the corporal punishment must be approved by the Governor in Council, who may modify or increase the terms of the sentence.

When the original ordinance was passed in 1905, it was hoped that it would mitigate the deeply rooted evil of prædial larceny, but that hope proved a vain one, for the theft of agricultural produce has become so prevalent that it has interfered very considerably with the planting of "ground provisions" with the result that this necessary food of the people is scarce and dear. The writer knows of a planter who in view of the shortage of vegetable food opened "a garden" in a sheltered valley, but the thieves not only took his produce but they actually carried off all the plants, and left the land bare. There are quite a number of able-bodied rascals who prey on the industry of their neighbours, and the other day some of these thieves used an electric torch to aid them in their nightly depredations! The thieves do not appear to mind the risk of an occasional arrest with a consequent short term of imprisonment. They know that detection in such a mountainous country as this is not frequent, and that if caught and convicted it only means a short term of imprisonment with plenty to eat and plenty of sleep. It has no fear to them, and, therefore, no deterrent effect. But corporal punishment is quite another thing, and it is hoped and believed that the new law will ameliorate a condition of affairs that is a serious evil, and that militates greatly against planting enterprise.

JAMAICA—A Dye-Woods Combine.

A correspondent reports that the island is suitably excited over the news of the formation of a huge combine which includes Jamaica within its sphere. This combine, registered under the laws of the State of Delaware, as the United Dyewoods Corporation with a capital of five million dollars, has taken in several companies engaged in the dye business. These include the West Indies Chemical Wood of Spanish Town and the British Dye Wood Factory at Lacovia.

TOBAGO—A Visit from the Governor.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JULY 4th.—The Governor and party, who will always be welcome here, have spent a fortnight in Tobago, motoring to various places, sea bathing, etc. Captain Davidson, A.D.C. (a wounded officer), is interested in Grafton Estate and was quite keen on the cultivation of the island. The Planters' Association met at Searborough on 3rd instant, and amongst other questions, that of the cultivation of limes was discussed. Planters were rather anxious about markets and factories for manufacturing their produce later on, but no doubt these difficulties will solve themselves in due time. We have had some boisterous squalls and heavy rains, with thunder and lightning during the last fortnight, but thus far no floods. The June rainfall in this district was 8 to 11 inches, which is fully up to the average. The cacao trees are laden with flowers, but the early flowers of May and June have mostly withered, and an early crop can hardly be expected. The natives are busy planting and weeding their vegetable gardens, and the estates are still waiting for them to turn out in force. Meantime the growth of weeds and grass is perfectly quazing. Planters were glad to hear of a slight recovery in prices of cacao, although it comes too late to be of much benefit. If the way be cleared for satisfactory prices in November-December so much the better. Copra is the attractive product at present, last sales being at 7.15 per cent.

TRINIDAD—Record Cacao Shipments.

Several important but belated Legislative Council Papers, for 1916, containing Government Reports have lately been issued. Under that for the Crown Lands Department it appears that the revenue derived from asphalt was: Export duty, £91,924 14s. 8d., and from royalty, £10,722 19s. 4d. against £39,000 odd in 1915—not so bad considering the times, especially when it is remembered that the cost of collection is almost nil. Sales of Crown Lands, which nine years ago were \$163,000, had decreased to \$25,000, owing to large tracts being

reserved pending expiry of prospecting licences by the oil companies, which have been extended during the period of the war.

According to Statements of Receipts and Payments for the year, the surplus on December 31st was £124,333 5s. 11d., against £77,873 in 1915. Estimated receipts had been £1,011,291, actual revenue £1,064,596, and payments, estimate £1,021,979, actual £1,018,136, all very satisfactory. The statement of loans raised by the Colony from 1873 shows a total of £1,251,042, of which £241,800 have been redeemed, besides payment of sinking fund, reducing debt of Colony to £1,654,852 19s. 6d., say about half the value of the Pitch Lake alone. There are few, if any, other Possessions of the British Crown that are so financially sound and progressive as Trinidad, a fact that Sir Napier Broome, one of the astutest Governors whom it was ever our fortune to have, rather astonished the Legislative Council with one day. By the way, he had a habit of astonishing the public, as when on another occasion he suddenly dropped a bomb shell on the heads of the Receiver and Auditor General of the time by the statement that £100,000 had disappeared from the Treasury as completely as if it had been sunk to the bottom of the sea—that is if the official accounts were to be taken as correct.

The old question of the moon's influence on earth and plants, was again discussed, and the same arguments used pro and con that were brought forward years ago in the days when John H. Hart was to the fore. Once again, the opinion and experiments of our departed friends were quoted as authoritative, and considered by the Governor as conclusive. Our late botanist, like many other useful men, is only now receiving the proper recognition of his merit.

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

Destination	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	8,689,835
Total for July	8,689,835
Shipped previously	55,070,093
Total from January 1st	63,759,928
To same date 1916	44,017,362
" " 1915	42,877,872
" " 1914	57,606,311
" " 1913	41,194,685
" " 1912	37,412,876
" " 1911	38,637,754
" " 1910	43,026,466
" " 1909	37,849,833
" " 1908	32,953,086

It will be noted that the shipments for the month, viz., 8,689,835 lbs., bring the total for seven months to 63,759,928 lbs., being in excess of the exports of any previous completed twelve months, the highest of which was in 1914 with a total for the year of 63,447,886 lbs. Notwithstanding the quantity shipped, the actual receipts for July were small, the large quantity named as exported being made up of stocks which had been stored for some time waiting opportunity for removal, fortunately found at last by the direct steamer which relieved the congestion. After the sailing of the steamer in question, the market declined steadily, until \$11 was reached for ordinary. Owing, however, to scant receipts, prices hardened somewhat, closing at \$11 to \$11.25 for ordinary, and \$11.25 to \$11.35 for estates. Venezuelan has been scarce, said to be due to the quantity taken direct to France by the French steamers, affording shippers better prospect of good returns than by selling to the middleman in Trinidad. Such small lots as have changed hands realised from \$12.75 to \$13 per fanega as in quality.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dr. Drummond and Federation.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Dr. Andrew T. Drummond in his article on "The Federal Union of the British West Indies and Commercial Union with Canada," which appeared in THE WEST INDIA

COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of 14th June last, among other things states that: "out of a population of about 2,100,000, the white people of these tropical colonies are represented by less than 5 per cent., the remainder being chiefly blacks, and East Indian coolies, but including some Chinese and native Indians. With federal union, all of these would become citizens of Canada, and entitled to establish themselves throughout the country."

By right, of course they would, and why not? If they were debarred from doing so, then the idea of federal union must be abolished at once. Is it not a pity that this race prejudice should always be dragged in when discussions arise for the betterment of the smaller portions of the British Empire, especially at a time when these same black and coloured races, who are loyal subjects of the British Empire, are now fighting side by side with their white brothers, and, aye, sacrificing their lives for the cause of freedom, liberty and justice? In this enlightened century, it does seem a farce. What is the objection? The colour of their skin, which varies from a light olive to jet black. Is it the fault of these sons of the British Empire that they are born with dark skins? You may as well blame their Creator who made them.

R. F. GARRAWAY.

Dominica, B.W.I.

July 14th, 1917.

"The Moon and Agriculture."

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I have only just read the paper on "The Moon and Agriculture" in your issue of August 9th.

I thought this property about a year ago, and took over the services of the head gardener of the late owner, who had been here twenty-eight years.

He has told me that many years back they sowed about the lawns and in other suitable places a large quantity of mushrooms, and of these I now have the benefit.

He says that he has always known it to be the case, as did his father before him, that mushrooms appear with the growing moon (between the new and the full) and not otherwise, and, so far as my own observation goes during the few months I have been in residence here, that is the case, though an occasional one may appear at other times. The mushroom being a "thing that grows above the ground," not a root, this agrees with Dr. Macdonald's theory as quoted in the paper.

I hope to make some notes of other sowings in the vegetable garden in due course, but the mushroom almost answers the question "while you wait."

Yours faithfully,

J. S. WHATSON.

Hennapyn House, Torquay,

August 27th 1917.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad.

The Revenue account of this company for the year ended December 31st last, shows that the proceeds of oil sold and consumed as fuel were £65,031 19s. 11d., making with the value of the stock of oil in hand at the end of the year £65,909 11s. 1d. After deducting £17,404 17s. 7d. being the value of stocks on January 1st, 1916, and the cost of production which was £38,483 4s. 10d. there remains a balance of £10,021 8s. 8d. which is carried to the profits and loss account, which now shows an adverse balance of £53,225 2s. 6d. in view of the deficiency in the previous account and the sums written off unproductive and abandoned wells and depreciation. In their report the directors point out that working profit for the year, depreciation excluded, exceeds the debit balance brought forward, but loans have had to be increased by £31,880 in order to meet the capital expenditure necessary to maintain production and continue the development of the field referred to in last year's report. The directors consider that the time has now arrived when depreciation should be taken into account and in addition to writing off bodily the cost of unproductive and abandoned wells to the amount of £23,601 1s. 6d. are appropriating £30,000 on account of

depreciation of other assets. These operations result in the carrying forward to the current year of a debt balance of £53,225 2s. 6d. The directors desire to emphasise the fact that the company's operations, so far, have not given results sufficient for the purpose of providing adequate depreciation of the cost of the properties acquired; pending further developments it is proposed to leave this question to future consideration. The production for the year was 43,826 tons against 41,774 tons in 1915, and for the first half of the current year approximately 34,000 tons. A material reduction during the year was effected in the stocks of oil on hand and the price realised was in excess of their book value. Drilling continued actively but the ultimate issue is still in doubt. Increasing difficulties were experienced in obtaining materials and the higher costs are reflected in both revenue and capital accounts.

Production for week ending Wednesday, 29th August, 404 tons. Cable states "Falling off due to heavy rains."

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SERTHING LANE,
LONDON, E C. 3.

September 6th, 1917

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 9½; 4½ per cent. War Loan, 9¾; 3½ per cent. War Loan, 87¼. Consols, 55½.

SUGAR. The distribution of sugar in the United States is to be entrusted to a Commission, on the lines of our Royal Commission, which will import raws and pass them on to the refiners.

The Government Statistician estimates the next Mauritius crop at 214,000 tons as against 209,160 in 1916; 214,520 in 1915, and 277,360 in 1914. The crop which should have begun early in July was delayed owing to unfavourable weather.

The Secretary of State cabled the Governor in June that the Royal Commission had stated that it was practically certain that they would require the whole crop of vesous and probably some of the soft sugars for shipment to England and France, but that they could not enter into a definite agreement then owing to difficulties of tonnage and exchange. They added that the price would be determined on the same principle as last year, in which case the actual price was likely to be somewhat lower than last year, and that arrangements generally would follow lines similar to those of last year subject to minor modifications which experience of last year might suggest as desirable.

The United States Consul-General at Havana estimates that the total reduction in the Cuban sugar crop in consequence of the recent revolt at 700,000 tons.

According to Mr. Georges Dureau, climatic conditions have recently been more favourable for the beets and a fairly good harvest is anticipated. Taking the index figure of 60 as fairly good and 80 as good, the sugar beets may be classed as 71 as compared with 69 a year ago.

France has definitely withdrawn from what was left of the Brussels Convention.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to August 25th, were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	59,396	41,378	36,346 Tons.
Deliveries	50,390	40,153	27,758 ..
Stock (Aug. 11th) ...	17,021	12,330	14,597 ..

RUM. The imports of rum into the United Kingdom from all sources in the last five years are given in the Annual Statement just published as under:—

	Proof Gallons.	Value.
	£	£
1916	9,928,741	2,056,370
1915	10,437,948	1,119,315
1914	5,666,119	437,898
1913	4,699,445	354,425
1912	3,977,547	278,375

There are no stocks in first hands, and no possibility of any coming in for some time, the business being entirely in the hands of the Government. Second and third hand lots are reported to have changed hands at extravagant prices; but it is impossible to give any genuine quotations.

The stocks in London on August 25th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,905	8,802	4,562 puns.
Demerara	10,392	13,860	5,330 ..
Total of all kinds ...	31,446	37,064	19,810 ..

CACAO. As from September 5th, the wholesale prices of chocolate in France have been fixed on the basis of Fr. 4.20 per kilo for slabs of 250 grammes and Fr. 4.40 per kilo for tablets of 125 grammes for good average qualities. Chocolate containing less than 36 per cent. of cacao may not be sold for more than Fr. 3.90 per kilo and Fr. 4.10 per kilo respectively for the above weights. In the event of a rise in the cost of raw materials or manufacture, the Chambre Syndicale des Fabricants de Chocolat will decide what modifications should be made in the above prices, but no change will be effected without the confirmation of the Ministers of Food and Commerce. Retail prices are similarly controlled, the prices being Fr. 1.25 per slab of 250 grammes or 65 cts. per tablet of 125 grammes with a reduction of 10 cts. and 5 cts. respectively for "ordinary" quality.

The imports of raw cacao into the United Kingdom in the last five years have been as follows:—

	Lbs.	Value.
	£	£
1916	198,938,768	6,758,406
1915	183,181,510	5,931,928
1914	93,511,294	2,487,937
1913	78,359,596	2,282,573
1912	75,276,704	1,948,839

The stocks in London on August 25th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	28,624	28,037	13,270 bags.
Grenada	30,539	17,822	2,104 ..
Total of all kinds ...	275,600	239,078	110,297 ..

COTTON. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty made an Order on August 28th, calling for returns within fourteen days of stocks of yarns whether sold or unsold of West Indian or Carolina Sea Island cotton and Sakelerides cotton.

The market during the fortnight has been quiet, and prices lower. No business has been reported in Sea Island.

BANANAS are now coming forward from Jamaica. The total imports from all places—chiefly Columbia—in the last five years were: 1916, 6,095,015; 1915, 8,143,092; 1914, 9,007,001; 1913, 7,539,964; 1912, 6,978,867. The record figures in 1914 were due to the diversion of bananas, which would have gone to Europe, to United Kingdom markets.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw: More demand, with sales of ordinary to fair at 2/6—2/9. Concentrated firm at £30 and buyers. Lime Oil: Handpressed scarce. Buyers at 16/-. Distilled neglected. Nominal value about 8/- but no demand. Consignments cannot therefore be recommended.

ARROWROOT. Market still quiet with moderate enquiry for lower priced qualities only. Quotations, 5½d.—6½d.

COPRA. Market quiet. West India, £46 c.i.f. London; £45 c.i.f. Liverpool.

HONEY. There has been more demand for this sweet lately, and sales have been made of West India sorts, including Jamaica, at from 80/- to 90/- per cwt. for dark to fine pale quality.

BALATA. West India Sheet; buyers, 3/9 funded.

SPICES. The demand for Pimento has increased, and business has been done to a moderate extent at from 3½d. to 3½d. per lb. **Ginger:** The market remains in a quiet state, and only small sales have been made at unchanged prices. **Nutmegs:** The market remains firm; the value for good sound 115's is 1/- per lb. A barrel of Grenada nutmegs sold on behalf of the British Red Cross Fund, fetched the record price of 3/6. **Mace:** Market firm; fair palish 2½, good palish 2/9, palish and red 2/- per lb.

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EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados. to 26 May	British Guiana. to 17 May	British Honduras to 31 July	Dominica	Grenada to 31 July	Jamaica. to 21 July	Mont- serrat, to 15 May	St. Lucia, to 15 June	St. Kitts- Nevis, to 30 Apr.	St. Vincent, to 31 July	Trinidad, to 15 June
Arrowroot Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,526,770	—
Asphalt Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,652
Balata Lbs.	—	—	452,251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas Bchs.	—	—	—	507,866	—	—	946,146	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,411
Cacao Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	10,884,581	4,264,664	—	928,697	—	95,856	50,648,277
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,747	—	8,900	18,554	—
Cattle No.	—	—	213	28	—	—	100	110	—	—	—	—
Cedar Feet	—	—	—	231,348	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicle Lbs.	—	—	—	538,033	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coco-nuts No.	—	—	896,393	1,803,709	—	231,348	13,043,191	—	64,577	—	—	4,313,540
Coffee Lbs.	—	—	268,477	—	—	538,033	4,281,424	—	9,956	—	—	—
Copra Lbs.	—	—	45,168	99,046	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,831,025
Cotton, M. Galante Lbs.	—	53,975	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	173,936	—	168,479	28,298	—
Cotton Seed ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	591,931	—	1,653	—	286,720	70,311	—
Diamonds Carats	—	—	4,572	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyewoods Tons	—	—	—	40	—	—	26,088	—	—	—	—	400
Dyewoods Est. Pkgs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,150	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,273,376	—	—	—	—	—
Gold Ozs.	—	—	9,547	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grape Fruit ... Pkgs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,153	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs. #brs.	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	35	376	—
Honey Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	122,712	—	152	—	470	1,461
Horses No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	11	—	—	—	—
Lime juice, raw Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	62,690	—	70,499	12,177	—	—	2,835
.. .. conc'd.	—	—	—	—	—	5,650	—	519	2,800	—	—	—
.. .. Oil ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	158½	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) Lbs.	—	—	4,480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Logwood Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—
Lumber Feet	—	—	42,902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	975
Mahogany	—	—	—	3,148,193	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak Tons	—	21 1/4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses Galls.	—	45,379	85,500	—	—	—	—	7,056	17,636	55,600	59,410	379,380
Mules No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Oils, Essential Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	156	—	—	—
Oil, Petroleum Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,048,213
Oranges No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	359,120	—	—	—	—	332,430
Pimento Cwts.	—	—	—	—	—	—	41,129	—	—	—	—	—
Rice Lbs.	—	—	16,048,124	1,133	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber Lbs.	—	—	4,935	1,040	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	624
Rum Galls.	—	49,043	1,506,529	2,535	—	—	321,603	—	—	1,768	—	—
Shingles No.	—	—	976,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar Tons	—	27,175	37,438	—	—	—	24,297	229,778	2,640	6,336	723	32,877
Timber Cubic Feet	—	—	20,907	4,210,732	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,577
Tobacco Leaf ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,252	—	—	—	—
.. .. Cigars ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79,317	—	—	—	—
.. .. Cigarettes ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,702	—	—	—	—	—

[Several errors having crept into it, the last export table published in CIRCULAR is cancelled.—ED.]

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

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September 20th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

ANOTHER OPENING FOR INDIAN LABOUR.

THE development of tropical Australia, represented by the Northern Territory, has furnished the theme of an interesting correspondence in the *Times*. In some respects there is a parallel between the position of the Northern Territory and that of the Hinterland of British Guiana. In both cases a vast productive region lies neglected for lack of labour and of railway communication. Again it is agreed that the solution of the labour problem is to be found in the importation of Indians. Of course the opportunity hitherto neglected is infinitely wider in the case of tropical Australia. The area of this vast region is upwards of 500,000 square miles. Exclusive of the aborigines who are quickly dying out, and of the blacks, the population in 1915 was only 4,563—less than the total in 1902. The Territory produces gold, tin ore, wolfram, and other metals, but the output shows a gradual decline. In the absence of the necessary labour no serious attempt

to develop the agricultural possibilities of this region has been made. COLONEL J. A. FERGUSSON, brother of the late SIR JAMES FERGUSSON (who perished in the Jamaica earthquake), states that "the real crux of the question is coolie labour." COLONEL FERGUSSON writes from personal knowledge. Thirty-four years ago, when holding an official appointment in South Australia, he was sent to India to negotiate with the Government of the Dependency for the emigration of labourers to the Northern Territory. A Bill to that end actually passed the Viceroy's Council and the Parliament of South Australia. COLONEL FERGUSSON, however, says: "The fear of the Labour vote deterred successive Governments from availing themselves of the power to secure coolies on indenture." Similarly, a railway across the Continent from north to south was projected forty-five years ago, but the scheme came to nothing. Another correspondent of the *Times* contends that white men can live in the Northern Territory, and that the existing numbers would be larger were a railway in existence. COLONEL FERGUSSON, however, declares emphatically that "European labour is as impossible there as it would be in the tea gardens of Ceylon." Furthermore, "companies and merchants might earn wealth beyond the dreams of avarice by developing tropical Australia by coolie labour superintended by Europeans." This view is largely supported by our old friend MR. GEORGE HUGHES, who contributes an interesting letter to the correspondence which is still proceeding. He points out that the cultivation of land in the tropics is the natural work of the men bred in that zone rather than our Anglo-Saxon race, and calls attention to the physical advantages enjoyed by coloured races which enable them to withstand the rigours of the tropical climate as no white man could do—in support of which statement he instances the pitiable state of the "mean whites in the West Indies." Certainly their record in the West Indies is the highest testimonial to the capacity of Indian labourers to develop those unexplored tropical regions of the Empire to which they are so well adapted.

THE OUTLOOK IN BRITISH GUIANA.

AT a moment when the question of Imperial development is receiving from the leaders of the British nation a practical attention long overdue, and now enforced by the exigencies of the War, the annual report of the Lands and Mines Department of British Guiana comes as a most

useful contribution to the study of the problem. That report is no longer a document of purely local interest. It contains facts which must awaken the interest of every man patriotically concerned with the future of this Empire. "The Magnificent Province," a term first uttered in a moment of enthusiasm by SIR JAMES CARMICHAEL SMITH some eighty years ago, has become hackneyed by repetition. The full justice of that description applied to British Guiana by its former Governor has, however, yet to be proved. The Colony's possibilities are still latent, and it is small tribute to our capacity as Empire-builders that, after a century of occupation, its great resources should have been so slightly tapped, and that only now under stress of a European cataclysm are our leaders diligently enquiring the nature and extent of the wealth possessed by members of the British household. That enquiry will have been in vain unless it leads to the fullest utilisation of the mineral and agricultural possibilities of British Guiana. In none of our possessions does there exist fuller scope for the colonising spirit. When that opportunity is seized—as seized it undoubtedly will be after the war—Great Britain will owe a measure of gratitude to the Lands and Mines Department in respect of the pioneer work which has been so patiently and efficiently carried out under restricted conditions.

We are glad to note from the report for the year 1916, just to hand, that despite the war encouraging progress has been made. Indeed, in certain directions the war has directly facilitated that progress. New life, we are told, has been imparted to the sugar industry. At the same time, as we saw in the case of Jamaica, planters are adopting a cautious attitude in view of uncertainty regarding the continuance of a fair price after the war. The crude belief of certain thinkers in Great Britain that dependence on beet is essential if the needs of our population are to be met, is finally destroyed by a reference to this report. There is ample opportunity for expansion—a mean yearly crop of 320,000 tons could be raised on land readily available. If need be, a further million acres could be brought under cane. A steady market at reasonable prices must, however, be assured. Rice is becoming ever more firmly established as a staple industry. Concurrently with its development—the export shows an increase of 9,000,000 lbs. on the previous year—there is a decided improvement in the beneficial occupation of Crown lands taken up for agricultural purposes. It has long been recognised that with the opening up of the far interior by means of that overdue railway, not merely will the forest resources yield a return impossible under present conditions, but the savannahs on the Brazilian frontier will become available for cattle-raising on an important scale. Meanwhile it is good news that even within the present restricted area there exist the brightest possibilities for ranching. Already many very fine herds of cattle are to be seen.

Turning to timber, we learn with interest that the war has created an increased demand for wallaba

shingles. Higher cost has lessened the quantity of corrugated iron sheeting imported. It is to be regretted that knowledge of the many valuable timbers to be found in British Guiana is confined for the most part to the friends of the colony. It is to be hoped that the Empire Development Committee now at work in London will bring this subject within the scope of their enquiry. The war has also given a fillip to the balata industry. The output during 1916 was greater than for many years past, royalty having been paid on 1,478,681 lbs. Arsenals, munition works and factories have created fresh demands for this valuable product, and high prices have been paid. The export of rubber was also treble that for 1915. Everywhere to-day aluminium is wanted, and this fact cannot but direct the attention not merely of capitalists but of the Imperial Government to the colony's deposits of bauxite. It is impossible within the space at command to discuss all the points of interest to be found in the report of the Lands and Mines Department. Even this brief survey, however, will tend to confirm the confidence long cherished by friends of the colony, in its value and importance as an asset of Empire. With that confidence there is coupled a sense of satisfaction that the day of Imperial recognition and employment of its great resources has been brought perceptibly nearer.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

On the British Front.

The British offensive which began so auspiciously in Flanders was checked on account of the almost unprecedented weather in August. But surely our meteorologists could have foreseen this, or have political reasons again overcome military considerations? With a fair entry of autumn, the Air Services have been busy night and day dropping bombs on enemy communications, munition dumps, aerodromes, and the submarine bases at Zeebrugge and Ostend—preliminary, small doubt, to a new advance. Not that fighting ever ceases. Raids are continuous all along the front, sometimes resulting in small gains, which may be lost again, as at Frezenburg, or held, as at Lens, where the British are now close to the city proper. Lens and St. Quentin are being gradually invested. After a considerable interval, the name of this latter place has reappeared in the official communiqués, owing to the capture by the British of Malakoff and Cologne farms in extension of the operations which began with the occupation of the Vimy ridge, followed up by a further advance between St. Quentin and Le Catelet, at the point where the Scheldt Canal becomes subterranean for two and a half miles. This gain is, therefore, of some importance.

Open Warfare Again.

Both in Flanders and in the Verdun sector warfare is more or less open—not to the stage where cavalry may be usefully employed, but to the stage

where it is not possible to "dig in." Combatants on both sides take shelter in shell-holes, which they improvise into a system of defence. The Germans connect these shell-holes with reinforced concrete dug-outs, which Tommy has dubbed "pill-boxes," but with the British the method is less elaborate, and just as effective. The handy little machine-gun is common to both sides as the most trusty weapon of the individual soldier, and brown sacking or canvas is used to hide the occupants of these shelters from the too-inquisitive gaze of airmen. The enemy, whose extraordinary adaptability to the exigencies of modern fighting is one of the surprises of the War, is always making innovations either to circumvent the Allies or to make the most of his waning forces. One of these innovations has, however, not succeeded as he hoped. It was to divide his forces into two classes, the first to storm a position, and—if taken—the second to occupy it. But if the second lost it, as they often did, the situation then gave rise to bitterness of feeling as between the two classes of troops. So it is just possible that no more will be heard of "Storm Troops."

On the French Front.

The French have extended their gains in the Verdun sector by capturing the whole of the Chaume Wood, besides carrying the line of the crest which dominates the Bois des Caurières. In the counter-attack, which took the form of a converging movement, the enemy's forces died away under the superb artillery fire of the French.

On the Aisne our Allies have been able materially to improve their position at a vital point, and in the short space of fifteen minutes. The objective of the attack was the capture of the trenches beyond the monument of Hurtebise up to the northern edge of the plateau of the same name. After the artillery preparation, which was deadly in its effect, the infantry went over the parapet, and although fresh German troops were put up to stay the onset, they proved unequal to the task. So dashing were the French, indeed, that one company went to the assault with its "fanion" flying. During the night the enemy counter-attacked three times, only to be thrown back with heavy loss. In the morning a nest of machine-guns, which had given some trouble on the right, were taken. Subsequent attacks completely failed to dislodge the French.

The Struggle for San Gabriele.

Interest in the battle on the Julian front centres in the fight for San Gabriele, the second of the three heights through which, in the hands of the enemy, Gorizia has suffered martyrdom. One of them, and the loftiest, Monte Santo, was taken by the Italians in flank at the beginning of General Cadorna's present offensive, and with its fall the second, Monte San Gabriele, was seriously menaced. But the Austrians, understanding that its loss would imperil the whole position on the middle Isonzo, are fighting with desperate valour to retain their hold. The Italians, whose superb gallantry overcomes all obstacles on the most difficult terrain in the War, have seized several caverns, transformed

into fortresses by the enemy, on the western slopes, and advanced well up the northern slopes to the crest. On the Brestovizza plateau progress has been made in extending recent gains.

The Military Situation in Russia.

Riga, the great maritime port of Russia on the Baltic, has been given up as tamely as the Bukovina and Galicia, though Dvinsk has not yet fallen. Exactly what is happening, no one is permitted to know, but it is fairly certain that the Germans are not following the Russians in their retreat, so as to drive them headlong to Petrograd. Either the enemy dare not undertake fresh operations on a big scale, or he is quietly awaiting developments in the internal crisis, which has so rapidly come to a head in Russia. The present front is a narrow one, which curves from the sea to Friedrichstadt, but the Germans may push on to Pskov and cut off Revel, one of the Russian naval ports in the Baltic, from the Capital. It is not likely that the enemy will make much use of Riga as a base for his fleet. The navigation of the harbour is difficult, as he discovered in the naval defeat he suffered here in 1915. Nor is it likely that he will weaken his High Seas Fleet to undertake naval adventures in the Baltic. Both on land and sea Russia is saved from the worst happening, as a result of the subversion of discipline in her Army and Navy, by her Allies.

In the extreme south the Rumanian forces, with a few Russian units, are gallantly resisting the enemy. But a sign that their withdrawal may be expected is the removal of the Rumanian Government from Jassy to Kherson.

Russia a Republic.

After the Moscow Conference, when General Korniloff spoke in defiance of M. Kerensky, it was plain that a struggle for power between the two men was inevitable. In the interval, nothing was done to restore discipline in the Army, and the way to Petrograd—as General Korniloff predicted—has been opened. Not only that, but famine was threatened, and problems of transport, industry, and finance had become acute. The empire was moving towards chaos. In these circumstances, General Korniloff, in a manifesto whose existence was only revealed through the speech of a Minister, announced that he intended to assume supreme control, as M. Kerensky, who derived his authority from the Soldiers' and Workmen's Council, which has introduced the dry-rot of indiscipline into the Army, was "incapable of dealing with the situation." At the eleventh hour stern measures were introduced for dealing with insubordination, and General Alexiell and General Russky, whom M. Kerensky recently dismissed from the post of Commander-in-Chief as incompetent, have been called to the counsels of the Provisional Government. But General Korniloff, though his violent action has done more to sober the Soviet than the progress of the enemy on Russian soil, was unable to carry the Army with him. Consequently his contemplated march on Petrograd never materialised, and he has been arrested. A Republic has been

proclaimed, with M. Kerensky at the head of it, and a War Cabinet of five instituted as a Directory; but as it addresses the rank and file of the Army, ordering them to abstain from arresting officers and removing commanders, and as the Commissaries placed over the chief commanders, as representatives of the Government, are retained and charged with re-establishing discipline on "the basis of revolutionary principles," only time can tell whether Russia has yet found herself.

Sweden and the Allies.

The part neutrals have played in the War is not promising for the League of Nations of which idealists dream. But it never could have been conceived possible, before the truth was discovered, that any neutral Power would aid and abet Germany in "U"-boat warfare. But that is what Sweden has done for three years, although she herself has suffered shipping losses as if she were a belligerent. Thanks to the vigilance and ability of the American Intelligence Department, a series of telegrams has been exposed showing that Count Luxberg, while enjoying the hospitality of Argentina as the accredited representative of his country, was advocating measures for the destruction of Argentine shipping so as "to leave no trace." In this way the pledged word of Germany to respect the flag of the Republic on the high seas was to be evaded. The messages were transmitted in cipher as Swedish, the Foreign Office in Stockholm having been transformed into a telegraph office for the enemy. Hence the accurate information possessed by Germany as to the movements of Allied shipping and troops. The facts were known to the British Government in the spring of 1915, and a protest was made to Sweden in May, 1915, and in the following July and August. But her promises to stop the practice were in each case broken. Apparently we seem to be as much afraid of neutrals as they seem to be of Germany. Argentina has, however, handed Count Luxberg his passports.

Shipping Losses.

The figures for the week ending September 9th were the smallest since unrestricted warfare began on February 25th. The number of British ships sunk was 16, of which 11 were 1,600 tons or over, and 5 were under 1,600 tons. Not only that, but the number of vessels attacked has appreciably declined during the past two months, and, looking back on the Admiralty statistics for the half-year, it is possible to see a marked decrease in submarine activity. But it may be only temporary, and due to the fact that, as naval devices for meeting the menace render home waters more and more dangerous for "U"-boats, they are obliged to seek their prey further afield, with smaller results. But there is no sign yet that the evil is being vanquished. The figures published to-day, showing only 8 big vessels and 20 smaller ships sunk, of which 9 are credited to the preceding week, are, however, encouraging.

(To be continued.)

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. T. GEDDES GRANT, who now represents twenty-seven Canadian manufacturers, and is actively interested in the West Indian trade, has opened an office at 74, Bedford Row, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

SUMMONED at Coalville (Leicester) for not having proper lights on his motor-cycle, a grocer was stated to have offered 2½ lbs. of sugar—a substantial bribe, with sugar worth its weight in gold—to a policeman to say nothing about it.

MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, in days long prior to National Service, was known in the Bahamas in connection with his illustrious father's sisal-growing project, which was a complete failure. One notes with interest that Mr. Chamberlain is about to seek Parliamentary honours.

THERE seem to be no limits to the expansion of the West African cacao industry. During the first six months of the present year 54,801 tons of cacao, valued at £2,079,473, were exported from the Gold Coast, against 71,763 tons, valued at £3,840,567, for the complete year of 1916.

THE engagement is announced of Captain James A. Lynch, R.F.A., third son of the Hon. J. Challenor Lynch, member of the Legislative Council, Barbados, and the late Mrs. Lynch, and Lilian Kenyon, only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kenyon Parker, of Elm Lawn, Clarkegrove-road, Sheffield.

SIR GERALD STRICKLAND has vacated the Governorship of New South Wales, in which he will be succeeded by Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of Newfoundland. Sir Gerald is remembered in the West Indies as a former Governor of the Leeward Islands, which he administered for two years (1902-4). During his brief *régime* Sir Gerald established central factories for sugar and cotton in Antigua. His family is one of the oldest in the north of England.

THE name of Rodney must ever hold an honoured place in West Indian annals. The victory over De Grasse in 1782 added another name to the Roll of English Peers. Hence our readers in Jamaica may like to learn that the eighth holder of the title was married the other day, the bride being Miss Lowther, a member of a well-known North-Country family. The present Lord Rodney is twenty-six years of age, and, in common with his great ancestor, includes "George Bridges" among his Christian names.

A MARRIAGE is arranged between Thomas Arthur Walter Giffard, eldest son of Walter T. C. Giffard and Mrs. Giffard, of Chillington Hall, Staffordshire, and Angela Erskine, elder daughter of Sir William Trollope, Bart., and Lady Trollope. Bar-

bados will be specially interested in this marriage, for Sir William Trollope, who succeeded to the family baronetcy on the death of the second and last Lord Kesteven, is the owner of the Pool Estate in that island, besides being a popular member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

* * *

THE resolution establishing a Standing Cacao Sub-Committee which was adopted at a meeting of members of the West India Committee interested in the cacao industry on August 28th, as published in last issue, was confirmed by the Executive on September 6th. At a further meeting of the Cacao Section—as it will now be called—on September 18th, a Working Committee was appointed, comprising the Chairman, the Deputy-Chairman, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. G. M. Frame, Mr. E. A. Robinson, and Mr. J. E. Munro, with powers to add to their numbers.

* * *

THE membership of the West India Committee now stands at the record figure of 1,607. Any members may propose or second a candidate; and it may be pointed out that the present is a favourable moment for joining the Committee, for, by virtue of Rule IV., the subscriptions of new members elected during the last three months of the present year will, *when paid*, not be renewable until January 1st, 1919. Application for membership should be addressed to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

* * *

It is possible for the smallest Dependencies to play their part in the work of inter-Imperial development. The Turks Islands are proving this truism. Salt is literally the staff of life to residents, and its increasing export a matter of primary concern. Happily there is a prospect of finding a market much further afield than any yet opened up. Newfoundland is willing to purchase the product. Two vessels from the Northern Colony—the first to be seen in these waters for twenty-five years—recently called at Grand Turk for cargoes. The prospects of the enterprise are most hopeful, and for this we must thank Mr. Whitfield Smith, the Commissioner.

* * *

ACCORDING to letters which have appeared lately in the Press, the substitution of saccharin for sugar will prove a costly—if not an unwholesome—one. Writing in the *Manchester Guardian* of Sept. 8th, Mr. Henry Williamson pointed out that, though there is a form of that drug 550 times sweeter than sugar, there is another which is only 330 times sweeter, and this is the kind which is chiefly used in the manufacture of tablets. The bottles of 100 are one-grain tablets, although they contain only half a grain of 330 saccharin; so that these tablets are only 165 times sweeter than sugar, and equal in cost to sugar at 1/8 per pound. In practice the difference in cost is even greater, as a tablet is only regarded as the equivalent of a piece of lump sugar, and 100 average pieces of Tate's No. 1 cubes only weigh a pound, and can be bought anywhere for 7d. The current quotation for these tablets in bulk is exactly ten times what it was three years ago.

OUR REGIMENT IN EGYPT.

The B.W.I.'s Fine Record.

The following report has been furnished by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, regarding the service in that Command of the units of the British West Indies Regiment.

In January, February, and March, 1916, the first three battalions of the British West Indies Regiment arrived in Egypt, and in August of the same year the 4th and 5th (reserve) battalions followed them.

These battalions are fully representative of the whole of the Colonies which contribute Contingents to the Regiment, viz.: Jamaica, Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, the Windward Islands, British Honduras, and the Bahamas.

On their arrival in Egypt the first three battalions were sent to Alexandria, where all ranks were completely armed, equipped and clothed, and where they received their preliminary training in musketry, drill, and the general duties of a soldier. They were shortly afterwards inspected by the Commander-in-Chief. Vacancies were allotted to the battalions for non-commissioned officers, machine gunners, signallers, bombers, etc., to receive their specialist training at the Imperial School of Instruction, Zeitoun. At this school the West Indians have had an opportunity of working alongside men from all parts of the Empire, and their success has been most gratifying. The First Battalion alone has sent 43 officers and 243 N.C.O.'s and men who have attended various courses, and of these, 39 officers and 202 N.C.O.'s and men have been successful, many with distinction.

In June, the First, Second, and Third Battalions were moved down to the Canal Zone. Here they went through further instruction in constructing defences, and, after a brief period, took their share in the work of making new defences and forming part of the defence troops of the Canal. In July, the Third and Fourth Battalions were ordered to sail for France, the Fifth (reserve) Battalion remaining at Alexandria as the feeding and reserve battalion for the First and Second. In the same month a special party of 500 officers and men from the first three battalions was sent to East Africa, and in a few weeks later the First and Second Battalions furnished a party of 100 men for Mesopotamia. From December, 1916, the First and Second Battalions, conforming to the general movement eastward towards Palestine, have gradually moved eastwards across the Desert, and by now the Second Battalion finds itself at an important post on the Lines of Communication, and the First very near to the fighting front.

One of the most gratifying features of the presence of West Indians in Egypt is the bond of good fellowship which exists between West Indians, Australians, New Zealanders, and men from all parts of the Empire. In the early training stages at Alexandria and Ismailia there were opportuni-

ties for the men to show their prowess at cricket and sports, and at two athletic meetings they carried all before them.

The West Indians, so far, have not actually taken part in the various fights that have taken place in the Sinai Peninsula and on the borders of Palestine; but the work they are doing is of a most valuable nature.

The Third Battalion, in June, immediately after its arrival on the Canal Zone, was bombed by a hostile aeroplane whilst on parade, when being inspected by the Brigadier in Command of their area. On this occasion five bombs were dropped, but the men behaved with the utmost coolness, and were complimented by the General on their steadiness.

West Indian troops, alongside English and Indians, are now taking their share in defending the Lines of Communication behind the fighting forces on the Eastern Front. Although they have not yet had the opportunity of fighting in the front line, they have done and are doing valuable service on the Lines of Communication in guarding important points and in patrolling the railway and pipelines. On one occasion a hostile aeroplane landed behind our lines in an endeavour to destroy our railway. The enemy was, however, engaged by a patrol of the B.W.I. Regiment, and the pilot and passenger were obliged hurriedly to return to their machine, leaving their explosives behind them.

The discipline of the Regiment has been consistently good, and the fine physique and smart turn-out of the men has often been noted. On the occasion of a visit to Eastern Force Headquarters by the distinguished French general, General Bailloud, the B.W.I. Regiment was selected to furnish the Guard of Honour.

Several N.C.O.'s and men who in civil life were mechanics, electricians, fitters, engine drivers, etc., are specially employed with the Royal Engineers, and one of the Armoured Trains finds most of its personnel—officers, N.C.O.'s, and men—from the First Battalion.

Do you take Caa-ehé ?

The Cuban Charge d'Affaires at Caracas, Venezuela, has reported to his Government the discovery of a plant in that country which might provide a substitute for sugar. According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, M. Eugenio Antram, an Argentine botanist, has examined this curious plant, which grows in Paraguay. Rejoicing in the name of "Caa-ehé," it grows to a height of about four inches only. Its leaves taste like sugar, and fragments of them no bigger than a bean sweeten the palate for over an hour. Three or four leaves are, it is claimed, sufficient to sweeten a big cup of coffee.

THOSE comparatively few members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are still in arrears are requested to forward them direct or to pay them into the Colonial Bank *without delay*.

HONOURS FOR WEST INDIAN HEROES.

General's Tribute to our Gallant Troops.

It is not often that the deeds of the West Indian troops at the front come into the "lime-light." Certain of the sons of the Caribbean, however, have just received the most appreciated form of publicity and commendation—the congratulations of the General. The machine-gun section of the 1st British West Indies Regiment, it seems, took part recently in two successful raids on Turkish trenches.

General Sir Edmund Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Force, thought so highly of their conduct on that occasion that on August 8th he addressed the following cable to Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica:—

"I have great pleasure in informing you of the gallant conduct of the Machine Gun Section of the 1st British West Indies Regiment during two successful raids on the Turkish trenches. All ranks behaved with great gallantry under heavy rifle and shell fire and contributed in no small measure to the success of the operations."

Colonel Wood Hill, commanding the 1st British West Indies Regiment, a few days later—to be precise, August 13th—received the following message from General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force:—

"The following telegram has been received from the Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, Jamaica, by General Sir Edmund Allenby in reply to his cable of the 9th instant, copy of which has been forwarded to you through Eastern Force Headquarters:—"It has afforded me great pleasure to receive your telegram of the 10th August regarding gallant conduct of Machine Gun Section, 1st British West Indies Regiment for which thank you. I have caused your telegram to be published in Press and to be repeated to Governors Bahamas and British Honduras. I am sure news of gallant conduct of section will be received with pleasure throughout West Indies. Please convey my congratulations to all ranks.—MANNING."

As the sequel, Lance-Corporal Thomas Nathaniel Alexander, of British Guiana, was awarded the Military Medal, the reason for the award being thus described officially:—

"For exceptional coolness and devotion to duty on night of 20th-21st July, when working a machine gun in the front line in a position that was heavily shelled by high explosive and shrapnel, Lee-Corpl. Alexander kept his gun in action and fired for 45 minutes to maintain a flank M.G. barrage. During this period his gun was hit by rifle fire. Again on the night of the 27th-28th July, Lee-Corpl. Alexander kept his gun working for 30 minutes although exposed to heavy shell fire. The flash blind on his gun was blown away by shell fire and the flash screen knocked down, but Lee-Corpl. Alexander remained perfectly cool and kept his gun working effectively. His work throughout merits the highest praise."

Meanwhile another Military Medal has fallen to the West Indian Contingent on the Western Front, the recipient being Private J. Walker, No. 7936, of the 7th Battalion, whose deed of gallantry is officially recorded as follows:—

"On the morning of September 1st, fuse and splinters of enemy shell fire having ignited an ammunition dump, Private J. Walker remained behind on top of the dump after others had left, and rescued live rounds, charges of which were ignited, from centre of dump, and removed adjoining boxes which had caught fire but not yet exploded. By his prompt action serious loss of life and ammunition was averted."

Yet a further "honour" to be recorded is the

award of the Royal Humane Society's Medal to Private D. C. Babb, of the British West Indies Regiment, for rescuing (with Lieut. D. G. Williams, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who is similarly decorated) a man from a rough sea at Rafa, Egypt, on June 12th.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership now 1607.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, September 6th, the following were elected to membership of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Brig.-Gen. Lionel E. O. Charlton, C.M.G., D.S.O.	Hon. Donald McDonald. Major T. B. Davson.
Messrs. Cox, McEuen & Co.	Mr. Harold Carey. Mr. Stephen Ewen.
Mr. J. A. Hernandez (Trinidad).	Mr. E. Hernandez. Mr. N. Hamel Smith.
Mr. J. A. J. Taitt (Trinidad).	Mr. M. Hamel Smith. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. H. E. Howe.	Rev. A. L. Bodfish. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. E. J. Scott (Trinidad).	Mr. G. M. Frame. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Dr. J. Foreman, M.D. (St. Kitts).	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. C. Gurney.
Mr. O. E. Whitehead (West Africa).	Mr. F. Evans. Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. John H. Rapsey (Trinidad).	Mr. F. Evans. Mr. E. R. Davson.
Mr. D. A. Richards (St. Vincent).	Mr. Rupert C. Otway, J.P. Mr. C. Gurney.
The St. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
The Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd.	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.

The total membership is now 1,607—a fresh record. During the year to date 103 new members have been elected to the West India Committee, residing in the following places:—

Trinidad	20	Turks Islands	1
Jamaica	9	U.S.A.	1
British Guiana	8	Mauritius	2
Grenada	5	Canada	2
St. Kitts-Nevis	4	Cameroons	1
Dominica	3	Cuba	1
St. Vincent	3	India	1
Antigua	2	Surinam	1
Barbados	2	London	18
Montserrat	1	Country	18

Christmas Gifts.

Readers who have relatives or friends serving in the Imperial Forces, other than the British West Indies Regiment, are invited to send to the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C. 3, the names and addresses of such men, so that they may participate in the coming distribution of Christmas gifts. As it is proposed to send a special gift to every officer, N.C.O., and man in the British West Indies Regiment, through the Commanding Officers, the names of those serving in that unit need not be sent forward. The Contingent Committee are, however, anxious to get into touch with as many men who came over independently as possible, so that they may not be forgotten at Christmas.

A NOVEL MULCHING SYSTEM.

Surprising Results in Hawaii.

The Editor is indebted to a Correspondent for a copy of the "Pacific Commercial Advertiser" of July 23rd last, which contains the following article on a new system of sugar-cane mulching, which, it is claimed, adds ten tons of cane to the acre and saves fifty per cent. of labour.

Within the past year a novel process of destroying weeds in cane fields has been devised and developed by Charles F. Eckart, manager of the Olaa Sugar Company of Hawaii, with the result that less than one-half of the labour formerly required is utilised on the treated areas in bringing the cane to maturity. In addition to this large saving in manual labour which is effected by the process, the increased yield of cane which is obtainable as a direct result of the treatment is estimated at not less than ten tons per acre on an average.

The process is based on the principle discovered by Mr. Eckart that small, unexpanded cane shoots are able to penetrate a suitable paper covering placed directly on the rows of stubble immediately after harvesting, whereas the weeds are unable to penetrate the covering.

The first step in this process is to "palepale" or free the rows of trash in the ordinary way, as soon after harvesting as possible. During this operation a point is made to cut off, with the hoe, any shoots which are in evidence in the cane row. The stubble rows are then fertilised, the fertiliser being distributed along the middle of the rows. Strips of tar or asphalt felt (weighing not more than 9 lbs. per 100 square feet) are next superimposed longitudinally on the rows of stubble so that they lie directly in surface contact with the same in the form of a cover. If the field contains a fair number of stones or rocks, which are conveniently at hand, these are placed along the edges of the paper strips to hold them down, and in addition thereto the edges of the strips are also covered well with some of the dried cane leaves or "trash" lying in the adjacent spaces between the cane rows. It has been found that the "trash" is generally sufficient in itself to hold the papers in place against the tendency of the wind to lift them.

A mechanical device, due to the ingenuity of H. E. Starratt, is employed for the laying of the papers, and this operation is performed very rapidly and at small expense.

Owing to the spear-like and comparatively rigid nature of the young cane shoots and the mechanical pressure they are able to exert when they come into contact with the paper covering, the latter is punctured and the shoots emerge. The weeds, with their relatively soft terminal points, which spring up under the covering, on the other hand, are unable to puncture the paper, and are soon smothered out or in their etiolated condition are dried up by the solar heat radiating from the under side of the covering material.

If the cane rows were smooth and regular, so that the paper could lie in perfect surface contact with them, a complete stand of cane would emerge

through the covering strips. Small irregularities, however, due to stones, elevations of the old stools, or to unevenness of the land, allow many of the young shoots to expand or unfurl before they come into contact with the paper. Since these expanded shoots are neither spear-like nor rigid, most of them are unable to puncture the paper and come through, but, unlike the weeds, they manifest surprising vitality, and by continued growth cause tent-like elevations of the paper covering.

After five or six weeks from the application of the paper coverings to the cane rows, labourers pass along the rows, and with a knife cut longitudinal slits in the paper at such places as are under pressure from expanded shoots, these places being distinctly manifested by the tent-like elevations previously referred to. This slitting is inexpensive, and costs about 35 cents an acre in practice. During the interval between the laying of the paper and the slitting operation, the soil under the paper becomes bare of weeds, and, furthermore, due to the radiated heat from the dark-coloured paper, such weed seeds as would germinate under normal conditions will have sprouted, and the resulting young weed plants will have died. On this account no weeds emerge through the slits, and those cane shoots which have been imprisoned, as it were, gradually come through and complete the stand in the row. At first these shoots are naturally very white and etiolated, but they quickly turn green and take on a vigorous growth.

Three Essential Points.

The three most essential points are:—

The right kind of paper must be used. Of the many papers which Mr. Eckart has tried in his process, the best is light-weight tar or asphalt felt. The common black sheathing felt, weighing 9 lbs. to 100 square feet, is to be preferred above all others which have been tested out. Possibly a lighter felt might prove even more suitable, since the 9 lb. paper is the lightest which has been tried. Too much stress cannot be laid on the futility of attempting to carry out the process satisfactorily with the many paraffin papers and with the heavier grades of building papers.

The paper should be laid on the stubble rows immediately after the harvesting of the preceding crop, and following the necessary "palepaleing" or clearing the rows of trash and depositing the latter in the spaces between the rows. The slitting of the paper covering should not be performed until five or six weeks after the laying of the paper. Long before this time elapses the paper covers become elevated in places from expanded cane shoots which are unable to get through, and there is always some temptation to assist them by slitting prematurely. If this is done, weeds will subsequently emerge through these slits along with the cane. The Olaa Sugar Company has found that the rough appearance of the covers due to these elevations is of no consequence.

The large gain in the growth of the cane in this process is due to the automatic eradication of weeds in the cane rows and to the pronounced mulching action of the paper covers. Being black, and im-

pregnated with such material as tar and asphalt, they absorb a large amount of heat, which they impart to the soil of the cane rows. There is no doubt but that the elevation of the soil temperature and the consequent stimulation of nitrification through the employment of these soil covers is to a very large extent responsible for the vigorous growth of the cane as manifested under the process. The Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, in testing the heat-absorbing qualities of this mulching material, found, according to L. D. Larsen, "that the soil beneath the paper was from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 degrees warmer than the adjoining soil not covered with paper. After 36 hours of no sunshine the soil under the paper was still $3\frac{1}{2}$ degrees warmer than the surrounding uncovered area."

Such weeds as develop in the "kuakuas," or the spaces between the cane rows, are readily controlled by spraying with a solution of arsenite of soda. If the weather is not suitable for spraying, hoeing is resorted to. Hoeing in the kuakuas is naturally relatively inexpensive as compared with the heavy work of this kind which is required in the cane rows in the ordinary conventional practice.

The Olaa Sugar Company, in conducting the process, allows for two sprayings, and one light cleaning out as representing the average amount of work required under its conditions. A vigorous stand of cane has been laid-by in one instance with no work in the cane row whatever; in other cases it has been advisable to give one light cleaning out during the crop's growth so as to remove honohono and other weeds which encroached on the cane rows from the "kuakuas."

The process is now being conducted by the Olaa Sugar Company on a fairly large scale, and the directors of the plantation are contemplating the erection of an auxiliary paper mill of sufficient size to meet the demands of the fields for paper mulches. The raw material for the manufacture of the paper will be, in such event, a part of the bagasse from the crushed cane, and the mulches will be turned out at comparatively small cost.

An Ordinance (No. 5 of 1917), entitled the "Tax Ordinance, 1917, Amendment Ordinance, 1917," has been passed and assented to in British Guiana, which provides that in view of the local conditions consequent upon the War, there shall be levied, collected, and paid by all individuals, firms or companies carrying on business in the Colony of British Guiana a tax of 5 per cent. on all profits earned in the Colony in excess of 10 per cent. on the capital employed in earning such profits, provided that where the profits in excess of 10 per cent. do not exceed 2,500 dols. such tax shall not be levied.

The estimate of the amount of profits earned in the Colony, and of the amount of capital employed in earning such profits, shall be made in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be enacted by any Ordinance passed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Court of Policy, and the said tax shall be levied, collected and paid in such a manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the said Ordinance.

SUGAR CANE IN PERU.

Mr. Frederic M. Halsey, Special Agent of the Department of Commerce, who has recently returned to the United States from Peru from investigating investment opportunities in the leading South American countries, has given it as his opinion that sugar, the trade in which is already bringing Peru greater wealth than any other item of export, is destined to take on even greater importance among the country's industries.

So much impressed was Mr. Halsey by what he saw of the progress made under the stimulating conditions of the last three years, and by the still greater possibilities awaiting development, that he declares his conviction that the sugar industry will henceforth be the backbone of commercial and industrial advancement in the land of the Incas.

"The whole coast region of Peru seems to have been 'made to order' for sugar-cane cultivation," said Mr. Halsey, in an interview published in *Facts about Sugar*. "The only pre-requisite to an almost unlimited extension of the cane growing area is that irrigation projects shall first be developed to supply the necessary water. The Peruvian coast is one of the driest regions of the world, having practically no rainfall at all. The land, however, is as fertile as can be found anywhere and climatic conditions are nearly perfect for sugar production wherever water is supplied.

Cheap Irrigation.

"The whole region is a succession of valleys cutting down from the mountains to the coast. As the melting snows in the mountains assure an adequate supply of water in all seasons, the cost of irrigating is low, while the cane production of the irrigated lands, as proven in the districts where the industry is now carried on, is almost double that of Cuba, acre for acre.

"Further, the absence of rain and the unvarying temperature practically eliminate warehousing and storage as cost factors. It is the common practice in Peru to stack bags of sugar awaiting shipment on the open wharves, where they can remain for months, if necessary, without deterioration.

"Labour costs, again, are much lower than in most other sugar producing countries, the average daily wage paid to employees being equivalent to about 60 cents in United States money. Peruvian labourers are accustomed to working long hours, and the managers of estates with whom I talked expressed satisfaction with the native workmen, both as to steadiness and as to the amount of work performed. About 25,000 hands are at present employed in the industry, against 17,000 in 1911.

"Altogether it can be seen that the country has everything in its favour as one of the great sugar producers of the future. It is stated, and figures to which I have had access confirm the statement, that the production cost of Peruvian sugar averages less than \$25 per metric ton on plantations equipped with modern machinery, and only about \$30 per ton under the old-fashioned methods still in vogue."

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.

At a meeting of the Governors of the West of Scotland Agricultural College, held in the College, Blythwood Square, Glasgow, on September 10th, Mr. J. Campbell Murray, Vice-Chairman, presiding, Mr. James E. Shaw drew attention to a paragraph in the minutes regarding a proposed Lectureship in Tropical Agriculture, with special reference to sugar manufacture, and asked if the governors would not interest themselves in the growing of beet sugar as well as in the encouragement of cane sugar. The sugar beet industry would be more likely to appeal to Scotland. There had been some experiments this season, which had proved very satisfactory, in Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, and he suggested that they should interest themselves in seeing whether sugar beet could not be produced satisfactorily in the south-west of Scotland.

On the motion of Mr. C. M. Douglas, it was remitted to the Experiments Committee to consider the advisability of having some experiments in beet growing. The Rev. James Murray, Convener of the Committee on Teaching, said that in accordance with the Board of Agriculture, the Committee had submitted a statement of the entire circumstances with reference to the proposed Lectureship in Tropical Agriculture, and the number of students that might be got. The Board of Agriculture had communicated their desire that application should be made to the Colonial Office, which they were prepared to make, for money for the purpose of instituting this Lectureship. He had no doubt the matter would go on.

COLOUR IN CANE JUICE.

Mr. M. A. Schneller, of the Louisiana Agricultural College, who has been investigating the colouring matter in cane juice, contributes an interesting article on the subject to our American contemporary *Facts about Sugar*. His conclusions are summarised as follows:—

1. The eyes and tops of sugar cane contain polyphenols which pass into the juice.
2. Traces of iron are sufficient for the production of a very dark colour in such juices.
3. Reducing agents, such as SO and hydrosulphites, are only temporary remedies. The dark colour returns on oxidation or cooling of juices and syrups.
4. The dark shade of plantation white sugars, increasing in storage, is due to traces of phenol-iron compound.
5. A permanently light coloured juice may be obtained by:—

(a) Complete elimination of all traces of iron and complete avoidance of contact of liquors with iron during further stages of manufacture.

(b) Elimination of polyphenols by boneblack, vegetable charcoal, etc.

6. The polyphenol content of juices could be reduced by topping cane low, using tops for planting. This would result in a distinct improvement of the colour of juices.

"TIMEHRI."

A Notable Number.

We are glad to note that the adverse influence of the war felt by so many publications in Great Britain, has not extended to the famous magazine of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana—*Timehri*. The issue for June, described as a War Double Number, makes a strong appeal to the reader by reason of the variety and permanent interest of its contents. The place of honour is assigned to the account of the trip—written by himself—taken by the Government Secretary, Mr. Cecil Clementi, C.M.G., and Mrs. Clementi, to Mount Roraima. Illustrated by a series of admirable photos the article brings up to date our knowledge of British Guiana's most notable mountain and of its approaches. To few Europeans has it been permitted to enjoy this magnificent trip. Time (in this case 46 days), cost (some £200), and distance, place Roraima beyond the reach of the modern tourist. In fact, but for the detailed notes of Sir Everard in Thurn, written more than thirty years ago, our sources of accurate information are slight. Mr. Clementi has, therefore, placed us under obligation by his enterprise. It is fitting that *Timehri* should preserve the record of the speech delivered before the Society by Mr. Roosevelt in March, 1916. The colony could have received no finer advertisement than the generous tribute paid by the ex-President of the United States. Both in and out of office Mr. Roosevelt has made no secret of his admiration of the British system of Colonial Government. In the present instance his words carry additional weight as emanating from a traveller who has literally made the world his parish. We have always regretted that this speech, which, of course, was published fully in the local Press, did not excite widespread attention from the newspapers of England and America. Mr. Hohenkerk's list of British Guiana woods is most timely, and we trust it will come under notice in the right quarters. Various writers enhance our knowledge of the aboriginal Indians, and our interest in this entertaining number.

Honours for "Native" Officials.

In a letter to the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Mr. R. F. Garraway, of Dominica, writes:—

"There are many worthy sons of the British Empire who have rendered valuable service to their King and country, but whose services go unrecognised in any form whatsoever.

"I refer particularly to the native officials in the smaller West Indian Colonies who have served long and meritoriously in various departments of the Civil Service, and who through no fault of theirs receive no promotion. I think that it would be a good idea if His Majesty the King, who is very sympathetic in such matters, and who takes a great interest in all the Colonies of the Empire, no matter how small or remote they may be, could be induced to institute an order to be conferred on such worthy officials. The bestowal of such an honour would inspire the recipients with enthusiasm, and would tend to promote the feeling of still greater loyalty in the Colonies."

CONTINGENT NOTES.

From the *Gazette*, September 15th:—

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—C. A. Moseley, M.D., to be Surg.-Capt. (May 31); Surg.-Capt. C. A. Moseley, M.D., relinquishes his commn. (July 17).

Sept. 19.—C. G. Deane to be temp. Surg.-Capt. (April 17); A. C. Kirton, M.B., to be temp. Surg.-Lt. (Sept. 6).

The members of the latest Trinidad Merchants' Contingent have now "joined up" as follows:—John Macpherson and Joseph Ache, the Artists' Rifles; and Roy Laurie and Ray Farfan, the Inns of Court; while Henry S. Harris is now a motor despatch rider.

It being proposed to send a Christmas gift to every officer, non-commissioned officer and man connected with the West Indies who is serving in H.M. Forces, the Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee (15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3) will be glad to receive from relatives and friends the names and full addresses of such men on postcards. This does not apply to men serving in the British West Indies Regiment, to all ranks of which a special gift will be sent.

West Indian Flag Day has now been observed in British Guiana and several of the West India islands most successfully. In others, arrangements were well advanced for the celebration of our "Day" when the last homeward mails were despatched. A complete account of the event will be published when the reports have been received from the various local committees, who, by the way, are to be invited to act as representatives of the West Indian Contingent Committee in their respective Colonies. Meanwhile, it may be stated that the results so far to hand are exceedingly satisfactory.

The "Day" has already given rise to many amusing incidents, which will be recorded in due course, and in one instance to a somewhat disconcerting misunderstanding. In the Bahamas it was widely advertised as the "Orangemen's Day," and a spirited correspondence was published in the local Press. "Why were the Ulster patriots dragged in?"; "Who suggested such a ridiculous title?" were among the questions asked, but not answered. Meanwhile the Committee at home thought that the title must have originated in official circles in New Providence, while official circles believed the Committee to be the culprit! The explanation probably arose through a telegraphic error, which made "Arrange flag day" read "Orange flag day." We should like five minutes' talk with the operator who made the mistake!

The strength of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent has been raised to sixty-nine by the arrival of seven more men, who, as usual, were consigned to the care of the West India Committee. The names of the new arrivals are—R. M. Johnson, who has joined the R.N.A.S., and J. E. A. M. Crawford, W. L. Hutchinson, C. K. Nichols, A. P. Cox, W.

D. Ward, and E. A. Atwell, who hope to join the Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps. On the voyage, which took no fewer than six weeks, the men were in charge of Mr. L. D. Peterkin, B.A., a master of Harrison College, who, like Mr. F. Hardy, B.A., Science Master at the same seat of learning, has come over to join the Army.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past three weeks:—

Lieut. Douglas B. Wright, Lieut. B. W. Newsam, and Pte. Pedro, British Guiana; Pte. A. L. Evelyn, 2nd Lieut. C. S. Batson, 2nd Lieut. H. F. K. Greaves, Pte. E. G. Bayne, Surg.-Capt. Hutson, 2nd Lieut. W. A. Yearwood, 2nd Lieut. C. L. W. Hinds, 2nd Lieut. H. D. Weatherhead, Ptes. J. Connell, C. G. Seale, L. D. Peterkin, R. A. Johnson, J. E. A. M. Crawford, D. G. Ward, A. P. Cox, W. L. Hutchinson, H. W. Bovell, C. K. Nichols, E. A. Atwell, F. Hardy, and D. E. C. Clark, Barbados; A. D. Sherwood-Smith and J. H. Knowles, Bahamas; C. Bagot Gray, 2nd Lieut. E. N. Richards, Pte. J. Graham, Sergt. T. L. Mercier, R. C. de Mercado, A. B. Nunes and Sergt. E. R. Rouse, Jamaica; Pte. J. P. de Verteuil, Cadet P. J. Scott, Pte. H. Leotaud, Trpr. J. Rochemont, J. A. Hernandez, Trpr. C. H. Spencer, Pte. M. de Verteuil, 2nd Lieut. Ivan J. Scott, Pte. J. E. Aché, Pte. R. C. Laurie, Pte. T. McPherson, Pte. R. Johnstone, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, 2nd Lieut. Farfan, Pte. Ray Farfan, Pte. M. G. Grell, Pte. A. A. Scott, Pte. P. J. Knox, Pte. C. E. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. L. Prada, Trpr. L. Sellier, Trpr. R. Sellier, Pte. Edmund Maingot, Trpr. S. Daly, and 1st A. M. A. E. Horne, Trinidad; Trpr. W. M. Short and Cadet Rupert C. Otway, Grenada; Pte. T. Doers, and Gunner Joseph Mills, Bermuda; 2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, St. Kitts, 2nd Lieut. J. H. Roden and Pte. O. Duke, Antigua; 2nd Lieut. J. H. Hadley and Cadet D. A. Richards, St. Vincent; Capt. Spinney, British West Indies Regiment.

* * *

Mufflers, warm socks, etc., are now in great demand. Arrangements have been made with the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations—to whose fund the West India Contingent Committee has just contributed one hundred guineas—to hold a supply in readiness for the British West Indies Regiment; but these comforts are also greatly needed for men who have come over independently. Since last list was published, the following gifts have been received, and are now gratefully acknowledged:—

Mrs. Donald McDonald: 1 muffler.
Miss Mann: 2 prs. socks.
The Dowager Countess of Carnarvon, per the Crown Agents for the Colonies: 6 sets combined chess and draughts, 12 sets dominoes, 12 cases playing cards, 12 harmonicas.
Mrs. Cunningham Craig: magazines.
Mrs. Field: magazines.
Mrs. A. Spooner, Antigua: 2 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens.
Per Mrs. Brodie, Grenada: 19 prs. socks.
Mrs. Singleton and Miss Thorne: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Watts: 4 prs. mittens, 2 mufflers.
Miss Porteous: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. Earnshaw: 8 prs. socks.
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 2 prs. socks.

Gifts of warm comforts, games, musical instruments, etc., may be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, the West India Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

* * *

Some further extracts from letters received by

the West Indian Contingent Committee, are published below:—

"Thanks very much for the parcel. It was certainly a generous reply to my letter." (From a Jamaican in France.)

"I received yesterday your second parcel containing a block of paper, a tin of biscuits, a tin of barley sugar, raisins, dates, two little tins of bann, and milk chocolate. Many thanks for the parcel which pleased me very much." (From a Trinidadian in the French Army.)

"I have received a very nice parcel from the W. I. C. Committee for which I ask you to kindly thank them for me. I highly appreciate the parcels which I receive from the Committee. They do remind me that I still have friends in London." (From a Barbadian in France.)

"To-day I received your very nice parcel containing everything I could desire—even a Trinidad paper. I must thank you very much for same. The W. I. chocolate is most welcome—it is such a change from everyday chocolate." (From a Trinidadian in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.)

"Very many thanks for parcel received safely containing anti-vermin underwear, cigarettes, air pillow, etc. Everything has just come in handy and appreciated by all of us, cigarettes in particular. The pillow was most welcome. I often wished for one but thought it too girlish to mention." (From a Barbadian in France.)

"I remember once when I was in Africa I see what good you have done by sending cigarettes to one of the boys in my company. Oh, I can assure you your great present was in nick of time when we have to buy one packet for 2/8. Oh, how we appreciated it. And then we know that there is someone who cares for us who are keeping up the reputation of the West Indies. I hope that you and your staff will continue until we all shall have accomplished our earthly task." (From a man in the B. W. I. Regiment in Egypt.)

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Sincere regret will be felt in Barbados at the news of the death in action of LORD BASIL BLACKWOOD, who was Colonial Secretary of the Island from 1907 to 1909. Lord Basil, who was a Second Lieut. in the Grenadier Guards, had been reported missing since July 3rd. Born in 1870, the gallant officer was the third son of the first Marquis of Dufferin and Ava—one of the most brilliant diplomatists of his time, Governor-General in turn, of Canada and of India, who also represented his country abroad on many important missions. As Deputy Judge Advocate of the Forces, Lord Basil was in South Africa at the time of the war in which his eldest brother the Earl of Ava was killed. Assistant Colonial Secretary at Bloemfontein for five years, his next experience of the Colonial Civil Service was obtained at Barbados. Returning home, he accepted an appointment in connection with the Labour Exchanges, afterwards becoming Assistant Secretary to the Development Commission. On the outbreak of the Great War he participated with the 9th Lancers in the early fighting in Flanders, in which he was severely wounded. During his convalescence he acted as private secretary to Lord Wimborne, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Obtaining a Commission in the Grenadier Guards, Lord Basil returned to the Army and fell in a night raid at the age of 46. It would be a mistake to suppose, however, that his interests were solely military or administrative. His capacity was revealed as an artist in the illustration of several books for children written by Mr. Belloc. Some ten years ago the CIRCULAR reviewed "Cautionary Tales for Children," just published, and reproduced some of those clever sketches which would have won a wider fame for "B. T. B." had he concentrated more closely upon the cultivation of this particular gift. The *Times* concludes, thus, a warmly appreciative notice of Lord Basil's career:—"It was perhaps the ease and versatility

of his natural gifts, together with a great love of his fellow-creatures and a certain want of settled purpose, which prevented him from making the fullest practical use of his life. If so, he had the greater compensation of finding time for more true friendships than is given to most men. Few, indeed, of all who have fallen in the war will be so widely or so deeply missed."

SECOND LIEUT. F. SIDNEY HADLEY, of the Gloucester Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the son of Mr. Hadley, an estates proprietor of St. Vincent and a nephew of Mr. G. F. Huggins, of Trinidad. Sidney Hadley, who was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, was in his uncle's firm at Port of Spain at the outbreak of War and came over with the 1st Trinidad Merchant's Contingent in 1915. He joined the Artists' Rifles Officers' Training Corps in November and was granted a Commission in due course in the Gloucestershire Regiment, with which he was serving when he was killed.

WOUNDED.

CAPTAIN PERCY RECKLE (of Trinidad), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, has been slightly wounded, and has been discharged to duty.

CAPTAIN W. GREY-WILSON (son of Sir William Grey-Wilson, Governor of the Bahamas, 1904-12), Machine Gun Corps, has been slightly wounded and is in hospital at Salonika.

SECOND LIEUT. A. NORMAN USHER (of British Honduras), Royal Fusiliers, attached York and Lancaster Regiment, has been wounded and is in hospital in France.

HONOURS.

SERGEANT R. R. ROUSE, of Kingston, Jamaica, and now in the Army Service Corps, was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches in June.

SECOND LIEUT. JAMES F. IRVING (eldest son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, of the Government Medical Service, British Guiana), has been awarded the Military Cross.

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.

Bethel, A. E. (of the Bahamas), Canadians.
 Kelly, Harcourt (of the Bahamas), Canadians.
 Morris, Frederick Arthur (younger son of the late Mr. Arthur H. Morris, of Dewsall Court, Hereford, and nephew of Mr. F. J. Morris—now in Portuguese East Africa), has passed from Lancing College into Sandhurst.
 Otway, Rupert C. (of Grenada), Royal Engineers' Cadet Battalion.
 Payne, Lieut. Ralph L. (son of the late Mr. J. L. Lavington Payne, of Grenada), Nigerian Regiment, West African Frontier Force.
 Richards, L. A. (of St. Vincent), Royal Engineers' Cadet Battalion.
 Thompson, Chas. S. (of the Bahamas), Canadians.
 Vassallo, Lieut. S., M.D. (of Dominica), Royal Army Medical Corps.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

PTE. FRANK BURSLEM (4th Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, is now a Cadet in the Royal Flying Corps.

CADET ORMOND H. CURRY (son of the late Mr. E. H. Curry, Bahamas), late Canadian Field Artillery, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

CADET F. H. K. GREAVES (6th Barbados Citizens' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

PTE. J. A. HERRERA (4th Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, is now a Cadet in the Royal Flying Corps.

CADET JOSEPH E. KERNAHAN (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

CADET RAOUL LAZZARI (4th Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles O.T.C., has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

SECOND LIEUT. FRANK ROOKS (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Warwickshire Regiment, is now attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

THE "LAST POST."

Under the above heading the *Morning Post* published the following letter on August 20th. It was written home by an officer in France, just before going into action, and was received by the parents after the news that the writer was among the killed. We reproduce it in the belief that it may be a source of comfort to those in the West Indies who have lost their loved ones:—

"July 30th, 1917. 3.5 p.m.
 "My Darling Mater and Dad,—To-morrow at dawn there's a hell of a show coming off, and this will only reach you if I get knocked out. Mater, be brave—for God's sake be as brave as I know you can be—for it's hell to bear.

"Anyhow you'll be proud too, won't you? 'Cos it's the best death a chap can have.

"Do not think with pain of the things I loved; the favourite songs; the friends; the tennis; the picnics on the Downs, but let their memory make you enjoy them the more!

"Nothing to say and this is a horrid letter to write. So good-bye, Mother and Dad, and—and—cheer up everyone!"

ALL FOR ENGLAND.

Barbadian's Munificent Bequest.

Barbadian patriotism has long been proverbial. Expressed a century ago by the raising of regiments of soldiers, gifts of a frigate and of thousands of pounds in aid of Britain's struggle with Napoleon, the precedent has been worthily maintained in the services of sons of "Little England," and in countless gifts of money and in kind towards the Imperial cause in the present struggle.

This practical loyalty has been offered in common with the whole of the West Indies. Barbados, however, has attained especial distinction by reason of an individual gift unique, probably, in amount and in character. One of the chief planters of the island, lately deceased, has bequeathed the whole of his property to the State, as personified by the Secretary for War. This munificent benefaction has been left by Mr. Alexander Ashby, proprietor of Haggett Hall and Castle Plantations. These estates have just been sold, and have realised over £50,000. Castle is the large plantation comprising 520 acres as compared with 364, the area of Haggett Hall.

This gift is the largest public benefaction recorded in the history of the island or probably to be found in the annals of the West Indies.

Codrington College has hitherto been esteemed the highest local expression of philanthropy. Mr. Ashby's bequest must now, however, be accorded the first place. Christopher Codrington, it will be recalled, left two sugar estates, now called "College" and "Society," which consisted of 763 acres, three windmills with necessary building for the cultivation of sugar, 315 negroes and 100 head of cattle, to the S.P.G. for the endowment of the College which now bears his name. At that time the plantations were computed to yield a net income of £2,000, clear of all charges. Computing the interest on the capital at 5 per cent., it will be seen that the annual return on Mr. Ashby's

bequest is £2,500. It will be remembered, too, that last year Mr. Joseph Forte died, leaving his Plantation Bennets' and all his personal estate to trustees in trust for Codrington College.

Everyone connected with the West Indies must feel a sense of personal pride in this token of Mr. Ashby's wonderful patriotism. He was evidently moved to an exceptional degree by the love of country so manifest among all West Indians, and has answered in his last hour the question: "Who dies if England lives?"

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Mails are still few and far between, and in these days a voyage of a month may be considered a quick passage between the West Indies and this country.

BARBADOS—Girls High School opened.

A correspondent writes that a distinguished company assembled at the opening of Codrington Girls' High School, on August 14th. The erection of the school has been rendered possible by the Principal of Codrington College furnishing the necessary £600 necessary for the provision of the building and guaranteeing £200 a year for two years to cover working expenses. An additional sum of £800 is required for the completion and equipment of the building. The committee have also incurred a debt which awaits discharge. The Governor (Sir L. Probyn) performed the opening ceremony. Among those present were Lady Probyn, the Archbishop of the West Indies (Dr. Parry), the Bishop of Barbados and Mrs. Berkeley, Bishop Hutson, Bishop Hornby, Bishop de Carteret, the Bishop of Honduras and Mrs. Dunn, Sir William and the Misses Chandler, Sir Francis and Lady Watts, and many others. Another correspondent writes that "from the planters' point of view we are having glorious weather. The fields are responding to the rains and hot suns and the Island looks like a huge emerald. I am told that this year's crop—nearly all in now—will be, say, 20 per cent. less than last year's, but it will still be well above the average crop, and has been sold at good prices."

MR. J. H. WILKINSON, JULY 30th.—Nice rains have fallen during this month and all crops have greatly benefited, many estates have had 11 inches for the month. On the 20th inst. the late Mr. Ashby's estates were put up for sale and fetched very good prices. Mr. E. M. McConney purchased Hoggett Hall for £27,225, and Mr. E. H. Grant the Castle for £23,550. His residence, Sherbourne, was sold for £1,800.

By the s.s. *Santille*, which left here last Saturday, a further lot of men for the Citizens' Contingent went forward, making a total of seventy men sent over by the Committee. The Colonial Bank and Royal Bank of Canada have announced that they intend opening branches in Speightstown, which will be a great convenience to the planters in the Leeward Parishes.

BRITISH GUIANA—Export Duties Increased.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, writing on July 21st, says the weather has been favourable. Good rains have fallen at intervals. The heat is intense. The example of the Mother Country in the matter of excess profits has been followed by the Combined Court. The Budget speech revealing a deficit of nearly \$150,000, a tax has been levied on all trading profits which exceed 10 per cent. on the capital employed. This new tax is fixed at 5 per cent. It is not, however, to be collected in cases where the excess profits over 10 per cent. do not exceed \$2,000. The anticipated yield of the tax is \$200,000 per annum. The export duty on sugar has been raised from 85 cents to \$1 per ton. In this case the revenue is estimated

at \$15,000 per annum. Rice also is called upon to make a higher contribution to the Colony's income, the export duty being increased from 3½ cents to 15 cents per 100 lbs. Public satisfaction has been expressed with the appointment of Mr. George D. Bailey as successor to the late Mr. Frank Fowler in the office of Commissioner of Lands and Mines. Mr. Bayley has spent thirty years in the Civil Service and has done good work, notably in the Government Secretariat, and was Census Commissioner. Congratulations have also been extended to the Solicitor-General, Mr. Colin Rees Davies, on "taking silk." The half-yearly report of the Hand-in-Hand Mutual Guarantee Fire Insurance Co., shows that during the six months ending June 30th, there was an increase of a hundred policies representing \$74,474 insurance and \$1,398 premium income. The number of policies issued, the amount of insurance and the new premiums were all (said the chairman at the half-yearly meeting) less than during the previous half-year. On June 30th there were 4,959 policies in force, and the premium income amounted to \$142,551.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Agricultural Commission.

HON. G. E. GRABHAM, AUGUST 16th.—There is little news from here. We are having unusually heavy rain, and a good deal of damage has been done to crops by flood. The Agricultural Commission has nearly completed its labours, and we hope to get our report in at the end of the current month. It has gathered an immense amount of useful information which should be of great value. The United Fruit Co. have discontinued their weekly mail service, and at present we are without any passenger service; but the mails are likely to be delivered fairly regularly by the Mobile SS. Co. and a cargo boat of the United Fruit Co. which runs alternate weeks. There is hope the Otis Co. will arrange for a fortnightly passenger service.

[We are pleased to learn that in accordance with a suggestion made in the CIRCULAR recently, Mr. Grabham is endeavouring to secure the formation of a Chamber of Commerce in Belize. It is understood that the Acting Governor is taking a keen interest in the movement, which cannot fail to prove of material benefit to British Honduras.—ED.]

DOMINICA—Death of a Magistrate.

Mr. William Coull, for some time Magistrate of District B., and a respected colonist, died on August 3rd.

JAMAICA—The Dyewoods Combine.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The Legislative Council met in special session on the afternoon of July 10th, and adjourned *sine die* on the 18th. The main object of the session was the passing of a measure to enable the Government to deal with the recent serious outbreak of prædial larceny and prevent, as much as possible, this evil from curtailing the efforts being put forth to produce larger quantities of food stuffs, rendering the island more self-supporting. This was effected by the passing of a Bill which provides for the whipping should circumstances warrant, upon first conviction, of such prædial thieves. The passing of the measure has been the subject of prolonged and heated discussion, both in the Council and in the Press, the public being divided upon the advisability of the return to old-fashioned flogging ideas, but, be that as it may, there is no doubt that firm steps were highly necessary to deal with the scourge which had reached alarming proportions. A law providing for indeterminate sentences for habitual criminals was also passed. A scheme for a memorial to the late Archbishop Nuttall was discussed, but becoming controversial, was postponed for future consideration.

The embargo upon the importation into Great Britain of coffee was the subject of a discussion during the session of the Legislature, and an effort is to be made to have this lifted in respect to the island, if possible, especially in view of the series of particular hardships which coffee growers in Jamaica have been subjected to in recent years through hurricanes, floods, droughts, etc.

In view of the passing of the Habitual Criminals Indeterminate Sentences Law, it has been proposed to establish

a penal settlement at Maroon Town, St. James', but for the time being the proposal has been shelved on account of expenses, and in favour of the acquiring of land for a temporary settlement in the vicinity of Spanish Town, near St. Catherine's District Prison.

Returns under the Military Service Bill are reported to be highly satisfactory, and the work of classification is now proceeding. The Bill has received Royal Assent. Further contingents and reinforcements continue to sail overseas periodically, and more men from the Bahamas have arrived to join the forces.

The annual report of the Department of Agriculture, published this month, showed that, had it not been for the 1916 hurricane, this year would have set up a new record in the value of our exports. Logwood and sugar were, of course, largely responsible for the high figures. It is announced that a firm has been incorporated in the United States with a large capital, under the name of the United Dyewoods Corporation, which has absorbed, besides other companies, the British Dyewood Co., Ltd., with its plant in Lacovia, Jamaica, and in Scotland, and the West India Chemical Works, Ltd., of Spanish Town, Jamaica. Remarkable activity in fruit continues, and with substantial prices several large shipments have gone forward, both to Great Britain and the United States this month.

Bishop de Carteret has sailed for Barbados, via New York, to be present at a consecration in that island. He will probably proceed thence to England. In the meantime Canon Simms is administering the diocese. The list of fine buildings in Kingston has this month been added to by the opening of a new garage in Church Street by Messrs. The Kingston Industrial Garage. The Rio Cobre Home for Contingent Men's Children is now open, under the management of Mr. P. N. Isaacs, and bids fair to be a great boon to those who have given their services for King and Country. A fund has been started for the relief of the deserving poor of Kingston and St. Andrew, who are suffering severely as a result of the present high prices of foodstuffs and necessities of life. This fund has reached a total of £300 14s. 11d.

The active war funds stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Red Cross Fund	9,062	16	7
Blue Cross Fund	316	12	2
R.F.C. Hospital Fund (closed) ...	390	14	11
Contingent Band Fund	370	9	0

Others as last reported.

ST. KITTS—A Good "Soaker" Needed.

MR. F. J. SHELFORD, AUGUST 16th.—Flag Day passed off very successfully here on the 4th inst. Sums collected and remitted through the Governor of St. Kitts-Nevis to date show—

	£	s.	d.
Red Cross Fund	751	14	3
Belgian Relief Fund	447	7	3
Aeroplane Fund	45	0	0
Local W.I. Contingent Fund	133	1	2

On the 6th inst. the Defence Force marched from Basseterre to Wingfield Estate, and, meeting the Mounted Contingent there, held a very successful and enjoyable field day.

August has been very dry to date; and as the rainfall for July did not exceed three inches, the island needs a "soaker." There is rather a serious scarcity of ground provisions just now, but as there has been an excellent response to the Government appeal to plant potatoes this will be relieved shortly. The emigration of many of our young men and women to Canada and the United States, besides the usual yearly flow to San Domingo, does not appear to be checked in any way by the war; and in course of time this state of things will have a serious effect on local labour conditions.

ST. VINCENT—The Production of Food Crops.

MR. W. N. SANDS, AUGUST 4th.—A very successful "Flag Day" was held on the 1st inst., and I feel sure that a substantial sum has been realised for the West Indian Contingent Fund. The demonstration, fête and exhibition were organised by a local committee and the Kingston

Board. A full report of the day's proceedings will be found in *The Sentry* of the 3rd inst. Although last month was a very wet one, with over 20 inches of rain in some districts, still on the whole, considerable progress was made with planting operations. The crops generally require a few days' sun.

A good deal of attention is being devoted locally to the production of food crops in common with other parts of the Empire. The production of foodstuffs is a comparatively easy matter in islands such as this, but the proper storage and conservation of them on a large scale so that they may be available when most wanted is difficult in the tropics unless suitable driers, bins and store rooms are employed together with a supply of insecticides to ward off grain insects. A good deal of educational work in this all important branch is being done by the Agricultural Department.

TRINIDAD—The Prospects of Rubber.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 6th.—We had an extraordinary fall of rain during July at San Fernando, which is generally looked upon as one of the driest places in the colony; 23 inches, 59 parts were registered, several inches over that previously recorded in any one month in any part of the colony. The general fall was about ten inches below that of San Fernando.

That very useful establishment, the Trinidad Government Floating Dock and Workshop has issued its report for 1916 (laid before the Legislative Council 23rd March) and shows total receipts £24,421 14s. 5d., against disbursements £22,629 5s. 9d., leaving a profit of £1,792 8s. 7½d. Both Dock and Workshop, under the capable management of Mr. Bell, Director of Public Works, are excellent examples in their way of what good work may be done, even in what so many are pleased to call "a place like this," where there is quiet, efficient and energetic control, and in this connection mention should not be omitted of the services of the competent Secretary, Mr. Julian Grell, a younger brother of the late popular Ellis Grell.

Consequent on an intimation from the Government that their work would probably be better performed by the Board of Agriculture, the Permanent Exhibition Committee, who have been doing this honorary work for a number of years, have sent in their unanimous resignation. It has yet to be decided whether the Board of Agriculture will undertake the duties. The Committee was originally established by Sir Henry Jackson, who, with a view to making it popular and securing general support, suggested an entirely unofficial body to be elected or nominated, two by the Governor, two by the Chamber of Commerce and two by the Agricultural Society, who, it was thought, would fitly represent not only the agricultural but the manufacturing and important mineral interests of the colony.

Splendid results can be recorded to date in the two leading industries, cacao and sugar. The crop and cane farming returns are also worthy of attention as indication of how the Empire's supply within the Empire would surely be attained at no distant date if the people beyond the seas could rely on the permanent co-operation and assistance to which they believe they are entitled, and which would certainly benefit receiver as well as giver.

A small attack of locusts was made a short time back by a flight of these insects from the Main, where they have done great damage. They landed at Patos, and at Cedros (Land's End), but thanks to the prompt action of the Board of Agriculture, through their efficient Entomologist, Mr. F. W. Ulrich, the plague was soon disposed of. We are now threatened with a recurrence of the trop hopper attack, but are in a much more prepared position to meet it, and no doubt it will be promptly dealt with. In view of the serious doubt as to whether rubber of any description could be planted with advantage, the report of the special Committee, composed of Sir Norman Lamont, Mr. W. G. Freeman, and Mr. Ancher Warner, is welcome. They find (a) that the further planting of Castilleja even for shade should be discontinued; (b) the same with *Pantunia*; (c) but that as the results upon certain plantations here have been on an average with those obtained in the East, the Hevea rubber industry deserves every encouragement in suitable districts. There

is much good comment and good advice otherwise in the report, as might be expected from its authors. Once more, however, it is pleasing to find how well those of our botanical experts who have gone before served us. In this case it was Mr. Carruthers, whose untimely and early death robbed the colony of an exceptionally able officer. He was the great apostle of Hevea, and would hear of nothing else as suitable for local climatic and other conditions.

TURKS ISLAND—Some Notable Visitors.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA COMPANY.—On the 9th inst. Mr. Yorke Sadler arrived from Jamaica, via New York, on the s.s. *Algonquin*, to act as Judge of the Supreme Court. He left again on the 22nd inst. On the 23rd inst. Dr. Higinbotham, District Commissioner and Medical Officer Caicos Islands, arrived from East Harbour. Dr. Higinbotham is filling the position of Medical Officer at Grand Turk for the time being. On the 28th inst. Dr. Robert Charles Macy, M.D. University of Alabama, U.S.A., arrived from New York on the s.s. *Algonquin*. Dr. Macy has been appointed Government and Medical Officer at Salt Cay. He will act, however, as medical officer of Grand Turk during Mr. Auden's absence. The Government is very fortunate in obtaining the services of a medical officer with Dr. Macy's experience, he having been for some time at Panama, the Philippines and Mexico. Dr. Higinbotham returned to East Harbour to resume his duties there, he was accompanied by Mr. H. H. Hutchings, who left on his periodical visit round the Caicos Group. Rev. S. Cannon (Methodist) is also visiting the Caicos Islands.

Business generally has been exceptionally quiet. There has been numerous inquiries for salt, and a large quantity could have been sold had it been available. When it could have been raked the proprietors would not do so, saying there was no sale for it and therefore useless to rake it. Now many are crying out about the season being poor. At East Harbour and Salt Cay ponds are well arranged. At both these places they have raked a large quantity of salt, all of which has been disposed of for future shipment at an advanced price. Should they eventually be able to rake any at Grand Turk, a market has been found for it. In consequence of the serious shortage of salt in Newfoundland, the Government of that Colony are sending two barkentines to load at Grand Turk 1,000 tons of this product. (As indicated in the last CIRCULAR.) The first vessel is due about the middle of August. The revival of this trade will be a great thing for the Dependency, as they will take something like 43,000 tons per annum.

Specimens of the pine found abundantly on some of the Caicos Islands, where large forests of some thousand acres in extent are now lying idle, have been submitted by the Commissioner to the Chamber of Commerce, New York, and Jamaica, and have been favourably reported upon by experts and brokers. It is reported that a trial order of 250,000 feet has been received from Messrs. Henderson & Co., one of the principal lumber merchants of Jamaica. Efforts, I believe, are being made to float a company locally to exploit this at present waste product of the Dependency. This offers a splendid opportunity of investment for a small capital, as labour would be cheap, the greatest difficulty would be transportation to a shipping point. This, however, would be overcome. The Commissioner's idea of a locally formed company will never materialise, and if formed would be short lived. Some of the timber is exceptionally good, and outside of the pine small quantities of other woods suitable for cabinet making could be obtained, but not in large enough quantities to ship separately.

The cotton industry, I am pleased to say, is booming, and the latest returns to hand for the last shipment it was reported on as "bright and clean" and was valued at 1/11 to 1/11½ per lb. which according to market reports is the top price for "Upland Cotton." This last shipment will realise, after deducting freight and other expenses \$145 or £18 per bale, which to say the least is exceedingly encouraging, despite the fact that the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. H. H. Hutchings, says there is nothing in cotton, the people are still planting and hardly a boat arrives from the Caicos without a consignment of cotton. A quantity of sisal, canned lobster, and conch shells have been shipped to the United States during the month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Wages in the West Indies.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—It is with great pleasure that I have read in your issue of the 12th of July a letter from Col. the Hon. R. Stapleton and Messrs. Henckell, Du Buisson and Co., to their estates managers in the West Indies in regard to the increase in wages on their sugar estates.

It is very refreshing to see Capital assuming so high-minded and generous an attitude towards its employees. Higher wages in the West Indies have always been condemned because of the general belief that increased pay must necessarily result in the negro labourer doing less work in the week. The theory was not without good grounds, for it had been tested and proved many times over. But the fact that no change can be wrought in a day was lost sight of, and the trial was never long enough to make the theory conclusive. Now, however, prolonged experiment has proved differently. The report from the managers of the various estates says distinctly that the labourers "are well pleased with the increased rates of pay, and are working well, and are happy and contented." To this I will add authoritatively that the labourers who are benefiting by this new system are becoming ambitious. Their ideals are rising. With each penny saved they are improving their standard of life. Their food is better. Their houses are more comfortable. Mud floors are replaced by wooden floorings, that are daily swept. Windows with sashes admit light when before, all was squalid and dingy. Families are properly divided into bed-rooms, when before they were huddled together in dirt, discomfort and indecency. The negro is ready to take a pride in his home, and invests his savings in improving his domestic circumstances. This will elevate his ideals, teach him self-respect and so make him a more conscientious labourer.

But apart from ethical considerations there is the material consideration of improved labour, which is of consummate importance to-day. The most potent element in the composition of a good labourer is physical strength. And the only means of producing physical strength is by good food and plenty of it. With increased pay and increased comfort will come the desire for better nourishment, and good nourishment will incalculably improve the capacity for work of the labourer. I can give as an illustration of this one of my own observations on a farm in Jamaica. There was some pasture land to be prepared for cultivation. It had to be forked to prepare it for the plough, and large boulders beneath the surface of the ground had to be excavated. The ground was stubborn and the work hard. I observed that the labourers were doing extraordinarily bad work and were going about it without zeal or energy. They were always complaining about the scarcity of food, and often stayed away three or four days of the week.

At the suggestion of a leading Kingston man, the owner of the farm arranged to give his labourers a meal of beef, yam, cocoa, dumplings and other delicacies at twelve every day. The effect was magical. Until the land was forked and stoned, the men worked regularly, heartily and efficiently. Their production was increased a hundred per cent.

Economy and organisation are at the root of all modern success, and to improve the standard of labour is the essence of economy. We find, in the words of this admirable letter, that "higher pay and better work are now going forward together." This statement is in itself a revelation, and we gather two important facts from it:

(a) "More pay, less work" is an exploded theory.
(b) More pay is the solution of the labour difficulty.

With regard to (a) I have but to cite the words of the report from the estates managers:—
"The labourers are well pleased with the increased rates of pay, and are working well and are happy and contented."

With regard to (b) we have only to take our minds back to the early days of the war and ask ourselves two questions:

Why are labourers at this time flocking to Cuba? The answer is that the West Indian looked for a living wage which was denied him at home. Many had returned from Panama, only to find that they could not live in their own country.

And why was it that the labourer who was branded as slothful and lazy at home, proved himself to be capable and efficient abroad?

The answer is, that good work and good pay go hand in hand.

In the interest of both capital and labour in the West Indies, it is necessary to improve the condition of labourers.

Yours truly
JAMAICAN.

Kingston, Jamaica.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

September 20th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. War Loans: 5 per cent., 94½; 4½ per cent., 97½; 4 per cent., 101; Consols, 54½.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the sugar supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; W. I. crystallised, crystals and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6.

Forms of application for Sugar Registration Cards have now been distributed to householders in the United Kingdom, who are instructed when in doubt as to the district in which they reside to "ask a policeman" or a "special." After October 1st, only registered retailers will be allowed to sell sugar. The last application for cards must be made by October 6th, and cards must be handed to retailers not later than November 5th. The full distribution scheme comes into force on December 30th.

A further step in the British Sugar beet experiments is marked by the appointment of Mr. Sidney Colyer, formerly of Wye Agricultural College, as manager of the Kelham Estate (Newark), which is to be operated by the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd., with the help of a grant from the Development Fund.

It should be recorded that the decision to denounce the Brussels Convention, already referred to, was arrived at by the French Conseil des Ministres on August 17th, and that it was duly communicated to the Belgian Government before September 1st, as provided for by Article V.

The New York Sugar Exchange remains closed in deference to the wishes of Mr. Hoover, the Food Administrator. In response to an appeal on behalf of the Council of National Defence, the principal sugar firms in the United States have consented to provide the American Army and Navy with all the sugar they require direct for the next two years at a price to be fixed by the Food Administrator. The amount is estimated at 100,000 tons per annum.

Cubas were quoted yesterday 6.90 c. and refined granulated, 8.30 c.—8.40 c.

The Cuban crop is now practically over; the final estimate is 3,000,000 tons against the earlier estimate of 3,500,000 tons, the reduction of half a million tons being due to the revolution. These figures compare with 3,007,915 tons and 2,592,667 tons actual for the two preceding years. Willet and Gray give the Porto Rico crop as 448,567 tons against 431,335 tons in 1915-16 and 308,178 tons in 1914-15.

The same authorities give the preliminary figures of Canadian consumption for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1917, as 314,464 tons, against 284,644 tons corresponding figure for last year, an increase of 29,820 tons, or 10.47 per cent. If only the imports were considered, the

increase would be 22.59 per cent. But Willet and Gray have taken account of the large export business—25,833 tons—which was enjoyed by the Canadian refiners during the year, as well as the production of Canadian beer sugars.

The West India Sugar Statistics in London from January 1st to September 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	60,698	41,979	39,115 Tons.
Deliveries	54,729	43,125	30,417 ..
Stock (Sept. 8th) ...	13,964	9,959	14,707 ..

RUM. The market is quite firm; but there are no transactions to report owing to the exhaustion of stocks in importers' bonds. The stocks in London on September 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,344	8,622	4,865 puns.
Demerara	10,645	13,870	5,256 ..
Total of all kinds ...	31,962	37,704	20,461 ..

CACAO. At auctions on August 21st and September 4th, 17,858 bags (11,018 British and 6,840 Foreign) were catalogued. About 11,000 bags sold at generally higher prices.

At auction on September 18th, 500 out of 1,388 bags Grenada fine sold at 86/6—87/-; 385 out of 540 bags Jamaica fine at 86/-, and mid at 80/-. 472 bags Trinidad were bought in. A few bags St. Lucia fair fetched 75/-.

The stocks in London on September 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	27,439	26,356	13,388 bags.
Grenada	29,616	17,040	5,457 ..
Total of all kinds ...	274,207	230,073	111,284 ..

The outlook is uncertain, the Government having arrived at no decision as to what import restrictions shall be imposed in respect of the year 1918-19. The West India Committee have represented to the Colonial Office the desirability of permitting shipment to be made in respect of next year as from January 1st instead of February 29th (the date of the Prohibition Order). They have pointed out that the calendar year would coincide more closely with the crop period, and that its adoption would obviate difficulties of storage and consequent deterioration, and would enable cacao to come forward in the steamers which are bound to go to the West Indies to carry the heavy outward freight towards the end of the year, before the March-June sugar crop season makes its heavy demand on tonnage.

COTTON. During the thirty-six weeks ended September 6th, 1,879 bales of British West Indian Cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Messrs. Wolstenholm and Holland report from Liverpool that in the absence of stock no business is reported in West Indian Sea Island, but there are eager buyers, as some spinners are without stock.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Concentrated firm and in demand at £30. Raw, fair sales of common to good, 2/- to 3/-. Citrate firm and in demand. Lime Oil: Handpressed, no supplies; buyers, 16/-. Distilled, nominal value, 7/6 to 8/-.

ARROWROOT. Small sales from 5½d. to 6d. Quotation nominally 5½d. to 6½d.

COPRA. The market continues unchanged. Values, £46 c.i.f. London, and £45 c.i.f. Liverpool. No business is reported.

HONEY. There has been a little more enquiry. Jamaica may be valued at about 80/- to 90/- per cwt.

GINGER. Very little enquiry for Jamaica and scarcely anything doing.

PIMENTO firmer. Sales have been made at 3½d. then 3½d., and latterly 4d. has been touched. The demand is now quieter.

RUBBER. Weak at 2/9; spot for crepe after 2/10½. Hard fine Para dull at 3/2½.

BALATA. The market is steady for Venezuela block at 3/2 c.i.f. Panama block is lower. Small sales have been made at 2/7½ c.i.f., and with increased supplies the market is likely to go still lower. For W.I. sheet there are buyers of forward positions at 3/9 landed. Second hand sales at 3/11 to 3/11½ landed.

The West India Committee Circular

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Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON

October 4th, 1917.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

SOME HURRICANE EFFECTS.

THE friends of Jamaica resident in Great Britain have learned with sincere regret of the hurricane which overtook the island on September 23rd. Not only has loss of life occurred, but cultivations other than and in addition to bananas have suffered. The colony can only regard with misgiving the infliction of further blows upon its staple industries. Hurricanes are responsible for the fact that during the year ending March 31st last the banana was dislodged from its primacy among Jamaica products, the export falling to one-fifth of the normal. Once this industry is adversely affected the economic life of Jamaica is touched at many points. This truth is illustrated by the annual report, just published, on the Jamaica Government Railway. The revenue (£141,571) shows a decrease of 8.49 per cent., compared with the previous year. For this decrease the hurricane, which struck the island on August 15th, 1916, is partially responsible. The War, of course, and heavy rains, exercised a baleful influ-

ence. But the damage to the banana and other crops destroyed bright anticipations. The actual damage done to the railway by the hurricane was slight in comparison with that of August, 1915—£1,090 against £26,224. The loss in revenue from bananas was, however, much greater. Originally, the total income of the Railway had been put at £158,000, but after the hurricane it was reduced to £126,000, when it was feared that the expenditure would exceed the revenue. Thanks, principally to an unexpected increase in shipments of coffee, general merchandise, bananas and in passenger receipts, this foreboding was not realised. Instead of a loss a net profit of £9,116 resulted, which, says the report, "taking the abnormal circumstances into consideration, cannot be considered unsatisfactory." Goods receipts, nevertheless, are down by £12,569. Responsibility for this decline rests chiefly with bananas, which, to the grand total of goods receipts, contributed only 13.5 per cent., against 26 per cent. in the previous year. From the standpoint of tonnage bananas fell off by 25,505 tons. In fact, for a period of six weeks (November 4th to December 23rd, 1916) not a single stem passed over the railway. In the case of the Rio Minho Valley Railway no bananas have been railed over this branch since September, 1916. The picture presented by the report on the year's working of the Railway as a whole is not, however, entirely gloomy. Passenger receipts have increased. The figures show an improvement of nearly £5,000 on the previous year. Expenditure advanced by a like figure, but the outlay was restricted to necessary maintenance works. We agree with the Director of the Railway that so long as trains continue to be run, so long must the rolling stock, etc., be kept up efficiently. We trust the Director's anxieties will not be seriously enhanced by the latest hurricane reported.

CANADA AND THE COLOUR QUESTION.

THE attitude of Canada towards the colour question will excite increasing attention and discussion. As an "after-war" problem, it may well call for the exercise of the highest statesmanship. Its solution will determine the settlement of many issues. Allowing that the federation of the Dominion and the West Indies will come within the sphere of practical politics—and opinion is by no means unanimous—that closer association of "our Lady of the Snows," with her tropical sisters, must be indefinitely deferred until the Government of Canada have determined what their policy shall be in regard to the racial issue.

Certain events within recent history have not

served the cause of political union. Any feeling that coloured persons are not wanted in the Dominion can only disturb happy relations with the Caribbean. The effect may well be commercial as well as political. In fact the matter came before the Associated West Indian Chamber at its recent meeting. It figures also in the annual report of the Executive, which was to be presented to the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, British Guiana, at its gathering towards the end of August. Say the Committee:—"The restrictions which have been placed on the emigration to Canada of coloured persons has been referred to in this Chamber; and it was also referred to at the meeting of the Associated Chamber. The restriction is not to this colony alone, as protests have also been made in Barbados. The feeling of the Associated Chamber was that this is not an opportune time to press the question but it is one we will not lose sight of." Happily, the question need never lead to acute controversy. It may defer, or render impossible the federation of these two sections of the Empire. But more serious results are not to be anticipated. The West Indies, for instance, do not regard Canada as a market for surplus labour. We hope and believe that after the War, Great Britain's demand for cane sugar will so extend cultivation that every available labourer in British Guiana and the islands will find the fullest scope for his efforts in his native land, at good wages.

The West Indian, however, is but one aspect of the matter. Canada is confronted by the colour question from more than one point of view. British Columbia, for instance, is still exercised with regard to Hindus and Chinese. We have ample evidence that even now the experts in that Province are by no means agreed as to the policy to be pursued. That evidence is to be found in the testimony tendered before the Dominion Royal Commission in Canada last year. Take, for example, the opinion held by MR. ERNEST MCGAFFEY, Secretary of the Bureau of Provincial Information for British Columbia. Replying to SIR GEORGE FOSTER, he said:—"I would favour absolutely an exclusion of the Chinese, and, as far as possible, Orientals, although at the present time war conditions make the inhabitants of India and Japan our allies [*sic.*], and that presents a very difficult proposition to handle. As far as Chinese are concerned, I would favour excluding them absolutely."

On the other hand we find the Secretary to the Prime Minister of the Province declaring that there is one phase of Oriental labour that is not dangerous, and that to meet the great need of cheap labour in clearing and cultivating land and for domestic service he would Chinese them *ad lib.* He found them less objectionable than many of the races of Southern Europe. The difficulties of dealing with Japanese and Hindus were much greater. Another witness, MR. PALMER, Vice-President of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, favoured the removal of all restrictions on the introduction of labour, white or coloured, required for agriculture. Yet another witness, representing the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, suggested that for five years from the declaration of Peace Orientals should be excluded from coming in. Many people will

agree with this witness, that the Oriental question "is one of the biggest we have got in the Dominion." Canada desires to secure her labour supply, and at the same time to keep the Dominion a white man's land. She desires also to play after the war, as she has done so magnificently during hostilities, a worthy part as a constituent nation of the Empire, and to contribute to the solution of Imperial problems. It is a hard task to meet these varied demands, and her statesmen deserve sympathy in the attempt to find a worthy solution.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The German reply to the Vatican is the apotheosis of hypocrisy. Belgium is never mentioned, and not a word is said which suggests that the Central Powers desire to ask for terms. Apparently, then, they are still determined to dictate peace. One says apparently of purpose, for the real mind of Germany is being revealed in other directions. In the first place she is trying to use Belgium as "a pawn" in what is called *camouflage* diplomacy—that is diplomacy aimed at furthering German interests by working on sympathetic elements of the population in Allied and neutral countries; in the second place she is studying the maritime and economic situation as it is being developed against her by her adversaries. The result is that she has come to the conclusion that if she is to be free on the seas she must "dominate" them, and that because she does not "dominate" them such an economic situation has been created for the Central Powers that they cannot win the present war. Their endeavours are, therefore, being directed to averting retribution in an economic form and to manoeuvre for position in the "next" war. That is, Germany proposes to evacuate Belgium if Walloony and Flanders are separated, if Germany has full economic freedom in Belgium and free access to Antwerp, an impudent proposal, which is an outrage on hypocrisy. But Germany further defines "the freedom of the seas" by eliminating the Baltic and Black Seas, since in the Note to the Vatican she refers to the "freedom of the *high seas*," a limitation hitherto unknown to those who use the phrase.

The New British Thrusts.

During the past ten days, with improved weather conditions the British in Flanders have made notable advances; to the north-east, in the direction of the Passchendaele height, and ultimately of Roulers, to the south-east, in the direction of the Gheluvelt height, and, ultimately, of Menin. On September 20th, on a front of eight miles, our troops won such strong and bitterly contested positions as Inverness Copse and Glencorse Wood, Gallipoli and Anzac Redoubts, besides half of Polygon Wood, Tower Hamlets, and many farms. As usual in a British advance tactics, organisation, co-operation, and the efficiency of all arms were perfect. Moreover, if the dash and confidence of the men proved irresistible in the first onset, equal tenacity was shown on holding the ground gained against heavy enemy counter-attacks. At one or two points he recovered a footing, at the Tower Hamlets, for instance. But this

was to be accounted for in the difficult nature of the terrain, including a swamp on one side. The following week the British made another deep thrust on a rather shorter front, advancing east of Julian, half-a-mile across country, well defended by fortified farms and redoubts. To the south the Zonnebeke height, close to the Ypres-Roulers road and about half-way to Passchendaele, was stormed, and the enemy's defences penetrated to a depth of a mile. As for the Polygon Wood, it has been completely occupied together with the German trench system to the east of it. Another source of deep satisfaction to the British High Command is the complete capture of the Tower Hamlets spur, besides the strong enemy field works on its eastern slopes. By these important gains on the sickle-shaped line of ridges, which extends from Langemark to Messines, the British have established themselves half-way to Roulers and half-way to Menin.

The enemy, on his side, has been dealt a severe blow, apart from the value of the ground he has lost. For when the Allies broke down the elaborate system of defences, which he considered impregnable on the Somme and the Ancre, he devised a new one, on which the German High Command have exhausted their greatest art and scientific training. Unlike the old it does not run on clearly marked lines. The pattern is irregular, and so cleverly are shell holes incorporated in the scheme that they look like a part of the surrounding desolation. Linked up with them are concrete dug-outs, which are constructed level with the ground, for the most part held by excellent troops, who, to do them justice, put up a stout resistance in them. These defences extend far back in the rear of the German front in varying degrees of strength. But, unfortunately for those who designed them, the British can carry them as they carried the most redoubtable positions in the trench system of the Somme. For if the enemy can devise a new defensive organisation, the British can devise offensive tactics to carry it, as they are demonstrating to his discomfiture. True, the concrete "pill-boxes" can be knocked out by artillery only when accident favours, but they can be, and are, taken by British and Dominion, who are earning new claims on the enemy's reluctant esteem. He will have to try again, and in more difficult circumstances. For our troops are winning the heights which he has occupied so long. It will be his turn this winter to bear the hardships of the flat, moisture sodden plains.

The capture of Zonnebeke will send a thrill of profound satisfaction through the British Army. It was lost, after a splendid stand, in the second Battle of Ypres, eighteen months ago.

As we go to press the news reaches us of a further brilliant advance, which took place on October 4th, and has resulted in over 4,000 prisoners being left in our hands and in capturing all our objectives.

Chaos in Russia.

The military situation on the Eastern front fluctuates in its state of semi-quiescence. One day it was reported that the Germans had lost a position south of the Pskoff road, with 400 killed; the next day, that they had entered Jacobstadt, on the Dwina.

None of the transport, industrial, or financial problems, with whose solution the participation of Russia in the war are bound up, have been seriously tackled, so that the Army is threatened with starvation and a dangerous shortage of munitions. General Alexieff has resigned, as none of his suggestions with regard to the restoration of military discipline and efficiency are being carried out. The Hetman of the Don Cossacks, General Kaledin, declines to go to Petrograd, as his personal safety cannot be assured. M. Kerensky has resigned from the Council of the Soviet, the body consisting of extremists, who have hitherto controlled the course of events in Russia and brought her to her present pass. The truth of the matter is, that as the present Government does not command the forces, which alone could enable it to perform its function, and, in consequence, there is no Government in Russia at all, the situation is so full of danger, that it cannot last much longer. General Korniloff failed in his attempt to seize the helm of State, but another strong man may succeed.

On the Julian Front.

This part is divided into five sectors—the Bainsizza plateau, half won at the beginning of the present offensive; the Ternova plateau, separated from the Bainsizza plateau by the upper valley of the Chiapavano and guarded on the west by San Gabriele; the depression of Gorizia, from which wind the great roads to Laibach and Trieste, bounded by the San Marco hills, still held by the enemy, the Carso plateau, one part of which is now in Italian hands; the towering Hermada, separated from the Carso by the Brestovizza Valley, itself open to the shells of British monitors, but sweeping the southern part of the Carso with fire is well as the low ground on the coast. The most bitter fighting centres on the upper slopes of San Gabriele, though neither side can win the crest on which no living thing dare venture. Because the Austrians realize its vital importance to their whole system of defences down to the sea, they have heavily reinforced their line. Never was there such a concentration of men and guns on such a narrow point, 200 yards.

The War in the Air.

The series of moonlight raids, which began on Sept. 2nd was continued for a week. On Sept. 24th Gothas invaded the south-east coast, though only two of the raiders were able to reach the outskirts of London. At the same time the coasts of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire were invaded by Zeppelins, which dared not venture further inland on account of our gunfire. On the following night there was another raid, this time in Kent, Essex, and the London area, but considering the number of bombs dropped the casualties were light. There was some damage to property. None of the raiders was brought down, but it must be remembered that a swiftly moving aeroplane is a difficult target at any time. But the course of the recent attacks demonstrate that the efficiency of London's air-defences is steadily increasing.

These raids were continued on September 28th, 29th and 30th, and on October 1st. As many as four groups were engaged in the task, and evidently

with the intention of bombing London, to reach which determined efforts were made at intervals in different directions. They met with such a hot reception, however, that few penetrated the outer defences, and when they did their efforts at destruction were relatively small. The idea of these raids is to create such fear in our people that they will demand the withdrawal of machines from the Western Front. But our people are made of better stuff, and take the worst the marauders can do philosophically, knowing very well that our aviators are performing infinitely more important work in Belgium, where they are ceaselessly raiding the enemy's military places and communications, than they would in augmenting the defence at home.

The Italian inventive genius, which stands deservedly high in the world, has been invested with new distinction by the airtion feats of Captain Laureati, who, in the latest and most improved Italian machine, made a non-stop flight from Naples to Turin and back again (900 miles) in 10 hrs. 10 mins., and from Turin to London (656 miles) in 7 hrs. 22 min. As Vienna is only 200 miles from the Italian Alpine frontier, or within a 400 mile radius, the news of Capt. Laureati's brilliant flights will not be welcomed in Austria.

Devices against the Submarine.

The Admiralty, in a semi-official statement, shed a little light on the Navy's share in submarine warfare by giving an account of eight successful encounters with "U" boats. The enemy craft were sunk (1) by gunfire, (2) torpedo, (3) a bomb from a seaplane, (4) a bomb from a warship. There is another device for dealing with these pests of the sea which cannot be given publicity. It is so effective that, combined with the highly efficient air service, which patrols the Channel and North Sea in co-operation with warships for the protection of merchantmen, fully accounts for the relative decline in shipping losses, and for the fact that "U" boats are seeking the more distant trade routes for their depredations. But this device puts an extra strain on the courage and self-sacrifice of our seamen.

The French, on their side, have invented a microphone, with which all ships will soon be supplied. By its means the presence of an enemy submarine can be detected and its distance and direction established by its opponent, which has then a chance of escaping by manœuvring. An older device for circumventing "U" boats has been in use in the Navy since the Battle of Jutland. It is a smoke-box, which is so constructed and manipulated as to create a smoke screen, which baffles the enemy submarine. It will be remembered that in a recent engagement off the Flemish coast the Germans complained that they could not use their land batteries because of a smoke screen.

General Maude's Victory.

The Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force has another decisive victory to its credit. At Ramadie, near the Euphrates, and 62 miles from Bagdad, the Turks were skilfully outflanked, encircled, and completely surprised. In the rout which ensued several

thousands of prisoners were captured, including the Turkish Commander and his Staff, besides much war material. The battle was on mobile lines of warfare, and so cavalry was used in it to good purpose. As the Turks, with German aid, under General von Falkenhayn, are known to be preparing for an offensive in Asia Minor, now that Russia is temporarily out of the running, it is as it should be that General Maude should have got a shrewd "blow in first."

Shipping Losses.

In the week ended September 23rd 12 large vessels and 2 small ones were sunk, and in the following week the figures were 9 and 2 respectively.

The Admiralty announces the loss of a torpedo boat. There were 50 survivors.

(To be continued.)

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to, West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

His many friends will congratulate Mr. George Williams, of St. Lucia, upon his appointment to a seat on the Legislative Council of the island, in succession to Mr. Emanuel du Boulay.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to approve of the re-appointment of Mr. George Fitzpatrick to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago.

WE commence in this issue a series of articles, descriptive and commemorative, of the "Flag Day," held in the West Indies on behalf of our Contingent Fund. British Guiana, which has raised the largest amount, leads the way. Accounts of "Flag Day" in the islands will follow in due course.

IT will be of interest to our friends in Jamaica to know that their gift aeroplane, known as "Jamaica I.," which, by the way, is piloted by an Australian and carries a Bahamian officer as observer, is reported to be doing excellent work at the front, having recently brought down four enemy machines.

A HUNDRED or more years ago malaria was rife in England, just as yellow fever was in New York, and it is disconcerting to learn that it has made its appearance again. So many cases of malaria have occurred among the troops in North-East Kent that the Local Government Board has scheduled it as a notifiable disease.

HIS old friends in Barbados will be glad to hear that their former Bishop, Dr. Mitchinson, is active

despite the 84th birthday, which he has just celebrated. Since his return from the West Indies, more than thirty years ago, the Bishop has filled, and still retains, several important offices. Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, he is also a Canon of Gloucester.

Few peers have experienced a more varied career than Viscount Mountmorres. He is remembered in Jamaica, which he visited at the time of the earthquake in 1907, and as a Director of the Tropical Institute in connection with Liverpool University. He has travelled far and written much. In recent years he took Orders in the Church of England, and has now been appointed to the living of St. Peter, Swinton, Yorkshire.

His many friends in West Indian circles will congratulate heartily Mr. Charles Alexander Harris, C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O., of the Colonial Office, upon his appointment as Governor of Newfoundland, and his promotion to a Knighthood of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Secretary to the West India Royal Commission in 1882, he became, a few years later, Assistant Secretary to the International Conference on Sugar Bounties. In 1901-4 he ably conducted the British case in the Brazilian boundary question.

THE engagement is announced, in the *Times*, of Commander James M. Begg, R.N., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Begg, of No. 1, Chesterford Gardens, Hampstead, and Leila Virginie, elder daughter of Sir Edward Cameron, K.C.M.G., Governor of Gambia, West Africa, and Lady Cameron. Sir Edward is widely known in the West Indies where, over a period of many years, he held administrative positions in various islands. He was also Chairman of the West Indian delegates to the Reciprocity Conference at Ottawa in 1912.

VALUE and variety alike have distinguished many of the curios cheerfully sacrificed by collectors on behalf of the Red Cross Funds. Sometimes a gift of this kind, on being offered for sale by auction, has been found more valuable than its possessor had suspected. This has been the experience of a Trinidad lady. A hot-water jug, inherited from her ancestors, was contributed. Advertised as a most perfect specimen of Elizabethan ware, it realised in open competition £600. The purchaser, a connoisseur, now says that he would refuse an offer of £1,000!

TIME was when Barbados was governed by a notable Scottish Chieftain—Sir Evan Murray MacGregor, Bt., K.C.B. Sir Evan was allied with another famous clan, having married Lady Elizabeth Murray, youngest daughter of John, fourth Duke of Atholl. As it is seventy-six years since Sir Evan died—while in office—his regime is too remote to permit of personal reminiscences. His name has been revived by the news of the death of his youngest daughter, Amelia, who has passed away at Perth in her 89th year. Miss MacGregor was at one time a frequent visitor to Balmoral, and

Queen Victoria conferred upon her the Badge of St. Katherine Hospital and the Jubilee Medal.

OUR contemporary, *Near East*, pays tribute to the loyalty of the Indians in British Guiana, many of whom, it says, have been keen to enlist in the British Army. *Near East* adds:—

"On a certain plantation on the west coast of the Demerara River several indentured East Indian labourers offered themselves as recruits for one of the contingents sent by the colony. Three of these were informed that they could not be accepted because they did not know English. After a time they returned to the manager of the plantation, telling him that they had been studying the language for the past three months, and considered that they were now efficient, and wished to be sent to the front, "to finish the war." Two of these had not yet completed their first indenture term of five years, and their desire to go to the front may, therefore, be taken as an indication that the East Indians in that colony appreciate the good treatment which they receive. Another Indian in British Guiana has devised a means of counter-acting submarines, and he is anxious that his plan should be placed before the Admiralty in order that the submarine menace may be overcome."

THE homeward mails bring news that Trinidad is to be furnished with a new daily paper. This journal represents no addition to the number of West Indian publications. It takes the place of the late *Mirror*. To quote a St. Vincent contemporary:—"From the ashes of the defunct journal, a new and vigorous enterprise has come forth. Under the auspices of The Trinidad Publishing Company, which was formed for the purpose of taking over the defunct *Mirror*, a new paper bearing the title of *The Trinidad Chronicle* was to appear on the 1st of August, the Editor being Mr. Partridge, late sub-editor of the Demerara *Argosy*. The Trinidad Publishing Company has a capital of \$50,000, divided into five hundred \$100 shares. The Board of Directors are Sir Norman Lamont, Chairman, and Messrs. A. H. Cipriani, Edward Pitts, T. Geddes Grant, George F. Huggins, and L. A. P. O'Reilly, with Mr. David Morrin as its Secretary."

LORD SYDENHAM, formerly Governor of Bombay, has contributed to the correspondence appearing in the *Times* on the subject of the development of tropical Australia. In the course of his letter, Lord Sydenham says:—

"In deference to some Indian susceptibilities, the system of indentured labour has recently been abolished, and we do not know how the new arrangements will operate. The latest report on this system by a very able Bombay civil servant and an experienced Indian, who inquired into its working on the spot, showed that, in spite of some defects—easily removed—large numbers of indentured Indians had succeeded and were succeeding in bettering their conditions to an extent which would have been impossible if they had remained at home. These poor people had escaped from the tyranny of caste customs, and were able to find scope for their natural abilities. It may, therefore, be expected that emigration will continue; but it will not assume large dimensions, and if it proves to be narrowly limited, some tropical portions of the Empire will suffer severely."

Lord Sydenham lends the weight of his opinion to the belief that "all experience has proved that in the tropics white labour in the field and in mines is impossible, and this policy can be maintained only by sacrificing the economic interests of Australia."

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.

THE COLONIES' CORDIAL RESPONSE.

£2,250 received to date.

The war has established "Flag Day" as a British institution. So long as hostilities continue, so long will the public welcome and support a picturesque method of practical remembrance of our gallant wounded and of their need of comforts. Large donations are the privilege of the few. "Flag Day" is the opportunity of the many. The coppers dropped into the collecting-boxes of the young ladies who brighten our drab London streets are never missed. The individual outlay is small. The grand total is considerable. Not only the maimed heroes of the Imperial Army, but their injured comrades in the Allied Forces have benefited by the results of this popular enterprise. Many thousands of pounds have been raised, and more thousands will yet be contributed towards an object which can never fail in its appeal to the heart of every patriot.

In their support of the Imperial cause the West Indies have maintained the traditions of a glorious past. In men and money, in gifts of clothing, of ambulances, of aeroplanes, of fruits, and in other directions, the spirit of generosity which has ever characterised the warm-hearted residents of the Caribbean has found abundant expression. The Contingent Fund, established in London for the benefit of the men from the West Indies serving with His Majesty's Forces, has never lacked support. With a view to enabling every man and woman in the Western tropics, however rich, however poor, to give his or her quota in aid of this good work, the honorary secretary of the Fund (Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall) took steps early in the present year to organise a "Flag Day" in every one of the constituent Colonies.

The sympathy and approval of the Colonial Office were secured, and communications opened up with the respective Governors. Their Excellencies were informed that the Contingent Fund Committee would supply flags and collecting-boxes, and it was suggested that in each colony a Ladies' Committee should be organised immediately. These flags, it was stated, would consist of silk emblems for sale at 3d. each, and cardboard badges at 1d. each, the badge of the British West Indies Regiment, in colours, being represented in each case. The Colonial Bank evinced practical interest in the project by consenting to send over the net proceeds free of charge. Accordingly it was suggested that the takings, after the deduction of expenses, should be paid into the local branches of the Colonial Bank for transmission to London.

Nearly 400,000 Flags sent out.

Some 400,000 flags were sent out in this proportion:—

British Guiana	158,600
Jamaica	85,100
Barbados	65,100
Leeward Islands	23,500
Trinidad	25,500
Bahamas	20,100
Windward Islands	20,000

It had been hoped that the "Flag Day" would be held simultaneously throughout the West Indies. This suggestion, however, proved to be impracticable. Trinidad led the way on June 30th; British Guiana following suit on July 2nd. Until we receive reports from all the colonies it is impossible to give the total proceeds.

The total sum received so far is £2,250 14s. 4d.

This amount includes the following contributions:—

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana	1,012	11	7
Barbados	525	3	6
Trinidad	257	12	8
St. Kitts-Nevis	138	8	6
Antigua	119	7	8
Montserrat	60	0	0

As the expenses incurred by the Contingent Committee in the provision of flags, collecting boxes, etc., amounted to £680 1s. 5d., the net benefit to the Fund, thus far, is £1,570 12s. 11d. We propose to publish a series of articles, of which this is the first, dealing with the efforts made in each colony.

British Guiana's Effort.

No colony in the Caribbean holds a finer record of War service than British Guiana. In many varied forms it has evinced its sympathy with the Imperial cause. Particularly warm has been the interest of the residents in the needs of our soldiers. Comforts for fit and wounded alike have been forthcoming in generous measure, and the Red Cross Society's funds constantly receive handsome additions from "the Magnificent Province." In fact, it was a collection in aid of blind soldiers which rendered it advisable to postpone for a time the holding of a "Flag Day." The repeated efforts of the colony in the domain of philanthropy rendered easy the execution of the new scheme. The Government Secretary, Mr. Clementi, in reply to the Contingent Fund Committee, was able to state that the existing organisation was able to meet this new call upon its patriotism. The arrangements for the "Flag Day" were immediately taken in hand by Mr. J. B. Cassels, Director of the firm of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the British Guiana Branch of the Contingent Fund, and by Mrs. H. W. Sconce, wife of the Director of Primary Education, who, assisted by lady helpers, have on several occasions carried through successfully projects on behalf of the Red Cross.

Flags to the number of 158,600, together with 1,000 collecting-boxes, were sent out and the "Flag Day" was held on July 2nd. The highest tribute to the organising capacity of Mr. Cassels, Mrs. Sconce, and their helpers, is probably to be found in the financial result of the effort. The net proceeds amounted to £1,012 11s. 7d. Organisation, however efficient, can accomplish little unless enforced by popular support. Happily this was forthcoming in generous measure. Georgetown, of course, was all aglow. The country districts, however, shared eagerly in the enthusiasm. While the county of Demerara made the largest contribution to the total sum collected, Berbice and Essequibo subscribed according to means and opportunity. Prior to the "Flag Day" placards had been posted in the villages, and posters were sent to the schools; many of the teachers

turing to the children on the meaning of the day, and on the part which the sons of Guiana are taking in the fighting at the Front.

From an early hour on the morning of July 2nd the flag-sellers were "right there." Throughout the colony the emblem of the British West Indies Regiment was emblazoned on every coat and dress. The helpers saw to that. If you escaped them, well, your powers of evasion must have been quite remarkable. Hustling is neither easy nor customary in a tropical climate. But this occasion was exceptional. Workers and contributors, alike, remembered that more than four thousand miles away—in some cases ten thousand miles away—were men who had left home and business, ease and comfort, to fight, and if need be die, for a great cause, and to give the West Indies an abiding place in the record of a world-wide sacrifice. To-day those men were kept in mind. Business was carried on, but the thoughts of men and women and children, to many of whom Europe and Asia are but names on a map, were centred on their sons and brothers encamped in those far away regions. Cairo, Salonica, France, had been brought perceptibly nearer, if only in mental vision, to Georgetown, Suddie and New Amsterdam. Distance seemed diminished. A square inch or so of silk and a coloured badge revived thoughts higher and deeper than buying and selling, and furnished new strands for the bond of Empire.

One incident, perhaps, was typical of many. A certain lady who, early in the afternoon, had disposed of all her favours, expressed herself as very pleased with her takings and spoke in glowing terms of her reception by the public. Indeed, says the local press, "The public seemed to have got into the spirit of the thing and by about midday everybody was gaily bedecked with favours, some of them having to resort to their headgear in order to find somewhere to pin them." The young ladies, whose importunity gave rise to not a few amusing incidents, had chosen, in several instances, costumes at once picturesque and patriotic. Thus we read: "Little Miss Verrill, dressed in khaki and wearing putties and the cap of a British Tommy, was a very striking figure about the city and certainly made things hum as she was whisked here and there in an Overland, accompanied by her sister and mother. By the jingle of the coins in her box, too, it would seem that she was one of the successful ones."

As a result of the effort a total sum of \$5,036.90 was raised by the Colony. Local expenses were restricted to the small amount of \$176.51, the Continent Fund thus being enriched by \$4,860.39 (£1,012 11s. 7d.). Mr. Cassels, in announcing the result and in conveying thanks to those who co-operated with him, says the collections may be summarised as follows:—

The County of Demerara is responsible for	2,631.31
of which the City of Georgetown alone put up	\$1,161.84
and the Country Districts	\$1,469.47
The County of Berbice comes next with	818.76
The County of Essequibo with	580.92
Then there are voluntary subscriptions amounting to	1,005.91
Making a total of	5,036.90
Less local expenses	176.51
Net proceeds	4,860.39

The Lady Collectors.

The following is the list of lady collectors:—

GEORGETOWN.—Mrs. Rees-Davies, Main Street; Mrs. C. Hampden King, Kingston; Mrs. Couyers and Mrs. Thelwall, Cummingsburg, Bourda, Alberttown; Mrs. E. A. V. Abraham, Lacytown and Queenstown; Mrs. Jenniot, Werk-en-Rust and Wortmanville; Mrs. F. C. Yearwood, Charlestown and Albuoystown; Miss A. Sykes, Water Street; Miss Kathleen Humphrey, Humphrey's premises; Mrs. S. E. Barnes, Stabroek and the Market; Mr. W. H. Cook, Lodge; Mrs. Gravesande, Lombard Street and La Penitence; Master George Gonsalves, Extra; Mrs. Coniber, and Self-Help Depot.

EAST COAST.—Mrs. C. King, Kitty, Bel Air and Turkeyen; Mrs. Stoute, Plu. Ogle; Mr. and Mrs. D. Clarke, Plu. La Bonne Intention; Mrs. Walker, Triumph and Beterverwagting; Mr. Oswald, Plu. Mon Repos; Mr. MacKenzie, Plu. Laisignan; Mr. Insey, Plu. Nonpareil; Mrs. Bugle, Buxton; Mr. Mcarns, Plu. Hope; Mr. C. H. Easton, Plu. Eumore; Mr. C. A. Trotman, Golden Grove and Nabacalis; Mr. N. J. A. and Miss Bascom, Plu. Cove and John; Mr. D. T. A. Jones, Victoria and Belfield; Mr. C. A. Simon, Cloubrook and Bee Hive; Rev. Chas. Stephen, Mahaica; Mr. F. Glasgow, Leper Asylum and Spring Hall; Mrs. MacAdam, Mahaicony; Mr. Jos. Edmunds, Plu. La Bonne Mere, and Mrs. Elstob, Plu. Cane Grove and Virginia Village.

EAST BANK, ETC.—Mrs. Stevenson, Plu. Ruinveld; Mrs. Josa, Bagotstown and Agricola; Mr. A. E. Bratt, Peter's Hall and Providence; Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. Beach, Plus. Diamond and Farm; Mr. H. Deverill, Plu. Wales; Mr. R. C. Curtis, Vreed-en-Hoop and Pouderoeyn; Mr. Patterson, La Grange and the Canal Valder; Mrs. Hunter, Plu. Versailles; Mr. S. Dolphin, Parika; Mrs. Graham, Plu. Tuschen; Mrs. Fung-Kee-Fung, Blaukenburg and Windsor Forest; Mrs. A. M. Hale, Met-en-Meerzorg and De Willem; Mr. S. Brookes and Mrs. Brookes, amongst Sea Defence employees on the West Coast; Mrs. J. B. Wallace, Plu. Uytngt; Mrs. G. E. Anderson, Plu. Leontora; Mrs. Larrouy, Christianburg, Rockstone and Wismar; and Mrs. Norman Spencer, Mallali.

ESSEX.—Mrs. A. A. Layton, Plu. Hamburg and Sandgrove; Miss L. L. Layton, Adventure and Oudernieuwing; Mrs. Booth, Iihiermia Maria's Lodge, Aurora, etc.; Mrs. A. S. Dongal, Golden Fleece and Queenstown; Dr. Teixeira, Anna Regina, Aberdeen, etc.; Mrs. E. A. Matthews, Wolga; Mrs. J. A. Laing, Wakanaam; Rev. Townsend, Bartica; Mr. E. H. King, Morawhanna; Mrs. A. E. Craig, Tavmouth Manor and Three Friends, and Mr. I. I. Percival, Potaro.

BERBICE.—Mrs. W. M. Shields, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Wreford and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Ahlenstetts, New Amsterdam; Dr. Q. B. De Freitas, Lunatic Asylum; Mrs. Edgar Beckett, Edinburgh to Glasgow; Mr. A. E. Van R. de Groot, Plu. Bath; Mr. J. R. C. Gordon, Plu. Blairmont; Mr. G. J. Wickham, Plu. Friends; Mrs. Quiek, Adelphi Village and New Forest; Mr. E. Dantley Griffin, Calenni; Mr. G. M. Pieteers, Baracara; Mr. H. A. McLean, Springlands; Mrs. A. E. Jones, Fort Wellington and Lichfield; Mr. J. R. Parnell, Plu. Skeldon; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gilson, Plu. Port Mourant; Mrs. Ilec, Plu. Allion; Mrs. W. B. Warr, Plu. Providence; Mr. and Mrs. Essex, Maida to No. 70; and Mr. L. G. Worm, Plu. Mara.

THE Postmaster-General announces that a mail, containing parcels for Jamaica which reached London or were posted there on June 19th and 20th last, has been lost at sea through enemy action.

MR. WALTER LONG, M.P., has been requested by the War Cabinet to take control of all questions affecting petroleum oils and petroleum products. Professor Cadman, C.M.G., of the University of Birmingham, who was Government Mining Engineer in Trinidad and Tobago in 1904, will be Mr. Long's technical adviser, and will assume the title of Director of the Petroleum Executive.

HURRICANE IN JAMAICA.

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

The King's Sympathy.

The friends of Jamaica resident in Great Britain have been greatly concerned to hear of the hurricane which overtook the island on Sunday, September 23rd. News was promptly cabled to this country by the Colonial Government and Press correspondents, but it was not until the following Friday that the public became aware, from more detailed telegrams, of the full extent of the damage. It was then ascertained that there had been loss of life, and that in addition to damage to cultivation several buildings had been destroyed.

The West India Committee have received from the Colonial Office a copy of the following cable from the officer administering the Government of Jamaica, dated September 26th:—

"With reference to my telegram 23rd September, hurricane severe in St. Thomas and Portland. In St. Thomas, Wireless Station, Bowden, seriously damaged and Cable Office West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Holland Bay, destroyed. At Bath, Court House and many houses destroyed; many buildings at Port Antonio damaged. Following places report damage not serious to buildings; Annotto Bay, Port Maria, Richmond, Stanns Bay, Falmouth, Montego Bay, Maudeville, Lucea, Savanna-la-Mar. As regards bananas no details yet received of sufficient value, and in view of importance of this industry advisable to await these. Considerable damage to coco-nuts, but cacao it is not generally thought will be so severely damaged as last year, but afraid considerable damage to native foodstuffs except the reports hitherto received from Stann, Trelawny, St. James, Manchester, indicate no particular damage except as regards bananas.

"Loss of life seven in Portland.

"Railway reports line undamaged; total cost of other damage, £3,000 all trains running schedule time since Monday. Public buildings slightly damaged, except Thomas and Portland £5,000, which together with damage to roads and telegraphs throughout island can probably be met from existing votes. Above compiled from official report; newspaper reports generally show damage not so severe as last year except in case of St. Thomas and Portland."

An expression of the King's sympathy with the sufferers was promptly cabled by Mr. Long (who also telegraphed his personal condolences) in the following terms:—

"The King commands me to inform you that he has been distressed to learn that the Colony of Jamaica has again been visited by a destructive hurricane. His Majesty deplors the losses sustained by the Colony, and he desires that you should make known his sincere sympathy with those who have suffered, and especially with the relatives of those who have lost their lives."

Sixteen Lives Lost.

The Colonial Office also forwarded to the West India Committee a copy of the following cablegram from the Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated September 26th, 1917:—

"In continuation of my telegram of 26th September, I now report as follows:—

"(1) Bananas, all bearing trees down but situation

in whole island is better than it was after hurricane last year, because of large quantity of new plants which have not been destroyed. Fruit will commence to be cut in May or June. St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, St. Catherine, suffered in order named. St. James suffered considerably less, namely not more than 25 per cent. 1918 crop.

"(2) Coco-nuts: St. Thomas 40 per cent. trees down, Portland East 30 per cent. trees, and Portland West 7 per cent. trees down, St. Mary 3 per cent. trees down, other parishes practically no trees down.

"(3) Cacao in eastern parishes only fruit down, in some places half of crop in others less, but not so seriously damaged as last year.

"(4) Native foodstuffs in the east seriously damaged. I desire to thank you for your kind message expressing sympathy, which was duly published, and will refer to my telegram above referred to which no doubt crossed your telegram of September 26th. Lives lost have now been reported to be sixteen. Generally, except for bananas, damage not serious in the west half of the island.—JOHNSTONE."

The First News.

The first news of the disaster, from an official source, was the following cable from the officer administering the Government of Jamaica, received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on Sept. 23rd, and published in the Press on Wednesday, the 26th:—

"Regret to inform you that a cyclone passed over the island early this morning, centre to north of Kingston, travelling in a north-westerly direction; greatest velocity of wind 55 miles; practically no damage in Kingston, but telegraphic communication interrupted outside, therefore unable to report as yet extent of damage. Further report will be sent.—JOHNSTONE."

A cable, received by the Direct West India Cable Co., on September 24th, read:—

"23rd. Tail-end hurricane passed over Kingston two to five a.m.; heavy squalls and rain continue. Our communication maintained through bay cables. No communication outside points yet. Panama Company Post Office telegraphs: Jamaica entirely cut off. Centre disturbance passed north Kingston."

Those comparatively few members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are still in arrears are requested to forward them direct or to pay them into the Colonial Bank *without delay*.

One of the notable biographies of the year is the life of the late Right. Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., who, it will be remembered, succeeded Mr. Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary in 1903, holding the office for two years. The book, which has been written by Mrs. Lyttelton, has been highly praised by the Press. It contains one reference of direct interest to our readers in British Guiana. In 1900, Mr. Lyttelton was appointed Chairman of a Commission to examine concessions in the Transvaal. A member of the Commission was the late Sir Alexander (then Mr.) Ashmore. The period was just prior to Mr. Ashmore's selection for the office of Government Secretary of British Guiana. Writes Mrs. Lyttelton, with reference to the examination of witnesses by the Commission:—

"Mr. Ashmore had a theory that people with Eastern blood in their veins could control their eyes, their mouths, their hands, but that the toes always betrayed the truth, and accordingly he used to stare fixedly at the beautiful shiny patent leather boots worn by the poor witness."

OUR SUGAR SUPPLY.

Report of the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission on Sugar Supply has issued (White Paper Cd. 8728) its first report, showing the operations of the Commission from date of appointment (August 20th, 1914) to the beginning of December, 1916.

Referring at the outset to sugars imported under licence from the Board of Trade the Commission say:—

They consist mainly of low-class sugars, polarising below 89°, and used, not for refining purposes, but almost exclusively for brewing or for the manufacture of brewing material; and in addition of West Indian crystallised, commonly called "Demeraras." This latter is a special type of sugar, made exclusively for the British market. The total quantity is not large (not more than some 50,000 tons a year), and rather than include it in the sugars dealt in by the Commission, it was found more convenient to leave its importation to be carried on through the usual channels, subject only to the obligation to obtain a licence for each consignment. Later, in the spring of this year, it was found necessary, in view of the effect of scarcity on the prices of such sugars, to take measures to regulate the price at which West Indian sugars should be sold, and arrangements were made whereby a Committee of West Indian brokers undertook to classify such sugar on arrival, and to fix within limits prescribed by the Commission the prices at which it should be sold.

No Hardship at the Outset.

Reviewing the condition of the sugar supply of the United Kingdom during the period under consideration, it may be said that up to the end of 1915 the supply was maintained at a figure showing no reduction as compared with normal times, and that there was nothing in the way of scarcity to cause hardship to the public. Such discomfort as there may have been was owing entirely to difficulties of distribution arising out of railway congestion, and the changes in the character of importation, due to the substitution in respect of refined sugar of imports in large cargoes from distant countries for imports in small consignments from near Continental ports. It was not until the early part of 1916 that reduction in supplies, rendered necessary by exigencies of tonnage and of exchange, became appreciable and sufficient to attract public notice. Even so the inconvenience and disturbance of the public mind resulting from the reduction have been greater than the reduction itself would justify if it could have been evenly distributed over the whole community. It would be no serious privation if the domestic consumption of sugar were to be limited to 7 lb. per head per week of the population. To provide this allowance for the whole civil population of the United Kingdom would not require more than a weekly issue of 14,000 tons. But the weekly issues through the Sugar Commission have during the period of greatest restriction never averaged less than 24,000 tons per week, thus leaving an ample margin for the supply of the naval and military forces and for manufacturing purposes. Obviously, therefore, the problem to be dealt with is one of distribution rather than of quantity. The solution of it is not thereby simplified; on the contrary, it becomes much more difficult and complicated, because regulation of distribution in detail must of necessity demand a highly elaborated system with close supervision of its working, duties which are manifestly far beyond what the Commission could undertake with limited powers and with a small clerical establishment organised with a view to quite other duties, and which for long numbered less than twenty persons in all, and has only recently been increased to twenty-six.

Methods of Purchase.

For its purchases of Mauritius sugar the Commission availed itself of the assistance in 1914 of the Bank of Mauritius and of the Mauritius Commercial Bank in

order to arrange the terms on which the whole crop of white sugar should be placed at the disposal of the Commission, the exportation of it having as a preliminary step been prohibited by the Colonial Government. In 1915 and 1916 the Commission worked through the intervention of the local government, the Mauritius banks assisting in the financing of operations. For purchases in neutral markets, principally North America and Java, the Commission has made its purchases from time to time, at moments which study of the markets led it to think favourable. In the American market it has accepted offers tendered through the principal brokers and agents ordinarily dealing in that market, and transactions have been regulated in accordance with the established conditions of the trade. Thus, no brokerage has been payable by the Commission, as the practice in America is for the vendor to pay the broker's charges. For its purchases in Java the Commission availed itself of the proffered services of Messrs. Maclaine, Watson & Co., the leading firm in Java, through the medium of their London Agents, Messrs. Maclaine & Co. Messrs. Maclaine, Watson & Co. made the purchases from planters, merchants, etc., on a "first cost" basis, and transferred the sugar to the Commission on a "free on board" basis at a price exceeding the first cost price by 25 guilder cents per picul. This extra charge was to cover charges of all kinds, storage, fire insurance, interest, Java brokerage, receiving, weighing, sampling, and lighterage. In addition, Messrs. Maclaine, Watson & Co. were paid a commission of 25 cents per picul on the first 300,000 tons, and 20 cents per picul on any quantity over that amount.

Prices Paid.

The Report says the prices of the several purchases have of course varied with the fluctuations of the market, which directly determined the price paid under each contract in neutral countries. Indirectly, these may be said to have determined also the prices paid in British Colonial markets, as the terms offered by the Commission have always been founded on the prices at which sugars of similar quality were at the time obtainable in other markets. Taking the whole period under review, the Commission is able to say that on this branch of its business it can look back with very solid satisfaction. There have been times, notably at the end of 1914, during which the price of sugar in outside markets has been quoted at rates below those at which the Commission was placing its sugars on the British market. But at those times the quotations have usually been the result of transient influences (including often the Commission's own absence from the market), and have been no true indication of what prices would have been under normal conditions. During the greater portion of the period of the Commission's operations, it is certainly the case that, exclusive of duty, the selling price of sugar in this country has been below that of sugar in New York, notwithstanding the added cost of freight. Thus, at the present moment, eliminating duty, the wholesale price in the United Kingdom of good granulated (the standard quality for refined sugars) is 26/10½ per cwt. To eliminate duty from the New York quotations for a given quality of sugar is not such a simple matter as it is here, owing to the complexities of the American tariff. The calculation may be made in more ways than one; but, taking it on the basis of duty at the highest rate (and therefore the least favourable to us), the "on bond" price in New York on 1st December of good granulated works out at 28/2½ per cwt., or 1/4 per cwt. in excess of the price in this country.

Cost of Conveyance.

The freight for conveyance of sugar was engaged in the open market up to February, 1915; from March, 1915, it has been provided by the Admiralty in vessels requisitioned by it for the public service. The rates payable to the Admiralty have varied from time to time according to circumstances, but have been throughout considerably lower than those ruling in the open market, and thus a considerable economy has been effected for the benefit of the public. In addition to the cost of freight the Commission has debited every cargo with a charge for war insurance of 1 per cent. to 2 per cent., according to circumstances. The total of the marine and war

losses is 61,633 tons, of which the value still leaves a balance to the good on the insurance account of approximately £500,000. The sugar imported being of two distinct kinds, raw and refined, separate methods of marketing were rendered necessary. As regards the relative quantities of each, it may be said roughly that of the total issues of white sugar since the war, three-fifths have consisted of British refined and two-fifths of imported white sugar.

Sale of Raw Sugars.

For the disposal of raw sugars arrangements had to be made with the refiners of the United Kingdom. Negotiations with them were accordingly undertaken in August, 1914, by the Cabinet Committee on Food Supplies, and resulted in an agreement under which all refineries were to be worked to their maximum capacity and on conditions finally prescribed by the Commission. A scale was laid down on which, according to the net analysis of the raws supplied, they should be debited to the refiners; and a price was fixed at which good granulated should be sold by them to the public, it being understood that variations in the quality of the sugars turned out should be marked by equivalent variations in price, in accordance with the recognised relative market prices of the several qualities of sugar. The margin between the prices of the raw sugars and of the refined output was calculated at a figure which should cover all expenses of handling and manufacture and of duty, and should leave a reasonable balance of profit. But, inasmuch as the data for this calculation were uncertain and subject to considerable variation in respect of cost of manufacture, according to the circumstances of the several refineries, a proviso was inserted requiring that refiners should surrender to the Commission any earnings in excess of the amount that would give a profit of 1/- per cwt. on the weight of sugar melted. This method of limiting profits was altered as from 1st July, 1915, and an arrangement was substituted under which profits were limited in accordance with a pre-war standard based on the average profits of each refinery in the three or five years preceding the War. Under both arrangements considerable sums have been paid over to the Commission, and these represent in effect an enhancement of the price paid by the refineries for the raw sugar supplied to them by the Commission.

Sale of Imported White Sugars.

For the purpose of marketing its imported white sugars, the Commission similarly deemed it desirable to work through the established channels of wholesale distribution, both as providing the most convenient and efficient machinery, and as having the further advantage of giving, so far as the circumstances permitted, a continuance of employment to those engaged in the trade as brokers or as wholesale dealers; and arrangements to that end were made with the respective associations of those two classes. In the case of the brokers, who act as intermediaries between importers and dealers, the interference with their interests resulting from the concentration in the hands of the Commission of the whole business of importation was serious and was difficult to meet. It was obviously impossible for the Commission to undertake to distribute its business equitably between the several firms of brokers; it must necessarily transact its business through a very limited number. To meet this difficulty it was arranged in London by the brokers, on the suggestion of the Commission, that a single firm should undertake the whole business of selling, and that the brokerage received for this service (which was fixed at the usual rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) should be pooled, and divided ratably amongst the whole body of London brokers, after deduction of a percentage to cover the costs and remuneration of the distributing firm. Somewhat similar arrangements were made with the brokers in Glasgow and Liverpool. The arrangements have worked very satisfactorily.

The distribution of imported white sugars amongst wholesale dealers and large consumers who were direct buyers having thus been provided for, it remained to make with wholesale dealers arrangements regulating the subsequent dealings in the sugar. It was clear that with supplies limited to a single channel, and with no competitive sources open, it would be necessary to guard

against the danger of traders utilising the situation for the purpose of speculation and of the realising of excessive profits. It would not have been tolerable that after the State had provided adequate, but no more than adequate, supplies of sugar, and had disposed of them at moderate prices, the prices eventually charged to the public should be forced up and excessive profits exacted by the intermediaries through whose hands the supplies reached the final consumer. Accordingly the Commission entered into negotiations with the United Kingdom Wholesale Sugar Dealers' Association as representatives of the class, and arranged that no wholesale dealer handling the Commission's sugars should make a larger profit on his transactions than that afforded by the discount of 2½ per cent.* allowed by the practice of the trade on wholesale purchases either from British refiners or from brokers. A clause specifically defining this condition was included in all contracts for such sales. The Commission is satisfied that, with all the principal dealers, the condition has been loyally observed. Whether it has always been so by the smaller class of dealers, intermediate between the first purchasers and retailers, is more than doubtful. In certain cases breach of the rate has been proved to the Commission, and in those the offence has been punished by enforcing a return to the purchaser and by suspending for a shorter or longer period, according to the gravity of the case, the supply of sugar to the offender. Where this has been done, suitable arrangements have been made to prevent the clients of the offender from suffering.

The variations in the prices of other sugars, such as Javas, have corresponded closely with the variations in the price of good granulated (which constitutes the standard by which prices are determined in the market) with two exceptions:—

- (a) From 14th December, 1914, Mauritius crystals were sold to manufacturers using sugar at a reduced rate of 22½ per cwt., so that, as prices in this country were at the time higher than their competitors in other countries were paying, our manufacturers should not on that account be put at a disadvantage. When the stock of Mauritius crystals was nearly exhausted (June, 1915), the concession to manufacturers was reduced to an allowance of 1/- per cwt. off the full price of white Javas.
- (b) From 22nd September, 1915, to 28th October, 1915, the price of cubes was raised to 50/- per cwt. for the purpose of checking the demand for sugar in that form, it being impossible to maintain a supply equal to the demand.

Retail Prices.

For the purpose of controlling retail prices, the means possessed by the Commission have been very slight; they may be said to have been limited to advising the public from time to time what the fair retail price of sugar should be, and to remonstrance, and in extreme cases stoppage of supplies, where that price was appreciably exceeded. Apart from the immense number of retailers of sugar, and their wide dispersion, an initial difficulty in the way of precise regulation lies in the fact that no single rate per lb. can be suitable for each and every trader. Allowance must be made for differences of circumstance, for locality, which entails variety in cost of carriage, for class of business whether large or small, constant or intermittent, minute or the reverse in its separate transactions, whether cash or credit, and so on. The view of the Commission has been that all such differences of circumstance, however extreme, should be covered by a difference not exceeding ½d. per lb.; and its practice has been to announce from time to time what it considered a fair minimum price per lb. for good granulated and cubes, leaving that to be taken as the standard by which the relative prices of other sugars should be determined. Up to the end of the first half of 1916 the number of complaints of overcharges, though large, was not unmanageable, and the Commission believes that it succeeded very generally in correcting the overcharges complained of: but latterly, owing to the greater pres-

* Since reduced to 1½ per cent. on account of the increase in the duty.

sure resulting from the reduction in importations, correspondence under this head has increased so enormously that it has been hardly possible to keep pace with it.

£81,000,000 Spent on Sugar.

Funds to meet the purchases of the Commission have been provided by the Treasury out of the Vote of Credit. In the earlier stages, while stocks were being laid in, and before sales had become large, the drawings on the Vote were heavy, and in January, 1915, they reached their maximum of £9,980,000. Since then the balance on the account has fluctuated, and at one time (February-May, 1916) was slightly in favour of the Commission. At the present moment (1st December, 1916) the account with the Vote of Credit shows a balance of £758,000 in favour of the Commission. On the other hand, it has a net liability of £4,744,000, being the balance of liabilities, in respect of bills maturing and charges due for freight, over assets, consisting of claims on allied Governments in respect of sugar supplied to them. It is not possible to arrange for payment for purchases in a continuous and even stream. They must be made at intervals determined by the time at which sugars are being shipped, and these are governed largely by the season of the year when the crop comes upon the market in the several countries in which sugar is produced. Thus at times purchases largely exceed sales, while at others the returns from sugar sold operate to redress the balance of the account. The total disbursements and liabilities incurred (including freight) for sugar bought by the Commission up to the end of November, 1916, has been £81,097,000 in respect of a total quantity of 3,951,349² tons divided into 2,163,082 tons of raws and 1,788,267 tons refined. The total sums realised in cash up to the same date have been £75,263,000. Assuming that stocks in hand and in process of importation are disposed of at current rates, the transactions up to date are estimated to show a profit of about £2,000,000, representing no more than about one-eighteenth of a penny per lb. on the sugar supplied.

Since the Proclamation of 26th October, 1914, the Commission has held a virtual monopoly in sugar, and it would have been possible to enlarge the profit on dealings in it to almost any extent. But the view of the Commission has from the first been that this would be to exceed its legitimate functions. It would have converted the Commission into a taxing authority, and rendered it open to the charge of arrogating to itself a power which belongs exclusively to the House of Commons. Accordingly the Commission has fixed its selling prices with a view to earning returns which should do no more than cover all expenses of the Commission, and provide an adequate margin against contingencies. In a word, its financial policy has been to aim at so conducting its business that, when the Commission should be brought to a close, its operations should be found to have been carried out free of cost to the Exchequer, while not imposing upon the public any greater charges than might suffice to cover expenditure.

Amongst the contingencies for which provision must be made, the possible cost of liquidation when the Commission comes to be wound up obviously occupies the first and a large place. The date at which, and the circumstances in which, this event will occur have been, and must continue to be, alike uncertain. What the effect of peace will be on prices it is impossible to predict. But there is at least the possibility that it will be followed by a fall in the price of sugar, and that some loss may have to be met on such stocks as the Commission may then have on hand. In the view of the Commission it would not be safe to fail to provide a substantial margin for meeting this contingency. A subsidiary, but important, object that the Commission has also kept in view is the desirability of avoiding frequent changes in the prices of sugar, as these both disturb the trade and lead to fortuitous gains or losses, as the case may be, upon stocks held by traders. The changes in prices (as distinct from duty) have been no more than four in number since the beginning of the Commission, and the range of variation has not exceeded 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

² This figure includes purchases made on behalf of Allied Governments.

Everyman publishes the following comment:—

"The first report of the Sugar Commission is startling. It informs us that throughout 1916 there was enough sugar issued to provide every individual with, on the average, three-quarters of a pound of sugar per week. We know that we get nothing like that, and the question is, who got it? Have some hoggish persons consumed far too much? or have hoards been accumulated by unpatriotic households with a good address? Anyhow, the Commission appears to have failed in one of its prime functions. The sugar was there, and the mass of consumers did not get it."

WASTEFUL CANE CULTIVATION.

American Indictment of St. Croix.

The primitive and wasteful methods of cane cultivation said to be in force in the former Danish, and now American, West India island of St. Croix, are exposed and condemned by *The Louisiana Planter*. In the course of an interesting article, this journal says:—

"It is an old story that in Cuba the early sugar planters would simply punch a hole in the ground with an iron bar and put a piece of sugar cane in the hole long enough to contain at least one eye, and to press the earth about it down with their foot, and then leave the cane to take care of itself until the weeds grew up, when a labourer, with a machete, would cut them down, until finally the cane began to give shade enough to prevent the loss of the cane in the weeds.

"Something similar to this is now reported as being the method of culture in the former Danish island of St. Croix, now belonging to the United States. It is said that the land is cleared and the undergrowth burned. The tree trunks that cannot be made into firewood are left on the ground to rot. The planting is then done by punching oblique holes into the ground with a sharpened stick. These holes are made about three feet apart and into each of them is inserted a short piece of sugar cane. If the season is favourable the cane soon sprouts and the ground is then cleared of weeds. This weeding is repeated until the cane is tall enough to overshadow the weeds.

Ground Never Irrigated.

"Now comes the crux of the situation. It is said that the ground is never ploughed or irrigated; that the cultivation consists of simply destroying the weeds, which is all done by hand labour, and with a small native pushing hoe. The cane ripens in about ten months and is then ready for cutting. Two or three weeks after cutting the cane leaves are dry enough to burn and the leaves are then fired and the whole field burned off. This, of course, is done in this tropical country and the cane roots soon sprout out again, and the same weeding operations are gone through as in the first planting.

"This process is continued year after year and is said to have been continued on the south side of Cuba to the extent of thirty years and any way is done in St. Croix until it is thought to be unprofitable, or to pay better to replant the fields. The canes are then replanted and a little more attention doubtless given to them, more or less of the logs,

stumps and trash having rotted out, but still the land is not in condition for implemental cultivation. This operation will run along in planting circles of five to ten years, or more, until the impression is that the crops on certain lauds will no longer pay. Such fields are then abandoned and new fields secured.

"In this way we note the wonderful vegetative wealth of the tropical sunshine, rainfall and fertile lands and are led to believe that as long as such methods will secure some profit to the sugar planters they are not very likely to change. The demand in the world at large for sugar is now so great that this old-fashioned, wasteful culture will give too small a quantity for the world's consumption and the great fields in the tropics will necessarily have to be depended upon for a competent sugar supply during the years to come.

The Labour Proposition.

"Even now the labour proposition is exciting great attention in Cuba and this will doubtless be the case throughout all of the tropical cane sugar producing lands. With the scarcity of labour will necessarily come implemental culture and fields clear of stumps and ploughed, as has been done for a century in Louisiana. Even at the present time some efforts have been made to introduce Louisiana cultivation into the British island of Trinidad, it doubtless being far cheaper to go into rather more intense cultivation of sugar cane than to follow this old-fashioned wasteful way of planting cane fields as long and during as many years as has seemed advisable to the proprietors.

"Fifty years ago we were told that the common cycle of cane planting on the north side of Cuba was eight crops in eight years, and on the south side of Cuba it was from twenty to thirty years. This plan of retaining cane during a long series of years is not nearly as common, even in Cuba, as it was formerly and it comes something as a shock to learn that under the management of the Danes they should not have already found and practised the intenser cultivation in St. Croix that will be the salvation of the sugar world by producing cane sugar in large quantities for all mankind."

THE net result of the working of the Direct West Cable Company for the year to June 30th last is that the profit balance is all but doubled, the amount being £27,374, as against £14,705 for the preceding twelve months. But no change is made in the dividend, which is again made up to 6 per cent., tax free, and in consequence the directors are enabled to strengthen the financial position. The balance to credit of revenue account, which was last year £54,749, has been debited with £1,350 applied to dividend and with £6,394 expended in repairs and credited with £24,674 surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £71,680, subject to excess profits duty. It is stated in the report that the company's cables have worked efficiently during the year, but the circulation of the Bermuda-Turks Islands section remains low.

BARBADOS' AMBULANCE GIFTS.

Warm Gratitude of the Red Cross Society.

Barbadian patriotism has assumed many practical forms during the War. The island, however, has attracted especial attention by reason of its contributions to the Funds of the British Red Cross Society and of motor ambulances. The latest gift of £300 brings the total amount collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore to £5,000. Two more cars can now be provided as the gift of the people of Barbados. The news is contained in the following letter, so warmly appreciative, sent to the Secretary of the West India Committee by Mr. Ernest Clarke, Director of the Motor Ambulance Department of the British Red Cross:—

September 20th, 1917

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., enclosing a further contribution of £300 from the people of Barbados towards the Motor Ambulance Fund, collected by our very good friend Mr. F. A. C. Collymore. I note this further contribution brings the total amount collected by Mr. Collymore to the magnificent sum of £5,000, namely £4,600 in cash and the balance in the form of a motor ambulance.

I respond most readily to your suggestion that two more motor ambulances should be supplied from this fund as the gift of the people of Barbados. I have placed an order for two cars, which shall be inscribed as formerly, namely:—

Presented by the People of Barbados.

Will you kindly convey to Mr. Collymore, and as far as possible to the subscribers generally, our most grateful thanks and appreciation for their magnificent and valuable help. I have just returned from another visit of inspection to the Motor Ambulance Convoys in France, and I found everything most satisfactory. The cars are all being maintained in perfect order and are doing a vast amount of useful and necessary work. The cost of maintaining our very large fleet of motor ambulances is a heavy one, and I sincerely trust Mr. Collymore will continue his successful effort to provide us with the funds necessary to maintain the ambulances supplied by the people of Barbados.

I enclose herewith duplicate receipts as requested.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) ERNEST M. CLARKE.

Director, Motor Ambulance Department

Christmas Gifts.

Readers who have relatives or friends serving in the Imperial Forces, other than the British West Indies Regiment, are invited to send to the Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3, the names and addresses of such men, so that they may participate in the coming distribution of Christmas gifts. As it is proposed to send a special gift to every officer, N.C.O., and man in the British West Indies Regiment, through the Commanding Officers, the names of those serving in that unit need not be sent forward. The Contingent Committee are, however, anxious to get into touch with as many men who came over independently as possible, so that they may not be forgotten at Christmas.

THE "LIME REQUIREMENT" OF SOILS.

A writer in *The Tropical Agriculturist*, the journal of the Ceylon Agricultural Society, writes:

"The question as to whether lime is required as a regular part of the routine of 'manuring' on tropical soils still remains unanswered. It has been pointed out by more than one investigator that a different standard of interpretation must be applied to tropical soils as compared with those of temperate or even arid regions. In European countries liming is of ancient practice and investigation has brought out the fact that after long-continued cultivation soils become acid. This soil-acidity thus becomes a limiting factor in crop production. In England the amount of lime necessary for a soil is generally ascertained by analysis; any soil containing less than one per cent. of calcium carbonate will be benefited by liming, whilst those containing below .2 per cent. are unable to support a crop. The establishment of such standard carbonate contents for various soils is not now seriously noticed, because it has been found that there are many soils deficient in carbonate and still quite productive. The determination of 'acidity,' complicated as it is by many little studied factors, also fails to give any very reliable information. In fact, except by field trials, little guidance is afforded by any known methods of chemical analysis.

New Zealand Soils.

"The method of Hutchinson and MacLennan for determining the lime requirement of soils has recently attracted attention, and Wild, of the Canterbury College of Agriculture, has tested the applicability of this method to soils of the Southern Island of the New Zealand. This method (not here described as of interest primarily to agricultural chemists) has been found to give more reliable indications than the ordinary methods of chemical analysis, and can easily be adapted to *our New Zealand soils*. Of more general interest is a consideration by this investigator of some of the possible reasons for the different lime requirements of these soils—particularly a group of certain acid but unresponsive Canterbury soils. The variation in the average lime requirements of these soil groups could not be correlated with their contents of lime, nor with their lime/magnesia ratio. (Some time back Loch found that certain proportions of lime to magnesia must be maintained in certain soils if production is to be satisfactory. In general, it is best that lime should exceed magnesia in amount. Whilst definite instances of infertility, due to the toxic action of magnesia can be shown, still there is little evidence for the theory, as poor and rich soils have been found to contain identical ratios.)

"The mechanical analyses do not suggest that the response of these soils to liming is any way connected with the amelioration of their texture. Nor can it be connected with their potash content, etc. There appears to be some correlation with the differences in the nature and content of organic matter possessed by the various soils, as the acid and unresponsive soils agree with the soils not requiring

lime in having a lower percentage content of 'soluble humus' (i.e., organic matter dissolved by a one per cent. ammonia solution prior to mechanical analysis). Finally, the investigator directs attention to meteorological statistics and finds there the probable explanation for such differences in their lime requirements.

"The acid soils of Canterbury, which do not economically react to dressings of lime, enjoy (a) more moderate rainfall, (b) fewer rainy days, (c) more bright sunshine, (d) higher temperatures than those of Southland, where the benefits of liming are very well-known. The character of the subsoil also reveals that the Southland soils lack good natural underdrainage; this, together with a heavy rainfall, causes the retention of an excessive amount of water, thus encouraging the accumulation of 'sour' humus. The Canterbury soils undergo much more rapid oxidation, so that there is always less soluble humus and less total organic matter in them.

"This conclusion reminds us of Meggitt's Studies of an Acid Soil in Assam, undertaken with a view to ascertain to what particular function of lime its already observed beneficial action on an acid soil was due. All the possible causes of 'a physical, purely chemical biochemical, and physiological nature' were investigated, and the conclusion arrived at was that liming altered or removed a preponderating harmful factor, which masked or counter-balanced the elements of fertility existing in the soil. Such a harmful factor was the presence of toxic compounds with an acid reaction. These toxic compounds are presumed to be easily oxidisable, and the beneficial action of lime was in neutralising acidity and by, perhaps, oxidation and combination rendering such compounds less harmful or even beneficial."

To Remove Harmful Factors.

"Liming should, therefore, be done not so much to correct acidity (unless the crop grown is obviously one that cannot establish itself on a medium giving an acid reaction) as to remove or alter harmful factors. Perhaps the most evident feature of tropical soils is the luxuriant natural vegetation they maintain, despite the conditions that make for soil acidity. If lime is to be applied till the acidic constituents of soils are neutralised enormous quantities at a cost quite prohibitive might have to be applied. Practical experience nevertheless has shown that beneficial results are obtained by applying quantities much below that worked out by the chemist to be their 'lime requirement.' The beneficial action of lime must therefore be attributed to some other function than that of correcting soil-acidity. There is the suggestion of a clue in its oxidising power on toxic compounds easily oxidisable, but retarded in its oxidation by environmental factors. Meggitt quotes Schreiner and Lathrop, who, referring to toxic soils of low oxidisable power, observe that 'liming, draining and the application of good organic manures are the most potent factors in promoting oxidation in soils.'

"Assuming that only part, and not the whole acidity of tropical soils, is made up of acids specifically toxic, a line of attack of this problem is to devise a method to determine what part of the

acidity is due, if at all, to specifically toxic acids. Grantham, in the *Agricultural Bulletin* (F.M.S.), January, 1917, summarises the work done by Truog, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, who distinguishes between 'active' and 'latent' soil acidity; the former being that part which immediately combines with a base. These 'active acids' are supposed to be more injurious than the latter group. They are found to vary in their 'avidity'—a measurable ratio. The greater the avidity of the soil acids the greater is the degree of soil infertility. The investigation appears to be a definite advance towards the elucidation of the problem, and suggests why it might be needless to lime certain acid soils, owing to the very low avidity of the soil acids they contain."

CONTINGENT NOTES.

From the *Gazette*, September 29th:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—The notification in the *Gazette* of July 17 regarding Surg-Capt. W. D. Neish is cancelled.

The Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee will be glad to receive the names of any ladies who will assist in visiting men in hospital.

Three members of the latest Barbados Citizens' Contingent have so far been accepted for service:—R. M. Johnson, by the R.N.A.S., as a Probationary Flight Officer, and J. E. A. M. Crawford and C. K. Nichols, by the Artists' Rifles.

Gifts of warm comforts of all kinds will be most acceptable, as the Contingent Committee will have to supply a much larger number of men with comforts this winter than before. It is hoped that all those interested in the welfare of the Contingent will keep this in mind and send gifts to the Hon. Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

The Grenada *West Indian* of the 20th ultimo, commenting on a rumour that a Merchants' Contingent was formed up in that island, says:—

"We understand now that the rumour is correct and the scheme is assuming practical shape. Although we are against the principle underlying the sending away of West Indians under such conditions, that is to join other regiments and by so doing lose their identity as West Indians, we wish those responsible for the carrying into effect of this scheme every success, as we will be pleased to know that Grenada's merchants and proprietors, like those of other West Indian Islands, are prepared to show their loyalty to the Empire by contributing freely from their purses."

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Second Lieut. J. Prada, Flight-Commander H. G. Bowen, Second Lieut. Jos. B. Kernahan, Capt. Arthur Pantin, Second Lieut. Robert Quesnel, Pte. J. E. Ache, Pte. P. Knox, Pte. D. Pogson, and J. B. Agard, Trinidad; Second Lieut. Hobart C. Phillips, Pte. Harold S. Phillips, Pte. C. I. Proverbs, B. D. Peterkin, J. E. A. M. Crawford, A. P. Cox, C. K. Nichols, E. A. Atwell, W. L. Hutchinson, and Miss Shepherd, Barbados; Capt. David Horn, 2nd Lieut. R. P. Williams, and Cpl. J. L. Cox, B.W.I. Regt.; Drvr. Frank St. J. Hill and Pte. Sharpe, Jamaica;

Hugh A. Frampton, Dominica; Pte. Wm. H. Hazell, St. Vincent; Pte. F. W. Branch, Antigua.

The following gifts of comforts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Mrs. Crum Ewing: 4 prs. socks.
Mrs. M. Hart: 4 prs. socks.
Mrs. George Fryer: 6 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens, 3 mufflers.
Lady Hayes Sadler: 4 prs. socks, magazines.
Mrs. R. Brooke Short (of Trinidad): 6 prs. socks, 1 muffler (for Trinidad Merchants' Contingent).
Mrs. Donald McDonald: 2 mufflers, magazines.
Mrs. George Scoones, per Mrs. John Bromley: 1 muffler, 2 prs. socks.
Miss Pat Austin: 1 muffler.
Bahamas League of the Cross of Geneva: 10 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
I.O. Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 12 prs. socks, 2 chest protectors, 8 mufflers.
Mrs. Leslie: 1 pr. socks.

Since the last list was published, the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Blackden (part proceeds of Moonlight Fete held at Up Park, Jamaica)	144	8	3
Messrs. Sendall & Wade (for St. Kitts and Montserrat men)	10	10	0
G. D. Murray, Esq. (collection in Jamaica)	6	5	7
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (July):—			
Kingston Club	1	1	0
Vincent Hadley, Esq. (June-July)	16	8	
Hon. C. R. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
F. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	3	0	
A. L. Gillezeau, Esq.	2	0	
Ivan Hopley, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	3	15	8

Hon. D. McDonald (further donation) 1 0 0
Lady Carrington (earmarked for Barbados men) 10 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. 3, or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

A son of Trinidad, now "somewhere in Mesopotamia," sends a personal impression of the country where his lot is cast for the time being. He writes:—

For miles and miles along certain parts of the river-Tigris and Euphrates there's nothing but date palms to be seen. Coming from the north these are a pleasant relief as, with microscopical exceptions, they are the only form of vegetation. What a contrast to South American rivers, the luxuriant vegetation of which fills the eye at every turn. There the inter-laced foliage overhangs the banks and forms a natural shelter from sun or rain. Here, once the palms are without the visual radius, monotony reigns supreme. Under the scorching sun, mirage succeeds mirage, and the hitherto gruesome skeleton of a camel is not passed entirely unwelcomed. Objects are anything but distinct, and often there is considerable speculation as to what a certain thing really is. A ridge, a tomb or a mound, all have the appearance of an island floating in space. Incidentally, I might mention that the mirages have been of good purpose both to the enemy and ourselves.

The inhabitants are principally nomad Bedouin and sedentary Arabs, and a small percentage of Jews and

Armenians. Their religion is Mohammedanism, but there are a few Christians such as Assyrians, Chaldeans, Greek Orthodox, etc. Judging from what I've read and gathered, a most curious sect is the Sabean. Borrowing from every religion, theirs must be a strange combination, yet, I understand they remain socially isolated. Though they are the Sabeans of the Book of Job, they have, to keep whole skins under the supremacy of Mohammedanism, interpreted themselves as the Sabeans of the Koran. Doing homage to the pole star, they are otherwise known as the "Star Worshipers." In accordance with the tenets of their religion they always live in proximity to running water, and for this reason also half of each page of their book of prayer is reversed so that, being placed over a stream of water, it can be read by two priests. Theirs is a polygamous creed, and one of their many strange beliefs is that there is water on three sides of the world, and on the fourth there is a large turquoise mountain, the reflection of which explains the blueness of the sky. As silversmiths they are locally unsurpassed. The composition of a black substance—supposed to be antimony and a trade secret with them—wrought into peculiar oriental designs on silver, has made them top dog in this matter. As ship-builders of a peculiar type of river craft called the "Mashoo"—a boat of gracefully curved lines—they again excel.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

PRIVATE H. B. H. BOYCE, only surviving son of Mr. John H. Boyce, of Bird River, Barbados, who enlisted in Canada soon after the outbreak of war, was dangerously wounded on August 26th, and subsequently succumbed to his wounds. He was a prominent member of the Pickwick Cricket Club and Rovers' Football Club in Barbados before he went to the United States, where he was employed until he joined the Colours.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER EDWARD KIRTON BROWNE, R.N. (wireless operator), 1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent, is reported to be among the members of the crew of H.M.S. — who lost their lives on July 15th when their ship was torpedoed. Young Browne, who was a son of Mr. Alfred Browne, Harbour Master, Barbados, was educated at Harrison College, where he showed remarkable ability as a scholar and great promise as an all-round athlete. He took up engineering on leaving school, devoting his spare time to the study of wireless telegraphy, and it was due to his initiative and perseverance that an amateur wireless service was established in Barbados. On the outbreak of war this proved to be of great value to the Colony, and Browne and his associates were commissioned to erect a larger station. In January, 1916, he came over with the 1st Citizens' Contingent to offer himself for active service, and was appointed an Assistant Naval Wireless Operator, being promoted later to the responsible position of a Chief Operator.

PRIVATE A. LOUIS BROWNE, another son of Mr. Alfred Browne, and a member of the 2nd Barbados Citizens' Contingent, who came over in April, 1916, and joined the London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles), has just been reported killed in action. He first went to France at the end of 1916, and in March this year came home to hospital, returning to France only a few months ago. He was attached to another Battalion of the London Regiment, and went into action on September 20th. He reached the objective unharmed, and was sent with a message to another post. After delivering the message he was sniped on the way back.

PRIVATE P. V. BARNES, of the 1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent (son of Mr. W. F. Barnes, of Garrison Hill, Barbados), who enlisted in the London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles) early in 1916, has also fallen a victim to a sniper's bullet. Having been severely wounded on the Somme last year, he was for some months in hospital in England, and only recently returned to France along with Pte. A. Louis Browne, being transferred with him to another Battalion of the London Regiment. Pte. C. G. Archer, of Barbados, who was in the same battalion, writes of his fallen comrades: "They both took part in the advance of September 20th, and both went into the affair cheerily and with good hearts.

They both reached the objectives unharmed, Barnes being in charge of the bombers' section. He fell to a sniper's bullet while rapid-firing to stop the Hun's counter-attack. Both were killed instantaneously, and their death was a swift and painless one. In spite of the fact that they had not been a great while with the platoon, they had won its respect as good fellows, and those who knew them join with me in sending their deepest sympathy to their parents and friends."

PRIVATE VALDEMAR BOUCHER CLARKE, Royal Welsh Fusiliers (son of Mr. William C. Clarke, of Barbados), was killed in action on July 31st. Young Clarke, who had just completed his nineteenth year a month before he fell, left Barbados in June, 1915, for the purpose of enlisting, and reached the trenches on Christmas Day of the same year, since when he had been more or less continuously under fire.

CAPTAIN ROBERT ANDREW EAKIN, 1st Shropshire Light Infantry, died on September 24th, at Netley Hospital, of wounds received in action in France in October, 1914. Born in 1883, he was the only son of Dr. J. W. Eakin, of Trinidad. He served in the South African War, and was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant, Lancashire Fusiliers, in June, 1904, and in 1908 transferred to the Shropshire Light Infantry, being promoted Temporary Captain in November, 1914.

LIEUT. WILFRED S. L. PAYNE, M.C. (son of the late Mr. C. L. Payne, of British Guiana), was killed in action on September 4th. Mr. Payne first received a Commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery, but was subsequently attached to the Royal Flying Corps, being awarded the Military Cross several months ago.

SECOND LIEUT. CARLTON D. YEARWOOD, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, who was reported "Missing, believed wounded," on August 16th, has now been officially reported killed in action. A son of Mr. Gordon Yearwood, of Christchurch, Barbados, he joined a Canadian regiment early in the war, and last winter entered an Officer Training Battalion. A few months ago he received a Commission in the K.O.Y.L.I., having been but a few weeks at the front when his battalion went into action, and he, with many of his brother officers, made the great sacrifice.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. J. R. A. BRANCH, Durham Light Infantry, son of the Ven. Archdeacon Branch of Antigua, has been wounded.

LANCE-CORPORAL LEO R. HUTCHINSON, M.M., London Regiment (1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent) has been wounded in the arm.

PTE W. L. INNES, Gordon Highlanders (1st Barbados Citizens' Contingent) has been wounded in the arm.

Since the last list of casualties in the British West Indies Regiment generally was published the following have been officially reported:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

JAMAICA—9786 Bourne, N.; 7312 Dixon, E.; 8151 Forbes, F.; 10044 Gayle, J.; 5527 Hibbert, D.; 10122 Howell, C.; 7588 Howell, L.; 8181 Palmer, S. (by enemy aircraft while in hospital); 10484 Roach, E.; 8857 Ross, D.; 7740 (local No.) Smith, R.; 8525 Wilson, W.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA—9763 Berry, R.; 9789 Blackman, J.; 4411 Burrows, Sgt. G. R.; 8344 Cohen, W.; 16782 Creedon, Acting C.S.M. J. (att. from Royal Scots); 6732 Forbes, A.; 10060 Forbes, F.; 6772 Hamilton, D.; 6550 Henry, R.; 10317 McDermott, A.; 8807 Maine, E.; 8204 Powell, S.; 7992 Price, C.; 8260 Ricketts, N.; 8287 Walsh, A.; 8305 Williams, D.; 10834 Wilson, W.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—6157 Saunders, G.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—1715 Masson, Sgt. J.

JAMAICA—7811 Anderson, J.; 4583 Bailey, J.; 5752 Brooks, J.; 7270 Brown, P.; 8771 Brown, L.; 1902 Cummings, D.; 8118 Davis, J.; 8904 Downer, T. (also wounded); 7914 Dunn, T.; 9966 Ellis, C.; 8403 Grant, Z.; 5796 Grant, J.; 8588 Green, A.; 7779 Heslop, D.; 10252 Lauder, Cpl. M.; 2000 Lyon, Actg. Cpl. A. P.; 11497 McIntosh, D.

6314 McLeod, S.; 8216 (Local No.); Mason, J.; 7935 Nelson, P.; 9200 Newall, H.; 7826 Pitter, Cyril (at St. Lucia); 8546 Powls, L.; 8651 Lee-Sgt. Roberts, R.; 2379 Robinson, —; 11,020 Russell, W.; 10544 Simpson, W.; 4451 Smith, J.; 8232 Smith, N.; 8798 Spence, C.

TRINIDAD.—492 Savary, Lionel.

DROWNED.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—1638 Gabourel, —.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. ARUNDEL, F. K. (att. from London Regt.).

LIEUT. THOMPSON, J. P. (att. from London Scottish).

BARBADOS.—6125 Petty, R.

JAMAICA. 9636 Anderson, D.; 8027 Anderson, E.; 9289 Austin, G.; 7539 Beckford, S.; 8707 Berry, R.; 9789 Blackman, J.; 2608 Blain, D. L.; 8096 Blake, D.; 9764 Bradford, J.; 8051 Brown, L. F.; 9805 Cannegan, G.; 9802 Chambers, A.; 4151 Chisholm, S.; 7070 Christie, F.; 9891 Clarke, J.; 2889 Clarke, U. (att. R.G.A.) 9792 Comrie, C.; 9795 Copeland, S.; 8034 Crawford, A.; 8890 Davis, L.; 9953 Elephant, Lee-Cpl. J.; 6252 Dixon, E.; 9904 Downer, T.; 9907 Duhany, P.; 8106 Dunkley, A.; 9963 Edwards, J.; 9988 Farquhar, J.; 7300 Forbes, J.; 7326 Forbes, J.; 10036 Francis, C.; 5547 Francis, J.; 7113 Francis, C.; 8303 Gayle U.; 7333 Gaynor, S.; 7660 Grant, T.; 10087 Green, S.; 4384 Green, S.; 5506 Griffiths, J.; 5078 Hamilton, B.; 6772 Hamilton, D.; 7374 Hamilton, G.; 2742 Henry, H. G.; 10167 Henry, W.; 3141 Henry, C.; 7850 Hilbert, C.; 10213 Jackson, C.; 8614 Jarrett, R.; 7646 Johnson, A.; 10225 Jones, U.; 6888 (Local No.) Kelly, N.; 7650 Kidd, C.; 7751 Kerr, G.; 7433 Lewis, N.; 10251 Lewis, P.; 3894 Lewis, S. A.; 10213 Love, S.; 7665 Lyons, —; 6600 McDermott, A.; 7410 McDonald, W.; 10316 McParlane, A.; 10397 McLeary, A.; 10292 McNeil, F.; 7426 McPherson, S.; 8807 Maine, R.; 11636 Meade, T.; 8329 Miller, C.; 10294 Morris, P.; 7686 Morrison, A.; 10418 Nembhard, G.; 10432 Parker, A.; 2864 Parkes, Lee-Cpl. F. A.; 10161 Parkinson, D.; 3351 Percival, M. (gassed); 8185 Pettigrew, S.; 2978 Phinn, W.; 8497 Reid, R. A.; 9589 Rhoden, W.; 8240 Ricketts, M.; 7740 Saddler, E.; 8303 Sayle, W.; 7471 Segree, E.; 5637 Skeete, Lee-Sergt. J. A.; 9520 Smalling, W.; 7562 Smith, C.; 10547 Smith, S.; 4395 Smith, S.; 8808 Smith, S.; 10545 Smith, S.; 7461 Speid, Cpl. W.; 10587 Stamp, —; 4135 Stevenson, Sgt. J.; 7484 Taylor, S. (gassed); 10662 Thomas, A.; 10701 Thompson, R. J.; 3019 Thompson, J.; 10728 Walker, D.; 10728 Wallace, A.; 10839 Wickham, G.; 10825 Williams, C.; 10832 Williams, P.; 7753 Wilson, C.; 2582 Wilson, C. A. (accidental); 4409 Wilson, D.; 10834 Wilson, W.; 8498 Wright, E.; 7342 Wright, H.

The West Indies and the War.

HONOURS.

SGT. FRED. A. MOON, London Regiment (youngest son of the Rev. P. W. Moon, of Nassau, Bahamas), has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in the field. Sergt. Moon, who has been at the front for nearly two years, volunteered with twenty-five others for a raid on the German trenches, returning with ten prisoners from the enemy lines. He was wounded, and is now in hospital in England. Sergt. Moon is the second young Bahamian to receive the D.C.M.

SECOND LIEUT. HENRY GODDEN RERRIE, York and Lancaster Regiment, of Jamaica, has been awarded the Military Cross. The *London Gazette* refers to his gallant conduct on the field as follows: "When in command of his platoon he was subjected to severe artillery and machine-gun fire, and in a very isolated position. Throughout the day, although himself wounded, he set a splendid example to his men under most trying conditions."

SECOND LIEUT. A. NORMAN USHER, Royal Fusiliers (attached York and Lancaster Regt.), third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Usher, of Belize, British Honduras, has been awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the night of August 31st—September 1st." Mr. Usher, who was severely wounded on the 1st September, and is now in hospital in London, came over with the 1st British Honduras Contingent to the British West Indies Regiment, in which he served for some time as a Sergeant. He entered an Officer Cadet School early this year, and received a Commission in the

Royal Fusiliers a few months ago, leaving for the front shortly afterwards. Mr. Usher's two brothers, H. W. Usher and R. S. P. Usher, also joined the Colours, the former having been killed in action in 1916.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

LIEUT. H. DUNCOMBE BINDLEY, R.F.E. (son of the Ven. Archdeacon T. H. Bindley, D.D.), has been promoted to the rank of Captain, and is now sufficiently recovered to be once more at the front.

CADET FRANK BURSLEM, Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

SECOND LIEUT. L. S. DE CASTRO, Royal Field Artillery (of Sangre Grande, Trinidad), has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

CADET J. A. HERKERA, Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

PTE. PERCY J. KNOX, DESMOND POGSON, and EDMUND MAINGOR, Artists' Rifles (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), are now Cadets in the Royal Flying Corps.

SECOND LIEUT. IAN D. R. McDONALD (son of the Hon. Donald McDonald, of Antigua), Royal Flying Corps, is now at the front.

TEMPORARY SECOND LIEUT. J. McF. D. MILLS, British West Indies Regiment, has been gazetted as a Temporary Second Lieut. in the Royal Flying Corps.

CADET HOBART C. PHILLIPS (of Barbados), has received a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery, and is under orders to proceed overseas.

CADET HUGH SHEPHERD (son of Rev. Canon Shepherd, of St. Kitts), has received a Commission in the Machine Gun Corps.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country are given below.

Miss Mildred Bindley (daughter of the Ven. Archdeacon Bindley, D.D.) is nursing at a military hospital in London.

Dr. W. M. McDonald (of Antigua), with the British West Indies Regt., has been appointed Surgeon-Captain, R.A.M.C.

Cadet R. E. W. McDonald (son of Mr. Robert McDonald, Barrister, of Antigua), R.F.A. Cadet School.

Lieut.-Colonel R. P. MacLachlan, nephew of the late Mrs. Kate McDonald, of Antigua, is in command of a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:

ANTIGUA.

2nd Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Durham Light Infantry, France

BARBADOS.

Pte. W. L. Innes, Gordon Highlanders, Yecvil; Lee-Corpl. L. R. Hutchinson, London Regiment, Nottingham; Pte. C. L. E. Burgess, London Regiment, Leeds; Lee-Corpl. K. P. Pilgrim, London Regiment, France; Pte. A. Tudor, London.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate

MONTserrat.

Lieut. Geoffrey Roun, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. N. Calder, R.F.A.; 2nd Lieut. Ryland, Gloucester Regiment, London; Lieut. Douglas Wright, Gordon Highlanders, London; 2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regt., London.

St. Kitts.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Walton-on-Naze.

St. Lucia.

Rfn. Burgess, Rifle Brigade, Eastbourne.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., London; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwicks, Leicester; 2nd Lieut. W. André, Gloucester Regt., Epsom; Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, Mitcham; Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London; Pte. J. R. Thavenot, King's Royal Rifles, London; Cadet F. F. Marryat, R.F.C., Chisleton; Rfn. J. H. Llanos, K.R.R.C., Birmingham; Trpr. de Nobrega, King Edward's Horse, Lewisham; Sapper A. Littlepage, Southend.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

2nd Lieut. E. M. Lord, Leicester; 2nd Lieut. J. S. Powell, Winchester; Coy. Sergt.-Major Hamilton and Corpl Cox, Bethnal Green.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Appointment to a Magistracy.

MR. COWLEY, Chairman of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, has addressed a letter to us in which he contends that local public opinion has been overridden in connection with an appointment to the magistracy of districts A and B which recently fell vacant. In the other islands constituting the Leeward Islands Colony, the practice has been observed of filling the office of magistrate by the appointment of a member of the English Bar, wholly unconnected with the Presidency. It was desired that this rule should be observed in reference to the magistracy of Districts A and B. Representations to that effect were made in the proper quarters. Despite the popular desire thus expressed, a layman connected with the Colony, has, says Mr. Cowley, been selected. Against this appointment the Agricultural and Commercial Society has adopted a resolution of protest and has asked that the matter be reconsidered.

BARBADOS—To bore for oil.

The *Agricultural Reporter* says:—"We understand that a Company known as the Barbados Oil and Development Syndicate, Limited, has been organised in this city for the purpose of boring for oil and carrying on an oil mining and refining business in this island. The Company has been formed with a capital of £25,000 divided into 1,000 ordinary shares of £25 each. A competent board of directors composed of some of the leading merchants and planters of the island has been created, and the undertaking appears to have been firmly launched on the road to success."

BRITISH GUIANA—The Export Duty.

MR. J. McCOWAN, AUGUST 4th.—A Committee has been appointed by the Government to arrange the details in connection with the collection of the Export Duty. We are having a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association on the 7th inst., when the accounts for the past year will be laid over and the office bearers for the current year will be elected. The Government has handed over the control of the Engineering Department of the Colonial Steamer Service to Messrs. Sproston, Ltd., as from the 1st inst. Weather since my last has continued favourable. Good forcing weather is being experienced. Heavy showers with abundant sunshine.

GRENADA—Successful Racing.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, SEPT. 6th.—The Races at Grenville on August Bank Holiday passed off successfully as usual. Though heavy rain the few days before made the track very bad, nearly all the parishes were represented. It is hoped to arrange a big race meeting at Queen's Park, St. Georges, in November. There are plenty of Creole ponies in the Island, and with the track put in order there is no reason why racing should not be held every year. Mr. Ulrich, entomologist to the Trinidad Government has been here to see if he can recommend some means of dealing with "Thrips." A memorial service in connection with the death of Lieut. L. J. Bertrand, M.C., who has been killed in action, was held on August 23rd. The Governor, members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the Cadet Corps and the Police, and many ladies

and gentlemen from all over the Island attended. On August 30th, the foundation stone of the vicarage of the St. George's Catholic Church was laid and an offering of about £85 was placed on the stone. Flag Day took place on September 7th. The day opened rainy. In the afternoon, a concert, etc., was held at the Court House.

ST. VINCENT—Flag Day.

MR. W. N. SANDS, AUGUST 18th.—As a result of the "Flag Day" celebrations a sum of over £200 has been raised on behalf of the West India Contingent Committee. This is a highly satisfactory record for this small Colony. The weather has been seasonable and crops show fair promise. The lack of shipping facilities is agitating the minds of cotton growers who have been unable to ship but a small portion of last season's cotton crop. With the new crop due in about three months' time the matter was one for some concern. The telegrams tell us that there is a serious shortage of raw cotton in England so that we hope it may be found possible to relieve the situation at no distant date.

In common with other Colonies, efforts have been made to produce local foodstuffs. St. Vincent is fortunately situated in this respect and exports largely to neighbouring colonies stock of all kinds as well as ground provisions, meals, starches and fruit. The Agricultural Department has directed attention, therefore, to the conservation of local food supplies for use in that period of the year, March to September, when supplies are generally short. It is unwise to get people to grow vegetables, grains and fruit on a large scale and then find when they are reaped that the supply exceeds the local demand and the prices obtained intercolonially are unremunerative. Much time has been devoted to the preparation and storage of corn, meals, peas, beans, starches and certain vegetables and there has been a considerable amount of success attending these efforts.

I cannot do better than quote from an article in *The Sentry* of the 3rd instant, which referred to an exhibit made by the Department on "Flag Day":—"There was exhibited in a booth an attractive collection of native food products for hard times in all seasons. The examples clearly showed that in many respects the Colony could be self-supporting or, as a poster announced, 'We could keep the flag flying.' The display was certainly of much topical interest and educational value. To mention a few striking examples may not be out of place. Visitors were particularly impressed with the loaves of excellent bread consisting of 25 per cent. native kiln dried corn meal mixed with 75 per cent. wheat flour, and wheat flour substitutes such as the meals of cassava, cotton seed, bread fruit, sweet potato and pigeon peas, all of which could be produced in quality locally. Other novelties were coco-nut butter, a substitute for imported butter, and 'lard oil,' refined from crude cotton seed oil. Among the other foodstuffs exhibited were peas and beans of different kinds, arrowroot and cassava starches, sweet potato cakes, farine, maize, cassava, sugar, honey, yams and eddoes. It was pointed out that all the articles displayed were of considerable food value and could be made available in times of scarcity of, or high prices for, imported foodstuffs if sufficient care was taken to prepare and store them properly. In connection with the storage of foodstuffs, a collection of live insects attacking corn and meals was shown, and their method of destroying by means of carbon bisulphide explained. We cannot do better in closing this brief notice than quote from another poster put up in the stall: 'Read, mark, grow, and inwardly digest.'"

TOBAGO—Distinguished Visitors.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 22nd.—Quite a number of visitors are coming by every steamer from Trinidad, the latest being Sir Gilbert Carter and Sir Norman Lamont, both being delighted with our little Island. They picnicked at Man o' War Bay last week and enjoyed the sea bathing, and Sir Norman was proud of lauding a fine 25 lb. Groupa. Visitors from Grenada have made offers for large tracts of land for planting cacao and coco-nuts, and it almost looks as if the old time isolation of Tobago will soon be a thing of the past. Rev. Mr. Delarosa, a Trinidadian long

resident in the U.S., has just arrived to be Rector of St. Paul's B.C., and received a cordial welcome from his four big churches. He has ample opportunities in this district. Rains have fallen daily all this month, but no heavy floods. Roads and fields are muddy enough, and there are small landslips. Draining of copra or cacao is no easy matter and field work is far from pleasant, but absolutely necessary in these days of vigorous growth of weeds as well as useful plants. The corn crop is ripening fast and very shortly the people will be almost independent of imported flour. "Provisions" have been planted more freely than for years past, stimulated by necessity and the high prices of everything. Work is plentiful and although the people growl about being "hard up" there is no need for suffering except through laziness to earn a living. It is not uncommon to hear complaints by the "poor people" that their plantains and potatoes are stolen. The police and schoolmasters have a serious task to overcome this tendency on the part of a section of the population. Motor-cars are as "common as blackberries." King's Day is the terminus on the Windward Road, and hardly a day passes without one calling. We had four cars one day laden with visitors—one was a "lorry" with plants in addition, which surely spells progress!

We are pleased to welcome back Lady Chancellor and daughter at Government House, where she may reside for some little time. The need of an hotel is becoming more urgent, but a suitable site is difficult to secure, and the cost of building materials is prohibitive just now. Local men are planning, but outside capital will be needed to see the project through. Except in the Leeward District the August rainfall was moderate and just about the average. Here it registered 5.65 inches, and nearby estates up to 8 inches, with almost daily showers and no excessive deluges. This month opened with a couple of windless days and the heats were rather trying. Last night 52 rain fell and there was some thunder and the air is now much cooler. Weather conditions are thus favourable for the growing crops, and prospects are satisfactory all round. The corn crop is now about ripe and the natives feel more cheerful about their food supply. Potatoes will soon be available and Tobago can be well fed for months to come. The only drawback is lack of sugar cane, which some people think is responsible for the increase in sickness amongst the natives, more especially rheumatism and pulmonary complaints. In the Windward District some cacao is being picked and pods will now be ripening all the time, but the crop proper is not expected before December. Regular shipments of copra are going forward. The increasing imports are now showing up the big extension of cultivation all over the Island during the last twelve years.

TRINIDAD—The Governor's *amende*.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 25th.—I record with very sincere grief the passing away of one of the Colony's most gifted sons and a very old and valued personal friend, in Edgar Agostini. I have never met, and am far from singular in saying so, a finer, straighter or more lovable man. Whilst absolutely outspoken and independent in thought and action, he never uttered an unnecessary unkind or ungenerous word. Educated at Stonelyhurst and University College, London, he came out about 1874, and at once entered on a professional career distinguished alike for ability, eloquence and never failing good faith. Step by step he rose until filling the position of Attorney-General, and acting for a considerable period as Chief Justice with marked success. Later on he was offered by an important corporation by far the biggest annual retaining fee ever given to Counsel in the West Indies—sufficient to induce him to throw up his high official position. But in whatever position he might rise to, he was always the same to old friends rich or poor, the same charming personality, carrying with him through life the best wishes of all who were privileged to know him. His loss is universally mourned throughout the Colony.

Under the auspices of the Part of Spain Brotherhood, one of the prominent Friendly Societies that work so much good, there was a most successful and enthusiastic recruiting meeting held in Woodford (late Brunswick) Square on the 10th. The Hon. Dr. Prada, Mayor, pre-

sided, and the speakers almost entirely were members of the Brotherhood. The Constabulary Band was in attendance, and the audience was very large. The speeches were all high in tone, breathing the best patriotic feeling, and in the best of taste. The object was to obtain at once sufficient men to fill the call made for the 5th Public Contingent, and the immediate result was that over 100 men inscribed their names on the roll at once. I have attended many public meetings, but never one here or elsewhere better conducted or more interesting than this, and the highest credit is due and was accorded to the Brotherhood responsible for it.

Mr. A. T. Drummond, of Montreal, has contributed an interesting and exhaustive letter to the *Part of Spain Gazette* on the question of closer commercial relations between Canada and the West Indies. Mr. Drummond, in the same way, as I venture to think, other students of the question view it, is of the opinion that the time is not ripe if it ever will be for political union. There are too many divergent interests and races to make this fusion come within the region of practical achievement, and the more experience one has the more strongly this aspect of the case is brought home. But no doubt much may still be done to bind the Dominion and these islands closer than at present by commercial interests and ties. The past few years have I think clearly demonstrated, even to those who most strenuously opposed the original preferential agreement, what great practical mutual benefit has resulted from the existing relations. But for that agreement there would have been—to mention one instance no steamers running regularly between Canada and the West Indies, carrying the foodstuffs we could so ill have done without, and affording opportunity for passengers which has proved of the greatest convenience and use. Where would those steamers have been to-day, but for the liberal subsidy by which the Canadian Government secured the contract for the service?

The War Contribution Tax, introduced by the Government on the suggestion of the merchants that further contributions would willingly be given for the cause we all have at heart, has realised about £100,000. Still another most successful entertainment has been given in aid of the Red Cross. It took the form of a Scottish Fair in the afternoon, and a Pageant, entitled "The Empire's Honour," at night. At the former there was a valuable and most alluring collection of the Island's productions, displayed on a large number of stalls presided over by fair and willing workers with highly satisfactory financial results. The Pageant was beautifully staged and the performance remarkably good. It is stated to be the first historical pageant presented locally. In any case it was a complete success, and will be repeated to another full house. The ladies to whom we are principally indebted for this most enjoyable afternoon and evening, are Mrs. and Miss Rapsey, and Mrs. Waldgrave, who organised and carried everything through so happily.

The football season has commenced with a match on the Queen's Park Cricket Club Grounds between a team of that club and the Navy Club. The latter put up a good fight, but were eventually outplayed, losing by three goals to none. The Governor kicked off and remained during the play. A meeting of the Agricultural Society was held September 6th, when an incident which has provoked much local comment was brought to a very happy conclusion. At the meeting of the Society held on August 9th, the Governor was reported to have spoken slightly with reference to a letter from the West India Committee on the subject of alcohol for munitions. Attention was drawn to this in the *Part of Spain Gazette*. Yesterday His Excellency took the occasion to enter into an explanation, and made the *amende honorable* in the most handsome manner, finishing up by suggesting that a vote of thanks be recorded to the West India Committee for their services in this as in other matters. Needless to say the vote was carried unanimously and with acclamation.

The unusually heavy rains of the greater part of last month were followed by several fine, sunny days, which have been succeeded by light showery weather, most excellent for cultivation generally. The serious deprivations of the mongoose are again attracting attention, and froghoppers have again made their unwelcome appearance in large numbers in certain districts.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E C 3

October 4th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 94½; 4½ per cent. War Loan, 100½; 3½ per cent. War Loan, 85½. Consols, 54½.

An issue of National War Bonds has been announced since we last went to press. There are four varieties, namely, £5 per cent. repayable October 1st, 1922, at 102 per cent.; £5 per cent. repayable October 1st, 1924, at 103 per cent.; £5 per cent. repayable October 1st, 1927, at 105 per cent.; and £4 per cent. repayable October 1st, 1927, at 100 per cent., the latter being "Income Tax compounded." Of these issues, the first three should make a strong appeal to investors overseas, as the interest payable from time to time in respect of them will be exempt from all British taxation, present or future, if it is shown in the manner directed by the Treasury that they are in the beneficial ownership of a person who is neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

SUGAR. Sir Joseph White Todd, who was for some years closely identified with Cuban sugar interests, and Mr. J. R. Drake, of Messrs. J. V. Drake & Co., the Mincing Lane brokers, proceed to the United States towards the middle of the present month to represent the British Government on the International Food Committee, with special reference to the purchase of Cuban sugar.

Pending the completion of arrangements for the purchase and distribution of sugar, the refineries in the United States are holding off the market. Small sales of prompt Cubas are reported at 5½ c. & 1. The Cuban crop is virtually over at the figure given in last Summary, 3,000,000 tons, and has ceased to be a dominating factor.

In the United Kingdom the various local Food Committees are in the throes of deciphering and recording the applications for sugar registration cards. In some districts as many as 50 or 60 per cent. of the application forms were "spoiled" owing to the inability of the public to follow out the very simple instructions given. To make confusion worse confounded, some thousands of applicants sent their forms to the imaginary address given merely for guidance, whilst hundreds of others sent their forms to their grocers, who are already terribly overtaxed with correspondence. It is, however, believed that all will be well by December 30th, from which date the distribution of sugar will be fully controlled.

The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 48/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to September 22nd were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	62,176	44,309	42,930 Tons.
Deliveries	59,690	46,419	33,542 "
Stock (Sept. 22nd) ...	10,501	8,995	15,897 "

RUM. First-hand stocks exhausted, and there is nothing doing in the spot market. The stocks in London on September 27th, were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	9,175	9,059	4,865 puns.
Demerara	10,081	13,581	5,256 "
Total of all kinds ...	30,405	37,998	20,461 "

CACAO. The total quantity offered at public auction in September was 16,749 bags, the majority of which was British Colonial. The market is firm, and Trinidad and St. Lucia is 3/- to 4/- per cwt dearer, while Grenada and Jamaica shows an increase of about 3/-.

The stocks in London on September 27th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	26,412	23,337	15,267 bags.
Grenada	27,435	16,008	3,709 "
Total of all kinds ...	270,731	228,832	113,102 "

COTTON. There is very little business doing in Sea Island cotton, prices being from 20d. to 22d. White cotton is in great demand.

FRUIT. Bananas, £41 per ton; Jamaica oranges, 32/- per case, coco-nuts, 34/- per bag (100). All quotations f.o.r. London.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed very scarce, with buyers at 16/- Distilled: No demand; nominal value, 7/6 to 8/-. Cannot advise consignments. Lime Juice: Concentrated unchanged. Raw: Market firm. Sales of common to fair from 2/- to 3/- per gallon. Citrate: Market unchanged.

ARROWROOT. The quotations nominally are practically unchanged, viz., 5½d. to 6½d., but no business is reported.

COPRA. The market continues unchanged. Values, £46 c.i.f. London, and £45 c.i.f. Liverpool. No business is reported.

HONEY. There was a much better demand at last month's auctions, and prices were 5/- to 10/- better than at the previous sales. Jamaica sold at 78/- to 85/- for dark to amber liquid, 88/- for amber setting, 90/- to 98/- for palish to pale set. The increase in Cuban and Hayti sorts were 5/-.

BALATA. The market for Venezuela block keeps steady. Forward quoted at 3/2 nominal c.i.f., spot at 3/4; Panama block lower at 2/7½ c.i.f. nominal; spot 2/8½; landed 2/9. Tumaco block spot 2/9½ to 2/10. West Indian sheet firm; spot 3' 10½ to 3' 11; second-hand lots 4/-.

RUBBER. The market is dull, but the tone is easier. Crepe, 2/8½ spot; smoked sheet, 2/6½ spot. Fine hard Para spot 3/4.

PIMENTO is still firm. Fairly large sales have been made, but no change in prices. Stock in London 32,924 bags, against 20,466 in 1916.

GINGER. Transactions have been made, but on a very small scale; prices, 85/- to 125/- per cwt.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Mr. W. Abbott | Mr. J. T. Greg | Mr. Albert Mendes |
| Prof. P. Carmody, F.L.C., F.C.S. | Mr. Albert T. Hammond | Mr. Alfred Mendes |
| Mr. H. S. Cox | Mrs. E. Haynes | Mr. John T. Moir |
| Hon. G. S. Hudson | Hon. G. S. Hudson | Miss Mosley |
| Hon. D. S. de Freitas | Mr. E. C. Jackman | Dr. Frank Odiphant |
| Mr. A. W. Duncan | Mr. W. J. Knight | Mr. D. G. Pile |
| Mr. W. R. Dunlop | Hon. E. Laborde, I.S.O. | Mr. C. M. Rolston, M.D., C.M. |
| Mr. C. V. A. Espeut | Mr. E. K. Lyne | Capt. J. B. Saunders |
| Mr. M. A. French, J.P. | H. F. Britz, Gen. Sir W. Manning, K.C.C.W.G. | Mr. B. B. Short |
| Mr. Edgar Garnett | Mr. A. Marsden | Mr. M. J. Taurel |
| Mr. Robert Gill | Mr. T. M. Marshall | and |
| Mr. E. P. Gladwin | Mr. A. L. McColl | Mr. F. H. S. Warneford |
| Mr. Frank Goodwin | | |
- Mr. Geoffrey Brooke, Crown Hotel, Harrogate.
Mr. R. Bryson, 113, Lan-downe Place, Hove.
Lieut.-Col. J. H. Colless, V.D., 58, Compton Road, Winchmore Hill, N.
Mr. H. W. Everington, 39 Wickham Road, Beckenham.
The Hon. D. MacDonald, "Raglan," 91, Bortowgate Road, Chiswick, W.

BIRTHS.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Goffe.—On September 15th, at a nursing home in London, the wife (nee Edna Mary Powell, M.B., B.S. Lond.) of E. G. Leopold Goffe, M.D., B.S. Lond., of a son.

Stone.—At Quinbury, Braughing, Herts. on the 21st inst., the wife of Lieut. S. S. Stone, R.F.C., of a son.

WANTS.

Abraham Vanier. Solicitor, British Guiana (born August 7th, 1887, at Kitty, E.C., Demerara), desires appointment in any capacity abroad, Dutch, English, French. Cable address: "Reinav," Berbice. Married. No children. Attorneyships also undertaken.

Barbadian Nurse. anxious to return to Barbados via Canada would give her services in return for passage. Write L.M., c/o The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies for the year 1917 to varying dates have been kindly supplied by the respective Governments.

	Antigua.	Barbados. to 28 July	British Guiana. to 17 May	British Honduras to 15 Aug	Dominica.	Grenada. to 31 Aug.	Jamaica. to 25 Aug.	Mont- serrat. to 31 July	St. Lucia. to 15 Aug.	St. Kitts- Nevis to 31 July	St. Vincent. to 15 Aug.	Trinidad, to 15 June.
Arrowroot Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,631,160	—
Asphalt Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,652
Balata Lbs.	—	—	432,251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas Bches.	—	—	—	549,983	—	—	1,617,410	—	—	—	—	—
Bitters Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,411
Cacao Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	11,324,183	4,672,304	—	1,001,149	—	107,533	50,648,277
Cassava Starch ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,308	—	11,700	117,488	—
Cattle No	—	—	243	28	—	—	100	105	—	—	—	—
Cedar Feet	—	—	—	331,510	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicle Lbs.	—	—	—	538,033	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coco-nuts No.	—	—	896,383	1,909,474	—	231,348	14,326,991	—	86,779	—	—	4,313,540
Coffee Lbs.	—	—	268,477	—	—	538,032	4,372,816	—	9,956	—	—	—
Copra Lbs.	—	—	45,168	99,046	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,831,725
Cotton, Al Galante Lbs	—	54,882	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,656
Cotton, Sea Island Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	46	173,936	—	188,479	96,808	—
Cotton Seed Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	691,779	—	365,120	—	243,451	140,864	—
Diamonds Carats	—	—	4,572	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyewoods Tons	—	—	—	40	—	—	28,610	—	—	—	—	400
Dyewoods Ext. Pkgs	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,943	—	—	—	—	—
Ginger Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,291,520	—	—	—	—	—
Gold Ozs	—	—	9,447	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grape Fruit ... Pkgs	—	—	—	178	—	—	9,615	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Nuts Bgs. & bcls.	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	35	1,581	—
Honey Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	134,367	—	393	—	470	1,461
Horses No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—	—	—	—
Lime juice, raw Galls	—	—	—	—	—	62,690	—	70,499	12,177	—	—	2,815
... .. condensed "	—	—	—	—	—	5,650	—	319	2,890	—	—	—
... .. Oil "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1584	—	—	—
Lime (citrate of) ... Lbs.	—	—	4,480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Logwood Tons	—	—	—	2,745	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—
... .. number ... Feet	—	—	42,902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	975
Mahogany "	—	—	—	3,978,772	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manjak Tons	—	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Molasses Galls.	—	71,129	85,500	—	—	—	—	10,090	18,279	203,000	60,658	379,383
Mules No	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
... .. Essential Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	156	—	—	—
Oil Petroleum Galls.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30,048,213
Oranges No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	510,800	—	—	—	—	532,430
Pimento Cwts.	—	—	—	—	—	—	44,430	—	—	—	—	—
... .. Lbs.	—	—	16,048,124	1,135	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubber Lbs.	—	—	4,935	1,671	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	624
Rum Galls.	—	70,183	1,596,529	2,951	—	—	330,988	—	—	2,340	—	—
Shingles No	—	—	76,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar Tons	—	42,481	37,439	—	—	—	26,393	288	3,795	14,153	391	32,877
... .. Cubic Feet	—	—	20,907	4,210,752	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,577
Tobacco Leaf ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,252	—	—	—	—	—
... .. Cigars ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	91,205	—	—	—	—	—
... .. Cigarettes ... Lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,616	—	—	—	—	—

No Official Returns to hand

No Official Returns to hand

THE coinage system of the West Indies, which, to many of those compelled to observe it, appears highly illogical, is presented in a new light in a letter addressed to the *Morning Post*. The writer, discussing the question of a decimal system for British coinage, says:—"It may be of interest to your readers to know that in the British West Indian possessions (excepting Jamaica) the American coin-

age system prevails in accounts both of shops, stores, and agricultural estates, viz., dollars and cents, while the coinage in circulation is British shillings and pence, but with a Colonial banknote of five dollars denomination. . . . There does not appear to be any difficulty in this combination of a decimal system of accounts and a duo-decimal system of coinage working concurrently."

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October 18th, 1917.

A GOVERNOR AND OURSELVES.

An episode which promised to give rise to a good deal of bitterness has, we are glad to state, been satisfactorily closed, thanks to the prompt action of our Hon. Correspondent, MR. EDGAR TRIPP, and to the tact of SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago. We were not a little surprised on noting recently that at a meeting of the Agricultural Society of that colony, held on August 9th, His Excellency, after a letter from the West India Committee to the Secretary of State on the subject of facilities for the shipment of alcohol for munitions purposes had been read, was reported to have said that "the facts stated in the letter might or might not be correct; they did not know. At any rate, the matter was of no interest to any of them there; and he supposed they might take no notice of the letter." MR. EDGAR TRIPP, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, very properly took the matter up, and wrote to the *Port of Spain Gazette*, and the sequel has been a personal explanation by the Governor, which should completely remove any ill-feeling which might have been engendered if the veracity of the West India Committee had been impugned. At a further meeting of the Society, held on September 7th, His Excellency said that he had not been aware that he had made any unfortunate remark, but that on looking at the report in the local Press he agreed that MR. TRIPP was right in calling it unfortunate and more than that, as offensive to

the West India Committee; as he (the Governor) had no such intention in his mind. This he attributed to the bad acoustic properties of the hall and to the publication of his remarks without their context—for which he exonerated the reporter—giving quite a wrong impression. His Excellency proceeded to pay generous tribute to the West India Committee. It would, he said, be a most improper thing for him to make offensive remarks about the West India Committee,—not only improper, but entirely contrary to his sentiment with regard to the Committee. He had nothing but gratitude for the Committee for kindness and hospitality they had shown him personally, and as Governor of the colony, he had nothing but gratitude for them for the enormous services they had rendered Trinidad since he had been in the colony. He was quite aware that they being in London had access to the Secretary of State, and therefore were able to do things and serve the colony in ways which he, with all official restrictions, was not able to do. He entirely welcomed their assistance, and would always gladly co-operate with the West India Committee in their service for Trinidad, and he thoroughly appreciated the valuable services rendered by them in this case, as in others. He thought he was much more to blame in that they did not move a vote of thanks to the West India Committee for the services rendered the colony in this case, and he was going to ask that they should amend their minutes in which it was decided that the Society take no action in the matter; and express a vote of thanks to the Committee for the services they had rendered Trinidad.

MR. HENRY WARNER, Vice-President of the Agricultural Society, then moved an amendment to that effect, and the minutes were accordingly amended and His Excellency's suggestion approved.

BAUXITE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

THE reports of PROFESSOR HARRISON, C.M.G., and correspondence connected with them, relative to the presence of Bauxite in British Guiana, which have just been presented to the Combined Court, will be perused with the greatest interest. Bauxite is a native oxide of aluminium, and as such is of the greatest value on account of the ease with which metallic aluminium is extracted from it, while the application of the electric furnace converts it into corundum, which is largely used in connection with electricity. Bauxite was first discovered by PROFESSOR HARRISON at Christianburg, on the Demerara River, and subsequently the presence of Bauxite deposits was found at Issorora, in the North-West District, one of the

samples of which is spoken of by PROFESSOR HARRISON as being of "first-rate quality." The analysis of the North-West deposit showed it to contain as much as 64.73 per cent. of alumina, while the exceptional purity of these deposits as regards silica, iron, and tellurium is mentioned as adding greatly to the commercial value of the deposit. As regards the deposits of Bauxite in the colony generally, the principal localities of occurrence are Aruan, in the North-West District, Arawari Creek and Makauria Creek on the Essequibo River, from Christianburg to Kumaru on the Demerara River, and the Ituri Creek on the Berbice River. Deposits also occur in Surinam, extending at intervals from the vicinity of the Onoriko Hills on the west bank of the Para Creek of the Surinam River to the vicinity of the Coernatiko River. PROFESSOR HARRISON states that the source of the impure ferruginous Bauxite appears in the Guianas to be mainly rocks with from 48 to 54 per cent. of silica, such as diabase or hornblende schist. It is stated to be probable that in certain parts of the colony "Bauxite deposits have originated from the laterisation of a porphyrite, of a pegmatite, or even of aplitic or anorthosite phases of the gneissose complex." PROFESSOR HARRISON has given in his report many analyses of the different Bauxite deposits in various parts of the colony, which will be of great value to those interested in the subject.

The report concludes with interesting details as to the economics of aluminium. It is shown that the world's production of Bauxite in 1915 was 616,478 tons, of which the United States contributed 297,041 tons, France 304,314 tons, the United Kingdom 8,282 tons, and Italy 6,841 tons. The British Empire figures very low in this production, and the only known deposits of value in the Empire are to be found in India. The uses of aluminium, it is needless to say, are enormous, and in view of the deficiency of British supplies, the development of the British Guiana deposits would appear to be a matter of the greatest importance. In this respect the United States have been well to the fore. The American aluminium interests have already for several years paid considerable attention to the Bauxite deposits of British Guiana, where they have secured several valuable bases. For the manufacture of aluminium there are three essentials: (1) Cheap electrical energy, (2) a supply of Bauxite, and (3) Cryolite to be used as a flux in the electric furnace. Electric energy can be obtained from the Kaieteur Falls in great abundance. Bauxite is now proved to be present in the colony, and as regards Cryolite, if not obtained in its natural state from Greenland, it can be produced synthetically. Everything points, therefore, to the possibility of a supply of aluminium being obtainable from British Guiana, and in these days of Empire development, apart from any other consideration, immediate attention should be given to this important subject. While we welcome the assistance of our transatlantic allies in this respect, it is highly desirable that the industry should be developed by British capital, and it is much to be hoped that something will be done in this direction by British enterprise.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to, West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

THE City Branch of the Colonial Bank was transferred to 29, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, on October 15th.

LADY LUBBOCK is moving from Goudhurst to Ridlands, The Chart, Limpsfield, where she will be a neighbour of Sir. Sydney Olivier.

AMONG our recent visitors has been Mr. C. S. V. Branch, son of Mr. Noel Branch, of St. Kitts, who is now on the staff of the Sun Life Insurance Co. of Canada.

MR. THOMAS J. ROY, General Manager of the Demerara Railway, is returning to Georgetown, via Canada, this month, after an absence of about twelve weeks from the colony.

WE wish success to the *Trelawny Advance*. This is Jamaica's latest newspaper, which is published at Falmouth "for thinking people" and "for the advancement of Trelawny."

"TO meet the Bishop of Jamaica," a gathering will be held at the Church House, Westminster, on Friday, October 19th, under the auspices of the Jamaica Church Aid Association.

"MA MITHER," remarked a Partick lassie to the grocer yesterday, "says that if ye hivna white sugar ye've to gi'e me the dromedary kind." The grocer handed out Demerara.—*Glasgow Evening Times*.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM MANNING, Governor of Jamaica, has arrived in England for a few weeks' holiday, and it is hoped that he may take the opportunity of paying a visit to the British West Indies Regiment in France.

DR D. E. ANDERSON, Honyman-Gillespie Lecturer at Mansfield College, is lecturing every Tuesday, at 4.30 p.m., at the Central Y.M.C.A., 186, Aldersgate Street, London, on "Diseases of the Tropics." The lectures are primarily for missionary students, but others likely to travel in tropical countries are admitted on payment of one guinea for the course.

MR. GUY FREMANTLE CAMERON, the second son of Sir Edward and Lady Cameron, who was born in Turks Islands, has been discharged from the Army on account of wounds after his fifth operation. He is now in the north of Scotland, making good progress. Sir Edward's younger daughter is still at Lady Radnor's Hospital at Longford Castle.

THE Froghopper pest is causing trouble in Trinidad. The Trinidad Estates Co. of Glasgow have

received from their local manager the following cable, dated September 25th :—

"Frog-hopper becoming bad generally. Damage not very serious up to the present. Caroni, Brechin Castle rather worse, but looking dangerous on both. Weather in our favour in the meantime."

MUCH space has been devoted by the Press to the news of the appointment of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. His Royal Highness follows the precedent maintained by King George, when Prince of Wales. In the early days of the Order the Grand Mastership was held in turn by the first and second Dukes of Cambridge.

MR. L. D. PETERKIN, B.A. (Dunelm), Assistant Master (Fifth Form) of Harrison College, Barbados, has joined the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps. Mr. F. Hardy, B.A. (Cantab), Science Master of the same school, who recently came to England with the same object in view, has been diverted to munitions work, the authorities having decided to avail themselves of his scientific knowledge.

LADY SWETTENHAM, the wife of Sir Alexander Swettenham, the late Governor of Jamaica, is at present working at the Hopital Militaire Belge, at Rouen. Last winter she was with the French Ambulance des Armées, a private organisation at the Chateau D'Annel, the residence of Mrs. Depew-Park, who was the Directrice between Compiègne and Noyon, quite close to the Boche trenches.

ON another page we publish an article, entitled "Commerce and the Public School," which opens up a matter of considerable interest. It is not our business to puff other people's wares, but it is fair to say that the writer is conducting just such an agency as he describes in the article, and that we have satisfied ourselves that he is well qualified to do so. We shall be glad to place any of our readers in communication with him.

THE promotion to a peerage of Sir Francis Hopwood will interest those who knew this distinguished Civil Servant when he was Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and Secretary of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The many missions upon which he has been employed and the important duties with which he has been entrusted during the war attest the confidence reposed in the new peer by the nation's Executive.

THE Rt. Rev. Dr. Parry, Bishop of Guiana and Senior Prelate of the West Indian Province, was formally elected Archbishop of the West Indies on September 13th. The ceremony took place in St. Michael's Cathedral, Barbados. Here the Bishops of the Province assembled, and after Communion, proceeded to the election. Each Bishop, as he communicated, placed on the altar a slip of paper with the name of the Bishop he supported. The Bishops were unanimously in favour of Dr. Parry.

A CORRESPONDENT writes :—Regarding Mr.

Cowley's wish to have a member of the English Bar appointed to the magistracy in Antigua, it is reported that when Cortes was enumerating his conquests and converts in Mexico to the Emperor of Spain, and petitioning for confirmation of their possessions to the conquerors, he also asked him to send us out "no lawyers, for he feared that as soon as they should come they would set all the country by the ears with their accursed books."—*Autres temps autres mœurs.*

HIS old friends in British Guiana will learn with regret that their former Inspector-General of Police, Brigadier-General Stephen Lushington, has been wounded. During his residence in Demerara Colonel Lushington (as he then was) won popularity by reason of his unaffected geniality and modest deportment. His able conduct of the police during a lamentable strike brought him the C.M.G. Later on he won the C.B. Brigadier-General Lushington is a member of a family which has produced several men eminent in the public service at various epochs.

REFERRING to the much discussed suggestion of the political Union of Canada and the West Indies, our contemporary *Canada* says :—

"If the West Indies should decide to become part of the Dominion of Canada, the British manufacturer would enjoy a preference over all foreign rivals which he does not enjoy at present. This should more than counter-balance any disadvantage he might suffer from the protection enjoyed by Canadian manufacturers. The false patriotism and innate self-hness of the Cocoa Press and other Little Englander organs must not be taken too seriously by Canadians: the old adage of the dog and his fleas seems to be very applicable in this case."

JACK RUSSELL, son-in-law of the late Mr. Alex. Crum Ewing, had a host of friends in Jamaica, who will grieve to learn that he died suddenly on July 2nd last. He was in the Navy for ten years, during which he served in the *Pathfinder*, *Prometheus*, and *Ariadne*, and became Flag-Lieutenant to Admiral Sir Day Bosanquet. After retiring from the service—which he was prevented from rejoining after the outbreak of war through ill-health—he managed his father-in-law's estate, Caymanas, near Spanish Town, for a while and eventually settled down at Bournemouth, where he died.

WEST INDIANS are serving in many different corps at the front. It will be news to some of our readers that a Demerarian is attached to the Foreign Legion. This is Mr. Joseph Payne, who has been highly commended in despatches. The *Argosy* has been able to publish the text of the French Government's tribute, which reads :—

"A model of bravery and devotion. He has been at the front since the beginning of the War, has taken part in many battles in Champagne, Arras and the Somme, was seriously wounded on the 4th July, 1916, in the attack on Belloyen. This is the third time that Mr. Payne has been mentioned in the daily despatches."

MR. MAURICE VIVIAN COMACHO was married on September 20th, at St. Andrew's Church, Derby, to Evelyn Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis

Punnette, of St. Vincent and Derby. Mr. Comacho, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Comacho, of Antigua, practises in that island as a barrister. The bride was given away by Mr. Frank P. Rudder, an old friend of the bride's family; he and Mr. Punnette were fellow pupils at Messrs. George Fletcher & Co.'s works at Derby. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Comacho are spending their honeymoon in Bournemouth.

* * *

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CHARLTON, who was recently the guest of honour at a dinner given by the Lyceum Club, is well known in Antigua. Seven or eight years ago, as Captain Charlton—holding the D.S.O., gained in South Africa—he was Aide-de-camp to Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, Governor of the Leeward Islands. While in Antigua Capt. Charlton devoted much time to training the Grammar School Boys in drill and gymnastics. Since then he had added to his decorations the Legion of Honour and the C.M.G. and been promoted Brigadier-General. The General, who recently joined the West India Committee, is prominently identified with the Royal Flying Corps, being a member of the Air Board.

MR. C. F. HUGGINS, now popularly known as the "Father of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent," has made his reappearance in London on a short visit, to the great satisfaction of his friends. His eldest son has just been gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery, whilst two other sons, George William and Robert Frederick, are in an Officers' Cadet Corps at Sedburgh. Mr. Huggins has been appointed, by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, Chairman of a Committee to deal with returned soldiers. While in London he has been taking the opportunity of bringing before the notice of the West India Committee and others the desirability of encouraging the emigration of soldiers, after the war, to the British West Indies, to take up land or suitable employment.

A PLAGUE of locusts in the North-West District of British Guiana—probably introduced from Venezuela—has, writes a correspondent, spread into the Pomeroon and Essequibo districts, as well as on the adjacent islands of Wakenam and Leguan, and is causing much destruction to the crops. Active measures are being taken, under the direction of Professor Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, to deal with this alarming insect pest. Some years ago a similar invasion of locusts in the eastern districts of the colony was successfully combated by Mr. J. J. Queleh, at that time Curator of the British Guiana Museum. A caterpillar pest is also causing havoc amongst the cocoa-nut trees and other palms in Georgetown and on the coast. These are also receiving prompt attention through the local Board of Agriculture.

* * *

OUR old friend "G. W." asks, in a memorandum dated September 20th, whether it is quite fair to the West Indies that Newfoundland should celebrate its 420th anniversary as "Britain's oldest colony."

Going back to the discovery dates he shows that the Bahamas were discovered by Columbus in 1492, and Newfoundland by Cabot in 1497, and he adds that "Cabot, though, perhaps, more British than Columbus, was, like the latter, born in Genoa, Italy." Finally, he criticises the West Indian Governors and the West India Committee for not securing for the West Indies "a place in the sun" in this connection. With all respect to "G. W.," we must reluctantly admit that Newfoundland can justify its claim to be our oldest colony in virtue of Sir Humphrey Gilbert having quite definitely proclaimed British Sovereignty over it in 1583; and we fear that the West Indies must be content with being "our oldest group of colonies."

* * *

IF Brobdignagian bulk and proportion are claims to distinction, then the Anaconda, which arrived last June from Trinidad, after an exhausting twenty-seven days' voyage and a further wait of eleven days in the Docks, in the narrow confines of its box, is the American aristocrat of the Zoo's Reptilium, even as the gorgeous reticulated python from Malaya is the Asiatic aristocrat. This latter serpent is twenty feet long and yet is closely rivalled in thickness and weight by the Anaconda, which is sixteen and a half feet, and probably scales 220 lbs. When she arrived she had not changed her dress for some time. Snakes, lucky creatures, when they desire a new suit just cast off the old one and find a perfectly fitting lustrous garment underneath. Under the direction of Dr. Boulenger, of the British Museum, and the care and attention of Collins, the keeper, her ladyship managed to shed two skins at once and rewarded the kindness with which she had been treated by presenting the Zoo with twenty-four babies.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY—it was not her fault—the tank which she occupied, with two smaller companions (also from Trinidad), was too small and eighteen of the little ones were overlaid. They were well developed creatures, and in one of them, Dr. Murray, the Zoological Society's prosector, found a very unique blood parasite—*Haemogregarina* (sp. ?). The only other instance of a similar organism in snakes the Doctor found in an adult Western Diamond Rattlesnake. Three of the young survivors have since died, but there are hopes of saving the others. In the meantime the lady mother, who is apparently in fine condition, is meditating another new dress, and when she discards the old one it is hoped that she will deign to feed. Her companions feast sumptuously once a week on dead rats and horseflesh. It is in contemplation to try the invalid with an alligator as a bit-bit eminently qualified to tempt a convalescent's appetite. It should be borne in mind that this animal, since she was caught in the Guaiaco river, early last April, has not broken her fast.

PARTICULARS regarding membership of the West India Committee will be found at the foot of page 407 in the present issue. The present is an opportune moment for seeking election.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

In the West.

For the third week in succession the British have dealt a smashing blow at the enemy in Flanders. In one sense it was a surprise, as von Arnim was about to launch a tremendous counter attack the same morning at seven. But Haig moved at six, thereby throwing all the German preparations into confusion, which perhaps accounts for the fact that the latest British advance was even more completely successful than its predecessors. Airmen, artillery, and infantry all played their parts with a clock-work precision and effectiveness. Had the two offensives been timed for the same hour they would have met midway in No Man's Land as did the mutual thrusts of the Canadians and the enemy in the outskirts of Lens. As it was the Germans in Flanders suffered tremendous losses amongst the five divisions, including the Prussian Guard, massed with the object of regaining the ground lost on September 26th. For not only were they caught by the fire of our preliminary bombardment, but by the creeping barrage which preceded the attacking waves of British infantry. Many of them fought with desperate valour, but they were taken at a disadvantage and overwhelmed. Estimates of the enemy's losses agree that they could not be far off 30,000, excluding the total of 5,000 prisoners taken in the battle, and during the subsequent "mopping up."

The Road to Flanders opened.

The last thrust gave us Zonnebeke and the Polygon Wood, but other heights remained to be taken before the valley of the Lys towards the source of the river could be said to be dominated. Attacking on an eight mile front a little beyond Langemarck, to points south of the Tower Hamlets, British and Dominion troops carried the Broodseinde Ridge, which is the highest position in the chain, Molenoorsthoek, Polderhoek and Poelcappelle, while to the east, the German hold on Beelaere was loosened by the capture of two villages on its lower slopes, Rentel and Nooderhoek. So important are these gains that, if we do not yet occupy all of the Passchendaele Ridge, which overlooks the whole of the Belgian Plains, we have established such a grip upon it, that our eventual possession of it is a certainty within sight—the handle and half of the blade of the sickle, with the exception of the spur on which Beelaere stands and the last low spur of the Gheluvelt Ridge being now in our hands. It is not without significance that all the reports, official and unofficial, agree in describing the Battle of Broodseinde as "the greatest victory of the year."

Another advance was made for the fourth week in succession, but the bad weather conditions marred its complete success. Not only was the enemy's resistance in the form of sniping and machine-gun firing stiffer, but, our troops got entangled in the mire. Nevertheless, several points of advantage and 1,000 prisoners were captured. The Passchendaele height in its entirety has yet to be won.

The French Advance.

With the capture of Poelcappelle, slightly to the north-east of Langemarck, the French, who protect our left flank, in co-operation with our troops in this sector, repeated their tactics, which were so successful in their advance to the Steinbeek, east of the Dixmude-Lizerne road. This offensive on their part was necessary to preserve the alignment of the Allied Armies, altered by the extension of the British line over the southern extremity of the ridge that runs towards Passchendaele. With their left guarded by the marshes and a great concentration of artillery, combined with French dash, General Anthoine's forces advanced a mile, capturing three villages and many farms, finally establishing themselves within a few hundred yards of the Houthulst Forest. It is now threatened on the north, west and south, but unless it can be turned by the capture of the Passchendaele height, it will prove a tough proposition, as woods in German hands always give us trouble, and this one is a mile square and well screened from aviators by trees. As early as 1915 it was a formidable fortress, and during the intervening period has been greatly strengthened, until it is now one of the most powerful pivots of the enemy defence in the West. Both French and British show themselves able to hold their ground by resisting counter-attacks and in making raids to straighten out their line.

A German Naval "Mutiny."

The Germans are leaving no stone unturned in creating "a peace atmosphere." Uruguay and Peru, however will have none of it, both of them having broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, while Peru has offered Great Britain the use of her ports. The latest device for influencing the gullible pacifists in neutral and Allied countries is mysteriously to hint at "a mutiny" in the German High Seas Fleet. But so badly have Admiral von Capelle and Herr Michaelis bungled that they have failed to make the impression they desired for the furtherance of their plans. If the sensational tale invented by an imaginative journalist after their cryptic remarks in the Reichstag were only true, one might begin to believe that the German had caught the revolutionary infection from Russia. But what actually happened was the discovery that revolutionary propaganda was being carried on in the German Navy by means of inflammatory pamphlets and leaflets. That, to the German mind, was the first stage of mutiny. But that the matter would have been made public without a political object in the background one doubts.

The Blockade Again.

Apparently the United States is exercising a wholesome influence on the Allied blockade. How hopelessly the Foreign Office system of licences and agreements, by which corporations in neutral countries adjacent to Germany have profited so enormously, has broken down, may be learned from a document sent to the American Government by Mr. Balfour to explain why a tightening of the blockade was necessary, and intended to be secret. It was, however, published, and a more damaging

case against our Foreign Office can hardly be imagined. Unfortunately, it has still to learn that Proclamations, even if couched in English, which is unintelligible, are useless unless followed up by vigorous action. Let the Navy prevent all food and materials reaching Sweden and Holland, and Proclamations will be superfluous. The United States takes no stock on proclamations. What she is doing is to prevent Dutch and Scandinavian vessels from leaving her ports unless they will guarantee that none of the cargoes will reach the enemy. If the owners prove obdurate, as many seem to be doing, their corn will be taken over by the American Government, which will not suffer it to rot. That is the way to deal with Germany and her friends in neutral countries.

Reprisals in the Air.

Evidently the Government have yielded to public opinion, and intend to raid German towns. But the matter is not so easy as our self-appointed civilian critics seem to imagine. German cities have not yet been bombed as British cities have been bombed, not for moral or sentimental reasons, but because military considerations forbade it. Here are some of them: (1) London, with its vast area and the channel of the Thames indicating the way to it by day and night, has no counterpart in Germany; (2) when German bombers fail to get to London they drop their explosives in Kent or Essex, whereas our bombers who fail to reach big centres of population in Germany cannot drop explosives in Belgium or Alsace-Lorraine; (3) to fly to the enemy's country a different type of machine is required from those which are employed on the battle front, and to make it in large numbers would divert energy from more vital needs.

The War at Sea.

The Admiralty returns for the past fortnight show that the submarine menace is still serious. The figures record, for one week, the sinking of 13 ships of 1,600 tons and over, and 2 under; for the other week (to October 14th) the sinking of 12 ships of 1,600 tons and over, and 4 ships under.

An interned "U" boat has escaped from Cadiz, probably loaded with munitions. In consequence, several Spanish naval officers, directly or indirectly involved, have been dismissed, but neither that nor apologies will satisfy the Allies, particularly as the French Government warned the Spanish Government of the "U" boat's intentions. When these vessels are interned either an Allied crew should be placed in charge or the enemy crew should be interned. German gold has indirectly bought the port authorities of Cadiz, otherwise the "U" boat could not have escaped.

For the first time for over a year an enemy submarine has sunk a British warship of any considerable size. The result is the loss of an old battleship, the *Drake*, which was of the same type as the *Good Hope*. She was, however, able to reach shallow water before she sunk, and, of her ship's company, only one officer and 18 men were lost.

The *Seeadler*, a German raider, which has not been heard of for six months, is reported to have been wrecked on a Pacific Island. She was an

American barque, captured by the *Möwe*, and converted into a privateer on the high seas, sailing under the Norwegian flag. By feigning signals of distress, she enticed many Allied and neutral ships to their destruction. When she broke her back on a reef her commander and crew seized a motor sloop and the French schooner *Lutece*, in which they put to sea. They have all been captured.

In East Africa.

The Germans, who have made a stubborn defence in East Africa, are fighting gamely to the last, favoured by the climate and the nature of the country. But with the loss of Mahenge, which has been captured by the Belgians, who, when Lake Tanganyika was opened up by General Smuts' strategy, occupied Ujiji and advanced down the Central Railway to Kilossa, and the smart work done by Indian Cavalry, which destroyed the enemy's food depôts in rapid patrol work and out-flanking movements, the German defence is contracting to narrow limits. Mahenge was the last important town left to him, and now that is gone.

(To be continued.)

RUM FOR THE FORCES.

Preference for British Colonial Spirit.

In further reply to the West India Committee's letter of August 2nd, which was published in the CIRCULAR of August 23rd last, the following communication has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Downing Street,

October 12th, 1917.

Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department dated August 14th, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to state that replies have now been received from the War Office, the Admiralty, and the Board of Trade, relative to the question of the preferential treatment of British Colonial rum.

2. It appears that endeavours have always been made to meet the requirements of the Army and Navy by purchasing rum manufactured within the Empire, and that it has never been the custom to take Cuban or other non-British rum, though occasionally the War Office has been compelled to do so. Of the total quantity of rum purchased by that Department in the twelve months ending June last, the proportion of foreign spirit was only 15 per cent. It is intended that future requirements should be met, as far as possible, from the stocks held in the United Kingdom.

3. The question of some discrimination in favour of rum produced within the Empire will receive the consideration of the Board of Trade if and when it is found possible to relax the present restriction on importation. It must, however, be understood that there is no likelihood of such relaxation in the near future.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

(Signed) H. J. READ

The Secretary,

The West India Committee,

15, Seething Lane, E. C.

RUM TAKEN OVER BY ADMIRALTY.**Stocks becoming rapidly exhausted.**

Notice has been given by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it is their intention to take possession of all stocks of rum in bonded warehouses in the United Kingdom.

It is ordered that no person owning or having control of any such stock shall without the consent of the Admiralty buy, sell, remove, or otherwise deal in any such rum. Any person who owns or has in his custody or under his control more than 10 puncheons of such rum was required to furnish full particulars to the Director of Contracts, Admiralty, not later than October 23rd, showing the descriptions, marks, quantities, place where lying, date of purchase by present owner, from whom purchased, and the price then paid.

The order is dated October 6th, on which day it came into force.

Plea for Replenishment.**Says the *Wine and Spirit Trade Record* :—**

The Government are commandeering large quantities of Demerara rum, and the stock is being rapidly depleted. In view of the fact that there are no imports, and have been none since February last, it is obvious that stocks will in time be totally exhausted unless the Government can be prevailed upon to allow their replenishment. As important colonies are concerned, and the needs of the Army and Navy are imperative, nothing but absolute want of shipping should excuse delay in permitting fresh imports. In the meantime stocks are disappearing in the following fashion :—

TOTAL STOCKS OF RUM IN BOND.

	Proof gallons.
March 31st	13,042,000
April 30th	12,724,000
May 31st	12,710,000
June 30th	12,162,000
July 31st	11,659,000
August 31st	10,909,000

By way of comparison we give the annual home consumption of rum during the past three years :—1914, 5,672,487 pf. galls.; 1915, 4,523,768 pf. galls.; 1916, 3,360,179 pf. galls. Re-shipments during the same periods were :—1914, 705,046 pf. galls.; 1915, 527,490 pf. galls.; 1916, 372,362 pf. galls. Stocks at the end of December, 1914, were not much more than half what they are now, but the shipments were then coming in as usual. In view of the situation, prices are constantly rising, those paid at auction being little less than prodigious. Its comparative cheapness would doubtless have led to a great demand for this spirit during the winter, particularly as a substitute for beer, but it looks as if it will not be long before it is in the matter of price on the same plane as whisky!

Says the *India-Rubber World* :—A simple device which enables the user to be independent of a mirror and to part the hair easily and with exactitude consists of two flat strips of vulcanized rubber, which may be bent lengthwise to conform with the shape of the head. These strips are pivoted together, edge to edge, so that either strip may be swung round independently of the other. The strips are laid with their confronting edges along the line where the parting is to be made. One strip holds the hair down on an imaginary line, while the other sweeps the free hair to one side, making a straight and even parting.

THE NEW IMMIGRATION SCHEME.**REPORT OF OFFICIAL CONFERENCE.****Full Text of the Proposals.**

Early in September we were enabled, by the courtesy of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to publish a summary of the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Conference on Assisted Emigration from India to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Fiji. Those recommendations, said Mr. Long in a covering letter, were under the consideration of the Government of India, which had not yet reached a decision.

To-day we are able to give the full text of the report of the Conference, which bears the signatures of Lord Islington (the Chairman) and Sir A. H. Steel Maitland, Bt., M.P., and is dated as from the India Office, July 14th, 1917.

Origin of the Conference.

The report is as follows :—

It was decided towards the close of 1915 to hold an Inter-Departmental Conference to consider the questions raised by the Government of India in their despatch on Emigration (No. 41 of 1915, dated 15th October, 1915). The Colonial Office wished first to consult the various Colonies concerned, and in order to enable them to do so, the Conference was tentatively fixed for the autumn of 1916. But meanwhile, at the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Madras had deputed an official and a non-official to visit Ceylon and Malaya, and to investigate the conditions of Emigration to those countries. It was thought desirable that these gentlemen should complete their enquiries before the Conference was held. This necessitated the postponement of the Conference till May, 1917.

2. The Government of India nominated as its representatives at the Conference Sir James Meston and Sir S. P. Sinha, both of whom had, however, to return to India before the Conference could meet formally. It is greatly to be regretted that in consequence they were not able to take any part in the deliberations, though they had been able to discuss the question informally with the two Secretaries of State.

3. The Conference was purely official in composition, and did not summon witnesses. The following members of the respective Secretaries of State's Establishments attended: Lord Islington, G.C.M.G., D.S.O. (Chairman); Sir A. H. Steel Maitland, Bt., M.P.; Mr. M. C. Seton, C.B.; Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G.; Mr. J. F. N. Green, and Mr. T. C. Macnaghten.

4. The Conference held some informal meetings during May to consider preliminaries and clear the way for the formal discussion. Ten formal meetings have been held, at the earlier of which Mr. James McNeill, Indian Civil Service (retired), was able to give the Conference valuable information regarding Indian laborers in the Colonies, while at the later meetings the Conference had the benefit of the knowledge possessed by Major de Boissiere, Protector of Immigrants, Trinidad, Lieut.-Colonel W. M. Kennedy, C.I.E., President of the Assam Labour Board, and Mr. N. B. Marjoribanks, Indian Civil Service, who had been deputed by the Government of India to furnish the Conference with any information that might be required, attended all the meetings. The Conference desires to express its great obligation to all these gentlemen for the valuable advice and assistance which it received from them.

Details of the New Scheme.

5. The following scheme of assisted emigration combined with colonisation for Indians in these Colonies was

agreed to as one that could be recommended to the Government of India and the Colonial Governments for adoption:—

THE NEW SYSTEM.—The new system will be entirely free, and the indentured system together with the titles and characteristics attaching to it will be abolished. The system to be followed in future will be one of aided colonisation, and its object will be to encourage the settlement of Indians in certain Colonies after a probationary period of employment in those Colonies to train and fit them for life and work there, and at the same time to afford a supply of the labour essential to the well-being of the Colonies themselves. The immigrant will as at present arrive in the Colony entirely free of debt and of any financial liability connected with the cost of his introduction into the Colony. He will be in no way restricted to service under any particular employer except that for his own protection a selected employer will be chosen for him for the first six months. He will, however, be encouraged to work for his first three years in agricultural industries by the offer, should he do so, of numerous and important benefits subsequently as a colonist.

II.—METHOD OF FINANCING THE SCHEME.—In order that no employer shall be able to claim that he had paid the expenses of introduction of any particular immigrant, such expenses will be borne by the Government of each Colony concerned out of a common fund raised by rateable contributions from the employers either (1) of all Indian immigrants other than those locally born, or (2) of an immigrant during the first three years of his residence, or (3) during the period laid down as necessary to qualify him for a free return passage.

III.—LAND SETTLEMENT.—Steps will be taken to ensure that land may be made available at once in the simplest and cheapest manner that can be devised for all immigrants who desire it and who have completed a qualifying period of three years' employment under employers on the Register. To secure this end a Department in each Colony will be responsible for the provision of sufficient land to meet all *bona fide* applications, for rendering it suitable for agriculture by adequate clearing, irrigation and drainage, where this is considered necessary by the Department, and for the distribution of it among applicants, and the due control of their management of it subsequently. It will be the duty of this Department to advise immigrants on questions relating to the acquisition of land, to explain fully to them the conditions upon which land can be obtained, and to assist them in every possible way to obtain it.

In Fiji, these objects will probably be attained by the Land Trust Committee instituted under Ordinance No. 15 of 1916. In British Guiana the Crown Lands are in places not cultivable except after a larger expenditure on irrigation and drainage than the individual immigrant can afford to incur. In Jamaica it is understood that suitable Crown land is scarce, and land for the settlement of Indians can only be provided by purchase from private owners. In Trinidad, settlement is retarded by the restrictive conditions that the occupancy price must be paid in one lump sum, and that the minimum area that can be granted shall be five acres. It will be the business of the responsible Department in each Colony to remove all obstacles of this kind to the free settlement of Indians upon the land.

Land not exceeding five acres in extent will be granted to an immigrant after three years' employment under employers on the Register subject to a reasonable annual rent in the case of leaseholds. The rent will vary according to the fertility and position of the land, and will be subject to revision every 30 years. For ten years after the grant the immigrant will be prohibited from alienating or encumbering his right in the land except with the sanction of the responsible Department, and that Department will have power further to resume any land not brought under cultivation within two years of the grant.

Conditions of Employment.

(1) **TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT.**—An employer specially selected as being able to provide conditions of employment and living which the Governor in Council may deem to be

adequate will be chosen by the Protector of Immigrants for each immigrant on arrival. The immigrant will be required to remain with this employer for six months, the Protector of Immigrants having power to sanction or require during that time a change of employment should he see reason to do so. After this first period of six months the immigrant will have perfect liberty to move from one employer to another upon one month's notice. At no time will the immigrant be under any indenture or any contract other than the above, and the relation between him and his employer will be purely that prevailing in the colony between any master and servant. The immigrant can only be proceeded against for any breach of engagement by way of a civil suit in the ordinary course of law, and will be liable to no criminal penalties.

(2) **WAGES.**—(a) A minimum wage will be fixed which will bear to the minimum wage at the time of Mr. McNeill's visit the same proportion that the cost of living when the wage is fixed bears to the cost of living then (when it was estimated at 3/6 a week). This minimum wage will require revision every five years on the same proportional basis. In the calculation free rations to women and children granted in accordance with IV. (3) will be excluded. (b) All wages will be paid regularly and in full, i.e., without deductions.

(3) **RATIONS.**—(a) *For Children.*—During the first twelve months after arrival in the Colony children under eleven years of age will be entitled to free rations on a scale to be determined by the Colonial Government; while children under five years of age will be given free milk rations during the whole time that their parents remain in the employment of an employer on the Register. (b) *For Pregnant and Nursing Women.*—Free rations will be issued for at least six months to pregnant and nursing women working under an employer on the Register.

(4) **HOUSING.**—The provision of married quarters, separate from the "single" quarters, will be made compulsory upon all employers of more than 20 adult male Indian immigrants, and will be insisted upon as far as practicable in the case of all other employers on the Register.

(5) **GRANTS OF LAND.**—Each adult male immigrant employed in an agricultural industry will be granted for his personal use and cultivation a garden plot of one-tenth acre, if he desires it, after six months' service. A larger plot, up to one-third acre, will be made available, wherever possible, to industrious workers in the nature of a reward.

(6) **MEDICAL TREATMENT.**—The existing regulations and provisions will continue in force, and will be applicable to immigrants under the new system. Under the present regulations, in addition to other medical care, hospitals, public or private, are provided at which immigrants are treated free of charge, either as inmates or out-patients.

V.—THE EMPLOYER.—All persons desirous of employing assisted immigrants during their first three years of residence will be required to apply to the Protector of Immigrants, and if the conditions of employment and living which they offer are found after enquiry to be suitable, and in accordance with the standard required, the Protector will place them on the Register of Approved Employers. An approved Employer will be any employer who is deemed qualified by the Governor in Council to employ an immigrant under proper conditions of wages, labour, medical attendance and housing, and who has received a licence to employ and has paid for it. Any employer not fulfilling the above conditions, found employing an immigrant, will be liable to a fine on prosecution in a criminal court at the instance of the Protector of Immigrants.

Emigration Staff and Supervising Agency.

(1) A Protector of Emigrants appointed by the Local Government in India, to supervise Emigration in the Province.

(2) An Emigration Commissioner appointed by the Colonial Governments with the approval of the Local Government in India, who will be a Colonial Civil Service Official.

(3) Inspectors of Emigration. Officers, who may be Indians, shall, if necessary, be appointed for this purpose. They shall be under the Emigration Commissioner, and

shall supervise the work of emigration in the villages. They shall be men of standing and on a graded scale of pay. The actual area of each Inspector's charge will be settled by the Colonial Government subject to the approval of the Local Government in India.

(4) Emigration Agents licensed by the Emigration Commissioner, the licences being countersigned by the magistrate of the district in which the agent works and also by the Protector of Emigrants. Emigration agents will be paid a fixed salary with possibly in addition small money grants at the end of the year to reward meritorious work. Men who have actually worked in the Colonies will be preferred as emigration agents provided that the Emigration Commissioner certifies their character and respectability.

(5) (In each Colony.) A Protector of Immigrants, a colonial official with a good knowledge of the principal Indian languages used by immigrants and of their customs.

(6) An official of standing from India or a non-official will be deputed every three years by the Government of India to visit the Colonies and report on the conditions prevailing.

VII.—DEPOTS.—In each district from which assisted emigration proceeds there will be a conveniently situated depot where emigrants will be assembled by the agents and passed as suitable by the Inspectors. The depots will be freely open to the emigrants and their friends, and in them emigrants will be under no restraint. Depots will be open to inspection at any time by the District Magistrate or any magistrate deputed by him, but the production of emigrants before a magistrate in India will not be required. Non-official gentlemen of standing in the district will be appointed visitors to each depot.

From these District Depots emigrants will be sent down to a Central Depot, where they will be examined medically and passed by the Emigration Commissioner as suitable. Non-official gentlemen will be appointed visitors to these depots also. The Emigration Commissioner will be responsible for the Central Depots and also for the District Depots which will be in charge of officers to be selected by him.

VIII.—CONDITIONS OF EMIGRATION.—(1) While it is considered impracticable to insist upon any hard and fast proportion of single men to families, the emigration of whole families will be encouraged, and particularly of families containing young unmarried girls, but persons below the age of eighteen will be assisted to emigrate only when accompanied by their parents or guardians. To discourage the emigration of women of an undesirable class, women unaccompanied by their families will not be assisted, and the rule requiring a certain proportion of women to men will be abolished.

The non-working dependants of an immigrant will not be rejected medically merely on the ground that they are physically incapable of work or on the score of age.

A written statement shall be given to each intending emigrant and explained to him, stating the terms of his employment and the conditions of life in the colony to which he proposes to emigrate.

Emigration from pilgrim centres will be prohibited during times of pilgrimage or festivals.

IX.—SURGEONS ON EMIGRANT SHIPS.—If the Government of India so desire, a proportion of the surgeons employed on emigrant ships shall be Indians.

Conditions of Repatriation.

Any immigrant wishing to return to India will be granted for himself and his dependants half the passage money after three years', three-quarters after five years', and the whole after seven years' continuous residence in the colony. But the acceptance of a grant of land under the special facilities outlined in paragraph III. will be held *ipso facto* to extinguish all claim to a free or assisted return passage. By this it is not to be understood that the immigrant will at any particular period be required to make a choice between a return passage and a grant of land, but merely that the acceptance of a grant of land under the special conditions outlined above will be taken as extinguishing his right to a return passage.

An immigrant who has availed himself of a free or

assisted return passage under these conditions, should he return to the colony, shall have no right to a second free or assisted return passage to India.

Six months' previous notice must be given by any immigrant of his intention to claim a free or assisted passage.

The Protector of Immigrants shall have the right, subject to approval by the Governor in Council, to grant at any time free return passage in full in cases where he deems repatriation desirable. This right will extend to the cases of immigrants whose claim to a return passage has been extinguished by the grant of land, and who may have been reduced subsequently to indigent circumstances.

XI.—No emigration will be permitted to take place under this scheme to any colony until an ordinance is passed in that colony providing for the cancellation of all existing indentures, such cancellation to take effect from the date when the first immigrants under the new scheme arrive in the colony.

All labourers who are at present under indenture or who after completing their period of indenture have not yet qualified under the existing rules for a free or assisted return passage, as the case may be, shall have the option of remaining under the existing terms as to repatriation or of coming under the new terms on the condition that in the latter case the first five years of service in the colony shall be excluded in calculating the amount of service qualifying for a free or assisted passage.

Conditions of the Colonies.

MARRIAGE LAWS OF IMMIGRANTS.—A marriage which in accordance with the religion or caste custom of the parties to it is valid and which is duly celebrated according to the rites of the particular religion or caste and is not repugnant to the marriage laws of the colony shall be valid, provided it was registered before a Registrar within fifteen days of its celebration by the person celebrating the marriage, or, in the case of castes whose customs do not require the presence of an official celebrant, by the parties to the marriage themselves.

Divorces duly pronounced according to the custom of the religion or caste to which the parties belong shall be held valid if registered.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.—Indian immigrants already enjoy the same facilities for primary education as are possessed by other inhabitants of the colonies concerned. Education is universal in the West Indies. In Fiji recent legislation has been enacted in 1916, and further efforts will be made to reach the same standard there.

POLITICAL RIGHTS.—The Indian immigrant already acquires exactly the same political and municipal rights as any other inhabitant, except only that in Fiji he is specially represented on the Legislative Council by a nominated member instead of taking part in the elections by which European members are selected. The Government of Fiji will, if desired, consider the question of adapting the electoral system so as to include Indians on the same terms as Europeans.

Mr. Ellis, Secretary to the Conference, has saved the members much labour by his careful preparation of the business, and they wish to record their gratitude for his assistance.

THERE is a large amount of copra awaiting shipment in the Philippines (says the *Morning Post*), but no tonnage is obtainable, although the last freight paid could be repeated. Several steamers have been fixed from Virginia to the Plate, and one or two for Chile. These will carry coal outwards and return with grain and nitrate. Cuba has arranged further tonnage at 27 cents for sugar to the New York-Philadelphia range. Time charter keeps very active, recent business including short periods United States-West Indies at 40s. The outward coal markets report a shortage of suitable steamers, recent losses among this class having been rather heavy. All rates are very firm, Glasgow to Barcelona making 220s. and Tyne to Gothenburg 200kr.

CUBA'S SUGAR-PRODUCING CAPACITY.

Independence of New York advised.

The island of Cuba (says the *Louisiana Planter*) is now the dominant power in the cane sugar world and the success of its sugar crops determines whether the world's prices shall rule higher or lower than ordinary. The enormous and rapid increase in cane sugar production in Cuba during recent years would indicate that the Cubans are thoroughly able to so finance their own great industry as to enable their sugar producers to retain their sugars in Cuba on the plantations, in plantation warehouses, rather than to send them forward unsold to any of the great American markets, where there are practically but three buying interests, and those three acting generally in such apparently concerted action as to justify the belief that their lines of action for months and for years have been to specifically depress the price of Cuban sugars for the purpose, as we believe, of rendering it easy for them to largely increase their margin of gain for the process of refining sugars, after they are already 96 per cent. pure.

"The World at their Feet."

Our contemporary proceeds :

As an offset to this idea or suggestion that the Cubans should join with each other in open resistance to the combined buyers who seek to secure their produce at lower prices than are made in the world at large, generally we have the fact that Wall Street, New York, is largely interested at the present time in many of the great Cuban central factories, and presumably has either directly connected or sympathetic interests with the New York sugar refiners, to whom they sell their sugars at lower prices than they can obtain elsewhere in the world, making sales of their own sugar in one capacity to their New York friends, or to themselves in another capacity. In the stock market such sales have been called "washed" sales, and in attempts to control the sugar market the committee records indicate such washed sales for that express purpose.

If the Cubans were strong enough to cut themselves aloof from the New York financial interests, and were able to finance themselves, they would have the whole sugar world at their feet, praying for relief. The recent closing of the New York sugar exchange after a brilliant record of several years' experience, during which hundreds of thousands of tons of sugars were sold on 'Change, the speculators always going to the rescue of the market when the prices were unduly depressed, and unloading their purchases when prices had sufficiently advanced, have combined to make the New York sugar exchange the governing instrument in the sugar business such as it never had been before, and such as has so crippled the wishes and desires of the New York sugar buyers that they have opposed the exchange in New York and in New Orleans, and have now succeeded in having it closed entirely in New York.

Independent exchange suggested.

The closure of that exchange comes as an embargo on the sugar business, shutting out millions of dollars of capital that would be invested in sugar from such investment or investments being made along the line of commercial procedure sanctioned by the usages of the nations of the earth and under modern methods that are essential to the transaction of commercial business anywhere in the world on any scale commensurate with modern demand. The tortuous and yet ingenious methods adopted by some of the sugar refiners to depress the sugar market would make Sherlock Holmes envious.

Adds the *Planter* :—

The Republic of Cuba, while not under the food con-

trol laws, will be one of the largest sufferers by the closure of the New York sugar exchange, and we would say now, as we have already said recently, that now is the time for the Cubans who produce the sugars of the western world to state their own independence and to organise their own sugar exchange, and with adequate capital, with adequate warehouse room, to finance their own sugar crops and keep them out of the hands of these men who have been utilising every possible effort to break down the price of sugars, while they at the same time are securing from 50 to 100 per cent. greater margin for the little that they do to 96 test sugar in order to make it 100 per cent. pure sugar.

LONDON PORT RATES.

The Recent Rise explained.

The following correspondence has passed between the West India Committee and the Port of London Authority as to the subject of the recent increase in charges of sugar :—

September 10th, 1917.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that my Executive had under consideration at their meeting on Thursday afternoon last, the increased sugar rates.

They much regretted that a decision should have been arrived at before the importers were afforded an opportunity of discussing the matter with your Department, and considerable exception was taken to the increase now brought into force.

They would be obliged if you would kindly inform them whether the rates are under Government control and what reasons are adduced for the further increase which they understand brings the total increase since the outbreak of War to 37½ per cent.

Awaiting a reply,

I am, etc.,
(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.
Secretary.

PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY.
109, Leadenhall Street, E.C. 3.
September 14th, 1917.

Dear Sir,

RATES ON SUGAR.

I have received your letter of the 10th instant and am sorry to note that your Executive feel that they have been overlooked in this matter, but I trust that the explanations which follow will be found by your Committee to be reasonable.

The rates on Sugar are fixed by this Authority and are those applied to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. The only rates which have been increased are as follows :—

(a) Cane Sugar, not otherwise rated, in bags or mats under 1 cwt. each.

The Consolidated Rate has been increased from 6/3 to 7/6 per ton.

(b) American Granulated Sugar in pockets under 1 cwt. each.

The landing and delivery rate has been increased from 4/3 to 5/6 per ton.

(c) General bulking rates for Crystallised Sugar. These rates have been increased all round by 6d. per ton.

(d) General bulking rates for other than Crystallised Sugar.

Whole parcels of not more than 3 piles :—

Bags or mats, 1 cwt. each or over, per ton

gross 9 0

Bags or mats under 1 cwt. each, per ton

gross 10 6

Pockets, under 1 cwt each, per ton gross

gross 10 6

Whole parcels of over 3 piles :—

Bags or mats, 1 cwt. each or over, per ton

gross 10 6

Bags or mats under 1 cwt. each, per ton

gross 11 0

Pockets, under 1 cwt. each, per ton gross

gross 11 0

With regard to (a) and (b) as you are aware considerable quantities of this class of sugar have been arriving in smaller bags than formerly. This involves higher cost of handling at all points and the advances are made to meet this extra cost. It will be noted that it is only in the case of sugar in smaller packages where the rates have been altered.

With regard to (c) and (d) it was found that these rates were not sufficiently remunerative, particularly as regards Muscovado Sugar, which does not run freely and which cannot be bulked by means of hoppers. This class of Sugar, which is also packed in smaller bags, is arriving in increasing quantities and the loss of time involved in dealing with it has resulted in a much higher cost of working.

The revised rates will come into operation on the 1st October next.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. ESTILL,
Commercial Superintendent.

Algernon E. Aspinall, Esq.,
Secretary, West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Another Bumper Election.

The Membership now 1,624

At a meeting of the Executive, held on October 11th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. Reginald Muir (Cuba)	Mr. W. A. Wolsley
Mr. A. Hayward (Grenada)	Mr. Geo. R. Alston.
Sgt. Ernest R. Rouse (Jamaica)	Jonas Browne & Sons.
Lieut. R. C. Ripley (Jamaica)	Mr. D. S. De Freitas.
Messrs. Dominion Cannery Ltd. (Canada)	D. Q. Henriques & Co.
Major J. V. Kirkland (Jamaica)	Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Capt. A. Smith (Jamaica)	Major A. M. McCulloch
Capt. H. P. Donald (Jamaica)	Lieut. A. H. Shepherd.
Capt. N. Wood, B.A. (Jamaica)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Capt. F. D. MacPhail (Jamaica)	Mr. E. R. Davson.
Lieut. Aubrey H. Spyer (Jamaica)	Capt. W. Steele Mitchell.
Lieut. Andrew J. Bernard (Trinidad)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. G. Harris Harragin (Country)	Capt. W. Steele Mitchell.
Mr. James B. Millikin (Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Capt. David Horn (Jamaica)	Capt. W. Steele Mitchell.
Mr. C. O. Hazell (St. Vincent)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. L. Denis Peterkin (Barbados)	Mr. E. A. de Pass.
	Miss Mary Moseley.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mrs. Frances I. Hayes.
	Mr. Geo. R. Alston.
	Mr. Cunningham Craig.
	Mr. Geo. R. Alston.
	Sir W. Manning, K.C.M.G.
	Miss Mary Moseley.
	Mr. D. A. Richards.
	Mr. Ernest Brown.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. W. Gillespie.

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.

WEST INDIAN CACAO.

Modification of Restrictions Urged.

Following a deputation to the Colonial Office, the West India Committee sent the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on October 5th, urging a modification in the import restrictions in respect of cacao:—

The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.3.
5th October, 1917.

Sir,—We beg to bring to your notice the following points with regard to the regulations restricting the import of cacao into this country, with special reference to their effect on the British West Indies.

2. Under the present regulations, which came into force on the 23rd February, 1917, 50 per cent. of the shipments made to this country in 1916-17 were allowed to be shipped to this market under license from the Colonial Governors; and as matters now stand, after such 50 per cent. has been shipped, no further license can be granted until the 23rd February, 1918.

3. The crops in Trinidad and Grenada begin in the autumn and, in the case of Grenada in particular, the larger part of the crop has in the past been shipped before the end of February.

4. The greatest demand for freight from the West Indies occurs between March and June when, in addition to other produce, the sugar crops from Trinidad and Barbados are ready for shipment, whereas the heaviest demand for freight from this country to the West Indies is towards the end of the year, and the vessels carrying such goods have been accustomed to bring home large consignments of cacao.

5. Under the terms of Priority Cargo List No. 7 of 21st July, 1917—West Indies to United Kingdom—1,000 tons of cacao are allowed to be shipped per month; but under the existing regulations no licenses for export can be obtained.

6. We would venture to suggest that if the regulations could be altered so that shipments were allowed, say, after 1st January, 1918, such date would not only coincide more closely with the crop period and avoid, to some extent, the difficulties of storage and consequent depreciation; but that such alteration of date would, subject, of course, to the arrangements of the Shipping Controller, be found more convenient from the point of view of providing freight.

7. In conclusion, we beg to state that we have submitted this letter to the Association of West Africa Merchants, and have received their reply saying that they see no objection thereto.

We have the honour to be, etc.,

R. RUTHERFORD, Chairman.

H. A. TROTTER, Deputy Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee may be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

PRINCIPAL ANSTEY'S PUBLIC SPIRIT.

How Barbados Girls' School became possible.

The fact does not seem to have been sufficiently emphasised that the Barbados Girls' High School—recently opened—was rendered possible only by the public spirit and generosity of Principal Anstey, of Codrington College. Mr. Anstey furnished the £600 necessary for the provision of the building and guaranteed £200 a year for two years to cover working expenses.

The story, as related by Mr. O. D. Emtage at the opening ceremony, is as follows:—

He (Mr. Emtage) went into Bridgetown and tried his hand at collecting the money. But, although he found several persons who were willing to subscribe the last £100 if he had succeeded in collecting £500, he could not succeed in raising one penny of the first hundred. So the matter had to be hung up. Some time after Mr. Anstey came to Barbados, he discovered that he was a gentleman interested in wood and stone. He therefore made an opportunity to explain the matter to him and go into the affair. Mr. Anstey said to him, "How much do you want to erect a building?" He replied, "Six hundred pounds." Mr. Anstey's rejoinder was, "Oh! that is nothing!" Mr. Anstey talked of £600 pretty much as he might talk of sixpence. Had he not had dealings with Mr. Anstey, and known the sort of man he was, he should have been inclined to say that he was "talking through his hat." So he left him alone; and a couple of years afterwards he saw the building there being erected, and one day Mr. Anstey said to him: "There's the building for your Girls' School." He then tried to get together a Committee, but he failed at first. Those whom he approached said the undertaking could not succeed.

But Mr. Anstey went steadily ahead, and there was the School. (Cheers.) Mr. Anstey was a man who liked to share the *kudos* with others, although he would not acknowledge it. He liked to spend money and allow other people to get the credit. Mr. Anstey had expended £600 on the building, and the Committee had borrowed £200, which was about spent. But a building was not all that was necessary. Money was wanted to run the school. Here again Mr. Anstey had come to their aid. In addition to the gift of £600 for the building, he had guaranteed them £200 a year for two years to enable them to defray the working expenses. That additional gift, together with the school fees, would enable them to make a footing. The future of the school, of course, intimately depended on the amount of sympathy and support which it obtained. At present there was wanted an additional £800 to complete the building and fit it up thoroughly, and there was a debt of £200 to be discharged. That was the history of the school.

The *Barbados Standard* endorses the criticisms which we have directed from time to time against the lack of uniformity and deplorable confusion of arrangement which characterise the compilation of West Indian Blue Books. Says the *Standard*, in leading article published some little time ago:—

"We agree with the strictures of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and we trust that now attention has been again directed to the matter an effort will be made to remedy the defects pointed out. It will be observed that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR does not mention the Barbados Blue-book. Lest our readers may think that the Blue-book of this Colony is beyond reproach, we hasten to inform them that it is no better than those of our neighbours, and that the reason why it is not specially mentioned is probably due to the fact that it had not yet come to hand when those of the other Colonies were being reviewed."

THE WEST INDIAN EPISCOPATE.

Story of its Origin.

Apropos of the election of Dr. Parry as Archbishop of the West Indies, and of the consecration of Dr. Berkeley as Bishop of Barbados, the following note on the origin of the West Indian Province, published by the *Barbados Advocate* is eminently topical:—

The West Indian Episcopate, which now includes eight Bishops—Barbados, Jamaica, Guiana, Antigua, Trinidad, Nassau, Honduras, and the Falkland Islands—is only the growth of the last hundred years. Before 1825 these islands, and up to 1784 America also, were vaguely regarded as under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London, though his authority also was not beyond question; and seems to have originated in a loose permission given to one of the Bishops of London to send Chaplains for the Virginia Company, and to provide them with licences. In 1801 this jurisdiction, such as it was, was put on a legal basis. Previous to that date the Bishop of London had occasionally a "Surrogate" in Barbados, and sometimes even a "Commissary," but the powers of these functionaries were as vague as the Bishop's own powers. The Governor of Barbados inducted to Rectories, and the Vestries tried and deposed scandalous Clergymen, and almost as frequently conscientious Clergymen also, for their very conscientiousness, if they happened to tread on the corns of the great. It was not a rare occurrence for half of the Rectories of the island to be vacant.

How much may have been due to the high character and great energy of the first Bishop of Barbados, William Hart Coleridge, and how much may have been due to the beneficent effect of the Church finding itself at last with a Head, we cannot say; but Bishop Coleridge's seventeen years' Episcopate must have been a record one in Church annals. He brought into effect, after 120 years' waiting, General Codrington's noble design for a local University; he increased the number of Clergy from 37 to 99; and in Barbados alone (his Diocese included the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, Guiana, and Trinidad) he was instrumental in building the following Churches:—St. Mary, St. Paul, St. Matthew, St. Stephen, St. Barnabas, St. Matthias, St. Bartholomew, St. David, Society Chapel, St. Mark, Holy Trinity, St. Luke, St. Jude, St. Simon, Holy Innocents.

POTASH FROM SEAWEED.

Mr. J. R. Bovell's Interesting Note.

Mr. J. R. Bovell, Superintendent of Agriculture, Barbados, in a letter to the *Agricultural Reporter*, draws attention to the quantity of potash contained in some of the seaweed thrown up in certain parts of the coast of Barbados. He adds:—

Recently, through the good offices of Mr. H. C. P. Trimmingham, of the Farm, St. Peter, I obtained some seaweed from the coast of that parish, which Professor d'Albuquerque, M.A., etc., was good enough to analyse for me. The following is the analysis:—

Moisture	77.79
Organic Matters, etc.	15.38
Insoluble Siliceous Matters	0.23
Phosphoric Anhydride	0.06
Alkaline Salts, Lime, Magnesia, etc.	6.52
	100.00
Containing Nitrogen	0.43
Equal to Ammonia	0.52
Equal to Tricalcic Phosphate	0.17
Containing Potash	2.07
Equal to Sulphate of Potash	3.82

In California, where considerable work has been done

by the Experiment Station in connection with the analysis of seaweed, it has been found that air-dried seaweed contains between 16 and 17 per cent. of moisture. On the basis of 16 per cent. of moisture, a ton of Barbados seaweed from the St. Peter coast would contain approximately 36 lbs. of nitrogen, 15 lbs. of tricalcium phosphate, and 175 lbs. of potash.

In view of the present scarcity of potash, and the comparative scarcity of sheep manure, which supplies a considerable amount of potash, I beg to suggest to any of the planters who can conveniently obtain it the desirability of collecting the seaweed and testing its manurial value. It should be taken a little way inland, where it cannot be washed into the sea again, allowed to remain until one or two rains have fallen to wash away most of the sea-salt, and then as soon as it is fairly dry apply to the land in comparison with sheep manure. Or it may be composted with farmyard manure and compared with farmyard manure not so treated. When the cures reach maturity the differences in yield, if any, should be ascertained.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COMMERCE.

The Need of a Suitable Medium.

Up to twenty-five or thirty years ago the Public School boy and young University man thought it *infra dig.* to enter a commercial career. It is true that a few did embark upon a business career, but in such cases it was generally a matter of going into a family business, or into one where personal, financial, or social introductions gave opportunities of a safe and more or less easily earned competence. Of such it cannot be said that they carved out a career for themselves. There are very few business men of forty-five years of age who stepped from their Public Schools on to one of the low rungs of the commercial ladder and have worked their way up. The Public School boy or young University man of those days was destined almost always for a profession; and that was because they were generally the sons of professional men. But since that time this disinclination to enter business has greatly weakened and (before the war) there were plenty of men of thirty, and there was a still greater number of young men of twenty, who had gone straight from the great Public Schools to junior clerkships in banks and insurance offices, and in city merchants' businesses, with the intention of making careers for themselves not only at home, but in foreign countries, and especially in India and in the British Dominions abroad.

Changed Conditions.

This change has been due to various causes: the keenness of competition in the professions, which have not been able to maintain all the candidates for entry into them: the fact that the Public Schools began to draw their boys far more largely from the commercial classes: the growth in numbers and reputation of the lesser and cheaper Public Schools: a greater knowledge of the conditions of life and prospects in the Colonies, and official inducements to emigrate. And it is a change which should be welcomed and encouraged by every possible means. For the welfare of the Empire depends at the last on its probity, and not so much upon the probity of its clergy, lawyers, and doctors here, as upon that of its traders at home and in all parts of the world.

And there is no educational system which so specialises in the production of probity, and—what is nearly as important—the ability to undertake responsibility, as that of our great Public Schools and Universities.

It is because of these characteristics of integrity and self-reliance that business men of all kinds are anxious to employ this type of youth—in spite of his lack of various essential qualities. And his defects are well known and obvious. His chief defect is that his education has not run upon commercial lines. Handwriting, arithmetic, French, have not been taught from a practical commercial standpoint; book-keeping, shorthand, commercial geography have been ignored. It has been left to employers to educate him in commercial practice.

It has been a difficult matter for employers to select just the right type of Public School boy or University man. They have relied upon three methods in making their selection; upon advertisement, or upon personal introduction, or upon a desire, in many cases, to please a valuable customer. The former of these—advertisement—has produced a crop of candidates, whose testimonials have had to be taken up and sifted, and there has been no surety that the final selection was a candidate of just the type required. Nor have either of the other two methods been more satisfactory, for they have involved the appointment of an applicant on a recommendation that could not be impartial.

What is needed is a medium that is in close touch with the headmasters and masters of the Public Schools and the tutors at the Universities; that knows all the applicants personally and their qualifications, and is in a position to receive reports upon them of a confidential nature. It must be in personal touch, too, with employers and know their needs in each case. Thus it would be ready to put before any employer a short list of candidates whose qualifications it knew to be in consonance with his requirements.

Likely Candidates.

The present time is not inopportune for a consideration of this important matter. There are numbers of Public School boys of 16 or 17 who are seeking appointments and who are not likely to be called up for war service if the war is finished in the course of the next eighteen months. Already, too, there are men of the ex-officer type, seasoned by their experiences, invalidated and discharged from the Army, looking for appointments. But besides these there are many scores of thousands of Public School boys and young University men now on active service. Of those that return, many will never resume their academic life, many will have lost touch with the friendships and facilities from which they hoped for introductions to the careers upon which they had decided. It is perhaps not too much to say that nearly all will be fired by their experience to take their part in the great reconstruction after the war, and to seek careers of enterprise in commerce at home and abroad. Their war-service too, will have matured in them habits of discipline and of ability to shoulder responsibility. It is not too early days for business men now to consider how

they can best employ in their trades this valuable material.

It is hardly open to doubt that the keenness of trade competition all over the world will be intensified after the war. Character and education have been the foundations of commercial success in the past, and they will be even more essential in the future. Is it too much to suggest that it is of national importance that the section of the youth of the country best equipped in character and education should be enrolled in the trade-service of the Empire?

"SURGERY" FOR LIME TREES.

Mycologist's Visit to Dominica.

Mr. W. Nowell, mycologist, who recently paid a professional visit to Dominica, has issued a report which is now published in the *Official Gazette*. Discussing the bracket fungi of lime trees, Mr. Nowell says:—

The fungi found occupying the stems and branches of the trees are to be regarded, according to my observations, as obtaining a foothold in the first place only on dead branches, and then functioning largely as saprophytes, and at most, in a certain type of cases, as weak parasites principally affecting the wood. The bark of dead or dying branches is usually found to be infected with smaller fungi, of which *Nectria* and *Stilbum* spp. are the most noticeable. The damage done, however, arises almost entirely from the destruction of the woody framework of the tree, and not from any direct attack on the active tissues of the bark and young wood. The destruction is probably largely due to the mycelium of the bracket fungi in question.

They are able to establish themselves on any dead stub left from the failure of a branch or from careless pruning, no matter how healthy the tree may be. But the subsequent progress of the infestation depends on the condition of the adjoining parts. In vigorous trees the decay is arrested when the living branch is reached. Even the wood shows considerable powers of resistance. It rots slowly where it is exposed, and unless the wound is trimmed so as to permit the bark to grow over it, there is produced in time an unsightly cavity, but the process is no more than goes on in any tree not carefully trimmed, and unless the wound is a particularly large one it does not produce serious results for a long time.

Preventive and Remedial Measures.

The remedial and preventive measures which should be adopted are clearly indicated. In fields where dieback is in evidence, or where small and scanty foliage shows that the trees are lacking in vigour, the first essential is to restore the fertility of the soil. If it has become consolidated or is covered with a firm sod, it should be lightly forked; as much organic material as can be obtained in the shape of pen-manure, mulch, cotton-seed meal, lime seeds, and sheep manure should be applied; the weed growth, if rank, may be cut down and used as mulch towards the end of the wet season. Leguminous cover crops may be grown if there is light enough for their development. At the same time the work of clearing the trees of dead and sickly branches should begin. Men who have received elementary instruction in this work should be kept to it as much as possible, and it will be necessary that a responsible person who understands the lines of action should direct it.

It is proposed to issue shortly from this office a pamphlet setting out the main principles of tree surgery, such as are here involved. In outline they are as follows:—

(a) To cut back to a living branch or stem which seems likely to survive and to have vigour enough to cover the wound. The most frequent mistake made lies in not cut-

ting back far enough; the upper dead portion of a branch is removed, a sickly lower section being left because it still has green leaves or carries a few limes. This in turn dies back, and the process is repeated. If at the first essay the cut is made behind the failing section, there is a prospect of stopping the dieback in one operation.

(b) To trim the wound so that it is as far as possible flush with the surface of the branch or stem remaining. Plain saw cuts rarely accomplish this, and should be trimmed with a hatchet, a chisel, or a cutlass into conformity. This usually means a bigger wound, but it is better to expose more surface which will easily cover than to leave a projecting lip which is out of the circulation of the sap and will probably decay.

(c) Protect the exposed wood from ants, wood-ants, and fungi until the bark has time to cover it. Asphalt paint, resin-petroleum, resin wash, carbolineum, or ordinary white lead paint may be used for this purpose. The last mentioned is perhaps the least satisfactory. Coal tar should not be used on citrus trees; some constituent of it appears to penetrate the bark and check the growth of the cambium. Cavities which cannot be cut out should be cleaned, dressed with carbolineum, and filled with cement to make a level surface for the bark to cover.

The Development of Young Lime Trees.

In company with the curator, Mr. Nowell inspected the lime experiment plots in the valley beyond Morne Bruce. He found that these trees on the whole were in excellent health. He adds:—

The Dominica experiments have confirmed and clarified certain conclusions hitherto based on scattered and somewhat indefinite observations concerning the growth of young lime trees. The matter may now be stated, with considerable certainty, as follows:—

A. Young lime trees, from the time they are set out to the time of bearing, or, as it would perhaps be preferable to state it, to the time when they are closing in and affording each other shelter, are liable to be held back, or to suffer severe checks, from infestation with scale insects. This liability is the greater as the situation is more open and the soil is more depleted; in particularly well sheltered situations, and in ordinary situations where the soil is rich in humus, the condition does not appear. An abundant supply of rain does not in itself prevent its appearance.

B. The condition can be successfully met, and can by timely action be prevented, in the following ways:—

(a) By the artificial control of scale insects by regular spraying. This measure simply prevents injury to the plants.

(b) By the provision of close lateral shelter. This measure greatly forwards the growth of the plants, which at the same time remain free from serious infestations of scale.

(c) By the manuring and careful cultivation of the plants in the open field, provided that the situation is not badly exposed.

In these experiments the development secured by methods (b) and (c) is so greatly superior to that obtained by method (a) as to quite eliminate the latter from recommended practices. The shelter method is the simplest, but for good results care must be taken to keep clear around each tree a space just sufficient for its full development. Removal of the shelter will thus be gradual. Anything approaching overhead shade should be avoided. In applying the third method, the more shelter in the way of windbreaks and hedges is provided the less will be the attention required to maintain the vigour of the trees.

The conclusions drawn from these experiments will regard to natural resistance to scale insect infestations are applicable to mature trees, but under Dominica conditions these are rarely severely attacked.

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.

II.—TRINIDAD'S PICTURESQUE EFFORT.

To Trinidad belongs the honour of holding the first of our "Flag Days." Some 25,000 silk emblems and cardboard badges were sent out to the colony by the Contingent Committee. Trinidad, however, was not content merely with buying and selling of flags. The day set apart for the purpose of providing further funds for comforts for "our boys" at the front was observed as a festival on picturesque and ambitious lines.

The Trinidad and Tobago Branch of the Ladies' West India Committee drew up a programme so varied and attractive as to excite the envy and emulation of Grenada. The President of the Branch is Lady Chancellor, wife of the Governor, and the Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Gordon. The office of honorary secretary is filled by Mrs. John Wilson. Associated with these ladies as the Committee are Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Bernard, Mrs. Vincent Brown, Mrs. Rapsey, Mrs. Geddes Grant, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Huggins and Miss Selier.

To these ladies occurred the idea of a "Flag Day" appealing at once to the pockets, the patriotism and the sense of the picturesque of their fellow-colonists. Not only were flags to be sold, but it was arranged that there should be a procession of decorated motor cars, representative of the Allied and friendly powers, from Government House to the Botanic Gardens. The Botanic Gardens, it was agreed, should figure prominently in



ONE OF THE BADGES SOLD.

the programme. Not only were the flags to be on sale, but the Constabulary Band during the afternoon was to discourse music, and ice-creams were to be disposed of for the benefit of the Contingent Fund. In the evening the Gardens were to be the scene of an open-air concert.

For the execution of this excellent programme good weather was a prime essential. Unfortunately rain fell. It compelled a slight alteration of plans, but proved powerless to damp the enthusiasm either of the promoters or of the public, to whom they appealed. Early on the morning of June 30th the flags were on sale throughout Trinidad and Tobago—the large Union Jacks at 1/- each, the miniatures at six cents, and the badges at two cents. Nor was the sale confined to the streets. No pedestrian, of course, was allowed to miss his opportunity. Those Trinidadians whom duty or pleasure did not call forth from home were, however, visited by the alert ladies entrusted with the success of the day's effort. "The result was," says the *Port-of-Spain Gazette* (which journal most cordially supported the enterprise), "that before the day was far advanced there

were very few, if any, homes whose occupants had not bought one or more of those lovely flags, and there was hardly any person in the street who was not sporting one or several of them."

The Procession of Motor Cars.

In the afternoon was witnessed the *pièce de résistance*—the procession of motor cars from Government House. This feature of the day's programme aroused so much popular interest, that the departure was witnessed by large crowds of peoples. Some idea of the concourse is conveyed by the fact that the traffic was controlled by a number of non-commissioned officers and men. Unhappily, a heavy fall of rain fell at the time fixed for the start, which was delayed for half an hour.

The procession was headed by a car containing the Governor, with Lady and Miss Chancellor and Captain D. G. Davidson, A.D.C. The cars representative of Great Britain and her Allies were occupied as follows:—

Lady Lucie Smith	England
Mrs Gordon Gordon	Scotland
Mrs. John Wilson	Wales
Mrs. Slyne	Ireland
Mrs. Hancock	Serbia
Mrs. Frank Angostini	France
Mrs Hutchinson	Russia
Mrs. Rapsey	Belgium
Mrs. Vincent Brown	Montenegro
Mrs. May	Japan
Mrs. Huggins	Italy
Mrs. Fernandez	Portugal
Mrs. Alston	Roumania
Mr Baker	U.S.A.
Miss Lee Lum	China
Mr. Dominguez	Brazil

The chauffeurs of cars belonging to the Committee wore rosettes, and flags were on sale by the occupants of the cars. A number of the private cars also took part in the procession. Among the decorated cars were those of Mr. E. L. Atkinson (representing Canada), Mr. Jesse Henderson (U.S.A.), Messrs. Medford, Mendez, Y. de Lima, R. de Ver-teuil, and Dr. Payne. But most prominent of all was a car whose occupants (some of whom were of the fair sex) all wore khaki. This car was very simply decorated and it bore a large badge of what it represented—the British West India Regiment. The occupants of the cars, on the whole, were more or less costumed, in keeping with the country represented. Corporal J. A. Roberts, of the Middlesex Regiment, who owed a visit to Trinidad to the West Indian Contingent Committee, after many months of active service, was here, there and everywhere, lending invaluable help.

The following was the route arranged:—Gardens, Savannah, Long Circular Road, Ariapita Avenue, Duke Street, Abercromby Street, Police Barracks, Henry Street, Jerningham Avenue and Belmont Circular Road, once round the Savannah and so back to the Gardens. As the procession passed, the Constabulary Band, from the stand, played the patriotic airs of the different countries represented.

The Evening Concert.

It had been arranged to hold an open-air concert in the evening at the Gardens, but owing to the

weather the venue was changed to the Princes' Building. The following was the programme:—

Lovey's Band...	...	...	...	...
Pretty Maidens	...	...	...	...
Bond Street	...	...	...	Duet and Chorus
"Can't Keep away from the Girls."				
Clown Chorus	...	...	...	Miss Harrigin
March	...	...	...	Ocean to Ocean
Anthem	...	...	...	Portugal
Song (Patriotic)	...	...	...	Canada
Anthem ("Hail, Columbia")	...	...	...	America
March	...	...	...	Tipperary
Anthem ("La Marsellaise")	...	...	...	France
Song (Patriotic)	...	...	...	"Rule Britannia" England
"GOD SAVE THE KING."				

As already announced, the amount forwarded to the West Indian Contingent Committee as the result of the effort was £257 12s. 8d.

Thanks to those who assisted.

Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, in a letter to the local Press, said:—

With your kind permission the Committee wish to take this opportunity of thanking all who helped to make Flag Day the success it was. They feel that special thanks are due to Mrs. Burslem and Mrs. Philips and their band of Red Cross workers who so ably organised the sale of flags throughout the town; Mrs. Huggins and Mrs. Reginald Smith and all who assisted them in the sale of ice creams; the Girl Guides and the detachment of the Boys' Brigade under Mr. Todd; Mrs. Perez and her troupe for a very successful concert, and Mrs. de Pass for making the necessary arrangements; the owners of cars who decorated them and made the Procession such an attractive feature of the day's proceedings; Colonel May, Major de Pass, the Constabulary, the Bandmaster and Band, and all the ladies in town and country who helped so enthusiastically in the good cause. The Committee also wish to thank His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Gordon Gordon for so generously giving prizes to the best decorated cars. The money realised in town has now been received, and the statement of accounts is appended. That received from country centres is still incomplete, but the Committee hope to be able to publish it next Sunday, and are sure that the whole amount taken on this, the first West Indian Flag Day, will be one of which Trinidad may be proud. It will be forwarded to Mr. Aspinall for the use of "Our Boys" with very great pleasure.

The Total Proceeds.

The total proceeds were \$660.94 (less expenses, \$30.90), and include the following:—

Town Receipts.—Six Girl Guides, Frederick Street, 40 dols. 55 cts.; Miss Lynch, 31 dols. 95 cts.; Mrs. Nevit, 29 dols. 31 cts.; Mrs. J. Phillips, 40 dols. 55 cts.; Mrs. R. Rust, 33 dols. 82 cts.; Mrs. Guthrie, 14 dols. 68 cts.; Mrs. Hancock, 13 dols. 86 cts.; Mrs. Huggins, 5 dols. 49 cts.; Mrs. Gordon Gordon, 10 dols. 80 cts.; Mrs. Gordon Gordon (children and Guides), 15 dols. 66 cts.; Mrs. J. R. Wilson, 9 dols. 36 cts.; Mrs. Burslem, 44 dols. 87 cts.; Mrs. Hutchinson, 8 dols. 9 cts.; Miss Lee Lum, 30 dols. 56 cts.; Mrs. Thaveno, 14 dols. 22 cts.; Mrs. Farnum, 25 dols. 45 cts.; Mrs. P. Ulrich, 19 dols. 46 cts.; Mrs. Alston, 11 dols. 17 cts.; Girl Guides and Boys' Brigade (Concert), 6 dols. 99 cts.; Miss Rapsley, 14 dols. 95 cts.; Mrs. J. Fraser, 9 dols. 8 cts.; Mrs. Slyné, 2 dols. 52 cts.; Mrs. May, 28 dols. 35 cts.; Mrs. Vincent Brown, 7 dols. 52 cts.; Girl Guides at Gardens, 7 dols. 60 cts.; Mrs. de Verteuil, 6 dols. 81 cts.; Mrs. Fernandez, 10 dols. 78 cts.; and Miss Rosemary Chancellor, 3 dols. 32 cts.—Total, 407 dols. 37 cts.

Those few members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions for the present year have not yet been paid are requested to pay them into their local branch of the Colonial Bank.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Captain L. H. Tinney having proceeded to Bombay to join the Indian Army, Captain Thomas is acting as Adjutant of Lieut.-Colonel J. H. L. Poe's Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt.

Owing to a bereavement, Lady Davson will be unable to hold the drawing-room work-party meeting at 20, Ennismore Gardens, arranged for the 31st inst. The next meeting will therefore be on November 14th.

Sergeant Donald C. Mais, of Jamaica, the British West Indies Regiment, has been awarded the Military Medal "for coolness under fire in looking after his wounded and keeping his party together generally when they were being heavily shelled."

Among those who have extended hospitality to young men from the West Indies who have come over to join the Colours is Mrs. F. N. Martinez, who has, during the past two years, entertained many of them at her house in Hampstead and given them a good time in various ways.

From the *Gazette*, 12th and 13th October:—

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp. Lt. P. E. F. Cressall to be actg. Capt. (Aug. 9, 1916); Temp. Sec. Lt. D. V. Bynoe to be actg. Lt. (Nov. 9, 1916); Sec. Lt. J. A. de la Mothe (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Sec. Lt. (July 27) (substituted for notification in *Gazette* Aug. 22, page 8656, incorrectly describing name).

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp. Sec. Lt. J. P. Thomson to be actg. Lt. (Aug. 9, 1916).

It appearing that winter nights in Egypt are proving very cold, the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations has, at the request of the West Indian Contingent Committee, kindly cabled to his depot in that country, asking that such warm comforts as may be needed may be immediately issued.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Pte. Ralph Herrera, C. Schjolseth, J. A. Hernandez, Pte. Mark Lange, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Lieut. Albert Maingot, 2nd Lieut. John O'Connor, Trpr. J. O. de Nobriga, Geo. F. Huggins, Pte. L. F. Maingot, Pte. N. Sellier, Cadet P. Lange, Pte. J. McPherson, 2nd Lieut. F. Rooks, Pte. I. E. Ache, J. P. de Verteuil, Pte. M. de Verteuil, Pte. G. A. Roberts, Pte. S. R. Clarke, and Rfn. Errol Knowles, Trinidad; Pte. C. I. Proverbs, Pte. B. T. Seale, Pte. C. A. Farmer, Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, A. E. Atwell, Pte. A. P. Cox, Pte. C. K. Nichols, Pte. L. D. Peterkin, Pte. J. E. A. M. Crawford, Gunner H. S. Phillips, Gunner B. G. Cheesman, 2nd Lieut. H. C. Phillips, Cpl. P. Greenidge, Pte. C. R. Honeychurch, Pte. C. E. Murphy, Cadet G. D. Pile, and Pte. L. A. Leslie, Barbados; Capt. P. St. L. Baquie, Sergt. S. R. M. Gordon, Sergt. Chas. A. Rickard, C. Bagot Gray, 2nd Lieut. R. G. Williams, Capt. J. Hamilton, 2nd Lieut. K. C. Levy, Pte. P. Buchanan, Sergt. C. A. Hall, and Lieut. A. C. Hedmann, Jamaica; E. W. Branch, Antigua; J. H. Knowles, Bahamas; J. Agard, Tobago; W. H. Hazell, St. Vincent; Cpl. Arthur D. Gaskin and Pte. S. J. Van Sertima, British Guiana; Pte.

A. B. Meade, Montserrat; 2nd Lieut. Whiting Baker, British West Indies Regiment.

* * *

The work parties at Lady Davson's have been resumed for the winter. Socks and Balacava helmets are urgently required at present, and it is hoped that workers will concentrate on these. Any other comforts are, of course, very acceptable. The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Anonymous: 3 chest protectors, 3 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens.

Mrs. Rutherford: 12 prs. socks.

Mr. F. C. Previte: 12 prs. socks.

Mrs. Arthur Johnson: 2 mufflers, 1 pr. socks.

Mrs. Cook: 6 prs. socks.

Mrs. J. B. Saunders: 3 prs. socks.

Miss Porteous: 3 prs. socks.

Mrs. C. Barnes: 5 prs. socks.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

DRIVER FRANK C. KELLY, who died of wounds on the 12th August, was a son of Mrs. Kelly, of 100, Catmichael Street, Georgetown, Demerara. He left the colony in July, 1913, for Canada, where he obtained employment with the Bell Telephone Company at Montreal. He enlisted in the Canadian Contingent, and proceeded to England, and thence to the Front, where he has now given his life for his country.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT. JOHN W. STEVEN, West Yorkshire Regiment, formerly of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., Georgetown, British Guiana, has been wounded at the Front in France. Lieut. Steven joined as a private, was promoted Sergeant, and eventually won his commission in the field. He went through the Gallipoli campaign.

CORPL. VICTOR D. SMEDMORE, Household Battalion (of Jamaica), has been wounded.

HONOURS.

JOSEPH PAYNE, a native of Demerara, son of Thomas and Susannah Payne, of Lamaha Street, Georgetown, has been three times mentioned in French war despatches as a model of bravery and devotion in the field. He was wounded on July 4th, 1916, in the attack on Belloyen. After local schooling he went to sea, and, his vessel touching at a port in France shortly after the outbreak of war, he resigned his post as seaman and entered the ranks of the French Foreign Legion, and has been at the Front ever since, taking part in many battles in Champagne, Arras, and the Somme.

LIEUT. C. B. WRONG, Royal Munster Fusiliers (of British Guiana), has been awarded the Military Cross for special bravery at Salonica in safely bringing in a number of wounded men during a fierce night attack. Lieut. Wrong left the colony in 1913 to study law. A year later, after successfully passing his first examination, war broke out, so he abandoned his studies and volunteered for service, joining the Royal Munsters, in which he soon obtained a commission, and was sent to France, but subsequently was transferred to Salonica, where he is now serving with his regiment.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

LANCE-CORPL. J. B. G. AUSTIN (son of Mr. Jas. P. Austin, of Belleville, Barbados, and formerly an overseer on Plu. Sitoult, British Guiana) has been granted a commission in the Gloucester Regt., Regular Army, in recognition of his field services in France. He was wounded on the Somme when attached to the Royal Berkshires.

SECOND LIEUT. A. W. BOYCE, Gordon Highlanders, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

MR. J. A. NISBET, of the Demerara *Argosy*, who joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1916, has been promoted 2nd Lieutenant in his regiment.

SECOND LIEUT. J. O'CONNOR, of Trinidad Customs, Labour Corps, has recently joined his unit in France.

SECOND AIR MECHANIC SIDNEY O. SEON, R.F.C. (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent) has been promoted 1st Class Air Mechanic, and is now attached to the Royal Field Artillery.

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.

Parker, Lieut. R. M. B., R.G.A., Chairman of the Wales Estates, Ltd., British Guiana, has left England for active service in France.

Roy, Sapper T. J. (son of Mr. Thomas J. Roy, General Manager of the Demerara Railway), Royal Engineers.

Since the last list of casualties in the British West Indies Regiment generally was published, the following have been officially reported:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

BAHAMAS.—2484 Duncombe, Henry.

JAMAICA.—6235 Clarke, C.; 3587 Clarke, E. J.; 7305

Davidson, H.; 3623 Henry, J.; 10150 Howell, L.; 10467

Price, C.; 8562 Thomas, J.

ST. LUCIA.—10458 Auguste, J.; 11163 Gibbs, C.; 11626

Soverin, C.; 11631 Sally, Actg. Cpl. R.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.—3209 Alexander, Lee-Cpl. L.; 3871 Brown, R.;

3129 Crawford, E. T.; 2896 Durrant, H.; 6345 Scott, Lee-

Cpl. J.; 7765 Walker, R. (and gassed); 3696 Warren, A. W.

GRENADA.—11529 Patrick, J.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BRITISH GUIANA.—6428 Bachus, G. H.; 6420 Vassell, J.

DOMINICA.—1191 James T.

JAMAICA.—3395 Anderson, C. R.; 9645 Anderson, J.;

7000 Anglin, Lee-Corpl. H.; 3419 Ashley, E.; 13857

Davidson, O.; 5776 Hall, S.; 10492 Ringer, H.; 9311 Wil-

liams, I.; 3203 Woolery, N. T.

MISSING (BELIEVED KILLED).

Stockhansen, Lieut. J. L. (attached R.F.C.).

WOUNDED.

ANTIGUA.—3715 Simmonds, Lee-Cpl. G. E.

BAHAMAS.—5433 Brennan, N.

BARBADOS.—11422 Martin, M.

BRITISH GUIANA.—10919 Baird, Sgt. D.

JAMAICA.—Andrews, Lieut. L. R.; Casserly, 2nd Lieut.

F. G.; 3595 Anderson, C. R.; 7515 Anderson, R.; 9639

Austin, G.; 6864 Bailey, J. (accidentally); 2595 Barclay,

S.; 2999 Barrett, C.; 2602 Boumer, J. (attached R.F.A.);

8035 Brown, J.; 3163 Brown, J.; 3871 Brown, R.; 7272

Bryan, E.; 9694 Bryan, J.; 3741 Bunyan, J.; 8558 Cameron,

J.; 3588 Campbell, G.; 3539 Clark, H.; 6247 Cooper, H.

(attached R.G.A.); 802 Davis, L.; 7564 Davis, Sgt. W.;

3451 De Pass, Cpl. C.; 7306 Dixon, E.; 8011 Doonery, F.;

3133 Edwards, R.; 2614 Pearson, D. G.; 5954 Pitt, R.;

3170 Finch, C.; 7586 Fountado, J.; 8396 Francis, C.; 7607

Gardener, E.; 3736 Geddes, P.; 3289 Gordon, J. A.; 6268

Gordon A.; 7844 Gordon, F.; 1941 Gordon, S. J.; 3475

Graham, T. H.; 7398 Graham, W.; 4263 Grant, C.; 3474

Grant, J. N.; 7372 Hall, R.; 3615 Hamilton, H.; 2683

Hamilton, H. C.; 8431 Harris, C.; 3478 Harris, L. A.;

2374 Haughton, E. N.; 7375 Haughton, N.; 8407 Heylett,

S.; 7366 Hird, W.; 8766 Hylton, S. (accidentally); 3725

Jack, T.; 5233 Jackson, C.; 6293 Johnson, C.; 7384 John-

son, D.; 2803 Johnson, N. O. (and gassed); 3024 Josephs,

W.; 7669 Lawrence, A.; 8800 Layne, J.; 2805 Levers, H.;

G.; 3639 Lewis, C.; 7395 Lewis, T.; 8626 McCorbin, S.;

7416 McDonald, C.; 2972 McDonald, J. E. (attached

R.G.A.); 7687 McKenzie, F.; 3351 McKinnon, D.; 5157

McLeary, A.; 3351 McLennan, P.; 7426 McPherson, S.;

2192 Madden, W.; 2315 Maguan, S. F.; 3268 Maguns, Sgt.

A.; 8327 Miller, C.; 7987 Miller, C.; 3489 Miles, N.;

7788 Morgan, E.; 8165 Murray, G.; 3427 Nelson, W.; 10419 Nelson, J.; 8173 Oliphant, J.; 3010 Peck, J.; 8449 Pettigrew, R.; 3195 Petrie, L.; 3011 Plummer, R.; 7447 Powell, H.; 7223 Rankin, L.; 2657 Reynolds, W. B. A.; (attached Anzac Div.); 7509 Regan, A.; 3314 Robinson, R. F.; 2756 Rhoden, W.; 8509 Sharpe, C.; 10643 Sinclair, G.; 7737 Simpson, S.; 3032 Smith, A.; 8507 Smith, C.; 7461 Smith, R.; 5929 Stephenson, P.; 5954 Taite, R.; 7746 Thomas, W.; 2712 Tomlinson, J.; 7745 Walker, D.; 3323 Walker, L.; 7765 Walker, R.; 8308 Wallace, E.; 6384 Watson, J.; 8236 Watson, S.; 7751 Watson, S.; 8542 White, F.; 7753 Wilson, A. (gassed); 8764 Williams, C.; 4024 Williams, S.; 8424 Wright, C. (attached R.G.A.); 7488 Wright, W.

St. Lucia.—1285 Joseph, C.; 10978 Sherry, A.; 11515 Preville, C.

St. Vincent.—10209 Adams, N.; 10881 Bodkin, P.; 10891 Brown, C.; 11041 Dallaway, E.; 11501 Pope, E.; 11563 Richards, P.

Trinidad.—10856 Adams, F. E.; 10956 Brewster, D.; 11010 Charbonnic, B.; 11633 Downey, G.; 11202 Goodridge, E.; 11359 King, D.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—The Postmaster's Report.

The report of the Postmaster of Antigua, published in the Leeward Islands Official Gazette, shows a surplus on the year 1916-17 of £535. This is due to the non-payment of contribution to the Intercolonial Mail Service and to revenue derived from War Tax Stamps. Some 15,000 more letters were received from the United States than from the United Kingdom, but Great Britain leads the way in the matter of book packages sent to and received from Antigua. As regards the Money Order service, orders to the value of £426 only were received from the United Kingdom, whereas the amount in the case of the United States was £2,600.

BARBADOS—The Bishop Consecrated.

A correspondent writes that the joint consecration of the Very Rev. Alfred Pakenham Berkeley, D.D., as Bishop of Barbados, and of the Rev. Edward Arthur Dunn, D.D., as Bishop of Honduras took place in St. Michael's Cathedral on September 12th. The consecrating prelates were the Bishops of Guiana, Nassau, Antigua, and Jamaica. The Principal of Coltrington (Rev. A. H. Austey) preached the sermon.

BRITISH GUIANA—Bauxite booming.

A correspondent writes that things are booming in the matter of bauxite. Applications for prospecting are pouring in, and optimism has been strengthened by the assurance publicly given by Professor Harrison that the colony's resources in this regard are inexhaustible. That business has not been unduly depressed by the War is evident from the latest reports with reference to the telephone service. Its popularity has so developed that the Press makes mention of a waiting list containing the names of 81 prospective subscribers. The exchange in Georgetown, it is stated, has become far too small for growing needs.—There is a remarkable development of the rice industry in the Mahabica district. Rice lands now extend on both banks of the Creek for fourteen miles, and provide employment for two thousand people.

A Correspondent writes: There has been a sum of \$60,000 voted by the Combined Court for the construction of a cattle trail from the Rupununi savannah to the navigable waters of the Berbice River, crossing the upper water of the Essequibo, and above the source of the Demerara River. Mr. H. P. C. Melville, Commissioner of the Rupununi District, who strongly advocated the adoption of the scheme, reckons a weekly drive of 1,000 head of oxen from the cattle ranches of the Rupununi and upper Essequibo Rivers, occupying eight days travelling over the track and feeding on the way at certain selected grazing grounds, as practised in Venezuela.

There has recently been a considerable boom in the Diamond Industry, principally in the Massaruni River districts, from which some beautiful and valuable stones have been obtained. One day alone, four parcels of

diamonds were received in Georgetown containing 795 stones, averaging four stones to the carat.

The gold industry of the colony is also attracting renewed attention, chiefly in the Wauaim district.

The dry dock, constructed in 1914 at H.M. Penal Settlement on the Massaruni River, at a cost approaching \$14,000, in connection with the Government Steamer Service is being abandoned as unworkable; and arrangements have been entered into with Sproston's Limited for the docking and repairs of the Government steamers at that company's graving dock in Georgetown. It seems a pity that some such arrangement was not originally adopted before expending such a large sum of money for, apparently, no practical good.

The Demerara *Argosy* of August 9th, in the course of an eulogistic review of the recently issued report of the West Indian Contingents Committee, suggests that the Committee might undertake the further duty—"subject of course to the British Censorship"—of collecting and supplying, either through the different colonial governments or the local press, the available information as to the location and doings of the various contingents from the several West Indian Colonies, and so keep the colonists, more or less, in touch with the boys who have gone abroad from amongst them to take their share in the Empire's battles of the Great War.

JAMAICA Railway Results.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The annual reports of the Collector-General and Director of the Jamaica Government Railway have been published this month. The former shows that, during the financial year ended March 31st last, import duties totalled £449,872; export duties, £99,152; harbour and light dues, £4,876; temporary deposits, £8,806; and minor receipts, £640. The above exceeded the revised estimates by £2,860. These returns are highly satisfactory when it is remembered that the banana crop was destroyed, at its height, by the August, 1916, hurricane. Logwood and Logwood extracts contributed over £74,000 and sugar and rum nearly £17,000. The railway report shows a revenue of £141,571, for the same period, being a decrease of 8.49 per cent. over that of the previous year. The falling off was naturally principally due to the destruction of fruit by the 1916 hurricane, but was to a large extent offset by an increase in passenger receipts and income from the haulage of minor products.

The price of bananas has been reduced this month from £12 10s. to £7 10s. per 100 lbs. The supply of fruit is said to be very good. Messrs. Goffe Bros. are once more in the market. A fire which did considerable damage occurred in Port Antonio on August 26th. Amongst other buildings suffering severely were part of the Public Works and the American Consulate. It is understood the total damage amounted to several thousand pounds.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of Great Britain's declaration of war, enthusiastic meetings were held throughout the island for the purpose of re-affirming Jamaica's determination to assist the British Empire to carry the conflict to a successful conclusion with all the means at its disposal.

Mr. Charleton Thompson, Harbour Master for Kingstown, died after a short illness on August 23rd, at Mandeville. Mr. B. de S. Bell, Surveyor of Customs, is acting as Harbour Master, pending the appointment of a successor to Mr. Thompson. Lieut. G. Kelly Lawson, son of Mr. D. O. Kelly Lawson, of Hampden, Jamaica, was killed in action on August 9th, adding another name to the long list of Jamaicans who have laid down their lives for the Empire in the present conflict.

Mr. A. E. Perkins has left for the Windward Islands via New York. Mr. Maxwell Hall, Government Meteorologist and Mr. A. W. Astwood, Chief Clerk of the Treasury, have left for the United States, each on a short visit. Hon. Robt. Johnstone, Acting Colonial Secretary, was decorated with the order of Companion of St. Michael and St. George, and Inspector Thomas Alexander received the Long Service Police Medal, at the hands of His Excellency the Governor, at King's House, early in the month.

Messrs. Grace, Ltd., have acquired wharf premises in

Montego Bay and are expected to extend their sphere of operations considerably in that section of the island in the near future. A donation of £200 from Jamaicans in Bocas del Toro, R. of P., towards the Red Cross Fund, another example of the patriotism of those who have left the island to earn their living in Central America, is acknowledged this month.

The active war funds now stand as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Red Cross Fund	9,377	3	2
Blue Cross Fund	327	0	5
Belgian Orphans' Fund	180	8	2

Other funds are as last reported.

DOMINICA—The Balance Sheet.

The Presidency's balance-sheet for the year 1916-17, published in the *Official Gazette*, shows a total revenue of £48,190, to which Customs (£27,167) made the largest contribution. The expenditure totalled £55,923.

MONTERRAT—Revenue Returns.

There has just been gazetted the comparative return of the revenue and expenditure of the island for the period ended December 31st, 1916. The revenue (£9,880) shows a slight decrease as compared with the estimate. Nevertheless, it represents an advance of £2,032 on the amount received in 1915. The expenditure works out at £9,863.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS The Cadet Corps.

The regulations are gazetted relating to the Cadet Corps attached to the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force. No boy, it is provided, will be accepted as a Cadet who is under the age of fourteen or over seventeen. This will not apply to officers. Cadets, on reaching the age of eighteen, will cease to belong to the Corps, but will have the option of enrolling in the Defence Force. Cadets may be accepted from the Grammar School, the Basseterre Government Boys' School, St. Joseph's Primary School, the Convent High School, or from any other schools, or from boys who have left school, on recommendation. The Corps will be commanded by an officer of the rank of Captain or Lieutenant.

ST. VINCENT—Land Settlement.

The report, published in the *Official Gazette*, on the administration of the Land Settlement Estates of the Colony for the year ended 31st March last shows that 39 applications were accepted for allotments. A large portion of the land in the Linley Valley, which, owing to the comparative poorness of the soil, had been reserved, was, at the request of the occupiers, cut up into allotments and sold. The Commissioner, reporting on the Southern Grenadines for the year 1915-16, announces a revenue of £472 and an expenditure of £1,854. Exports consisted of firewood, poultry, goats, sheep, cattle, and eggs.

MR. W. N. SANDS, SEPTEMBER 1st.—We had a very fine August—plenty of sunshine and not too much rain—and the crops are doing well therefore. The present month, however, is a critical one for them. The planters of crops, other than cotton, have been fortunate in getting off their produce so far. We cannot yet hear of shipping facilities for the cotton of last season that remains on hand. The amount collected for the West Indian Contingent Committee on "Flag Day" was, I learn, just over £210. The departures of Mr. Allan Richards (son of the Hon. C. E. F. Richards) and Mr. Conrad Hazell (son of Mr. C. O. Hazell, K.C.) have to be recorded. These young men, on their arrival in England, will join His Majesty's Forces.

TOBAGO—Proposed Lime Factory.

A correspondent writes that a lime factory on the lines of that established in St. Lucia in 1913 is a project likely to materialise in the near future. The idea is that of a Government factory worked on the co-operative principle. That is to say, the Government erects the factory, at which they receive limes from small cultivators, paying a reasonable price per barrel for them. The lime juice is then extracted and exported. From the proceeds of sale, the money advanced by the Government to complete the

factory is refunded, and the profits divided annually among the farmers in proportion to the number of barrels of limes sent in by each farmer.

TRINIDAD—The New Paper.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 15th.—A new paper—the *Trinidad Guardian*—has been appearing daily since the beginning of the month. It is issued by the Trinidad Publishing Company, Ltd., composed of many of the leading merchants, and is edited by Mr. Edward Jehring Partridge, who was formerly connected with the Press in Demerara. The paper is well printed, and the get-up altogether most creditable, whilst the literary matter commends itself to people generally. There was plenty of room for two morning dailies. We have an evening one, a lively little sheet called the *Argos*, and have missed the *Mirror* a good deal, so that there is a field for the newcomer, the occupation of which he bids fair to be well capable of holding. Meanwhile our old centenarian friend the *Port of Spain Gazette* continues the even tenour of its way, and under the management of the veteran Mr. T. R. N. Laughlin is, I think, better and more readable than at any previous time in its career.

On the invitation of the authorities, the Consular Body recently visited that sad but splendid institution, the Cocorite Leper Asylum. An entertainment was given in the recreation hall in the grounds, at which a string band formed from among the inmates performed most creditably, whilst the little children sang in chorus quite nicely. Some speeches were delivered, the great War being the principal topic, in which the audience seemed keenly interested. In the unavoidable absence of the Dean of the Body, it devolved upon me, as Deputy-Dean, to officiate, and I had, probably owing to this fact, the great and rather unique pleasure of receiving an address which, apart from being very flattering to myself (which I hope to be excused for mentioning, but the appreciation of these poor sufferers is something I am rather proud of), breathed a spirit of fine patriotism clothed in very touching language. A visit to the residence, within the grounds, of the Lady Prioress, whose noble work in the Colony—most of it at the Asylum—has now lasted for 46 years, brought a most interesting afternoon to a close, and we all left impressed more than ever, now that what we had heard was confirmed by personal observation, with respectful admiration of the wonderful self-sacrifice of self to humanity exemplified by that beautiful-souled Reverend Mother and the devoted Sisters who assist in this true errand of Charity. I should have mentioned that the address referred to was accompanied by a contribution from the inmates of the Asylum to the Patriotic Fund, which was handed to me in my capacity as Hon. Secretary of that Fund.

A Correspondent writes: The Port-of-Spain has lately suffered loss through the death of its Town Clerk and Treasurer, Mr. Joseph A. Lamy, barrister-at-law, who has filled the position with distinction, through the various vicissitudes of the municipality, since 1885.

WANT.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Sugar Plantation.—Position as Manager wanted. Experience in field and factory of Demerara and Portuguese East Africa. Good references. Cuba or Peru preferable. Apply E., c/o the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.

15, SEETHING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib. London"

LONDON, E.C.3

October 18th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 95½; 4½ per cent. War Loan, 100½; 3½ per cent. War Loan, 85½. Consols, 86½.

On October 16th the National War Savings Committee announced that sales of the National War Bonds already amounted to £37,991,050. Residents abroad should find the Bonds particularly attractive, as when held by them the interest will be free from all present or future taxation.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

The latest American quotations are: Raw centrifugal, 6.90c.; Muscovado, 6.44c.; refined granulated, 8.25c. All provisions relating to sugar in the War Revenue Bill have been ruled out for further consideration. The beet sugar producers, in session at Washington, have agreed upon 7.25 c. at seaboard refining points to govern the price of beet sugar from October 1st.

The United States are refusing licences for the export of granulated to all neutrals.

From the Continent of Europe we learn that the beet crop now beginning is estimated at the same figure as last year for Denmark; Sweden 129,000 tons, against 137,000 last year; Holland 200,000 tons, and Austria 650,000 tons, against 735,000 tons.

In Austria it is reported that war coffee is being made consisting of 80 per cent. burnt sugar, 10 per cent. beet-meal, and 10 per cent. coffee.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to October 13th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	69,642	49,057	44,511
Deliveries	65,013	50,209	37,654
Stock (Oct. 13th)	12,644	9,953	12,166

Mr. Wardle stated in the House of Commons on October 18th that 3,914,000 cwt. of unrefined sugar remained in bond in the United Kingdom on September 30th, as against 2,112,000 cwt. on the same date last year.

RUM. The announcement that the Admiralty had commandeered stocks of rum in this country came somewhat as a bombshell, though by many in the know it was not unexpected. It effectively put a stop to the rumours which had been prevalent, but to which we attached little importance, that an early relaxation of the prohibition order in respect of rum was likely. A letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published in another column, further emphasises the fact that no immediate relief can be looked for, Mr. Long pointing out that future requirements are to be met as far as possible from stocks held in the United Kingdom, which, it may be added, are at present estimated at 10,700,000 gallons.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Munitions has increased its offer for alcohol—or, in other words, rum (for coloured spirit already made will be accepted)—for munitions purposes, and this offer has been communicated by the West India Committee to the parties interested. West Indian alcohol has been placed on the list of priority cargoes and allowed 200 D.W. a month.

The stocks in London on October 13th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,810	9,970	5,037
Demerara	9,024	12,649	6,010
Total of all kinds	27,954	36,748	22,973

CACAO. The Board of Trade has now informed the West India Committee that it is not proposed to vary the order in respect of the importation of cacao next year. As matters stand, 50 per cent. of the 1916 crop will be permitted to be imported after February 23rd from the British West Indies. The representations of the West India Committee that importations might be sanctioned from January 1st instead of the later date, in view of the

fact that the crop season will be beginning very shortly, is still under consideration.

The shortage of tea—it is, indeed, almost a famine—should react beneficially on the consumption of cocoa and coffee, to which the public is being invited to turn increased attention.

The London cacao market has been firm, and all kinds have been asked for. Trinidad has been sold up to 95/-, and Grenada and Jamaica to 90/-.

The stocks in London on October 13th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	25,155	21,422	13,059
Grenada	28,007	13,877	1,910
Total of all kinds	264,822	205,635	128,752

In Liverpool, the stocks in hand on September 30th were 391,709 bags, against 64,477 bags in 1916.

COTTON. It should be stated that the price of 20d. to 22d. quoted in last summary was for stained. Spot values for good qualities are far higher, the nominal quotations on the 12th inst. being 42d. for good medium; 43d. for medium fine; 44d. for fine and 46d. for extra fine. White cotton is badly wanted. During the forty-one weeks ended October 11th, 1,796 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

FRUIT. Bananas (Costa Rica) £40 per ton at port of entry; Jamaica oranges, 30/- per case, f.o.r.; Jamaica coco-nuts, 34/- per hundred, f.o.r.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: handpressed scarce, 16/- nominal. Distilled neglected, 7/6 to 8/- nominal, but cannot recommend consignments. Lime Juice: Concentrated: no business, market tending lower. Raw: quiet, ordinary to fair, 2/6 to 2/9. Citric: market tending lower.

ARROWROOT. Fair sales of ordinary manufacturing quality from 5½d. to 5½d.

COPRA. The market is firmer. Values £46 c.i.f. London, £45 10s. c.i.f. Liverpool. Only small quantities are being offered.

HONEY very firm with an active demand, and yesterday's auctions showed an increase of about 10/- on last month's quotations. Jamaica, dark liquid to fine pale set is quoted at 95/- to 105/-.

PIMENTO. The market is firmer with an increased demand. Since we last went to press, a fairly good business has been done at 4d. To-day's value is quoted at 4½d.

RUBBER. Firm at 2/8½ for Crepe, and 2/6½ for sheet. Hard Fine is quiet at 3/5. All terms are spot.

BALATA. Venezuela block steady: 3/2½ sellers c.i.f., 3/2½ buyers c.i.f.; spot 3/4½ to 3/5. Panama block 2/7½ c.i.f. sellers, 2/7 buyers; spot 2/9. West Indian sheet, 3/9 to 3/10 forward; spot 3/11 to 4/-.

The development of British Guiana after the war is engaging serious attention in the colony. So much so that sub-committees have been appointed by the Government to deal with the following matters:—

(a) The improvement of Georgetown Harbour; (b) drainage and irrigation of the coast-lands; (c) disposal of sewage, pure water supply, and other sanitary improvements, not only in Georgetown, but in the other large centres of population in the country districts; (d) the possibility of introducing into the colony labour-saving devices, and in particular machinery for replacing manual labour, especially in the sugar and rice industries; (e) the desirability of bridging the Berbice river and of continuing the existing railway between Georgetown and Rosignol as far as the Corentyne river; (f) the development of the Pomeroon and North-Western Districts and the improvement of means of communication between them and Georgetown; (g) the construction of cattle trails to the Rupunni District and the Kaieteur Falls. In connection with the seven foregoing sub-committees, there will also be a sub-committee (a) to consider ways and means of financing proposals which the above-mentioned sub-committees may make, and (b) to consider the legislation which such proposals as are acceptable to the Government may entail.

The West India Committee Circular

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November 1st, 1917.

Jamaica—Guiana by Air.

IN the present CIRCULAR we publish an article which will, we hope, serve to promote interest in, and encourage discussion regarding, the question of aerial transport in the British West Indies. The subject is pregnant with possibilities. In the light of the truly remarkable development in aeronautics which has taken place during the War, it requires no stretch of imagination to foresee that it is in the air that the future lies as regards inter-insular or inter-colonial communication in the West Indies. A flight "down the islands" by aeroplane, sea-plane, or flying-boat—which our correspondent favours—will be nothing compared with CAPTAIN LAURENTI'S wonderful non-stop flight from Turin to London—a distance of 656 miles, which he covered in 7½ hours. In the West Indies, no such obstacles as the high Alps, which necessitated a rise to a height of 12,000 feet, present themselves, and all in normal weather—and gales in the tropics are never of long duration—is, so to speak, plain sailing in the West Indies. At the end of the War, not only will there be masses of material available, but also many well-equipped aircraft factories for which work will have to be provided, besides hundreds of young aviators for whose energies scope will have to be found, since a man who has once flown is no longer going to be content to travel on land. He will feel the "call of the air." As our readers are no doubt aware, a Government Committee has already been

set up to consider the question of commercial aviation after the War, and there will be no part of the Empire which will lend itself better to aerial communication than the West Indies, which, we confidently believe, we shall see linked up by a complete system of sea-planes or flying boats. This is no mere vision. It is a practical probability, and so great are the strides that have recently been made in aircraft manufacture, that such communication as is foreshadowed could be cheaply set up to-morrow but for the prior claims of the War. Even before the cessation of hostilities—and we say this without presaging a long war—it is likely that the Atlantic will be defeated by triplane, plans being already well advanced for a crossing from Newfoundland to the Azores (1,195 miles), from Azores to Lisbon (850 miles), and Lisbon to England (860 miles). To British Guiana in particular the sea-plane will be a godsend, and though we would hesitate to suggest that it will be capable of transporting live stock from the fertile savannahs of the interior in the immediate future, we are convinced that it will obviate the need of a tourist railway to the Kaieteur Falls, and that it is already capable of making Tumatumari, and even places farther afield, a week-end resort. It will indeed render a trip to the former and back quite easy of accomplishment in perfect safety, the sea-planes following the course of the rivers. There is, moreover, no reason whatever why it should not go far towards solving the question of the development of the interior of the colony, and it will be very desirable to investigate very thoroughly the capabilities of aerial transit before large sums are expended on railways. The goldfields are only about 150 miles from Georgetown—quite a short distance by aeroplane. As regards the West Indies generally, our readers need only glance at a map of the Caribbean to appreciate the striking changes which aerial communication will bring about. One of the chief obstacles in the way of federation of these Colonies has been the "distances between the islands." To an airman these distances are almost negligible, and the administration of the entire West Indies from one central point among them where matters of common concern are involved will become a perfectly simple proposition with the advent of aviation in those colonies

STEAMER COMMUNICATION.

WE trust that the authorities are alive to the fact that the existing Canada-West Indies mail service contract will expire on November 1st, 1918, and that early steps will be taken to secure its maintenance on its present footing until a reasonable time after the termination of the war. But for this service and for the steamers of the Direct Line, the West Indies would have been in a pitiable plight after the cancellation of the transatlantic and intercolonial contracts under circumstances with which our readers will be familiar, and the West Indies cannot be too grateful to the Government of the Dominion of Canada for footing the bill for the Canada-West Indies service, which has been and is being quite adequately conducted by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and thus saving the situation. It has been argued that Canada has been getting more out of the preferential trade agreement than the West Indies, but however that may be it is perfectly clear that the Caribbean colonies are deriving more benefit from the steamer services—benefits free of cost to themselves—than the Dominion is doing, and therefore it may be said that honours are easy. We must, however, express our warm thanks to the Dominion for providing us with steamship communication, which, we can assure her Ministers, is greatly appreciated. Ample evidence of this was afforded recently by the outcry in the West Indies when there was a fear that two of the steamers now conducting the service would be taken off the route, a danger happily averted by the timely and effective action of SIR GEORGE FOSTER. With regard to the future we assume that inasmuch as the entire fleet of the Royal Mail Company is now controlled by the Government, the decision as to what arrangement is to be made when the present contract expires will rest with the Ministry of Shipping and the Dominion Government, and we sincerely trust that conditions will warrant at least the maintenance of the present service.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

A Membership of 2,000 within sight.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on October 25th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Lady Lubbock	Mr. R. Rutherford.
(Country)	Mr. C. L. Marshall.
Mrs. R. Partridge	Mrs. E. Alleyne.
(Country)	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. C. S. V. Branch	Mr. Donald McDonald.
(Canada)	Mr. R. Rutherford.

The total membership of the West India Committee is now 1,627. By virtue of Rule III. the subscriptions of candidates elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1919. Any member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates, and copies of the nomination forms may be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Scythian Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription for individuals is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to, West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

As Mr. J. E. Munro is at the Ministry of Food as adviser on matters relating to cacao, he will be unable to sit on the Cacao Committee of the West India Committee for the present.

THE capital of the Colonial Bank is to be increased from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000 by the creation of 50,000 additional shares of £20 each. These new shares are to be offered in the first instance to the existing shareholders at a premium of £2 a share. A meeting to consider this proposal to increase the capital will be held on November 14th.

OWING no doubt to the vagaries of mail communication a few subscriptions for the current year are still unpaid. The Hon. Treasurers hope that those members in arrears—whose consciences should smite them on reading this paragraph—will forward a remittance or pay their subscription into their local branch of the Colonial Bank without delay.

THE planters of Dominica who were the first in the West Indies to send over fruit for the wounded have recently forwarded to the West India Committee 90 welcome boxes of limes, besides some oranges for Red Cross hospitals. The fruit was packed and despatched under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Jones, Secretary of the Permanent Exhibition Committee.

MR. J. J. EASTICK, who, we regret to state, died on September 7th, was a well-known sugar technologist who gained practical experience with Abram Lyle & Sons, the Australian Sugar Refining Company in Melbourne, and a cane sugar factory in Queensland. Lately he worked as a consulting sugar expert and chemical engineer, succeeding his father-in-law, Mr. B. E. R. Newlands, in the firm of Newlands Brothers.

MR. H. C. B. UNDERDOWN, who has just been appointed Director of the Agricultural Machinery Department of the Ministry of Munitions, is a life member of the West India Committee. His practical interest in those colonies dates from his connection with the Trinidad Petroleum Co., Ltd., which developed into the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., of which, as well as of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., he is a Director.

THE much-advertised National Party cut a poor figure at the Islington election, its candidate being at the bottom of the Poll with only 513 votes to his credit. Its attempt to capture the Tariff Reform League has also failed. Lord Duncannon and General Page Croft have resigned from the League.

of which Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. H. J. Mackinder are now President and Chairman respectively. Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, who has been actively connected with the movement from the outset, has been elected a Vice-President.

* * *

Two weddings in which the Alston family figured prominently were solemnised at St. George's, Hanover Square, on consecutive days in October. On the 24th, Captain G. R. C. Alston, son of Mr. George R. Alston, of Chislehurst and Trinidad, was married to Miss G. Peirson-Turner, and, on the following day, the bridegroom's sister, Miss Mildred Emily Alston, was led to the same altar by Mr. Charles Martin, a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery.

* * *

SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND, who has just relinquished the position of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies to assume the management of the new Commercial Intelligence Department, is deserving of the thanks of the West Indies for his able advocacy of their interests on the Immigration Committee, whose findings were published in last CIRCULAR. An accessible and consequently a popular official, he will be much missed. His successor, Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, needs no introduction to West Indians, to whom he is well known as a prime mover in the old Tariff Reform movement and a staunch supporter of Imperial Preference. His appointment will justifiably raise hopes of fairer treatment of Colonial produce in this country after the War.

* * *

The annual meeting of the Jamaica Church Aid Association was held at the Church House, Westminster, on Friday, October 19th, when a good gathering of members and friends assembled to meet the Bishop of Jamaica. His Lordship's stay in England this year being a brief one, this opportunity of meeting him was much appreciated. The Archdeacon of Westminster expressed the pleasure of the meeting in seeing the Bishop safely in England. He announced that the amount of £438 had so far been received or promised from English friends for the Memorial Fund to the late Archbishop Nuttall. Among his own duties as Assistant Chaplain-General to the Forces, he had to provide for the spiritual care of the West Indian troops, and he mentioned that there were now two Jamaica Clergymen at the Front, where Jamaica was well represented by soldiers and by a Labour Battalion.

* * *

The Bishop spoke of the keen interest and self-sacrifice which the people of Jamaica had shown in prosecuting the War. The recent hurricane had caused considerable loss, especially to the banana crops in the north-east of the island, and it was the recurrence of such disasters as this which made it necessary to appeal to English friends for help. He spoke hopefully of the Church's work in Jamaica, and especially referred to that accomplished by the Church Lads' Brigade and the Boy Scout Movement for the young men. In thanking the Association for past help, the Bishop made a special ap-

peal for a continuance of their much-needed assistance. Contributions will be welcomed by the Hon. Treasurer, Jamaica Church Aid Association, 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W. 3.

* * *

MR. HARRY BRITAIN has had abundant scope for the further display of his remarkable organising abilities in arranging for hospitality for American officers in London. From among his fellow Pilgrims—he is Chairman and Founder of the Pilgrims' Club—he has collected a substantial sum of money wherewith to equip and maintain that palatial residence, 9, Chesterfield Gardens, which Lord Leconfield offered for the purpose as an American Overseas Officers' Club. A trial "run" of the cuisine was made on October 23rd, when Mr. Britain entertained a few Pilgrims at dinner, when the writer was privileged to be present. In the course of a modest after-dinner speech, Mr. Britain—who is one of those men who could get a dead duck off a pond—informed his guests that the Club was mainly furnished by borrowing chairs, tables, etc., removed from the floating hotels which crossed the Atlantic before the War, and were now put to other uses—which struck us as a brain-wave!

* * *

A REMARKABLE photo-play based on Jules Verne's famous story, "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea," is now being produced at the Philharmonic Hall. The photographing of the submarine scenes was made possible by the invention of the Williamson tube, from which some experimental pictures were taken in the transparent waters of the Bahamas a few years ago. The success which attended their first efforts inspired the Williamson brothers to attempt something more elaborate, and in the Bahama Islands was found an ideal setting for the photo-version of the prophetic romance of Jules Verne. The play was filmed at New Providence and the adjacent cays, and is another demonstration of the wonderful possibilities of the cinema. Incidentally, it should prove a good advertisement for the Bahamas, for everyone who sees the play will want to visit these delightful islands.

* * *

THE coming-of-age of the Earl of Stamford is an event of interest to West Indians. Our readers in Barbados will recall that the young Peer's father, the ninth Earl (whom he succeeded in 1910), was, prior to his succession to the title, a Master at Codrington College. His widow has done valuable work during the War as President of the Ladies' Committee in connection with the Contingent Fund. The young Earl has been Extra Aide-de-Camp to Sir Francis Lloyd for more than two years. By way of commemorating the occasion, he and his mother have presented to the Urban District Council of Altrincham several acres of land as a site for the erection of workmen's dwellings, which it is hoped will form the nucleus of a garden city. A portion of Dunham Massey Hall, the home of his family, which dates back to the Conquest, is now being used as a Red Cross Hospital, of which his mother, Lady Stamford, is the Commandant.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

In the West.

With the drier weather the Anglo-French armies resumed active operations in Flanders. On the left their battle line was carried forward between Houthoult Forest and Poelcapelle on a front of about a mile-and-a-half. Working on both sides of the Ypres-Staden Railway a number of enemy defences were taken in difficult and marshy ground, traversed by three streams in flood. The French improved their position north of Veldhoek on the outskirts of the Forest, while the British improved theirs by an advance along the West-roosebeke road between Poelcapelle and the hamlet of Sprict. These gains, in spite of counter-attacks, have been consolidated. Later the French and Belgians, up to their shoulders in water, performed the operation successfully, in which the Germans, under the eye of their Emperor, failed, near Ypres earlier in the War, by fighting their way across a flooded area to their objective. This was the occupation of the Merckem peninsula, together with several islands and villages in the possession of the enemy, thus working round the west side of the Houthoult Forest.

In the south, a gain of some importance by the British was the Polderhoek Chateau, which had been transformed into a fort, on the Gheluvelt spur. Though the garrison was surprised, they fought well, their instructions having been to hold the position at all costs. The outstanding feature of the most recent fighting in Flanders was, however, the brilliant work done in front of the Passchendaele height. Here the Canadians fought doggedly for twelve hours across the flooded valley of the Pavebeek and up the slopes of the Bellevue spur, one of the two fingers of the main ridge pointing towards the British line like the blade of a half-opened knife, the handle being Crest Farm, which has yet to be taken. In the morning the Canadians were flung back into the marshes, but held on all day under a withering fire until night, when they stormed the formidable fortress into which Bellevue had been transformed. The naval troops on the Canadian left crossed No Man's Land, which the Germans believed to be "impossible." The net result of these gains is that the Allies have increased their hold on the ridges and penetrated into one of the spaces between the three projections of the Forest southwards.

French Victory on the Aisne.

The French have relieved some of the pressure of the British in Flanders, which, of late, has been extra heavy, by a swift and decisive stroke by which they have acquired the key to the Chemin des Dames and a hinge in the German defences between the Oise and the Aisne. If not a complete surprise, there was enough of the element in the attack to stagger the enemy. Because of the weakness of their original position the French brought up an unprecedented weight of metal and the 16 in. howitzer, which on the Somme and at Verdun has

proved its superiority to any German gun of the same type, manipulating them so brilliantly as to open up a way for the infantry through the solid rock which sheltered the Germans in their quarry defences, besides destroying many underground fortresses. The infantry themselves had been so thoroughly trained in methods of warfare suited to the terrain, whose features were known in detail through aerial photographs that they advanced with the confidence which was bound to lead to success. They were greatly assisted by the French tanks, which are lighter and faster than the British. The positions captured on the first day of the offensive were Fort Mahnaison, which dominates the length of the Aisne heights to the Craonne Plateau, and will, therefore, constitute a serious menace to German communications in this sector, Clavignon, together with the ravine of the same name, and the village of Allemant.

A Further Advance.

The tactical effect of the capture of the Mahnaison Plateau was another gain of territory two days later between Allemant and Auxillon, and so great was the enemy's disorganisation, caused by the discovery that the quarry positions on which he relied were not proof against French guns, that he was further obliged to withdraw to the other side of the Oise-Aisne Canal, thereby abandoning Pinon and the Pinon Forest, except on the north and east. But even in this defence the French are biting deep at Rosay Farm, and to the south-east of Clavignon are occupying strong positions to straighten out their line. In all, 11,000 prisoners, some of them the pick of the German Army, many guns, and much material have been captured, the difficulties of the enemy's retreat having been accentuated by the necessity for crossing a tract of marshy land under the fire of the French guns. Our Ally now holds all the heights on the south bank of the canal, above the western end of the Ailette Valley, and are firmly established on the receding slopes from Auxillon to Clavignon, the nearest point of the new French line being now only six miles from Laon. Here, as in Flanders, one of the points of the enemy's defence is a forest—St. Gobain, which has been rendered formidable by military science, and, as in Flanders, the advance of the French is driving the Germans on to low and swampy ground, they themselves holding the high ground.

The Baltic Coup.

The Germans, by an amphibious attack on the islands which guard the Gulf of Riga, have gained the command of the Baltic. When one remembers the brilliant repulse of the German squadron which attempted a similar operation in August, 1915, by Admiral Khanin, with limited resources, one realises the extent of the dry rot which the revolution has introduced into Russia's Army and Navy. Only a half-hearted resistance was put up to prevent the German occupation of the stepping stones to the mainland, and ultimate landing on the Esthonian coast. For the enemy had not forgotten his former failure at the entrance, and effected his



COLLECTORS IN ANTIGUA.



MONTERRAT FLAG SELLERS



A GROUP IN GEORGETOWN.



SELLERS IN BRITISH GUIANA.



THE COMMITTEE IN ANTIGUA.

SOME WEST INDIAN FLAG DAY GROUPS.

naval coup of October, 1917, in the rear, as it were. What will happen next no one can tell, but the incident may have tremendous consequences on the future of the war. If Germany were gaining instead of losing in the west it is improbable that she would spare men for undertaking spectacular effects on a front which is held by an enemy so demoralised as the Russians appear to be. But if she can acquire control of Russia she may think that there she will find compensation for Belgium, and withdraw to the line of the Meuse. In the meantime she has secured a great advantage by substituting sea communication between the Prussian frontier and her present line in the East for the few and bad roads on which she has hitherto been dependent.

That the Baltic Fleet is, however, not altogether negligible it proved on October 14th, when part of it engaged German naval forces in the Gulf of Riga, sinking two enemy ships and damaging the others. Moreover, the Baltic Fleet has managed to withdraw from Moon Sound, and to concentrate for the defence of the Gulf of Finland. The latest news is that the German military forces are retiring along the Pskov road. Evidently they are concentrating in the Riga sector. In Russia the evacuation of Reval, Kronstadt, and Petrograd has begun. But such action may be premature.

On the Italian Front.

On the Isonzo the Austro-German forces have begun a new offensive, which was expected, owing to the violent bombardment they have maintained all along the front for days past. Between Monte Rombon and the northern edge of the Bainsizza Plateau the fire was especially destructive, and here an infantry attack was launched, which, owing to its weight in numbers and metal, and a thick mist rendering the Italian barrage useless, successfully drove a wedge into the Italian line. Mackensen is repeating the tactics he employed with such spectacular effect in Galicia and Serbia. The consequence is, not only have the Italians been compelled to relinquish all the gains they won so hardily in the summer, but to fall back from Gorizia. The enemy is now five miles west of the Isonzo, and threatening Udine, the great military base of the Italian armies. The Allies are very properly laying plans to help gallant and sore-pressed Italy, and it is to be hoped that on this occasion they will be in time. We have had enough "Too lates."

Allied Conference in London.

There is to be a War Conference of the Allies in London, at which, for the first time, the United States is to be present. The main subject is to be finance, in view of the enormous sums lent by America to the Allies. But, in giving an account of it—for that is what it amounts to—the conduct of the war is bound to be raised, and nothing but good can come of her fresh and vigorous criticism on that question. An uneasy feeling prevails that the Allied resources are not being turned to the best purpose, but, if, after full information, the United States approves, public confidence will be strengthened. As for the blockade, she continues

to lead in devising measures to counter enemy designs and neutral profiteering. For instance, she is defeating German plans, where America is concerned at any rate, for waging an economic war on the conclusion of peace, by commandeering for national use all the stocks of raw materials purchased on Germany's account and nominally held by Americans. She refuses, moreover, to allow neutral shipping held up in her harbours to depart without a licence.

The Zeppelin Raid on England—and After.

On the night of October 19th a squadron of Zeppelins raided the Eastern and North-Eastern counties, dropping bombs at various points, including a few in the London area. When each reached its objective it drifted, and so its engines were silent. As each flew at a great height (20,000 feet), it was invisible even to searchlights. The raid was thus, in most parts, a silent one, except for falling bombs, which, as usual, did relatively small damage. Only one Zeppelin penetrated the air defences of London, which wisely made no reply, as nothing could have been gained by it, and British lives and munitions would have been wasted. Eleven of the Zeppelins—two seemed to have returned home—however, brought retribution on themselves by their tactics in England. For by flying so high the petrol froze in the tanks, and the crews became numbed with cold. Then a strong wind sprang up and blew them out of their course. When day broke, they were in France without knowing it, only discovering their mistake as they were forced to fight French aeroplanes. Four of them were brought down, L49, a super-Zeppelin intact, which will be a source of extreme mortification to the enemy. A fifth was lost in the Mediterranean. That the French Flying Service should have accounted for so many while ours accounted for none was due to the circumstances. It is a very different matter to attack a Zeppelin in broad daylight, worked by a worn-out and stupefied crew, and flying low, to attacking a Zeppelin flying in darkness at a great height, and under perfect control. This is not to detract from the French success, but to do justice to our own air service.

A Fight in the North Sea.

Two German raiders performed a smart piece of work in the North Sea, marred by cowardice and brutality. They cut out a Scandinavian convoy of twelve vessels escorted by two British destroyers, which fought gallantly until they were sunk, nine of the convoy sharing the same fate. No attempt was made to rescue any of the crews of warships or merchantmen, the raiders making off directly they had finished their fell task.

There has been an increase in submarine activity. The number of British merchantmen, 1,600 tons and over, sunk last week was 17; of ships under 1,600 tons, 8. They are the largest totals since the week ending September 2nd. For this week the figures are: 1,600 tons and over, 14; under 1,600 tons, 4.

(To be continued.)

AVIATION IN THE WEST INDIES.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE FLYING BOAT.

A Project for Improved Inter-Colonial Communication.

BY CAPTAIN A. J. SWINTON
(Royal Engineers, retired).

In writing this article the author thinks that it will be wise to preface his remarks with some information as to what a Flying Boat really is, as he has found that so many people to whom he has mentioned this new vehicle are absolutely ignorant concerning it. The reason for this is that at the present moment the Flying Boat is an engine of war, used by our Royal Naval Air Service solely for war purposes. They only fly over the sea and round the coast, and therefore they are seen by and known to comparatively few persons.

People nowadays look upon the "Flying Machine" as an everyday affair, and numerous projects are already being thought of for services of mail and passenger carrying aeroplanes. So far these projects have had to do mainly with land flying machines, and purely maritime services have been little thought of.

In addition to the Flying Machine (*alias* "Land Machine") many of us have heard of the so-called Scaplane. The Scaplane may be described in non-technical and brief terms as a Land Machine, from which the landing wheels have been taken off and replaced by a pair of box-shaped floats. These floats enable the machine to alight in and rest upon the water: they do not impart any degree of seaworthiness, however.

If we go a step further along the development of sea-flying we come to the Flying Boat. This is again different from either the Land Machine or the Scaplane. It might be described as a high-speed, lightly-built Motor Boat of the "Hydroplane" type, which being fitted with wings can rise out of the water and fly just as well as its brothers and sisters the Land Machine and Scaplane. Perhaps a little more explanation must be tendered here. The "hydroplane" proper is a form of Motor Boat hull of light draught, with an almost flat bottom fitted with one or more inclined "steps" on the under side. When a certain speed has been attained the action of these steps is to raise the hydroplane on to the surface of the water, upon which it skims with very little resistance. It is after the hull has thus begun to skim along the surface that the action of the wings begins to lift the whole machine into the air.

So far as the origin of the Flying Boat is concerned, it was invented by an American well-known in aviation circles, Mr. Glen Curtiss. This type of boat was taken up by one or two firms in this country some years ago; abroad, it was taken up by Germany, France and Italy, also in Denmark: while it is not therefore a purely British invention, enormous improvements have been effected in this country by the firms who took it up.

Its wings and flight organs, together with the

engines and propellers, are little different from those of the ordinary Land Machine or Scaplane. The chief difference lies in the shape (as already indicated) and construction of the body, technically called the hull. This is actually a hull and not a fuselage: it is built by boat builders of boat builders' material, and is intended to withstand the action of the seas and to keep afloat in fairly bad or even bad weather when not flying. The hull is constructed very lightly, but very strongly, of cedar or mahogany, and in general outline its form is midway between that of a fish and a bird (which is natural enough, as it has to fulfil the functions of both). Similar to the Scaplane, the Flying Boat has small floats at the wing tips to keep the wings out of the water.

Having described, it is hoped with sufficient clearness, the difference between the three sorts of heavier than air machines, we may say something about speed, radius of action and load capacity of the Flying Boat.

Like any other seagoing craft, the Flying Boat is limited in both these directions. These limitations have widened enormously since August, 1914, and were peace to be restored the day after to-morrow, our Flying Boats, which are engines of war to-day, could take their place as commercial vehicles in a very short space of time with practically no alteration whatever, and carry out continuous and regular services in many different parts of the world.

As to the actual limits of speed. The maximum speed known to have been attained by a Flying Boat is about 122 miles an hour, but it is not thought this will ever be increased for commercial purposes. It is far more likely to be cut down to about 100 miles an hour.

As regards the radius of action; a big war machine, stripped of all its bombs and fighting gear, and with their weight replaced by extra petrol, might cover 1,500 miles without having to refill its tanks. It is clear, however, to the most non-commercially minded of us that a vehicle which can carry nothing but its driver and its fuel has not a wide field of commercial utility. It is therefore necessary to effect a compromise, so that some weight can be carried some distance instead of no weight a very long distance, or perhaps a very large weight a very short distance. Experience shows that 500 miles without refilling is a reasonable and feasible average.

With regard to loads: Five tons has actually been carried, but for the purpose of this article a maximum load of 25 cwt. in conjunction with a 500 mile flight is taken as a reasonable and practical basis.

Now we have arrived at this point in the argument; we have in our possession an apparatus which can fly 500 miles in five hours over the sea, with a load of a ton or more. The question is where would be the best place to use such an apparatus? Do not let us wade through a long list of the places where it might be used, for they are legion, but let us jump at once to a quarter of the globe where various advantages offer themselves, where such a thing is wanted, and, moreover, to that part of the globe in which all readers of the CIRCULAR are interested, namely, the West Indies.

For some reason, the writer has always been fascinated by the map of the West Indies; their tales of buried treasure, pirates and bloody sea fights, and their bearing upon the history of our Navy at a time when we were hammering at the various nations of Europe either singly or together, have always had an attraction for him, so perhaps he is somewhat biased in his choice of a locality; nevertheless, the geographical situation of the Islands, taken together with their commercial situation is rather unique. We have a chain of possessions running from British Honduras on the Western side to British Guiana on the Eastern side. Far from being desert islands or islands of little commercial value, they carry on a good deal of trade; some of

The Map given on this page shows the position of the various islands and points on the Mainland, and how beautifully situated they are for an air service. The total distance from east to west is slightly over 2,200 miles, direct from Belize to Demerara. There are frequent landing points the whole way along, either on British or on Foreign Territory. The weather, a most important question in flying, is generally very good. When the weather is very bad it usually means that there is a cyclonic depression hovering about. It could be very easily arranged, when bad or cyclonic weather was anywhere within distance, that every aerial station should have warning of it by wireless telegraphy, so that instructions could be given to



MAP OF THE WEST INDIES, SHOWING SUGGESTED AIR ROUTES.

them a great deal. Where there is trade, good communications are required. Where communications are improved trade can be, and usually is, very much augmented. With every respect to a well-known shipping company which has served the British West Indies to the best of its abilities for many score of years, is it not still an indisputable fact that the inter-island communication in these colonies of ours is, to use a mixed metaphor, a very cross-country journey? Now this is where the Flying Boat comes to their help.

pilots to defer their trips until the weather conditions were suitable. Such an event as being caught napping by a cyclone—which frequently happens to slow-moving cargo and passenger ships—should be a matter of absolute impossibility for a Flying Boat, having a speed of 100 miles an hour or so and wireless apparatus enabling it to pick up warnings and directions *en route*.

To make this point clear, imagine the case of a motor cyclist who has to cover, say, 10 miles between two adjacent towns, without any chance of shelter. Assume that it is guaranteed that he shall

have one hour's clear notice before it comes on to rain. What are the chances that he will perform his journey without being caught in a shower? Thus with the Flying Boat. At the same time it must be pointed out that the Flying Boat is not merely a fine weather craft, and that for the past three years our boats have been flying over the North Sea by day and by night, in all kinds of weather.

The Question of Fuel.

The question of fuel has also prompted the writer to look favourably upon the West Indies, on account of Trinidad's oil and their proximity to the United States. This is of course a most important matter and would very largely affect the running costs.

Another feature of the West Indies is their comparative freedom from fog and extreme coldness of the atmosphere. Fog is not popular with Pilots, though it is not as much a hindrance to flying boats as to steamships, while very low temperatures, though not an obstacle to flying, cause discomfort to pilots and passengers.

Now let us construct our routes. To join up the places of greatest importance must be our guiding principle in selecting them, though it is not always feasible to combine the easiest flying routes with the most commercially important ones; so bearing in mind our guiding principles, it seems necessary that the line of our system should touch America and Cuba. Therefore, let us draw a line from New Orleans to Havana *via* Mobile, Pensacola, Cedar Keys, and Tampa. This is line "A." During the winter season a tourist line might be run as an extension from Havana to Nassau *via* Palm Beach and Miami. This would be line "B." Thus Florida and the Bahamas will be placed in close touch with New Orleans and Havana. From Havana we draw a line to Jamaica *via* Isle of Pines, Great Cayman, and Little Cayman. This puts Jamaica in touch with the Southern States of N. America, Cuba, Florida and Bahamas. This is line "C."

We now draw out the route from Jamaica to George Town in Demerara *via* Turk's Islands, the Virgin Islands, the Leeward and Windward Islands and Trinidad. It is this line which connects the bulk of our possessions in the West Indies and reduces the journey from Demerara to Jamaica to a matter of some 26 hours. At Turk's Island a junction would be effected with Mail Steamers from Great Britain and Europe. This is line "D."

Another line, a short one, is required from St. Vincent to Barbados. This is line "E."

There is only one part of the British West Indies that has been left out of this system of communication. This is British Honduras. Sentimental and patriotic notions urge us to include this, but on the other hand these routes have been planned with a view to maximum use, and it is felt that by extending the line to Belize, expense would be incurred without much likelihood of any return being gained thereon. Let the British Hondurasians content themselves for the time being with a promise of a branch line all to themselves when circumstances appear to warrant it.

In the same way it would have been preferable to have made the system more imperial by extending it northward to Halifax. This, however, is too problematical, as in the writer's opinion the bad weather upon the East Coast of North America is more than the Flying Boat of to-day—or to-morrow—could be expected to face.

Such an extension will probably be possible in time, when the size of the Flying Boat has increased; but it is reluctantly excluded for the moment from this article, into which it is not desired to introduce improved and doubtful factors.

Line A.

New Orleans to Mobile	100
Mobile to Pensacola	50
Pensacola to Apalachicola	120
Apalachicola to Cedar Keys	140
Cedar Keys to Tampa	80
Tampa to Havana	300
	<hr/>
	790

790 miles = 10 hours.

Line B.

Havana to Miami	220
Miami to Palm Beach	80
Palm Beach to Nassau	180
	<hr/>
	480

480 miles = 6 hours.

Line C.

Havana to Isle of Pines	130
Isle of Pines to Cayman	210
Cayman to Cayman Brac	80
Cayman Brac to Kingston	280
	<hr/>
	700

700 miles = 9 hours.

Line D.

Kingston to Grand Turk	560
Grand Turk to Virgin Is.	550
Virgin Is to St. Christopher	160
St. Christopher to Montserrat	65
Montserrat to Dominica	125
Dominica to St. Lucia	120
St. Lucia to St. Vincent	70
St. Vincent to Grenada	110
Grenada to Tobago	115
Tobago to Trinidad	70
Trinidad to Georgetown	270
	<hr/>
	2,200

2,200 miles = 26 hours.

Line E.

Barbados to St. Vincent	100 miles = 1½ hours.
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Now, having drawn out a system of communications, reaching from one end of the West Indies to the other, the question of financial cost may be looked into.

Six or seven boats would be required to cover the routes chosen twice a week in each direction, a total weekly flying distance of about 14,500 miles. The capital cost of the boats would be from £35,000 to £40,000, while the expenditure on shore stations, repair depôts, shore tenders and other attendant capital outlay would be about another £15,000 to £20,000, to which £20,000 should be added for working capital.

A fairly accurate estimate of the "running cost"

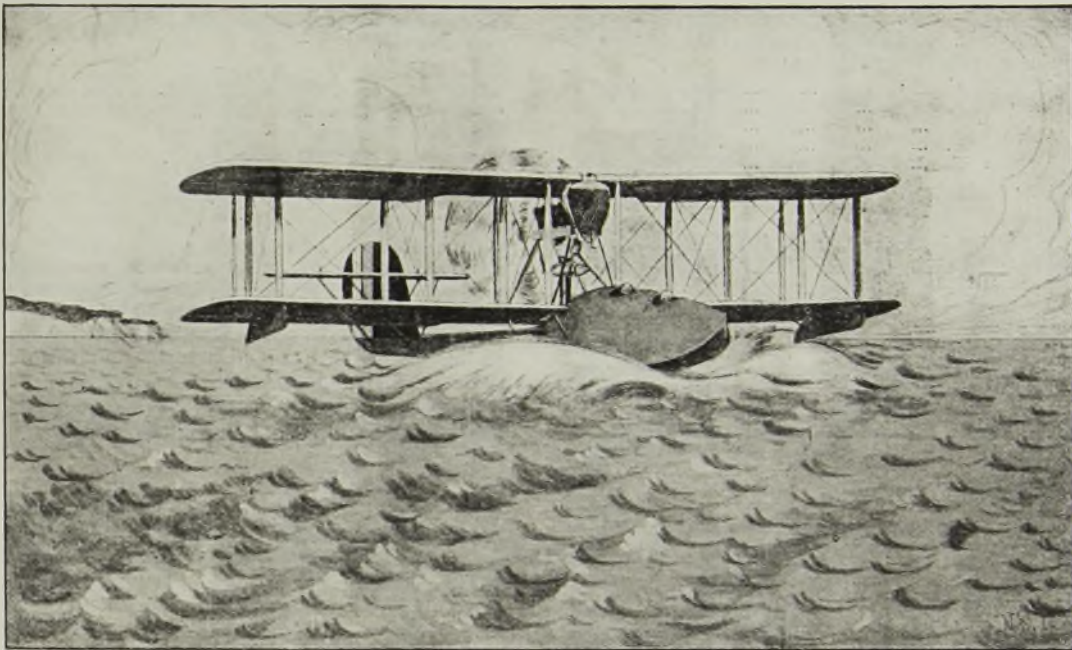
may be put down at 1/6 per flying mile. This may seem a remarkably low figure, but it is probable, however, that it will be reduced lower still when the cost of labour and materials has become more or less normal, when flying boats have become standardized, and when they are made of steel instead of wood, whereby their cost of construction and their present high rate of depreciation would be diminished.

The running cost per mile includes all charges, such as depreciation, loss of interest, repairs, insurance, salaries, office expenses, fuel, lubrication, pilots and stores.

being 1/6, the cost per passenger mile is therefore 14d.

Let us take a sample trip—say Havana to New Orleans—distance 800 miles, cost 1,200/- or £60. If each passenger pays 3d. a mile (which is little more than first-class railway fare), and there are ten of them, the takings would be 2/6 a mile, or 1/- a mile profit, that is to say 800/-, equal £40 profit.

Or, viewing it from a more pessimistic point of view, on any such trip the cost is 1,200/-, so that if only six passengers were bold enough to travel at the above mentioned rate of 3d. per mile (or £10 each), we should not be out of pocket. It is only



A HIGH-SPEED TANDEM TWO-SEATED BOAT RISING FROM THE WATER.

Let us say, therefore, that £80,000 in cash would be the total outlay required and that the annual bill for working the services would come out to nearly £60,000.

The existing contracts for mails, as far as the West Indies are affected, amount to £35,500 per annum, £23,000 for the English Mail service and £12,500 for the inter-colonial service.

What chance would the financial promoters of the scheme have of getting their money back—whether the necessary funds were found by the State or by private enterprise? Nobody knows quite how any new enterprise will result until it has been tried, and one can only look at the cost per passenger mile or per letter mile and then speculate as to results.

As regards the passenger point of view, let us assume that only half of the maximum load of passengers is carried on each trip, that is to say ten per trip each way on any route. The cost per mile

necessary to think of the relationship borne by these passengers who actually travel to the total available travelling population to see that the scheme would pay if only a fractional proportion of the public availed themselves of the service. That states the case for the passenger department.

Now let us consider the Mail Department.

We have still the carriage of mails to fall back on, and as we have only ten or less passengers on board we can still carry a good half-ton of mail matter. Assume that a letter weighs one ounce, a ton of letters would therefore approximate to 32,000 letters or, say, 1,600 to the hundredweight. It is not an extravagant estimate to assume that one hundredweight, or 1,600 letters were carried on the trip—perhaps, if one takes into consideration that a very large proportion of the mail matter between Europe, the United States and the West Indies would pass along this route one might base one's estimate

rather higher than this, but it would be prudent to leave it at one hundredweight.

A fee of 4d. per letter would readily be paid by anyone to whom the saving of time was of any real consequence and so, if we calculate 1,600 letters at 4d. each we have another £25 of clear profit to add to our account.

Now what might prevent the service from becoming popular at once would be the "risk." Mails, however, are not deterred by any question of risk. So, if we count on taking £25 per trip for carrying mails, we have only £35 to make up the cost of the trip £60, and only 3½ passengers would be required to do this!

The Financial Aspect.

The anticipated annual profits of the various lines we may estimate as follows:—

A.	£13,520
B.	4,750
C.	13,000
D.	12,000
E.	3,640
	£46,910

Each line is worked out by itself in the following paragraphs, showing the weekly receipts and expenditure and annual profits.

Line A, 800 miles.

10 passengers @ £10*	= £100
4 times this a week	= £400
Add extra for mails†	4 × 25 = 100
Total receipts	£500
4 × 800 = 3,200 miles @ 1s. 6d. a mile = 4,800s. or	£240
Profit	260
	£500
Yearly profit of 52 × 260 =	£13,520
* 3d. per mile.	
† 4d. per oz.	

Line B, 500 miles.

10 passengers @ £6*	= £60
4 times this per week	= £240
1 cwt. of mails†	4 × 25 = 100
Total Receipts	£340
4 × 500 = 2,000 miles @ 1s. 6d. a mile = 3,000s. or	£150
Profit	190
	£340
Yearly profit of £25 × 190 =	£4,750
The season being about six months	
* 3d. per mile.	
† 4d. per oz.	

Line C, 700 miles.

10 passengers @ £9*	= £90
4 times this per week	= £360
1 cwt. of mails†	4 × 25 = 100
Total Receipts	£460
4 × 700 = 2,800 miles @ 1s. 6d. a mile = 4,200s. or	£210
Profit	250
	£460
Yearly profit £13,000	
* 3d. per mile.	
† 4d. per oz.	

Line D, 2,200 miles.

10 passengers @ £17*	= £170
4 times this per week	= £680
1 cwt. of mails†	£55 × 4 = 210
Total Receipts	£890
4 × 2,200 miles = 8,800 @ 1s. 6d. a mile	= £660
Profit	230
	£890
Yearly profit £12,000	
* 2d. per mile.	
† 8d. per oz.	

Line E, 100 miles.

10 passengers @ £1 5s*	= £12 10s.
4 times this per week	= £50
½ cwt. of mails†	= £12 10s
4 times this	= £50
Total Receipts	£100
4 × 100 = 400 miles @ 1s. 6d. a mile = 600s. or	£30
Profit	70
	£100
Yearly profit £3,640	
* 3d. per mile.	
† 4d. per oz.	

From this sum of expected profits (£46,910) considerable deductions must be made, so that passengers or letters conveyed beyond a certain minimum distance should receive the benefit of certain rebates. This has already been done for passengers on line "D" to some extent, but through passengers should be given a lower rate.

To arrive at this it may be best to work from the total annual receipts and expenditure, which are as shown below:—

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
A	500 × 52 = £26,000	240 × 52 =	£12,480
B	340 × 25 = 8,500	150 × 25 =	3,750
C	460 × 52 = 23,920	210 × 52 =	10,920
D	890 × 52 = 46,280	660 × 52 =	34,320
E	100 × 52 = 5,200	30 × 52 =	1,560
	£109,900		£63,030

The total receipts amount to approximately £110,000. It should be assumed that, say, one-third of this amount is received for passengers and mails carried long distances, say, over 2,200 miles. Therefore, from these receipts £110,000 let us deduct one-third, leaving £74,000. It would be reasonable to assume that the one-third deducted, i.e., £36,000 would be replaced by a figure of, say, £20,000, which would represent a reduction of about 50 per cent. on long distance fares.

We therefore arrive at the following:—

Estimated receipts from short journeys	£74,000
Estimated receipts from long journeys	20,000
Total receipts	£94,000

This reduces our estimated profit to £30,000 per annum on a capital of £80,000.

This is not a prospectus, though no doubt aerial prospectuses will before long make their appearances. It is simply a statement which is intended to show to the inhabitants of the West Indies that they

can have safe, rapid, frequent and convenient inter-communication at no great cost.

The author will now touch upon the risks and perils of flying over land or sea. Neither are as serious as they are popularly imagined; the bulk of the accidents of to-day happen to land machines and are caused either because the machine in question is taking "war risks" (and, be it well understood, that in war flying, where maximum speed is paramount, the factor of safety of machines has to be lessened to give lightness and hence extra speed, while all sorts of acrobatic aerial evolutions have to be carried out, which put a far greater strain on the machine than those experienced in plain straight-forward peace flying), or else they happen to pupil pilots, who are being taught against time. The question of collapse in mid-air can be entirely ignored. Having ignored this risk, therefore, the only serious one which remains is that of "landing." Landing on land is frequently a difficulty, but "landing," or better, "alighting," on water is an easier matter. Though the sea is very hard indeed when one falls flat on to it, it treats more leniently than does *terra firma* a pilot who misjudges his speed and alights while travelling too fast.

There are other risks which should be mentioned, not because they are dangerous risks, but because the lay reader who is entirely or partially ignorant of sea flying should not be allowed to imagine them insuperable.

These are the risks of collision in mid-air, in fog or darkness. They can be obviated by electrical devices based on the principles of wireless telegraphy, and which cannot now be disclosed. Suffice it to say that two pilots who were approaching too close to each other would be automatically warned away from each other.

There is also the risk of sudden engine failure in the midst of a flight. If this happens, then all that the pilot can do is to glide down on to the water; such a glide may be anything up to 40 miles in length. For if a machine starts to glide at its natural angle it will arrive at water level at a distance from the point where it started to glide equal to about ten times its height above water. So a machine which started to glide at an altitude of 20,000 feet, or four miles, would reach water level about 40 miles away.

When once alighted the pilot, if unable to remedy the fault might, if the engines would work at all, skim along the surface of the sea until he arrived at a place of refuge; failing that he could use his auxiliary engine, working a small water propeller, and proceed homewards just as though he were navigating a motor-boat.

If the calamity to his main engines also prevented him from using his auxiliary engine, then he would have to "lie to" and use his wireless to call for help.

It should be borne in mind that the big flying boat of to-day is a vessel about 60 feet long in the hull, which is totally enclosed, and therefore, to all intents and purposes, submersible, and capable of withstanding the action of high winds and rough seas, and, like a high-class mail steamer, usually

fitted with triple screws, and occasionally quadruple screws.

Some illumination as to the "risk" from a commercial or underwriter's point of view is to be gained from the fact that the odds against death during flying under peace conditions in machines of proved types comes out at roughly 2,000 to 1 at least—probably a great deal more!

In concluding this article, it is hoped that it may serve to open the eyes of those who, being in the West Indies, have had even less chance to peer into the vista of future flight than those who are in Great Britain, and if anyone who reads this in the CIRCULAR cares to communicate with the writer, he will be glad to answer any questions or explain any point that he has left obscure.

CANADIAN SUGAR REFINERIES' RECORD

Cane still to the fore in 1916.

A Commission, appointed by the Canadian Government, reports (says *The Grocers' Review*) "that the quantity of sugar refined in Canada during 1916 aggregated 345,089 tons (of 2,000lb.), and was of the value of \$47,473,114. The output in each of the three preceding years amounted to 303,233 tons, 332,512 tons, and 319,752 tons respectively. There are six refining companies in the Dominion, and these control eight refineries which are situated at Wallaceburg, Ontario; Kitchener, Ontario; Chatham, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec (two); St. John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Vancouver, British Columbia. Five of the companies refine imported raw cane sugar exclusively; the remaining company refines both cane and beet sugar. The last-mentioned concern was established mainly for the purpose of manufacturing beet sugar, but, during 1916, of a total output of 101,000,000lb. from the company's three refineries only 19,000,000lb. were from beet sugar.

It is stated that in Canada beet sugar can be produced ordinarily at a cheaper rate than cane sugar. Until 1916 the production of Canadian refineries was absorbed by home consumption. Favourable conditions prevailing during that year, however, enabled the refiners to export 26,000 tons (of 2,240lb.) overseas, and up to May, 1917, arrangements had been made for further exports of 35,000 tons of sugar. The capacity of the Canadian refineries is very much in excess of the demand for sugar for home consumption. Their output represents only about 60 per cent. of their capacity during any one year. The refineries could certainly produce annually some 400,000,000 lb. of sugar in excess of their present output. The advantage to them of an export trade at satisfactory prices is thus apparent, but the report states that it is impossible for Canadian refiners to compete for the United Kingdom market, except when extraordinary conditions prevail.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee may be paid at any branch of the Colonial Bank.

JAMAICA'S DISASTROUS HURRICANE.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE DAMAGE.

From the local papers to hand by mail, it is possible for West Indians resident in England to obtain a clearer view of the origin of the hurricane in Jamaica, and of the extent of the damage which it caused. The affected districts seem to have passed through widely varying experiences. The storm left much deeper traces in some places than in others. There is no difference of opinion, however, regarding the seriousness of the visitation. The messages of sympathy cabled on behalf of the King and of the Secretary of State for the Colonies were widely appreciated, and received prominence in the Press.

According to the excellent reports published by the *Daily Gleaner*, the hurricane was heralded by rain, thunder, and lightning, which startled the island at midnight on Saturday, September 23rd. Striking a centre to the north of Kingston, the hurricane travelled in a north-westerly direction, leaving death and destruction in its train. At some points the rain was still falling on the following Tuesday morning. The wind was at its highest velocity between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Sunday, when it ranged between 80 and 100 miles an hour. Bananas, cacao and coco-nut trees, oranges, bread-fruit, pears, yams, coffee, cassava—all suffered in varying degree. News of the loss of life has already been learnt by cable. Rivers overflowed, and on the coast vessels were driven ashore.

Thousands of Trees on the Ground.

A graphic picture of the scene at Trinityville is presented by the *Gleaner's* correspondent at that point, who wrote:—"Great is the havoc wrought. Almost every branch of trees is torn off. Telegraph (now telephone) wires and some posts are down on the ground. The roads, both main and parochial, are blocked; no traffic. The Negro River is flooded from bank to bank. The banana crop is totally gone. Breadfruit trees, on which were several hundreds of the fruits, are all on the ground. Pears all blown off. Thousands of coco-nuts on the ground; scores of the trees are broken down and uprooted. Several houses are totally destroyed by coco-nut trees falling on them. Cacao, coffee, and pimento trees also damaged. Thousands of oranges are on the ground."

From Montego Bay came the message: "It is well known that the large corporations and the big landowners of St. James were looking with great expectancy to the shipment of a record spring crop, and had previously invested heavily in view of that event. When it is known that their losses by the hurricane are estimated at between 50 and 80 per cent., the blow to the fruit industry may be realised. In the Montego Bay River valley the losses to bearing trees have been enormous, and the Phoenix Fruit Co. has suffered severely. Bananas are coming in from the stricken areas for sale, and are in many instances good, full fruit. There is no big concern in the banana business that has not suffered."

Fruit Lying in Heaps.

A message from Bybrook, Portland, states that the hurricane had left that district almost a wild waste. The correspondent added:—

"It is safe to say that there is not a single house that was not blown down that is not badly damaged. Thousands of coco-nuts, grape-fruit, and oranges are in massed heaps along the roads and fields. Seven-eighths of the coco-nut crop is gone. Not a single stem of banana, which only a week ago looked everything encouraging and prosperous, is standing.

"The situation has suddenly become desperate. Seventy-eight families are homeless. The yam crop is gone along with bananas. Bread-fruit that had put on what is known as "late crop", and which was a very large one, is a thing of the past—hardly a tree left with a fruit on it. Huge massive trees of all descriptions are strewn on the ground, uprooted and in most cases broken down."

One old lady met with her death under tragic circumstances. A Riversdale message to the *Gleaner* says: "Mrs. Jane Page, a lady in the Hampshire district, got frightened by the roaring of the wind, and tried to escape from her house, which she considered not quite safe, to take refuge in her daughter's residence. On her way in the night she was baffled by the wind and fell helpless in the water. Aid went to her rescue, but the unfortunate woman, who was in an unconscious state, never regained consciousness. She was advanced in age, and was evidently not in the best of health."

What Happened at Hope Bay.

"Amongst the greatest sufferers in the Hope Bay section," says the *Gleaner*, "are the United Fruit Company, owners of the Hope property; Mr. J. E. McPherson, of Caenwood, whose loss is much over £2,000; Mr. E. Ernest Gray, J.P., and Mr. J. Baugh, M.P.B. Mr. Baugh gave it as his opinion that the storm was greater than that in 1903—at least, its work of destruction was greater. More coco-nuts have been damaged than by any previous storms. Banana cultivations have been swept completely. He believes that the seashore sections have escaped lightly in comparison with the damage done in the interior. Cacao, citrus, and other economic fruits have suffered severely. Many are homeless, and must be looked after. Fortunately, this is the time for corn planting, and this may give some relief.

"Mr. J. E. McPherson lost all his bananas, and fully 25 per cent. of his coco-nut trees. In the Black Hill district (a fairly large one), the chapel has been completely unroofed. The eastern end of the schoolroom has been smashed, the out-buildings of the mission house completely wrecked, and the eastern portion of the house itself destroyed. The teacher's house is wrecked. In that district Nathaniel Gilmore was killed. George Brown, who was buried by the debris, and dug out in an unconscious condition, is still in a bad state. Another woman was dangerously hurt, and several others have sustained broken limbs.

"There are only six habitable dwellings left in this district. Thieves are at work looting zinc sheets."

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.

III.—HOW BARBADOS RAISED £525.

Barbados has ever been responsive to the call of Empire. Patriotism is a flower indigenous to the soil. This truth has been verified again and again during the course of the War. Every form of assistance has been supported with warm-hearted generosity. Consequently the organisers felt no doubt as to the result when Barbados was invited to co-operate in the matter of our "Flag Day."

The leading spirit in this cause was Lady Probyn, wife of the Governor, who by her enthusiasm inspired Ladies' Committees, the clergy, and many other willing helpers in Bridgetown and throughout the island. Immediately on learning of the project of a "Flag Day" throughout the West Indies, Lady Probyn addressed a cogent appeal to the public. "The



A SILK B.W.I. FLAG.

Contingent Committee," she wrote, "which is helping us, must itself be helped with our money." She added, "We shall be merely helping our own selves if we send to the West Indian Contingent Committee a very, very fat purse of money." In supporting her ladyship's appeal, the *Agricultural Reporter* declared: "There have been other Flag Days, all of them of importance, but none of such immediate interest as those now proposed to be observed. . . . The response from high and low, rich and poor, the classes and the masses, ought to be generous, and a splendid testimony to the pride we feel in the West Indian Contingent. And we feel that it will be so." This confidence was not misplaced. The very satisfactory sum of £525 3s. 6d. was raised. Equally satisfactory is the fact that the expenses were restricted to the practically infinitesimal sum of \$51.46.

A Two Days' Effort.

A feature of the Barbados effort is that it was extended over two days—June 22nd and 23rd. Of course, this was by no means the first "Flag Day" held in the island. Its successful predecessors had left behind a valuable legacy in the form of an efficient organisation, which met the present case admirably. This organisation enjoyed the advantage of the energetic leadership of Dr. Berkeley, the former Dean, and now Bishop of the island. Dr. Berkeley infected his brother clergies with his own enthusiasm. Consequently the Church collections represent a very substantial contribution to the grand total. Lady Probyn's assistance was very much in evidence on the Flag Day, as she visited the principal schools in Bridgetown, and, assisted by friends, held a collection centre in the courtyard of the public buildings.

The total—£525 3s. 6d.—includes several dona-

tions in addition to the Church collections and the proceeds of the sales of flags. Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, for instance, kindly sent a cheque for £10. The Barbados branch of the British Order of Ancient Free Gardeners also took up a collection, which amounted to \$50. Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, Treasurer of the Island, kindly superintended the financial side of the effort.

What the Churches Did.

The collection by the Churches produced \$1,520.41, as follows:—

	\$	cts.
The Cathedral	221	01
St. Ambrose	26	99
St. Barnabas	19	78
St. Leonard	67	64
St. Mary	33	69
St. Matthew	35	51
St. Paul	52	70
St. Stephen	19	00
Christ Church	171	06
St. Bartholomew	12	00
St. David	10	00
St. Lawrence	42	98
St. Matthias	65	69
St. Patrick	36	73
St. Thomas	23	71
The Holy Innocents	22	00
St. Philip	70	00
Holy Trinity	48	00
St. Martin	39	24
St. John	69	99
St. Margaret	7	40
Society	15	00
St. George	40	00
St. Augustine	18	00
St. Jude	20	24
St. Luke	12	00
St. Joseph	7	38
St. Anne	15	55
St. Aidan	2	76
St. Peter	66	00
All Saints	10	00
St. Philip-the-Less	15	00
St. Andrew	15	00
St. Saviour	10	05
St. Simon	22	00
St. James	19	57
St. Silas	31	66
St. John Baptist	7	79
St. Lucy	14	40
St. Clement	17	12
St. Patrick, Roman Catholic	36	00
Providence, Wesleyan	4	80
Bethel, Wesleyan	22	19
Speightstown Wesleyan Circuit	4	20
Bay Street Boys' School	3	58

\$1,520.41

In the present issue we publish some reproductions of photographs taken on the occasion of the recent West Indian Flag Days in British Guiana and Antigua. The central figure in the group of the Committee in Antigua is His Excellency the Hon. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands.

As we go to press we learn with much regret of the death of Mrs. Craig, wife of Mr. Alan Estill Craig, of "Taymouth Mauror," British Guiana, and daughter of Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., late Receiver-General of the Colony, which occurred on October 26th.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

As anticipated, J. E. A. M. Crawford, W. L. Hutchinson, C. K. Nichols, A. P. Cox., W. D. Ward, and E. A. Atwell, of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, have now all joined the Artists' Rifles O.T.C. D. E. Chase, who arrived by a later steamer, has also been accepted by the same regiment.

* * *

During the past fortnight the following gifts have been received, and are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Mrs. Cook: 6 prs. socks.
Kilman (Ayrshire) Work Party, per Mrs. George McCalman: 50 prs. socks.
Mrs. Barnshaw (Straits Settlements): 3 prs. socks.
Trustees Public Library, St. John's, Antigua: 2 cases magazines.
Mrs. S. A. Gabriel, Antigua: magazines.
The Miranda Club (Trinidad), per Miss Marie Barrett and Mr. Leo FitzWilliam: preserves and hot sauce
Mrs. Stanley Taylor: 12 prs. socks.
Lady Hayes Sadler: 3 mufflers.
Miss Alice Berkeley: 1 muffler.

* * *

The Fourth Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment has recently won no fewer than eight Military Medals. The recipients have been 3970 Sergeant F. W. Holland, 4368 Pte. L. French, 19259 Company Quartermaster-Sergeant C. H. Coater, 4736 Pte. S. Barton, 5777 Pte. J. Davis, 5766 Pte. A. De Pass, 8292 Pte. E. Williams, and 6260 Pte. H. Ferguson, all from Jamaica. Most of these medals were won in extinguishing fires due to enemy aerial attacks. On one occasion two men jumped on a cordite dump which was on fire and exploding, pulled off the tarpaulin, and helped to separate the burning ammunition and extinguished it. Several boxes exploded while they were on the stack, and one man had his clothing considerably burnt.

* * *

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Miss E. B. Shepherd, Pte. J. E. Crawford, Gunner G. H. Seale, D. E. Chase, Second Lieut. R. H. Johnson, A. G. St. Hill, and Pte. E. D. Redman, Barbados; Second Lieut. Farfan, Second Lieut. Ivan J. Scott, Trpr. Victor Collins, Trpr. Robert Scheult, Trpr. George de Souza, Second Lieut. George E. Laughlin, Trpr. R. O'Connor, Trpr. B. O'Connor, Trpr. M. Cipriani, Trpr. E. L. Ferreira, E. Cipriani, Pte. E. Reeles, Pte. R. C. Lawrie, Second Lieut. Cyril A. Norman, Second Lieut. W. J. André, Mr. P. F. Huggins, Second Lieut. P. Huggins, and C. Schoolseth, Trinidad; Second Lieut. T. McDonald, Antigua; Second Lieut. C. Bagot Gray, Second Lieut. R. G. Williams, Pte. B. L. Mossman, and Pte. E. C. Preston, Jamaica; Second Lieut. Kenneth Reid, Tobago; Lieut. K. M. Leighton and Sergt. P. S. Stoby, British Guiana.

* * *

A few more extracts from letters received by the West Indian Contingent Committee are given below:—

"Many thanks for parcel of smokes received. They arrived in first-class condition and were most acceptable."—*From a Barbadian in Egypt.*

"Thanks ever so much for the splendid parcel of warm comforts. I hope I am not wrong in saying that you chose them because the choice could not have been better."—*From a Trinidadian in camp.*

"I cannot adequately thank you for your kindness in sending the cigarettes, tobacco, and carbolised underwear. As is wont, they met with our whole-hearted appreciation. For the Mesopotamia summer the underwear is simply it."—*From a Trinidadian in Mesopotamia.*

"I have received a lovely parcel from you and can assure you was delighted to have it and can only thank you from the bottom of my heart. It was appreciated to the utmost, and after spending some time in the trenches I can tell you it was a treat."—*From a Bahamian in France.*

"The contents of the parcel were Gold Flake cigarettes, tobacco, and the light underwear, which I have distributed among the other lads and myself in equal shares. . . . We all join in thanking yourself and the Committee for the kindness rendered to us."—*A Trinidadian in Mesopotamia.*

"Will you please convey my thanks to the W.I.C.C. for the parcel I received on the 24th inst., the contents of which are just the thing for the coming winter months. I can assure you that myself and friends will spend many a happy hour with the cards you sent."—*From a British Guiana man in France.*

"Just a few lines acknowledging the receipt of your most welcome parcel. I must admit that I was overjoyed with its contents and sincerely hope that you will keep on sending cigarettes and cake as they were exceptionally appreciated. Of course the underwear is absolutely topping."—*From a Trinidadian in France.*

"Just a few lines to say a little of what we feel towards yourself and Committee for the benefits that we have received from you—for the great care that you take in keeping in touch with us, who feel it most, being so far from our homes, and can only hear intermittently from those who are dear to us."—*From a Trinidadian in Mesopotamia.*

* * *

Since the last list of donations to the West Indian Contingent Fund was published (see CIRCULAR, October 4th), the following have been received:—

Proceeds British Guiana Flag Day	£1,012 11 7
Southern War Fund: per Mrs. Hobson (specially earmarked)	550 0 0
Proceeds Barbados Flag Day	525 8 6
Proceeds Trinidad Flag Day	257 12 8
Proceeds St. Vincent Flag Day	210 4 4
Proceeds St. Kitts Flag Day	138 8 6
Proceeds Antigua Flag Day	120 15 7
Proceeds Montserrat Flag Day	60 0 0
Proceeds St. Lucia Flag Day	56 13 1
Rebate on Sale of Badges, April-June, Messrs. J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd	18 6 0
J. R. Philips, Esq. (earmarked for St. Vincent and St. Kitts men)	10 0 0
Lodge Scotia (Barbados), per Lady Probyn	5 0 0
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (August subscriptions):—	
Kingstown Club	1 9 0
Hon. C. B. F. Richards	0 10 0
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	0 10 0
F. W. Reeves, Esq.	0 10 0
V. Hadley, Esq.	0 8 4
J. H. Hazell, Esq.	0 3 0
A. L. Gillezeau, Esq.	0 2 0
Dean Hopley, Esq.	0 2 0
J. A. Davy, Esq.	0 1 0
	3 15 8

Mrs. K. C. Harker 1 0 0
Mrs. J. H. L. Poe 1 0 0
W. J. Knight, Esq. (earmarked for Barbados men) 1 0 0
Lady Hayes Sadler, per Mrs. Bronley (earmarked for Working Party) 1 0 0
J. Wood Davis, Esq. 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 Indies 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, 35, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3., or to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUTENANT A. E. THOMPSON (of Jamaica) British West Indies Regiment, attached Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action on September 20th. Mr. Thompson came over in 1916 with a Jamaica contingent, and after serving in France was invalided to England last winter suffering from frostbite. He was attached for home service to the Royal Fusiliers for several months, and returned to France with a draft to that regiment in September. Before he was able to rejoin his own regiment, he went into action with the Royal Fusiliers, and was killed.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

SECOND LIEUT. FRANK L. JOHNSON, who has lost his life as the result of an accident, was born in Barbados, and was a son of Mr. Frank Johnson, of "Ruby," Soufriere, St. Lucia. He was educated at the Lodge School, Barbados, and Upper Canada College, Toronto, Canada, and on leaving College he joined the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada at Dominica. He subsequently joined the West Indian Contingent at St. Lucia as a 2nd Lieutenant, and, after serving for a while in Egypt with the British West Indies Regiment, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps.

WOUNDED.

MAJOR J. V. KIRKLAND of the British West Indies Regiment has been wounded.

CORPORAL LESLIE M. MURRAY, Household Battalion (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded in both legs.

SECOND LIEUT. I. J. SCOTT (son of Mr. E. J. Scott, of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Royal Field Artillery, has been wounded in the forearm (left) and is now convalescent in London.

HONOURS.

LIEUT. TREMAY MENENDEZ (son of the Hon. F. M. Menendez, Nassau, Bahamas), Gloucester Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps, has been awarded the Military Cross.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

GENNER G. J. DENT (Clerk to the West India Committee), has transferred from the Royal Garrison Artillery to the Royal Engineers.

SECOND LIEUT. A. H. HAMIL-SMITH (of Trinidad), attached Royal Flying Corps.

CADET A. R. KNOWLES (of the Bahamas), who has been training in the Flying Corps in Canada, has received a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps.

SECOND LIEUT. W. J. MILLER (of Trinidad), Royal Flying Corps.

CAPTAIN H. F. PREVITE has been transferred from the London Regiment to the Territorial Force Reserve with the rank of Captain.

LIEUT. ARTHUR SANBERSON, Middlesex Regiment, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

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.

Austin, 2nd Lieut. Harold B. G. (of Barbados), Army Ordnance Corps.

Macintosh, Lieut. Thomas D. (son of Mr. Peter Macintosh, St. George's, Grenada), Royal Flying Corps.

Maingot, Lieut. Albert (son of Mr. Albert Maingot, of Trinidad), Canadian Expeditionary Force.

O'Neal, 2nd Lieut. T. W. B. (of Barbados), Royal Defence Corps.

Hummer, Sergeant V. A. (of Trinidad, brother-in-law of the Superintendent of Prisons), Royal Engineers.

Richards, Private L. A. (of the West Indies and Toronto, Canada), Overseas Training Company, University of Toronto, C.O.T.C.

Watson, Gunner Conrad E. (son of Mr. Conrad Watson, of New Yarmouth, Jamaica), 13th Canadian Siege Battery.

OUR MILITARY INVALIDS.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts:—

ANTIGUA.

2nd Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Durham Light Infantry, London.

BARBADOS.

Pte. W. L. Innes, Gordon Highlanders, Yeovil; Lee-Corpe, L. R. Hutchinson, London Regiment, Nottingham; Pte. C. L. E. Burgess, London Regiment, Leeds.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate.

MONTERRAT.

Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. Ryland, Gloucester Regiment, London; 2nd Lieut. S. Scdamore, London Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Dublin.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., Brighton; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwick, Wandsworth; Lieut. Gordon Burke, Welsh Fusiliers, Epsom; 2nd Lieut. W. André, Gloucester Regiment, Epsom; Trpr. C. W. Spencer, Household Battalion, Mitcham; Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London; Cpl. L. Murray, Household Battalion, London; Rflm. J. H. Llanos, K.R.R.C., Birmingham; Major A. De Boisstere, London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

2nd Lieut. B. M. Lord, Leicester; 2nd Lieut. J. S. Powell, Winchester; 2nd Lieut. Casserley, London; 2nd Lieut. Andrews, Manchester; 2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, France; Pte. Davis, Bethnal Green.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Sugar in Alcoholic Drinks.

Replying to Major David Davies, on October 23rd, Mr. Parker said that approximately 360,894,000 lbs. of sugar had been consumed in the manufacture of alcoholic liquor in this country during the year ended September 30th, 1916. Most of the sugar used was wholly unfit for domestic consumption. The quantity of beer permitted to be brewed during the current quarter entailed the use of approximately the same quantity of grain and brewer's sugar as was used in the last quarter, or rather more than half that used in the corresponding quarter of 1916. He could not accept the view that brewing of beer represented an avoidable waste of foodstuffs.

PARTICULARS regarding membership of the West India Committee will be found at the foot of page 428 in the present issue. Any member can propose or second candidates for election.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BERMUDA—Red Cross Service.

A correspondent states that the Cathedral was filled on the morning of Sunday, September 30th, on the occasion of a Red Cross Service. The Governor and his Staff, together with naval and military contingents, were present at the service, at which the music was provided by the band of the 2/4th East Yorkshire Regiment. At the close of the service the troops were drawn up on the road to the south of the Cathedral, and while the band rendered two selections His Excellency inspected the ranks, accompanied by his Staff and Mr. Loop, the American Consul. During the ceremony a collection was taken up by the Daughters of the Empire for the Red Cross. The troops then formed fours and marched past His Excellency, the naval detachment leading. The entire collection both inside the Church during the service and outside at its close was in aid of the Red Cross Fund and the collection, which was taken up inside as usual by the sidesmen, amounted (says the *Colonist*) to almost £54, while £8 11s. was collected outside by the Daughters of the Empire.

BRITISH GUIANA—Bauxite discoveries.

A correspondent writes that interest in bauxite is maintained at a high level by continued discoveries. One hill is, according to experts, capable of supplying bauxite for the next twenty-five years. Extensive tracts of land have also been discovered up the Berbice River. The Georgetown Bauxite Company, with a capital of \$200,000 will shortly be formed. Designs have been officially invited in connection with the proposal for the presentation of a memorial plaque in bronze to the next of kin of those of His Majesty's forces who have fallen in the War.—A figure long familiar in the shipping world of Demerara is Mr. Charles Ridley, wharfinger to Messrs. Hooker Bros., a position from which he is now retiring on pension after fifty years' faithful service. The Chairman of the Foodstuffs Committee has forwarded to the Government Secretary a scheme for controlling the export of rice. Every rice mill is to be registered and records kept of the quantities of rice and paddy issued and received, respectively, during the month. The owner of every registered mill is to be allowed to export the authorised percentage of rice produced at the mill. Such percentage to be determined by the Governor from time to time.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, SEPTEMBER 25TH.—I omitted in previous letters to tell you that Mr. J. M. Fleming had been elected Chairman of our Association with Messrs. J. Gillespie, H. V. Delafons, G. R. Garnett and H. E. Murray, as Members of the Council for the current year. Nothing has been settled yet with regard to the payment of the second moiety of the Acreage Tax for this year. The Government's idea is that it should be paid and the fund show a large credit balance which may be required to finance unindentured labour when the time arrives. We consider that the fund has a large enough balance at credit already and there is no necessity to collect the second moiety. We have again written in to the Government protesting against the charge being made.

GUENADA—The Coming Cacao Crop.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, SEPT. 26TH.—Mr. G. C. Kentish, late of Messrs. Martin Dean & Co., sailed for Sierra Leone via New York to take up an appointment in the branch of the Colonial Bank there. Mr. R. T. Parker, Attorney, of Messrs. Peeny Bros., also left for England. Mrs. Slinger, widow of Major Slinger, leaves for England by this opportunity. The Secretary of State has approved of a local loan being raised, £100,000 at 5 per cent. per annum, free of local income tax, for a period of thirty years. £33,750 has been allocated for improvement of main roads and construction of bridges, and £25,000 for water supply.

Dr. John Whiteman, who is acting as Medical Officer of the Colony Hospital, has been appointed a Medical Officer of the Windward Islands.

At the Electric Theatre a film entitled "The Battle of the Ancre" was shown. The pictures of the tanks were very interesting and instructive.

Messrs. D. Slinger & Co.'s store had a visit from burglars, £2 in coppers and other articles were stolen—fortunately the police have secured the thief. So many places have been broken into of late, so we hope this capture will put a stop to any further attempts.

An interesting Rifle Contest was held at Queen's Park on the 20th inst. Teams of three at 200, 300, and 500 yards between the Police, Rifle Club, Royal Marines and Volunteers. The scores being—173, 166, 151, 117 respectively. Mr. R. C. Pitt, for the Rifle Club, made top score, 67 out of a possible 84, and Sgt. Herbert, of the Police, came second with 64. Major Smith took charge of the contest.

The coming cacao crop promises well, but will be very late, and, except we get an exceptionally good season, it is just possible the crop will be short. Nutmegs promise well, the heavy rains we have had being suitable. Bags of cacao shipped to date, 78,123.

JAMAICA—Concentrating on Sugar.

The Montego Bay correspondent of *The Gleaner* says:—Recent events having demonstrated the inadvisability of continuing the adoption of the banana cultivation as the staple industry of Jamaica, planters in this parish are turning their attention once more to the production of sugar. At the last meeting of the St. James' Central Factory Committee, the necessary acreage for the erection of a five thousand ton factory was only half subscribed, and speculation was rife as to whether the concern would ever come into existence. From what your correspondent could gather, it is learnt that an effort is being made to hold, at an early date, a meeting here, to consider the principal objectionable clauses in the scheme as was formulated on the advice of Sir Francis Watts, and if possible, to make such modifications as will appeal to the planters. It has been further suggested that failing to qualify the original scheme, a factory will be erected either at the Bogue or in the Montego Bay River Valley, on lines to be arranged.

TOBAGO—Cheap Food Ensured.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, SEPT. 19TH.—Since last writing we have had some heavy rains, but with good intervals of hot sunshine the cacao prospects are all that could be desired, although not much of it will ripen before January. Other crops are equally favourable. Ground provisions are now being marketed, especially corn, and the working classes can count on cheap food for several months to come. They have become so accustomed to wheat flour, and that of the best, as well as imported beef and pork, that the prices of these are most frequently discussed.

From Scarborough I hear that Lady Chancellor and daughter have been enjoying their visit to Government House. The Governor and Captain Davidson, A.D.C., came over a week ago, and yesterday an "At Home" was to be held at Government House. The Government party leave for Trinidad to-morrow per *Belize*, and it is said that Lady Chancellor will sail shortly afterwards for a short visit to Canada.

We look forward to the arrival of the Home Mails, and our love for the Germans is not stimulated by the fact that a hatch of them is at the bottom of the sea.

Writing on September 25th, Mr. Reid says:—Since last writing we have had three big downpours of rain, totalling by my gauge about ten inches, accompanied by the worst thunder and lightning storms experienced here for many years. The air is now much cooler, but clouds are still threatening, and we may have more of it. But for the intervals of strong sunshine, I would rather dread the effect on the cacao crop, but thus far the young pods are holding well. The crop will certainly be late and no pickings of consequence are expected before January. The rivers were in flood several times, and did some damage, besides hindering traffic, and there were some small landslides on the roads and hill fields, but nothing material fortunately. The need of bridges was amply demonstrated, but these luxuries must wait till after the war. At least one motor car was "flooded" and had to be hauled out of a river crossing—but only the driver

was "on board," and he wasn't even wetted by the mishap; although the machinery was out of action for a time.

Lady Chancellor's "At Home" at Government House, Scarborough, on the 8th September, was quite a success, although weather prevented several distant planters from attending. All the guests were delighted with the Governor and Lady Chancellor, who made everyone feel quite "at home." In the happy days to come it is hoped that Government House may be made a more fitting residence for their Excellencies.

By last *Belize* Rev. Mr. Clemens, Moravian Minister at Moriah, with Mrs. Clemens and daughter, left Tobago after a residence of nearly thirty years. Mr. Clemens has been in poor health for some time, and proceeds to the United States until calmer times enable him to return to the Old Country. Mr. Clemens leaves a fine record of work behind him, and his departure is sincerely regretted, not only by his own congregations, but by everyone truly interested in the island. Farewell addresses were delivered, and some kind friends expressed their regard in a more substantial form. The loss of his son, Fleet-Surgeon Clemens of the *Queen Mary*, in the Jutland Battle, adds another sorrowful interest to the departure of this veteran worker.

Mr. Harry R. Hamilton, of Mount St. George Estate, has just been gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Colonial Naval Service, and we all wish him good luck in his patriotic duties.

TRINIDAD—The Federation Question.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 27TH.—We have the pleasure of the presence among us of the Hon. G. S. Hudson, of St. Lucia, who was the very useful delegate from the Colony at the meeting of the Associated Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Hudson's energies are now being devoted to the interests of a new body, the West Indian Federal League, one of the outcomes of the meeting of the members of the Associated Chamber. The time, I think, is more ripe now than ever before for the successful operation of such a League, and the sooner the proposed "unofficial Conference" in the matter takes place, the better for all concerned. In days gone by opposition to a scheme for even commercial federation would have been met with, and the same would apply, I believe, to-day if political federation were advocated, but the indications as to the favourable reception of the union in matters of purely common interest are now fairly general.

One of the straws which show which way the wind blows in these days of reformed political ideas is in evidence in the shape of a recent proclamation issued by the Governor whereby it is notified that animals such as cattle, goats, sheep and swine raised in any British Possession may be imported into the Colony free of Customs duties, together with fresh meats, etc., imported in cold storage. The duty on live cattle has hitherto been at the rate of ten shillings per head, British or foreign. The greater portion by far has come from Venezuela, and we have been very glad to get it, but lately advantage has been taken of the position and, I am afraid, a little profiteering engaged in, and there has been much outcry. The remission of the 10/- duty in respect of British grown animals, being a small profit of itself, will doubtless stimulate the shipment of cattle from the neighbouring islands, and perhaps British Guiana.

A further proclamation enacts the maximum price of live cattle imported into the Colony for the purpose of being slaughtered for food shall not exceed 8 cents per lb.

Writing on the following day Mr. Tripp said: Confirming mine of yesterday, I should like to add a few words in regard to two admirable official reports just issued, although, in the case of the first, laid before Council since April last. One is the Administration Report of the Director of Public Works, and the other that of the Superintendent of Prisons, both for the year-ended 31st December, 1916. Mr. Bell's report is, as usual, a clear, concise, record of good solid work done from one end of the Colony to the other. It is accompanied by an excellent sketch map of the roads maintained and under construction in Trinidad and Tobago and a series of illuminating diagrams showing at a glance the cost of their maintenance per mile. The Public Works is a large spending

department, but there is a general feeling of confidence that the expenditure is in good hands and that value for money is obtained. I have lately had occasion to motor through the greater part of the country and could not fail to be again struck with the splendid condition of the roads generally, notwithstanding the severe strain imposed by recent torrential rain. The wireless telegraphy, which is also under the control of the department, has maintained daily communication, without a break, with Tobago, and occasionally with Curacao, and a number of ship stations. During the interruption of the cable to Demerara the whole of the telegraphic communication with that Colony was carried on with the wireless plant. The Tobago telephone system, also run by the department continues its useful work, showing signs of steady progress. A number of the officers of the department are doing duty at the front.

The report of the Superintendent of Prisons is specially gratifying from the point of view of the apparent decrease of crime. In 1912-13 the convictions reached high water mark, viz., 7.83 per thousand of the population. This decreased to 7.11 in 1913-14; 5.3, the lowest on record, in 1914-15, and 5.46 in 1916. There were three executions in the year against six in 1915. The total number of prisoners on January 1st, 1916, was 658 males and 44 females, against 615 and 45 respectively on 31st December. Mr. Fraser, the Superintendent, again draws forcible attention to the desirability of the fullest application of the Probation of First Offenders' Ordinance. This is a hobby of his, but one on which he can and does speak with authority. He urges that "in nine cases out of ten, once an offender is sent to prison, he returns again, and the reasons for this are plain—he has lost the fear of prison, and the slur of imprisonment is on him. He is despised and shunned, and in many cases is unable to obtain employment. He starts on a downward career of crime." And then Mr. Fraser speaks out boldly, in a manner, I fancy, that will compel attention, by blaming the magistrates openly. This is what he says, and it seems to afford food for thought not only to our J.P.'s but to the Executive, coming as it does from one who knows: "Certain magistrates evidently do not look upon this Ordinance with favour, and it is a great pity they should have a discretion which permits them to commit to prison first offenders who might be saved by being given a chance of retracing a false step, probably taken in a moment of temptation, and immediately regretted."

"The placing of youthful first offenders under probationary bonds should be made compulsory and not left to the will of magistrates who care not whether they turn a youth into a confirmed criminal or not." Strong language this, but it is good to find officials who take so practical an interest in the best side of their work and who do not hesitate to speak straight when the occasion in their opinion requires it. There is much else in the report well worth reading and consideration by those interested in the important question of reducing crime in the Colony. Mr. Fraser is to be congratulated on another year of useful service in its true sense.

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

Destination	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	1,250,058
Total for August	1,250,058
Shipped previously	63,759,925
Total from January 1st	65,009,986
To same date 1916	47,991,067
" " 1915	43,834,541
" " 1914	59,317,676
" " 1913	43,776,161
" " 1912	38,291,456
" " 1911	40,532,691
" " 1910	46,044,541
" " 1909	39,907,499
" " 1908	34,763,102

TURKS ISLANDS—Prices put up.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Business generally during August was exceptionally quiet. Towards the latter part some light raking of salt was started

at Grand Turk. Most of the proprietors hope to rake during the first week in September, the ponds having been put back somewhat owing to local squalls.

On August 12th one of the oldest merchants of the Dependency, Mr. Richard Darrell, J.P., passed away. Mr. Darrell had been in somewhat poor health for the past few years. He had in his time been quite a great worker for the Wesleyan Mission. On the 20th the Commissioner called a meeting of the merchants and shopkeepers of Grand Turk to discuss the prices charged for various articles, and to fix maximum prices at which such articles could be retailed. All the merchants attended with the exception of one. The outcome of the meeting was that some put up the prices to the maximum at once. On the 23rd Dr. and Miss Higginbotham and Mrs. Loop arrived from East Harbour.

On the 27th Mr. C. R. Frith, Miss Smith, Mrs. Loop (wife of the American Consul at Bermuda), and Miss Hitchings left on the *Algonquin* for New York.

A quantity of conch shells and sisal have been shipped to the United States. Samples of shark oil and skins have also been forwarded there, but even if these articles find a market, it is doubtful if they could be procured in quantities large enough to make a shipment.

The first barque from St. John's, Newfoundland, to load salt has been sighted, and is momentarily expected. She is to be followed by another in a few days, and by others regularly until the end of the year. Speaking with the Commissioner on this matter, he tells me that after some months of correspondence and cabling, he has at last paved the way for the Newfoundland trade, and it now only remains for the salt-makers of the Dependency to secure it. The trade is a big one—far beyond the capacity of any single individual to handle; and never in the history of Great Britain was there a time when the desire for trade within the Empire was so keen as it is at the present time, and it will simply be suicidal on the part of our producers if they do not combine, one and all, and take advantage of an opportunity which will never occur again. The Government can do no more than it has already done. The situation to a business man seems so simple. The two Colonies are, comparatively speaking, near to one another, and both are British. One requires about 40,000 tons of salt per annum and must have it. The other produces about 50,000 tons per annum—and must sell it. Surely it cannot possibly be an impossible matter if buyer and seller come together and act like sensible men to get a trade established. Reports from the Caricos group indicate the best crop of corn for a number of years. Owing to loss of many summer crops, many refrained from planting. Others planted out larger areas, and have done well. Some of the corn has been brought to Grand Turk for sale, and is of very good quality. Peas and other crops did not do so well. All are now planting for the winter crop, and so far reports are favourable.

MARRIAGES.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Alston—Peterson-Turner—On October 24th at St. George's, Hanover Square, Capt. G. R. G. Alston, R.F.A., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Alston, Rosemount, Chislehurst, to Gwenllian, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson-Turner, the White House, Bursill, Ipswich.

Martin—Alston—On October 25th at St. George's, Hanover Square, by the Rev. Prebendary Thicknesse, Lieut. Charles Martin, R.A., elder son of the late Charles William Martin, of Barrow-on-Soar, and Mrs. Martin, 59, Draxton Gardens, London, to Mildred Emily, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Alston, Rosemount, Chislehurst.

DEATH.

Craig—On the 26th October, in British Guiana, Margaret Dorothea Boughton, the beloved wife of Alan Estill Craig, of "Taymouth Manor," British Guiana, and affectionate daughter of C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., of "Orbieston," Purley, Surrey. (By cable.)

WANTS.

Sugar Plantation.—Position as Manager wanted. Experience in field and factory of Demerara and Portuguese East Africa. Good references. Cuba or Peru preferable. —Apply E., c/o the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

Discharged Army Officer, age 31, single, seeks situation on a sugar plantation. Experience in estate work.—Apply, F. C., c/o West India Committee.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Decimal Coinage.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—As a British subject, most of whose time has been spent in the Western Hemisphere, I am glad to see from two of your numbers recently received—July 12th and 26th—that you are taking an interest in the adoption of the metric system by the Old Country.

I have had some correspondence with the Decimal Association on the subject, and from their report for last year it would appear that the idea of decimalising the coinage has been generally approved of, and this is confirmed by the report, in your issue of July 12th, of the Committee of the Institute of Bankers. Both bodies proclaim their unmistakable nationality! The Decimal Association, admitting that the dollar and cent of the United States and Canada is the coinage of the largest section of English-speaking people and the most readily adaptable owing to the cent being equal to our halfpenny, comes to the conclusion, without any reason assigned, that the most practical scheme for British use would be that which maintained the sovereign as it is, with a leaning towards the idea of making the florin, instead of the sovereign, the unit. The Bankers "are convinced that no decimal system of coinage which is not based on the pound sterling can possibly be accepted by the bankers of this country, and that the present pound sterling, unchanged in weight and fineness, must remain the unit in value. The pound sterling is universally recognised in the settlement of international transactions throughout the world, and any abandonment, even in name only, of its use as our standard unit would be fraught with risks which your committee consider would be unwise to incur." Again, "The use of the term 'cent,' borrowed from other coinage systems, is, in the committee's opinion, undesirable and likely to lead to confusion, owing to the fact that our subsidiary coinage would not correspond in value with that of any other country."

Summed up and divested of their verbal adornments, these reports recommend retaining the pound sterling—firstly, because it exists; secondly and chiefly, because it is English.

I quite agree with "West Indian" in your number of July 26th, but would go a step further, and, making the dollar the unit, have our five dollars or sovereign of the same intrinsic value as the American five-dollar gold piece. Let there be two sovereigns to the pound corresponding to the U.S. ten-dollar gold piece. The coinage would then be:—

	Dollars.	Shillings.	Half-pence or cents.
GOLD.			
Pound	10	40	1,000
Sovereign	5	20	500
Half-Sovereign	2½	10	250
SILVER.			
Dollar	1	4	100
Half-dollar or Florin	½	2	50
Quarter-dol. or Shilling	¼	1	25
COPPER.			
Ten cents	1/10	—	10
Five cents	1/20	—	5
BRONZE.			
Penny or 2 cents	1/50	—	2
Half-penny or 1 cent	1/100	—	1

There is, obviously, a difference of ten pence between the 480 halfpence which go to make up the sovereign or pound now in circulation and the 500 halfpence or cents required as equivalent to the sovereign proposed; but that is no insurmountable obstacle, and I claim that it will be much better to take some trouble and adopt the standard dollar, as I venture to call it, once for all, than to put up with any makeshift that will be giving trouble all the time.

With the system I have suggested, ordinary accounts would be kept in dollars and cents; when the dollars get unwieldy, as I'll admit they are liable to do, divide by ten; thus, \$3,456,789.50 would be represented by 345,678 pounds, 9 dollars, and 50 cents, and that again, when the pounds were multiplied by two, would give the approximate value in old-fashioned sovereigns for the information and comfort of old-fashioned people.

This or any decimal propagandism will be superfluous in the West Indies, where the Colonial Bank furnishes a five-dollar banknote worth twenty shillings and tenpence, and with that as the only assistance, people keep their accounts in dollars and cents, depending on the British currency for change. I hope that there is another sort of change at hand, and that their long-suffering lack of system is nearly over.

Yours truly,
ROB. CATTON.

2730, Belrose Avenue,
Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

Public Schools and Commerce.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I have read with a good deal of interest the article entitled "Public Schools and Commerce" in the issue of your periodical for the 18th inst., and being myself a public schoolman, who to some extent has succeeded commercially, I feel myself in a position to criticise your doubtlessly well meant remarks, which criticism I trust you will receive in the good faith I give it.

Firstly, I do not think we of the City of London, desire any further mediums of the employment bureau type. But what is really wanted, is that headmasters and principals, having boys to put out in this or other cities, should use such mediums as the Employment Departments of the London Chamber of Commerce, the Polytechnic, or such sound private concerns of a similar nature as exist by the half-dozen in the City.

With regard to your remarks concerning educational qualifications of public schoolmen for commerce, it certainly is a great pity that their schools do not give them a useful grounding in Spanish, French, Typewriting, Shorthand, Book Keeping, and the Metric Systems, which, from the various candidates up to the present, presenting themselves for appointments, does not seem to be the case. One quite realises that there can be no more useful man than he who has had a long course in Latin, Greek, mathematics, etc., as such are of great assistance in many ways during a commercial career; but in the direction above indicated there seems to be a great lack of idea on the part of the public schoolmaster regarding the utility and absolute necessity of these modern subjects, the result being that the boy who comes in from the Council School and starts as the recognised office boy, quickly learns the value of these subjects and as promptly joins evening classes at Clark's, Kusack's London County Council schools, or elsewhere, with the result that being quickly conversant with these subjects he is in a position to demand from his employers that advancement which such knowledge deserves. The public schoolman having started some two or three years later is at a great disadvantage to such for at least a very long time and in some offices, where "seniores priores" is the rule, for always, because while confidence and integrity count largely and no one can doubt that it is invariably the creed of most public schoolmen, still ability to deal with the many intricacies of commercial matters is a very great essential, and who shall doubt that very many a great Council school boy possesses to quite an equal extent those other traits for which a public schoolman is noted.

Then a great grievance with employers is that public schoolmasters, parents and guardians are at the moment putting a fictitious value on the services of those under their care who desire commercial appointments, and in many cases advising them to their detriment that in no case should they accept any commencing salary of less than £70—£80 per annum. Well, considering that such a candidate under three months' service in any organisation, is of no commercial value to his employer, and that it is very often little other than charity on the part of the employer to take them on at all, consequently, I am of the opinion that such ill advice should be known to be wrong and that such candidates ought to be prepared to enter any firm of standing on a nominal commencing salary for the first three months at least, on the understanding that when his commercial education is to the satisfaction of his employers, sufficiently advanced, he will then be given a salary according to the average market value of his abilities which, from my experience of employers in the City, they will be only too willing to acquiesce to.

My remarks are based on my own personal experience, and it seems to me that the advice I give will probably be of value to those whom you desire to interest and who appear to know very little of the commercial world and its demands.

Apologising for taking up so much of your valuable space,

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
T. PRATER NORMAN.

Primrose Club,
Park Place, St. James's, S.W.
October 25th, 1917.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Demerara Railway Co.

The report of the directors for the half-year ended June 30th, 1917, shows the following results:—Gross revenue, £35,578 3s. 7d. against £26,951 6s. 1d. for the same period of 1916. Gross expenditure £23,027 3s. 3d. against £21,776 5s. 4d., less amount due to Government account Parika Extension (£229 18s. 6d. (£67 14s. 1d.) and debenture interest £1,400 (£1,400) making net revenue £10,921 (£3,717 8s. 3d.). After adding the Government subsidy (£6,250), withdrawal from renewal fund (£855 3s. 2d.), and the carry forward of the previous half-year (£3,399 10s. 10d.) there remains a balance of £21,425 15s. 10d. as against £12,129 15s. 2d. Out of this sum there falls to be paid the dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on 4 per cent. extension preference stock £6,250. and the directors recommend that the remainder should be dealt with as follows: (a) Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on 7 per cent. preference stock, £4,025 (£4,025); (b) dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on preferred ordinary stock, £563 10s. (£563 10s.); (c) dividend for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on ordinary stock, £3,300; (d) appropriation to renewal fund, £4,575 8s. 8d., leaving to be carried forward £2,711 8s. 8d. as against £1,291 5s. 2d.

The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

	1917.	1916.
Demerara Railway	176,747	197,433
Berbice Railway	33,089	35,228
West Coast Railway	129,558	137,812
	339,394	370,473

The tonnage of goods was:—

	1917.	1916.
Demerara Railway	43,946	23,552
Berbice Railway	4,670	4,023
West Coast Railway	2,817	2,819
	51,433	29,894

The traffic receipts again show a substantial improvement on all lines, largely due to favourable weather conditions, resulting in good crops and a development in rice cultivation with a general increase of prosperity in the Colony. The expenditure shows an increase consequent upon heavier traffics and the continued rise in prices of all materials and in the cost of labour. This increase would have been considerably greater had it been possible to procure all the materials required for normal maintenance, and renewals. It has been necessary therefore to provide for this deferred maintenance by carrying an exceptionally large sum to renewal fund. The directors have great pleasure in being able to recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary stock. The traffic returns at present received for the current half-year are satisfactory.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central
Telegrams—"Carib, London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

November 1st, 1917

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 93½ ex. div.; 4½ per cent. War Loan, 99½ ex. div.; 3½ per cent. War Loan, 85½. Consols, 55½.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9. Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 41/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from 1st January to 27th October, 1917, were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	74,664	32,196	84,252 Tons.
Deliveries	68,159	50,209	40,651 ..
Stock (Oct. 27th)	14,520	8,223	13,608 ..

The International Sugar Committee of the United States Food Administration has opened offices at 111, Wall Street, New York City, and Mr. Edwin T. Gibson has been appointed temporary Secretary. The Committee comprises George M. Rolph, Washington; Earl D. Babst and Wm. A. Jamison, New York; and Sir Joseph White-Todd and John Ramsey Drake, England.

The scarcity of supplies in New York has been so marked that Arbuckle Bros. have been compelled to close down their local refinery through want of raw material.

The Cuban crop is now complete at 3,023,720 tons, as against 3,007,915 tons in 1915-16, and 2,592,667 tons in 1914-15. The latest weather reports are favourable. Preliminary estimates place the next Cuban crop at between 3,200,000 and 3,500,000 tons.

The Java crop is also over, and the results constitute a record. Hawaii has been suffering from drought.

Wendhausen estimates the German beet crop at 9,000,000 tons, yielding 1,500,000 tons of sugar. Secretary von Braun, in Parliament on October 9th, denied the existence of reserve stocks of sugar in the Fatherland. In Austria-Hungary the weather has been favourable for crop operations. The weight of the beets is less than last year, but the quality is satisfactory.

Licht estimates the world's production of sugar in tons (600 omitted) as follows:—

	1916-17	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13
Europe ...	5,112	5,247	7,637	8,265	8,355
America ...	5,954	6,022	5,728	5,648	5,037
Asia ...	4,690	4,527	4,269	4,052	4,183
Australia...	310	240	342	355	190
Africa ...	525	518	524	466	433
	16,591	16,581	18,507	18,786	18,198
Out of which					
Beet ...	5,966	6,066	8,290	8,917	8,965
Cane ...	10,625	10,515	10,217	9,869	9,233

Transport difficulties are having an increasingly adverse influence on sugar production in Holland. The maxi-

mum area which can be sown under beet is 48,000 hectares, and this year's sowings were 46,653 hectares. Stocks on September 15th were 64,944, as against 3,700 in the preceding year.

RUM. The market is firmer, but there are no spot transactions to report. Negotiations regarding the purchase of alcohol for munitions purposes are still proceeding between the West India Committee and the Director of Propellant Supplies. Some small shipments have already been made, and the latest terms have been communicated by the Committee to the colonies concerned. It is understood that the Jamaica Government are leasing the store of the Atlantic Fruit Company, which will accommodate 10,000 puncheons of rum.

The stocks in London on October 27th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica ...	8,634	10,320	5,545 puns
Demerara ...	8,436	12,059	5,305 ..
Total of all kinds ...	27,398	36,436	22,583 ..

CACAO. It is 50 per cent. of shipments to this country—not necessarily of the crop—in 1916 for which licences will, as at present arranged, be granted as from February 23rd next.

The market has been firm. At the last three public sales, 14,887 bags Colonial (largely Gold Coast and Cameroons) and 8,835 bags foreign (including prize Guayaquil) were offered. West Indian kinds are only now in moderate supply and sold at higher prices. Trinidad, 95/- for fine; 87/- to 88/- for middling red. Grenada has fetched privately 90/- for fine.

The stocks in London on October 27th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad ...	24,348	20,382	12,310 bags
Grenada ...	24,293	12,692	1,697 ..
Total of all kinds ...	254,142	203,730	124,532 ..

COFFEE shows no change of importance. At auction on October 25th, 114 bags Jamaica good ordinary bold and palish sold at 72/-.

COPRA. The Market continues firm. Values, £46 c.i.f. London, and £45 10s. c.i.f. Liverpool.

RUBBER. Quiet. Para 3/1, Crepe 2/8½, and sheet 2/7.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is unchanged at 3/11 spot and 3/9½ forward. Venezuela block steady, 3/2 c.i.f. value. Panama block firmer—2/7½ buyers c.i.f., and 2/8 sellers.

COTTON. In the absence of stock, no business is reported in West Indian Sea Island Cotton.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed 16/- nominal. Distilled neglected, 7/6 to 8/- nominal, but cannot recommend consignments. Lime Juice: Concentrated, no business, with lower tendency. Raw, quiet, ordinary to good, 2/6 to 3/- per gallon. Citrate: quiet.

ARROWROOT. In fair demand, and moderate sales at 5½d. to 6½d.

HONEY is rather dearer in private sales since the auctions. The present range of prices is about 100/- to 110/- for Jamaica.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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.3. 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 West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone :
6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams :
CARIB, LONDON.

November 15th, 1917.

The Outlook for Cacao.

It is not perhaps surprising that cacao planters in the British West Indies should be viewing with some concern the outlook for their produce. It will be recalled that imports of cacao into the United Kingdom were limited for the year now current to 50 per cent. of those of the preceding year. That quantity has now been imported, and though the Grenada crop is disposed of, a considerable surplus of cacao awaits shipment in Trinidad and other West India islands. Earlier in the year it was possible to market cacao in the United States; but as America is for the time being flooded with the "golden bean," it is no longer profitable to sell there.

As regards Trinidad—and indirectly the other cacao producing colonies in the West Indies—the situation was to a great extent relieved by the joint action of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the West India Committee in inducing the Shipping Controller to permit a vessel to load 42,752 bags of cacao at Port of Spain from France direct; but the Chamber is still crying out for permission to ship to London 10,000 bags old crop cacao, which is rapidly deteriorating in the tropical climate. It is claimed that this British cacao should be lifted instead of Venezuelan produce, and non-perishable cargo. As matters now stand

cacao is on the Priority list, and, by virtue of Priority Cargo List No. 7 of July 21st last, 1,000 tons are allowed to be shipped from the West Indies to the United Kingdom every month. But this privilege is now quite valueless, as the Imports Restriction Department prohibits the importation of any more cacao, and a truly anomalous situation thus arises. It has recently been announced that the arrangements in respect of next year are not to be varied and that the importations of British cacao will again be limited to 50 per cent. of those of 1916. The urgent request, however, of the West India Committee that shipments may be allowed to be made earlier, e.g., as from January 1st instead of February 23rd, the arbitrary date of the Prohibition Order, is still under consideration, and it is cacao, and a truly anomalous situation thus arises. It has been pointed out that it would in every way be more convenient for the importation period to synchronise more closely with the crop year which will be commencing almost at once, and further that in January there is less congestion of cargo than there is later in the year when the sugar crop begins to come forward.

We believe that the reason why the imports of cacao were cut down was not only because stocks were considerable, but also because it was regarded as a luxury, being associated in the minds of the authorities with chocolate and confectionery, and we are hopeful that the Government may be made to realise that it is a most valuable foodstuff. As a beverage cocoa is infinitely more nourishing and sustaining than tea, and it is quite surprising that this has not been recognised. If our men in the trenches were asked if they would prefer tea or cocoa there can be no two questions as to what their reply would be. They would most certainly plump for cocoa. The importation of foreign cocoa is prohibited, and, as we are informed, the capacity of the British manufacturers is such that they can only just keep pace with the present demand; but this difficulty would soon be overcome if the Ministry of Munitions would sanction the erection of new presses. Once cocoa is adopted as a ration existing stocks would disappear in a very few months, and this country could take a far greater quantity of colonial cacao than it has been doing. In discussing this matter we must admit that we are interested parties; but the proposition is a

sound one, and we are convinced that a cocoa ration would be not only acceptable but also highly beneficial for the troops.

DEATH RATE OF GEORGETOWN.

WE have made reference from time to time to health conditions in British Guiana and the West Indies. In this connection a useful article appeared in a recent issue of the *Demerara Daily Argosy*, dealing with the death rate of Georgetown. In it a very natural satisfaction is expressed at the substantial reduction in the death rate from 43 per 1,000 in the quinquennium of 1906-10, to 31.2 in the period of 1911-15. This decrease is attributed to two causes: (1) the reconstruction of the Health Department of the city, under a "whole-time" Medical Officer of Health, initiated in 1911, and (2) the scavenging and general sanitary campaign carried out in 1912, as a result of a series of articles published in the *Daily Argosy*; these two causes, it is claimed, account for the improved figures. Without desiring in any way to underrate the services of the Medical Officer of Health, in the administration of his department, or the efforts of the *Argosy* in its very laudable sanitation campaign, we might point out that the main factor in the reduction of the death rate was the correction of the population figures through the census of 1911. It may be remembered that no census was taken in 1901, on the grounds of economy; consequently the population of Georgetown, between 1891 and 1911 was simply estimated by the Registrar-General by annual comparison of births and deaths occurring in the city, without taking into account the increase of population through migration from country districts into the city, as evidenced by extensions of area and increased housing accommodation effected from time to time. This omission resulted in the gradual reduction in the estimated population until it attained (on paper) the attenuated figures calculated upon in the quinquennium of 1906-10. This point has not escaped comment, and indeed, we believe, was emphasised before the British Guiana Mortality Commission of 1906.

Following on the correction of figures arising out of the census of 1911, there was an immediate, apparent, rise of fully 20 per cent. in the population of Georgetown, which by itself alone accounts for a drop of $\frac{1}{2}$ in the death rate of the previous quinquennium. The other $\frac{3}{4}$ reduction in the rate was, we venture to suggest, largely contributed to by the very satisfactory improvement in infantile mortality, which naturally had a reflex action on the general mortality rate. The improvement in the infantile mortality figures was greatly aided by the Children's Welfare movement, started by LADY EGERTON in 1912-13, by the establishment of the Baby-saving League, Mothers' Clubs, Lady Health Visitors, and other measures of a like nature, all tending to the same desirable end. Be that as it may, however, we heartily congratulate the Georgetown community generally, as well as all persons more immediately concerned, on the distinct improvement in its vital statistics, as recently made public through the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the city.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to, West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

DR. H. L. CLARE, late Surgeon-General of Trinidad and Tobago, has been appointed Deputy-Commissioner of National Service Medical Boards in Birmingham for the West Midland region.

* * *

MAJOR IVAN DAVSON, representing the Controller of Aeronautical Supplies, had the honour of being presented to the King, when His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen, visited Bristol on Nov. 8th.

* * *

THE Trinidad Estates Company have received a reassuring message from Trinidad to the effect that the last brood of froghoppers has done no further damage, and that it is considered that the danger is now over.

* * *

THE Government officers in British Guiana have formed amongst themselves a Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association, in order to combat the increasingly high food prices prevailing in the Water Street Stores of Georgetown.

* * *

THE West India Committee are requesting the Ministry of Shipping to provide a further steamer for the Calcutta-West Indies route. Apart from commercial considerations, the need for this is emphasised by the news that there exists among the East Indian population of Trinidad a feeling that it is isolated.

* * *

MRS. MCCONNELL has presented to the National History Museum a handsomely-bound copy of the work on the "Birds of British Guiana," published by her in memory of her late husband, Mr. F. V. McConnell, and acknowledgment of the gift is made in the annual report on the work of the British Museum in 1916, published a few days ago.

* * *

THIS report also mentions the gift to the Department of Coins, by the late Mr. Alexander Mann, of a remarkable and hitherto unknown gold coin of the eighteenth century, issued by one of the West Indian Colonies, probably Jamaica. It is of Spanish-Peruvian gold of 1738, and has been plugged with a piece of gold, bringing the weight up to that of the current double-doublon—415.4 grs. On the plugs are impressed an alligator and the letters G.C.—the initials of the issuing authority.

* * *

LORD ABERCROMBY, who died recently, was a direct descendant of the famous General who more than a century ago made history in the West Indies. Sir Ralph fell at Alexandria in 1801, a barony being conferred upon his widow. Sir Ralph's most notable exploit in the Caribbean was his capture of Trinidad in 1797. He also won renown for his suppression of risings in St. Vincent and Grenada in 1796.

SISTER AGNES VEACOCK, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, who was decorated on the 7th inst., at Buckingham Palace by His Majesty the King with the Royal Red Cross (Second Class), was born in British Guiana; and was for several years Matron of the Barbados Hospital. She came over from the West Indies soon after the outbreak of war to offer her services, and has been at Netley Hospital for three years.

* * *

We learn that thirty-seven inquiries were made for information and particulars in connection with the Georgetown appointment of Municipal Engineer and Town Superintendent, in answer to recent advertisements in English technical journals, and that these materialised into a dozen actual applications, forwarded through Mr. Luke M. Hill to the Mayor and Town Council for final selection, most of these candidates being over military age. The vacancy was, we understand, also advertised in Canadian newspapers.

* * *

ON March 22nd last we published a serio-comic appeal for an Observation Balloon from Mr. F. B. B. Shand and Mr. Stanley S. Stone, both gallant officers in the Royal Flying Corps, and as the outcome we have received a sum of £40, subscribed in Dominica, towards that object, and transmitted by Mrs. Shand. Unfortunately, a sausage balloon costs £1,000; so, pending the receipt of further donations, we have handed the £40 to the Imperial Aeroplane Fund of the Overseas Club, who have promised to earmark it as Dominica's gift. If enough money to buy a balloon is not received it will help to purchase an aeroplane, but we must hope that the signatories of the letter will soon have their wish gratified and go aloft in H.M. Balloon "Dominica."

* * *

THE biography of the moment is "The Life of Sir Charles W. Dilke," by Mr. Stephen Gwynn, M.P., and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell. In the chapter referring to Dilke's work as President of the Local Government Board occurs the following interesting reference to the late Sir Walter Sendall, who will be remembered as Governor in turn of the Windward Islands and British Guiana:—

"It was at this time (November, 1883, writes Sir Charles Dilke in his diary) that I had taken up as against Lord Kimberley and Lord Derby the case of Sendall, an Assistant Secretary in the Local Government Board, who had been previously appointed Governor of Natal, and then withdrawn on account of Natal feeling that he would be too much under the control of Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of the Cape. There being nothing against Sendall, I thought we were bound to find him another Governorship, and Horace Seymour, Mr. Gladstone's Secretary, was in strong agreement with me.

"The matter was brought to a point at this moment by the selection of Blake for a Governorship in preference to Sendall. A strong letter from Seymour pointed out that 'beaps of deserving men in the Colonial Service were passed by to make this appointment, and Sendall, who has a real claim on the Government, is put on one side. . . . Seymour was Lady Spencer's brother, and he on his side, and I on mine, made the lives of Lord Derby and Lord Kimberley—the Ministers responsible in regard to the withdrawal—so uncomfortable that we finally got Sendall an appointment. Blake turned out a success as Governor."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Italy's Reverse.

The reverse to the Allied cause in Italy has been the outstanding feature of the war during the past fortnight. It was hoped that when the Austro-Germans first broke through that the Italians would be able to stay the course of their retreat on the Tagliamento, a line carefully prepared in case of emergency. For under General Cadorna's skilful leadership, our gallant Allies fell back in good order, destroying or removing stores and guns before Udine was abandoned, and fighting rear-guard actions as they went. But the Tagliamento was turned from the north, with the result that they fell back on the Livenza, and are now making a determined stand on the Piave. In any case, the Austro-Germans are overrunning the Venetian plain, aided by their usual good luck in weather. Consequently in a few days the Italians have lost all the gains of thirty months of war; their Second Army has practically ceased to exist as a fighting force; the enemy has been able to penetrate into Italian territory to a depth of some forty miles.

The Reason.

This General Cadorna has manfully explained—in the main at any rate—German propaganda so undermined units of the Second Army that they failed to make the necessary resistance at the critical moments. Then, too, no advance was made by the Italians towards Tolmino, so that, apparently, the line was more or less weakly held, General Cadorna employing the best of his troops in the brilliant thrusts he made in the summer and holding them. But it should have been anticipated by the Allied Powers that, with Russia in chaos, Germany, which has crushed one of the Entente Allies each autumn, would make the attempt in Italy, if only for political reasons. As, however, General Cadorna and his staff were most likely confident that Italy's resources were equal to the task of meeting an Austro-German onslaught, it is difficult to see what Great Britain and France could have done to avert the situation by military aid. If, as is certain, the Second Army was "got at" by German agents, a Franco-British Contingent on the spot would not have saved Italy from disaster, but would itself have been placed in such a position as to have been cut off.

Anglo-French Aid.

Nevertheless our amateur strategists are making a dead set at the soldiers by assuring the public that a wise prescience would have sent military aid to Italy before the blow fell. But seeing that the Central Powers have four lines of railway to Italy's two, and are nearer the Venetian frontier than either France or England, how would such a plan have worked? It would have informed Berlin and Vienna that the Entente Powers distrusted Italy, and hastened their preparations for invasion, so that, when our forces arrived, they would have found the enemy well prepared to meet them. The weakness

of the Allied councils has not been military but political. Why was revolutionary propaganda permitted to sap the discipline of Italy's Second Army? Now that the mischief has been done, however, swift action is being taken to retrieve the situation. Already Franco-British troops are in Italy, and the Allied Governments in conference as to the immediate future. The latest news is that the Italians are turning on the enemy with good effect.

Extremists Seize Power in Russia.

The Provisional Government, with M. Kerensky at the head of it, has not been able to grapple with Russia's most pressing economic and financial problems nor to stay the progress of dry rot in the Army and Navy. But, at any rate, he was averse from a separate peace and understood something of statesmanship. The trouble was that he could never break away from the Soviet, which paralysed his best efforts. Now it has come out into the open under Lenin, a pro-German pacifist, who is known as a traitor, and upset the Provisional Government. Several of its members have been arrested, and M. Kerensky is a fugitive. The programme of the Lenin Ministry is simple—peace and land for the peasants. As the news coming through is controlled by the Extremists no one outside Petrograd knows exactly what is happening. But one fact is clear, unless Russia can quickly produce a military dictator, the tale of her sufferings has only just begun.

The Storming of Passchendaele.

The seventh phase of our advance in this sector increased our hold on Poelcapelle and Passchendaele. With the capture of Bellevue, a spur of the main ridge just above the village in the direction of Ypres the British followed the road to a companion spur, as between the two the valley was impassable. On the summit was Crest Farm, protected at the tip by "pill boxes," barbed wire and machine guns. But the Canadians worked steadily up the slope under a heavy fire from the Bavarians, who put up a stout resistance as long as they were in their concrete shelters, but on being bombed out of these soon gave in. On the left the swamp fighting was so difficult that one detachment stuck fast in the mud, and the craters were so full of water as to drown men unfortunate enough to slip down the steep sides.

In the final phase of the battle the resistance of the enemy was weaker. In the first place the weather favoured; in the second place the Canadians held the two outlying spurs of Passchendaele, his strongest points. In the darkness of the early morning the Canadians swung across the three hundred yards which separated them from the ruins of the village, and clean through it to the Goudberg spur on the north, capturing its defences, and clearing out the occupants of "pill-boxes" on the way. Passchendaele is ours, except for the Mosselmarkt, just north of which is a fortified position, though commanded by our guns. We now look down on the Roulers plain.

The French Victory.

The piercing of the German line near the point of the angle formed by the turn of the Allies line,

which, roughly speaking, runs from north to south as far as Soissons, to almost due east, was bound to lead to a general retirement of the enemy. This he has recognised by withdrawing from the whole line of the Chemin des Dames across the Ailette, after losing more men than he lost in the battle of Verdun. The French now hold all the dominating heights overlooking the Ailette Valley, while the Germans hold but four isolated bastions, separated by swampy areas, and under observation in the rear, on the way to the Laonnais plain. Moreover, not only is communication difficult between these four positions, but they themselves are harassed by enfilading fire. How long will it be before there is another "withdrawal according to plan" in this sector? The French have won the battle of the Chemin des Dames.

The Fall of Beersheba and Gaza.

The British have dealt fresh blows at the Ottoman Empire in anticipation of an offensive in Asia Minor by the Germans under Falkenhayn. The Turks, when they can sit down in trenches are past masters in the art of defence, as we have found to our cost both in Mesopotamia and in Palestine. As at Ramadie our infantry held the enemy in his main position while mobile columns engaged in a wide turning movement through the desert. Thus out-flanked the Turks, who fought well, were driven out of Beersheba, the last formidable position on the road to Jerusalem, and a great road and railway centre, the Jerusalem-El-Audja railway in particular passing through it, the possession of which gives General Allenby a lateral line of communication. Consequently our troops were able to follow up their success at Beersheba by storming the defences of Gaza in combination with the Navy. That, tremendously strong as they were, they should have been captured after such a comparatively slight resistance is attributed to the crushing defeat the Turks sustained at Beersheba. The enemy is retiring northwards, with our forces in pursuit. Askalon has fallen, and the railway to Jerusalem is threatened. Not only have 5,000 prisoners been captured, but 70 guns and an enormous amount of stores and ammunition.

Meanwhile General Maude has struck again in Mesopotamia by the occupation of Tekrit, half-way between Baghdad and Mosul, and a position of strategical importance strongly entrenched. With great gallantry our troops crossed three-quarters of a mile of open country when the attack was pressed home with such effect that the enemy was driven out of his first line. In spite of a counter-attack the British consolidated their gain, while the cavalry menaced his right flank and the artillery his communications. After losing more trenches, the Turks at night-fall hurriedly retreated.

Air Raids.

On October 29th, in spite of high winds and rain, enemy machines tried to attack London and the coast, but were beaten back by our aircraft. Two nights later seven groups of aeroplanes made determined attempts to break through the outer defences of London, approaching it from different directions.

Only three succeeded, the failure of the main body proving the remarkable efficiency of our defensive aerial organisation. Low, thin banks of cloud rendered observation difficult, but, trusting to their hearing, our gunners were able to time their barrage with wonderful accuracy. A large number of our aircraft went up and all returned safely. The loss of life and material damage were relatively slight.

Naval Success in the Kattegat.

British destroyers have surprised the Germans in the Kattegat, and destroyed an auxiliary cruiser, mounting six-inch guns, and ten armed patrol boats. The attack was so sudden and the blow so well delivered that the German warships had only time to fire two rounds before they were sent to the bottom. The survivors of their crews were rescued by the British.

Submarine Warfare.

During the week ending November 5th the number of large British ships sunk markedly decreased, being only eight as compared with fourteen sunk during the previous week, while there was no increase in the number of small ships sunk. These figures bear out the statement made by the First Lord of the Admiralty recently that the Navy is getting the submarine menace better under control. For the week ended November 11th the number of big ships sunk was one only; the number of small ships 5.

(To be continued.)

BARBADIAN CARE FOR WOUNDED.

£2,000 for Star and Garter Home.

The women of Barbados are endowing a room at the Star and Garter Home for wounded soldiers at Richmond. A Committee with that end in view was formed in Barbados some time ago, and a local Star and Garter Fund was opened with Mrs. Skinner, of Glenoig, Strathelyde, as Hon. Secretary. The sum of £2,000 requisite for the endowment of the Barbados Room was rapidly forthcoming. Indeed, a good deal more was collected, with the result that not only has the room been endowed in perpetuity, but that a contribution of £200 to the General Fund of the British Red Cross Society has been rendered possible.

Cheques for these amounts were received by recent mails from Mrs. Skinner, and forwarded to the proper quarter by the West India Committee, to whose Secretary has been entrusted the nomination of the first inmate of the Barbados Room.

A tablet will be affixed to the room bearing a suitable inscription, and it is hoped that at least the first inmate may be a Barbadian, or at least a West Indian, if any deserving candidates are forthcoming.

MOTOR TRACTORS FOR CANE GROWING.

Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., of British Guiana, in a letter to the *Louisiana Planter*, say:—

"As the conditions existing in the cane fields in this Colony make the use of any of the standard forms of tractor almost impossible on account of the system of open drains which cut up the land into strips of not more than 36 feet wide, and also because of our canals and waterways, as a means of transport, making it difficult to take a heavy machine from one field to another, it will be necessary to have a specially designed tractor made to suit the requirements. The land is quite flat. In other countries where tractors are now used, a headland is left for the purpose of turning ploughs at the end of the furrows. This cannot be done here without a great loss of land.

"A heavy tractor of, say, 20-30 H.P. cannot be turned in growing canes without doing a lot of harm, and as we require to work in our fields until the canes overshadow the land, the canes are, say, three feet high at the time they are completely tilled. The tractor and gang of cultivators, therefore, cannot be turned through the growing crop. For work in fallow land the proposition is easy, but for the cultivation of growing canes in the Demerara cane-fields there are a great many obstacles to overcome.

The First Difficulty.

"The first difficulty is to arrange for the machine to straddle the cane rows, as the space between the rows is only four feet. . . . In order to clear cane rows three feet high it will be necessary to have wheels six feet in diameter or smaller wheels with an arched axle to carry the machinery well above the tops of the canes. The arrangements of drive and steering wheels must be left to makers, who will doubtless be able to adapt designs already perfected; but it is necessary that the tractor should give a clear three feet in height and four feet in width to allow free passage over the straddled row.

"A tractor equal to hauling four ploughs—i.e., powerful enough to do the work of four mules—would be the smallest worth working, but if it is possible to make a light machine easily handled of 10-20 H.P., heavier tillage would be cheaply performed. A very useful one would be of a size to pull two of the Planet two-row cultivators tilling four banks at one passage. Tillage deeper than 10 inches is seldom done.

Opening for Suitable Machines.

"The question of turning in the cultivation without damage to canes is troublesome, and a satisfactory solution has not yet been thought out. It may be possible to arrange for the tractor to run on the centre of the bed with a gang of eight ploughs or cultivators behind it, the gang to be picked up at the end of the field and swung around to the front of the tractor. The tractor would then return on its track without turning with the ploughs, giving a second cut to the banks.

"At the end of the field, where the navigation canal would be, a punt would be stationed, and the tractor could run on to this to be carried forward to the next bed in the field. A small tractor hauling four ploughs could be handled in the same way, but would make two trips for each bed with eight banks to be worked. For small tractors one pair of large wheels with small steering wheels should carry the required weight, but for a large machine to work eight ploughs the caterpillar system would in all probability be best.

"Tires should be from nine to twelve inches wide, with the usual bars to prevent slip. Every assistance possible would be afforded to anyone who wished to study the problem on the spot with a view to making a tractor to suit, and we would strongly urge a personal visit. As there are 70,000 acres in cane, and no tractors at all, it will be seen that there is a considerable opening for a suitable machine."

LIZARDS AND SUGAR.

By R. R. MOLE.

Few observant people who have in summer-time walked along a hedgerow with a southerly aspect can have failed to notice the tiny efts which may be seen basking in the sunshine, and fewer still visiting the Zoological Gardens who have cast a careless glance at the beautiful green lizards which inhabit the enclosed open-air space near the Reptilium, would imagine that similar, though larger creatures of a different species are, in some countries at least, intimately connected with our sugar supply. Until a few years ago, even the sugar planters of the West Indies, as they rode through the traces in their cane fields, failed to recognise as friends and allies of their cultivations the lizards which scrambled and rustled across their path, and with absurdly bobbing heads slid, slithered, and crawled among the cane stools. Nevertheless, it is a fact which is beginning to be recognised that the presence or absence of lizards and other animals in the cane-fields has much to do with the welfare, or otherwise, of the sugar-canes and the degree of profit or loss which results from agricultural effort. Everything has its place and useful office in the scheme of creation, and attempts to alter what has been called "the balance of nature" are usually, sooner or later, attended by disaster. But the planters are wiser now, and some of them, at least, are anxious to see the pretty reptiles once more chasing each other through the cane pieces, or industriously turning over the leaves, nosing about the cane roots, basking upon little earth mounds, and with their long hind claws impatiently brushing away the speck of dust or the intrusive fly which threatens to sully the splendour of their polished suits of mail. In length these lizards vary, according to age, from three or four inches to a foot and a half, and the very large ones are usually males, and can be distinguished from their mates in that their jaws and heads are more massive, and in that they have a great deal of black about the cheeks. The females lay eight or nine eggs in bur-

rows in banks of sandy earth, and the little ones usually appear with the advent of the wet season. The adults pass their sleeping hours in similar burrows, which they partially close when they retire by kicking up the sand and debris into the entrances. There are always at least two openings to every lizard home, so that there is a way of escape should an enemy attack the stronghold from any particular orifice.

It is unnecessary to remind the reader that the West Indies used to be one of our main sources of sugar supply, but the European bounty system and the advocates of the free breakfast table produced an artificial state of affairs which did much to prevent the development of sugar-cane cultivation in the British islands of what Froude so aptly called "the Bow of Ulysses." Since that fateful August, 1914, the demand for West Indian cane sugar has gone up by leaps and bounds, and now, when one goes into Lyons' or an "A.B.C." shop for the cup which cheers, the attendant Hebe doles out the sugar as if each cube was a pearl of great price, while she is obviously grateful and surprised if one prefers unsweetened Lipton. Naturally, in such conditions as those of the present scarcity, cane sugar cultivation has largely increased everywhere, and nowhere more so than in the West Indies. Cane acreage has been extended, and such has been the energy of the great estate proprietors and the negro cane farmers that the factories are unable to manipulate and extract the sugar from all the canes which are available—a state of affairs, however, which is being remedied.

The Cane's Natural Enemies.

Sugar-cane cultivation is not exempt from difficulty, for the cane has many natural enemies—rodent vermin, insect borers of various kinds, and, of late years, the froghopper; and this latter particularly in British Guiana, on the Mainland of South America, and in Trinidad and the other islands of the West Indies. The froghopper—scientists call him *Tomaspis sacharina*—is a member of an insect genus which is not unknown in Britain, being allied to the creature which nests in the little bundles of froth to be seen sometimes on the leaves of fuchsia and other plants. Its popular name it owes to its ability to make prodigious leaps. This insect obtains its nutriment by sucking the sap from the roots and leaves of the plants upon which it is found. The sugar-cane pest has similar habits. Indigenous to the islands, and until a few years ago little noticed, it subsequently increased by millions of millions. The planters of an earlier decade used to call the result of its ravages "blight," and wondered why the canes on one side of a road were perfectly healthy, while on the other they were wilted and withered. It is now known that this last condition was not caused, as was once thought, by fungus, but by the froghopper. Many methods of dealing with the trouble were devised, and, of course, there has been resort to natural enemies. The young hoppers, which do most of the injury, frequent the roots of the cane, while the old ones live on the leaves, and on each plant in a badly infested cane-piece there are many thousands of these insects. The entomologists discovered that a

syrrhid fly, *Salpinogaster nigra*, is wont to deposit its eggs in the froth, vulgarly called "spittle," which envelops the young hopper, which the resulting maggot devours. The syrphids were successful individually, but their fertility and consequent numbers in no way equalled the froghoppers', and although the attempt was made to breed them under most favourable conditions, the outcome was not satisfactory, and it was soon realised that they could not even efficiently check the pest, and much less exterminate it. Resort was made to an egg parasite in the shape of what is known as the vermilion fly, *Oligosita giraulti*, a minute creature, barely visible to the unaided eye. This creature lays its eggs in those of the froghopper, which are deposited in dry grass, stumps, cane stools, and leaves. The young vermilion feeds on the little hopper, and, instead of it, emerges from its murdered host's egg case. This creature was also bred under artificial conditions, but without any appreciable results. It was all very interesting, but it in no way solved the question of destroying the froghopper and making the cane fields give their proper yield of richly-endowed sugar cane.

Experts diagnosed and made elaborate drawings of the obnoxious hoppers in all stages of their development, and they learnedly described their characteristics, and more or less accurately descanted on their habits and the causes of their increase. They even discovered several new species, and told the distressed planters in what these other kinds differed from the one which was the cause of their distresses. They made many recommendations, and it was endeavoured to extirpate them by hand-picking and attracting them to their destruction by the nightly display of countless lights, etc.; but all to no purpose.

Observations in Trinidad.

In the end those vitally interested turned to local advice, which is usually despised because it is local, and found it the most practically efficient. For some years Mr. Rorer, a young American mycologist, had been in the service of the Trinidad Board of Agriculture, and with him was associated a West Indian entomologist, Mr. Ulrich. Mr. Rorer observed that a fungus, popularly called the "green muscardine," is peculiarly fatal to the froghopper, while it does not affect that creature's parasites and natural enemies, and he conceived the idea of cultivating the muscardine—not as is usually done with such things, in test tubes, but in large cabinets, producing myriads of spores, which by special distributing machines are dusted over the cane-fields. On the other hand, Mr. Ulrich had noted that in the badly infested cane-fields there was an almost total absence of lizards, which swarm on most healthy sugar plantations, while frogs and loads were also comparatively rare. All three creatures feed freely on froghoppers. This condition of things he attributed to the presence of the mongus, *Herpestes mungo*, a little carnivore which many years ago was brought from India to the West Indies to kill off the rats and snakes. At a considerably later date the mongus found its way to Trinidad. Wherever the mongus were plentiful, the lizards were absent and the froghoppers flourished exceedingly.

The local Government had made spasmodic attempts to exterminate the mongus, which is a sad enemy to small live-stock rearing, and without much good effect. The mycologist and the entomologist combined, and about four years ago induced one of the principal planters to adopt their methods on a badly infected property. A vigorous extermination campaign was started against the mongus, and at considerable expense "green muscardine" was cultivated, and the fields dusted with the spores. Next, some thousands of the lithe, handsome ground lizards were obtained from other parts of the island, mostly from localities near the capital, where the mongus are not so numerous, and these were liberated in the cane-fields, with the result that the froghoppers have almost entirely disappeared from the estate so treated, the canes are flourishing, and the sugar yield has largely increased in quantity and quality.

It was proved that the fungus destroyed the adult hoppers, and the lizards were devouring huge numbers of both the hopper nymphs and imagos, and so successful were these measures that the management of another large block of estates in the centre of the island has followed suit, and has established quite a big muscardine cultivation, and in addition has founded a veritable lizard farm, where the *Ameiva surinamensis*—for that is how the reptile is described in the lists of the local fauna—is actually bred. Sand-banks for the lizards to burrow in, and wherein to lay their eggs, have been provided; water has been supplied, and provision of food has been furnished in an area of sixty by thirty feet, which has been made proof against the incursions of the predatory birds and mammals which make the lizards an article of their daily menu. Here lizards are being brought by hundreds and encouraged to increase and multiply for the sole object of combating the froghoppers and increasing the sugar yield of the estates. In addition to this measure, the banks of the river are being scoured for miles round for toads to help in the work.

There is every reason to believe that the outcome of this effort will be as beneficial as that which attended the first experiment of four or five years ago, and that the sugar production will be increased and some of the difficulties of cultivation removed by this resort to the aid of fungus and the hitherto despised reptiles and batrachians of the West Indies.

In view of the high prices and shortage of quinine, it is a question for consideration whether steps might not be taken to revive the cinchona plantations in Jamaica. Mr. W. Fawcett informs us that there are now few trees left except in positions difficult of access, in which it would not pay to harvest the bark. They would, however, form a foundation if the plantations belonging both to the Government and private owners were started again and a local factory erected to extract quinine on the spot. Some safeguards for the future would also be necessary to prevent the industry from being ruined by a cut in prices.

BRITISH GUIANA MINES AND FORESTS.

Bright Hopes for the Future.

The annual report of the Council of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana for 1916, just issued, makes good reading. It confirms the optimism suggested by the report of the Lands and Mines Department, which was reviewed recently in a leading article in the CIRCULAR. The amount of gold won during the year—35,048 ozs.—was the lowest since 1890.

The Council agree with the Lands and Mines Department, who explained in their report that this falling-off was entirely due to the fact that fewer men have gone to the goldfields during the year. The reason was that the rise in the price of food-stuffs made it much more difficult for small claim-holders and tributors to make a living, while the large demand for labour on and around the coast estates at increased rates of pay, and the much greater inducement offered for men to take up agriculture, tended to deter them from engaging in the less profitable quest of the precious metal.

Gold and Diamond Outlook.

Against this fact must be set the opening up of a new goldfield, from which most remunerative returns have been obtained. This field lies high up on the Puruni River, in the No. 3 District, between that river and the diamond fields which are situated high up on the Mazaruni river. So far, the revival of work in the Wenamu (say the Council) has not materialised to any great extent, but certain parties have not abandoned their efforts in this direction, and no doubt results will soon be obtained—and, it is hoped, some substantial gain reward the enterprise of those concerned. The Caburi district is still a producer, and some recent locations give promises of good results.

With reference to diamonds, the Council say there has been quite an appreciable increase in the number of persons engaged in this lucrative occupation. Hence a much larger output, and reports of new areas, or rather an extension of the known areas, are now and again to be noted. This makes the outlook for some years to come most attractive, especially as there is a more frequent occurrence of good-sized stones. In one locality the search for them is being carried down to a depth, with good results, not hitherto attempted. The prospect for this industry is very encouraging. It must also be recorded that visits from officials have been made with good results so far as law and order and a due regard for the regulations are concerned.

The output from July 1st, 1916, to June 30th, 1917, was 106,665 stones, 18,530½ carats, as against 46,677 stones, 8,673½ carats for year ended June 30th, 1916, and 78,533 stones weighing 10,980 27/32 carats for year ended June 30th, 1915.

Rubber and Balata Satisfactory.

Rubber exported was 16,637 lbs., as compared with 2,341 lbs. for previous year. Leaf discase, although not eradicated, is being successfully tackled. There is no increase in areas under cultivation worth recording

Balata-collecting has been actively pursued; hence the larger output of 1,471,332 lbs. This work has been made more attractive to labourers by an increased price being paid the men. There have been very few absconders. Market price being highly remunerative, the companies and individuals concerned have secured to themselves good profits. The export from July 1st, 1916, to June 30th, 1917, was 1,471,332 lbs., as against 1,179,365 lbs. for previous year.

The timber export totalled 89,000 cubic feet, as compared with 99,283 cubic feet. The increase in the lumber export was remarkable—1,190,629 as compared with 304,849 cubic feet.

POTASH FROM SEAWEED.

The Value of Kelp Beds.

In our last issue we reprinted from the *Agricultural Reporter*, Barbados, an extract from a useful letter written by Mr. J. R. Bovell, Superintendent of Agriculture, on the quantity of potash contained in some of the seaweed thrown up in certain parts of the coast of Barbados.

Seaweed as a source of potash is attracting increasing attention in many parts of the world. The following extract from the October issue of *The Coloniser* will therefore be read with interest:—

"While the scarcity of potash is only one of the problems created by the War, it has a direct bearing upon agricultural production, and for that reason is deserving of serious consideration. It is not that large quantities of it have been used in Canada, but the demand for it will increase as the soils become exhausted. Even if prices return to the old price per ton, it would be to our advantage to secure it at home. Of the possible sources, the kelp beds of the sea-coast appear to be the most readily available. It is hoped that a practical method can be devised after a time for separating the potash from the natural rocks, such as feldspar and alunite. Meantime, kelp offers the best prospect for the reason that iodine and other products are recovered at the same time, making the industry fairly profitable.

"At San Diego, California, a company has in operation a large outfit for cutting the seaweed for the production of acetone, which is one of the ingredients used in the manufacture of explosives. On the British Columbian coast, and also around the shores of the Maritime Provinces, there is an abundant supply of seaweeds. These are used to some extent by the farmers for application to the land. Experiments have been made at a few points in collecting the weeds in quantity and preparing fertilisers in special forms that will not be too bulky for shipment. The future development of the industries will be in the direction of mapping out the most productive areas along the coast and perfecting the equipment for collecting, drying, and preparation for shipment. The farmers of the inland Provinces should benefit from the utilisation of the natural resource as well as those living on the sea-coast."

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

HALF-YEARLY REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

A Notable Increase of Work.

The half-yearly report and accounts of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended June 30th were laid before a meeting of the Executive at the Colonial Office this afternoon.

The accounts, which are signed by the Hon. Treasurers, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Sir Sydney Olivier, and Mr. Rutherford, show that during the period under review further donations to the extent of £1,145 6s. 4d. were received. The chief items of expenditure were £586 7s. 10d. in connection with the West Indian Flag Day, which is, of course, recoverable; £315 11s. 7d. on clothing and comforts, and £253 16s. 6d., being assistance to men on sick furlough. The credit balance on June 30th was £2,471 14s. 2d.

The report, which is signed by Sir Everard im Thurn (Chairman), Sir Frederic Hodgson (Deputy-Chairman), and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Hon. Secretary), is as follows:—

The Committee begs to submit to subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the six months ended June 30th, 1917. Its thanks are again due to Messrs. Price Waterhouse & Co. for kindly auditing the accounts free of charge.

During the period under review further donations to the extent of £1,145 6s. 4d. were received, bringing the total of the West Indian Contingent Fund to £6,151 12s. 4d. On June 30th the balance to the credit of the Fund was £2,471 14s. 2d. apart from the unexpended balance of certain sums received for expenditure on special purposes in accordance with the wishes of the donors.

Strength of the Regiment Increased.

The Report and Accounts for the six months to December 31st, 1916, were adopted at a meeting held at the West Indian Club, through the courtesy of the Committee of that Institution, on June 5th.

The numerical strength of the British West Indies Regiment was increased during the period under review to a figure far beyond that originally contemplated, and as each new Battalion was raised the Committee placed itself in touch with the Commanding Officer with the view of meeting requirements in respect of badges, games, comforts, etc., and of providing for the welfare of all ranks generally.

The Committee co-operated still more closely with the Ladies' Committee, whose headquarters were transferred on April 11th to 15, Seething Lane, the premises at 5, Trevor Square being no longer available. The Committee takes this opportunity of recording its regret at the death of Sir Richard Burbidge, who so kindly granted to them the use of the premises at Trevor Square.

A proposal to hold a Flag Day throughout the British West Indies in aid of the Contingent Fund was approved, and the Secretary of State for the

Colonies kindly consented to transmit a cablegram to the Governors of the various British West Indian Colonies inviting them to organise Committees of Ladies to make the necessary arrangements in this connection locally. It will be noted that the expenditure on the purchase of flags and badges for despatch to the Colonies amounting to £586 7s. 10d. appears in the accounts of the half-year. The proceeds of the sale of these will be recorded in subsequent accounts.

The Committee is pleased to report that the chocolate boxes, referred to in last report, forming part of its Christmas gift to the British West Indies Regiment, ultimately reached their destinations overseas, where they appear to have given much satisfaction to the recipients.

It will be recalled that the Committee was formed to provide for the welfare of the Bermudian as well as the West Indian Contingent; but early in the year a separate Bermuda Contingent Committee was established to administer certain funds authorised by the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and the responsibilities of the Contingent Committee were lightened accordingly. On March 1st the Committee received from His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir George Bullock, K.C.B., the then Governor of Bermuda, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the expression of his Government's deep appreciation of its services, with the request that it would continue to assist as opportunity offered.

Work of the Trinidad Committee.

In Trinidad, a Ladies' Committee was formed, with Lady Chancellor as President, Mrs. Gordon Gordon, Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. John Wilson, Hon. Secretary; and Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Bernard, Mrs. Vincent Brown, Mrs. Rapsey, Mrs. Geddes Grant, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Huggins, and Miss Sellier as members, to co-operate with and assist the Committee in London. The Trinidad Ladies' Committee collected during the six months, and transmitted £650 towards the Contingent Fund besides many comforts, and it further helped the Committee by putting it into touch with men from their Colony who were serving with the Colours.

Within the compass of this report it is not possible to record all the cases in which the Committee has afforded assistance and advice to men in His Majesty's Forces; nor would it for obvious reasons be desirable to do so. It must, therefore, suffice to state that both by correspondence and personal interviews it has been the constant endeavour of the Committee to protect the interests not only of all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, but also of Officers and men who have come over independently to serve their King and Empire.

Further reinforcements of the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents arrived in England, and the Hon. Secretary at once arranged for the enlistment of the men, who are now being looked after by the Committee.

The number of visitors to the West India Committee Rooms has shown a notable increase, and the Committee continued its policy of providing board and lodging for men discharged from hospital, on

furlough, or on draft leave at one of the various clubs and hostels enumerated in the preceding report.

Sick and wounded men in hospital were visited and provided with comforts, and the Committee, acting on behalf of parents and relatives, collected and forwarded to the Colonies the personal effects of many who laid down their lives for their country.

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.

IV.—ST. VINCENT'S ENTHUSIASM.

It is difficult to appraise sufficiently highly the enthusiasm with which St. Vincent took to heart the cause of our "Flag Day." A small island, admittedly poor, it enriched the funds of the Contingent Committee by over £200. The method of the celebration was quite as remarkable as the result. It was a many-sided enterprise. The buying and selling of flags represented but one feature of a long, varied and most attractive programme, which appealed to every class of the community, and made August 1st a day of festival, and one of note in the philanthropic annals of the island.

The whole of St. Vincent, of course, participated. The chief centre of interest and activity, however, was the Court House, Kingstown. Both inside and outside of the Court House were exacted busy and picturesque scenes, all prompted by one object—the assistance of the Contingent Fund. Bands of music enlivened the proceedings in the Court yard, where tents had been erected. Within, the Administrator, members of the Town Board and others assembled for luncheon and for the delivery of patriotic speeches. Elsewhere an ice-cream and cake stall, and children's bran-tub did good business, while many visitors acted upon the assurance that "thirsty souls will be satisfied at the bar." The Legislative Chamber, we read, "was converted into a beautiful fairyland." Here tableaux-vivants were presented, and an exhibition and a concert held.

The Committee of Ladies.

In fact, our good friends in St. Vincent could not have done more to advance the cause at heart, while the varied and original programme drawn up set an example worthy of emulation in other centres. For this happy forethought we are indebted to a Committee of ladies, consisting of Mrs. C. J. Simmons (chairman), Mrs. J. H. Aikman, Mrs. N. B. Cropper, Mrs. W. C. Hutchinson, Miss A. Mackie, and Mrs. J. E. Sprott.

The proceedings began at 1 p.m. with the arrival at the Court House of the Acting-Administrator (Mr. de Freitas), a guard of honour being drawn up. Patriotic speeches were delivered by Mr. Sprott (Chairman of the Kingstown Board), Mr. J. M. Gray, Mr. W. C. Forde, Rev. R. G. Cock, and Mr. Walter Grant. The following resolution was carried with enthusiasm:—

"That this meeting representative of all classes assembled on Flag Day, August 1st, 1917, at the Court House, Kingstown, St. Vincent, desires to express to the members of the West Indian Contingent Committee its

highest and most grateful appreciation of the services rendered and the kindness shown to the men of the West Indian Contingent—particularly to those of St. Vincent. By welcoming them on their arrival; by communicating with them on the field and distributing comforts sent by friends or purchased with funds raised by the Committee, and especially by administering to them when sick or wounded this meeting realises that the W. I. C. Committee renders our West Indian soldiers invaluable help which places them and us under great obligation to the Committee and will ever be gratefully remembered."

The Acting-Administrator (Mr. de Freitas) then declared the Fête open.

Scene at the Court House.

The Court Yard (says the *Sentry*) presented a very gay appearance under bunting artistically displayed at the gate and at various tents, each of which was in charge of a lady of the Committee; and the lively patriotic airs played by the Kingstown Orchestra and the Volunteers' Band contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the large gathering of citizens.

The lower floor of the Court House, where Miss Annie Mackie presided over a plethora of creature comforts both rich and rare, attracted general admiration especially the decorations of the table at which His Honour the Acting-Administrator and Members of Council, the Chairman and members of the Kingstown Board, representatives of our towns and other guests of the Board sat at luncheon. In the floral decorations here, the choice of white and gold (butter-cups, sweet peas and French mignonette) was in pleasing contrast to the red and white roses and ribbon which prevailed at other tables and stands in the grounds.

The ice-cream and cake stall, conducted by Mrs. N. B. Cropper, the tea tent and gardens, where Mrs. Aikman was hostess, the auction mart, carried on by Mrs. Hutchinson, and the children's favourite bran-tub, in care of Mrs. Cyril Durrant, each had its fair share of business; but the irresistible force of "Uncle Sam's" influence, in the tent over which the Star-spangled banner of our latest ally waved, drew many in that magnetic enclosure entrusted to the care of Mrs. J. E. Sprott. Needless to say many gentlemen, and ladies, too, were "called to the Bar" to enjoy the mixed blessings there dispensed.

The Legislative Chamber, by the suitable arrangements and ornamentation of the stands and stalls under the supervision of the Exhibition Sub-Committee, was transformed into a beautiful Fairyland, and superadded to that scene was the exquisite floral and other adornments of the stage where the tableaux vivants were given, under the direction of Mrs. Conrad Simmons. Too much praise cannot be given this lady and her assistants for the most effective manner in which several tableaux were presented. The crowded attendance were more than satisfied. An indication of their appreciation was displayed after the curtain fell on the Children's Fairy Ring. One of the admirers (Mr. J. M. Gray) took his hat around, and before the next piece was staged he collected \$18.14 as a purse for the tableaux contribution to the fund. A similar appreciation was displayed towards another scene by children, marching to the "Marseillaise," when Mr. V. J. Richards collected \$7.28. Other contributions to

the programme, which consisted of recitations, songs and piano solos during the Exhibition were well received.

Exhibit of Native Food Products.

Mr. W. N. Sands, Agricultural Superintendent, exhibited in a booth an attractive collection of native food products for hard times in all seasons. The examples clearly showed that in many respects the colony could be self-supporting, or, as a poster announced, "We could keep the flag flying." The display was certainly of much topical interest and educational value. To mention a few striking examples may not be out of place. Visitors were particularly impressed with the loaves of excellent bread, consisting of 25 per cent. native kiln-dried cornmeal, mixed with 75 per cent. and wheat flour substitutes, such as meals of cassava, cotton-seed, breadfruit, sweet potato and pigeon peas, all of which could be produced in quantity locally. Other novelties were coco-nut butter, a substitute for import butter, and "lard-oil" refined from crude cotton seed oil. Among the other foodstuffs exhibited were peas and beans of different kinds, arrowroot and cassava starches, sweet potato cakes, farine, maize, cassava, sugar, honey, yams and eddies. It was pointed out that all the articles displayed were of considerable food value, and could be made available in times of scarcity or, at high prices for, imported foodstuffs if sufficient care was taken to prepare and store properly. In connection with the storage of foodstuffs, a collection of live insects attacking corn and meals was shown and the method of destroying the pest by means of carbon bisulphide explained. We cannot do better in closing this brief notice than quote from another poster put up in the stall, "Read, mark, grow, and inwardly digest."

Other Sections.

A very pretty display of plants and flowers was staged by Mr. Peirce Cropper. This exhibit included several rare orchids and ferns as well as magnificent bouquets of roses.

In the section arranged by Mr. F. W. Reeves was a number of valuable jewelry, plate, pictures, cameos and other paintings, which were kindly loaned. Among those who contributed extensively were Mr. Conrad Simmons, Mr. J. H. Aikman and Mrs. N. B. Cropper. Some fine pieces of lace and needlework were among the attractive items.

Many visitors found also considerable interest in the section under the direction of Messrs. George Durrant and R. M. Anderson, which comprised many excellent photographic views, also curios of various descriptions.

The Financial Result.

The financial result was £208 2s. 1d. (subsequently increased to £210 4s. 4d.), as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
The Exhibition, Tableaux and Concert, by Mrs. Simmons	54	11	0
The Bar and Dance, by Mrs. Sprott	29	9	4
The Luncheon, by Miss A. Mackie	22	16	14
The Auction Jumble and Bran Tub, by Mrs C. Hutchinson	21	8	14
Ice Creams, also sale of Flowers, etc., by Mrs. Cropper	19	8	10½

	£	s.	d.
Tea, Mrs. Aikman	8	15	8
Gate Fees	7	10	0
Collection in Boxes	9	1	5
Sale of Flags and Badges	38	11	6
Contribution from Grammar School Boys, Mr. Reeves	2	10	0
	£208	2	1

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENTS.

The Committee of the West Indian Club has decided to extend hospitality to all officers in the Navy or Army from the West Indies, who will be welcomed as temporary members at 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.

From the Gazette.

October 10th.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp. Second Lieutenants to be Temp. Lieutenants: T. E. Adam, A. A. Dunlop (Sept. 5).

November 6th.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp. Second Lieutenant A. C. Stephens, from Gen. List, to be Temp. Lieutenant (July 1).

November 9th.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—I. McDowall, M.B., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

- League of the Cross of Geneva, Bahama: 13 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
- Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 8 prs. socks, 4 mufflers, 6 chest protectors, 1 pr. mittens.
- Lady Llewelyn: 1 knitted jersey, 2 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Sandbach: 6 prs. socks, 4 puzzles, 1 set Halma.
- Mrs. Charles Leslie: 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. de Rinzy: 4 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Nourse: 12 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Luxmoore Marshall: 3 prs. mittens, 5 prs. socks.
- Mrs. E. Alleyne: 8 prs. socks, 2 mufflers, 1 sweater, 4 caps, 12 handkerchiefs, 1 wallet.
- Mrs. Arthur: 3 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens, 3 helmets.
- Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 5 prs. socks, 7 prs. mittens.

The hope recently expressed in this column that Sir William Manning might visit our troops at the Front has been fulfilled. His Excellency crossed the Channel last month, and recounted his experiences to the General Purposes Committee of the Contingent Committee at a meeting on November 7th. He expressed himself as greatly pleased at the morale of the men. The work they were doing was, he said, most useful—indeed, the Regiment had become indispensable. The casualties were heavy, but the morale of the men was admirable, and they seemed to know no fear.

Second Lieutenant A. A. Dunlop, of the 4th British West Indies Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross, and was decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 7th. He is the first officer of the West Indian Contingent to receive this award. The act of gallantry which he performed was successfully extinguishing a burning ammunition dump. Lieutenant Dunlop is a Jamaican, having been born in that island in 1891. He came over with the third Jamaica Contingent in March, 1915, and has since been on active ser-

vice in Egypt and France. We extend to him our most hearty congratulations.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Lieut. S. S. Scott, 2nd Lieut. J. E. Worsfold, Capt. E. R. C. Hobson, R.N. J. H. Llanos, Pte. E. Pass, Pte. L. F. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. Ronald J. Maingot, Cadet D. Pogson, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, 2nd Lieut. F. O. Rooks, J. A. Hernandez, and C. Schjolseth, Trinidad; 2nd Lieut. J. B. G. Austin, Pte. E. G. Bayne, Pte. H. H. Leslie, Cadet H. A. Arthur, Pte. C. I. Proverbs, 2nd Lieut. W. H. L. Medford, Signaller A. L. Watson, and 2nd Lieut. G. W. Goodman, Barbados; Cadet R. W. E. McDonald, Antigua; Pte. E. C. Hall, Bahamas; Pte. D. A. Richards, St. Vincent; Major J. V. Kirkland, Lieut. M. H. Pattinson, Sergt. R. V. Enniver, Sergt. D. G. McDonald, C.S.M., J. Kenahan, Sergt. F. W. Holland, S. L. Dumont, Sergt. Donald Mais, British West Indies Regt.

The annual meeting of the Ladies' Committee will be held on Tuesday, the 27th November, by kind permission of Lady Davson, at 20, Ennismore Gardens, at 3 p.m. This meeting will take the place of the usual fortnightly work party, and it is hoped that there will be a full attendance of members of the Committee and ladies of the Work Party, as a statement will be made regarding the work of the Committee and the distribution of comforts. Among those present at the work party on the 14th November were—The Countess of Stamford, Lady Davson, Lady Hayes Sadler, Mrs. Leggatt, Mrs. John Bromley, Miss Wharton, Miss Daly, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. de Rinzy, Lady Grey Wilson, Hon. Mrs. Davson, Lady Hodgson, Mrs. Sperry, Mrs. Wolseley, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Miss Levy, Mrs. Napier, Miss M. Hamel-Smith, and Miss Moseley, Honorary Secretary.

There have been some remarkable records of the numbers of men from one household serving with the Forces. A Trinidad family is entitled to prominence among such instances. No fewer than fourteen members of the house of Maingot are on duty in England, France, and Egypt. Their names are as follows:—

NAMES.	FATHER'S NAME.
Maingot, Louis	P. C. Maingot.
Maingot, Joseph	P. C. Maingot.
Maingot, Josie	Jules Maingot.
Maingot, Edmund	Jules Maingot.
Maingot, Vivian	Arthur Maingot.
Maingot, Emery	Emery Maingot.
Maingot, Henri	Camille Maingot.
Maingot, Gilbert	Alexander Maingot.
Maingot, Vernon	Andrew Maingot.
Maingot, Rodney	Andrew Maingot.
Maingot, Lio	Philip Maingot.
Maingot, Ronald	Philip Maingot.
Maingot, Patrick	Edgar Maingot.
Maingot, Albert	Albert Maingot.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.00.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

SECOND LIEUT. CECIL HADDON COOK, of the Manchester Regiment, who has been killed in action in France, was the son of Mr. Wallace Haynes Cook, Superintendent of the Almshouse and Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners in British Guiana.

TROOPER NAPOLTON EDGILL, of the Second Life Guards, has died (on October 18th) of pyæmia, at the Front. A member of the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, he arrived in England in November, 1915, and joined the 2nd Life Guards. He was transferred with several other Trinidadians to the Household Battalion, but after an attack of trench fever he rejoined his old unit in April last and was serving with it when he was taken ill. He was delighted to return to his old branch of the service and we can recall his anxiety to get overseas to his favourite horse which went ahead of him.

SECOND LIEUT. CYRIL FRANCIS ST. FELIX DALY, of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt.) who was killed in action on October 14th, was educated at Berkhamsted School. He was appointed to the Home Civil Service in 1913. In January, 1915, he joined the Inns of Court O.T.C., and having received his commission in November, 1916, and been gazetted to the Queen's, he served at the front from January to May of this year, being wounded twice. He returned to duty from sick leave on August 6th, and served until he was killed instantaneously while leading his men in a raid behind the German lines. He was only son of the late T. St. Felix Daly, of Georgetown, Demerara, and of Mrs. Daly, of 21, Norland Square, W. His colonel writes: "He met his end in a most gallant fashion and set us all a fine example of bravery and devotion to duty. He led his men in a most fearless way, and I cannot speak too highly of his actions. He had not been with us very long, about two months, but even in that short time he had endeared himself to us all, and completely gained the confidence of his men."

SECOND LIEUTENANT EDGAR SCHULT, of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), who died of wounds on October 28th, was the only son of the late Robert Schult and Mrs. Schult, of West Dulwich. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, on March 1st, 1896, he entered Dulwich College in 1910, and was educated on the Modern Side. On leaving school he entered his father's firm, Beckendorf, Berger & Co., West India Merchants. At the outbreak of war he joined the 7th City of London Fusiliers as a private, and went out to France with them, and took part in the battle of Loos in September, 1915. In November, 1915, he received his Commission, and was gazetted to the 16th Fusiliers, and was sent to Ireland to finish his training, and was called up to assist in the quelling of the rebellion in Inniscorthy. In September, 1916, he went to France for the second time, and was then transferred to a battalion of "The Queen's" (Royal West Surrey Regiment), and was continually in action with the "Immortal 7th Division." In October, 1917, he was attached to a Trench Mortar Battery, and whilst observing the result of his work on a certain village, he was severely wounded, and died at a casualty station on October 28th, 1917. His Commanding Officer wrote to Mrs. Schult: "On the 26th October your son's section of the Trench Mortar Battery was attached to my Battalion for an operation against a certain village. He did most excellent work on that day, and was most unfortunately wounded when observing the result of our attack. It was his duty to do this, and to arrive with his mortars wherever required. I can only add that he did his duty gallantly, and we all deeply regret his loss."

WOUNDED.

GUNNER L. A. LESLIE, Canadian Field Artillery (of Barbados), has lost his left arm in action.

LIEUTENANT C. W. E. HUMPHREY, Royal Field Artillery (of British Guiana) was severely wounded on August 25th.

TROOPER BRUCE S. BETHWELL, Dragoon Guards (of the Bahamas), has had his right arm blown off and is in hospital in London.

SECOND LIEUTENANT C. H. B. SHEPHERD, Machine Gun Corps, son of Rev. Canon Shepherd, of St. Kitts, and nephew of Dean Shepherd, of Antigua, has been slightly wounded, remaining at duty.

SECOND LIEUTENANT T. R. GIBSON (Dick), of the 8th Yorkshire Regiment, and formerly with the Bank of Nova Scotia, Kingston, Jamaica, has been wounded in France, and is now at the 2nd Southern General Hospital, Bristol.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment at various fronts:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

BAHAMAS.—12414 Moss, W. C.; 12628 Taylor, J.
BRITISH GUIANA.—11719 Vieira, F.
JAMAICA.—3396 Bell, C. E.; 9662 Browne, Sergt. C.; 9667 Brown, Sergt. G.; 2831 Bryan, N.; 9572 Canah, Lce.-Cpl. W.; 8375 Dacres, D.; 9909 Davis, Cpl. A.; 2795 Forbes, N.; 7120 Gibbs, J.; 12148 Goodwin, S.; 10193 Johnston, Sergt. H.; 2624 Largie, J. N.; 3029 Reid, A.; 3502 Timpson, L. P.; 10817 Williams, J.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BARBADOS.—11787 Waldron, C.
BRITISH GUIANA.—11308 Joseph, D.
JAMAICA.—11865 Brown, Cpl. J. T.; 2894 Clementson, A.; 3173 Forsythe A. C.; 7353 Gowie, E.; 7116 Guthrie, G.; 8405 Henry, C.; 12179 Henry, J.; 10196 Johnson, C.; 3260 Stoddart, N.; 12646 Whitter, C.; 14505 Williams, R.
ST. LUCIA.—11570 Reynold, D.
ST. VINCENT.—10890 Brown, B.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

12914 R.Q.M.S. Dacre, M. (att. from Duke of Wellington's Regt).
JAMAICA.—8951 Harris, J.; 12341 Mitchell, J.; 12434 Plummer, E.; 14222 Williams, F.

WOUNDED.

Kirkland, Major T. V.; Thompson, 2nd Lieut. J.; 73340 C.S.M. Burns, J. (att. from Royal Scots Fusiliers); 3335 C.S.M. Hare, S. (att. from Royal Scots); 31840 C.Q.M.S. Howard, J. (att. from R.G.A.).
BAHAMAS.—12220 Hall, W. N.
BARBADOS.—10,903 Best, J.; 10936 Best, Cpl. R. (barns); 10907 Blackett, J. M.
BRITISH GUIANA.—11923 Balack, —; 11137 Frederick, G.; 11243 Herod, G. A.; 11309 Johnson, C.
DOMINICA.—11368 Leonard, W.; 11629 St. Louis, E.; 11572 Ralph, G.
GRENADA.—11003 Cornwell, W.; 11104 Etienne, W.; 11528 Phillips, Actg. Sergt. J. N.
JAMAICA.—9648 Abrahams, K.; 7803 Baker, D.; 6231 Barnett, S.; 8679 Barnes, A.; 9785 Barrett, F.; 3155 Barrett, H.; 9009 Brandford, J.; 10891 Brown, C.; 1277 Brown, J. S.; 7542 Brown, L. P.; 8329 Brown, T.; 3577 Brown, P. A.; 11897 Buchanan, H.; 10424 Charles, P.; 7289 Campbell, A.; 7290 Campbell, E.; 2892 Clark, A.; 9848 Clarke, C.; 8143 Chambers, A.; 11943 Chambers, J.; 4151 Chisholm, S.; 11944 Clementson, F.; 9570 Coke, S.; 11960 Coote, C.; 7586 Copeland, S.; 6249 Cockburn, S.; 5460 Corinthian, A.; 11033 Cox, A.; 2785 Cox, J. E. V.; 11965 Crossdale, A.; 27734 Dawe, T.; 8731 Delphand, Lce. Cpl. J.; 1909 Delapouha, M. A.; 4538 Dillon, L.; 6256 Eady, C.; 7815 Edwards, N.; 3356 Elliston, W. T.; 3072 Flake, T.; 7852 Foster, Lce. Cpl. A.; 7321 Francis, S.; 7607 Gardner, B.; 8397 Gilles, E.; 78257 Gillens, E.; 7340 Gillings, J.; 10051 Gordon, F.; 7594 Gordon, J.; 3289 Gordon, J. A.; 8895 Gordon, J.; 3475 Graham, P. H.; 7344 Green, E.; 5512 Hall, J.; 7372 Hall, R.; 7364 Hamilton, W.; 8783 Harris, A.; 3180 Harris, C.; 2851 Harper, J. N.; 3620 Henderson, C.; 3176 Henry, F.; 3172 Henry, L.; 12179 Henry, J.; 6405 Johnson, C.; 11930 Johnson, J.; 8512 Jones, W.; 1205 Joseph, V. F.; 7390 Kelly, J.; 7831 Kerr, S.; 3637 Legister, J. C.; 8639 Lewis, N.; 2773 Lobban, A.; 8466 Lowndes, A.; 7671 Lynch, A. (accid.); 2860 McCalla, C. A.; 5869 McCallum, B.; 8267 McFarlane, A.; 7423 McKenzie, B.; 8422 McKoy, B.; 3180 Malcolm, C. A.

8430 Marcus, N.; 10350 Maragh, H.; 10396 Maxwell, D. (accid.); 6310 Mills, C.; 7929 Moore, W.; 5856 Morris, A.; 8163 Muir, G.; 7803 Narken, D.; 8505 Nelson, J.; 10471 Peart, Actg. Sergt. C.; 8978 Raneford, S.; 3101 Roberts, J. H.; 5405 Robinson, C.; 5907 Robinson, S.; 7466 Salmon, J.; 7074 Samuels, Z.; 3033 Sewell, J.; 8509 Sharp, A.; 1781 Shaw, S.; 8821 Solomon, P.; 3719 Swalley, J. C.; 6349 Smith, A.; 5836 Smith, S.; 12567 Smith, T.; 2653 Sterling, D. N.; 6359 Stewart, T.; 14417 Taylor, D.; 7236 Taylor, H.; 3448 Thomas, J.; 9272 Thomson, E.; 2987 Thompson, M. L.; 8543 Turnbull, E.; 3595 Walden, J.; 8242 Wallace, L.; 6380 Walker, C.; 7751 Watson, T.; 3108 Webley, R.; 5658 Weir, J.; 7490 Welch, B.; 2767 West, E. G.; 8548 White, E.; 5770 White, J.; 7498 Whittaker, S.; 9316 Wickham, C.; 8763 Williams, C.; 10762 Williams, F.; 2716 Williams, J.; 14505 Williams, R.; 8526 Williams, T.; 4409 Wilson, D.

ST. VINCENT.—11360 Ligair, T.; 11728 Williams, J.
TRINIDAD.—11033 Cox, A.; 11324 Joseph, R.; 11558 Philip, J.

The name of Private F. A. Rojas, 1514, who died by his own hand, was included in a recent Roll of Honour through error.

INTERCOLONIAL EMIGRATION.

Important Point raised in Trinidad.

The *Trinidad Guardian* has been drawing attention to the disability under which labourers desiring to enter Trinidad from the neighbouring colonies are placed by the regulation demanding the possession of what is known as "show money." In ordinary circumstances such labourers are required by the steamship companies to have in their possession the sum of £5. Under the laws of the colony the sum of £20 may be demanded. The *Guardian* pointed out that while the island is in urgent need of an increased labour supply, the enforcement of this regulation prevented many capable and desirable West Indian labourers from coming to Trinidad, where their services would be of the greatest value.

Mr. Webster, local Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, interviewed by the *Guardian*, stated that, so far as his Company was concerned, they required a deposit from labourers travelling by their steamers only as a necessary measure of protection, since, in the event of landing being refused by the local authorities to these people, the Company would be called upon by the Government to defray the whole expenses of conveying them back to the countries whence they sailed. The Royal Mail Company would be only too glad to be relieved of the work of collection and repayment of deposits, and if any other system of dealing with emigrants regarded as undesirable at the port of landing could be devised, the Company would be very willing to co-operate with the Government in every possible way.

He thought that it would greatly simplify the work of shipping companies if the various West Indian Colonies could adopt some mutual arrangement by which there should be free intercolonial movement of their subjects, and, failing that, if they could arrange a system of controlled movement by the recognition of police passes which, in this Colony and several others, are now issued to intending emigrants, and which might be held to

be a guarantee to any other Colony that the holder should be entitled to land. Before these police passes were issued, the passenger emigrant should be required to deposit a sufficient sum with the Government of his home colony to cover expenses of repatriation should the authorities at the port of destination refuse him a landing.

"I do not think," concluded Mr. Webster, "that the present system is at all satisfactory, and it certainly is not in the best interests of Trinidad, which is anxious to obtain labourers, and doubtless loses many useful additions to the labouring population owing to the difficulties created by the local regulations."

COCO-NUTS IN SAN DOMINGO.

There are no statistics as to the total area in the Dominican Republic planted with coco-nuts. These trees are grown to a certain extent all over the island, but the only locality where they are systematically cultivated is in the vicinity of Samana Bay. Practically all the country's exports of coco-nuts and copra are shipped from the port of Samana. It is estimated (says the *Journal*) by those interested in the business that 8,500 acres of coco-nuts are planted in that region. The average number of trees per acre is 13, and the average annual yield of nuts is from 600 to 700 per acre, or 50 to 55 per tree. From a report by the United States Consul at Puerto Plata it appears that, while exports of both coco-nuts and copra have tended to increase during the last few years, the amounts are still small. No coco-nut oil is exported, although some is extracted at Samana by a local soap factory.

The coco-nut, although it is widely distributed, plays a relatively unimportant part as a source of sustenance in the Dominican Republic. It plays relatively an even smaller rôle in the exports of the country, of which it forms only a fraction of one per cent. There is said to be a considerable area of land suitable for growing this palm, but the heavy rain in some localities interferes with the drying of copra. The coco-nut trees on the island have also been visited by diseases which have caused considerable losses in the past. The cultivation of the coco-nut may increase in the future, but there is little reason to believe that it will ever become one of the important products of the Republic.

THE annual report of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (French Line) which has its headquarters in Paris, and a branch office in Trinidad, has just been published. The total earnings of the concern amounted to 202,782,846 francs exclusive of the balance of 65,193 francs brought forward from the previous year. Expenses of losses, upkeep of tugs, barges and launches amounted to 136,475,304 francs, and general expenses of administration and operation at Paris and in the various Agencies to 7,670,957 francs, or an excess of net receipts of 58,701,688 francs. The company, says the *Trinidad Guardian*, distributes a dividend of 18 francs per share on 80,000 preference shares and 180,000 ordinary shares.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—A Governor's Tribute.

A very charming tribute to his late private secretary, Lieut. A. L. M. Shepherd, who has died of wounds while a prisoner of war in Germany, has been received from the late Governor of the Leeward Islands, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, now directing the fortunes of Fiji. In this tribute (published in the *Antigua Churchman*) Sir Bickham describes Lieut. Shepherd as "a young man of the highest promise" and "a most competent and loyal officer." The former Governor adds: "In Mr. Shepherd we have an instance—not exceptional, I am aware—of a young man born in the West Indies who gave up voluntarily a most promising career in the Colonial Service, and finally life itself, to serve his King and Country."

BARBADOS—Life Assurance Society.

The report presented at the 153rd half-yearly general meeting of the Mutual Life Assurance Society shows that during the half-year ended June 30th, 192 proposals were considered of which 170 were accepted for assurances of \$306,334. 146 policies were issued assuring \$250,590 and adding \$13,435.10 to the premium income. 39 policies became claims by death assuring \$79,315 with bonus additions of \$36,387, and 13 endowments matured amounting to \$20,010 with bonuses of \$5,850. The increase in the life assurance fund during the half-year was \$31,314.90. The sum of \$12,820 has been invested on mortgage under the Home Purchase Scheme.—Barbadians who have sought fortune far afield have often done well. A case in point is that of Mr. H. C. Rose, of the local Wireless Station, who left this island in July last for the United States of America. Mr. Rose has succeeded in obtaining a First Class Wireless Certificate as the result of an examination by the Department of Commerce Bureau of Navigation at which he sat after taking a course of study for three weeks at a laboratory in New York. A certificate of this kind qualifies the holder for the position of wireless operator at any class of station, either on land or sea, and is a further qualification for service in the United States Navy.—In succession to Dr. Berkeley (now Bishop) the Rev. A. Shankland has been instituted and inducted as Dean of the Cathedral and Rector of St. Michael. The Rev. P. A. Farrar has been nominated to the Rectorship of Christ Church in succession to Dean Shankland.

BRITISH GUIANA—Red Cross Fete.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, OCTOBER 15th, writes: A Fete in aid of the Red Cross Funds was given on the G.O.C. grounds on the 10th inst. Mr. A. Hyatt Verrill delivered a lecture on the "First Democrarians" to the local Branch of the British Medical Association. This evening, Dr. C. W. Beebe will give a lecture in the Reading Rooms on "Wild Life in British Guiana." Dr. Beebe returns by the bearer to New York. A robbery, which is happily unique in the history of the Colony, took place on the 13th instant, when a canister containing estate's wages was removed from the estate's van in Georgetown, and carried off; luckily it was recovered by the police the same afternoon, intact. The amount at stake was \$2,300. An official notice has been published that as soon as the new rice crop is easily obtainable by the public, export of rice to the extent of 20,000 bags a month will be permitted to approved ports for six months. Mr. and Mrs. Clementi returned on the 12th instant from their trip to Kaieteur. News has been received that Messrs. Booker's new schooner, the *Frances Inness*, has been dismasted by a hurricane on her voyage from Jamaica to the U.S. The Autumn Race Meeting at the Bel Air Park will be held on the 17th and 18th instant. Miss M. A. King, second daughter of Mr. J. A. King, Crown Solicitor, was married to Mr. Walter Foster, of Barbados, on the 10th instant. Mr. H. E. Murray has returned to the Colony after a month's holiday in Barbados. Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill and Mr. G. O. Case have also returned to the Colony. Dr. J. B. Ferguson has been awarded the Davson Medal for research work during the past three years. The presentation was made last evening at Dr. Beebe's lecture.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Popular Pianist dead.

The *Clarion* announces the death of Mr. Ernest A. Trumbock, described as the able pianist of the Colony. Born in 1871, it was said that Mr. Trumbock would have won a distinguished position in the musical world of the United States had he emigrated.—Considerable interest has been aroused locally by the news that a new freight and passenger steamship service has been established between New Orleans and Tampico and Vera Cruz, Mexico, by the North American Steamship Co. The company apparently intend to place some half-dozen boats in the New Orleans and Gulf trade within the next few months. The manager of the company is reported as stating: "The results of our investigation show us there is sufficient business for New Orleans with the countries of Central America and the northern coast of South America for at least twenty-five additional ships. We hope to have a fleet of at least five ships, and will be glad to see other companies put in a score of other vessels. The more the merrier, and there is enough business for all."

The *Clarion* asks: "Will Belize be one of the different ports in Central America at which the steamers of the North American Steamship Co. will call?"

DOMINICA—Help for the Belgians.

The *Guardian* has received from the Auxiliary Bishop of Cardinal Mercier the acknowledgment of the receipt of \$200 sent from the Island for the Belgian Relief Fund (the eighth remittance). The Auxiliary Bishop expresses his "heartiest thanks to those who have devoted themselves so generously for this work of mercy and especially to Miss Emanuel and assistants. Their names shall not be forgotten and they'll have a daily remembrance in our prayers for our benefactors."

NEVIS—Communication with St. Kitts.

MR. B. WILLIAMS, OCTOBER 5th writes:—I have to-day written to Mr. W. A. Griffin, and touched on the matter of better communication with St. Kitts; a mail and passenger motor boat, capable of carrying a certain amount of freight, will if properly managed, actually mint money. The sailing boats will be all needed next season to take canes to the factory at St. Kitts, leaving the passenger and freight service at a terrible disadvantage, which is a considerable item. A suitable boat may be obtained in Halifax, for a comparatively small outlay. The Royal Bank of Canada will, I believe, open a branch business in Charlestown, before this reaches you, all arrangements having been made, and a place fitted up; thus business is, after all, coming our way, and a grip on the mode of transit to and from St. Kitts, is a money-making and patriotic idea. I have just received a letter from His Honour, the Administrator of St. Kitts, urging me to assist in raising another contingent from this Colony. I need hardly tell you that we will not fail the appeal. The great work the West India Committee is now doing, will always ring along the corridors of time. The "B.I.P.O." also is making rapid strides towards an ideal which will go far to win another war.

ST. KITTS—Export of Cotton Prohibited.

MR. B. WILLIAMS, OCTOBER 20th writes drawing attention to the following Government notice: "The Administrator directs it to be notified for general information that the Acting Governor will issue a proclamation on the 17th instant prohibiting the export of cotton from this Colony, His Majesty's Government proposing to purchase it all."

Mr. Williams adds that Mr. S. D. Malone, merchant, of Charlestown, has died on the 16th inst.

ST. LUCIA—The Sugar Industry.

The *Voice* draws attention to the fact revealed in the report of the Agricultural Superintendent that little or no progress has been made in the sugar industry up to the end of 1916. The journal considers that much better results could be obtained if there were in the district around each factory a more numerous body of cane farmers of the peasant class. The *Voice* urges the Government to push forward the scheme for establishing a sugar factory

to be run on lines similar to those on which the Government Lime Factory is worked. It is understood that the Acting Administrator has appointed a Commission to enquire into the Education system of the Colony with a view to making improvements in connection therewith.

TOBAGO—Cacao Crop Vigorous.

MR. ROBERT REID, OCTOBER 14th writes:—After the heavy September rainfall, the elements have moderated and only about 3 inches have been registered here this month. The cacao crop is growing vigorously, although the young pods suffered severely from the excessive rains. From all quarters it is reported that the crop will not make a good start till January and will come in such a way as to strain both labour and drying accommodation. Meanwhile coco-nuts are being picked and copra made to clear the way for cacao, on the estates having the double cultivation, which is a general rule in the Windward District. Limes are being very freely planted this year, and in due course will add to our exports. The Department of Agriculture has promised to assist, if need be, with a lime factory, but it is hoped that the planters will be out of leading strings by the time the lime trees are bearing and establish their own factory on a co-operative basis.

Grenada continues to take a keen interest in our little island. Two of my neighbours have just disposed of further large uncultivated blocks of land to Grenada planters, and other enquiries are reported. There is room for many more purchasers, and it is hoped that the buyers will settle in the island to give a lead to the peasant proprietors and others whose methods of cultivation are greatly in need of reinvigoration which can only be got by new men and new methods. The corn crop is now being gathered and it is more plentiful than ever experienced. My East Indian labourers have over 200 barrels, some of which is being shipped to Trinidad, and they are preparing for a second planting. The natives are busy with cassava and potato "banks" and are adding more canes than usual, although the depredations of thieves make this a risky cultivation. The stealing will never cease until the natives combine to combat it. They grumble about it but seldom or ever prosecute. It is said that they dread "reprisals" such as burning and destruction of crops and livestock, and reports of such are not rare, but the sense of ownership must in time produce "orderliness," which is of more importance and must be a prelude to "political" duties and responsibilities. It would be odd to have to vote on the same ballot with the man who robs your fields and probably thinks he is not doing wrong (in his own eyes) regardless of the law.

The Secretary of State's Despatch, quoted in the CIRCULAR, is an important matter for the West Indies, and I trust it will enable these Islands to be largely peopled with these industrious workers from the East. Probably some of the clauses will be productive of discussion and the distribution of liability will be rather a problem for the planters. An exportation tax will be the most equitable, although the licenses to employ East Indians will probably yield revenue—in a graded form. Hitherto Tobago has been deprived of Indentured Immigrants for lack of the required supervision, but no doubt steps will be taken to provide for this now that the island is rapidly developing. Quite a number of "free" East Indians are working in Tobago at present, and the planters are naturally interested in the proposed changes in Immigration.

TRINIDAD—The Venezuelan Surtax.

The *Port of Spain Gazette* reports that the Governor is taking very energetic steps towards the removal of the 30 per cent. discriminatory surtax imposed by Venezuela against the islands. The *Gazette* adds: "From what we have learnt, from a source in Venezuela which cannot be ignored, he has already done more than most of the Ministers to Caracas, 'cum' visits of ex-Governor Le Haute. We wish our Governor every success in his most worthy efforts, which are evidently being carried out absolutely on the quiet."

The notorious General and ex-President, Cipriano Castro, who took the world by the ears some fifteen years

ago, arrived here on September 25th. The *Gazette* comments on the improved health and manner of the ex-dictator who stated that he was now permanently resident in Porto Rico and was eminently satisfied with American rule.—It is quite time that all forms of sorcery became extinct and there is every reason to applaud the decision of the Appeal Court which refused to interfere with the sentence passed on a man named Albert Warner, who styles himself a "Professor" of Astrology, and who recently was sentenced to six months' hard labour and twelve strokes with the "cat" for endeavouring to obtain \$6 from one Irene Straker by the assumption of supernatural powers. In his defence the "professor" said he held diplomas in astrology, and as an astrologer he made charms but only for good purposes. He had already served thirty days in prison for receiving \$1 from Straker to cast her horoscope, but denied the charge of receiving \$6 to give her a charm.

Is the mongoose quite as black as he is painted? Some remarks of Sir Norman Lamont at a recent meeting of the Agricultural Society are illuminating in this connection. Sir Norman said he discovered that he was losing fowls, peacocks, and ducks, and everybody said it was the mongoose. He got several approved traps and still the depredation went on, until he lost seven peacocks, nine fowls, and about thirteen ducks. He began to suspect that perhaps it was not the mongoose, but rather their old friend, the prædial thief. He thereafter set a watch by night and day. On the second night when his watchman was on the alert he discovered it was neither the mongoose nor the prædial thief, but a gang of dogs which came in a systematic manner and picked off bird after bird. For three successive nights the same thing happened, but on the fourth night, dog number one having got 32 grains of V.C. and 1½ ozs. of buck shot (laughter) had not troubled him again.

A PORTUGUESE FÊTE.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, OCTOBER 9th.—The only event to record since I last wrote is an entirely successful entertainment given by the Portuguese community on the 5th inst., in aid of the Portuguese Red Cross. It commenced early in the morning, when our offices were invaded by an army of fair flag-sellers, who found willing purchasers, as before mid-day hardly a man in town was undecorated. All the Portuguese establishments, wholesale and retail, closed early. There was a picturesque procession of motor-cars. At night there was a *Receita de Gala* at the Prince's Building, with an overflowing audience, including His Excellency the Governor and party, which was excellently performed and thoroughly appreciated, as it deserved. Then followed a generous supper and a dance into the small hours. No more successful function in connection with war funds has yet been held, and it is an open secret that the financial result will be something far beyond the ordinary.

The Portuguese Colonists are among the best in this cosmopolitan community, and are rapidly attaining to the wealth and position to which their energy and capacity entitle them. They are already a considerable force in our mercantile world, and socially are popular and respected. Their Consul and acknowledged leader, Mr. Joaquim Ribeiro, is not only one of the richest men in the colony, but one of the most affable and modest, and he and all the ladies and others who were associated with the Fête—which, by the way, was held on the occasion of Portugal's National Holiday—have been sincerely congratulated on the result.

OCT. 22nd.—At its last meeting, the Chamber of Commerce voted the sum of twenty-five guineas to the funds of the B.E.P.O. Mr. G. R. Alston was nominated as the representative of the Chamber on the British Imperial Council of Commerce. The question of the altogether inadequate exhibit made by Trinidad this year at the Toronto Exhibition was brought under notice by a letter from a Trinidadian at that city. A member of the late Permanent Exhibition Committee, who was present at the meeting, explained that what amounted to a fiasco was the natural result of an attempt to "swap horses while crossing streams." During the period when preparations for the exhibition should have been going on, the old Committee had resigned and the new Committee had not yet taken on the work. The Autumn Session of the Legisla-

tive Council has commenced, but nothing of a special interest came forward on the opening day. The Hon. George Fitzpatrick has been reappointed Member of the Council for another five years.

The Vital Statistics for 1916 have been published. The total estimated population was 371,878, of which 123,472 were East Indians; 1,518 marriages were registered, of the parties to which 1,134 bridegrooms and 1,039 brides were unable to sign their names. The crude birth rate was 32.36 per thousand inhabitants, the deaths 20.44. The illegitimate births were nearly 70 per cent., of which the general population contributed over 35 per cent. and the East Indian a little over 34 per cent., but as the Registrar remarks, "the East Indians refrain as a rule from registering their marriages." If they did so I fancy their record would be as clean as that of any section of the community, and it has always appeared to me that the omission to take the necessary steps to legalise the marriage ceremony which is according to the religious belief of the Immigrant, and the consequent bastardising of a large and useful section of the community was probably one of the factors contributing to the abolition of the immigration of these people to whom we owe so much.

Infantile mortality under one year of age was 141 per thousand births, being 22.3 of the total mortality of the year, as disgraceful a fact as the illegitimacy record.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wills is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Lee-Burgis.—At Hampstead on the 17th October, Archibald Lee, son of the late Arthur M. Lee, of London and Antigua, B.W.I., to Margaret Burgis, widow of the late John Burgis, formerly of Docking, Norfolk, and daughter of William Wilberforce Spooner, of Melbourne, Australia.

BIRTHS.

Durno.—On the 31st October, to Beryl, the wife of William Durno, Lenham Court, Kent., of a daughter (Betty Beryl).

Horn.—On November 2nd, at Langrigge Nursing Home, Windermere, to Eva, the wife of Captain D. Horn, B.W.I. Regiment—a son.

OUR LIBRARY.

THOSE THAT BE IN BONDAGE: A tale of East Indian Indentures and Sunlit Western Waters. By A. R. F. Webber, British Guiana. The Daily Chronicle Co., Ltd.

Mr. Webber gives us a capital creole novel with an abundance of local colour. The scenes are laid in British Guiana and Tobago. The Author takes the opportunity of exposing the shortcomings of the old Indenture System—now a thing of the past and of ventilating the abuses to which the enforced celibacy of overseers on certain estates gives rise. For the most part Mr. Webber writes with restraint, which makes one regret the more a salacious bathing episode which disfigures one of his chapters. But the book, which has a well-connected story, is well worth reading and makes one hope for more from Mr. Webber's pen.

WEST INDIAN STUDIES. By Rev. J. Hedgoc-Jones, M.A. (Oxon.).

The author, while headmaster of the Boys' Secondary School at St. George's, Grenada, had good opportunities of studying the mentality of the people among whom he resided, and the result is found in this entertaining booklet. In the early pages which are devoted to Negro Folk-lore, some characteristic "Annansy" stories are given together with many West Indian proverbs classified according to the mental traits which they characterise, such as life and morals, perseverance, greediness, etc. Another interesting section of Mr. Hedgoc-Jones' book is devoted to Negro Religion and Magic, subjects to which he has

evidently devoted much study. He arrives at the conclusion that there exists a very real African religion in which the fear of punishment after death plays a prominent part. The religion he finds exists in many different phases and he advocates its development along lines suitable to the mentality of the people. A chapter describing with rather unnecessary detail the proceedings of a West Indian Agricultural Conference may be passed over as superfluous, but the Author's Glimpses of the Caribbees, which follow, are not without interest. It is, however, on account of the first two sections that the booklet will appeal most to West Indian readers, and it is to be regretted that no publisher's name is given and no price stated for "West Indian Studies."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Jamaica under the Spaniards.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—The history of the Spanish occupation of Jamaica has hitherto remained more or less a closed book. During the course of the year 1916 opportunity was taken by the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica of the presence in Seville of Miss Irene A. Wright, the author of two books on Cuba, who is making research in the archives in that city, with regard to Cuba, to secure her assistance to obtain historical information concerning Jamaica—a chance which, till then, had not occurred during the past twenty-five years.

Although, with its reduced vote, the Board could ill afford the money, it set apart £100 for this purpose, and as a result a considerable amount of material, copied from the archives, has been received from Seville. The material consists in the main of letters written by Governors of Jamaica to the Crown; letters addressed by the Crown to Jamaica, or issued concerning Jamaica to Governors of neighbouring Colonies; and communications from other officers of the island—in fact, much the same kind of material for the use of students of history as is found in the Record Office in London, much of which is published in the "Calendar of State Papers."

Miss Wright, who has kindly supervised the transcription, recently reported that there is still much valuable information to be obtained, and urged that a further amount of £100 should be placed at her disposal to complete the work.

Not only is it most desirable to place this sum at the disposal of Miss Wright, but if the material collected is to be made available for general information, it will be necessary to meet the cost of publication. Fortunately, the cost of translation does not come into question, as a member of the Board has generously undertaken to do that part of the work.

The Board finds itself unable to appropriate any further sums from the amount voted by the Legislature, but it allotted £50 from a small amount it possesses as a result of members' subscriptions; and an appeal made locally has realised the sum of £34 13s. 6d. The Board now appeals to readers of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR—old Jamaicans resident in England, or other friends of the Colony—to assist it in its endeavour to put at the disposal of the public material which, it has reason to hope, will throw considerable light upon the history of Jamaica while it was in the hands of Spain.

Your obedient servant,
FRANK CUNDALL,
Secretary.

The Institute of Jamaica.
October 23rd, 1917.

Public Schools and Commerce.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I should like, with your permission, to make a short reply to Mr. T. Prater Norman's letter in your current issue, in which he criticises the article on the above subject that appeared in your issue of October 15th.

He suggests that the existing employment agencies ought to be able to deal with the supply for business of Public School boys and young University men. Perhaps

they ought to be, but the fact remains that they are not, and are not likely to become, in sufficiently close touch with the masters at Public Schools and the tutors at the Universities; nor, on the other hand, do business men look to these agencies for the supply of the right type of Public School boy.

Mr. Norman considers that the Public Schools should educate their boys in various commercial subjects, a few of which he enumerates. With his desire that this could be done, everyone is in agreement, and schoolmasters have not failed to give the problem much serious consideration. But the practical difficulties are innumerable.

After all, the business of the Public Schools is to train character, and integrity and self-reliance are not only a much bigger possession than a knowledge of shorthand and Spanish, but are, from a practical, utilitarian point of view, of greater commercial value.

With regard to salary, it may be that Public School boys are asking too much; but it does not seem likely that business men are in the habit of paying for an article a price greater than its value. If, therefore, they pay a boy of seventeen a salary of £80 a year, the presumption is that they find it well worth their while to do so.

Yours faithfully,
THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

November 8th, 1917.

Jamaica—Guiana by Air.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In your last issue I was extremely pleased to see Captain Swinton's project for Air Services in the West Indies, and as our people and Press in England are acting to wake up the Government to the fact that they will not allow everything to be postponed until after the war, I hope the West Indian people and Press, and those interested in them on this side, will urge a prompt arrangement of some such scheme as has been suggested without delay.

Under conditions to-day our American cousins are closer to us than they ever have been, but I think most would prefer an "All Red British" service to Canada, with the non-British portion of Captain Swinton's scheme separate and distinct. If the more powerful flying-boats, for service between Halifax, Bermuda, Bahamas, and Turks Islands, and between Belize and the Caymans, are not immediately available these parts of the complete service can be added later on.

Eventually there should be express services for the four principal places, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara.

A project, such as put forward, would hasten the federation of the West Indian Colonies, and the extension then to Canada would not be far distant.

Cheltenham, Nov. 12th, 1917. GUY WYATT.

TENDERS were recently invited officially in British Guiana (1) for the construction of 9,700 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete faced earth dams, 3,000 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes forming "koker" runs, and 750 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes, required for the East Coast, Demerara, Sea Defence Works; (2) for the construction of 4,000 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete faced earth dams, 2,250 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes, and 3,000 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes forming "koker" runs, and a new "koker," required in connection with the West Coast, Demerara, Sea Defence Works; (3) for the construction of 1,650 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete faced earth dams, 10,630 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes forming "koker" runs, 14,590 lineal ft. of reinforced concrete groynes, and 8,850 lineal ft. of plain earth dams, and two new "kokers," required for the Essequibo Sea Defence Works.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

The 159th half-yearly general meeting of the Colonial Bank was held on October 31st at the Bank House, 16, Bishopsgate, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Beaverbrook (the chairman) presiding.

The acting secretary (Mr. G. H. N. Haly) having read the advertisement convening the meeting, the chairman said: Gentlemen, you have before you the directors' report, and I will ask you to take it as read. The figures now submitted show considerable expansion.

The assets of the bank have practically doubled since the outbreak of war, having increased from £3,460,000 to £6,750,000, and are now by far the largest in the history of the bank. The profits of the bank have increased by one-third, whilst the number of branches have doubled. In so short a period this is an achievement upon which the directors of the bank may justly pride themselves. During the same period the expenses have considerably increased, but this is due to the provision of staff to meet our growing requirements and to the increased cost of operation.

Owing to the high price prevailing for sugar, the West Indies generally are extremely prosperous at the present moment. Prices prevailing for cacao and for coco-nuts are also very satisfactory. Jamaica has unfortunately suffered from another hurricane, this being the third year in succession in which hurricanes have occurred there. The damage done has been very considerable. The banana crop has been practically wiped out, the loss to coco-nuts in some parts of the island we believe to be as heavy as 50 per cent. Cacao and sugar have not suffered to any considerable extent. In Trinidad there has been a serious epidemic of frog-hoppers, which have caused very serious damage to the growing sugar canes in certain parts of the island. The prospects of the crops for next year are promising, and good prices are likely to prevail. Three branches have been opened in the West Indies since the last meeting, and others are in immediate contemplation. The savings bank, which was established about the time I became chairman of the bank, has been very successful, and now carries considerable deposits. The West Indian staff has worked most loyally under considerable difficulties, owing to the demands of the Army, and much use has been made of women clerks.

Since January 1st, branches have been opened at Kano, Port Harcourt, and Jos, in Nigeria, at Secondee on the Gold Coast, and Freetown, Sierra Leone. Several other branches will be opened by the end of the year. Mr. E. Hyslop Bell, the joint general manager, has returned from a visit to the West African Colonies.

Branches of the bank have been opened in suitable premises in York Street, Manchester, and Castle Street, Liverpool, and already a considerable business is transacted at these branches. Since June 30th the bank has purchased Nos. 28 and 29, Gracechurch Street, and it is intended to occupy the premises at No. 29, where the business of the City branch has been transferred. Here a general banking business is carried on, including the taking of deposits and the opening of current accounts. The head office will be moved to Gracechurch Street as soon as the necessary internal alterations are complete; this will probably be about January 1st. After the war it is hoped to build upon the two sites new premises which shall be worthy of the bank.

For over twenty years the Colonial Bank has maintained an office in New York, now at No. 22, William Street. To the West Indian trade this office has been of value. The progress of the bank, and the rapid development of its business in London have enlarged and enhanced the scope of the New York Office. British business concerns and individuals having interests in America will find it to their advantage to establish banking relations with the New York office of the Colonial Bank. Under the Royal Charter of 1836, and under the authority of Parliament, we are now permitted to do business in foreign countries as well as in British possessions. A special meeting has been called for Nov. 14th, when we hope authority will

be given to increase the subscribed capital from £2,000,000 to £3,000,000. Treasury consent has been obtained. The directors have appointed to the board Mr. Gilbert W. Fox (of Messrs. Edward Grey and Co., and a director of Messrs. Lever Bros., Ltd., Liverpool), and Mr. Hugo Cunliffe-Owen (deputy-chairman of the British American Tobacco Co.). The shareholders are asked for confirmation. One of our directors, Mr. Charles Frederick Wood, has been absent during the half-year on active service. The directors pay very close attention to the business of the bank, and the shareholders owe much to the efforts of Mr. Gurney, your deputy-chairman, and to the time he gives to the bank's affairs. The staff have worked loyally and well under increasing difficulties. I now move: "That the report of the directors be received."

Mr. Cyril Gurney (deputy-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend of 3½ per cent. be made for the half-year ended June 30th, 1917, on the paid-up capital of the Corporation, and that the same be payable on November 3rd."

Mr. Gurney seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The election of Mr. Gilbert W. Fox and Mr. Hugo Cunliffe-Owen as directors was confirmed, and a resolution was passed fixing the directors' fees at £1,000 per annum for the chairman, £600 per annum for the deputy-chairman, and £400 per annum for each of the other directors.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff concluded the proceedings.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last show a net profit of £38,647 6s. 3d. (as against £25,390 19s. 2d. for the corresponding period in 1916) making this with the balance for the last half-year, £49,832 11s. (as against £60,500 14s. 4d. at the same date in 1916). Out of this balance the directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. less Income Tax for the half-year, absorbing £15,750, leaving £34,082 11s. to be carried forward. In their report the directors state that the head office will be transferred to 29, Gracechurch Street, as soon as the necessary alterations are complete. Branches of the bank have been opened at 21, York Street, Manchester, and 25, Castle Street, Liverpool. Branches have also been opened at Lucea (Jamaica), Speightstown (Barbados), and Scarborough (Tobago), and one is shortly to be opened at Savanna La Mar (Jamaica). In West Africa branches have been opened at Kano, Port Harcourt and Jos (Nigeria), Secondee (Gold Coast), and Freetown (Sierra Leone), and other branches will be opened shortly. Mr. E. Hyslop Bell, Joint General Manager, has returned from West Africa after having visited all places in the West African Colonies where the bank has branches or proposes to open branches. The 1917 Act of Parliament has received the Royal Assent. The authorised capital of the bank is increased from £2,000,000 to £5,000,000 sterling, and the directors are empowered to appoint additional directors subject to confirmation by the shareholders. Acting under the powers given them as above, the directors have appointed Mr. Gilbert W. Fox, of Messrs. Edward Grey & Company, and a director of Lever Bros., Limited, Liverpool, and Mr. Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, deputy-chairman of the British American Tobacco Company, which the shareholders are now asked to confirm.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The Court of Directors announce an interim dividend for the half-year ended 30th of June 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, both at the same rate as in the last two years. The dividend warrants will be posted to the proprietors to-day.

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.

BEET SUGAR IN FRANCE.

M. GEORGES DUREAU contributes to his *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* an interesting review of the French sugar position. From this it appears that in the season just ended, 65 factories participated, as against 64 in 1915-16. When it is stated that in 1913-14, 206 factories were at work, it will be realised how serious the effect of the War has been on the industry. According to the Minister of Agriculture, the area under beet in 1916 was 77,506 hectares only, as compared with 249,439 in 1913. M. Dureau gives the following table to show the number of factories with their yield of sugar from 1883-84 to 1916-17:—

Season	Factories at work.	Yield of refined sugar.	Yield of sugar per cent. of beets.
1883-84	483	406,007	5.55
1884-85	449	272,962	5.99
1885-86	413	265,084	7.83
1886-87	381	434,043	8.86
1887-88	375	344,744	9.53
1888-89	380	412,523	9.77
1889-90	373	699,365	10.47
1890-91	377	615,242	9.46
1891-92	368	577,821	10.26
1892-93	368	523,366	9.56
1893-94	370	514,788	9.80
1894-95	367	704,454	9.87
1895-96	356	593,646	10.97
1896-97	338	668,545	9.88
1897-98	344	730,067	11.40
1898-99	344	737,902	12.08
1899-00	399	869,200	11.75
1900-01	334	1,040,294	11.93
1901-02	332	1,051,930	11.25
1902-03	319	776,158	12.38
1903-04	292	727,267	11.18
1904-05	270	562,736	12.05
1905-06	292	984,671	11.70
1906-07	273	682,851	12.47
1907-08	255	656,832	11.93
1908-09	251	723,081	12.15
1909-10	244	733,901	11.75
1910-11	239	650,499	11.80
1911-12	220	465,395	11.41
1912-13	213	877,656	13.30
1913-14	206	717,400	12.08
1914-15	69	302,960	11.50
1915-16	64	135,899	11.80
1916-17	65	185,435	11.70

It is particularly interesting in this connection to note the increase in the yield of sugar from the beets due to scientific cultivation and the adoption of most modern appliances prompted by the desire of the manufacturers to derive the full benefit of the *Primes déguisées*, or indirect bounties. For many years the duty on sugar in France was based on the weight of roots, which were calculated to yield a certain quantity of sugar. The rebate of duty on export on the other hand was paid on the quantity of sugar, and when that exceeded the calculated yield a bounty on exportation resulted.

Since the beginning of the War the yield both of beets and sugar per hectare have been notably low, owing to the lack of manure and care of cultivation, and M. Dureau points out that when peace is restored, steps will have to be taken to improve matters in these respects, as no industry could hope to prosper on the basis of existing yields.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Is the Agreement Dead?

The West India Committee has addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.3.

5th Nov., 1917.

Sir,—We have the honour to transmit herewith a pamphlet containing a Memorandum on the subject of the Development of the British Sugar Industry, which was addressed by the West India Committee to the Prime Minister in March, 1916.

2. You will note that in this Memorandum the opinion is expressed that the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, the Additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations and Agreements were annulled by the state of War which supervened in 1914, and that Great Britain and all signatory Powers to that Convention, have, by its abrogation, recovered full liberty of action.

3. We should be glad to know if this opinion is shared by His Majesty's Government, in view especially of the pledge given by them and confirmed on June 12th, 1913, that they 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.

4. We are informed that with the object, no doubt, of making their attitude perfectly clear the French Conseil des Ministres definitely decided to denounce the Convention on August 17th last and that this decision was communicated to the Belgian Government before September 1st last.

5. In conclusion we beg respectfully to ask if we are correct in assuming that His Majesty's Government is now released from the pledge above referred to and has now complete liberty of action in respect of the treatment of British produced sugar.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. RUTHERFORD,
Chairman.

(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

THERE is no shortage in the world's supply of sugar, says *The Confectioners' Union*, though Europe is ill-provisioned with this food; and, American stocks having been placed at the disposal of a Control Committee, it may be expected that sugar will be bought for this country at reasonable prices and in such quantities as the shipping industry may be able to handle. The refiners of the United States are said to have agreed to this Committee with enthusiasm. They will buy only through its agency, and sell only at a profit to be settled with the Food Administrator. The Beet Sugar Refiners of California have agreed, for their part, to sell raw sugar on a cane basis of £1 9s. 10d. (\$7.25) per 100 lb. sack plus freight charges.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

November 15th 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan 93½; 4½ per cent. War Loan, 99½; 3½ per cent. War Loan, 85½. Consols, 55½.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 83/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

Messrs. William Connal & Co. report that the import of raw sugar into the Clyde from January 1st to October 31st amounted to 219,041 tons, against 186,582 tons in 1916, and 129,636 tons in 1915. For the present year the figures include 6,062 tons British West India, 1,238 tons Brazil, 161,521 tons Cuba, 42,583 tons Java, and 7,637 tons other foreign cane sugar. The meltings for home consumption in the Clyde during the past ten months have been 188,140 tons, against 180,917 tons in 1916, and 191,284 tons in 1915. Those for the three ports of London, Liverpool, and Clyde during the same period have been 723,139 tons, against 714,251 tons in 1916, and 760,288 tons in 1915. The stock of raw sugar in the Clyde is now 33,584 tons, against 9,746 tons in 1916, and 2,861 tons in 1915. That in the three ports is 165,735 tons, against 65,819 tons in 1916, and 43,808 tons in 1915.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has issued a statement to the effect that the functions of the International Sugar Committee now sitting at Washington are strictly limited to the purchase, on behalf of the Allies, of the sugars required by them from Cuba and the United States. The Committee is not in any way concerned with the allocation of the sugars, so purchased from Europe, amongst the Allies interested therein. The purchase of sugars required by the Allies, including the United States, in markets other than those indicated will be undertaken by the Royal Commission, which alone is authorised to make, and is responsible for, such purchases.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from January 1st to November 10th, 1917, were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	75,092	50,581	50,794 Tons.
Deliveries	70,677	53,049	43,256 ..
Stock (Nov. 10th) ...	12,430	8,687	13,547 ..

Himely writes, under date October 15th, that the labour question is regarded as a serious one in Cuba this year. There will be more canes to harvest, but fewer labourers, as the war is interfering with the usual influx of immigrants.

Mr. Truman Palmer, in his admirable Loose Leaf Service, gives the weekly average net cash prices of 96° sugar in New York from 1913 to July 19th last. The yearly averages have been: 1913, 3.506; 1914, 3.816; 1915, 4.642; 1916, 5.786; and for the current year to July 19th, 5.797.

From the United States we receive with regret the news of the death, on October 13th, of Mr. Wallace Potter Willett, senior partner in the well-known firm of Willett and Gray, to which our sympathies are extended.

The following estimates of the 1917-18 crop in the countries mentioned are derived from valuable sources: Mauritius, 224,000 tons against 209,169 tons in 1916-17; Porto Rico, 546,000 tons against 502,000; Louisiana, 300,000 tons (1917); Russia, 1,000,000 tons.

RUM. The market remains firm but there is no business to report.

The stocks in London on November 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,441	10,584	6,192 puns.
Demerara	7,844	11,510	5,136 ..
Total of all kinds ...	26,285	36,659	22,724 ..

CACAO. Prices current are: Trinidad, fine to superior, 96/- to 97/-; middling red, 93/- to 94/-; Grenada, fine, 89/- to 94/-; fair, 81/- to 85/-.

The stocks in London on November 10th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	22,854	20,208	9,326 bags.
Grenada	24,293	11,729	1,469 ..
Total of all kinds ...	247,593	202,485	104,931 ..

We are indebted to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son for the following table showing the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the last five years:—

CROPS	CACAO.	SPICE.	COTTON.	COTTON-SHEED
Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.	Bags.	Pkgs.	Bales.	Bags.
1916-1917	78,852	10,439	930	4,450
1915-1916	80,034	12,254	1,166	5,770
1914-1915	62,315	10,853	1,218	6,587
1913-1914	66,902	11,695	1,199	6,203
1912-1913	63,476	11,418	1,340	7,256

Of which the following were shipped:—

	TO NORTH AMERICA.	TO BARBADOS.
1916-1917	30,184	7,674
1915-1916	29,747	7,325
1914-1915	20,271	4,064
1913-1914	17,608	2,230
1912-1913	19,989	1,467

And the remainder to Europe.

COTTON. No further imports of Sea Island are reported, the figures to November 1st being still 1,796 bales. The actual stocks of West Indian at Liverpool declared by members of the Liverpool Cotton Association on October 26th were 1,574 bales, and by warehouse keepers on the same date 2,742 bales, out of total stocks of 346,197 and 348,645 bales respectively.

COCO-NUTS. An appeal to the Board of Referees for an increase in the percentage standard under the Excess Profits Clauses of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, in respect of coco-nut cultivation in the hurricane zone of the West Indies has resulted in an increase from 6 per cent. in the case of companies and 7 per cent. in that of individuals, to 11½ and 12½ per cent. respectively.

COPRA. The market is still bare. Values are unchanged: £46 c.i.f. London, and £45 to £45 10s. c.i.f. Liverpool.

COFFEE. Small supplies of mild have been sold at higher prices.

An export duty of \$1.50 (gold) per 46 kilos has been imposed on coffee in Costa Rica as from August 31st last. Permission has been given for 135 tons of Jamaica coffee to be imported by the *Quillota*.

LIME PRODUCTS. Owing to scarcity, up to 17/6 per lb. has been paid for Handpressed. For distilled on the other hand there is practically no demand, the nominal value being 7/6 to 8/- per lb. and consignments cannot be recommended. **Lime Juice:** Raw is steady. Common to fine, 2/- to 3/-, while in concentrated there is no business with a lower tendency. This same remark also applies to citrate.

HONEY. Very firm with a good demand. Fine Jamaica sold at 120/- in Liverpool. Next auctions on Thursday.

GINGER. Firm but quiet. Values of Jamaica unchanged at 90/- to 120/- per cwt.

PIMENTO. Firm; a good business done at 4½d. on the spot, and 4½d. has since been paid. On c.i.f. terms, buyers at 36/- per cwt. December-January shipment.

RUBBER. Market dull and easier. Spot crepe 2/7½; sheet 2/5½. Para spot hard, 3/0½; January-February 2/8½.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuela block quoted at 3/2½ c.i.f., and landed terms 3/6. Panama block 2/7½ c.i.f.; 2/9½ landed; West Indian sheet, 3/9½. forward, 3/11 at 4/- landed.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXII.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29th, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:
6642 CENTRAL.

15, SKETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

November 29th, 1917.

The West India Committee Circular.

TO-DAY we issue the 500th number of the New Series of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. In normal times we should have marked the occasion by the publication of a special number, but War conditions preclude us from doing so. It must, therefore, suffice briefly to recall that the first CIRCULAR was published in May, 1886, at 51, Line Street, where the West India Committee Rooms were then situated. The CIRCULAR, which then dealt almost exclusively with sugar, was published at irregular—sometimes very irregular—intervals. It ran into 150 numbers, the last, which contained reference to the reorganisation of the West India Committee, appearing on March 7th, 1898. The first number of the new series was published at Billiter Square Buildings on March 21st in that year, and since then it has been the constant aim of the Editor to widen the scope of the CIRCULAR and to make it of general interest to all who have, like ourselves, the welfare of the British West Indies at heart. How far he has been successful it must be for our readers to judge, and we need hardly state that we shall always welcome any suggestions that they may make for increasing the usefulness of the CIRCULAR, which now finds its way to every part of the British Empire.

Humus in British Guiana.

IN practically all branches of agriculture the primary essential for a good soil is the presence of an adequate supply of humus, without which satisfactory crops cannot be obtained. Humus is a body of uncertain chemical composition containing 2 to 6 per cent. of nitrogen, the other bodies consisting of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. It is the result of the decomposition of vegetable matter, and combines with the mineral constituents to make a typical soil. The effect on crop operations, draining, tillage, etc., is to cause a loss of soil by it being washed away by rainfall, and it is customary in scientific agriculture to rotate the main working crops with a crop of some plant that has an abundant foliage, which is incorporated in the soil. The presence of humus in a soil means, in the case of light soil, that the moisture of the soil is conserved in cases of drought, and, where clay soils are concerned, that these are protected from being caked in dry weather or waterlogged in wet. The presence of humus also is essential to the life of the bacteria of the soil, which play such an important part in the preparation of nitrogenous food for plant nutrition. In British Guiana, owing to the system of cane cultivation employed, the supply of humus is gradually exhausted until the quantity present is so small as to render the soil unsuitable for cane cultivation. It has been the custom, when this period arrives, to cease cultivating it, and to substitute for it virgin lands "aback" of the estate—a simple but absolutely uneconomic procedure, as there is a limit to the supply of these lands, and at the best it is living on capital. Unfortunately, these played-out soils do not lend themselves to the growth of foliage plants for this purpose, and the only way it has been found possible to induce a fresh humus supply has been to subject the land to a succession of alternate flooding and draining, growths of various plants being thus produced, which, by destruction by the subsequent flooding, supplies a certain amount of humus. This is a tedious and not altogether satisfactory operation, since the result, say, of two years' treatment is not sufficiently lasting. It has been suggested to us by SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, however, that in the fallen leaves of the forests of British Guiana there exists enormous potentialities in the way of manure, and that it might be possible to

utilise this supply for the manurial purposes of the cane soils of the estates. These leaves would require to be treated in some way by "composting" and compression to fit them for economic transport. It would appear, at first sight, quite out of the question that this could be made an economic success, but it is possible that on closer investigation the position in this respect may have been exaggerated. It may also be pointed out that in pegass—a supply of which is generally more available to estates—a supply of lumnus may be found. In this case the pegass would have to be partially dried to facilitate transport and treated with lime in order to counteract its acidity before being transported to the estate. The pegass which, as said above, has the great advantage of being available in large quantities close to the estates, and a system of portable railways would form a ready means of carriage. The above are just tentative suggestions thrown out to meet what is, together with efficient machinery, the great need of British Guiana estates.

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

IN the last issue we published the West Indian Contingent Committee's account of their stewardship during the six months ended June 30th last. Elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR we give a report of their half-yearly meeting, which was held at the Colonial Office on November 15th. The attendance at the meeting was very representative in character, and interest in the proceedings was enhanced by the presence of SIR WILLIAM MANNING, Governor of Jamaica, who recounted his experiences on a recent visit to the West Indian Contingent in France, and of three officers of the British West Indies Regiment who voiced the appreciation of all ranks for what was being done for them. In his address SIR EVERARD IM THURN, Chairman, laid stress on the personal touch which characterised the work of the Committee and was proving the keynote of the success achieved, the object being to make men who have come thousands of miles to serve their Empire realise that they have friends in England, to whom they can turn when they are in need of assistance or advice; and we hope that his remarks will be published in the West Indies, and will lead to a still greater number of men from overseas getting into touch with headquarters at 15, Seething Lane. SIR FREDERIC HODGSON made the interesting announcement that the British West Indies Regiment had now a Military Cross, 12 Military Medals, and 2 Royal Humane Society's Medals to their credit, a record which we confidently expect will be improved upon in the very near future. We hope to publish in next CIRCULAR an account of a meeting of the Ladies' Committee which was held at LADY DAVSON'S residence on November 27th, and was honoured by the presence of PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE, whose interest in the West Indies, we are glad to learn, is unabated.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

SIR J. WOLFE BARRY stated at a meeting of the Western Telegraph Co. that negotiations were in progress for laying a cable between Barbados and Brazil.

* * *

MR. GEO. MACKENZIE, late of the *Daily Chronicle*, Georgetown, British Guiana, and now on the Literary Staff of the *People's Journal*, Dundee, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

BOOKERS DEMERARA SUGAR ESTATES, LTD., is the title of a private company, with a capital of £700,000 in £1 shares, which was registered on November 20th [148,933], to acquire and develop Uitvlugt, Rose Hall, Cane Grove and Skelden sugar estates in British Guiana.

THE REV. FRANCIS GARDEN, of Premnay, Scotland, has accepted the appointment of Minister of St. Thomas's Parish, British Guiana. Mr. Garden expects to sail for the Colony about the beginning of December. The matter recently came before the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland.

* * *

MR. T. B. MACAULAY, President of the "Sun Life," who has been appointed Chairman of the National Committee on Food Resources in Canada, is an enthusiast regarding the question of a closer relationship between the Dominion and the British West Indies, and has paid several visits to the Bahamas.

* * *

MR. CLAVELL SMYTER, who was recently made a Judge of the High Court, is brother of Mrs. Bourne, widow of the late Hon. Clarence Bourne, Colonial Secretary of Jamaica. Mrs. Bourne, who lives at the Priory, Halfway Tree, is associated with many charitable movements in the island, and is helping to organise the local Flag Day.

* * *

"WHEN, in 1896, the question of Venezuela had threatened to make trouble between the two English-speaking Powers, he counted the claims of Great Britain in respect of the frontiers of Guiana as 'dust in the balance,' when weighed against the advantage of not 'running across the national line of policy of the United States.'"—*Life of Sir Charles Dilke*.

* * *

ELSEWHERE we publish an announcement of the marriage of Miss Florence Innes Perkins to Flight Lieutenant N. E. Woods, of the R.N.A.S. The bride is a daughter of Mr. H. I. Perkins, who spent many years in British Guiana as Acting Crown Surveyor and later as a Commissioner for boundary delimitation, and is now Surveyor-General of British Honduras.

LADY SWETTENHAM writes to us from the Hôpital

Militaire Belge, at Rouen, that a gift of four barrels of sugar and a barrel of honey, which she received recently from Jamaica through the West India Committee, is proving most acceptable. She has under her charge Belgian sufferers who have lost everything, and many of whom had tasted no sugar for sixteen weeks. She will be most grateful for further gifts of this nature.

WEST INDIAN students are included in a scheme just carried out by the Student Christian Movement. The promoters have secured in Russell Square a large house as a memorial to students who have fallen in the War. The building will provide a club for British and foreign students, also rooms for the display of literature and for meetings of Christian Unions among Chinese, Indo-Ceylonese, Egyptian, West African and West Indian students.

THE West India Committee has received in the course of the year forty bags of cacao and six packages of nutmegs from St. Patrick's, Grenada, for sale on behalf of the Red Cross Fund. The produce realised £298 18s. 5d., and that sum has now been paid to the British Red Cross Society. Letters of thanks from Sir Robert A Hudson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, have been forwarded to the Colonial Secretary of Grenada for communication to the donors.

LAST year there was an increase of over 200 people, or about 10 per cent. in the population along the shores of Gatun Lake, beyond the Panama Canal Zone. This population, which depends on the lake for transportation, is now about 2,200. At the current rate of increase it is expected it will double within nine years. Two new colonies are projected and individual families are taking up homesteads from time to time. The bulk of the population consists of natives of Panama and West Indians, who are engaged primarily in lumbering operations and trade.

WAR tax stamps have not come widely into use in this country. Since October, 15th, they have been made compulsory in Barbados. A notice gazetted by the Colonial Postmaster reads:—

On and from Monday, the 15th of October, 1917, all letters posted for places abroad to which the rate of one penny per ounce applies, shall be subject to an additional rate of one penny per letter, which must be paid by means of a special War Tax Stamp affixed to the letter, besides the usual postage stamp. Any such letter which is posted without the additional War Stamp thereon will be taxed the amount of the unpaid duty. War Tax Stamps cannot be used to pay the postage on correspondence; and letters will be taxed if posted without the usual postage stamp, even should there be two or more War Tax Stamps affixed thereon.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. Thomas Windridge, which took place at his residence, "Woodland Cottage," Upton, Bexley, on the 21st Nov., in his 77th year. Mr. Windridge commenced his business career with the old-established firm of Messrs. Scott, Simpson & Wallis, colonial brokers, of 73, Great Tower Street, in the year 1856, and on the death of Mr. Wallis in 1887 he became the main-

stay of the business, until he retired from the firm in 1890, when he continued the business as a colonial broker under his own name at 9, Mincing Lane, and later was joined by his son, Mr. Frederick Windridge. Together they carried on a very flourishing trade, which we have reasons to expect will continue under the surviving partner.

THE Government of British Guiana announces that the first Gold Medal under the terms of the Davson Research Prize to be given to the Medical Officer who has done most for research work in connection with health and hygiene in British Guiana, has been awarded to Dr. J. E. Ferguson, of the Government Service of that Colony. The firm of S. Davson & Company has just completed a hundred years of its existence (having been founded in 1816 by the late S. Davson) and in commemoration of its centenary has established the "Davson Centenary Fund," the interest of which goes to the purchase of a triennial Gold Medal as mentioned above, and to the support of such Institutions for combating disease and benefiting the health of the Colony as may be selected by the Committee appointed by the Government to administer the Fund.

THE uses of wax from sugar-cane are mentioned in the current issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*. Referring to the work of the Imperial Institute in connection with the development of Empire resources, the *Journal* says:—"A considerable amount of attention has been given in recent years to the recovery of wax from the waste produced in the extraction of sugar from the sugar-cane, and it is satisfactory to find that this industry has now been started on a small scale in Natal. Samples of the first consignment of Natal sugar-cane wax shipped to this country have been examined at the Imperial Institute and found to be of good quality, quite equal to that of the first trial samples made and examined. Sugar-cane wax is now becoming better known on the market, and could be used as a substitute for Carnouba wax in the manufacture of gramophone records, polishes, candles, etc."

GREAT BRITAIN still heads the list of countries using the Panama Canal, as will be seen from the following statistics for August last, furnished by the Governor of the Canal Zone:—

Item	Cristobal.	Ballena.	Total.
Ships making transit of Canal from	79	53	172
Net tonnage of ships through Canal from	241,881	276,151	521,031
Cargo carried through Canal from	218,732	454,693	683,425
Nationality of ships through the Canal from:			
British	24	32	56
United States	17	29	46
Norwegian	12	15	27
Chilean	5	4	9
Peruvian	4	4	8
Japanese	5	2	7
Danish	3	3	6
Dutch	4	1	5
Costa Rican	2	3	5
French	1	—	1
Italian	1	—	1
Swedish	1	—	1
Tolls earned on ships entering Canal from	\$240,392.37	\$258,868.50	\$499,261.27

It will be noted that no German, Austrian and Turkish ships made the passage through the Canal, which is perhaps not surprising.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Inter-Allied Council.

The sensation of the past fortnight was Mr. Lloyd George's speech in Paris. As it was meant to do it led to a great amount of criticism, much of which was admirable alike in spirit and matter. That the Prime Minister was right in facing the issues of the war as they are affected by the national collapse of Russia and the military collapse of Italy is generally admitted. Unfortunately he overstated the case, and gave many false impressions. None of the worst blunders of the war, Antwerp, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, were due to the absence of a supreme Inter-Allied Council, nor could such a body have averted the present situation in Russia or Italy. Nevertheless it is true that if we are to win the war there must be greater co-operation and co-ordination between the Entente Powers, Italy, and America. But to suppose that we can arrive at the unity of control and command, which constitute the one marked advantage that the enemy possesses over his adversaries, is to labour under an illusion. In the first place none of the Allies stands to her partners in the position of autocratic and highly-centralised Prussia to hers; in the second place, none of them is in the position towards Britain or France of Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey towards Germany.

Advisory Executive.

That is why, whether he admits it or not, the Prime Minister, in agreement with the Prime Ministers of France and Italy, proposes to create an Inter-Allied Council, which will be advisory, and not executive, in its powers. It is to consist of the heads of Governments in the Allied countries, together with soldiers of distinction and achievement, who, however, will be in a subordinate capacity. As a matter of fact, there is nothing new in all this, such machinery having been common to all the Inter-Allied Conferences, the first of which met at the instance of Lord Kitchener in 1915. The merit of the new body, which is to sit in Paris, is that it will have a permanent Military Secretariat that will devote itself to collecting and co-ordinating information and devising plans so as to enable the Generals in the field to operate as if the Allied front were one, and will, moreover, meet every day. The Council itself will meet once a month. The United States, which is supported by many students of war in England and France, thinks that the Supreme Council will partake too much of a debating society. What she wants is a unity of command and control that implies executive authority. But this would predicate a Generalissimo and a Statesman of dominating personality, who would be supported by all Western Powers. But these are not yet ready for an Allied Lincoln and Grant combination, though, if the war is prolonged, they may come to accept it. For the present what is wanted is closer co-ordination in the employment of Allied resources in men and material, together with a firm and coherent policy towards neutrals.

There is a new government in France with M.

Clemenceau at the head of it pledged to a strong war policy both within and without.

The Victory in the West.

The Hindenburg Line in Artois has been broken between St. Quentin and the Scarpe to a depth of six miles on a twelve-mile front. First, support, and reserve trenches have been carried with comparative ease, resulting in the liberation of over sixty miles of French territory. This brilliant achievement was due to tactics employed by Sir Julian Byng adapted to the terrain, which is open and dry. There was no preliminary bombardment, and preparations for an offensive were conducted in complete secrecy. The battle began in the early dawn of a misty morning by the advance of tanks, whose number was legion, at first silently and then violently, their proportions magnified with terrifying effect in the hazy atmosphere. These mobile fortresses cut through the belt of barbed wire entanglements, closely followed by our confident infantry and cavalry, before the stupefied enemy could fire a shot, much less recover from his amazement. Dug-out after dug-out was captured with their occupants, until the last line of his defences was reached, and the British rested in new and unscarred country, where the villages are not destroyed and the fields are tilled. France has had restored to her a tract of country which is neither a desolation nor a mass of shell holes. The British casualties were insignificant, while the collapse of the enemy was so complete that 9,000 prisoners were captured, and, at the few points he offered resistance, he utterly failed to make any impression on the swiftly moving British forces.

Cambrai Threatened.

The gains of the first day, which included Marcoing, Ribecourt, and Granicourt, were extended on the second day by the capture of positions in the vicinity of Scheldt Canal, Noyelles and Cantaing, the gate of the Scheldt, for instance. But the enemy the third day had recovered from his stupefaction, and hurried up reinforcements, which counter-attacked at Fontaine, on the Arras-Cambrai Railway, and retook it. But that was but an incident in a battle in which the impenetrable and inviolable barrier, as the Germans believed it, thrown in front of Cambrai was broken through by General Byng's troops. So great was the enemy's faith in its impregnability that it was lightly held. One of the consequences of the British victory is, therefore, that he now knows that he dare not place his confidence in the strength, natural and scientifically reinforced, anywhere on the Western Front. At all points he must be ready for a British attack, a tremendous fact which will have a direct bearing on his power to continue the war. Another consequence is that Cambrai, which draws to its bosom many roads and railways, was at the mercy of the British when Fontaine was captured, and will be again when they retake it. No wonder there is rejoicing in France and America at this striking victory.

The British line is to be lengthened by including another sector of the French front.

On the Italian Front.

The situation in Italy is improving. In the first place, our Ally has risen to the emergency with splendid spirit; in the second, her partners have come promptly to her aid. In consequence the moral of her Second Army, which was so badly shaken by German propaganda is being restored. At any rate the Italians are holding the line of the Piave until the Franco-British reinforcements, which are being hurried to the Venetian Plain, are able to reach the line of defence they are to occupy. The enemy has managed to force the passage of the river in its lower reaches at several points. But as a cross-fire from land and sea cuts up his detachments he gains little by this move, which is probably in the nature of a demonstration. Though the Piave is here not a great obstacle in itself, it winds through a series of sea marshes, intersected by a labyrinth of dykes and canals, which render a successful crossing of the Piave difficult. The most determined fighting is taking place in the hills, into which the Alps descend to the Venetian Plain and towards the Trentino, whose situation enables the enemy to threaten the flank of the Italians, who, it must be remembered have just lost at least one-sixth of their effectives, a vast number of guns, and a large mass of material. The importance of maintaining their hold here is essential for another reason. The valley of the Brenta constitutes a corridor from the Austrian-Trentino frontier to the sea by which, if its upper end were taken, the enemy could advance in the rear of the Venetian Plain. Our Allies are, however, stoutly defending Asiago and the upper Brenta, besides holding back the Austro-German invaders as far as Vidor, on the Piave. The key of the line is Monte Grappa, which is in no danger as long as the hills beyond it are held.

Russia under Lenin.

The situation in Russia is being cleared by the Bolsheviks—some honest anarchists, but for the most part German agents, at their head the traitor, Lenin. Their advent to office, if not to power, has been accompanied by bloody street fighting in Moscow and Petrograd, and confusion worse confounded in what remains of stable government in Russia. Apparently the authority of Lenin is not recognised by the State Departments, nor by foreign countries. He has, however, offered an armistice to Germany, which has refused to treat with the Bolsheviks, and has taken steps to demobilise the Russian Army. The talkers have, however, been swept away. General Kaledin is maintaining order in the South, and a Committee in Trans-Caucasus.

Swift Advance in Palestine.

Up to the present the Allies are still in the dark as to Falkenhayn's intentions in this theatre of the war. But whatever his plan may be against the British forces on the Tigris, it cannot be put into execution as long as the situation in Palestine continues to develop disastrously for the Turks. Hence the capture of Jerusalem, which is imminent, is merely incidental to General Allenby's advance. Its objective is to defeat the design of a great offensive in Mesopotamia. From Askalon, the course of

our advance has proceeded along the coast, the Turks fighting obstinately in their orderly retreat, though they have lost thousands of men as prisoners and in casualties. El Faluja has fallen, the Wadi es Surar been crossed, Ramleh and Ludd on the railway to Damascus, have been taken, and, finally, Joppa has been occupied. It is a poor seaport, but it is the means by which General Allenby is provided with an alternative route for the supply of the British forces. The land line with Egypt is lengthening and is a single track. From Joppa the British advance is progressing south-east, so that Jerusalem is being encircled by hostile columns on the north, west, and south. What the Turkish army in the Hebron sector is doing none of the official communiques give any idea. Its purpose should be to strike at the British communications as the first army is reinforced from the north. If, however, Jerusalem falls there is nothing before the second army but a difficult retreat through the mountains and up the valley of the Jordan. As for the first army if it does not soon strike a successful blow at General Allenby's forces or retire, its only means of escape will be cut off.

The British Army in Mesopotamia has suffered a severe loss in the death of its brilliant commander, General Sir Stanley Maude, after a short illness.

The War at Sea.

There was a short, sharp fight between German light forces and our own in Heligoland Bight on November 17th. On being sighted, the enemy, who has always suffered when he has risked an engagement, made off at high speed, chased by our warships, whose seamanship was so fine that they even followed the German vessels through their protecting mine-fields. But on the appearance of battle cruisers our light forces were compelled to retire. Several of the German ships were badly damaged, if not sunk. Encounters such as this one are of daily occurrence off the Belgian coast, and are not considered worthy of a place in an official communique, but take place less frequently in the Bight, in which, too, they have sometimes led to big things.

Shipping Losses.

As the First Lord of the Admiralty warned us, the favourable return of November 11th was not likely soon to be repeated. Last week the figures for ships of 1,600 tons and over were 11, and for ships under 1,600 tons, 7. This week the figures for the former are 13, for the latter 7. That the Navy is dealing successfully with the submarine pest is suggested by a statement of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons recently, when he said that 5 enemy submarines were destroyed in one day.

(To be continued.)

Six more members of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent arrived on November 19th, and are now receiving the attentions of the West Indian Contingent Committee. Their names are: H. Trevor A. Cox, Philip Gomez, Sydney Hamel Smith, A. R. D. Kemp, W. T. King, and Pelham St. Hill. Cox and Hamel Smith have already joined King Edward's Horse.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

MEETING AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

A successful half-year.

A meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office, Downing Street, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 15th, to consider the report and accounts for the six months ended June 30th last.

Sir Everard im Thurn, Chairman, presided, and those present included His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica; Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; Lord Glenconner, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Sir George Le Hunte, Sir James Hayes-Sadler, Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., Sir Robert Llewelyn, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Deputy-Chairman; Sir William Grey-Wilson, Mr. Alexander Fiddian, Chief Clerk, West Indian Department of the Colonial Office; Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman of the West India Committee; Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.; Mr. W. Gillispie, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. J. Rippon, Chairman of the Bermuda Committee; Lieut.-Colonel A. W. M. Wilson, Major A. de Boissiere and Major J. V. Kirkland, of the British West Indies Regiment, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary. Owing to a mistake as to the date, Sir Sydney Olivier was unfortunately prevented from attending.

Moving the adoption of the report and accounts, Sir Everard im Thurn called attention to the peculiarly personal nature of the work which was being performed by those who were actually carrying out the objects of the Committee, and added that their success was in no small measure due to the exercise of just the right kind of personal touch.

In the now vast armies of the Empire—astounding in size, in the way in which the great host had rolled itself together, and in the infinite variety of the folk that composed it—the West Indians, perhaps, occupied a peculiar place—not merely as men from the tropics fighting side by side with their European confreres, but also as distinguished from their native confreres by great difference of history.

The Committee had no direct concern with the military control and discipline of the West Indies Regiment. But it was satisfactory to be able to add that whenever they had ventured to call attention to points in which it seemed that the military control of these West Indian troops might be somewhat differently managed, the suggestions put forward had been carefully considered, and in many cases adopted. He wished to add that the General Purposes Committee had lately had the advantage of hearing from Sir William Manning, the present Governor of Jamaica, whom he was glad to welcome among them that afternoon, that during his recent inspection of the many West Indian troops now in the Western Area of War he had found the men to be contented and happy, highly appreciated not only by their own officers but also by the Officers of the Higher Command.

The members of the British West Indies Regiment were drawn from every West Indian Colony, and were now distributed over almost every fighting area—including Palestine—where the 1st and 2nd Battalions had been in the firing line during the recent successful operations—in Egypt and on the Western Front. Everywhere they had acquitted themselves well, bravely and usefully, and had won the enthusiastic praises of their Commanding Officers.

In addition to the thousands, who were the Committee's original clients, all recruited and sent "home" by the Colonial Governments, there were many hundreds—perhaps even thousands—of others who had also come home, either at their own expense or at that of other equally patriotic but older folk resident in the West Indies, and had enlisted, or obtained commissions, in British Regiments or in the Royal Navy, who claimed and received the services of the Committee's active workers. These, because the most scattered and therefore the most difficult to draw into the necessarily personal relations, also claimed, and received, a full share of attention. At first the difficulty was to get into touch with the individuals coming over to serve; but the list of visitors to the West India Committee Rooms afforded sufficient evidence that this difficulty had been overcome. And for most effective help in bringing these individual soldiers into touch with the workers they were greatly indebted to the Ladies' West India Committee in Trinidad, and to Mr. G. P. Huggins, and to Mr. Dudley Leacock, the founders of the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents respectively.

What was it that their active workers were doing for this uncountable and intangible crowd of clients? It was the providing them, individually and collectively, with all that they needed for their bodily and mental comfort, and even with all that they reasonably fancied at all times while they were "on service," either in the Field or in Hospital, and in providing them with hospitality and entertainment during their periods of leisure from military duties. And this work went on, for men and officers alike, from the very beginning to the very end of their connection with the Services. The task as a whole was a very great one, but it was made of an infinite number of small, often even trivial, details. And these services, to be really effective, must be rendered with the kindly unobtrusive, personal touch which could alone make them welcome to the recipient. It was indeed a gigantic task and one of a most delicate nature.

The Committee was most fortunate in the actual staff which carried on this work, and perhaps especially in the Ladies' Committees which here and in the West Indies did so much to make the machine run smoothly, and also in the occasional helpers who now and again when at home from the West Indies gave the work a great push forward.

In conclusion he hoped that all would agree with him that, as far as could be seen, their purposes are being effectively carried out by a host of willing workers, and he desired once more to add a word of warning that the most difficult time, financially and otherwise, would come when "it was all over bar the shouting"—and the repatriation. He begged to move:—

"That the report and accounts of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended June 30th, 1917, be and are hereby adopted."

Local Committees to be Formed.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, in seconding the motion, said that he thought the Report showed that the Committee might claim to have carefully carried out the objects for which it was brought into existence. But in saying this he desired to associate himself with the remarks that Mr. Rutherford had made as to the excellent work done for the Contingent by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Aspinall. Success was in a great measure due to his untiring energy, and to the fact that no detail escaped his notice. Referring to the Report, Sir Frederic stated that arrangements were being made for the establishment of permanent Ladies' Committees in all the West Indian Colonies. This would make the organisation more complete, and ensure a closer interest in the work of providing a supply of what was known as "comforts" for the men at the front. Good reports continued to be received of the manner in which the men of the several battalions were performing their duties, and he felt sure that if the Military Authorities required more West Indians they would be readily forthcoming. Sir Frederic, in conclusion, referred to the Honours won by the men of the Contingent, which consisted of 1 Military Cross, 12 Military Medals and 2 Royal Humane Society's Medals.

Mr. Rutherford, Hon. Treasurer, then dealt with the accounts, prefacing his remarks by asking the meeting to approve a resolution thanking Messrs. Price, Waterhouse

and Co., for their services as Hon. Auditors, which was agreed to unanimously. During the period under review donations amounting to £1,145 6s. 4d. had, he said, been received, bringing the total of the fund to £6,151 12s. 4d. apart from sums received for expenditure on special purposes, as for example the "Southern War Fund" of £550 forwarded by Mrs. Hobson and friends at San Fernando, which had been entrusted to Mr. Aspinall for administration. Among notable amounts received should be included over £1,000 collected by Mrs. Gordon and the Ladies' West India Committee in Trinidad, and £435 from the Jamaica War Contingent Committee, and it would be noted from the lists appearing in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR that several residents in St. Vincent had established an excellent precedent in forwarding monthly contributions to the Fund through the Colonial Bank. Included among the payments made was £586 7s. 10d. in connection with the West India Flag Days, and he might mention that since June 30th the following contributions had been received as the result of the observance of the days: British Guiana, £1,012 11s. 7d.; Barbados, £525 3s. 6d.; Trinidad and Tobago, £257 12s. 8d.; St. Vincent, £210 4s. 4d.; St. Kitts-Nevis, £138 8s. 6d.; Antigua, £119 7s. 8d.; Montserrat, £60; and St. Lucia, £56 13s. 1d. He wished to pay tribute to the excellent and devoted work of Miss Moseley and the staff: he had frequent opportunities of seeing the good work that was being done at the West India Committee Rooms, and was much impressed with the energy and whole-heartedness displayed. He wished also to especially ask the thanks of the Committee to Mr. Aspinall, he was a true friend to all the brave boys from the West Indies who came to him for help, guidance and advice, and that such was appreciated had been shown by the letters received from them from time to time.

Sir William Manning's Remarks.

Sir Everard then invited Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica, to say a few words, and his Excellency, referring to his recent visit to the Front, said that on all hands the work which was being performed by the British West Indies Regiment was regarded in every way as satisfactory. The men were behaving extraordinarily well and were excellent friends with the British soldiers. He found the Battalions fully provided for in respect of warm clothing, etc., and what would be most acceptable would be comforts from their own Colonies, such as sweet things, ginger, etc. General Officers, Commanding Officers, and Company Officers all testified to the excellent bearing of the men under fire, and it was noteworthy that they were in no way affected by the very heavy casualties. One officer in the artillery had told him that where a white man could handle three tons in a day, a West Indian could move five tons. Officers and men alike were extremely grateful for all that the Committee had done and was doing for them.

Colonel Sir Edward Ward then moved:—

"That the thanks of the Committee be accorded to those ladies and gentlemen in the British West Indies who have kindly organised Flag Days on behalf of the West Indian Contingent Fund, and to the Public and Press in those Colonies for their generous support."

The Flag Day had, he said, so far proved very successful, receipts having amounted to £2,518 19s. 8d. against an expenditure of £680 1s. 5d. leaving a net profit of £1,838 18s. 3d. with results from Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada and the Bahamas still to come. It would, however, be necessary to continue to strengthen the Contingent Fund as it was certain that the calls upon it would become very heavy later on. It was necessary to think not only of the present but of the future, and no War Office, however generous, could meet the enormous claims which were certain to arise at the end of the War.

The Resolution was seconded by Sir George Le Hunte, who said that Sir William Manning's remarks would prove very encouraging to the West Indies, and was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

A Resolution, moved by Lord Glenconner, confirming the arrangements made by the General Purposes Committee for clerical assistance having been approved, Major

de Boissiere, Commanding a Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, said that he wished to take the opportunity of saying how much all ranks appreciated the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee. Every letter received was like a ray of sunshine, and sunshine was none too prevalent in Flanders. There was nothing that he thought of that he did not ask for and nothing that he asked for that he did not get. It was helpful for men from the West Indies to have a Committee to turn to when they were in doubt or difficulty or when they required assistance.

Lieut. Colonel A. Wilson, on leave from Egypt, endorsed Major de Boissiere's remarks. He was, he said, in touch with men of all Battalions, and reports regarding the Regiment were unanimously satisfactory. From what he knew of the two Battalions which had been in the firing line in Egypt, he was quite certain that they had rendered a good account of themselves. The West Indians made splendid soldiers. They excelled also in games, at which they had simply cleared the board. Their one aim and object was to go to the Front.

Proceedings were then brought to a close by a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was moved by Sir Owen Philipps, K.C.M.G., M.P., and carried unanimously.

THE WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

A year's useful work.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Association of Glasgow was held at 134, Wellington Street, on November 14th, Mr. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, occupying the chair. The Directors' report was unanimously adopted, and the retiring Directors, Mr. Robert Harvey, Mr. Andrew Macdonald, and Mr. Robert Thom, who retired at this time by rotation, were re-elected. Mr. A. H. Donald continues to act as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. R. W. Tomlinson as Hon. Secretary.

The Directors, in their report, record a year of considerable activity in matters affecting the interests of the West Indies. With regard to sugar they point out that introduction of flat rates for all qualities of refined sugar and the abolition of grading—a change made on the plea of providing for a uniform retail price—while benefiting the lower classes of yellow sugar has removed the only incentive manufacturers had for aiming at a high-class sugar.

With respect to the new immigration proposals, they express doubts as to whether Estates will be able to bear the additional cost in which it will involve them if and when sugar falls in price.

Early in the year the needs of agriculture in this country resulted in an embargo being put upon the export of sulphate of ammonia, not only to foreign countries, but also to the Colonies. This action was viewed with the greatest alarm throughout the West Indies and British Guiana, where sulphate of ammonia is the principal, and in many cases the only, fertiliser used in the cultivation of the sugar cane. While recognising the importance of a large home consumption, it was pointed out to the authorities that to deprive the West Indies of their customary supplies could have but one result—disaster to the crops, at a time when the need of an ever-increasing supply of British grown sugar is such a supreme necessity. Licenses to export were eventually granted, after the home consumer had been provided for, but only for limited quantities.

The Association, acting with the West India Committee and the West India Association of Liverpool, made an application to the Board of Referees asking that the Sugar Industry in the West Indies be allowed to reckon 15 per cent. on the capital employed as the pre-war standard of profits instead of 6 per cent., the statutory allowance under the Finance Act. The final hearing, at which the Vice-Chairman represented the Association, took place in London on January 10th. Although the application was

opposed by the Board of Inland Revenue, an award was made allowing an increase to 11 per cent. for companies, and 12 per cent. for individuals. Though falling short of what was asked for, the result is, on the whole, considered fairly satisfactory.

Much inconvenience and hardship have been caused to West Indian interests by the total prohibition of the importation of rum and coffee, and in a lesser degree by the restriction on cacao. These measures being considered necessary by the Government for the purpose of economising in tonnage, the Directors were of opinion that the situation, hard as it was, would not be improved by ineffectual protests. The position, however, is now a little easier, as arrangements have quite lately been made whereby a limited amount of freight space is allocated for the shipment of rum in the form of alcohol for munitions purposes. The Restriction Order also covered bananas, but so little of this fruit comes to this country from Jamaica, that it has not interfered much with the trade of that Island.

In conclusion the Directors state that the prosperity suggested by the price of sugar is more apparent than real. Labour and all supplies are rising by leaps and bounds, receipts are seriously diminished by the prohibition of the importation of rum, while proprietors at home will now be taxed on their Excess Profits to the extent of 80 per cent., so that this year will in all probability witness downward progress in the scale of profits.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Sixteen New Members Elected.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive, held on November 22nd, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Dr. Chas. M. Austin, M.B., Ch.B. (St. Vincent)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Mr. Ed. P. Haynes (St. Vincent)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Mr. Lewis Punnett (St. Vincent)	Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. Mr. Wm. Gillespie.
Mr. G. Hill (Trinidad)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. E. E. Fabien (Trinidad)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. J. J. Halliday (Trinidad)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. A. Robertson (Trinidad)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. G. B. Mitchell (H.M. Consul, Brazil)	Mr. C. M. Rolston. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. E. R. C. Hobson (Country)	Miss Mary Moseley. Mr. H. F. Previte.
Mr. F. J. L. Mure (Peru)	Mr. W. A. Wolseley. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Rev. A. M. B. Jemmott (British Guiana)	Mr. N. J. A. Bascomb. Mr. A. P. Sherlock.
Mr. Richard G. Vincent (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Wm. Gordon Gordon.
Mr. Joaquim Ribeiro (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Wm. Gordon Gordon.
Mr. Parbhoo Sawh (British Guiana)	Mr. A. P. G. Austin. Mr. J. G. Porter.
Mr. J. P. de Verteuil (London)	Miss Mary Moseley. Mr. H. A. Trotter.
The Credit Foncier of Mauritius, Ltd. (London)	Mr. G. Moody Stuart. Mr. Cyril Gurney.

Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3. The minimum subscription is £1 is. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

A deputation of the West India Committee waited on the Director of Supplies at the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture on November 16th to draw attention to the need of the British West Indies for sulphate of ammonia. It will be recalled that earlier in the year the Committee were successful in obtaining limited quantities of the fertiliser for those Colonies, which, however, were far short of requirements, which may be placed approximately at 3,560 tons for the islands and 7,600 tons for British Guiana annually, the imports in the last seven years having been:—

	B.W.I. Islands Tons.	British Guiana Tons.
1910	4,175	7,532
1911	3,950	7,287
1912	2,245	6,493
1913	2,679	7,371
1914	3,412	8,578
1915	4,493	8,262
1916	4,120	7,683

The Director made it clear to the deputation that no further supplies would be available for export to the Colonies before May next—if then—owing to the increase in the use of the fertiliser for home agriculture, and owing to the pressing needs of the Allies. Arrangements for the equitable distribution of available supplies of sulphate of ammonia in the future were discussed.

In this connection it is of interest to note that the Board of Agriculture has issued a leaflet urging farmers, in their own interests and in those of the nation generally, to avail themselves without delay of the present opportunity of obtaining supplies of sulphate of ammonia for spring use. In the following statement, based on field experiments, an attempt is made to show the average increase in the various crops, and the value of such increase, that may be expected from the use, under suitable conditions, of 1 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre. The crops have been valued at prices considerably under those now ruling in the London and other markets:—

		£	s.	d.
Wheat ...	4 Bush. at 55s. per qr. (504 lb.)	1	7	6
.. Straw	5 cwt. at 40s. per ton	0	10	0
Barley ..	5 bush. at 50s. per qr. (448 lb.)	1	11	3
.. Straw	6 cwt. at 30s. per ton	0	9	0
Oats	6 bush. at 30s. per qr. (336 lb.)	1	2	6
.. Straw	7 cwt. at 40s. per ton	0	14	0
Rye Grass Hay	10 cwt. at 160s. per ton	2	10	0
Meadow Hay	8 cwt. at 90s. per ton	1	16	0
Mangolds	32 cwt. at 12s. 6d. per ton	1	0	0
Potatoes	20 cwt. at 60s. per ton	3	0	0

Consideration of the foregoing figures, it is pointed out, shows that there is ample justification for the use of sulphate of ammonia at the present time.

Sir Frederic Hodgson suggested to the writer recently the possibility of using leaf manure and decayed vegetable matter from the forests of the interior as a fertiliser for sugar estates in British Guiana. The suggestion certainly appears one worth consideration, for, though leaf manure would not form an effective substitute for sulphate of ammonia, if applied in quantities of ten tons or so to the acre, it should go a long way towards restoring the humus if it were practicable financially.

SUGAR FACTORY CONTROL.

By F. P. RUDDER.

I have recently returned from a trip to the Hawaiian Islands, where renewal of acquaintance with several old friends in the sugar industry there has enabled me having a close look over a number of the best equipped and most keenly managed factories in that district. These factories were just completing what I suppose has proved to be the most successful season in the history of the Islands, and as the splendid results got are, in my opinion, largely owing to the very free exchange of views between the men responsible for methods and procedure both in the fields and factories, I feel constrained at once to urge unqualified support of the suggestion put forward by you in a recent issue of your CIRCULAR, that steps be taken to initiate some similar action in the sugar circle of our West Indian factories.

In the Hawaiian Islands there are separate Associations of the Cane Planters, Sugar Engineers, and Sugar Chemists, and these meet independently and jointly from time to time to discuss every phase of the industry. Notes are taken at these meetings, and, being suitably abridged and edited, are exchanged amongst those concerned for the general good.

The results from the various factories are sent weekly to a Central Office and tabulated on a common basis, and issued at once to all factories concerned. At the end of the reaping campaign, the final results are similarly treated and issued along with a short review and criticism of the year's work, with suggestions for lines of study and improvement. The result of this is that the efficiency of these factories to-day undoubtedly stands first in the world. Their mill work has always been good, but owing to important recent developments, the extraction efficiency of the grinding plant in many of the factories stands in a class apart.

Only a few years ago, to bring 92 per cent. of the sucrose of the cane into the juice was considered good work. To-day there are many Hawaiian factories averaging 97 per cent., and several getting 98 per cent. and over. In one factory visited I was shown a day's work averaging 99 per cent. sucrose extraction, and remember, their chemical control is keen and, in my opinion, thoroughly trustworthy. This, with correspondingly good work in the fields, makes possible very high yields of sugar per acre, crop averages of 16,000 lbs. to 18,000 lbs. of sugar per acre being often got.

The sugar properties are scattered over four or five islands, as is the case in our Colonies; but Honolulu, the capital of the Island of Oahu, is the seat of Government, and the centre of all business, and it is there that the men of the sugar industry foregather after crop and talk over matters, combining business with pleasure. For the present, our men in the West Indies would have to exchange views, etc., by correspondence, but the personal discussion has important advantages, and

we must hope that soon the benefits to be got in so many directions from federation will be more generally understood and appreciated, and in the not distant future we shall be able to agree on a centre, and have personal discussions. One meets in Hawaii also such a kind and sympathetic reception; you are welcomed warmly everywhere, and you are freely shown control sheets, and given data on costs and results right up to date in a most impressive manner.

The West Indian sugar man is second to none in his hospitality, but is not so open as to how he is going on. Is it that his data are not in so ready or handy a form, or is it that he considers his methods and results so good that he must guard them; or again, is he afraid that they are not good enough to tell of?

In any case, I think we will find it pay to exchange notes freely with visitors in the business from other parts. It is best to be the visitor, but next to that is the exchange of views with the man from the other place. The factories with which I am connected have always favoured the policy of exchanging notes with others on any factory work, and will be pleased to co-operate in this respect. I would suggest that you circularise others concerned, with a view to some action being taken. Of course, it is clear that the returns contributed should be calculated and recorded on a common basis. Another important feature noticeable in the Hawaiian factories is the number of well-educated and scientifically trained young men employed on the various stations of the factories—engineers, chemists, accountants, etc.—all very keen and bright.

They are well treated and encouraged to take a pride in their work and lives—all of which makes for quick and accurate development and a strong driving force. I am confident that, with energy and patience, similar conditions can be worked up in our Colonies, and I consider that the matter is very important, and should be taken in hand seriously and now.

My principals have for some years practised the exchange of control sheets and staff meeting notes between the factories under their control, with great benefit to all, and so are in a specially good position to judge of its advantages. As consulting and supervising engineer of three of the largest factories in the British West Indies, I most cordially offer you every assistance in my power, and shall be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible as to a plan of action.

Below I give a few particulars of the average work for the 1917 crop of the factories with which I am concerned:—

Canes ground—407,000 tons.
 Sugar recovered, 96 test—45,400 tons
 Commercial molasses—2,160,000 gallons.
 Sucrose extracted (at mill) on sucrose in cane—
 93.32 per cent.
 Sucrose recovered on sucrose in cane—84.04 per cent.
 Fibre content of cane—14.18 per cent.
 Sucrose content of cane—12.96 per cent.

SALE OF TRINIDAD ESTATES.

Satisfactory Prices Realised.

The sale by auction, on the 22nd inst., of freehold cacao estates and town properties in Trinidad, by Messrs. Jenkinson, Brinsley & Jenkinson, an announcement of which was made recently in these columns, excited considerable interest, as had been anticipated, and the result was satisfactory, all the larger and more important lots having been sold at good prices.

The sale took place at The Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, under instructions of the Crown Agents for the Colonies. Mr. W. W. Jenkinson, who occupied the rostrum, said that during a period of thirty years or more during which he had presided in that building at the sales of many West Indian estates, he had sold no property under the unique circumstances which had brought about the present auction. As his audience were aware, the British Government, under the rights of the nation as belligerents, had seized the various properties of German owners in the Island of Trinidad, one of the most favoured of our West Indian Colonies, and in further exercise of such right were now proceeding to sell. He reminded his audience of the well-worn adage that "history repeats itself," and he ventured to recall that in the reign of Henry III., more than six centuries ago, a society of German merchants known as the Hanseatic League, were strongly established in London and did their best to monopolise our trade. They had their Guildhall, known as the Steel Yard (the name is still to be seen in Thames Street), and were accorded great privileges by the City of London. With what result? How was our hospitality returned? In the reign of Elizabeth, when we were at war with the greatest military and naval power in Europe, the town of Hamburg offered to co-operate with King Phillip in his great Armada enterprise and tendered him the use of a port for his ships. Mr. Jenkinson apologised for this digression, but the whole history of the Hansa League had a lesson which should not be forgotten.

As to Trinidad, Mr. Jenkinson remarked that the Island was peculiarly fit for the cultivation of the cacao plant, and the estates were all under cacao cultivation and had been, and were still, maintained and under good management. There were certain mortgages, which did not concern purchasers. The estates were freehold and would be sold free from all encumbrances, excepting certain reservations as to minerals and the rights of contractors as to certain portions held on the conditions customary in the Island and reverting to the owner on the lapse of such contracts. The conditions of sale, though long, were simple, as in fact each purchaser would get the fee simple by title direct from the British Government giving practically the same security as an English estate with a registered indefeasible title. Every purchaser must make a statutory declaration that he is a British subject. The live and dead stock would be included in the purchase.

The result of the sale was as follows :—

Lot 3.—"Perseverance"	11,650
Lot 5.—"Moruga"	13,000
Lot 6. "Indian Trail"	1,750
Lots 11-15.—"Siparia," "La Josefina," "Soconusco," "Mira Flores," "La Victoria" ...	60,000
Lot 16.—54, 54A, and 56, Marine Square; 2 and 4, Frederick Street; 11, 13, and 16, Henry Street, Port-of-Spain	21,500
Total	£107,900

Lots 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were bought in, but it was understood that offers had already been made for some of them, and that a speedy sale was anticipated. As evidence of the keen interest which Scotland always takes in the West Indies it is interesting to note that the bulk of the properties were sold to Scotchmen.

ST. MICHAEL AND ST. GEORGE.

Position of Companions of the Order.

In the *London Gazette* of June 1st, 1917, the following notice appeared :—

"By the King's command the Badge of the Third Class or Companions of the Bath, Star of India, St. Michael and St. George, and the Indian Empire, will in future be worn suspended on a ribbon round the neck. Members of this class of these four Orders will, while retaining the title of Companion, be given precedence as Commanders according to the seniority of the order."

The first part of this notice is clear. Members of the 3rd Class (or Companions) of the Orders named will in future wear their Badges suspended from a riband of the Order round their necks, instead of on the left breast, or (when not in uniform) on the lapel of the coat as heretofore.

The intentions foreshadowed by the rest of the notice are not so clear. At the time of the notice there existed only one Order in this country comprising a class of "Commanders"—viz., the Royal Victorian Order. The members of the 3rd Class, or Commanders, of this Order were instituted, apparently, as a distinct class midway between Knights Commanders and Companions. Thus they were given precedence immediately after Knights Bachelors, and were accorded the privilege (like Knights Commanders) of encircling their Armorial Bearings with the motto of the Order. The 4th Class, or Members, of the Victorian Order correspond to Companions of the other Orders, and were given precedence immediately after Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire. The above notice does not state that the Companions of the Orders named therein are to be given the privilege of encircling their Arms with the mottoes of their respective Orders, but it is presumed that this will be included. It is also thought that they will be given precedence above the Commanders of the Victorian Order. This, however, will necessitate a revision of the Statutes of the Orders as regards the relative precedence of their different classes.

The Peninsular and Oriental and British India Companies have acquired the business of James Nourse, Ltd., which will, however, be maintained as a separate organisation.

THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN.

Proposed Construction of a Breakwater.

By LUKE M. HILL, M.INST.C.E.

Mr. Gerald O. Case has recently furnished to the Government of British Guiana an important and comprehensive report on the Port of Georgetown and its approaches.

The formation of that formidable obstruction to the navigation of the river, known as the Demerara Bar, he attributes to the littoral currents from an eastward direction conveying material derived from the erosion of the coasts extending to the mouth of the River Amazon, and including detritus brought down by that river itself: these several materials, thus transported by the coastal currents, meeting the current flowing out from the Demerara River, are deposited and form the submerged bank known as the Bar. This view of the position would seem to confirm the opinion expressed by Baron Siccama in his report made some 36 or 38 years ago. Since then nothing has been done to remedy matters, and the depth of water on the Bar at spring tides practically remains the same, being about 17 feet. Baron Siccama's recommendations favoured the construction of two long mattress groynes, inclined towards the direction of the stream from each side, from the neighbourhood of the Fort on the east, and a continuation of the Pln. Best groyne on the west (similar to the training levees adopted near the mouth of the Mississippi River), which, by narrowing the discharge channel of the Demerara River, would cause the latter to act as a scouring force to deepen the Bar, or cause the deposit of material to take place further out and in deeper water.

Mr. Case's Recommendations.

Mr. Case's recommendations, on the other hand, propose the construction of a reinforced concrete breakwater on the windward side of the channel only, starting from the Fort and extending seaward as far as the "white buoy," the work to be carried out gradually at the rate of 3,000 feet per annum for a distance of 12,000 feet, at an estimated cost of \$83 per lineal foot. The foundation of this proposed breakwater to be carried down to a depth of 29 feet below mean tide level, or 21 G.D., its top being at 59 G.D., giving a total height of 38 feet. The action of the river current he proposes should be assisted by dredging by means of a powerful suction dredger, costing about £18,750.

Mr. Case calculates that by this means the Bar will be gradually deepened, and a channel kept open of at least 20 feet depth of water at H.W.S.T. When this degree of improvement is attained, the breakwater and dredging operations can be extended to the full distance recommended, the depth of the foundations being designed to provide for an ultimate depth of channel of 30 feet H.W.S.T., capable of affording access to the port of the largest ordinary run of ocean-going steamers, which will be necessary if Georgetown is ever to fulfil its high destiny of being the *entrepôt* for the principal trade of the north-east section of South America, after the con-

struction of the proposed hinterland railway to link up with the trans-continental lines from the neighbouring Republics.

The Estimated Cost.

Mr. Case estimates the cost of the proposed works for the preliminary deepening of the bar to a depth of 20 feet, at, approximately, \$1,250,000, extending the work over five years.

Incidentally, Mr. Case recommends that steps be taken to properly mark out the entrance channel by four gas-lit buoys, the substitution of the present Demerara lightship by an automatic light-vessel, and the erection of a powerful directing lighthouse near Pln. Hampton Court on the Essequibo coast. He further recommends the establishment of a Harbour Board, under whose control all works of construction, improvements, maintenance and administration be placed; and proceeds to sketch out a scheme for the financing of such a Board, based on the probable revenue and expenditure.

For the improvement of the harbour itself and maintaining the proper depth of water alongside the wharves, Mr. Case recommends that future construction and extensions of stelling be strictly controlled, in order to conform to a definite front line of water-tight timber sheet-piling, or a solid wall of reinforced concrete; and that the enclosed space be filled in with material dredged from the harbour, resulting in the gradual formation of a solid riverside wharf extending from the Fort to La Penitence, thus realising the river-wall dream of well-nigh 100 years past.

The entire scheme, as set forth in Mr. Case's able report is, no doubt, an ambitious one; but, on account of the expenditure involved, it calls for careful consideration in view of the large demands for sea defence works, to which the colony is already committed to the extent of some two and a half million dollars. The completion of the scheme in its entirety would tend to accomplish some of the aims of the Dominions Royal Commission in regard to the improvement of Ports and Harbours on the various trade routes of the future, especially in connection with the Panama Canal.

An important announcement, providing for the protection of British West Indians resident in foreign countries, is published in the *Official Gazette* of Trinidad. Signed by the Colonial Secretary, the announcement reads—

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies has directed that it be notified for general information that, in order that His Majesty's Consular Officers may be in a position to intervene on their behalf should occasion arise, British West Indian subjects who may go to reside in foreign countries should register themselves at the British Consulate as British subjects and for that purpose they should provide themselves with evidence of British nationality, such as a passport, a certificate of British nationality, or a birth certificate showing birth within His Majesty's dominions. Consular Officers are empowered to require such further evidence of identity as they may think necessary, and application for registration should be made upon a form of declaration, copies of which are obtainable at Consulates. It must be clearly understood that the absence of adequate evidence of identity may make it impossible for Consular Officers to accord protection to British subjects.

PELLAGRA IN THE WEST INDIES.

Further Report by Dr. Sambon.

A further report by Dr. Louis W. Sambon on Pellagra in the West Indies has been issued by the Colonial Office as a White Paper (Cd. 8796). This Report is incomplete, but it is considered undesirable to defer its publication any longer. At some future date, therefore, we may anticipate further light being thrown upon the disease of which little was heard until recent years.

Dr. Sambon's researches began in the year 1900, when, returning from the Roman Campagna at the conclusion of experiments on the mosquito transmission of malaria carried out on behalf of the Colonial Office, he and Dr. G. C. Low had the opportunity of visiting the Lombardic pellagra district of Inzago. In 1913, the disease having been reported in various parts of the West Indies, Dr. Sambon set sail for the Caribbean. Visiting Jamaica, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana, he either saw cases of indigenous pellagra or was informed of their occurrence by the local health officers. In a report published in 1915, Dr. Sambon paid a tribute to West Indian physicians. These gentlemen had diagnosed pellagra in Jamaica and Barbados as early as 1898, although prior to 1908 the disease was hardly mentioned in the medical literature of English-speaking countries.

Remarkable Case in Jamaica.

In the report now issued, Dr. Sambon deals with the topographical distribution of the disease in the West Indies. Taking first the case of Jamaica, he says that in its clinical aspects pellagra was well known in Kingston, but with few exceptions the disease seems to have escaped the attention of the District Medical Officers. Visiting Kingston in September, 1913, Dr. Sambon was shown about one hundred pellagrins at the Lunatic Asylum, nine at the General Penitentiary, and six at the Union Workhouse.

At Santa Cruz he noticed a phenomenon: "On leaving the almshouse we were approached by a noisy band of woolly-headed children, amongst whom was conspicuous the Naples-yellow mop of an albino negro. I stopped to examine the little paradox, and, to my surprise, he turned out to be far more interesting than I had thought, because I found him to be a pellagrin, and the rash on his pinky-white arms, legs, and neck was of the rose-wood hue it affects on the skin of fair whites."

Dr. Sambon adds "The information culled from the record books of the Lunatic Asylum and from the experience of the District Medical Officers of the island was far too indefinite, and my own observations far too limited and fragmentary, to enable me to appraise, even approximately, the distribution of pellagra in the island of Jamaica. However, both tend to show that whilst the disease is widely spread throughout the island, yet, as everywhere else, it is not universally and uniformly distributed, but scattered discontinuously in particular stations or endemic foci."

Etiological Theories.

The investigator found very few cases of pellagra in Barbados where he learned that some physicians believed pellagra to be a contagious disease. Turning to various etiological theories, Dr. Sambon says his researches on the causation of pellagra have thoroughly convinced him that food plays no greater part in the etiology of pellagra than in that of yellow fever, sleeping sickness or malaria. Against the maize theory stand two important facts: (1) The occurrence of pellagra in people who have never eaten maize; (2) The absence of pellagra amongst maize-eating populations living in close proximity to, or in the very midst of, pellagrous areas.

Dr. Sambon adds: "In the West Indies I found that the majority of physicians were adverse to the maize theory; their experience did not sanction belief in any kind of connection between maize and pellagra."

He proceeds: "In Jamaica, according to Dr. D. J. Williams (minutes addressed to Superintending Medical Officer, 2nd June, 1911), 'the disease almost invariably appears in the spring, continues through the hot summer in most cases, and disappears during the winter months, only to make its reappearance the following spring, and gradually sap the life of the unfortunate patient.' This statement, based on asylum experience, refers almost exclusively to recurrences, which as a rule anticipate the date of first attacks. It was particularized by Miss Douglas, the Matron of the Jamaica Lunatic Asylum, who said the skin lesions usually begin to appear in January, and are most in evidence during the months of February and March. The pellagrins I came across in various parts of the island respectively indicated February, April, May, June, and September as the months in which symptoms first appeared."

"In Barbados pellagra seems to prevail more or less from May to October. The patients I had the opportunity of examining respectively mentioned May, June, August, September, and October as the months in which the disease made its first appearance. According to Dr. T. S. Brown the disease is especially manifest in the months of October, November, and December. It ceases in March and April, to reappear in May. Dr. W. R. M. Massiah has seen active cases practically at all times, but the majority seem to occur from September to the end of November; he has not seen many in the spring months. Dr. L. T. F. Archer also stated that pellagra could be found in activity at any time, but particularly during the last quarter of the year."

Present-day fear in Barbados

The above report refers to Dr. Sambon's investigations some years ago. Although few cases of pellagra were then found in Barbados, the disease apparently is giving cause for anxiety at the present moment. We learn from the "Globe," just to hand, that Mr. Joshua Baeza has drawn the attention of the Colonial Secretary to what he believes to be the very great danger to which the whole community is exposed if nothing be done to check the spread of pellagra and other diseases.

Mr. Baeza's suggestions are:—

1.—That there should be notification of the disease, as suggested by the acting Public Health Inspector, in one of his quarterly reports.

2.—That there should be a house-to-house inspection by a medical man and a careful examination of children in particular, when probably it will be found that there are many pellagrins at large unknown to the acting Public Inspector.

3.—That post mortem investigations should be held of cases which have been treated at Parochial and Government Institutions, which may throw some light on the disease.

4.—That a central building should be provided by the Government, under its control in a locality known to be free of the disease, for the purpose of receiving and treating these cases generally, and that each parish should contribute its quota towards the upkeep thereof.

5.—That in the meantime the Parochial Officers should visit those houses whence cases are sent to the Alms-houses for treatment, and a complete history of such cases be obtained and recorded, and kept for reference by the Health Authorities.

6.—That all medical practitioners be requested, in the community, to make note of cases that in the course of their practice may come under notice if seen at large, and report the same to the General Board of Health as soon as possible, for the purpose of affording treatment to these cases, and staying the course of the disease.

THE WORK OF THE COLOURED RACES.

Sir Sydney Olivier's Experience.

Sir Sydney Olivier presided the other day at a lecture given in London by Sir Harry Johnston on "The Coloured Races of the Empire."

The late Governor of Jamaica said that two things had struck him as an administrator and worker in British Colonies. One was the position of the native races in regard to economic civilisation—the production of wealth; the other was that the African races are religious people. In dealing with the first point, Sir Sydney Olivier made it pretty clear that he did not think the civilised wage system could be applied to the African races. In the West Indies the attempt to discipline the native as a wage worker has failed, and is failing. The position of the industrial wage-earning classes in England and elsewhere is not such as to constitute an attraction to the African worker, and he thought that on the whole the African race would not lend themselves to the establishment of the wage system. Whatever relations Europe may have with Africa in the future (proceeded Sir Sydney), they will have to be other than the industrial relations of Europe, and the problem of persuading these races to exploit the wealth of their country will have to be solved in some other way.

Dealing with his second point, Sir Sydney Olivier said the Christian missionaries in Africa have planted a very active and powerful ferment by proclaiming the doctrine of the equality of man. In the West Indies the independent spirit of the native is very largely bound up with his religious belief. The abolition of slavery was promoted by the activities of the missionaries in the West Indies, which antagonised the white aristocracy, who found that

as the natives learned they belonged to the kingdom of God they became less easy to exploit in the interests of the kingdom of man. The religious ferment has definitely got hold of the negro, and influences him profoundly.

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.

V.—THE SMALLER ISLANDS.

August 4th—memorable date—was the occasion on which the Presidency of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla made their "Flag Day" contribution, £138 8s. 6d. being raised.

In St. Kitts (writes a correspondent) great enthusiasm was shown, with the exception of a few of the country districts, "where to give a penny for anything they could not eat or drink was not understood by the lower class labourer." A committee had been appointed—one lady from each country parish—to organise the flag-selling in her district and three for the town of Basseterre. The day being a Saturday, the Committee had asked the Planters to pay their labourers on Friday night, and they had nearly all agreed to do so, with the result that many flags were disposed of at the pay-tables. In Basseterre an army of young girls were selling from early morning, and two members of the Salvation Army did some good work on the "Day." A patriotic meeting, at which the Administrator and other gentlemen spoke, was held in the afternoon in the Public Square, and here the smaller girls took over the flag-selling from the older ones and did quite a good trade. Although it is believed a few streets were omitted by accident, where more flags and badges might have been sold, there were not many left over by the end of the day, and it gave great satisfaction to a number of the poorest who could only afford a penny to feel that they had a chance of helping in the great cause.

Amusing Misconception at Nevis.

The experience of Nevis is described by a correspondent, who writes:—"We had had a 'day' before, but a 'Flag Day' was something quite new. It was decided from reasons born of experience that 'day' should be an elastic term, since we are not for the most part town dwellers, but country folk, and in some cases reached only by rough riding or rough walking. And in remote districts explanations had to be given of what it was all about, and these take time.

"We had some misunderstandings. It was suggested that we had bought the flags to serve our own base ends with money the King had sent to the poor people, and one small boy howled through the village street under the impression that he would be taken up by the police because he had lost his badge! When it was understood that it was all to help their own boys who were battling for liberty, while they could celebrate their 'liberty day' safely and peacefully at home as usual, there was no lack of buyers. The flags were more popular than the badges. There is much in a name, and 'badges are only worn by porters' was the

opinion of not a few. On the day itself our sellers were early abroad and their trade was so brisk in some places that they were sold out before the heat of the day had begun. On the day following, Sunday, special services with appropriate hymns were held, and well be-flagged and be-badged congregations attended. Our one regret looking back is that the supply of flags and badges was scarcely equal to the demand."

Montserrat sends on £60.

Montserrat took its place among the islands with ambitions beyond the mere vending of flags and badges. A fête was also held, and sports would have been included in the programme but for the weather.

An interesting account of the day's effort has been sent to us by Miss Annie Haines, Hon. Sec. of the Montserrat Women's War Committee. Miss Haines writes:—

"We have much pleasure in sending from Montserrat the sum of £60, towards the West Indian Contingent Fund. Flag Day here was postponed until Wednesday, July 18th, which was decided to be a more convenient date than July 13th, the day fixed for the Antigua celebration. The badges were sold in the schools, and the flags in the streets of the town and in the country throughout the day. In the afternoon a fête was held, and a programme of sports arranged. The weather, which had been bad all day, became worse in the afternoon, thus rendering sports impossible. The sale of 1,460 badges, and 1,340 flags fetched £23 16s. 8d., while the proceeds of the fête, together with various subscriptions amounted to £36 3s. 4d. Forty flags and forty badges remained unsold, and were, with the consent of the Committee, transferred to Nevis for 'Flag Day' there. And now that the people of Montserrat understand what is meant by a 'Flag Day,' we hope that the next one we have will be a still greater success."

St. Lucia's Decorated Motor Cars.

On August 18th St. Lucia by means of a picturesque effort raised £50 for the Contingent Fund. Early in the day flags were seen flying, and in many cases banners were suspended from windows across the street. A procession of decorated motor cars, with boys and girls in costumes, headed by a band of music, left the Botanical Station and proceeded via the Chaussee Road as far as the head of Brazil Street, then on to Broglic Street, and through High Street, Laborie Street, Victoria Street, Mongirard Street, St. Louis Street, Bridge Street, and finally Columbus Square, where the Acting Administrator and other gentlemen delivered public addresses. Tea, cakes, ices, etc., were sold. In the meanwhile, the flags of the West India Regiment were sold.

Antigua's Flag Day, held on July 13th, realised £119 7s. 8d. The sale of flags and badges produced £56 3s. 9½d., and a fête £63 3s. 10½d.

Grenada swells the Fund by £229.

Sir G. B. Haddon-Smith, Governor of the Windward Islands, sent the following official report to

the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the result of Grenada's effort, which realised £229:—

"With reference to your telegram of 27th March, 1917, I have the honour to forward you for transmission to the West Indian Contingent Committee a draft for £228 0s. 9d., and a Money Order for £1, as a contribution of £229 0s. 9d. from the people of Grenada towards procuring comforts for the men of the British West Indies Regiment.

"On receipt of your telegram my wife called a meeting of the ladies of the island, and Committees were formed to carry out arrangements for the collection of funds. Through the kind help and energy of the ladies of Grenada my wife has had the satisfaction of handing me the above-named sum."

Statement of the Grenada Ladies' Committee.

The Ladies' Committee submitted the following list of contributions:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. C. F. P. Renwick, Entrance to Cricket Match	6	10	0
Mrs. Rice for Sweep at Cricket Match	2	12	0
Mrs. Hutton for Sale of tea at Cricket Match	16	7	3
Lady Haddon-Smith's Bridge Tournament at Government House	7	0	0
Mrs. F. R. Harford for sale of button-holes at Grenville Races	15	6	1
Collected by Mrs. F. R. Harford	2	0	0
Donation of one Thomas (St. Vincent), per Dr. E. F. Hutton	4	0	0
Secretary, Richmond Hill Tennis Club	15	0	0
Collected by Mrs. F. H. Copland, St. Patrick	25	0	0
Sale of Flags at Grenville Races	6	0	0
Collected by Mrs. J. H. Burgess, St. John's:—			
Cricket Match (Mrs. E. F. McIntyre)	12	5	0
Subscription List	10	2	6
Sale of Flags	2	12	6
	25	0	0
Sale of tickets for Café Chantant, St. George's	40	11	6
Sale of Flags	47	13	10
Tea—Mrs. Walton, Mrs. G. W. Paterson, Mrs. Sharpe, Mrs. R. M. Otway, Mrs. A. Wellesley Lewis, Mrs. Gerald Smith, Mrs. H. Bishop, and Miss N. Otway	10	11	1
Ice Creams—Mrs. A. H. Hughes	7	1	4
Bar—Mr. V. Mahy	5	2	8
Character by Writing—Mrs. N. S. Durrant	1	0	0
Bridge	6	0	0
Miss De Prietas—Sweepstake	10	0	0
	£229	0	9

Individual Flag Sales.

Flags sold by:—	£	s.	d.
Walter Huckerby	11	0	0
Mildred and Kathleen Huckerby	12	8	0
Arthur Huckerby	9	11	0
Hugh and Cyril Huckerby	1	2	0
Nina Marley	11	6	1
Mrs. Slinger	1	4	7
George Paterson	6	1	0
Bill Paterson	17	3	0
Miss Donelan	3	8	8
Agnes Franco	1	5	6
Vera Franco	1	5	1
Mrs. L. C. Franco	1	1	10
Mrs. R. M. Otway	1	4	11
Mrs. Harbin	2	10	9½
Miss Branch	1	1	6
Miss C. Wells	2	3	8
Mrs. Malins-Smith	2	18	6
Mrs. McCowan	3	3	4
Miss M. Bertrand	1	0	0
Mrs. Hughes	1	0	0
Miss Olive Hughes	1	8	10

	£	s.	d.
Russel and Ewart Hughes	7	6	
Miss Gweneth Hughes	8	0	
Kathleen, Rita, and Mabel Bishop, also Eileen and Rhoda Smith	2	5	9
Kathleen and Jean Mahy, Eina Kerr and Olive Bowen	3	3	4½
Amy and Mona Slinger, Clara Thompson and Ivy Powell	4	0	9
Mrs. Heidenstam	1	16	8½
Mrs. Alexis	16	6	
Some One	1	8	4
Mollie Moore	9	0	
Mrs. Cox	5	6	
Mrs. De Freitas	2	12	6
Mrs. Brodie and Mrs. Burgess	1	5	0
	£47	13	10

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

The West India Committee Rooms have presented a scene of more than usual activity lately, owing to the packing of Christmas presents being in progress. Gifts are being sent to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment and also to as many men who have come over independently to join the Army or Navy as can be traced. A contingent of Naval Ratings from the West Indies are also being remembered. Among voluntary helpers at the Rooms have been the Countess of Stamford, the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Judah, Miss Isaacson, Miss Hamel-Smith, Miss Jeffers, and Miss Mathieson.

Since the last list of donations to the West Indian Contingent Fund was published (see CIRCULAR, November 1st), the following have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Jamaica (per Colonial Bank) for Comforts Fund	120	0	0
Jamaica (per Colonial Bank) for Comforts Fund	50	0	0
Collection for Flag Day Fund at Lady Davson's per Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G.	5	10	9
Mrs. M. D. Bonthron, part proceeds of Antigua Seed Work	10	10	0
Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (September subscriptions):—			
Kingston Club	1	3	0
Hon. C. E. F. Richards	10	0	
H. P. Hazell, Esq.	10	0	
P. W. Reeves, Esq.	10	0	
Vincent Hadley, Esq.	8	4	
J. W. Hazell	3	0	
Ivan Hopley Esq.	2	0	
A. L. Gallizian, Esq.	2	0	
J. A. Davy, Esq.	1	0	
	3	9	4
Chas W. Dooty, Esq. (quarterly sub.)	2	2	0
Mrs. Russell	1	0	0

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Major J. V. Kirkland, Captain V. C. Aitken, Lieut. A. H. Spyer, 2nd Lieut. F. L. Casserly, 2nd Lieut. Eric Lord, Sergt. H. C. Steadman and L/Corpl. J. M. Nethersole, British West Indies Regiment; Corpl. Edward D. Sears, and Lieut. H. V. Jellicoe, Bahamas; 2nd Lieut. H. F. K. Greaves, Gnr. H. Phillips, and Gnr. A. P. Watson, Barbados; 2nd Lieut. J. B. G. Austin, British Guiana; Pte. Ingh A. Frampton, Dominica; Captain J. Hamilton, 2nd Lieut. A. Clodd, Trpr. Alex. R. Boor, Trpr. B. A. Mossman, and Sergt. C. Mais, Jamaica; Pte. F. L. McLeod, St.

Vincent; Captain Percy Eckel, Lieut. R. H. McMinn, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Duruty, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, 2nd Lieut. G. Laughlin, 2nd Lieut. Pierre Lange, Sergt. H. Eckel, Trpr. Cecil A. Balfour, Ptes. Maurice de Verteuil, C. J. Schjolseth, and J. J. Tait, Trinidad.

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Mrs. Spooner: 2 prs. socks, 2 helmets, 1 muller. (For Barbados Contingent.)

Mrs. Rutherford: 2 helmets, 1 pr. socks, 1 cap.
Miss D. A. Morris: 2 scarves, 3 prs. socks, 3 prs. cuffs, 7 packs cards in bags, 3 magazines, Christmaside from Demerara.

Mrs. J. B. Saunders: 3 prs. socks.

Mrs. Porteous: 2 prs. socks.

The Misses Gill: 3 mufflers, 2 prs. socks, 1 helmet, 2 comfort bags, 1 pr. mittens, 1 pr. cuffs. (For Barbados men.)

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McDonald: magazines.

Mrs. Aitken: magazines.

Mrs. Cunningham Craig: magazines.

Miss E. Martin: 4 prs. socks and 1 muller. (For Trinidad Merchants' Contingent.)

Mrs. Rutherford: 1 helmet.

Mrs. Archibald Pile: 3 prs. socks, 1 muller.

Mrs. J. B. Saunders: 3 prs. socks.

Mrs. Vere Oliver: 6 prs. socks, 6 handkerchiefs.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

LIEUTENANT L. H. CAMPBELL, Middlesex Regiment, son of Mr. Dugald Campbell, of Rose Hall, Jamaica, is reported to have died at Salonika on August 29th.

LIEUTENANT RICHARD MILES, who died of wounds, in France, on August 17th, was the son of the Hon. A. H. Miles, C.M.G., I.S.O., Collector-General of Customs of Jamaica.

CAPTAIN J. SCOTT LORIMER, M.C., of the Norfolk Regt., attached Trench Mortar Battery, grandson of the late Mr. Robt. S. Lorimer, of Plu. Wales, British Guiana, was killed in action in France on November 5th, aged twenty-four. He was awarded the Military Cross last year for gallantry in the field. He was educated at Clayesmore School, Winchester, and originally joined the Artists' Rifles.

LIEUTENANT L. J. (DICK) BERTRAND, M.C., who was killed in action on August 15th, was the third and youngest son of Mr. J. R. Bertrand, J.P., of St. George's, Grenada, where he was born on December 24th, 1894. Being in Canada at the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the First Canadian Contingent, with which he arrived in England in October, 1914. He went to France in March, 1915 and took part in the battle of Ypres, during which he was slightly gassed. He rejoined his battalion a month later and was wounded at Festubert. While convalescing he was attached to the Canadian Headquarters Staff and promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. In August, 1916, he was granted a Commission and was posted to his old unit on the Somme and went through all the actions with them until the Battle of Arras, on which occasion he was the only surviving officer in his Company to reach their objective, which he consolidated and held until relieved, for which he received the Military Cross. In the attack on Hill 70, he was second in command of his company, and he and his commander and thirty-six men were all who reached their objective. While the work of consolidation was in progress, Dick Bertrand was on his way to the signal station to report to Headquarters, when he was sniped and killed instantly.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. LESTER W. HINDS (of Barbados), Worcester Regiment, attached Trench Mortar Battery, has been slightly wounded.

GUNNER G. A. WOLFSOHN (elder son of the Hon. S. Wolffsohn, of British Honduras) has been gassed and is in hospital at Camberley.

HONOURS.

FRASER, MAJOR D. J. (son of James Fraser, of Coblenz Avenue, Port of Spain, Trinidad), was awarded the Military Cross last year.

The West Indies and the War.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country, together with names of officers and men promoted, etc., are given below.

Anderson, Pte. William Alfred (of Trinidad), Royal Garrison Artillery.
 Armbrister, F. S. (of the Bahamas), Photography Officer Royal Flying Corps, Canada.
 Cox, Stanley Etheridge Soper (son of H. Soper Cox, LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, British Guiana), attached British Red Cross Society.
 Fraser, Major D. J., M.C., son of Mr. James Fraser, of Trinidad, Royal Field Artillery.
 Gardner, Captain Alan S., M.C. (son of the Rev. Thomas Gardner, Rector of St. Philip's, Barbados).
 Holland, F. W., M.M., 1st Sergt. 4th B.W.I.'s, 2nd officer, Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Boxol*, c/o G.P.O., London.
 Knox, 2nd Lieut. P. J. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Flying Corps.
 Lawson, Cadet Edward (son of Mr. Richard P. Lawson, of Georgetown, Demerara), Royal Flying Corps.
 Pogson, 2nd Lieut. Desmond (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Flying Corps.
 Rennalls, Pte. Cyril (son of Mr. Jos. S. Rennalls, Asst. Supt. of Roads and Works, Jamaica), Middlesex Regiment.
 Rerrie, 2nd Lieut. H. G. (of Jamaica), York and Lancaster Regiment.
 Rodriguez, Staff Sergt. Arthur M. (of Trinidad), Canadians.
 Skinner, Lieut. Willard, M.B. (of Barbados), Royal Flying Corps.
 Solly, 2nd Lieut. G. R. (of Jamaica), Royal Engineers, I.W.T.
 Thompson, Pte. Chas. S. (son of the late Mr. J. W. Thompson, Postmaster Bahamas), Canadians.
 Wolffsohn, 2nd Lieut. Arthur N. (son of the Hon. S. Wolffsohn, of British Honduras), Tank Corps. (Originally in the Scottish Horse, and wounded in Gallipoli.)

WEST INDIANS AT PANAMA.

An Asset to the Community.

It will be news to many people in England, and the same in the Caribbean, that the West Indian community in the City of Panama and its suburbs comprises nearly one-third of the total population. The completion of the Canal has by no means terminated the connection of the West Indies with the great engineering feat. On the contrary, there is every prospect of the West Indians permanently resident in the zone becoming a useful factor in the life of the community. A journal, called *The Workman*, published at Panama, bids them make the most of their opportunity.

In a recent issue this journal says:—

"We have noted with keen interest and great pleasure, the tendency on the part of West Indians in the Republic of Panama of recent date to establish organisations and protective associations, in order to conserve and advance their interests financially, morally and intellectually. . . The Isthmian League of British West Indians which has recently been founded, has done splendid work in the past,

and still has a brilliant future in which it hopes to materialise certain aims and plans, which will redound greatly to the comfort and protection of all West Indians in the Republic of Panama.

"A Red Cross Society has lately been organised and thus far has proven a splendid success; and if the interest and enthusiasm continue as it has started, it will develop into an organisation of which the public in general will be proud.

Two Evils awaiting Remedy.

"We note, however (adds *The Workman*) two great disadvantages under which West Indians labour at the present time. The first is the small wage scale, the second is the sanitation of the houses.

"Owing to the existence of the present war, food-stuffs and other articles necessary to the existence and maintenance of life have been doubled, and in some cases tripled in prices; but the wages of the poor West Indians remain just the same. The wages of the gold employees of the Panama Canal rise and are advanced as fast as living expenses are increased, so that these employees are enabled to keep up with conditions; but the poor West Indian employees must remain where they have always been and are yet expected to bridge the chasm of prices which is day by day expanding. We know the time is not far off when a collapse must come, and they will fall in. It is a known fact capable of withstanding successful contradiction, that there are West Indian families on the Isthmus to-day who fall far short of having in their homes the ordinary necessities of life for keeping body together.

Increased Salaries Needed.

"We think that such a state of affairs will not continue under a government known for its benevolence, and if it is reasonably possible, some steps should be taken in the name of humanity to remedy the financial embarrassment in which the West Indians are now placed, by giving an adequate increase in salaries.

"The sanitary authorities ought to exercise a greater amount of supervision over the construction of houses, to see that they are built in such a manner as will afford proper ventilation and admit sunlight. The toilet accommodation should also be a subject of great scrutiny, and instead of having from ten to fourteen rooms with only one bath and toilet, there should be a change of construction, permitting six, or at most eight.

"The landlords, despite the reduction in the scale of wages and the scarcity of work, are still exacting exorbitant rents, and they can easily provide proper and healthy facilities for the occupants of their buildings.

"There is no doubt, but that the West Indians on the Isthmus of Panama, as a whole, have given satisfaction to the various governments under which they live and have always shown themselves to be law-abiding. They do not make unreasonable requests, but what they do ask is that they be considered as a people among other people, and that when the luxuries of others are in contemplation, the necessities of the West Indians be also considered."

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—Crop Prospects.

October has given us very reasonable and heavy rains, although in St. Lucy's parish there has been less than in other districts, and the canes there are still in need of additional moisture. In other parts of the Island (says the *Globe*) the cane crops have entirely recovered from the effects of the drought in the early part of the year, and are well up to the average. The forecasts vary considerably, and not only are the effects of the drought to be discounted, but the supplying of manure was also reduced from one cause or another, and the yield on different plantations will be differently affected. It is a fairly general opinion that the crop will not be above the average of medium years. Another tribute to the climate of the Island is furnished by the case of Mary Ann Bates, who has just passed away at the advanced age of 96. This elderly lady was a staunch member of the Wesleyan community and a worshipper at Belmont Church for a period of seventy years.

The estate known as Mount All, situate in St. Andrew, has been sold to Mr. George S. Manning, of the firm of Messrs. Da Costa & Co., for the sum of £1,720. The estate known as Retreat, St. Joseph, has also been sold to Mr. E. T. Cox, of Castle Grant, St. Joseph, for the sum of £10,150.

BERMUDA—Bishop's Resignation.

It is officially announced that the Right Rev. Llewellyn Jones, D.D., has resigned the Bishopric of Bermuda, his resignation having been received by the last mail from Halifax. It appears that although His Lordship resigned the Bishopric of Newfoundland in July last, he had hoped to regain his strength sufficiently to retain the Bishopric of Bermuda.

The prorogation of the Colonial Parliament was a ceremony of unusual interest, being the first ceremony at which the newly appointed Governor, the famous soldier, General Sir James Willcocks, had officiated. In the course of his speech, the Governor said: The general financial outlook is fraught with considerable anxiety, and I regret that in the interests of economy it has been necessary to suspend the progress of important works of public utility.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Bishop Enthroned.

The Cathedral at Belize was crowded on October 12th, when the Rt. Rev. Edward Arthur Dunn, D.D., was enthroned as Bishop of Honduras. It was an imposing ceremony at which the lesson was read by the Acting Governor.

Loyal Park was the scene of some festivity on Saturday October 27th, when the Union Jack was hoisted over the new St. John's College. The ceremony was performed by the Acting Governor (Mr. Walton), in the presence of a notable company which included the Bishop of Honduras the Bishop of Atriachs (head of the Roman Catholic Mission in Belize), the Chief Justice, Acting Colonial Secretary, and others.

GRENADA—Compulsory Service.

The Grenada Military Service Ordinance recently passed by the Legislature of that Colony provides that all unmarried men, or widowers without children, as well as men married since the passing of the resolution, who are between the ages of 16 and 41, shall be liable for registration under the new measure. Exemption from service can only be obtained by reason of (1) ill-health or infirmity; (2) the possibility of serious hardship arising out of exceptional financial business obligations or domestic position; (3) it being expedient in the interests of the Colony.

JAMAICA—A Loss to the Island.

Widespread regret has been aroused by the death of the Rev. Philip Williams, secretary of the Jamaica Baptist Union. As an educationist and as an organiser, Mr. Williams was widely esteemed. Says the *Chronicle*:

"The deceased has spent a life of usefulness and has had the last call, but his work, his life, his example, will ever live and rest in the hearts and memories of his friends and acquaintances, his colleagues in the ministry and the large congregation among whom he laboured so faithfully for over forty years."

The Island of Jamaica, says the *Boston Chronicle*, offers an attractive market for American shoe manufacturers, as the products of the country, such as sugar, pimento, honey, coffee, cocoa, and logwood are now selling at good prices and imported goods are more generally purchased than before, according to Uncle Sam's bureau of commerce.

It is a rather small market, however, for although the population of Jamaica is 850,000, the sale of imported shoes is restricted to about 100,000 of that number, which includes the 18,000 white persons on the island.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The hurricane of September was of most intense violence, and certainly greater than that of 1903, by which all recent visitations have been gauged. Judging from the terrible destruction wrought in the parishes of St. Thomas and Portland, where coco-nut trees in their thousands were up-rooted or snapped off like twigs, substantial buildings laid flat, and practically every leaf stripped from the vegetation, there would have been little hope for Kingston, or in fact, any other part of the island had the centre passed a few miles further South than it did.

Up to the date of the storm activity in the fruit business was quite pronounced, but since then it has practically ceased. It is likely, however, that shipments of bananas will be resumed in a short time from the Central and Western parishes, which only suffered to a small extent, and in respect to the crops then on the trees. The damage to the banana crops has given further stimulus to the agitation for the erection of central factories and for the extension of sugar cultivation in Jamaica, and it has been suggested that a deputation be sent to England to confer with the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this subject. No definite action has however been taken. Permission for the exportation, only under satisfactory guarantees and under special conditions, to the United States, of various Jamaica products, including beeswax, logwood, lignum vitæ, old metals, hides, skins, copra, etc., was announced in the *Gazette* on the first.

The customs receipts for the first five months of the financial year amounted to £161,288, as compared with £194,932 for the corresponding period of last year, or a falling off of £33,644.

A wreck, resulting in the death of two persons and the injury of several others, occurred on the Port Antonio Section of the Jamaica Government Railway on the 11th. The Jamaica Shoe and Leather Company is now under new management, and it is understood that Messrs. Grace, Ltd., have acquired an interest in this concern. Returns for registration under the Military Service Law have now been published and show that, in all, 142,042 men have registered, 14,543 of whom are in Kingston.

During Sir William Manning's absence, Hon. Robt. Johnstone, C.M.G., is administering the Government. Messrs. Maxwell-Hall and G. A. Rock, Government Meteorologist and Government Electrical Inspector, respectively, have returned to Jamaica after a short absence abroad. News reached Jamaica this month of the deaths of Lieut. Richard Miles, son of the Hon. A. H. Miles, Collector General, who died of wounds received in action in France on August 17th, and of Mr. I. H. Campbell, son of Mr. Dugald Campbell, of Rose Hall, Linstead, who died in Salonica on August 29th. Captain Lewis Anderston, R.A.M.C., has been awarded the D.S.O. for bravery.

ST. LUCIA—Education Commission Appointed.

The appointment is gazetted of a Commission to enquire into the educational system of the Colony. Administrative organisation, finance, the sufficiency or otherwise of the existing number of schools, the pay and pensions of teachers, their training and qualifications, the health and attendance of pupils, are among the points to be considered. The Commission will also recommend whether or not any amendment is desirable in the curriculum of primary schools, and what measures should be adopted to bridge the gap between primary and secondary education.

ST. VINCENT—Revenue Returns.

The Report of the Treasury Department for 1916-17, published in the *Official Gazette*, shows that the total revenue amounted to £85,242. The lowest item, Customs (£13,903), shows a decline of £1,096. Expenditure amounted to £36,138. Imports for the calendar year amounted to £92,331—an advance on the previous year of £1,439. The value of the exports stands at £97,860. The latest mail advices state that on October 17, in response to an appeal from the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John, a special effort was to be made to raise contributions. A garden party was to be held in the grounds of the Court House in Kingstown and sports for juveniles were being arranged. The matter was in the hands of a committee of ladies, presided over by Mrs. Carden Hutchinson, consisting of:—Mrs. J. H. Aikman, Mrs. E. Biddy, Mrs. R. A. Cock, Mrs. C. H. Durrant, Mrs. J. M. Joseph, Miss A. MacKie, Mrs. T. Osment, Mrs. C. J. Simmons, and Mrs. E. A. Turpin.

TRINIDAD—Care for Discharged Men.

The Colony is taking timely action in the matter of care for local men who have been discharged from the British West Indies Regiment. A Central Authority has been constituted to consider in what manner assistance can best be given to such men. The Authority consists of Mr. George F. Huggins (Chairman), the Hon. W. G. Kay, Mr. D. M. Hahn, Major G. Bennett (Salvation Army), Mr. H. S. Fuller, Mr. Henry C. Warner, and Mr. J. B. L. Todd.

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

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	1,288,346
Total for September	1,288,346
Shipped previously	65,009,986
Total from January 1st	66,298,332
To same date 1916	49,718,564
" " 1915	43,684,913
" " 1914	59,870,569
" " 1913	44,915,936
" " 1912	39,063,198
" " 1911	41,523,273
" " 1910	47,755,713
" " 1909	40,801,845
" " 1908	35,471,115
" " 1907	31,308,624

BIRTHS.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Hall.—On the 22nd November, at 14, Carlisle Road, Hove, the wife of Edwin J. Hall, of 1, Southwood Lawn Road, Highgate—a son.

Leech.—On the 18th November, at High Elms Nursing Home, Manchester, Mary (nee Walder), the wife of Captain E. B. Leech, R.A.M.C., of a daughter. (Jamaica and Indian papers, please copy.)

MARRIAGE.

Woods—Perkins.—On November 17th, at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon, by the Vicar, Canon J. Allen Bell, Flight-Lieut. Norman E. Woods, R.N., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Woods, "Rangiora," Arthur Road, Wimbledon Park, to Florence Innes, youngest daughter of H. J. Perkins, I.S.O., F.R.G.S., F.C.S., Surveyor-General British Honduras, and Mrs. Perkins, Dora Road, Wimbledon Park, and grand-daughter of the late Major-General Edward Norman Perkins, Bengal Staff Corps.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.**The Colonial Bank.**

A special general meeting was held on November 14th to pass the following resolutions:—

1. THAT the Capital of the Colonial Bank be increased to £3,000,000 by the creation of 50,000 additional Shares of £20 each and that the Court of Directors be and they are hereby empowered to issue the same at such price and on such terms and as and when they think fit; that in the first instance such Shares be offered to the existing Shareholders at a premium of £2 per Share and that the rights to be attached to all or any of such Shares on the issue thereof may in the discretion of the Court of Directors be as follows, viz:—either (A) that they rank for dividend and otherwise *pari passu* in all respects with the existing Shares, or (B) that the following provisions shall apply

(a) That the available profits of the Bank of each year, which it shall be determined to distribute, shall be appropriated as follows:—

Firstly, in paying a Non-Cumulative Dividend of 7 per cent on the amount paid up on the Shares numbered 1 to 100,000 (hereinafter called "the existing Shares.")

Secondly, in paying a Non-Cumulative Dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the amount paid up on the new Shares.

Thirdly, in paying a further Dividend on the amount paid up on the existing and new Shares *pari passu* up to 3 per cent. per annum.

Fourthly, in paying a further Dividend on the new Shares.

(b) That in the event of winding-up—

(i) No call shall be made on the holders of the existing Shares until the whole of the uncalled Capital of the new Shares has been called up, and so far as the same has been able to be reasonably collected, has been utilised in payment of the Bank's liabilities, and no call shall be made except for the purpose of paying the Bank's liabilities.

(ii) Any assets available for distribution among the Members shall be utilised:—

Firstly, in repaying the Capital paid up on the existing Shares.

Secondly, in repaying the Capital paid up on the new Shares.

Thirdly, in paying a Premium or Bonus of £2 per Share to the holders of the existing Shares.

Fourthly, as to the residue in dividing the same ratably among the holders of the new Shares.

(c) That the holders of the new Shares may consent to the variation of the rights attached to such Shares by an Extraordinary Resolution passed at a separate meeting of such holders, the term "Extraordinary Resolution" having the meaning assigned thereto by the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908

(d) That on a poll a holder of the new Shares shall be entitled to one vote in respect of each such Share held by him, and shall also be entitled to vote on a show of hands or on a poll by proxy.

(e) That the new Shares be called "B" Ordinary Shares.

2. AND THAT the Court of Directors be and they are hereby authorised to pay out of any funds of the Company, not representing the paid-up Capital, such underwriting or other commissions as they think fit, not exceeding the sum of five shillings per Share.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Beaverbrook (chairman), presiding, said: The expansion of the business and the figures of the balance sheet indicate the need for increased capital to provide broader foundations for the growing business of the bank. Until the end of 1915 the bank was confined in its operations to the West Indies and to the commercial development of those islands. On January 1st of last year it was decided to emerge from local restrictions and to seek out in other Colonies of the Empire the benefits which have accrued to the bank and to its customers in the West Indies. By Act of Parliament in 1916 power was obtained to do business in Great Britain and in the Colonies, States and Dependencies of the Empire. The bank immediately availed itself of the extended powers, and opened branches in British West Africa. This development only served to emphasise the limitations which the territorial restrictions had imposed upon the bank. Our clients required facilities for their business in foreign territory. Accordingly, we asked Parliament for wider powers, and the Act of 1917 which authorised us to in-

crease our capital from £2,000,000 to £5,000,000, gave us permission under our Royal Charter and under the authority of Parliament to establish branches and to carry on business in any part of the world. These developments have resulted in great growth. Since the outbreak of war the deposits and current accounts have been doubled, the total assets have been doubled, the branches have been doubled in number and the staff has been doubled. The need for office accommodation at home and abroad is pressing and must be dealt with. Premises, admirably suited for our requirements, at No. 28 and 29, Gracechurch Street, have been purchased. The acquisition involves an outlay of £80,000, apart from the necessary alterations which will have to be made when the war is over. The purchase of sites and the erection of premises in West Africa will also absorb sums which it is difficult to estimate. Twenty-five sites have been acquired in West Africa. Building there is costly, and it is the opinion of the Board that not less than £50,000 will be required in the near future. The Directors hold that premises must be provided out of reserves. It is imperative that, with the increase in capital, there shall be an increase in reserves. The Directors therefore, recommend that the premium on the new shares shall be sufficient to maintain the present proportion of reserve to capital. You have heard the resolutions relating to the increase of capital and to the creation of additional reserves which have been read by the secretary, and which I will not repeat. As to section (c) of Clause 1, dealing with the variation of rights, it is proposed to give authority to the shareholders to alter or vary the rights by an extraordinary resolution passed at a separate meeting of such holders, the term "extraordinary resolution" having the meaning assigned thereto by the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908. It is considered that this Section is desirable in order to provide for the re-organisation of these issues at any time in the future. Section (d) provides that on a poll a holder of the new shares shall be entitled to one vote in respect of each such share held by him, and shall also be entitled to vote on a show of hands or on a poll by proxy. The Charter provides that the existing capital shall carry votes as follows:—At every general meeting of the proprietors every proprietor holding £500 of capital and less than £1,000 shall be entitled to one vote, and holding £1,000 and less than £2,000 two votes, and holding £2,000 and less than £5,000 to three votes, and holding £5,000 or upwards to four votes, and no person shall be entitled to more than four votes, and no person holding less than £500 shall be entitled to any vote or to be present at any general meeting of the Proprietors of the Corporation. Under the Charter the existing shareholders cannot vote by proxy unless they are residing abroad or are Corporations, infants, lunatics, or females. These provisions of the Charter can only be amended by Act of Parliament, and it is the intention of the Directors at a convenient time to apply to Parliament for an amendment of the Charter conferring on the existing capital the same voting rights which it is now proposed to attach to the new capital. I therefore beg to move the first resolution which is before you in the notice of the special general meeting.

The resolution having been seconded by Mr. C. Garney, an amendment was moved by Capt. A. B. Horsley "that the new shares shall rank *pari passu* with the old until such time as Parliament sanction the alteration in the voting powers of the old shares." This was seconded by Mr. Ward, and upon a show of hands declared to be lost. The first resolution was then carried *unanimously* and the second *manuansu*.

Consolidated Rubber and Balata.

The following letter has been addressed, under date November 14th, to the shareholders in the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., which operates in British Guiana:—

"You will remember that at the Annual Meeting held on June 8th, 1917, when the Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916, were presented to the Shareholders, it was resolved that the balance of £12,057 3s. 2d., then available after payment of a dividend to the Preference

Shareholders and interest on the Dividend Funding Warrant Certificates, should be carried forward, subject to any reserves required for writing off Preliminary Expenses, redemption of Dividend Funding Warrant Certificates, Inland Revenue Taxation, and other purposes. It was explained at the meeting that this resolution was necessary in consequence of the basis of assessment for Excess Profits Duty not having at that time been settled, and that an application had been made to the Excess Profits Duty Branch of the Board of Inland Revenue for an increase of the pre-war standard. The result of such application was that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue claimed that this Company was only entitled to a pre-war standard of 6 per cent. in so far as the collection, preparation and sale of balata was concerned. Upon this your Directors appealed to the Board of Referees, and a preliminary hearing before that body took place on Oct. 9th last, when arrangements were made for the submission of evidence in support of the Company's claim. Proofs of evidence were accordingly prepared and presented to the Board of Referees and the Company's case was finally heard on Wednesday the 7th inst. The Directors have pleasure in informing the Shareholders that in view of the strong case presented on behalf of the Company, the Board of Referees have made an order increasing the pre-war standard to the same rate as that applicable to rubber companies, viz.: 10 per cent., to take effect as from the commencement of the war. This outstanding question having thus been adjusted, the Directors are now in a position to deal with the balance of £12,057 3s. 2d., which, as above-mentioned, was temporarily carried forward. After careful consideration they have decided to allocate this sum as under:—

	£	s.	d.
To writing off Preliminary Expenses	4,000	0	0
To redemption of Dividend Funding Warrant Certificates	4,100	0	0
To the payment of an Interim Dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. (free of tax) to the Ordinary Shareholders, absorbing	2,478	16	3
and to carrying forward a Balance of	1,478	6	11
	£12,057	3	2

The Dividend Warrants were posted to the Ordinary Shareholders on the 23rd inst.

SEA ISLAND cotton holds a useful place among the weapons of British warfare at this moment. A telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published in the *Official Gazette* of Barbados, on October 15th, says:—

Owing to difficulties in obtaining sufficient supply for aeronautical purposes, His Majesty's Government find it necessary in Imperial interests to acquire all Sea Island cotton produced in the West Indies. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has, therefore, required the Governor to prohibit the exportation of this cotton with a view to its purchase by the Colonial Government on behalf of the Admiralty. While Mr. Long regrets to interfere with the business arrangements of the agricultural community, he feels that he has no alternative to doing so; and he relies with confidence on the patriotic co-operation of the planters. All Sea Island cotton offered will be bought ginned, baled, and delivered at the port of shipment; and the planters will accordingly be relieved of all difficulties in the provision of tonnage.

The question of price has been the subject of most careful consideration, and the following scale has been fixed:—Ordinary, thirty-six pence per pound; good ordinary, forty pence; superfine, forty-five to fifty pence; according to quality. Stains will be paid for at the market value on arrival in the United Kingdom. Thirty pence per pound unstained and twelve pence stained would be paid on delivery and the balance after grading has been completed in the United Kingdom. If any profit should be made upon cotton not used yet for British Government purposes, such profit would be divided between all the planters *pro rata*.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E C 3

November 29th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$, Consols, 56 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The active campaign for the sale of National War Bonds continues. In the case of Bonds held by *bona fide* residents abroad, the interest is free from all Imperial taxes. The investment should, therefore, make a specially strong appeal to residents in the Colonies.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; R.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

We have with regret to record the death of Mr. H. Windridge, a well-known broker of Mincing Lane, which occurred on November 21st.

At the moment the sugar distribution arrangements are in a state of chaos. The original scheme of registration by households which involved the long suffering grocer in masses of correspondence, has been practically scrapped because those who were responsible for it failed to take into account the large migratory population, and a scheme of ration papers and coupons has been substituted which is likely to flummox the public still further.

The Sugar (Brewers' Restriction) Order prohibits the use by Brewers of any saccharine substance other than solid glucose or the invert or other produce of low-grade cane sugar polarizing not over 89 deg., and from which not less than 40 per cent. of its weight has already been extracted in the form of grocery crystal sugar, honey sugar, or syrup. Brewers are, however, permitted to use their existing stocks of any sugar which was already, at the date of the Order, in transit to them from the manufacturers.

The West India Sugar Statistics in London from January 1st to November 24th, 1917, were—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	76,461	52,246	51,127 Tons.
Deliveries	72,639	54,986	44,959 "
Stock (Nov. 24th)	11,637	8,565	12,177 "

The American Sugar Refining Company has made a contract with a committee representing the Louisiana Planters for the purchase of 100,000 tons of raw sugar at a price which works out at 6.225 cents delivered New Orleans.

Messrs. Willett & Gray give an early estimate of 3,200,000 tons for the coming Cuban crop. They estimate the world's production of sugar for 1917-18 at 16,806,500 tons, (comprising 12,070,000 tons of cane and 4,736,500 tons of beet, against 16,535,778 tons actual for 1916-17 and 16,550,714 tons for 1915-16). They place the European beet crops at 3,849,000 tons for 1917-18 against 4,555,407 tons for the preceding year.

The International Sugar Committee has issued an official statement from its offices at 111, Wall Street, New York, and signed by Mr. Henry C. Mott, its agent, for purchasing raw sugar, to the effect that it is its intention to respect and not to disturb the channels through which purchases of sugar have hitherto been made either for the United States or for the European Allies, and to continue the intermediary of brokers and agencies as heretofore. This will be reassuring to merchants and brokers in Canada as elsewhere who feared that their interests would be overlooked. The Committee, on October 30th, fixed the basis of price for 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ centrifugals, delivered duty paid New York, at 6.90 c. until further notice.

RUM. The market remains firm. The stocks in London on November 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	8,132	10,586	6,539 puns.
Demerara	7,373	11,396	4,546 "
Total of all kinds	24,542	36,741	22,352 "

CACAO. It is understood that the request recently made by the West India Committee that shipments allowed to be made to this market next year may be made as from January 1st next instead of February 23rd, have been acceded to. The stocks in London on November 24th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	20,649	19,418	8,884 bags.
Grenada	21,281	11,692	1,695 "
Total of all kinds	236,921	215,879	107,345 "

Prices current include Trinidad middling red, 93/- to 94/-; good middling red 95/- to 96/-; and fine to superior 97/- to 99/-; Grenada fair 82/- to 87/-, fine 89/- to 94/-; Jamaica fair 74/- to 77/-, fine 90/- to 92/-; St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Dominica, 74/- to 92/-.

It is understood that the Food Controller proposes to fix maximum prices for cocoa and coffee.

COTTON. In the week ended November 15th, 124 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, bringing the total imported during the 46 weeks of the present year to that date to 1,920 bales. As announced on another page, the Admiralty have commandeered all ordinary West Indian Sea Island cotton at 36d. flat in the West Indies. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that good ordinary is quoted at 46d., and superfine St. Vincent at 45d. to 50d.

COPRA. The market is very firm with buyers at £46 c.i.f. London, and £46 18s. c.i.f. Liverpool, net cash, delivered weights.

ARROWROOT steady. St. Vincent has sold at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6d. for common manufacturing to fine.

HONEY. has continued to advance. At auctions, Jamaica liquid dark to pale amber, 112/- to 121/-. Dark to pale set, 108/- to 131/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, firm with small sales up to 17/6. Distilled, practically no demand. Lime Juice: Concentrated, quiet, market tending lower; Raw, quiet; Common to fair, 2/- to 3/-; Citrate quiet.

PIMENTO. A good business has been done at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4d. per lb.

TAMARINDS. 150 barrels West India sold at 35/6 to 39/- per cwt. in bond; but imports are now prohibited.

W.I. SPICES. Both Nutmegs and Mace are firm. Large shipments are on the water per s.s. *Spheroid*, and when marketed are likely to bring high prices.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuelan block 3/3 $\frac{1}{2}$, spot. Panama block firmer—forward, 2/8 $\frac{1}{2}$, spot 2/10 to 2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$; West Indian sheet, spot 3/11 to 4/-; forward 3/9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4/10.

THE other day it was stated definitely that the Navy and Army Canteen Committee had lately sold on the market part of a consignment of 1,000 cases of desiccated coco-nut which they took over from a firm of merchants towards the end of May at 60s. a case. The price of the coco-nut is now about 100s. a case, and although this price was not secured, it is believed that the Committee made a very handsome profit on the transaction. Merchants declare that licences to import the coco-nut are now granted to the Committee only, and they contend that, in order to prevent what they describe as "State profiteering," licences should be issued to the Committee only in respect of its actual requirements. They state (says the *Times*) that in other instances the Committee has bought larger quantities of commodities than it actually required, and has then sold the surplus to the public at a large profit.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXII.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6647 CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

December 13th, 1917.

The Halifax Disaster.

THE almost unimaginable disaster which overtook the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, on December 7th, when a great part of that city was destroyed, thousands of lives were lost, and tens of thousands rendered homeless, will assuredly awaken throughout the West Indies a spontaneous outburst of sorrow and of sympathy with the stricken Province, and in particular with the relatives of the victims. By none will the horrors of the catastrophe be more vividly realised than by the people of our Caribbean possessions, who have so often experienced the sufferings of earthquake, volcanic eruptions, and hurricane. But to be temporarily homeless in a tropical land can bear no comparison with the hardships of being destitute in a wrecked city under Arctic conditions. Well may West Indians say, with Dido, "non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco." Every one of our readers will assuredly endorse the message sent by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to the Premier of Nova Scotia, and in no wise can that endorsement be more effectively made than by generous support to the Mansion House Fund which has been opened for the relief of the sufferers. Not only was Halifax, in its mode of life, perhaps the most British of cities in the New World; it was also the heart of a colony populated in great measure by the descendants of

the loyalists of New England, and yielding to no part of His Majesty's Overseas Dominions in fervid loyalty to the Motherland. How many of our readers, moreover, can bear testimony to the warm-hearted hospitality of the Haligonians? As we are reminded by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE'S resolution, Nova Scotia and the British West Indies are bound together by many ties—historic and otherwise. Halifax has for very many years been the chief centre of West Indian trade in the Dominion, and it has among its residents several prominent West India merchants. It is, too, the Canadian headquarters of one of their cable companies and of the mail service between Canada and Jamaica. It has, moreover, two refineries—one in the city itself and the other at Dartmouth, across the harbour—which are largely kept running with West Indian sugar. What their fate has been it is too early yet to say, but it is feared that the Richmond Refinery is completely wrecked. We fear also that the wharves from which salt fish and flour were shipped to the West Indies have shared the same fate. Apart from the question of trade, the historic and social connections between Halifax and the West Indies are many. In olden days, Governors of the West Indian Islands, at the expiration of their terms of office, frequently represented their Sovereign in Nova Scotia, and vice versa—as, for example, SIR GEORGE PREVOST, of Dominica fame—and we are reminded that the DUKE OF KENT, great-grandfather of our present KING, who hoisted the English colours on the Manse Fort in St. Lucia on April 4th, 1794, was Commander of the garrison at Halifax from that year until 1797. Incidentally it may be recalled in this connection that in the erection of the citadel which proudly overlooks the superb Harbour of Halifax, His Royal Highness employed five hundred maroons who had been exiled from Jamaica to Nova Scotia after one of the Maroon Wars in that island. The maroons did not stay, but there is a considerable number of coloured citizens in Nova Scotia mostly deriving from immigrants from Jamaica, New Providence, and other West Indian islands. In the past the people of Canada have liberally helped the West Indies when those colonies have been visited with one of the cataclysms of nature to which, unfortunately, they are occasionally subject. The least that we can do in re-

turn is to extend reciprocal assistance to Halifax in her trouble, and we hope that every individual reader of the CIRCULAR will help to swell the Mansion House Fund, which the KING has generously headed with a subscription of £1,000.

West India Committee and Cacao.

FOLLOWING the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE's deputation to the Colonial Office, and their letter to the SECRETARY OF STATE which was published in our issue of October 18th, the Board of Trade has acceded to the request that the year during which the 50 per cent. of the 1916 imports of cacao may be made shall start from January 1st instead of February 23rd, the date of the original Prohibition Order. Elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR we publish a letter from the Colonial Office conveying to the Committee this important information, which has also been communicated to the Colonies concerned by cable. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, at the instance of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in securing the permission of the Shipping Controller for a steamer to be loaded at Port of Spain with cacao for France, from which Trinidad in particular, and indirectly all the other cacao producing colonies in the West Indies, benefited; and now they have been able to render further signal service to the cacao industry. When cacao is reaped it rapidly deteriorates, and the Colonial Office and the Board of Trade, to whom thanks are also due, were not slow to appreciate the force of the arguments which were put forward by the Committee, and approached the matter in a businesslike spirit, which is refreshing in Government Departments. They even went further than had been hoped, and it will be noted with satisfaction that instructions have been issued for licences to be granted immediately, so that cacao can already be shipped provided that it is for importation not before January 1st. It may be recalled that when the Prohibition Order was first issued, the Committee arrived at the decision that in view of the gravity of the tonnage question they could not do otherwise than support the Government. This they have since consistently done, and it is perhaps due to their attitude that the authorities have been so willing to consider any suggestions for the reasonable modification of the regulations which have been put forward. When the Order first came into force it was proposed that the licences in respect of the 50 per cent. of colonial cacao to be imported should be granted to the importers in proportion to the amount which they imported in the preceding year, but we recognised that this would lead to obvious difficulties, and it was decided that instead, licences should be given to the exporters by the various local Governments, which was certainly a more equitable arrangement.

Complaints have been made that some planters have not been afforded an opportunity of contributing their fair share to the quota, but it is clear that this is not a matter which the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE can take up on this side. It is one for the attention of the local agricultural and commercial bodies to discuss with their Governments. In concluding this article we may perhaps be pardoned, while taking credit for the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in securing a valuable concession, in again emphasising the value of co-operation. In making their representations, the Committee were backed up by the planters and merchants in Grenada and Trinidad, and we would urge the agricultural and commercial bodies in all the West Indian Colonies to bring matters calling for Government action in this country before the notice of the Committee, which is here to give them assistance and support.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and of interest to West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE, formerly Governor of Trinidad, has been appointed a member of the Appeal Tribunal for the County of London.

THE Governor of Bermuda, in his speech at the closing of the Session on October 16th, eulogised the work of the Bermuda Contingent Committee under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Rippon.

THE deepest sympathy of his many West Indian and other friends will be felt for Sir Gilbert Carter, late Governor of Barbados, in his bereavement. Sir Gilbert's eldest son, Otto Gilbert, of the West African Civil Service, lost his life at sea, through enemy action on November 28th.

RECRUITING amongst West Indians in Panama is going ahead merrily. Begun only a few months ago, the campaign is being waged vigorously and up to the present (says *The West Indian*, Grenada), 1,658 men have joined up. Of these 562 are from Panama, 946 from Colon and 105 from Bocas.

FROM January 1st to October 31st last, 27,512,572 gallons of oil were shipped from Trinidad, as compared with 27,254,396 gallons for the same period in the previous year. In October the shipments were double those of the same month in 1916, and the industry would expand rapidly if more tankers were available.

OUR sugar ran down to from four or five days' supply in May last, according to a statement made by Sir Charles Bathurst on November 30th. He added that there was now over eight weeks' supply in the country, and he proposed to make a special

allocation of 40,000 tons next year for preserving home-grown fruit and for preparing condensed milk.

* * *

The Barbados Oil and Development Syndicate, Ltd., is the name of a company registered in Barbados, with a capital of £25,000 in 1,000 ordinary shares of £25 each, to bore for oil in Barbados. The Directors are Hon. Sir William Chandler, D.Sc., Hon. G. Laurie Pile, Hon. James Chancellor Lynch, Mr. Samuel Manning, Mr. S. C. Thorne, Mr. Joseph Connell, and Mr. Torrance S. Skeete, and the Secretary *pro tem.* is Mr. George B. Evelyn, 17, High Street, Bridgetown, Barbados.

* * *

A WELL attended sale of work, under the auspices of the Countess of Stamford, in aid of the Pongas Mission in Western Africa, was held on November 15th, by the kind permission of Lady Davson, at 20, Eunismore Gardens, S.W. The sale was opened by Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Windward Islands, who testified to the good work achieved in West Africa by the Mission. Dr. H. Wolseley, Chairman and Secretary to the Association, gave an interesting account of the history of the Society. He said that in the year 1855 Bishop Rawle, of Barbados, started the Mission. The missionaries were men of African descent and as far as possible drawn from the West Indies, and in the majority of cases, educated at Codrington College, Barbados.

The influence of these devoted men has been far-reaching. It has assisted the extinction of the foreign slave trade; the civilisation of the coast, and opening of the rivers to trade, the building of churches, mission houses, etc., and the improvement in dress, cultivation of soil, etc. The Mission is in need of substantial support, and it is hoped that readers of the CIRCULAR may see their way to give some substantial help towards the maintenance of the work. Among those present at the recent Sale were the Countess of Stamford, Sir James and Lady Hayes-Sadler, Lady Sendall, Lady Davson, Lady Jane Grey, the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Sir William Trollope, Mrs. John Bromley, Mrs. Gordon Leggatt, Mrs. and the Misses Isaacson, Dr. and Mrs. Wolseley, Mrs. Theobald, Mrs. Tennent, Miss Hill, and Miss Jackson.

* * *

The *Agricultural News* publishes some cogent remarks on the importance of increased food production—a question which it rightly says is a pressing one in almost every country of the world. It adds:—

"It is being met in England by a very large increase in the acreage put under food crops. In the West Indies it will have to be met in a similar way. Owing to the shortage of ships, and the expanding rates of freight consequent thereon, the price of imported articles of food has gone up immensely in these islands since the war began. The price of sugar has risen even higher in proportion, but it will not be wise, therefore, for the sugar planter to continue in, or return to, his neglect of food products. It would probably make for the advantage of the planter both pecuniarily and with regard to his being able to secure a supply of contented labour, to pay attention to raising foodcrops in order that the labourers may obtain cheap and wholesome food."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Lansdowne Bomb-shell.

Lord Lansdowne, who, until a year ago, was a member of the British War Cabinet, was Minister of War and then Foreign Secretary in the Balfour Government, and was a leading figure in the National Councils for over twenty years, has seen fit to write a letter, which ranges him definitely on the side of the Pacifists. Evidently he is so lacking in nerve that the ruin wrought by the war has thrown him into a panic. True, he wants reparation, but it would not trouble him if it were "incomplete." Hence he says nothing of Alsace-Lorraine, the Trentino, or Serbia. He also wants security, which is to depend upon "a solemn pact" entered into by the Powers, Germany included. But he omits to inform us how this "solemn pact" is to be kept, when to her it would be "a scrap of paper." To induce her to sign it we are to give her a free hand in the Near East, so as to enable her to carry out the Mittel Europa ideal, and to accept the principles underlying the phrase, "freedom of the seas," which would be subversive of British sea-power. It is the danegeld policy as opposed to the policy of decisive victory, and, if adopted, would be a practical surrender to the enemy. No wonder the letter has heartened him as much as it has disheartened our Allies, who are stupefied that a British statesman in a position so exalted as Lord Lansdowne should have lent his authority to views associated with the Stockholm Conference, Russian Revolutionaries, and Pacifists everywhere. The letter has been repudiated by members of the War Cabinet as a "national misfortune." But we deceive ourselves if we believe that he speaks only for himself. There is a strong minority in this country, which has powerful organs in the Press. It has no sense of realities, it is tired of the war, and is certain if the representatives of the Allies could only talk somewhere about something peace would be ours for the asking. Just such a minority has brought Russia to chaos, Italy to disaster, France to deal with the canker of Boloism. The Prime Minister has warned us that this country is confronted by a similar danger. That Lord Lansdowne should have given it impetus is a judgment upon us for having put our trust in statesmen of his type for two generations.

America and the War.

The United States has at last declared war on Austria-Hungary, in order to prosecute the war with greater vigour. In asking the consent of Congress for the step, President Wilson, not for the first time, defined the aims of the Allies with a lucidity and precision no European statesman has yet rivalled. He made it clear, too, that peace negotiations must be based upon realities and not upon hopes, and the essential preliminary, the complete defeat of the enemy's military forces. Afterwards, if the German people show no sign that they desire to be considered apart from their rulers, Germany must be kept outside the League of Nations and denied the privileges thereof. President Wilson seems to combine high purpose with judgment, foresight, determination,

and an unclouded understanding in devising and carrying out the policy of his country as one of the Allies. Is it because he has, as President of the United States, more power than the Prime Minister either in England or France? But what does he mean by "the freedom of the seas?" He has never yet told us.

Meanwhile the United States is pushing forward strenuously her military preparations for despatching in the spring American armies to European battlefields, and the construction of merchantmen and warships. She has also given another turn to the blockade screw in regulating by licence her imports as well as her exports. That is to say, no neutral trader can send to her ports any articles or commodities without first satisfying the American Trade Board that it is essential to American consumption, and obtaining a permit for their passage through the Customs. This step will operate in two ways, it will release tonnage for Allied necessities, and it will tend to force neutrals adjacent to Germany to drive harder bargains with the enemy when he demands food-stuffs in exchange for his own raw materials.

The Ordeal on the Western Front.

For ten days after the victorious advance of the British, in the course of which the enemy lost the principal tactical points before Cambrai, there was heavy fighting, but it was merely cover on his part for elaborate preparations to launch a great counter-attack. The object of this was the recovery of Bourlon Wood, on which our guns dominated the whole of the communications centred on Cambrai, and of the ground between Fontaine and Mœuvres to the south-west of the Bourlon Wood, on which our guns dominated the famous Drocourt-Queant switch line covering Douai and the railway communications with Lille and Belgium. To acquiesce in this position would have meant a German retirement from Cambrai and of the whole defensive system up to Lille. Hence when the enemy finally attacked he hurled masses of infantry against the British line, such as have not been seen on the West for a long time. Tactically, the operation was well conceived and carried out. There was no preliminary bombardment, and the utmost advantage was taken of our salient position, whose restricted area prevented us from concentrating men and guns in sufficient force, whereas the Germans had freedom to concentrate both and subject our troops to enfilading fire. The attack, which aimed at envelopment, so as to drive in our centre, was directed against our flanks, on the left being designed as a feint, the real objective being Bourlon Wood on the right. These tactics, which included the element of surprise, partly succeeded, but at enormous cost to the enemy in losses. In the south he swept past Connelieu to the capture of La Vacquerie, which he only held temporarily, and Lateau Wood, together with the bridgehead at Masineres, next to Bourlon Wood, the most important tactical point on this front. On the north our troops resisted the German onset with superb gallantry, but, apparently, the General Staff regarded the position as too costly to hold, a retirement being effected without the knowledge of the Ger-

mans and without a single casualty. The result is that while they have saved Cambrai for the present they have not closed the big gap made in the Hindenburg Line on November 20th and 21st.

On the Italian Front.

The worst of the danger in Italy is over. Owing to fine leadership and the quality of the rank and file the Italians have held the line of the Piave, assisted by British monitors, armed with guns, whose range is ten miles, while the Franco-British Contingents have been taking up their position. The difficulty has been the transport of the guns, ammunition, equipment, supplies and the vast volume of impedimenta which is essential to the success of modern military operations. Unfortunately for our Ally, the season is unusually mild, so that snow has not yet come to end Austro-German efforts to arrive at a decision in this theatre of the war before the arrival of "general winter." According to the latest news the enemy is making a determined attack on the mountain fortresses at the edge of the Asiago plateau. On the slopes of Monte Sisemol and Melette di Gallio he was repulsed in violent hand-to-hand fighting, but succeeded, by a concentration of forces and metal, in compelling the Italians to withdraw from their advanced trenches between Monte Londarecar and Monte Badenecche.

In the Near East.

General Allenby has quickly organised his resources for a fresh effort. The Turkish Army to the south-east of Jerusalem, which suffered least from our swift advance, has lost Hebron, thereby uncovering the road to Jerusalem, a fact not so much of military as of political importance. In Mesopotamia General Marshall is driving the Turks northward from Baghdad, and the Russian Army in the Caucasus, while holding Armenia, is scoring considerable success on the Diala River, a tributary of the Tigris. Thus the Turks are losing ground on three wide fronts, and still Falkenhayn does not show his hand.

The Betrayal of Russia.

Lenin, Trotzky, and Ensign Krylenko, who venture to represent the majesty of a great Empire, have met in conference distinguished German Generals at some point on the northern front, with a view to arranging an armistice. In pursuance of democratic ideals the details are published to the world, in spite of the fact that they must be disillusioning to the Russian extremists. Germany declines to withdraw her naval forces from the Gulf of Finland; to consider the "no indemnity, no annexation" formula; to promise that no troops shall be taken from the Eastern to other fronts; or to regard the Leninist armistice as the first step to a general peace. The Bolsheviks, on their side, decline to grant a three months' armistice, and to have gone to Petrograd for seven days in order to consult with their supporters. In the meantime, however, the dissolution of the Russian armies is spreading to the south. The lynching of General Dukhomin by soldiers and sailors, because he refused to represent the Government in arranging an armistice, as it would betray the Allies and reduce Russia to bondage under the

German yoke, is a terrible sidelight in the state of affairs brought about by the Extremists. Fortunately, General Korniloff has escaped to the south, and, no doubt, will join General Kaledin. In the meantime Germany is vastly strengthening her Western line with masses of men drawn from the East, so as to arrive at a decision before the United States is ready, thereby rendering this stage of the war highly critical for the Allies.

Germany loses South Africa.

For months past the British and Belgian forces in the south-west corner of East Africa, still in the enemy's possession, have been narrowing the circle of his operation in, perhaps, as difficult a terrain as there is in the world. With the loss of Mahenge Colonel Tafel was driven to work away from the plateau on which it stands and try to join hands with von Lettow, the Commander-in-Chief of the Colony, who had been shepherded by the British to the Rovuma Valley. But General Northey, by a brilliant stroke, anticipated the move, and prevented the junction of the enemy forces when they were separated by only 50 miles. Colonel Tafel was compelled to surrender with 3,500 men, of whom 111 were Germans, 1,212 native soldiers, and the bulk of the rest carriers. This was followed by the retreat of von Lettow over the Rovuma into Portuguese territory. Germany has thus lost the most important of her Colonies, not only as a reservoir of raw material, but for threatening British sea-power at a vital point.

Air Raid.

After a little over five weeks' respite, 25 hostile machines raided London, the Thames district, and Kentish coast. They tried to deliver five simultaneous attacks on the Capital, but all but six machines were driven back by our gunfire, which, also brought two down. Two more were so damaged that they collided on the way home and were destroyed.

Losses by Submarine Warfare.

Though the average of shipping losses for November is lower than for any month except September since February last, 16 big vessels went down in the week ended December 1st, and one small vessel. The figures for the following week are 14 large and 7 smaller vessels.

Since the above was written, the good news has been received of the capture of Jerusalem by the Allied troops under General Allenby. It will be recalled with pride in this connection that the British West Indies Regiment is taking part in the successful campaign in Palestine.

(To be continued.)

CAPTAIN ARCHIE DE PASS, son of Mr. E. A. de Pass, Chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee of the West India Committee, has been invalided home from Salonika in consequence of an attack of malaria, and is at present at No. 4 London General Military Hospital, Denmark Hill. Captain de Pass is now a Commander in the Royal Flying Corps.

THE BRITISH GUIANA RAILWAY.

MR. BUCK'S ALTERNATIVE SCHEME.

Latest Plans for Colony's Development.

A railway to the interior has been the dream of British Guiana for several decades. Schemes have been prepared, papers have been read, speeches made—but nothing has been done. Apparently the colony is no nearer to-day than it was a generation ago to the realisation of its hopes. It is richer in practical knowledge of the difficulties in the way and of the methods of surmounting them, but the date of actually commencing work upon the railway is still an unknown factor.

Georgetown as the Terminus.

It is to be hoped that it will be brought nearer by the latest and most attractive of the schemes framed thus far. The author of this newest proposal is Mr. G. C. Buck, M.I.C.E., the Colony's Director of Public Works. Mr. Buck takes the report drawn up by Mr. Bland some four years ago, and seeks to improve upon it. The main point of Mr. Buck's scheme is that the hinterland railway should traverse the present route of the Demetara Railway as far as Huntley, a point about thirty-five miles from Georgetown, between the Mahaicony and Abary Creeks, and that it should then proceed across the Berbice Savannahs, striking the line proposed by Mr. Bland at a point approximately forty-eight miles south of Wismar. Georgetown, rather than Wismar—as proposed by Mr. Bland—becomes the terminus of the line. The total length of new construction to bring the railway to Georgetown would be 331 miles, or a saving of a length of nine miles of construction as compared with Mr. Bland's route if carried to Georgetown.

"In my opinion," says Mr. Buck, "it would have been a grave mistake to make a terminal station at or near Wismar or to bring the line there at all." He adds:—

"With an established port at Georgetown, with shipping facilities, why go to the 'back of beyond' and at very great expense and inconvenience to all concerned create another port? Such a proceeding would at once necessitate a line of steamers, with consequent double handling of goods to or from the seaboard of the Colony, and the transference of all passengers and baggage. A few ocean steamers might go to the new port so created, but the majority would stay away and obtain freight elsewhere.

"Again, all this traffic would be carried by water from Wismar to the seaboard, for which the taxpayer has paid nothing, while the existing lines in which he is vitally interested, and for which he pays a large annual sum, would not take one per cent. of the freight. As it is, under the present conditions a very large portion of the coastal trade goes by road instead of by rail, so that no improvement to the railway earnings from the Hinterland Railway could be looked for with its terminus at Wismar."

The present scheme proposes the use of a "steam navy" for the first 30-50 miles of the construction of the earth-work, and that the line shall be laid to the metre gauge. In this connection it is suggested that a third line, giving the metre gauge, shall be laid from Georgetown to Rosignol, leaving the present standard gauge undisturbed. This

would enable trains from the hinterland to divide into two portions at Huntley, one portion going to Georgetown and the other to Rosignol, with a consequent saving in the transfer of goods and passengers and a considerable economy in time.

Bridging of the Berbice River.

"The proposal of a railway to the interior cannot be considered a complete one," proceeds Mr. Buck, "that does not allow for the linking up of the Eastern and Corentyne portions of the Colony with Georgetown and West of Georgetown. The great obstacles to progress without doubt have been and still are the impassable barriers (except by ferry boat) of the Demerara and Berbice Rivers.

"The question of bridging this river is a simple one and presents no engineering difficulties. The distance from the railhead at Rosignol to the north bank of the Canje Creek is 8,000 feet. This line traverses some 1,800 feet of Crab Island and its surrounding mud bank. The reason for choosing the north bank of the Canje Creek is apparent. By so doing, a costly bridge across the creek would be avoided in the event of the railway being extended along the Corentyne Coast, and the construction of such a line has been under consideration for a considerable time.

"A bridge constructed across the Berbice River, with a lifting span giving a clear waterway of 50 feet and a clear headway of 100 feet, would cost (pre-war prices) in timber, with steel lift span some \$77,000; with steel and concrete sub-structure but with timber super-structure, \$99,000; and in ferro-concrete with steel lift span some \$200,000. The foregoing estimates must, however, be regarded as tentative only, pending a careful survey. The river is shallow and, as far as is known, presents no difficulties likely to increase the cost of the work above the normal. Taking the present ferry service as a guide, if a toll corresponding to the present ferry fares was to be charged, the revenue from the bridge, if constructed in ferro-concrete as set out above, would pay at least 6 per cent. on the expenditure. I do not consider it advisable to construct this bridge in anything but ferro-concrete; it might be, however, advisable to put it down in the first place with ferro-concrete sub-structure, but with a timber super-structure, and, as the bridge required maintenance, to gradually substitute a steel super-structure.

"The proposed bridge would be nine feet wide. This would take the train which would cross when other traffic was suspended. Vehicles could, however pass at the same time as pedestrians. The traffic would be controlled by the block system of electric bells operating from each end. The lifting span would be designed with counterpoise weights so that four small electric motors, one operating at each corner of the span would open or raise the bridge at will. The current would be supplied from the New Amsterdam Electric Works, but a hand-gear would be provided in the event of a breakdown. It would probably be advisable to use an embankment across Crab Island, instead of bridge work, but a careful enquiry would easily decide this economical point in the construction. Crab Island

would also provide room for running yards, sidings, etc."

Comparative Cost of Route.

The bridging of the Demerara River, says Mr. Buck, presents many and varied difficulties. Before considering the question the existing railway would have to be taken to a point on the East Bank, somewhere beyond La Penitence. The question of laying another rail on the West Coast line would also have to be considered.

As regards the question of costs, Mr. Buck presents the following comparative figures:—

Mr. Bland's Estimate:—	£
280 miles at £3,500 per mile	980,000
Estimated cost from Wismar to Georgetown	300,000
Total	£1,280,000
Alternative Route—(Bland-Buck)—	
Interior to Huntley—331 miles at £3,500 per mile	1,158,500
Cost of laying single rail from Georgetown to Rosignol	18,000
Bridge across Berbice River	41,666
Cost of Dredger	4,166
Total	£1,222,332

to bring the interior railway to Georgetown and New Amsterdam.

The estimated cost of the Essequibo and Demerara bridges have been included in the foregoing estimates.

"The saving in bridge-work on the route from Huntley to the junction with Mr. Bland's line has obviated any necessity to add any increase above the normal for the Demerara bridge at Mallali.

"We see from the foregoing comparisons that according to Mr. Bland for an expenditure of £980,000, passengers and goods could be brought from the interior to Wismar, but I now consider for an additional expenditure of £242,332, both goods and passengers could be landed in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and any station between these centres, without changing trains."

The report proceeds:—

MR. BLAND'S ROUTE TO WISMAR ONLY.

ADVANTAGES.—(a) Saving in estimated capital expenditure of £200,666, (1) if passengers only proceed to Rosignol, but of £242,332, (2) if the trains cross by the Berbice bridge. (b) Saving of 6 per cent. including sinking fund on one of the foregoing amounts. The difference between them represents the interest charges on the cost of the bridge. (£12,039 (1) and £14,539 (2)).

DISADVANTAGES.—(a) Route will parallel the Essequibo River for a distance of 85 miles.

(b) The terminus being at Wismar will necessitate extensive wharfs, station buildings, and the transfer of all goods and passengers.

(c) No provision has been made for traffic east or west of Georgetown over existing lines.

(d) No communication by rail to any part of the Colony off the route.

(e) The deprivation of the existing lines of all through traffic, although a large guarantee is paid annually.

(f) By establishment of the terminus at Wismar all prospects of a Trans-Continental Railway would be banished.

(g) Great loss of time in reaching Georgetown and coastal towns.

ADVANTAGES OF THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE.

(a) Through communication with Georgetown and all points east thereof to Rosignol and New Amsterdam.

(b) Avoidance of all double handling of goods and transfer of passengers.

(c) The completion of an integral part of the Trans-Continental Railway.

(d) Passing all traffic over existing lines in time from anywhere in the interior to Georgetown and about 6 hours to New Amsterdam, over and above the time that would be required by Mr. Bland's route.

(f) The opening up of some of the finest lands in the Colony between the Abary and the Mahaicony Creeks.

(g) The concentration of railway and steamer traffic at Georgetown, which is the seat of Government and the centre of commerce, and the linking up of New Amsterdam to all parts of the railway system.

(h) The incentive to construct and extend the river wall in front of Georgetown, and thereby immensely improve the port and shipping facilities.

(i) The commencement of a rational and economical railway development which would create confidence and attract capital.

"This is purely one of opinion and is financial only. The amount in excess of Mr. Bland's scheme is set out as the advantage derived by the adoption of that scheme. I think there is little doubt but that the majority of people will agree that if any such scheme of development is ever seriously contemplated in the Colony, the only right way to tackle it must be along the same or parallel lines as set out here.

Commencing Construction.

Mr. Buck concludes, "If the foregoing alternative scheme were once formally approved in principle, in such a manner that any successive Administrations, or compositions of the Combined Court could not upset it, then it would be possible with a comparatively negligible extent of borrowing and a small annual expenditure, to commence the construction of the earth-works. Taking the rate of progress of the dredger at 500 c. yds. per day, and a total of 300 working days throughout the year, it is seen that .3 of the amount of the estimated requisite excavation for the first 50 miles could be completed in one year."

The Only Possible Drawback.

Mr. Buck estimates the working costs at \$28,450 per annum; and he shows that "after the capital expenditure of, say, \$20,000 for the dredger, the earthwork for the first fifteen miles could be completed in the first year for an expenditure of, say, \$30,000, and incidentally a most convenient canal would have been constructed. The only possible drawback to the foregoing is, that it is always economy in railway construction to construct the bridges ahead of the earth-works, but as bridges on this route, as already explained, would be comparatively few and small, the incidence of this charge would remain within the bounds of theory only.

"The item of ten men spreading and shaping may appear small as compared with the amount of material excavated, but it must be remembered that the dredger would place the material where it was required and that the work would solely consist of breaking down the lumps and filling in holes. Weather is the best means of consolidation for a railway embankment that only has to support a vertical downward pressure. With the completion of a cer-

tain length of the earthworks, the railway could be gradually extended from Huntley and used as a very useful feeder to the main artery, and along which cattle, rice and timber could be brought for distribution where required, from the junction. When sufficient new line was completed, it would then be advisable to consider the laying of the third line from Georgetown to Rosignol."

EARLIER CACAO SHIPMENTS.

Concession secured by West India Committee.

The West India Committee has secured a notable concession for West India cacao. The CIRCULAR of October 18th (page 399) published a letter which, following a deputation, they had sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, urging that shipments might be sanctioned before February 23rd, the date fixed by the Import Restrictions Department of the Board of Trade as that for which the quantities to be imported in 1918 might be shipped. It will be noted from Mr. Walter Long's reply, which is now published below, that the Committee's request has been granted. Mr. Long wrote:

Downing Street,

December 4th, 1917.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 5th of October, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to inform you that the Board of Trade have agreed that importation into the United Kingdom of that quantity of British Colonial cacao which will be admissible in respect of the 12 months beginning on 23rd February, 1918, may commence on the 1st of January, 1918, instead of on 23rd February, 1918.

The Governments of the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Trinidad, Jamaica, Ceylon, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands, have accordingly been informed by telegraph that they may issue licences for the exportation of cacao to the United Kingdom (up to the maximum allowed for the 12 months beginning on February 23rd, 1918) for shipment at any time, so long as the vessel will not reach the United Kingdom before the 1st of January, 1918.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

The Secretary,

West India Committee.

G. GRINDLE.

THE rise of the peanut industry in the United States reads like a romance. It may not be generally known that it is due to the depredations of the boll-weevil. That pest rendered the cultivation of sea island cotton unprofitable, if not impossible, in many parts of the Southern States. Thereupon, to quote the "Agwi News," "Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia sent the peanut into the trenches in a mighty counter-attack which spelled prosperity." Texas had 600,000 acres in peanuts this year. Fully three-quarters of the great county of Comanche, formerly given over to King Cotton, now hails the peanut as its principal crop. Similar results obtain elsewhere in the South. The total 1917 yield was about seventy million bushels.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF TRADE.

Parliamentary Committee's Charges.

A Sub-Committee, with Mr. Thomas Lough, M.P., as Chairman, appointed by the Commercial Committee of the House of Commons on various questions relating to Government control of trade has presented a report which follows closely the recommendations made by the London and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce in this connection.

The signatories of the report, besides the Chairman, are: Sir Henry Cowan, Sir W. Howell Davies, Sir Walter Essex, Mr. William Field, Sir Norval Helme, Sir James Hill, Sir Francis Lowe, Sir Edward Parkes, Sir John Randles, Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Samuel Samuel, Mr. Gershom Stewart, Mr. Theodore C. Taylor, and Sir Archibald Williamson.

They find that under the circumstances of the War and the gravely reduced amount of tonnage available, it was right and necessary for the Government to requisition such tonnage as they require. It follows that a certain control of many imports, and especially foodstuffs, became essential. "Where, in our opinion, the Government have erred has been in not taking the necessary steps at an earlier date, and in most cases not employing the existing channels of trade—particularly merchants and distributors—to carry out their purpose. There is much evidence of dissatisfaction over the threatened ruin of business organisations, which, if another course had been followed, might have been avoided. The interests of the country, instead of suffering, would have benefited by the employment of those experienced in the various trades and well equipped with buying organisations abroad, or distributing organisations at home. There seems little doubt that if import merchants and distributors had been more largely employed, they would have given their services and experience, from patriotic motives for an almost nominal consideration, and that if such an arrangement had been adopted, prices in many cases would not have risen as they did. Even now it would be advantageous for the Government to avail itself of the effective co-operation of existing business organisations in the leading trades affected, and we desire to adopt the following portions of a Resolution passed by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on the 2nd October, 1917, viz. :—

"That 'in the interests of national economy and efficiency' we 'protest against Government interference with the legitimate merchant in the pursuit of his business, and demand that the same consideration be accorded to him as is being dealt out to the manufacturer, and would point out and warn the Government that any attempt to eliminate the merchant and the employment of his capital, experience, and technical knowledge in commercial undertakings, will bring disaster to the commercial prestige of the country, and form one of the greatest assets to our enemy that they can desire after the War, and therefore urge the Government to order :—

That such trade or commerce as may meantime be carried on without injury to the Empire's interests, shall be conducted through the existing pre-War channels to the utmost limit possible, and with absolute impartiality.

That merchants shall be represented on all Government Committees where their interests are involved and manufacturers are represented."

Memorandum on Sugar.

Attached to the report are Appendices giving information furnished to the Sub-Committee by "various traders' organisations and individuals," and among them is the following Memorandum regarding sugar, the authorship of which is not disclosed :—

At the outbreak of War, the stocks in the country were small, owing to the fact that, for many years, we had been relying for our supplies upon shipments of Beet Sugar from Germany, Belgium, Austria, Russia, etc. It was not, therefore, customary for the refiners and dealers to hold very large stocks. Upon the outbreak of War a small syndicate was formed which immediately bought up all the free sugar it could lay hands on. The consequence was an enormous rise in the price of sugar, brought about by the action of this speculative syndicate. Consequently, people at once lost their heads, and there was a great outcry (especially by the Labour Members of Parliament) for the Government to intervene and take over the control of sugar. At the same time certain interested people went to the Government and induced it to place the purchases in their hands.

It is believed that no Member of the Committee that was appointed by the Government had any previous experience in this class of business, that is, the buying and shipping of sugar, attending to finance, freight, insurance, and other necessary work incident to a merchant's business. At the same time, the sugar refiners were in rather an awkward position, and, with a rising market, they found themselves in the buying market in competition with the Government. The Government Committee that was appointed rushed in and commenced buying wildly without in any way considering whether it had the ships to carry the sugar, or whether it could arrange for the finance. The consequence was that their first purchases in August, 1914 (we take the basis of Java sugars), were made at 12s. 6d. per cwt. free on board, and by October they drove the price up to 20s. per cwt.

This very considerably frightened the refiners, who were afraid of buying at the high prices, as they thought it probable (in fact it was almost certain) that if the business had been allowed to be carried on through the usual channels prices would have declined. There is no doubt, therefore, that the refiners, wishing to be sure of a profit, helped to decide the Government to take over the whole thing, and to land the sugar that had to be refined to the established factories, paying them (it is said) the high price of 8s. per cwt. for refining. In September, 1914, when the Government thought they had bought up everything in all parts of the world, they realised that there were sources of supply of which they had never heard, but which were known to the merchants.

Before the production of Beet Sugars had attained its present magnitude, imports of sugar were made to this country, not only from Java, but from the Philippines, from China, from the Madras coast, from Mauritius, from the West Indies, and many other countries. It was the Sugar Bounties which ruined the sugar trade of this country originally and brought about the position that we found ourselves in in 1914. A firm forty or fifty years ago imported considerable quantities of China sugars to this country, when there were several refineries in the East End of London round by the London and St. Katherine's Docks. All these were closed down owing to the Sugar Bounties, and thousands of people were thrown out of employment.

When the Government and their advisers found that they had made a mistake, and discovered that it was probable there would be large imports of sugar over and above what they had bought, fearing that their purchases would show a loss, they were induced to prohibit the import of sugar by private firms except under licence. When licences were applied for they were generally refused.

The firm were interested in 12,000 tons of Argentine sugar, and had chartered two steamers, the *Imperial* and the *Wentworth*, both at 20s. per ton, the former for loading the middle of October, the latter for loading the middle of November. The *Imperial* was actually half loaded with sugar when the prohibition came into force. That was the 19th October, 1914. They and their friends had advanced on this sugar £125,000, and they applied to the Government for a permit to import this sugar into the United Kingdom. It was refused. Their friends further offered it to the Government at 22s. per cwt. c.i.f. London, for white Argentine sugar. This also was refused. The reasons, of course, were never given, as a Government Department cannot be expected to give itself away. There were several cases where the regular traders were treated similarly.

In the meantime the freights from the Argentine for grain had gone up to 60s., and as the steamers were chartered specifically for cargoes of sugar the owners refused to allow them to be used for anything else at the same rate. The result of the attitude of the Government was that the *Imperial*, which had on board nearly 3,000 tons of sugar, had to have it discharged again, and the shippers had to re-sell it for another market. This involved them in very heavy losses.

Interference with Trade.

The fact is that the whole of the action of the Government in the matter of sugar (as of other things) has been political. The contention of the merchants (who are neither gamblers nor speculators) is that, had they been allowed to carry on their business in the usual way, the demand and the increase in price which occurred (owing to the action of the Government and the small ring of speculators) would very soon have righted themselves, as the merchants would have brought sugar from all parts of the world. They would not, like the Government, have confined themselves to transport in British steamers. They would have chartered neutral steamers for the transport of sugar, and by this means many steamers which were employed in taking supplies to Germany—American, Norwegian, and Swedish steamers—would, in addition to the British steamers, have been chartered by the British merchants to bring sugar and other produce to this country. The merchants would not have bought the enormous quantity of produce all at one time, as the Government did, and thus send up prices.

As a proof that the action of the Government tended to inflate prices, you only have to look at the position of the Java sugar to-day, three years after the outbreak of the War. Whilst the Government in October, 1914, had sent the price of Java sugar up to over 20s. f.o.b. the same sugar can be bought to-day in Java at 14s. f.o.b. The great difficulty always has been one of transport. Here again, the confusion and muddle have been appalling in the way boats have been utilised—not to the best advantage of the community—by centralising everything. It stands to reason that one man cannot do the work of hundreds—at least—to do it efficiently.

Now, as regards the question of distribution. At first, one gentleman, who had the ear of the Sugar Department, endeavoured to get a monopoly of the distribution. There was a big outcry in the City amongst the dealers and brokers who, for years, had been doing this business and who all had their own connections. They resented (and very rightly resented) the attempt made to rob them of their livelihood. In answer to a deputation, it was decided, after considerable difficulty, that the brokers and dealers were to be allowed to continue to do their business, but the gentleman who had been instrumental in inaugurating the Government interference, was put in a position which enabled him to demand of everybody who came for supplies, the names of their buyers. This action has been, and is still, very much resented by the trade, as it was considered wholly unnecessary that an ordinary member of the trade should be put in a position to learn the business of all his competitors, and, consequently, inflict upon them a great injury in the future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee may be paid at any branch of the Colonial Bank.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

The Committee's Sympathy.

The terrible disaster at Halifax, Nova Scotia, has awakened the deepest sympathy of West Indians alike in the Caribbean and in England. They have learned with genuine sorrow of the heavy loss of life and the enormous material damage occasioned to the city, with which their commercial ties are so strong. This misfortune is especially poignant at a moment when our Canadian fellow-subjects are sharing the stress and strain of war.

Immediately on reading of the collision between two steamers—one loaded with ammunition—which wrecked half the city, the West India Committee sent the following cablegram to the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia:—

"The West India Committee, Incorporated, having in mind historic and present ties between Nova Scotia and British West Indies desire to convey to you and sufferers from the recent disaster in Halifax their sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

(Signed) RUTHERFORD, *Chairman*.
TROTTER, *Deputy Chairman*.
ASPINALL, *Secretary*."

To this message the following reply was received from the Hon. G. H. Murray, LL.D., K.C.:—

"Appreciate sympathetic message.—MURRAY."

The Committee also wrote to the Lord Mayor offering assistance in the event of a Mansion House Fund being opened. The offer was contained in the following letter:—

"MY LORD,

We have learned with satisfaction that it is proposed to open a Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the recent disaster at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

As your lordship is no doubt aware, there has been from the earliest days of settlement a close connection between Nova Scotia and the British West Indies through the interchange of trade, and in the circumstances my Committee would much like to be afforded an opportunity of co-operating with the Mansion House Relief Committee, which they assume, will be set up, and they would be glad to nominate a representative to sit upon it. Further, we shall be pleased to collect from our members subscriptions towards the Mansion House Fund if we may be permitted to do so.

Awaiting a reply,

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servants,

(Signed) R. RUTHERFORD, *Chairman*.
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

RIGHT HON. LORD MAYOR,
Mansion House, E.C.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Dean.—On November 21st, at 32, Ann Street, Edinburgh, a son was born to Dorothy Marion, wife of Lieut. Arthur S. Dean, R.C.N., H.M.S. *Canada*, and youngest daughter of the late Most Rev. William Proctor Swaby, D.D., Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands and Archbishop of the West Indies.

WANT.

Planter, West Indies, Englishman, manager in St. Lucia for sixteen years, requires position as Manager.—Apply to George Dennehy, 28, Gwynne Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

WEST INDIAN HARBOURS.

Possibilities of Improvement.

The Dominion Royal Commission have prepared and issued as a Blue Book memoranda and tables regarding the chief harbours of the Empire. Included in the Return are interesting data concerning the harbours of Castries (St. Lucia), Kingston (Jamaica) and Port-of-Spain (Trinidad).

A Leading Question.

The information has been supplied in answer to questions, of which the most important is the following:—

(1) Can the depth of water (a) at the entrance and in the approach channel—(b) in the case of enclosed docks, at the entrance lock, if any, of any important dock or docks—(c) at the principal berths—be deepened to 40 feet at L.W.O.S.T. (in the case of berths at enclosed docks, H.W.O.N.T.), and can accommodation be provided for vessels 1,000 feet in length and 100 feet in beam?

If not, to what extent can deepening be effected, and for vessels of what dimensions (length, draught, and beam at that draught) can accommodation be provided?

(2) In what period?

(3) At what approximate cost—(a) for the entrance and approach channel? (b) in the case of enclosed docks for the entrance lock, if any, of such important dock or docks? (c) for the principal berths?

What St. Lucia could do.

The answer in the case of Castries was as follows:

(a) It is not necessary to increase the depth of the entrance and in the approach to the channel, where there is already over 40 feet of water. (b) No enclosed dock. (c) The Consulting Engineers advised on several occasions in past years against deepening the present berthing accommodation beyond its existing depth of 27 feet, but no examination of the wharf foundation conditions has been made since 1902, and it is now thought that it may be possible to deepen the northern wharf to 30 feet with safety.

Estimates for a scheme for providing accommodation off Point Bananes for ships of 40 feet draught were prepared in 1908, and showed a cost of £90,000, exclusive of dredging. Another estimate was made at the same time for 34 feet berthing accommodation at the same place at a cost of £55,000, exclusive of dredging. In 1902-3 it was estimated that it would cost £50,000 to deepen the harbour to 30 feet where needed, the dredging to take 3½ years to complete. A proposal has also been made to provide berthing accommodation for ships of 35 feet to 40 feet draught off Commissariat Point; no estimate of cost has been prepared.

Any of the above schemes would provide the necessary wharf accommodation for a vessel 1,000 feet in length and 100 feet beam.

In reply to an inquiry as to what would be the extra charges for maintenance it was stated:—

If any one of the schemes mentioned were adopted, the extra charges would be (a) debt charges, *i.e.*, sinking fund and interest, (b) structural maintenance of wharf. The cost of maintenance of the enlarged dredging area would be small, as there is little silting in the harbour; the present dredging performed by a small grab dredger is confined to removing mud deposited by the Castries River, and by the drains run-

ning into the harbour from the town. The berthing accommodation could be considerably expanded and efficient dredging would provide much more space in the harbour. There is an excellent place for the establishment of a dry dock or a floating dock. The entrance to the harbour is so situated that heavy weather outside does not disturb the water inside the harbour.

Depth can be increased at Kingston.

The position as regards Jamaica was stated to be thus:—

The depth could be increased to 40 feet (L.W.O.S.T.) in the channel and at the wharves by dredging mud and extending piers. The time occupied would be about two years.

No figures are obtainable for the cost of dredging the channel to this depth. The cost of extending one wharf (Malabre's) by 400 feet so as to provide the necessary wharf accommodation for a vessel 1,000 feet in length, and of 100 feet beam is estimated at £9,000 approximately, and the cost to the Government of building a new Government wharf to provide the same accommodation is estimated at from £55,000 to £60,000 and to take about 18 months. All the wharves are private property with the exception of the three Government railway piers.

The deepening of the channel to 40 feet (L.W.O.S.T.) and providing wharf accommodation of similar depth would not increase the present charges for maintenance of harbour works inasmuch as there are no currents in the harbour causing silting up and shallowing. There are no breakwaters or sea walls erected by the Government nor is any dredging done. It is not anticipated that the increased depth would in any way alter these conditions. As regards the maintenance of the wharves the longer wharf would cost more to maintain on account of its increased size, but the increase would only be proportionate. If the Government built a sea wall along the water front or a pier at the Railway Lands west of Kingston there would be the charge on these works for the capital invested.

Within 600 feet of foreshore 42 feet of water (L.W.O.S.T.) can be obtained, with good holding ground, and this for 8/10ths of a mile opposite the city of Kingston, at present occupied by private wharves.

Deepening impossible at Trinidad.

Here is Trinidad's answer:—

Deepening to 40 feet (L.W.O.S.T.) or even 30 feet (L.W.O.S.T.) at present pier and wharves is not practicable. There is a scheme for a new berthing basin with 3,000 feet of quay walls with channel thereto having 30 feet of water (L.W.O.S.T.) but no decision has been arrived at. The scheme could be carried out in six years after approval of proposal, and is estimated to cost £700,000, including plant, warehouses, etc. The new extensions, if adopted, would entail a further maintenance expenditure of about £3,000.

The question of harbour improvement at Port of Spain came before the Trinidad Legislative Council on November 2nd. Our correspondent, Mr.

Edgar Tripp, writes that a minute by the Governor on schemes for the improvement of Port-of-Spain harbour had been published that morning. Mr. Tripp adds :—"The great majority of the Chamber of Commerce have opposed the Deep Water Scheme as presented officially, on the grounds (a) that its cost, if of sufficient capacity to handle all the trade, would form an excessive charge upon shipping; (b) that the condition that a charge would be made upon all cargo whether the piers were used or not, would constitute an unfair tax, especially in the case of transit trade, which is obviously carried on much more economically by the means of lighters direct from one ship to another; and (c) that under the conditions obtaining here all the facilities for landing and loading goods to the satisfaction of both merchants and shipowners are provided, only requiring a comparatively moderate extension and outlay to meet all reasonable demands for many years to come without saddling the colony with a burden in the shape of a loan, the proceeds of which could be much more advantageously applied by opening up the internal resources of the country. In these views the Chamber was supported unanimously by the ship-owners whose vessels trade here regularly.

"To meet this opposition, the Governor suggests that the work should be done departmentally and gradually, commencing with an instalment of 1,000 feet of wharf, to which a deep water channel should be dredged, and that vessels should have the option of using either lighters or pier, but if the former, an extra payment to be made should the work be done in the channel with the advantage of proximity to the wharf. With regard to the feared increase in charges, making the port less attractive to shipping, His Excellency endorses the opinion expressed and urged by the Chamber of Commerce over a series of years that revenue derived from such sources as sale of Crown Lands, Asphalt Royalties, and the increasing Oil Royalties, should be earmarked for works of permanent utility, and not merged into general revenue as at present. Promising as they look, they will not last for ever, and the colony should surely have something to show in the way of railroads or wharves or buildings for its present drafts of its capital account. His Excellency will receive very hearty support in this view, and I fancy that if his recommendation as to the additional cost to shipping of the deep water piers being defrayed out of the income from these sources, and the payment of quay dues is made optional, much of the opposition hitherto encountered will fall away.

"There is one part of the Minute, however, that one would have liked to read differently. We are hearing on every hand of the necessity of conserving the Empire's trade as far as possible within the Empire, but here we find the representative of the Empire in a British colony suggesting that applications for the execution of this most important and costly work should be invited from a foreign country. American contractors alone are thought of in the first instance, and only remembered when an eminent firm of Canadian contractors, who accidentally hear of the work, made enquiries of the Secretary of State regarding it. And are there no harbour contractors in the United Kingdom?"

THE CANADIAN BEET INDUSTRY.

STORY OF ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH.

Related before Dominions Royal Commission.

The development of the Canadian beet sugar industry was the subject of a paper which was submitted by Mr. C. H. Houson, of the Dominion Sugar Company, to the Dominions Royal Commission, and is now published, with the evidence taken by that body in Canada.

The sugar beet industry in Canada, said Mr. Houson, received its first real start in the year 1901, at which time four refineries were constructed and made ready for operation the following year. They were located at—

Wallaceburg, slicing capacity, 700 tons (since increased to 1,000 tons).

Dresden, slicing capacity, 600 tons (moved to the States).

Berlin (now Kitchener), slicing capacity, 500 tons (since increased to 800 tons).

Warton, slicing capacity, 500 tons (dismantled).

Early Failure.

An attempt was made in the year 1881 to establish the industry in the Province of Quebec. Very small and poorly equipped factories were located at Coaticooke, Berthier, and Farnham, Quebec. From the practical knowledge we now have of the business, we know that the experiments made could not prove anything but a failure. To obtain success in the sugar beet industry, it must be launched on a large scale. From records in our possession, we find that the largest slicing capacity of any of the above-mentioned factories was 200 tons daily, and the operating methods were obsolete and impractical, so that the results from the experiments made in the Province of Quebec at that time, may be dismissed from consideration when enquiring into the possibilities of the industry. Similar conditions apply to the small plants located in the Province of Alberta.

The first year's experience in the Province of Ontario were far from encouraging, due to two causes in particular :—

- (1) Insufficient beet acreage.
- (2) Incompetent factory management.

The reason for the poor acreage showing was twofold :—

- (a) Inexperience of the farmers.
- (b) The price paid to the farmers for the beets was considered by him too low to warrant his launching out on a crop of which he did not understand the economical handling.

These two drawbacks have gradually been overcome. The farmer, with the encouragement of the company's field men, who as time went on were more efficient, became accustomed to beet-raising and soon recognised the benefits to be derived from the crop, especially the rotation, and it is now a known fact that once interested in beet-raising he very rarely discontinues. Our field organisation numbering about 20 men, have rendered the grower valuable assistance, and not only solicits from him contracts for the growing of the beets but also inspects each individual crop from time to time, reporting to the

company's officials on the same, and recommending cash advances on the crop wherever necessary. The farmer knows also that it is a cash crop, the price being set in fact before the seed is in the ground, and payment is made to him as quickly as returns can be secured.

The Price Paid.

The price paid to the grower for beets has been an important study to the factory management. Previous to the operations of the beet sugar industry in Canada, factories in the State of Michigan, contracted in Canada and exported to the United States, paying the grower \$3.50 per ton flat rate, delivered to the nearest station (by flat rate we mean irrespective of the sugar content), so that the farmer only received \$3.50 per ton whether his beets contained 12 per cent. or 17 per cent. sugar. Since the Canadian factories were established, the price set by them was \$4.00 per ton for beets testing 12 per cent. sugar, and 33½ cents for every degree over 12 per cent., thus a beet testing 15 per cent. (which is an average test), would net the grower \$5.00 per ton delivered to the factory. This price was all the management felt they could pay at the time, as the price obtained for refined sugar was 4 cents per pound. This price remained in effect until the year 1909, when it was possible to increase to \$4.50 per ton, based on a 12 per cent. beet with 33½ cents for each additional degree. In the year 1914, the price was again increased 50 cents per ton flat rate, and for those who wished to grow on the percentage basis, \$4.75 per ton with an additional 33½ cents for every degree over 12 per cent., and just last year a bonus of 50 cents per ton over the \$5.00 price was made to the grower; therefore, you will note that in 14 years' operations the price has advanced from \$3.50 to \$5.50 per ton.

A beet testing 17 per cent. delivered to the factory nets the grower \$6.92, or practically 100 per cent. increase over the original price paid. Of course 17 per cent. is a higher test than the average, although we have cases where the test reached 20 per cent. However, no farmer this year will receive less than \$5.50 per ton for his crop.

This condition has encouraged the farmer to grow more extensively, with the result that we contracted 28,000 acres of beets this season compared with 17,000 acres the previous year.

Incompetent Management.

The reason for the decided advance paid to the grower goes back to the second cause of early non-development of the industry, as illustrated above, viz., incompetent factory management. At the commencement of operations, in the year 1902, a great number of supposed expert sugar men were exported from Germany and Holland to operate the technical part of the various factories. These men did not understand local conditions, which were altogether different in their own countries, and it was therefore, not until our own Canadians learned the business thoroughly that any great progress was made in the efficiency of the operations, the result being that the cost of refined sugar was abnormally high. By-products in the form of molasses, and beet pulp were practically given away for the haul-

ing, in order to get rid of the material, as no market at that time had been created. As our Canadians became acquainted with conditions, ways and means were devised to make use of these by-products. The molasses is now burned to a potash, which at the present time is a very valuable commodity, and the beet pulp is dried in large rotary driers and is now considered a high-grade cattle food, used especially for milch cows. The demand for this food far exceeds the supply.

These conditions naturally affected our cost, and as the farmer, in the meantime, was compelled to pay higher for labour and other necessities, and was obtaining higher prices for his other crops, it afforded us an opportunity to pass on to them higher prices for beets.

The value of the beet sugar industry to the farmer and the country in general, was fully recognised by the late Dr. C. C. James, who at the time of his death was the Agricultural Commissioner for Canada. Speaking at the Lambton County Corn Exhibition, January 28th, 1916, Dr. James stated as follows:—

"Lambton County will find there is no crop which, properly handled, will prove more profitable to the farmer than sugar beets. Sugar beets are a crop which take almost all from the air and from the rain and very little from the soil. If the tops are left in the field there is practically no exhausting. In that they differ from grains, which take much from the soil. It is a good sign that this industry is spreading in Canada. We have been importing from 12 to 15 million dollars' worth of sugar that we might just as well have been producing at home."

He also gave the industry considerable prominence in the agricultural war books issued under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture, "Patriotism and Production," pages 103-4-5-6, edited in 1915, and "Production and Thrift," pp. 134-5-6, edited in 1916. We are appending copies of this to our present article for your reference. These deal largely with the sugar beet industry as it affects foreign countries, principally Germany, which country not only manufacturers all the sugar she requires for home consumption, but previous to the war exported over a million tons, mostly to England. We are sure you will find these articles interesting, and would like here to quote one paragraph from "Patriotism and Production" of the year 1915, which says:—

"Germany with its annual export of sugar worth \$50,000,000, is gaining not only that volume of international trade but is not losing a penny's worth of plant food from the soil, because sugar is nothing but sunshine, water, and carbon dioxide. On the other hand, the United States exports cereals and cereal products of over \$130,000,000. These cereals are all rich in the elements of plant food that come from the soil and determine the degree of fertility of the land. These elements, nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, have a staple market value at which they are sold in the form of fertilisers. It is simply a matter of calculation to determine what it would cost to replace the plant food that we lose each year through our exports of cereals and cereal products, and estimating these on the most conservative basis it amounts to at least \$30,000,000.

"This certainly is wise economics from the standpoint of German agriculture, and so long as Germany can find a market for its sugar, they can well afford to import the grains, millfeeds, and other concentrates, and thus build up their own agriculture, but from the standpoint of the United States, we cannot afford to go on paying out over \$180,000,000 per year for sunshine, water, and carbon dioxide manufactured into the form of sugar."

Aid to the Industry.

For the first five years of operation, the Ontario Government granted a bonus of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per pound up to \$75,000,000 annually.

Notwithstanding this assistance, however, the Dresden and Warton plants were unable to survive the trying period of inexperience, with the result that the Dresden plant moved to the United States and the Warton plant was dismantled. The Berlin plant drifted along until the year 1909, at which time it was taken over by the Wallaceburg Sugar Company, Limited, now the Dominion Sugar Company, Limited. After the lapsing of the bonus in 1907, the Dominion Government stimulated the industry, allowing beet sugar refineries to import on the preferential rate of duty, two pounds of raw sugar for every pound of sugar refined from beetroots, this sugar, of course, to be refined during the inter-campaign period. This privilege lasted for three years and was replaced by a further legislation allowing beet sugar refineries to import one pound of raw sugar under the preferential tariff for every pound of home-grown sugar produced. This privilege expired in 1911, and no further concession has since been granted. The bonus as outlined above, also the importation privilege, enabled the beet sugar industry to survive the trying ordeals incidental to a new industry, and with the present duty of \$1.03 $\frac{1}{2}$ for preferential sugar, and \$1.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ for general tariff sugar we feel confident that the industry is safely launched, and should make much headway in the future.

To get in closer touch with the beet growers, the Dominion Sugar Company publish a booklet called "The Sugar Beet." . . . From practical experience, we have found it advantageous to take the beet grower into our confidence as much as possible, and discuss ways and means for the betterment of the industry, and by sending out instructions such as are contained in our booklet we find it assists in no small manner.

We are attaching statements showing the progress of the industry since its inception, and you will note from this that when the price of sugar was around 4 cents to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents very little progress was made, as at this price the factory could not afford to pay the farmers the price that is now being paid. However, since sugar has advanced to 5 cents and over, the industry has made considerable headway.

The Dominion Sugar Company, Limited, are just completing the erection of the largest beet sugar refinery in Canada, with a slicing capacity of 1,500 tons daily. This plant is one of the most complete in the world, equipped with the most modern machinery and appliances that science has devised. With the addition of this factory, the Ontario farmers can cultivate to sugar beets 30,000 acres, giving an output of refined sugar of 70,000,000 pounds.

In addition to the acreage contracted to the Canadian factories, there is a large exportation of sugar beets to the State of Michigan. The duty on sugar beets going into the United States is only 5 per cent., whereas the duty on sugar beets coming from Michigan is 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This does not allow the Canadian factory to compete for the United States beets, although, on the other hand, it does allow the United States factories to take away beets from Canada.

Competition, of course, is beneficial to almost all industries; at the same time, we consider that too great a difference in the duty on the raw material to the benefit of the United States is exhibited in this case.

The writer will arrange for an interview with your Commission, and wishes to emphasise the fact that we will be very glad to answer any questions, and give any further information that is in our power, that your Commission sees fit to request.

The Culture of the Sugar Beet.

It is rather difficult to say what is the best soil for the production of the sugar beet, since it seems to make itself at home almost everywhere, when the soil is sufficiently rich and the sub-soil warm and dry; the least suitably being the very heavy clay, and even that can be made very good beet land by a generous application of lime.

The safe rule is this:—That any land which is suitable for the production of corn is suitable for the production of beets. The better corn-land it is the better beet-land it is likely to prove, and whatever is the best way to prepare it for beets.

We believe that the very best way to prepare a field for beets is to begin the previous season after a crop of wheat, oats, barley or clover has been harvested, and plough about three inches deep. This is much better than disc harrowing or other surface cultivating, as it is necessary to turn the stubble in order to get the best results.

Any manure which is to be used should then be applied and the land worked several times to mix the manure thoroughly through the soil, and get as much weed seed germinated as possible. This should then be fall-ploughed deeply, or if spring ploughing is resorted to, it should be done early enough to allow the surface to be frozen a little, to insure a good seed bed.

The ideal seed bed for beets in the spring, is the ideal seed bed for wheat in the fall (i.e.), a solid bottom with a fine top. That is best obtained by using only a roller and a light harrow, the last three or four times over your field, which will tend to pack the bottom and pulverise the top.

Statistical Statement Showing Acreage and Sugar Production at Wallaceburg, 1902-1915, and Berlin (Kitchener) 1909-1915, both inclusive.

Year.	WALLACEBURG.		BERLIN (now Kitchener).	
	Acres contracted.	Sugar. lbs.	Year.	Acres contracted. Sugar. lbs.
1902	2,500	3,606,604		
1903	3,000	4,230,422		
1904	4,200	7,574,708		
1905	7,000	11,276,606		
1906	7,500	10,721,107		
1907	5,000	9,718,847		
1908	5,500	11,593,079		
1909	7,000	12,884,412	1909	2,000 3,511,692
1910	6,500	11,182,672	1910	2,500 5,198,200
1911	6,800	11,159,285	1911	4,000 8,781,931
1912	8,000	16,003,597	1912	5,500 9,001,143
1913	8,000	18,220,691	1913	3,600 6,131,126
1914	9,500	17,980,200	1914	5,000 10,997,441
1915	11,000	22,769,772	1915	6,800 14,123,021

The Secretary of the West India Committee has been awarded a good conduct badge on completion of three years' service in the R.N.V.R. Anti-aircraft Corps.

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

The Work of the Ladies' Committee.

The Annual meeting of the Ladies' Committee was held at Lady Davson's, 20, Ennismore Gardens, on Tuesday, the 27th November. Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, Patron of the Committee, was present, and the Countess of Stamford presided. Among the members of the Committee present were: Lady Davson, Lady in Thurn, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Llewelyn, Lady Sendall, Lady Cameron, Mrs. John Bromley, Mrs. Cunningham Craig, Mrs. Harley Moseley, and Miss Mary Moseley (Hon. Secretary). Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Major de Boissiere, Mrs. de Rinzy, Hon. Donald McDonald, and many others interested in the West Indies were also noticed in the company.

Lady Stamford, after opening the proceedings, called upon the Hon. Secretary to read the following report on the work of the Ladies' Committee:

"Shortly after the establishment of the West Indian Contingent Committee in 1915, a Ladies' Committee, under the patronage of Princess Marie Louise, and with the Countess of Stamford as President, was formed to assist the Contingent Committee in providing comforts for the men of the British West Indies Regiment and others who had come over independently from the West Indies to join the Colours.

"The inaugural meeting was held on the 29th November, 1915, at 5, Trevor Square, S.W., those premises having been kindly lent to the Committee by Messrs. Harrods Ltd. A small working Committee was appointed with Lady Philipps as Chairman, the other members being Lady Davson, Lady Hodgson, Lady Oliver, Lady Grey-Wilson, and Miss Moseley (Hon. Secretary). Soon after the arrival of the first contingent of the British West Indies Regiment, the camp and hospital at Seaford were visited by Lady Grey-Wilson and the Hon. Secretary, in order that the requirements of the men might be ascertained. A work-party was quickly organised, and through the kindness of Lady Philipps, weekly meetings were held at her house during the winter, when a considerable number of knitted and other comforts were made. These were largely supplemented by gifts from Lady Philipps, and many others interested in the West Indies sent generous contributions, so that the newly arrived men were supplied with mufflers, socks, gloves, and Balacava helmets, etc., before they were transferred to Egypt.

"In April, 1916, Lady Philipps resigned the chairmanship of the Working Committee, owing to the many demands upon her time, and Lady Davson was elected as Chairman in her place, Lady Hodgson being subsequently elected as Deputy Chairman. The work-parties continued during the summer of 1916, and the following winter at 5, Trevor Square; and through the kindness of Lady Hayes Sadler and the Eastern League, special weekly meetings were held for a time at their workroom at Whiteley's, where a large number of garments were and very material assistance rendered by members of that league. Last year Mrs. Bromley kindly undertook the organisation of the work-party, and she has since devoted much time and energy to this work, ably assisted by Mrs. Leggat. The premises in Trevor Square being no longer available, in April, 1917, the headquarters of the Ladies' Committee were transferred to 15, Seething Lane, closer co-operation between the two Committees being thereby effected. Lady Davson very kindly offered to have the workparty meet at 20, Ennismore Gardens, and largely attended meetings are held there fortnightly.

"The number of comforts distributed to West Indians through the Ladies' Committee since its formation amounts to over 15,000. This number includes generous contributions by the following bodies: The Jamaica War Comforts Fund, who sent through Mrs. Bourne about 1,000 anti-vermin shirts; the Daughters of the Empire,

and the League of the Cross of Geneva, Bahamas, who send regular consignments of knitted comforts; the Ladies West India Committee, Trinidad and Tobago, who have sent many articles of clothing, comfort bags, guava jelly, etc.; Mrs. Brodie and friends in Grenada, who have contributed a large number of socks; the Dundee Women's War Relief Fund, who have given hundreds of pairs of socks, besides mittens and mufflers; and the Anglo-South American Comforts Fund, who recently contributed, through Lady Davson, 500 pairs of socks. This does not of course represent the total number of comforts received by the men, as large quantities of under-clothing, cardigans, gloves, etc., have been bought by the Contingent Committee, and several battalions of the B.W.I. Regiment in France and Egypt have, by special arrangement, been supplied direct from the Comforts Pool of the Directors of Voluntary Organisations, it being obviously impossible for a small work party to provide anything approaching an adequate supply for a constantly growing Regiment. The anti-vermin under-clothing made by the work party has been heartily appreciated by the men in the trenches and in Mesopotamia, and there is an increasing demand for these garments.

"The activities of the Ladies' Committee have not been confined entirely to the provision of comforts. Soon after its formation a very successful concert was organised by Mrs. Bromley, under the auspices of the Ladies Committee, and held at the Royal Automobile Club, as a result of which £120 was added to the Contingent Fund.

Flag Day Results.

"The idea of holding a Flag Day throughout the West Indies had its inception in the Ladies' Committee, and the arrangements having been made and the Flags, bearing the badge of the B.W.I. Regiment, provided by the Contingent Committee, the scheme was taken up with enthusiasm in the several Colonies where Committees of Ladies were appointed to carry it through. It is highly gratifying to be able to report that up to the present date the sum of £2,534 17s. 7d. has been received from the following Colonies:—

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana	1,012	11	7
Trinidad	267	12	6
Barbados	525	3	6
Antigua	120	15	7
St. Kitts-Nevis	138	8	6
Montserrat	60	0	0
St. Vincent	210	3	4
St. Lucia	56	13	1
Collected in England	143	8	4

"Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica and the Bahamas have yet to be heard from, so a substantial addition to the Flag Day may confidently be expected. The Local Flag Day Committees have been invited to represent the Contingent Committee in the Colonies, and it is hoped that with their co-operation the scope of our work may be considerably extended.

"Through the instrumentality of Mrs. Gordon Gordon, a Ladies' Committee was formed in Trinidad early this year, with Lady Chancellor as President, Mrs. Gordon as Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer; and Mrs. John Wilson as Hon. Secretary. This Committee has collected and forwarded to the Contingent Fund up to date over £1,000 besides many gifts for Trinidad men. They have also materially assisted by compiling lists of men who have joined the Colours from their Colony, and forwarding them to the Committee.

"Another branch of the work of the Ladies' Committee has been the arrangement of hospitality for officers and men on leave or in hospital. In this connection the Hon. Mrs. Henry Ruardes has been indefatigable, and besides frequently entertaining officers in her own home, has arranged for them a programme of entertainments for every day of the week. Through the kindness of the Countess of Harrowly and her friends, many officers have been enabled to visit Scotland and the country under the most pleasant circumstances. Mrs. Cunningham Craig, too, has been most kind in entertaining both officers and men at her home in the country during their convalescence.

"The Lyceum Club, which extended a welcome to the Regiment through a dinner to the officers on their arrival in England, has on many occasions since entertained both officers and men in hospital, and some of its members have been most active in visiting the sick and wounded.

"Since the formation of the Committee, nearly 200 officers and men in hospital have been visited and cared for, and as this is a very important part of our work it is hoped that the number of visitors may be largely increased. The Committee is in touch with the County Folk Visitation Society, who very kindly notify us of any West Indians whom they discover in hospital, and still further co-operation with this organisation is contemplated. In closing the report I should like to emphasise the fact that during the past year the work of the Contingent Committee has grown far beyond all expectations and to express the hope that the efforts of the Ladies' Committee will be extended in proportion."

Sir Everard in Thurn, who was invited to speak on the work of the Contingent Committee, said he would like to express their great appreciation of the work of the Ladies' Committee. He referred to the large number of men in the Regiment, and the great unknown number who had come over independently. These men, he said, were well supplied with warm clothing, cigarettes, and other comforts, and this part of the work was done almost entirely by the Ladies' Committee, because it was the ladies who could best apply comfort and kindness to the men. Another important function of theirs was looking after officers and men in hospital and on leave. The men were well provided with clubs and the officers were offered plenty of country hospitality, but the difficulty had been to get offers of club hospitality in London, as by reason of a technicality more than anything else, many West Indian officers were excluded from the Royal Overseas Officers' Club. It was very satisfactory to know that the West Indian Club had recently offered hospitality to officers. Referring to the British West Indies Regiment, Sir Everard said that Sir William Manning, Governor of Jamaica, had recently paid an official visit to the Front, and had reported that everyone he had come across had spoken very highly of the men, and had said that they were indispensable for general work. They had also been highly commended as fighting men, and were employed in every theatre of war. One of the officers of the Regiment had recently won the Military Cross, and more than a dozen Military Medals had been won by the men. He also paid a tribute to the heroism and patriotism of the officers and men who had given their lives for the Empire. With reference to the Flag Day, Sir Everard said the Ladies' Committees in the West Indies had worked extremely well for the cause, and the results had far exceeded his expectations. As to finances, it was true that the Committee had enough in hand for the various needs of the present, but they would have to look forward to the going back of the men, and would require much more money. He would feel more satisfied if they had this money in hand. He was not for a moment depreciating the generosity of the people in the West Indies or the people here, but he thought that the Committee ought to see about increasing their funds.

Major de Boissiere said a few words about the excellent behaviour of the men of his Battalion, who came straight from the West Indies and went immediately under shell fire. The comforts supplied to the men, he said, were appreciated, and he wished they could only see how they were appreciated. He referred to the difficulty of taking many things about with them, and a discussion of the question of comforts and the best method of supplying them followed.

Princess Marie Louise Speaks.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise then spoke, and suggested that volunteers would find plenty of openings for work at the Committee Rooms. Card indexing, etc., might be dull work, but she knew from her own experience in various organisations that it was extremely necessary work. Her highness remarked that most people, no doubt, were war weary and it would mean a great effort to keep up the same steady supply of work, but she would urge everyone to make the effort. At the beginning of the war everybody wanted to be a V.A.D., then women started to go on the land, and now the W.A.A.C. was the

attraction. There was fearful danger of getting tired of ordinary work. She therefore hoped that the ladies of the Committee would continue their very effective and quiet work. With regard to the men of the British West Indies Regiment, she had had a talk with Sir William Manning and was very pleased to hear such splendid accounts of the men. Personally she was delighted to take, and always would take, a deep and grateful interest in the West Indies, for she would never forget the happy time she spent there. It was, she might say, almost her last happy time, as it was just before the war and no one had been really happy since. She could certainly testify to the undying loyalty of the people of the West Indies. They were among the most patriotic of His Majesty's Colonies. Anything that she could do for them she would be delighted to do. She would be glad to feel that she could in some small way show her gratitude for all the kindness she had been shown in those beautiful, beautiful islands.

Hon. Donald McDonald, at the request of Lady Stamford, moved a vote of thanks to Lady Davson for lending her drawing-room and making preparations for the meeting, and took the opportunity of expressing, as a West Indian, his thanks and appreciation of the work of the Contingent Committee.

Colonel Davson, on behalf of his mother, acknowledged the vote of thanks, and assured the company of Lady Davson's deep interest in the West Indies and the Contingent.

After the meeting, all present were entertained at tea by Lady Davson.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership reaches 1,650.

At a meeting of the Executive held on December 6th the following were elected members of the West India Committee (Incorporated):—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Major W. G. H. Thorne	Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. D. D. Dickson	Capt. John Hutson. Mr. R. Rutherford. Miss Moseley.
2nd Lieut. L. Cornish Trestrail (Trinidad)	Mr. W. Gillespie. Mr. J. H. Mahon.
Mr. R. L. Clarke (Barbados)	Mr. J. H. Mahon. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. F. G. Inness (Barbados)	Mr. J. H. Mahon. Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.
Mr. G. W. Almond	Mr. W. Gillespie. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. Philip Ribeiro	Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. R. Davson.

During the current year to date, 146 new members have been elected, a figure in excess of that for any year since 1912.

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.3. 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.

SIR WALTER DAVIDSON, lately Governor of Newfoundland, and now about to proceed to New South Wales in a like capacity, has been on a visit to the Front.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Lieut.-Colonel C. D. Arnold, of the British West Indies Regiment, returned to France on December 5th, after a brief visit to this country.

A notable instance of the bravery of our West Indian fighting men was afforded lately by Private Stoddart, of Jamaica, who, though both his legs were shattered and his thigh perforated by fragments of a shell, never lost his composure, and died crying, "For England, for England!"

Lance-Corporal R. A. Thom, by his gallant act, for which he won his military medal, probably saved a battery of guns. The battery was being heavily shelled and the order to take cover was given, when some ammunition caught fire. Thom fearlessly extinguished the flames which would otherwise have spread and exposed the position to enemy airplanes.

The Officer Commanding has received from Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode an autograph letter conveying to him the grateful thanks of his Corps and himself for the splendid work done by the British West Indies Regiment in Palestine. Sir Philip wrote: "This indispensable work has contributed in no slight degree to the magnificent success of General Allenby's Army, who have driven the enemy headlong to the north, with the loss of many thousands of prisoners and many guns."

From the *Gazette* :—

DECEMBER 6th.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Maj. M. H. Smith (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Maj. (July 7th); Temp. Lt. A. M. Watson to be temp. Capt. (Sept. 3); Temp. Lt. A. M. McCulloch relinquishes actg. rank of Capt. on ceasing to comd. a Co. (Sept. 14). Temp. Sec. Lts. to be temp. Lts.:—W. P. Albury (Aug. 13); M. A. Puckerin, G. G. Cooke (Aug. 14); Sec. Lts. (W. Indies Local Forces) to be temp. Sec. Lts.:—I. O. B. Shirley (July 21); D. G. Cooper, H. A. Cooper, R. G. Williams (Aug. 26).

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks :—

The Misses Dalton: 1 pr. socks, 1 pr. mittens, 2 mufflers.
Sapper H. A. Harris: 1 mandolin for Trinidad men.
Mrs Hay Edie: books and magazines.
Mrs. Partridge and Miss Packer: 4 prs. socks, 2 prs. mittens, 1 pr. gloves, 1 cap.
Mrs. Rutherford: 2 helmets, 1 pr. socks.
Miss Cowie: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Stanley Carrington: 4 prs. gloves.
Mrs. Allwood: 14 prs. socks, 1 muffler, 2 prs. mittens (for British West Indies Regiment).
Per Lady Hayes Sadler: £5 given by a West Indian friend, expended on gloves, soap-bags, hospital gloves, and comfort bags.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight :—

Lieut.-Colonel C. D. Arnold, British West Indies Regiment; Lieut. H. M. Lord, Capt. H. M. Haughton and 2nd Lieut. F. L. Casserley, Pte. Edwin C. Preston, Sapper McLeary, Pte. John S. Wiggan, Jamaica; Captain P. A. Rostant, Trpr. Eugene Sydney Hamel Smith, 2nd Lieut. Hugh P. Marryat, Clifton Hanagin, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, Pte. H. R. Murray, Pte. Leon Agostini, C. Schgolseth, J. A. Hernandez, Trpr. R. Jobstone, Trpr.

C. H. Spencer, Trpr. J. A. Campbell, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, Pte. Claude Gibbon, Sapper Henry Harris, Eugene L. Cipriani, Pte. L. F. Maingot, 2nd A. M. L. E. Porteous, H. Leotand, Trpr. J. H. de G. Gillezau, Cpl. G. Roberts, Trpr. J. A. Campbell, W. T. King, Marc de Verteuil, Hugh Wilson, Malcolm Nock, E. S. O'Connor, B. Agostini, A. Lassalle, F. F. Marryat, Trinidad; 2nd Lieut. H. F. K. Greaves, Pte. S. I. Foster, Pte. C. Forte Cave, Pte. H. O. Ramsey, Pte. W. C. Boxill, Pte. J. Redman, Prob. Flight Officer R. M. Johnson, Barbados; 2nd Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Gunner A. Humphrys, Antigua; Cpl. Harold B. Bowe, Sub. Lieut. R. H. C. Crawford, Bahamas.

A list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men connected with the British West Indies who are lying sick or wounded and in hospital is given below under the names of the colonies from which they come. The West Indian Contingent Committee will be very glad to give the addresses of these invalids to any readers of the CIRCULAR who may be willing to visit them or to send them comforts :—

ANTIGUA.

2nd Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Durham Light Infantry, London.

BAHAMAS.

Trpr. Bruce S. Bellhell, Royal Dragoons, London; Pte. A. H. Lightborn, B.W.I. Regiment, Eastbourne.

BARBADOS.

Pte. C. L. E. Burgess, London Regiment, Cookridge; Gunner J. A. Leslie, Canadian Field Artillery, Liverpool; Pte. J. B. Crawford, Artists' Rifles, Colchester.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate.

MONTserrat.

2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London.

St. Kitts.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Dublin.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., Brighton; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwicks, Wandsworth; Lieut. Gordon Burke, Welsh Fusiliers, Epsom; 2nd Lieut. W. André, Gloucester Regiment, Epsom; Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, London; Cpl. L. Murray, Household Battalion, London; Major A. De Boissiere, London; Pte. A. A. Scott, Artists' Rifles, Houghton; Pte. B. Eccles, Artists' Rifles, London; Trpr. F. Villarrol, Household Battalion, Richmond; Pte. T. L. Dunn, London Regiment, Sittingbourne, 2nd Lieut. Cyril Norman, Gloucester Regiment, London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

2nd Lieut. J. S. Powell, Winchester; 2nd Lieut. Andrews, Manchester; 2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte and 2nd Lieut. J. D. Kieffer, London.

OBITUARY.

MR. BOYD ALEXANDER NEILSON.

We regret to state that Mr. Boyd Alexander Neilson died on December 1st at his residence, 78, Clapton Common.

Mr. Neilson was the sole surviving partner in Messrs. Claud Neilson & Sons, West India Merchants, of 5 and 6, Hury Court, St. Mary Axe, E.C. The firm was started in 1813 by the Hon. Simon Fraser, who was succeeded in it by his brother, the firm becoming, on the admittance of Mr. Neilson, father of the subject of this memoir, the Honble. William Fraser, Neilson & Co. Mr. Boyd Alexander Neilson and his brother Claud joined their father in the business in 1860. Mr. Neilson, who was in his 91st year at the time of his death, was the oldest subscriber to Lloyd's, having been elected in 1854, and he was also probably the oldest member of the West India Committee, in the work of which body, like his father before him, he always took a keen interest. He was a regular attendant at the lectures before the war, and only recently visited the Committee Rooms to show his practical appreciation of the Contingent Committee's efforts. The business will, we are informed, be carried on by William James Cox, who has been associated with it for many years.

The West Indian Roll of Honour.

LANCE-CORPORAL SYDNEY GEORGE SELLERS, 7th Canadian Battalion (British Columbia), died from illness, contracted in Germany, at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, on November 29th. Lance-Corporal Sellers, who was a son of Mr. W. P. Sellers, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, was wounded at about the time of the re-taking of Hill 60, and was taken prisoner. George Sellers was educated at Harrison College, Barbados, and Toronto University, which he left to embark upon a commercial career. He was in a bank at Vancouver when war broke out, and as a loyal volunteer he at once offered his services.

SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGE LESLIE FRESSON FORSHAW, Lancashire Fusiliers, eldest son of Mr. Edward R. Forshaw, barrister-at-law and grandson of the late G. A. Forshaw, solicitor, of Woodbine, Georgetown, Demerara, was killed in action in France on November 19th. Having joined the Westmount Rifles in Montreal, where he held an appointment with the firm of Messrs. John Lovell, he arrived in England early in 1916 with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. After obtaining 100 per cent. in his musketry course he was retained at Shorncliffe as a staff-sergeant on the Instructional Staff of the Canadian School of Musketry, and won the competition as the best shot on the miniature ranges. He was selected as a candidate for a commission, and after passing through an Officer Cadet Battalion at Cambridge he obtained his Commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was in France but five weeks when he fell at the early age of twenty-two. In conveying the sad news to a relative, his Commanding Officer writes: "He had not been with us long, but we had very soon got to appreciate his merits and I can assure you that his loss is deeply felt both by his Company Commander and myself. I always find these letters the most difficult ones that a Commanding Officer ever has to write. I can say so little to soften the blow. Your nephew's death was instantaneous, so he could have suffered no pain." His Company Commander also wrote as follows: "He had been long enough with us for us to recognise his worth as an officer and a man. He was unfortunately struck by a shell on the morning of the 19th and his end was immediate. His behaviour under shell fire was exemplary and I mourn the loss of his services as well as his comradeship. Please accept the sympathy of his brother officers and men on your loss."

WOUNDED.

GUNNER W. S. ROBINSON (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Tank Corps, has been wounded.

PETER C. J. LLANOS (2nd Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), R.F.A., has been wounded and is convalescent in France.

TROOPER DE GANNES (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), King Edward's Horse, has been wounded and is in hospital in France.

SECOND LIEUT. RONALD MAINCOT, Royal Fusiliers (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded and is in hospital in France.

SECOND LIEUTENANT CYRIL A. NORMAN (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Gloucester Regiment, has been gassed, and is in hospital in London.

The British West Indies Regiment

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment at various fronts:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

BRITISH GUIANA.—1070 Wason, Lce. Cpl. R. H.

JAMAICA.—11810 Anglin, W.; 3226 Campbell, M. L., 7647 Johnson, S.; 7629 Henderson, A.

ST. LUCIA.—10894 Blanchard, F.

ST. VINCENT.—10880 Ballantyne, B.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.—10890 Bourne, B.; 7564 Davis, Actg. Sergt. W.; 12179 Healy, J.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—5411 Albury, J.; 2569 Storr, E.

BRITISH GUIANA.—11065 De Souza, J. A.; 9150 Drayton, B. A.

JAMAICA.—7804 Bennett, E.; 2726 Bertram, J.; 8011 Davis, Cpl. L.; 7564 Davis, W.; 16098 Enbank, E.; 7601 Gordon, Alexander; 6533 Gordon, Chas.; 15584 Grant, H.; 14595 Harris, P.; 8744 Jones, W.; 5266 Mullings, W. N.; 12421 Newton, J.; 14118 Phillips, H.; 12505 Phillips, R.; 12234 Plummer, E.; 6332 Porter, J. D.; 14498 Richardson, W.; 12505 Ross, P.; 13948 Scott, R.; 12611 Tuslin, E.; 10465 Wright, A.

WOUNDED.

BARBADOS.—10907 Blackett, J. M.; 10903 Best, J.

BRITISH GUIANA.—10922 Barnett, J. A.; 3043, Phillips, S. DOMINICA.—11297 John, S.; 11572 Ralph, G.

JAMAICA.—5728 Bailey, H.; 6231 Barnett, S.; 7898 Barrett, Sergt. F. N.; 3221 Baugh, L. A.; 3124 Beckford, Lce. Sergt. N.; 3057 Bennett, S. R.; 7013 Bigbie, A.; 3215 Black, G.; 9083 Black, W.; 2835 Booth, J. N.; 8699 Brown, D.; 8378 Brown, J.; 3216 Brown, J. A.; 6214 Brown, N.; 3577 Brown, P.; 14264 Brown, Cpl. R.; 8712 Butcher, G.; 7289 Campbell, A.; 83601 Campbell, A.; 11937 Campbell, A.; 7292 Campbell, S.; 8396 Carr, J. (att. R.G.A.); 5764 Collington J.; 8365 Coombes, H.; 7344 Criven, E.; 7291 Crawford, L.; 7564 Davis, Sergt. W.; 8123 Davey, B.; 8704 Edwards, E.; 2618 Elleston, W. T.; 3348 Ewart, S. A.; 3406 Fagan, N.; 7545 Farquhar, J.; 7607 Gardner, G.; 3607 Geddes, C.; 7340 Gillings, J.; 3289 Gordon, J.; 12115 Grant, J.; 3611 Graham, C. S.; 7259 Grey, Actg. Sergt. B.; 5791 Groves, W. A.; 14380 Hambleton, R.; 2905 Hanson, C.; 8355, Hayes, J.; 8772 Henry C.; 6286 Hines, T.; 8411 Hossack, T.; 3817 Hyton, M. J.; 3248 Irving, C.; 8443 Jackson, A.; 3297 Keating, R. V.; 8388 Kellier, S.; 10237 Kelly, L.; 8406 Kerr, H.; 2626 Laurence, J.; 2913 Lawson, Lce. Sergt. V. A.; 3534 Lecruise, A.; 2970 Lynch, T.; 5863 McCallan, N.; 10342 McDonald, W.; 7414 McFarlane, J.; 2221 McKay, E.; 7424 McKie, J.; 3713 Mair, C. B.; 5858 Mason, A.; 3190 Maleohn, C. A.; 3663 Miller, J. L.; 6310 Mills, C.; 5888 Numbhard, G.; 8440 Nelson, W.; 8310 Offeld, H.; 2886 Palmer, R. N.; 3012 Parkins, S. E.; 2977 Phillips, B.; 8479 Rankine, E.; 2525 Redguard, A.; 8254 Richards, J.; 3430 Ricketts, Lce. Cpl. J.; 8495 Robinson, L.; 2757 Rose, H. A.; 7466 Sanion, J.; 7971 Samuels, Z.; 2926 Sammis, A. S.; 3032 Smith, A.; 2670 Smith, A.; 8513 Smith, C.; 8240 Sparks, A.; 2091 Stockhausen, O. L.; 7236 Taylor, H.; 2986 Thomas, A. H.; 3106 Thomas O.; 8265 Thompson, H.; 2930 Thompson, J. E.; 7364 Uriah, Hamilton J.; 8242 Wallace, A.; 3993 Walters, D.; 8549 Watson, E. H.; 3108 Wobley, P.; 2649 West, H. B.; 8532 Wilson, A.; 2650 Wilson, H. J.; 8762 Williams, C.; 7240 Williams, J.; 3043 Wright, E.; 7488 Wright, W.

PANAMA.—5768 Henry, G.; 8758 Gillets, S.

ST. KITTS.—11519 Pinder, C. C.

ST. LUCIA.—1138 Dubois, Lce. Cpl. E.

ST. VINCENT.—11619 Stephen, A.

TRINIDAD.—11030 Cambridge, A. L.; 11688 Sheeu, C.; 11777 Wiltshire, W.

The West Indies and the War.

Some further names of those connected with the British West Indies who are serving their King and Country, together with names of officers and men promoted, etc., are given below.

Barrow, Sapper Lucien J. (son of Mr. Joseph H. Barrow, of Belleville, Barbados) Royal Engineers.

Cocks, Bombardier Gordon (son of Rev. Arthur J. Cocks, of Ebenezer, St. Philip, Barbados), Honourable Artillery Company.

Edgill, 2nd Lieut. A. G. (son of Mr. C. E. Edgill, of Applewhaites, Barbados), Lancashire Fusiliers.

Kysh, Lieut. C. J. A. (son of Mr. C. S. Kysh, of Strathclyde, Barbados), Royal West Kent Regiment.

Kysh, Midshipman Reginald, R.N.R. (son of Mr. C. S. Kysh, of Barbados).

Lane, Lieut.-Colonel George A. O. (Barbados estates proprietor) commanding a Labour Group.

McConney, Scout E. M. (son of Rev. J. M. McConney, St. Paul's, Barbados), Canadian Infantry.

McConney, Pte. H. M. (son of Rev. J. M. McConney, St. Paul's, Barbados), Royal Fusiliers.

McDonald, 2nd Lieut. R. E. W. (son of the Hon. Robert W. McDonald, Barrister-at-Law, Antigua), has been gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery.
 McKinstry, 2nd Lieut. L. C. (born in Barbados, son of Hon. W. L. McKinstry, Acting Colonial Secretary of British Honduras), the Leicestershire Regiment.
 Pile, Sapper George V. (of Barbados), Canadian Engineers.
 Scott, 2nd Lieut. Percy J. (of Trinidad), late Life Guards, Machine Gun Corps.
 Sowley, Trpr. S. (of Jamaica) King Edward's Horse.
 Spencer, Sergt. Wilton W. (son of Mr. F. Geo. Spencer, of Trinidad), Canadians.

HONOURS.

TROOPER C. H. BALFOUR (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), King Edward's Horse, has been awarded the Military Medal.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—Trafalgar Day.

A correspondent writes: On Sunday, October 21st, the anniversary of Trafalgar Day, a wreath, made by Miss May Inness, of Fairview, Duval Lane, was put on Lord Nelson's statue from the members of the League of the Empire; also a shield covered with the Union Jack, to which was attached an appropriate motto. All the papers recently worked out here for the Oxford and Cambridge Boards of Schools Examiners' Certificates have been lost by the sinking of the ship by submarine.

BRITISH GUIANA—Red Cross Fete.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, OCTOBER 15th.—The weather since my last has been dry, with the exception of some good rains on the 12th and 13th inst., when a thunderstorm occurred. A Fête in aid of the Red Cross funds was given on the G.C.C. grounds on the 10th inst.—Mr. A. Hyatt Verrill delivered a lecture last week on the "First Demeritarians" to the local branch of the British Medical Association.—A robbery, which is happily unique in the history of the colony, took place on the 13th inst., when a coffer containing estates' wages was removed from the estate's van in Georgetown and carried off. Luckily it was recovered by the police the same afternoon intact. The amount at stake was \$2,300.—An official notice has been published that as soon as the new rice crop is easily obtainable by the public, export of rice to the extent of 20,000 bags a month will be permitted to approved ports for six months.—Mr. and Mrs. Clement returned on the 12th inst. from their trip to Kaieteur.—News has been received that Messrs. Booker's new schooner, the *Frances Inness*, has been dismantled by a hurricane on her voyage from Jamaica to the United States.—The Autumn Race Meeting at Belair Park will be held on the 17th and 18th inst.—Miss M. A. King, second daughter of Mr. J. A. King, Crown Solicitor, was married to Mr. Walter Foster, of Barbados, on the 10th inst.—Mr. H. E. Murray has returned to the colony after a month's holiday in Barbados. Mr. Justice J. K. D. Hill and Mr. G. O. Case have also returned to the colony.

Writing on November 3rd, Mr. McCowan says: We had a meeting of the Planters' Association on the 29th ult., when several letters from the Government forwarding enclosures from the Secretary of State relating to emigration from India after the War were held over.—The weather continues peculiar for this time of the year. This week we have had heavy showers on four different days in town and neighbourhood. This retards ripening of canes already backward.—A very successful race meeting took place at the Belair Park on the 17th and 18th ult.—The annual meeting of the Combined Court has been fixed for the 14th inst.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Record Rainfall.

A correspondent writes on November 4th: Our Bishop and his wife have arrived, and have already done much to improve Church matters. I think both will be most popular. He is a man of great energy and full of enthusiasm.—October will, I think, surpass all records for rainfall. The good floods it brought have put the finishing touch on a most successful mahogany season. The colony has been able to supply a substantial portion of wood needed for national purposes. The Agricultural Commis-

sion concluded their labours last month, and their very interesting report will shortly be issued. There is little hope of agriculture being developed to any useful extent under existing conditions. The colony must first be prepared to spend large sums on roads and communications. Without these practically 50 per cent. of the produce would be wasted, and we cannot expect the needed labour to come in. The matter of passenger and mail service to and from the colony is now most serious. For passengers we are now reduced to an irregular service on a mahogany cargo boat, about once a fortnight, at a charge of \$50 for the passage to or from New Orleans and for accommodation and conveniences that could hardly be described as a poor third-class. The United Fruit Co. are still sending a weekly steamer for fruit, but decline to carry any passengers.

DOMINICA—War Memorial Service.

On October 29th a service was held in St. George's Church, Roseau, in memory of residents who have given their lives for their King and Country. A military parade of the local forces, consisting of a small detachment of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, the Dominica Defence Force, the Police—which is a semi-military body—and the recruits in training for the British West Indies Regiment, was held. These were joined by the Fire Brigade, the Town Constables, and the Prison Warders, and they all marched to the church to take part in the memorial service. His Honour A. W. Mahaffy, the Administrator of Dominica, and a considerable number of the public officers attended, and there was a large congregation of all sections of the community. The service was a very solemn and impressive one. The Rector of St. George's read out the list of the heroes who had fallen in battle, and the Administrator unveiled a handsome brass tablet erected to the memory of Major George Carew, the proprietor of Stowe Estate, who was one of the first of the residents to give his services in a righteous war. Mr. Mahaffy, in unveiling the tablet, gave a short but eloquent address, in the course of which he said that he was very greatly honoured in having been asked to unveil a memorial brass to a very gallant gentleman, Major George Carew, of His Majesty's Dorsetshire Regiment, and sometime of Stowe in the island. There never was any of his race and name who asked, or hoped, or prayed for a prouder epitaph than the words, "He died for England." Happy indeed was he who, in such a quarrel as that in which we were engaged, met his appointed end on the side of Justice, Truth, and Liberty. Might Major Carew's example be an inspiration to all who survived him, as his memory would ever be cherished by those who were fortunate in knowing him, as he lived and died, without fear and without reproach. The service was concluded by the choir and the congregation singing the National Anthem.

The Hon. Lady Lawley, Hon. Secretary of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, in a letter to Miss Macintyre, says: "I am desired by Her Majesty the Queen to thank you for the very generous cheque of £70 as a contribution from Dominica. Her Majesty is much interested to hear that it is the proceeds of a Flag day, and she is most grateful to all those who organised it, and wishes me to tell you that owing to the very heavy fighting at the Front the need of comforts is greater than ever, so that your money will be spent at once on air-beds and air-ings, which are the most valuable things that we can send out to our Casualty Clearing Stations. With renewed thanks."

GRENADA—Marriage of Rev. T. Leedham.

A correspondent writes: The Rev. Thomas Leedham, Rector of St. Patrick's, Grenada, was on September 27th married to Miss Jessie McNeilly, of Mount Craven. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Canon B. Giles.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Governor to consider the question of the provision to be made for the men of the Grenada Contingent on their return to the colony, recommends that lands be acquired by the Government by agreement or under the provisions of the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinances for the purpose of providing small holdings for the men of the Grenada Contingent who may desire to avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing small holdings. The Committee recommend that the existing Land Settlement Scheme be applied to such lands, subject to modifications.

ST. LUCIA—Red Cross Fete.

"Our Day" was observed on October 17th and 18th in response to the invitation of the Red Cross Committee in England. As in previous times, Castries (says the *Voice*) rose to the occasion, and the Fête, organised by the Committee to take place in the Botanic Gardens, was as successful as any in the past. Crowds made their way to the Gardens, where every means that skill could devise to provide suitable attractions to the public had been put into operation. The Administrator visited the grounds, and was received by Mr. A. S. Duff, Chairman of the local Committee, who welcomed His Honour, and, referring to the good work done by the Red Cross Society, thanked all those who had helped in any way to make the Fête a success. His Honour suitably replied, and declared the Fête open. Fine weather prevailed, and folks made good every opportunity for enjoyment.

ST. VINCENT—Visit of Sir F. Watts

MR. W. N. SANDS, OCTOBER 16th.—Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, recently paid an official visit to the colony of twelve days' duration. He visited both the Leeward and Windward districts, and addressed a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. Besides discussing with the Administrator and officers of the Agricultural Department matters connected with the agriculture of the colony and cotton research work, he was able to place before planters his views relative to the sugar, cotton, and coco-nut industries. In regard to sugar, he thought that the island could with advantage extend the cultivation of sugar cane for the manufacture of syrup, and improve the sugar mills so that the best results in the production of syrup might be obtained. He was of opinion, looking to the probable post-war position, that it would be difficult to work, economically, central sugar factories, owing to the fact that the transportation charges for cane in this mountainous island would be so high. If a successful syrup industry by means of small central mills was first of all built up, the question of extensions of them for sugar-making might subsequently be considered.—The corn (maize) crop was a good one, and the Government granary was preparing for storage large supplies of it. The cotton crop was full of promise so far. Growers had cultivated and manured their lands well, and it is hoped that the weather of the next two months will enable them to reap a good crop.—News was received last night that the export of Sea Island cotton from the colony was prohibited, and that the Admiralty would purchase the cotton for their requirements. No further details have been received up to the time of writing. The weather this season to date has been excellent.

A correspondent writes that difficulties in the matter of food control are by no means restricted to Great Britain. Writing of the situation in this island, the *St. Vincent Times* says:—"The sugar situation is developing apace. Last week the police threatened prosecutions against several shopkeepers for retailing sugar in excess of the schedule prices, and the exportation of sugar syrup and molasses are prohibited by the Government. These actions were immediately met by sugar dealers with a counter move. Being unable to treat the Government's order with contempt, they are now refusing to sell sugar to the public. Possibly, this high-handed action has been forced on shopkeepers by holders of stock, who are in the position to defy the Government and hoard up their supplies. At present much distress is being caused to the masses who are unable to obtain this necessity, and except the Government takes further action a serious state of affairs is likely to occur.

TRINIDAD—Castro to Quit.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes: General Castro, ex-Dictator of Venezuela, is again among us, desirous, according to himself, of nothing but a quiet life. The Home Government, however, have instructed the Governor to give him official notice to quit. This decision is strongly protested against by Castro in two letters addressed to His Excellency, apparently without effect. It would seem that there is difficulty in finding anywhere a suitable place to end his wanderings. The United States do not want him; France, to which country his inclination leads, will not have him. Germany and Austria probably would welcome him, but the difficulty is to get there. Italy alone re-

mained, and a chance offered by a steamer leaving to-day, but a passport was necessary, to which the signature of the Venezuelan Consul was necessary, and Castro will not apply to him for it. I am sorry to say that the ravages of the froghopper are proving even more serious than anticipated. There can now be no doubt of a very considerable shortage in next year's crop. The Hon. Dr. Prada, who acted as Mayor for three terms with much credit to himself and advantage to the city, has resigned and accepted the position of Town Clerk, succeeding the late Mr. Arnold Lamy, who filled that position most efficiently for many years. The Burgesses are fortunate in having secured the services of one with so much experience as Dr. Prada of the duties and responsibilities of the office.

Writing on November 3rd, Mr. Tripp says: The Legislative Council meeting yesterday opened with a message from the Governor on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1918. Owing to heavy charges the anticipated surplus at end of current year of about £130,000 is not expected to exceed £77,000, which is "inadequate for the service of the colony under present conditions." It is therefore proposed to supplement the revenue by an increase of 25 per cent. in the Produce Tax. The estimated Revenue for 1918 is £1,088,741, being £24,145 more than that of the present year. The estimated expenditure of 1918 is 1,093,589, or £56,572 more than 1917, but actually less by £34,276 than the revised estimate for this year. The municipal elections took place on the 1st, and created most unusual interest. Three out of five seats were contested, and the selections made are generally approved.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes on November 13th: I regret very much to report that the Canadian subsidised boat *Caraguet*, carrying 143 passengers, of whom 116 were from this port, travelling north to the Islands, Bermuda, and Canada, went ashore on a reef in the first Boca whilst leaving here yesterday evening. As she was making water, and listing, the passengers were slung out in life-boats, from which they were later relieved by various small steam craft that hastened from Port of Spain in response to the wireless calls for help. It is not yet known how severe the damage may be. Mr. F. E. Scott (who has had the privilege of sending five sons to the Front) has been elected Mayor of Port of Spain, and the Hon. Hugh McLelland, Mayor of San Fernando. At a meeting of the Agricultural Society the Vice-President proposed a resolution urging the desirability of the colony being made self-supporting as far as possible by the home production of all animal and vegetable food for which the soil and climate are suitable; and the advantage of encouraging this by the imposition of duties on similar articles imported from other countries, whilst allowing a preferential rate to the products of countries within the Empire. This was carried unanimously. We are getting some good rains again, which were wanted. The rice crop is now commencing, and a fair return is anticipated. The cacao market is exceptionally dull; practically no demand, and prices nominal. Boxing has been attracting much attention here of late. This culminated the other evening in a great fight for the heavyweight championship of the West Indies, held at the Queen's Park C. Club ground, between Clem Johnson (Demerara) and Jim Braithwaite (Barbados). After an excellent contest Johnson clean knocked out his opponent in the 6th round. About 3,000 spectators attended.

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

Destination	Weight in lb.
To all countries	1,592,040
Total for October	1,592,040
Shipped previously	66,298,332
Total from 1st January	67,890,372
To same date, 1916	50,636,017
" " 1915	44,258,053
" " 1914	60,745,517
" " 1913	45,780,272
" " 1912	40,143,025
" " 1911	42,127,478
" " 1910	49,332,789
" " 1909	41,367,387
" " 1908	37,020,821
" " 1907	35,052,616

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—5612 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E.C.3

December 13th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 93½. Consols, 55½d.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturers' purposes.

The West India Committee was informed on November 29th that the International Sugar Committee, New York, would not make purchases in the British West Indies market, leaving it entirely to the Sugar Commission. The latter, recognising the difficulties connected with the questions of Inter-Colonial preference, brokers' commissions, etc., had decided that Canada should be left free to make her own purchases in the B.W.I. market. This decision was cabled to New York, and Mr. J. R. Bruce, of the New York Agency of the Royal Bank of Canada, who has been appointed to represent the Dominion on the International Committee, was advised accordingly.

It remains to be seen whether the price of the future will be a matter of free negotiations between buyers and sellers or whether it is to be fixed by the Canadian representative, in which case it is presumed that due consideration will be given to the matter of preference. On December 6th the West Indian Committee cabled to Sir George Foster, at Ottawa, as follows: If maximum price is to be fixed for British West Indian Sugar for Canada, urge you protect West Indian Colonies' rights under reciprocal trade agreement, 1912.

The price in New York for new crop Cubans has been fixed for the present at \$4.90 c.i.f.

Guma-Meijir give the following results of the 1916-17 crop as compared with those of 1915-16 and 1914-15.

		Tons	
Havana ...	23	286,483	
Matanzas ...	30	492,440	
Cardenas ...	19	374,923	
Cienfuegos ...	24	462,704	
Sagua ...	20	223,331	
Caibarien ...	16	206,565	
Six Principal Ports ...	132	1,986,436 = 65.70%	
Minor Ports ...	65	1,037,284 = 34.30%	
Total ...	197	3,023,720 = 100%	
Crop 1915-16.			
Six Principal Ports ...	131	1,914,697 = 63.65%	
Minor Ports ...	56	1,093,218 = 36.35%	
Total ...	187	3,007,915 = 100%	
Crop 1914-15.			
Six Principal Ports ...	128	1,686,333 = 65.04%	
Minor Ports ...	48	906,334 = 34.96%	
Total ...	176	2,592,667 = 100%	

The first Central to start on the new crop in Cuba was the "Palma," in Oriente, which went about on November 16th.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London from January 1st to December 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915	Tons.
Imports ...	80,984	54,244	52,870	
Deliveries ...	74,728	56,688	46,630	
Stock (Dec. 8th) ...	14,271	8,661	12,249	

RUM. The Admiralty having presumably filled its requirements in respect of rum, the Order prohibiting the buying, selling, removal or dealing in rum lying in bonded warehouses in the United Kingdom, has been rescinded, except as regards such parcels as the owners thereof have been directed to hold on account of the Admiralty, and without prejudice to any proceedings which have been or may be instituted in respect of any infringement of the aforesaid Order.

At a special meeting of the General Committee of the Wine and Spirit Association and firms in the Rum Trade, on November 28th, considerable exception was taken to

the terms of requisition of rum in this country, certain firms having received the following intimation from the Admiralty:—

"As it has not yet been definitely fixed what amount of profit shall be allowed to you in respect of the quantities taken over, it has been decided to pay in the first instance only the prices already stated in your return as being those at which your firm actually purchased the rum, plus the incidental charges which have since accrued in the ordinary course for carriage, rent, and insurance to the 31st December next, and interest calculated at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

"Your invoice, showing clearly the actual first cost to you, plus the charges as stated above, should, therefore, be sent to the Director of Contracts, Admiralty, as soon as you are informed by Messrs. Man that the samples forwarded to them have been approved by the Admiralty's examining officers."

A deputation was appointed to approach the Admiralty on the subject.

The stocks in London on Dec. 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica ...	7,769	10,657	6,498 puns
Demerara ...	6,520	10,877	4,214
Total of all kinds ...	22,114	36,705	21,804

CACAO. As recorded elsewhere, the Board of Trade has acceded to the request of the West India Committee that shipments in respect of the 1918 import allowance of colonial cacao may be made before February 23rd. Licenses are now accordingly being granted for the shipment of cacao to reach the United Kingdom not before January 1st next.

The market has ruled firm. Grenada fine, 96/-; Trinidad plantation, 99/-; Acera good, 72/-.

The stocks in London on Dec. 8th were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad ...	19,075	17,828	8,259 bags.
Grenada ...	18,087	11,862	2,127
Total of all kinds ...	223,253	216,450	98,779

COTTON. The British Cotton Growing Association has been requested to take charge of the West Indian cotton purchased by the Admiralty under the arrangement referred to in last Circular, on arrival in Liverpool. The Admiralty will advance a fixed amount when the purchase is made, and the balance will be paid after the cotton has arrived in Liverpool and the grade has been decided upon. The Association state that they have not sought this business, which will entail a good deal of work, as the cotton has to be graded and costed, and afterwards sold and account sales rendered for each separate mark. Arrangements have now been concluded by which the Association undertake this work at a fixed rate which will include Liverpool brokerage and charges.

During the eleven months ended November 30th, 1,920 bales of British West Indian, 13,187 of British West African, and 29,238 of British East African were imported into the United Kingdom.

ARROWROOT. The first-hand market has been cleared of stocks, new arrivals not yet being ready for sale. In second hands a moderate business has been done at full rates. Quotations, fair to fine, nominally 6d. to 7d.

COPRA. The market continues firm with buyers at the maximum price, £46 c.i.f. delivered weights, London or Liverpool.

HONEY. Strong and dearer. Sales in Liverpool of fair to good set Jamaica at 130/- to 135/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, unchanged, common to fair, 2/- to 3/-; concentrated, unchanged, tending easier. Lime Oil: Handpressed, firm, 17/6; distilled, no demand; 7/6 to 8/- nominal. Cannot advise consignments. Citrate Unchanged.

GINGER. Very quiet. A few barrels fair Jamaica sold 105/-.

PIMENTO. Quiet; a few hundred bags sold cheaply at 4d. Sellers at 4½d.

BALATA. Market firm; Venezuela block 3/3½ c.i.f., 3/5½ spot; Panama 2/8½ to 2/9 c.i.f., 2/10½ spot; W.I. sheet, 3/9 forward, 4/- spot.

RUBBER. Weak; spot, crepe 2/2½, S.R. sheet 2/3; hard fine, quietly firm, 2/6½ spot.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXII.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27th, 1917.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

December 27th, 1917.

The present number completes Volume XXXII. of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the title page and index of which will be published with next issue. Cases for binding the CIRCULAR can be supplied post free for 3/- each. Members can have their CIRCULARS bound for the inclusive charge of 5/- on sending them, carriage paid, to the Secretary, The West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3. Spring-backed filing cases to hold the issues for the current year as published can be obtained at the same address, post free 3/- each.

Two Trinidad Companies.

WE publish in the present CIRCULAR reports of the meetings of two joint stock Companies operating in Trinidad which are decidedly encouraging. One is that of the SRE. MADELEINE SUGAR COMPANY, and the other that of the TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD. The former was established four years ago to acquire the great central sugar factory in the Naparima District of Trinidad which bears its name and other properties of the NEW COLONIAL COMPANY, and one might at first be inclined to attribute its admitted success to the enhanced price of sugar resulting from the War. Closer scrutiny of the report and accounts, a summary of which we also publish, go to show that that has only been a contributory cause. It is, indeed, reasonably certain that, even with the continuance of the market conditions which prevailed prior to the outbreak of war, good profits would have been earned, the real secret being the enlightened management of the firm of MESSRS. HENCKELL DU BUNSSON & Co., who are also identi-

fied with two other successful undertakings of a similar nature, the ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORY, LTD., and the ST. KITTS (BASSETERRE) SUGAR FACTORY, LTD. The report of the Company furnishes much information of general interest to sugar producers, to whom we commend as a model the admirable comparative table of results from 1914 to date, which indicate the existence of a perfect system of chemical control. As we have already pointed out, these and the corresponding figures supplied in the case of the Antigua and St. Kitts Companies referred to above, should form the nucleus of statistical tables which should be interchanged among all West Indian sugar concerns of any consequence for mutual information. To revert to the report of the SRE. MADELEINE COMPANY, one of the most satisfactory points is the increased tonnage of sugar per acre which has been secured. The figure has now been raised to 2½ tons, which equals the average of the principal estates in Cuba—a most gratifying state of affairs. Indeed, MR. GEORGE MOODY-STUART, at the annual meeting, was able to point out that the production of sugar per acre had been progressive, steadily improving year by year until it is now 20 per cent. more than it was four years ago. As to the relationship between agriculture and manufacture, MR. MOODY-STUART had some interesting remarks to make. He aptly pointed out that while sugar planting yielded big profits in good times, and big losses in bad times, it was otherwise with the factory—that is to say, the business of sugar manufacture, where the effect of bad times was merely to reduce the margin of profit. He showed that the agriculturists who grew their own canes for supply to a factory were less burdened by labour expenses than growers of cane on a large scale, and he advocated and foreshadowed a further differentiation between the business of the growing of canes and the manufacture of sugar.

The report of the TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD., though dealing with a different industry altogether—that of the production of petroleum from the local oil-wells—is equally encouraging, and should effectively silence those croakers who have endeavoured to belittle the Trinidad field. This Company, which has been supported by the CENTRAL MINING AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION and the CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA,

has had an extremely successful year. For the first time it has issued a Profit and Loss Account, a substantial balance of profit being carried to the balance sheet after wiping off the whole of the preliminary expenses. As to the future before Trinidad oil, MR. MILNER, the Chairman of the Company, was quite optimistic, and his views, we are glad to note, were in marked contrast to those to which we have become accustomed in the utterances of those connected with one of the other large groups operating in the island. In the Trinidad oil industry we ourselves have always had the greatest confidence from the days when MR. (now COLONEL) RANDOLPH RUST and MR. LEE LUM called prominent attention to its possibilities. Trinidad is fortunate in having recently attracted capital on a large scale for the development of its resources, and its rulers, in their readiness to welcome newcomers, afford a marked contrast to those of Grenada, who have recently sought to impose a surtax on income tax in the case of absentees—an effective way of keeping out capital.

Agriculture in St. Lucia.

THE report of the Agricultural Department of St. Lucia for the year 1916-17 expresses a regret which will evoke sympathy in the sister islands. That regret concerns one of the chief industries—sugar. The value of the export—£95,818—shows an increase of £6,352 over that of the previous year and is nearly double the crop value for 1914. These enhanced figures, however, represent no increase of production. They stand merely for higher prices. As a matter of fact little or no progress has been made during the past few years. Nor, indeed, says the report, can much extension in this direction be anticipated as far as large factories are concerned. Their production to a large extent is regulated by the limited labour supply. The peasants in the southern districts, it is stated, could produce a larger output. Owing, however, "to the poor prices paid locally for cane and sugar these peasants are reducing their areas under cane each year." One can only hope that the effect of higher prices already witnessed in connection with the exports will be felt in these southern districts. We can conceive no attitude more retrogressive or less in harmony with the tendency of the times than that peasants or any other tillers of the ground should be discouraged from cultivating to their fullest capacity a commodity which is destined to receive ever increasing recognition as one of the vital foods of the world. Planters elsewhere will be interested to learn that the following improved varieties have been successfully introduced into St. Lucia:—Ba.6032, B.H.10 (12), B.3922, D.216, A.2, B.4596 and B.1566. Cacao, which was exported to the value of £40,620, was down by 3,903 cwt., as compared with the pre-

vious year. The position as regards limes is the reverse of that of sugar. This export is valued at £6,360—a decline of £952—but the drop is due to the fall of market rates and not to a decline in the crop. The crop, indeed, shows an advance of 1,126 barrels. More remarkable is the progress in regard to green limes. St. Lucia has already made a name on the New York market for well-packed fruit, and the best evidence of this fact is to be found in the largely increased export. Whereas in 1914, 263 barrels were sent out, the figure in 1916 had leaped to 3,403 barrels. A profit of £446 is shown on the working of the Government lime juice factory. It is good news that the working capacity of the factory proved inadequate to cope with the supply of produce offered, and although every effort was made by the staff to deal with this rapid increase of production, at least 50 per cent. of the produce offered by small planters, and the whole of the produce offered by large estates had to be declined. Consequently, upon this rapid development, the factory was enlarged, the Government approving a further loan of £1,000 at 5 per cent. interest. We are glad to note the prompt action taken to solve the problem of food shortage. Immediately it became apparent that there would be a falling off of imported food-stuffs from the United States and Canada, the Agricultural Superintendent was instructed to submit a workable scheme to the Government. The local Treasury advanced £200—to be repaid from the sale of products—and planters were invited to influence the extension of the areas under such crops as sweet potatoes, casava, corn, peas and beans. The example of St. Lucia might be emulated with advantage elsewhere. To produce substitutes for wheat flour attention has been given to the extension of farine cultivation and numerous experiments made with sweet potato, arrowroot and tous-les-mois, from which flour and meal were prepared for diluting with wheat flour for bread-making. Reviewing the operations of the Department as a whole they represent no mean tribute to the energy and enterprise of the island Government.

THE following letter has been sent to all members of the West India Committee overseas and *mutatis mutandis* to all members at home:—

Dear Sir or Madam,—While sending for your acceptance a Calendar for 1918, I beg to remind you that Subscriptions for the current year become due on January 1st.

It will greatly assist the Honorary Treasurers if, in the event of your not having sent a remittance already, you will kindly forward your Subscription at your earliest convenience, or pay it into one of the Branches of the Colonial Bank.

I also enclose a Candidate's Form in the hope that you will help us to strengthen our membership still further.

I am,

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Secretary.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to the Secretary, The West India Committee, and crossed "The Colonial Bank."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. R. A. SWAN, late Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Oxfordshire.

* * *

It should be a matter of interest to our readers that the ranks of the British West Indies Regiment includes a descendant of one of England's famous admirals. This is Company Sergeant-Major Cuthbert Collingwood-Denny—great-great-grandson of Lord Collingwood.

THE *Lady's World*, which draws attention to this fact, adds:—

The British West Indies Regiment will be an unknown quantity to many at home, who have no idea of the many peoples living under the British flag who are serving in the Expeditionary Force. Men from all parts of the Empire are fighting alongside in the common cause, and a most gratifying feature is the bond of good fellowship which exists between West Indians, Australians, New Zealanders and men from all parts.

* * *

MR. J. W. A. MAGINLEV, who was seriously wounded in the right thigh at Vimy Ridge in 1916, has received his discharge from the Army, in consequence of being no longer physically fit for service. Mr. Maginley was two years and 336 days with the Colours.

* * *

A STATEMENT recently presented to Parliament by Mr. Bonar Law shows that the cacao duties are expected to yield £1,030,000 in the current year, against £341,000 in the pre-war year. The sugar duties in 1917-18 are estimated to produce £16,750,000, as compared with £3,388,000 in 1913-14.

THE Queen's Hotel, taken over by Government (says the annual report of the Public Works Department, Jamaica), is fitted out as a home for use of discharged men of the British West Indies Regiment who are in training at the Technical School in various trades. The home is run by the Salvation Army for Government on economical but satisfactory lines.

* * *

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR calendar for 1918, which is being sent to all subscribers, is embellished with a reproduction of an old coloured engraving of a Private of the 5th West India Regiment. This was one of the twelve regiments raised in the British West Indies in 1795-8. The 5th regiment was disbanded in the seventies and only the 1st and 2nd now remain.

* * *

THE West India Committee have been successful in persuading the Minister of Shipping to sanction a further sailing on the Calcutta-West Indies route early in the new year. They laid stress on the need for the importation of gunny bags for sugar and for rice to supplement the British Guiana crops and for coolie stores. They also called attention to the feeling of isolation which East Indians were experiencing through being cut off from their native land.

APROPOS of the recent discussion in these columns on the moon's influence on agriculture, it may be noted that Mr. C. F. Marvin, Chief of the United States Weather Bureau, has issued a statement in which he points out that plant-growth depends on temperature, light, humidity and plant-food (both in the soil and in the air) and its availability. "Obviously the moon neither mellows the ground nor fertilizes it, neither does it alter the composition of the atmosphere; hence it affects neither the mechanical condition of the soil nor the kind or quantity of available plant-food."

* * *

"If the moon has any influence on plant-growth it would seem that it must exert this influence through its light. Experiment, however, shows that when a plant is so shadowed that it gets only one-hundredth of normal daylight, it grows but very little better than it does in absolute darkness. Full daylight is about 600,000 times brighter than full moonlight; hence one one-hundredth of daylight, already too feeble to stimulate appreciably plant activity, is still 6,000 times brighter than full moonlight. The conclusion is that, even in respect to light stimulus, the moon's influence on plant-growth is wholly negligible."

* * *

EACH quarterly issue of *Caribbeana* is a tribute to the energy and research of its editor, Mr. Vere Langford Oliver. The West Indies owe no small debt of appreciation to Mr. Oliver for these miscellaneous papers relating to the history, genealogy, topography and antiquities of the Caribbean. An interesting feature of the October issue is a further list of "Monumental Inscriptions in England relating to West Indians." Bath Abbey should prove a fruitful field for this form of research, as the present writer, when visiting the Abbey some little time ago noticed tablets commemorating many West Indians.

* * *

REFERENCE is made in "The Life of Sir Clements Markham" (London: John Murray) to his visit to the West Indies in 1887, as a guest of his cousin on H.M.S. *Active*, with the Training Squadron. Markham, we read, was much impressed with the superiority of the towns in the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe over those in the British West Indian islands. "They appeared to be cleaner, the architecture of their cathedrals, churches and public buildings was superior; their prosperity pronounced, and everything more regular and thriving in appearance than in our islands." Admiral Markham, the author of the book, concurs in this view, and attributes it to absenteeism, adding that in the French islands, where the money is made, there it is spent.

* * *

ADMIRAL MARKHAM does not refer to his kinsman's visit to the so-called "Prince Rupert's tomb," which stands on the seashore at Portsmouth, Dominica. Sir Clements was present when the tomb was opened by the young midshipmen of whom he was so fond, but no trace of any remains was found in it. The tomb is an old stone structure about four feet square, and, according to the *Pocket*

Guide to the West Indies, it figures on an old War Office plan, dated 1771, as "Lord Cathcart's monument."

* * *

COLON may almost be regarded as a West Indian town, so familiar has it become to our readers in recent years as the spot at which so many sons of the Caribbean islands have disembarked for work on the Panama Canal. Hence one learns with interest from *Dun's Review* (New York), Colon is being rapidly transformed into a modern town by the builders, who are replacing the old wooden houses with substantial structures of concrete. Those who knew old Colon in the days of the French, or even after the beginning of work on the canal, would hardly recognise it to-day, so remarkably has the entire appearance of the place changed in the last year or two. Fires, which have devastated Colon more than once recently, have convinced the property owners that a change would have to be made in the material used in building, and concrete, as best suited to the earthquake zone in which Colon lies, was selected. So rapidly (says the *Review*) has the new building been done that wooden houses are becoming the exception rather than the rule, and the whole town already presents a general substantial appearance. Not only are the store buildings and public offices of this material, but the tenement houses—formerly hideous death-traps of cheap timber—are being rapidly replaced by large, sanitary dwellings of concrete.

WHAT steps is the Government taking to increase the future supply of cane sugar grown within the Empire? (asks *The Grocers' Review*). Judging by statements made by the Colonial Secretary and the Secretary of the Board of Trade in answer to questions in the House of Commons in July, nothing at all! The only ray of light in the situation is the fact that arrangements are in progress for a central sugar factory or factories in Jamaica, which Government will take under its protection to the minute extent of lending its authority to enable money to be borrowed cheaply for construction. As before the war even such infinitesimal assistance would, the British Empire Producers' Organisation understands, have been negated as contrary to the spirit of the Brussels Conference, such an arrangement, if in fact it is finally adopted, may presumably be regarded as a slight concession. But no guarantee of protection for a period to enable an enlarged Empire sugar industry to be built up has yet, the Government states, been made to any British Colony.

* * *

ADDS *The Review* :—

"Up till now, indeed, the chief result as regards sugar, of the war has been merely to give a gigantic impetus to the production of American cane in Cuba and Porto Rico! Surely it is not the intention of the British Government to look to the United States and Dutch tropical possessions for this country's sugar supply in the future? It has been proved before now that the exigencies and high prices of a great war, while cutting off temporarily some sources of food supplies, inevitably create fresh ones—vide the foundation of the sugar-beet industry. Such fresh sources of sugar were to be found within the Empire. And they are still there, but still lacking development, while the Government continues to give the question of fostering their development careful consideration. If, as the result of the war, the

United States sugar production has enormously increased, while that of the British Empire has remained stationary, huge American surplus crops will be sent to this country, and the prospects for Imperial sugar development will be seriously impaired."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

An Army of Manœuvre.

Mr. Lloyd George has made a fighting speech in which the League of Nations, including Germany, and the Freedom of the Seas were definitely dropped as depending upon victory, and, therefore, remote. Unfortunately, so far, he has failed to translate his brave words into deeds, since Parliament has adjourned before he has tackled the recruiting problem. This should have been done three months ago, since when the military situation has been complicated by the defection of Russia and the Italian reverses. Mr. Lloyd George plainly stated that until the Americans are ready to take the field in the Spring, the burden of the War must fall upon this country, and that the Germans are concentrating the legions released on the Eastern front to hurl themselves against the Allies in the West. Nevertheless, he confesses that Sir Douglas Haig is without an army of manœuvre, which is possessed by both the French and German Armies. Our reserves are at home, and though we are told that the want is to be met, the necessary courage seems to be lacking. For as long as a quarter of a million men in Ireland are allowed to escape the conscription net, the Volunteers of Great Britain cannot be asked to constitute our home defence army, nor can the age limit be extended and other vigorous steps taken to raise large reinforcements. The Prime Minister suggests that an army of manœuvre is required, because of the new menace to the Western front. But, as a matter of fact, it has always been required, for to be able to throw overwhelming forces at the critical point is essential to decisive success in war. Sir Douglas Haig, so far, has had a superiority in numbers, but never one that was overwhelming as it should be.

On the Western Front.

The comparative lull in the fighting before Cambrai has continued for a fortnight. But if no important infantry actions have taken place, there has been a good deal of activity in the air, and artillery duels are frequent and sustained. Further north, in the neighbourhood of Bullecourt and Queant, fighting has been hard. At one point we lost a trench, but it was a costly success to the enemy, since his Bavarians were decimated in the effort. Apparently he is feeling all along the British line to find a weak spot—a sure preliminary to a German offensive. The fortune of war favours first one side and then the other, with the balance slightly against ourselves. But neither the enemy gain in the Ypres sector nor near Bullecourt gives any ground for disquietude. That the Germans will take advantage of the strengthening of their forces in the West by large transfers from the East to deal the Allies a heavy blow before the Americans arrive, which is not likely to be until the late Spring, is as certain as events can be in military

affairs. That these and the French armies will be able to meet the first shock of the German offensive when it materialises may be true enough, but what of the ensuing needs, which will be imperative? Not only will large drafts be required, but that army of manoeuvre which the Prime Minister has promised. If, however, preparation is not made now, there is the risk of another "too late."

The Italians Holding Out.

The snow, which should have closed the mountain passes weeks ago, has not yet fallen in sufficient quantities to check Austro-German military operations. The Italians, with the British and French Contingents, which are in the positions prepared for them, are fighting a battle as bitter and sanguinary as Verdun. For the most desperate attempts are being made to force an entry into the Venetian Plain, supported by an overwhelming concentration of artillery and by aircraft which have been taken from the Western front. Up to the present the enemy has succeeded in driving two wedges into the Italian line on either side of Solarola, and is trying hard to eliminate the salient, so as to obtain a good position from which to launch attacks against communications on either side. With great devotion the Italians fought the enemy to a standstill in his efforts to turn the Grappa position from the Asiago plateau. The battle then recommenced between the Brenta and the Piave, and has raged there with fury ever since. North of Monte Tomba the Italians have held their own, but have lost heights east and west of Cal Della Beretta. Speaking broadly, the Austro-Germans are pushing forward at various points, but so slowly and at such cost that the winter snows should arrive to check their further progress.

Russian Abandonment of Allied Cause.

While Lenin and Trotzky have agreed to an armistice as the preliminary to peace negotiations, which would give Germany all she desires in Russia, there is civil war from Odessa to Petrograd and from there to Vladivostok. A Constituent Assembly has been elected to give the Bolshevik leaders authority. But in spite of their efforts to secure the return of members favourable to themselves, a large number of Cadets were elected. These, however, were forcibly excluded from the Assembly, and, as it even then showed some intention of fulfilling its function, it has been suppressed altogether. In the meantime, Trotzky threatens opponents with the guillotine. The really significant development in Russia is the definite repudiation of the Bolsheviks by the Ukraine Rada, which represents nine provinces, whose leaders are not German Jews, but Generals Kaledin and Korniloff. In the Caucasus the Grand Duke Nicholas is preserving order in the name of the Tsar, and appears to be at the head of considerable forces. But the hope of the immediate future is in Cossackdom, which controls the granaries of Southern Russia, so that if Germany wants to gain access to them she will have to fight for the advantage. That she can have any faith in the Lenin-Trotzky combination, or of its power to con-

clude a peace in the name of Russia, is doubtful. But as long as it is allowed to survive it serves her turn, and before the armistice is up on January 14th the Bolsheviks will, probably, have disappeared without requiring her to show too much of her hand.

Canada and Conscription.

The courage of Sir Robert Borden in appealing to the Dominion on conscription has been justified. Without it the drafts necessary to the maintenance of the Canadian Division in France could not be maintained, and it would have to be withdrawn. The issue was so clear that all parties outside Quebec rallied to the call of the Prime Minister, who will thus be able to form a Coalition Government with a large majority. For the second time in six years Sir Wilfred Laurier has been badly beaten at a general election, in which Imperial duty was the watchword. The Dominion has wisely determined to be mistress in her own house, French Canadians notwithstanding.

Another Convoy Sunk.

On December 19th the enemy was unusually active in the North Sea. At the mouth of the Tyne a steam trawler was sunk and another damaged by destroyers, which, later, sank two of our merchantmen. This attack was, probably, a feint in order to divert attention from the bigger enterprise in a more distant part of the North Sea. Here the British destroyers *Partridge* and *Pellew*, together with four armed trawlers, which were escorting a convoy of six cargo boats, one British and five neutral, were engaged by four enemy destroyers. The *Partridge* was sunk, and the survivors of her ship's company taken prisoners. The *Pellew* was disabled, but managed to reach port with one officer killed and two wounded. The enemy then sank the merchantmen and trawlers. The survivors were rescued by four British destroyers, which steamed rapidly to the scene of action, but not in time to prevent the destruction of the convoy. Hence there is to be an inquiry into the incident. It will be remembered that, when the last convoy was lost in the North Sea, on October 16th, the escape of the raiders was explained by the fact that the wireless equipment of the escort was destroyed as soon as the action began. This was not the case last week. But it is possible to make too much of such raids, the rarity of which is a tribute to the vigilance of the Navy. Apparently the information of the enemy was excellent, which presupposes spies or traitors on shore.

Shipping Losses.

While the "U"-boats have not yet been mastered, their activity is being combated, and it is believed on good authority that Germany has reached her maximum output in submarines. At any rate the figures for shipping losses have been practically stationary for some time. In the week ended December 15 the number of large vessels sunk was 13; of smaller vessels, 3. In the following week, of the first, 11 were sunk; of the second, one.

At British ports the arrivals and sailings last week

totalled 4,969. Nevertheless, Admiral von Tirpitz thinks that soon Germany will be able to control sea communications as to dictate terms to England.

An Italian Success at Sea.

The Italians have carried out a most daring raid on Trieste, the port of which is sheltered with a breakwater. In complete darkness two torpedo boats made their way to the entrance, from which they removed the floating mines and eight metal chains. Within the harbour they drew near the *Wien* and another warship to find out if these were protected by nets. On discovering that neither was so protected they moved away, and at that moment they were illuminated by the searchlight of the *Wien*, a critical juncture, whose only effect was to give them the opportunity for launching their torpedoes effectively. The *Wien* sank in seven minutes. The damage done to the other warship is unknown. Both the Italian vessels escaped.

Air Raid.

Early in the evening of December 18th London and the South Eastern Counties were raided, only five of the sixteen or twenty aeroplanes, which made for the capital in six groups, penetrating its defences. The others were turned back by our gunfire. One was damaged, and finally came down off the Kentish Coast, two of its crew being captured alive by an armed trawler. The casualties were ten persons killed and seventy injured. The incendiary bombs caused several fires, but the material damage was not serious.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

152 New Members elected this year.

At a meeting of the Executive held at 15, Seething Lane, E.C., on Thursday, December 20th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Candidate.	Proposer and Seconder.
Mr. Charles Singuineau (Trinidad)	{ Mr. G. T. Macdougall. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. H. P. Marryat (Trinidad)	{ Miss Mary Moseley. { Capt. A. H. Hamel Smith.
Mrs. J. W. Russell	{ Mr. H. Crum Ewing. { Mr. H. A. Trotter.
Dr. A. F. M. Berkeley	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. C. Gurney.
Mr. Gaston Johnston (Trinidad)	{ Mr. G. T. Macdougall. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Edgar Hicken (British Guiana)	{ Mr. B. R. Davson. { Mr. W. H. Parratt.

Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present 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. 3. 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.

WEST AFRICAN CACAO.

Quality Still Improving.

Every endeavour continues to be made to improve the quality of West African cacao. In his report on the Agricultural Department of the Southern Provinces of Nigeria, Mr. W. H. Johnson states that during the recent cacao harvest two instructors gave cacao-fermenting demonstrations with portable fermenting boxes at 39 centres in the principal cacao growing districts near Ibadan. Farmers from the outlying districts were summoned to witness the demonstrations by messengers specially appointed by the District Officer and the Bale of Ibadan. Members of the Ibadan Agricultural Society also contributed to the success of the scheme by touring the country prior to the date fixed for the demonstrations to explain to the farmers the objects of the demonstrations, and to advise them to bring in ripe cacao for fermentation. Mr. Johnson was able to make arrangements with the merchants for a bonus of 3/6 per cwt. to be paid for all cacao cured in the manner demonstrated, the fermented cacao being purchased by Messrs. John Holt. An instructor attended at the store on two days of each week to inspect all fermented cacao offered for sale, and to reject any which had not been properly prepared. 224,452 lbs. of fermented cacao were purchased, for which the farmers received £2,410 19s. 1d.

The efforts to improve the quality of cacao in the Calabar Province were continued, and as a result, some improvement is seen in the quality of cacao offered for sale, but progress is slow. At the Calabar Agricultural Station demonstrations were given with the recently constructed hot-air drier, and also with the cacao house and drying trays. Outside of Calabar, portable fermenting boxes were used for giving cacao-curing demonstrations; about 3,000 lbs. of dry cacao were handled by the Department in this way. At Calabar the African Association paid a bonus of 4/8 per cwt. for properly prepared cacao. Some cacao trees of private owners near Onitsha came into bearing for the first time, and the seeds were brought to the Agricultural Station for fermentation.

The Department's efforts to encourage cacao cultivation in the Beniu Province have been most successful, and it is expected that in a few years Beniu will be an important cacao-producing centre.

Cacao planting competitions were also held, and four prizes were given to successful growers.

Further Developments Foreshadowed.

The development of the Gold Coast cacao industry is dealt with by Archdeacon Morrison in an article which appeared recently in the *Mission Field*. Says the Archdeacon:

"The thick virgin forest of Ashanti makes ideal cacao-growing country, and is a very suitable industry for the West African, as it requires no great output of labour. A piece of forest land is cleared, the cacao planted, and, with a small amount of attention, in a few years the farmer is selling at a large profit, to the even greater profit of the native broker.

"In consequence, more and more land is being put under cultivation. Hitherto the roads in Ashanti have been

narrow, winding bush tracks from village to village, only possible to traverse on foot; few were even hammock roads. The need of bringing cacao to market has made the Africans themselves open their roads so that they may roll casks along. Where the cask can go the bicycle can go, and it is now possible to cycle all over Ashanti on the ordinary 'push' bicycle.

"Head loads and cask-rolling, for which the Northern Territory tribesmen—Moshas, Wangaras, Fra-fras, Grunchis, Dogombas, and many others—have been imported in large numbers, are but slow methods of bringing in the ever-increasing crops, and the Government and mercantile firms are doing their best to assist.

"Thus the Government have opened and are opening roads, whilst the firms run motor transport. Radiating out from Coomassie like the ribs of a fan are the roads out into all parts, which are being improved and lengthened by African labour under the skilled supervision of the surveyors.

The Best Ever Built.

"From Coomassie northwards goes the great road destined for the Northern Territories, 'the best and most expensive road ever built,' as I heard the Governor say the other day, built for political rather than commercial purposes. Four days' exhausting trek is taken off the journey to the north, which is now done at ease in a motor-car in four hours. Soon this road, on a less grandiose scale, will be continued to Yeji, on the Volta, whence one can travel, most of the year, by comfortable canoes, to within twenty miles of Tamale, the northern capital.

"The next road of importance, which is now steadily progressing, goes from Coomassie to Akwashu and the borders of Ashanti and the Eastern Province in the Colony. It now opens the richest part of the cacao country as yet growing the crop, but its place will eventually be taken by the railway from Accra to Coomassie, which is not likely to be ready for another seven years."

The Gold Coast is already the largest cacao producing country in the world, and the possibilities of the extension of the industry appear to be almost illimitable.

CACAO IMPORTS.

Further Concessions.

The West India Committee have received a further letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarding a copy of the following cablegram which was despatched to the Governors of Jamaica, Trinidad, the Windward islands and Leeward Islands on December 15th relative to the importation of cacao:—

"Cocoa Board of Trade is satisfied that importer has purchased and paid from the United Kingdom for a larger quantity cocoa before 23rd February, this year, than he receives under the exporters' ration licence will recommend grant of additional licences for the balance to the exporters for account of such importer. Board of Trade also state that in case of firms in the United Kingdom with branches in the exporting Colony, payment by branch before 23rd February, this year, will be regarded as payment entitling consignment to admission if the profits of the branch which makes the payment are assessable to Income Tax in the United Kingdom as part of profits of the home firm. Repeat this telegram to Governors of Trinidad, Jamaica, Leeward Islands."

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.

CANE SUGAR MANUFACTURE.

The last quarter of a century has witnessed an enormous advance in cane sugar manufacture, and it can no longer be said that the competing beet industry is ahead of the cane industry in this respect. But, with the exception of the manufacture of white sugar directly from the juice, the advance has been more in the direction of improvement of existing types of machinery than in the introduction of new varieties.

The basis of manufacture is still the same as it was fifty years ago. The canes are still ground in mills, the juice is still limed and heated; evaporation is still carried out to obtain the sugar by spontaneous crystallisation; centrifugals are now, as then, employed to separate the crystals from the molasses; the refuse megass still goes to supply fuel for the motive and evaporation power.

But where improvement has taken place is in the perfection of the machinery used in the several stages of manufacture, rather than in the processes, with the exception, as mentioned above, of the direct manufacture of white sugar, which, however, even itself may be taken as being merely a modification of a pre-existing process.

Starting at the beginning of manufacture, no improvement has been made in the direction of bringing canes to the mill. It is true that the tendency to concentration of manufacture has brought about the extended use of railways for this purpose, but it cannot be said that any improvement has taken place in this connection. But as regards the handling of the canes when they have come to the mill, much has been done. Mechanical cane feeders of various descriptions have come into use, and not only the cost of labour enormously diminished, but the heavy feeding compelled by multiple mills rendered possible.

As regards the mills themselves, the advance has been made in the number of units constituting the mill. During the twenty-five years under review, these have been commonly extended to four units, apart from the "crusher," which prepares the canes for crushing and partly crushes them. Plants of a higher number of units have also been employed, and the result of this has been that the extraction of sugar from the sugar in the cane has been brought up to the best diffusion standard. Quite recently a second crusher has been incorporated in the plant, and a "shredder," by means of which the cane is prepared for milling by being reduced to a fibrous mass, has been introduced, it is said with successful results.

A system of mill grooving, by which it is claimed that free release of juice is effected, has come into use with considerable advantage. The form of head-stock has also been considerably modified in many instances, with the view of the bolts being better aligned to the mill strainers.

As regards the accessories of the mills, not much has been done. A system of pressure to take the place of the hydraulic pressure, in which compressed air is the medium, has been used in one or two instances. In respect to maceration, a system of adding the water to the megass in which the

addition is made under pressure as the megass comes from the mill has been worked with, it is said, successful results. Considerable attention has also been paid to straining the juice automatically.

A notable feature in mill construction during the period has been the return to high roller speed. It is recognised that a mill is not a grinding-machine, but one intended for crushing and extraction. This may be said to be a distinguished feature of the period as regards mills. The diffusion process which was tried in Louisiana in the West Indies some 25 to 30 years ago has made no progress, and the process, in which the megass for the mills was treated in a diffusion battery, in which also filtration of the clarified juice was obtained, has only been adopted in two or three instances.

As to juice heaters, the early part of the period brought forward the high-pressure heater, in which the juice was subjected to a short exposure to a temperature corresponding to about 245 degrees Fahr. Subsequently, horizontal high-velocity heaters, in which the juice was made to travel at a rapid pace through horizontal tubes, were introduced, and have to a considerable extent displaced the old-fashioned vertical heater.

Closely associated with the juice heaters are clarification plants. Early in the period under review, two continuous clarification plants were put before the public. The one was based on high-pressure heating and continuous subsiding, the other on the old French system of clarification, in which the heat was applied to the tempered juice from below, and the scum collected from the top. The former of these has had a certain amount of popularity, but can in no sense be said to have replaced the old separate-vessel subsiding system.

The subject of clarification is closely connected with appliances for "sulphating" the juice, and several neat appliances have been introduced for this purpose.

There has been practically no improvement in the scum filter press department, the old frame pressure press holding its own. Several modifications have been introduced, stated to possess more or less especially advantageous attributes. Some improvement has, however, been made in the gravity press department for thin juice.

Early in the period, two film evaporators were introduced—the one based on the sprinkling of the juice on tubular heating surfaces, the other on the "climbing" action of juice on the inside of comparatively wide tubes—which met with fair success. But the old bulk evaporator, with especial attention to circulation, vapour, and pump capacity, remains at the fore. In some instances the use of the first vessel vapour for general heating in the factory has extended, as has been a common practice in the beet industry for many years. The Torricellian system of condensation has come into general practice with evaporators and vacuum pans, displacing the wet pump. It is interesting to note that the early forms of vacuum pans were invariably worked on this principle, the wet pump being a later, and, it may be said, an evil, introduction. Pans in which the heating surface is in the form of calandrias, instead of coils, have also come into use.

The practice of the principle of a single con-

denser for the whole of the evaporating plant has also been considerably adopted, and centrifugal pumps of special design have, in some instances, taken the place of the dry air pump, and in one or two instances a pump has been used for taking away the tail water, instead of the barometric column.

An extremely important development associated with the crystallisation department has been the extensive spread of crystallisers, introducing the system of crystallisation in motion. Apart from any other consideration, these form an extremely workable way of dealing with massecuites. The increased size of factories has rendered the convenient handling of the massecuite between the pans and centrifugals a difficult matter, and crystallisers certainly supply this want. Apart from this, they have enabled the vacuum pans to do more work and molasses to be worked up more easily than without them.

In respect of centrifugals, no improvement has been made as regards type, the overhead driven basket still obtaining. Their diameter, however, has been much increased, and considerable improvement in the manner of driving, as will be mentioned under the head of improvements in motive power.

The manufacture of white sugar has, however, led to considerable modification in their use. Instead of the operation being conducted from beginning to end in the same basket, in the manufacture of white sugar the curing is commonly done in two stages. In the first the massecuite is cured dry in the ordinary manner. The dry sugar is now made into a magma with syrup, or washings from the second curing, and this magma is re-cured and the sugar crushed on a second set of centrifugals. By this system of double curing the manufacture of white sugar has been much facilitated.

The introduction of direct white sugar manufacture has led to the use of various drying machines, but otherwise the method of bagging and handling the sugar remains as before.

As regards the power department, the use of water tube boilers has considerably extended, but there has been no introduction of specially new type. But great improvement has taken place in the furnace department. In spite of the lesser value of modern megass for fuel purposes, the quantity of water evaporated per lb. of megass in the boilers has greatly increased, and, notwithstanding the extra calls upon the power department due to multiplication of the mill units, introduction of water into the juice in maceration, and additional boiling of massecuites, in a properly balanced factory megass alone is sufficient to supply the motive power.

As regards power, although of course steam operates in the first instance, electricity has come into great use for driving pumps, centrifugals, conveyors, hoists, etc.—in fact, all the details of the factory except the mills; and even these lately have been, in a few instances in Cuba, supplied with electric motors instead of steam engines.

The simplicity thus produced in the factory working has been great, and it is worthy of notice that this development was foreshadowed in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR in 1904.

So much for the machinery. As regards processes, there is little to be said, but the great development has been in the direction of the adaptation of the sulphurous acid gas process, already known in the manufacture of yellow sugar, to white sugar manufacture. This has been brought to great perfection, and white sugar, equal to that produced by the double carbonation process, is now turned out in considerable quantities. Various modifications of this process are now extant. In other respects no change has taken place in the chemical treatment of the juice in the twenty-five years.

The development of the cane sugar industry has brought about the recognition of the value of chemical control, that is to say, close chemical observation of the various processes which comprise modern sugar making. *Pari passu*, with improvements in machinery and control, improved extraction of sugar from that in the cane has progressed, and no modern factory is content with a recovery of less than 82 per cent. or so of the sugar in the cane in the form of merchantable sugar. It is doubtful whether twenty-five years ago an average factory obtained 70 per cent.

On the whole the history of twenty-five years of the cane sugar industry has been one of progress. Eighteen per cent. of sugar is still lost in the megass and the molasses. The bulk of this is in the latter, and it is still an open question whether it is not economically sounder to direct attention to the use of molasses for cattle food and spirit rather than to the further extraction of sugar-as such.

Summing up, the last twenty-five years has been noted by concentration of manufacture, the improvement of already existing types of machinery, and the extension of the system of scientific control as a part of the routine of the factory.

The expansion of the sugar industry after the war is a subject of grave concern to the whole of the West Indies. The following extract from a recent issue of the *Daily Gleaner* (Jamaica), is invested, therefore, with more than local interest:—

"We suppose that most persons interested in sugar development in this island have noticed Mr. Walter Long's promise to have sugar machinery manufactured for Jamaica immediately at the end of the war if the local people will let him know what is wanted. He has made this offer in connection with the sugar development scheme in which this colony is to be financially interested; and from this fact a very important conclusion may be drawn. Many persons here have been wondering if there will be a good market for our sugar after the war, if we shall have anything like a profitable market in the Mother Country, if we may not once more see Jamaica sugar on the very verge of ruin. But would the Secretary of State for the Colonies (aided by the experienced permanent officials of the Colonial Office) consent that Jamaica should invest huge sums of money in sugar production if he thought that after a little while West India sugar would slip back into its old unfortunate position? He has given his assent to a proposition that may mean the expenditure of a million pounds sterling or more of Jamaica's money. He has done more: he has promised to make arrangements for the manufacture of the machinery we shall need. Would he do this if he for one moment imagined that the old Free Trade conditions were likely to come into being at the end of the war? Surely this question answers itself."

INDIA'S SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The position of the cane sugar industry in India at the present time should be highly gratifying to the producer. With ordinary plantation whites at £28 per ton, no competitors, and a demand greater than the supply, the owners of sugar factories are in a position to reap a rich harvest.

Java, owing to lack of shipping facilities, at present is not able to unload her vast store of sugar on the Indian market, and apparently will continue in the same state for some indefinite period.

Pre-war price of cane sugar in India was about £15; the cost of production was in the neighbourhood of £13. Java, producing at £8 per ton, and competing in the Indian market at a figure only slightly higher than the actual cost of the production manufactured by the Indian factories, caused the finances of the latter to fluctuate considerably. Companies were formed, but either just held their head above water or else existed mainly through the by-products.

The remedy of the fault has been in the hands of the sugar-producing companies all the time. To be a dividend-paying concern, the cane cultivation must be under the control of and administered from the factory. If the cultivation of the land is left in the hands of the native farmer, various crops may be grown, according to the price of market, and the factory has either a short crop or is overburdened with canes. Owing to the slight tillage of the land and the poor cultivation the cane receives, the average crop grown by the native rarely exceeds twelve tons per acre.

The tillage is accomplished by means of the primitive wooden plough, which turns up the surface of the soil to the extent of four inches. Drainage is poor, chemical manuring considered non-essential, and irrigation conducted by means of wells sunk in the field, and the water baled out into the drainage channels. Owing to the poor cultivation, the mill-owner has to pay a prohibitive price for the cane, the farmer realising from one acre twelve tons, where there should be thirty-five.

Modern Methods Needed.

Modern methods of manufacture also need an introduction to India. The mill generally in use is an eight-roller plant, and capable of taking off about 400 tons per 23 hours. The season lasts four months—from December to April. The extraction by the crushing and evaporating plant is poor, and very seldom exceeds 7½ per cent. This low extraction and high cost of cane naturally enhances the cost of production and enables other sugar-producing countries to compete in the Indian market on very favourable terms.

The freehold purchase of land is practically out of the question except in a few isolated cases. The ownership of the land has descended to the present generation from their forefathers, and the rental of it may be obtained at a price varying from £2 to £4 per acre per annum. If it were possible to obtain 7,500 acres at a rental of £3 per acre (allowing 2,500 acres to lie fallow and be under mechanical tillage every year, and the remaining 5,000 to

be under cane plants only), with modern cultivation, mechanical tillage, and chemical manuring to cost a further £11 per acre, a crop of 35 tons per acre should be easily secured. The selection of suitable canes is at present receiving attention in India, and various seedlings from the Barbados, Demerara, and Mauritius are being experimented with.

A selection of suitable seedlings of known parentage, sucrose and purity contents, drought and disease-resisting qualities, and a good fuel value could be obtained from the various experimental stations. Taking a total factory extraction of 81 per cent. and a manufacturing cost of £3 per ton of white sugars, all charges included, a modern factory under efficient control should be able to put sugar on the market at £9 per ton, namely:—

	Tons.
Yield of cane per acre at 35 tons per 5,000 acres	175,000
Sucrose contents, say 12½ per cent.	21,875
Extraction in factory at 81 per cent. (white sugar)	17,718
Cost.	
Rental, 7,500 acres at £3	22,500
Cultivation at £11	82,500
Manufacturing charges at £3 per ton	53,154
	£158,154
Equals £8.9 per ton.	

Taking into consideration the expensive rental of the land, it would not be advisable to allow the plants to ratoon, as a much greater return is obtained from plants in India.

Considering that India imports 800,000 tons of white sugar per annum, a modern sugar concern renting a sufficient number of acres, with mechanical tillage and good cultivation, given an adequate water and labour supply, has no reason to fear competition from any beet or cane sugar producing countries, but should have a brilliant financial future.

THE following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

Pte. A. Glonmeau, 2nd Lieut. H. F. K. Greaves, Pte. C. E. Murphy, Pte. A. R. Tudor, Pte. B. A. Culpeper, Cadet C. Forte Cave, Cadet S. I. Roster, Lieut. F. C. Archer, Pte. C. I. Proverbs, Cadet J. Redman, Capt. G. B. Mason, Cadet H. A. Arthur, Cadet J. Connell, Cadet D. E. Chase, Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, Pte. L. Denis Peterkin, Pte. C. C. Bynoe, Lieut. W. A. Yearwood, Barbados; 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, Sgt. G. A. Roberts, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Marryat, Trpr. I. A. Campbell, Pte. W. T. King, A. Lassalle, Bernard Agostini, E. S. O'Connor, Malcolm Noek, Hugh Wilson, Marc de Verteuil, Cadet L. Agostini, Cadet H. R. Murray, 2nd Lieut. John R. Rochford, 2nd Lieut. Ivan J. Scott, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Wade, Capt. Esme MacDonnell, Cadet R. A. Farfan, Lieut. L. Farfan, Cadet C. E. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. Jos. E. Kernahan, Pte. R. R. Mole, Cadet H. A. Eckel, Sgt. J. Barrett, Pte. J. McPherson, J. E. Achi, 2nd Lieut. D. Pogson, Lieut. Horace Agostini, Major A. de Boissiere, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Norman, Driver J. A. Hernandez, Trinidad; Capt. A. T. Allan, Lieut. H. Pittam, Lieut. P. St. L. Baquie, British West Indies Regiment; Pte. W. D. McKenzie, Pte. F. Parkes, C.Q.M.S. Phillipson, Cadet J. Kenahan, Sgt. O. J. Lescene, Jamaica; Sgt. Geo. R. Kemp, Bahamas; Cadet Rupert C. Otway, Grenada; Cadet Conrad O. Hazell, Cadet D. A. Richards, St. Vincent; Pte. H. A. Frampton, Dominica; Cadet L. S. Davis, British Guiana.

CUBA'S CONTRACT LABOUR.

At a moment when the labour question as represented by the new conditions affecting East Indian immigrants is engaging the attention of British West Indian planters, *Facts about Sugar* (New York) furnishes some interesting particulars regarding labour contracts in Cuba.

New Immigration Rules.

A decree putting in effect regulations authorized by the new Immigration Law of August 3 was signed by President Menocal on October 29. The regulations provide that in all cases of labour brought into Cuba under this law application must be made in advance to the Secretary of Agriculture, giving the number of immigrants to be brought in, their nationality, the place from which they will come, and the port through which they will enter. With the application must be sent the bond required by the law, as follows: For each immigrant from North or Central America, the Antilles, Bahamas, Europe or the Canary Islands, \$5; for each immigrant from Japan or the Pacific Islands, \$25; for each immigrant from China, £50; for each immigrant from other countries, an amount to be fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Admission Requirements.

All immigrants must bring certificates properly signed by a consular representative of Cuba in the country of origin, stating that they are agricultural or industrial workers; they must furthermore be between sixteen and fifty years of age, though, if coming with a family, age will not bar them. Entry must be either through the port of Havana or that of Santiago de Cuba, though special permits will be issued, allowing entry through other ports. The service of these immigrants can be contracted for individuals direct or by firms hiring them to others; in the latter case the firm must furnish bond to the Government to the amount of \$10,000, or \$25,000 if they are Chinese. To avoid repetition of what has frequently occurred in the past, penalties are provided for failure of the immigrant to serve the party for whom he has been imported, as also for the party who induces him so to act. Penalty is also provided for those cases in which the importing party fails to fulfil his contract with the immigrant.

Permits to bring in labourers under these regulations have already been sought by two sugar companies. Santa Lucia seeks to introduce 4,000 men and Cape Cruz 1,000, all from Haiti, Jamaica and Porto Rico. The Immigration Association is also continuing its endeavours to induce Spanish and Canary Islands labourers to come in greater numbers, but its work is hampered by the laws of Spain, which prohibit the contracting of labourers in her territory.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee may be paid at any branch of the Colonial Bank

AMERICAN TRIBUTE TO DEMERARA.

Appreciation of the Rice Industry.

A tribute to the growth of British Guiana's rice industry is published by *Dun's International Review*, New York.

In the course of an interesting article (illustrated), the writer says:—

"British Guiana has achieved one remarkable success for itself in these days of food shortage; from being entirely dependent upon outside resources for its food supply, it has now come to the point of filling its own requirements in one of the staple articles of diet, and has even become an exporting country in that item. Reference is made to rice, which forms a staple item of diet in British Guiana and the West Indies for at least two-thirds of the population, and for the remaining one-third it forms a very important portion of the food supply. Unlike northern and European countries, rice is not valued here solely for making puddings and sweetmeats; in these latitudes it takes the place of bread and potatoes as a solid vegetable staple; indeed, in some sections it forms the sole article of diet, particularly among the East Indians and other Asiatics. It will be interesting to watch the development, even in northern countries, of the demand for rice as a staple article of food. It is clear that with the necessary educational advertising campaign, people will gladly welcome this reinforcement to food supplies, as it is difficult to determine the ultimate effect of the present war on the demand and supply of northern staples.

"British Guiana, twenty years ago, had a total rice import of forty million pounds per annum, drawn from India and the East generally. This import trade has now entirely disappeared, and in its stead is a growing export trade that amounted to thirty million pounds last year and was valued at \$1,050,000, as against twenty million pounds, valued at \$650,000, that was exported during the preceding year. The direction of this trade is for the most part West Indian, exports reaching as far north as Jamaica, though without regular means of communication up to the present time. Some portion of these exports also find their way to the neighbouring colonies of French and Dutch Guiana. It is now being urged by the local economists that British Guiana is the natural granary of the West Indies. Certainly, with the hundreds of thousands of acres of low-lying land suitable for rice cultivation, the colony requires only the necessary hundreds of thousands of inhabitants to convert such a theory into actual fact."

In the course of a paper read on December 18th at a meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig said it was not suggested that there could ever be a great and prolific oilfield in Barbados; but there was every probability of moderate productions being obtained in the most favourable localities. Should success attend the first efforts to follow up oil on a careful and well-thought-out scheme, a prosperous little industry might easily be established; and, conversely, should failure attend such efforts, it would be as well to know the truth as soon as possible. If all the innumerable evidences of petroleum in the island were merely snares for the unwary scientist and capitalist, the sooner their true significance was realised the better.

LONG STAPLED COTTON.

Experiments in Nigeria.

A report has been received from the British Cotton Growing Association's Manager in Northern Nigeria dealing with the increased production of Allen's improved long staple cotton. This is a variety of long stapled American cotton which has been introduced into Northern Nigeria by the Government Agricultural Department, and the quantity grown by the natives under supervision has been as follows: 1913-14, nil; 1914-15, 12 bales; 1915-16, 110 bales; and 1916-17 461 bales.

The production during the past season would have been much greater had the climatic conditions been favourable, and there is every prospect that the cultivation of this class of cotton will increase, as 138 tons of seed have been distributed to planters in certain specified districts where the cotton will not be mixed with the native types. The cotton commands a much higher price and gives a heavier yield than the native varieties, and the price paid by the Association during the past season has been 1½d. per lb. of seed cotton on the railway and 1½d. per lb. at out-stations.

The purchases of cotton in Lagos to November 30th amounted to 7,807 bales, as compared with 9,282 bales for the same period of last year, and 6,121 bales for 1915. The purchases in Northern Nigeria to October 31st were 3,814 bales, as compared with 10,624 bales for the same period of last year, and 773 bales for 1915.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

Some West Indian Subscriptions.

It is hoped that readers will respond generously to the appeal published in last CIRCULAR for subscriptions for the relief of sufferers from the Halifax disaster. We now publish the letter addressed by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor of London announcing the opening of a Mansion House Fund:—

Sir,—Having regard to the immensity of the calamity which has befallen Canada by the partial destruction of the beautiful city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, with enormous loss of life, injury to individuals, and damage to property, I am sure I shall be anticipating the wishes of the citizens of London by opening a Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers. I appeal to the community at large to render such aid as they can with adequate liberality and without delay, and I would ask my brother Lord Mayors and Mayors and the Lord Provosts to take similar measures. To any Lord Mayor of London it would have been an urgent duty to take the lead in a matter of this kind, but to me personally, having spent many years in Canada, the privilege is especially welcome.

Donations should be sent to the Secretary's Office, Mansion House, or to the Bank of England

Cheques should be made payable to bearer and crossed "Bank of England."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHRIS. A. HANSON, *Lord Mayor.*

The Mansion House, London, E.C.4.

Dec. 10.

Among the members of the West India Committee who have responded to the appeal are the following firms:—

	£	s.	d.
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.	1,050	0	0
Anthony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.	1,000	0	0
Direct West India Cable Co.	250	0	0
Thomson Hankey & Co.	105	0	0
Henckell Du Busson & Co.	105	0	0
Curtis, Campbell & Co.	100	0	0
Henry K. Dawson & Sons	100	0	0
R. A. de Pass, Esq.	50	0	0
E. A. de Pass & Co.	25	0	0
Gillespie Bros. & Co.	25	0	0
Delbanco & Co.	16	10	0
G. S. Seton-Browne	1	1	0

The Lord Mayor has gratefully accepted the West India Committee's offer of assistance made in the letter published in last CIRCULAR. Subscriptions can be sent either to the Mansion House, or to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

THE WINDWARD ISLANDS SEE.

Enthronement of Dr. Berkeley.

The enthronement of the Right Rev. A. P. Berkeley, D.D., Bishop of Barbados, as Bishop of the Windward Islands, took place recently at St. George's Cathedral. The congregation (says the *St. Vincent Times*) included His Honour A. De Freitas, acting Administrator.

The clergy who took part in the ceremony were the Ven. Archdeacon Turpin, Canon Gresham, Revs. B. A. Samuel, Culpan, Coleman, and G. A. Frederick. The choir, Church Councils, clergy, Canons, Archdeacon, and the Lord Bishop proceeded from the vestry to the West Door, the Archdeacon and Canons remaining inside at the West Door, and the Bishop and his Chaplain outside the locked door. His Lordship then knocked and made petition to be inducted, installed and enthroned. The Archbishop then read the Certificate of Consecration, and immediately after the Bishop, Archdeacon, and Canon proceeded to the chancel step. The mandate of enthronement having been read, an address from the Chapter was delivered.

His Lordship thanked the Chapter for their welcome on his entrance to the Cathedral Church of the Windward Islands Diocese. The Bishop afterwards delivered his first sermon and blessing. The service was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

MR. R. PARKINSON GOFFE, barrister-at-law, who, for the last six months, has been engaged on legal work with the Prudential Approved Societies, has now joined the Legal Department of the Ministry of Munitions.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

MAJOR J. V. KIRKLAND was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches of November 7th.

The London Officer-Cadets' Club, which has just been opened at 70, Cadogan Square, will fill a want which has been apparent for some time.

From the *Gazette*:—

Dec. 19th.—BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—Temp Lieut. J. B. Thursfield to be temp. Capt. (Feb. 1); (substituted for *Gazette* notification May 24); temp. Sec. Lieut. I. A. Muir to be temp. Lieut. (Aug. 13th)

Since the last list of donations to the West Indian Contingent Fund was published, (see CIRCULAR, November 29th), the following have been received:

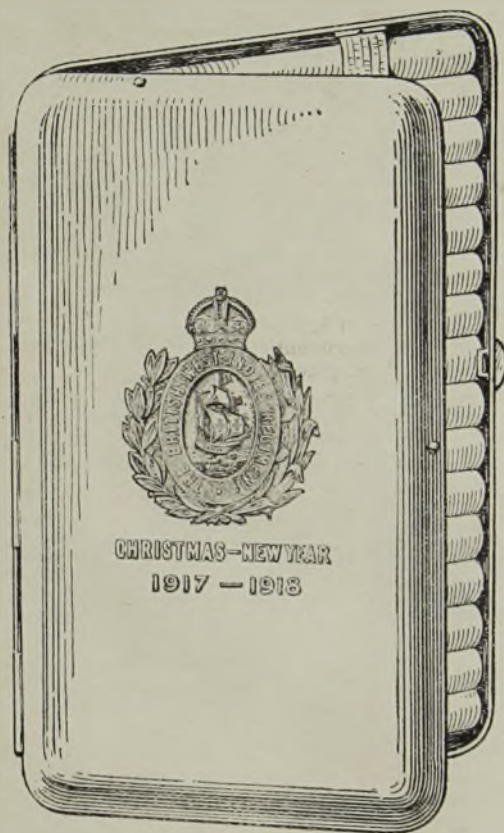
	£	s.	d.
"In memory of Frank de Pass, V.C."	10	0	0
"Palace Cinema," Trinidad (donation to Flag Day Fund)	10	0	0
R. A. Swan, Esq.	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Turner (further donation)	1	1	0
Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.	1	0	0
Hon. Fred Driver (further donation)	1	0	0
Mrs. Craigen, per Mrs. Bromley	1	0	0
R. Bryson, Esq.	1	0	0
Sundry sale of flags	7	2	

We hear from British East Africa that the British West Indies Regiment there have done well all that they have been asked to do. They have held many unpleasant places, with long patrols and continuous guards—work which, though monotonous, is really valuable and appreciated. Major Porter has been invalided to Egypt. When our correspondent wrote, the Regiment had just received from the West Indian Contingent Committee a gift of 25,000 cigarettes, which arrived at a timely moment, as the men had just reached the stage where they had to use "the letters from friends and family at home to make cigarette papers, so that one could get a smoke with tobacco that is in the weekly or monthly issue." Our correspondent adds: "In this part where we are now it is quite hard to obtain cigarettes, so your own are like diamonds."

Owing to the increased strength of the British West Indies Regiment and to the success which has attended the efforts of the West Indian Contingent Committee to get into touch with men who have come over independently to join the Navy and Army, the distribution of Christmas gifts has been altogether a more formidable undertaking this year than it was last. The Committee's gift to all ranks of the Contingent for 1917-18 takes the form of metal cigarette cases with the badge of the Regiment embossed on them, Jamaica cigarettes, which were specially imported, and Christmas cards. These, to the number of many thousands, have now been sent to France, Egypt, British East Africa—in fact, to all the places where the Regiment is serving. The cigarette cases are a goodly size, measuring 5½ inches by 3½ inches, and are quite strong

enough to withstand the impact of fragments of H.E. shell or shrapnel—no small consideration.

Officers and N.C.O.'s and men connected with the West Indies and serving in Imperial units are also being remembered by the Committee, which is sending to all who can be traced khaki letter-wallets, with a message of good will, which are being much appreciated. With regard to gifts from the West Indies, most donors have wisely followed the advice given earlier in the year and have sent money for the purchase of gifts instead of gifts in kind. But the extent of the present postal delays are evidently still imperfectly realised, for few of the remittances arrived in time to enable the presents to be purchased and sent off in time for Christmas.



A GIFT CIGARETTE CASE.

Above is a reproduction on a reduced scale of one of the cigarette cases presented by the West Indian Contingent Committee to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment.

The Committee is, however, overcoming all difficulties, and by early in the New Year everything will have been sent off—everything, including gifts purchased on behalf of Mrs. Gordon and the Trinidad Ladies' Committee, greeting-cards from Mrs. L. M. Hobson and the Southern War Fund of that island, and presents from St. Kitts, Antigua,

Dominica, British Guiana, the Bahamas, Grenada ("Our Boys' Comforts Fund"), and the Combermere Mutual Improvement Association, besides many purchased and despatched for and at the request of individuals. The articles already sent off include hundreds of handkerchiefs, cakes of soap, sweets, hussifs, etc., etc., and the Committee has also purchased and despatched cigarettes and soap to the West India Regiment in German East Africa on behalf of the Mayor of Freetown, at the request of the Officer-Commanding the troops in West Africa.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

LIEUTENANT HUGH JARMAN WATSON, who died in London on November 28th of wounds received on April 19th, was the son of William G. Watson, of Toronto, Canada, and late of Jamaica.

LIEUTENANT MAURICE SEYMOUR-ISACS, who has been killed in action on October 26th, was the son of the Rev. H. Seymour-Isacs, of St. Saviour's, Alexandra Park, N., and late of Kingston, Jamaica.

LIEUTENANT CLAUDE WILLIAM MICHELIN NOSWORTHY, R.F.A., attached Royal Flying Corps, died on December 6th of wounds received in an air combat on the same day. He was the third son of Mr. R. Nosworthy, of Jamaica, and was only twenty-two years of age.

MAJOR ARTHUR CRECHON THOMAS, R.G.A., who was killed in action on November 16th, was the eldest surviving son of Mr. Herbert T. Thomas, Inspector of Police of Jamaica, who has now lost three sons in the war, his eldest son, Captain H. R. Thomas, R.G.A., having been killed in France on Christmas Day, 1915, and his second in East Africa on August 15th, 1916.

CAPTAIN NORMAN MCGANN SMITH, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who has died of wounds, was the second son of the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., Member of the Legislative Council and Hon. Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, and of Mrs. Smith, who is a daughter of Mr. W. Potts. At the outbreak of war he was studying medicine at Glasgow, and shortly after passing his final examination he joined the R.A.M.C. as Lieutenant. Born in Trinidad, he was educated at Queen's Royal College, but left that institution at an early age to study for the medical profession.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Mr. Hart-Bennett, Governor.

Mr. William Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, has been appointed Governor of British Honduras in succession to Sir Wilfred Collet, now Governor of British Guiana.

Mr. Hart-Bennett, who was born in 1861, entered the Colonial Office in 1878. Six years later he proceeded to Cyprus where, during a residence of fifteen years he acted as Chief Secretary on more than one occasion. The year 1900 saw his appointment as Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands, the Government of which he administered temporarily on two occasions. After five years' service in the Southern Dependency, Mr. Bennett was called to the Colonial Secretaryship of the Bahamas, which he now relinquishes, on promotion, after a tenure of twelve years. The new Governor of British Honduras has won well-deserved popularity during his residence in the Bahamas, the Government of which has been repeatedly entrusted to his efficient care. Only recently the Legislature of the Bahamas, as a mark of appreciation of Mr. Hart-Bennett's services to the Colony, passed an Act increasing the salary of the Colonial Secretary during his tenure of the office.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

The directors in their report for the year ending June 30th, 1917, state that the company has again had a successful year, although the profits are not so large as in the previous year, owing to the increased cost of production. The rainfall was 55½ inches, being about the same as for the previous twelve months, and about 8 inches below the average. The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with the previous years:—

	1914 Tons.	1915 Tons.	1916 Tons.	1917 Tons.
Canes grown ...	97,174	136,730	133,871	117,511
Canes purchased	60,491	58,763	82,375	89,494
	157,665	195,493	216,246	207,005
Sugar made	15,711	17,067	20,890	21,848
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Sucrose in cane	11.97	10.68	11.21	12.56
Sucrose in Megass	4.35	3.88	3.40	3.95
Purity in juice	78.9	76.13	77.6	80.5
Recovery of Sucrose ...	79.67	78.18	82.55	80.53
Yield of Sugar 96 deg.	9.97	8.73	9.66	10.55
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Estates Canes per acre	20.69	24.60	24.72	23.35
Estates Sugar ...	2.06	2.14	2.38	2.46

The above figures for 1917 are, as in previous years, for the work done at the Usine Ste. Madeleine. Of the 89,494 tons canes purchased, 8,524 tons were bought from Malgretout Estate. The company further ground 26,852 tons at Malgretout Factory, and made therefrom 2,624 tons yellow crystals, thus bringing the company's total output of sugar up to 24,472 tons.

The payments for Excess Profit Duty (two years to June 30th, 1916) and Income Tax amounted to £81,057 4s. 9d., and after deduction of this and of the amounts paid for dividends and carried to reserve in accordance with last year's report, there remains a sum of £33,281 19s. 8d. The Profit and Loss Account shows a surplus of £89,769 16s. 9d., making with the net amount brought forward, a total of £123,051 16s. 5d. An interim dividend of 6 per cent. on the paid up capital was paid on 2nd July last. The directors now recommend that a further and final dividend for the year of 2s. per share be paid, and that £25,000 be carried to reserve account. These payments will absorb £46,153, and there will remain £76,898 16s. 5d. to be carried forward, subject to Excess Profit Duty and Income Tax.

The directors point out that the island taxation on sugar has been largely reduced, partly owing to the Coolie Immigration Tax being dropped for the year, and partly to the Government having readjusted other taxation on equitable lines. The prospects of the 1918 crop are not favourable. The island has during the past summer months suffered from the worst attack of frog-hoppers ever experienced, and it is estimated that on some estates in the centre of the island half of the 1918 crop has been destroyed. The damage in the district where the company's estates are situated has not been nearly so great. The board has contracted for the sale of the Ste. Madeleine sugar output for 1918 to the Government at an advance on the past season's rates, and the higher price will to a large extent compensate for the decrease of the crop.

Presiding over the fourth annual general meeting of the company on December 20, Mr. George Moody-Stuart, chairman, said that the work in field and factory had run smoothly and well. Though the rainfall was deficient, 2½ tons sugar per acre were raised, which was just the average of the principal estates in Cuba. The company had now completed the first four years of its history. Its production of sugar per acre from its own estates had improved steadily year by year, and now, through better cultivation and better factory work, they had 20 per cent. more than in the first year. Purchased canes, including Malgretout, were now nearly double what they had when they started. They had paid satisfactory dividends, and had accumulated a substantial reserve. The industry was a good one but it would be a mistake to count on its

always being steady-going, and he instanced what would have happened if their estates were ravaged by frog-hoppers. Fortunately they had escaped such a severe blow and could look forward to the 1918 crop giving a surplus that would provide a dividend and enable them to add a further sum to reserve. It was essential to build up a reserve to carry the company safely through bad times.

Their business comprised two branches: sugar planting and the sugar factory business. Sugar planting gave big profits in good times and big losses in bad, but it was otherwise with sugar factory business. In that they worked for a margin. In bad times the margin was cut down, but it was not turned into a loss. It was a steadier business and it was a better system for the community. Factory work could only be well done on a large scale; the larger the scale the better the results. That meant a large capital sunk in plant, an undertaking for a company rather than for an individual. But agricultural work was better suited to individuals than to management and ownership in a large way, and it was better for a community that there should be thousands raising their own crops on two or three acres, and still better if there were interspersed among these scores of others owning and themselves farming two or three hundred acres. The individuals would pull through bad times somehow, contriving to reduce expenditure in this way and that. It was more difficult for a company to reduce. It had to pay salaries for supervision, and the salaries went on in bad times as in good. The individual with his two or three, or two or three hundred, acres was his own manager, and there was something so attractive in work on the land that a man was happy in it even in hard times, and he would find some way of fighting on till times improved. So they were developing the factory business. In their first year their purchased canes formed 38 per cent. of their total; now they had increased and formed 50 per cent., and he hoped to see their quantity grow.

In conclusion, Mr. Moody-Stuart moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the resolution having been seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The Fourth Ordinary General Meeting of Trinidad Leaseholds (Limited) was held on December 21st at 1, London Wall Buildings, Mr. T. J. Milner, chairman, presiding. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that for the first time the board presented a profit and loss account. The whole of the preliminary expenses had been written off, and the final balance of profit and loss carried to the balance-sheet amounted to £22,496. In conjunction with other Trinidad oil companies they were taking up the question of excess profits tax with the authorities, and should be able to present a strong case for an increase in the statutory percentage allowance. They contended that oil mining as an industry, especially in Trinidad, could not be judged by ordinary standards and was entitled to exceptional treatment. Reviewing the company's operations during the year, he said that the area of the property was 63,500 acres. For the year ended June 30th last, they produced 56,200 tons of oil, as compared with 17,200 tons for the previous year, while for the past six months the average monthly output was approximately 10,600 tons. They had now fifteen producing wells, as compared with twelve at the date of the last meeting. That, however, did not reflect the real progress which had taken place on the Forest Reserve field during the past twelve months. Since January, six new wells had been brought in successfully as producers, but, on the other hand, four wells had been abandoned owing to causes beyond the board's control. Three new wells were being drilled, and they hoped shortly to deepen several of the existing shallower wells to the lower proved productive sands. They hoped in the next few months to increase still further the level of production now attained.

They had on the Forest Reserve a proved field capable of carrying a considerable number of wells. New wells would therefore be sunk regularly to maintain the output as the production from the older wells decreased. In a very short time their closed storage capacity at the

port and elsewhere would approximate 50,000 tons. The arrangement the company entered into with the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company at the end of last year had been of mutual benefit. Having found from experience that certain lighter constituents of that company's oil rendered it very suitable for mixing with the company's crude oil, and being persuaded that the absorption of the Oil and Transport Company's property would be advantageous, the board opened negotiations some months ago, and a provisional agreement had now been entered into for the acquisition of that undertaking as at January 1st next. The field was well equipped, and the present net annual revenue was about £40,000. The board had provisionally agreed to pay 112,000 fully-paid shares of their company for the property. All the Trinidad Leasehold's Company's products had been sold at satisfactory prices. They had practically concluded contracts which would ensure the sale of their products on an increasing scale for at least ten years ahead. These arrangements freed them from all anxiety regarding their output for a considerable period.

THE PROFIT-EARNING STAGE

Having reached the profit-earning stage, the board were anxious to place the company on a sound financial basis. With this object in view they approached the lenders of the £200,000 loan to ascertain whether they would be disposed to exercise their option on the 132,500 shares at par and accept 37,000 shares at the market price to enable the company to extinguish the debt. The lenders had agreed to both these proposals, subject to the Treasury giving its sanction to the issue of the shares. Had it not been for the financial assistance rendered to the company by the Central Mining and Investment Corporation (Limited), the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa (Limited), and other large shareholders, the company's operations must inevitably have closed down in 1915. A resolution would be submitted to the shareholders to increase the nominal capital of the company from £550,000 to £850,000 by the creation of 300,000 new shares. Their issued capital at the present time was 417,500 shares, the liquidation of the debt would absorb 170,000 shares, and the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company (Limited) were to receive 112,000 shares for their undertaking. The Treasury had been asked to sanction both these issues. There would thus be left in reserve for the future needs of the company 150,500 shares. The company had again passed through a period of heavy expenditure on capital account, but the board hoped that a large proportion of the profits from the beginning of 1918 would be available for dividend purposes. During a brief period of four years they had built up on sure foundations an industry of great promise. The company were now the largest producers of oil in the island of Trinidad, and while they had a proved field in Forest Reserve they had also carried out a large amount of geological investigation in other parts of the island. Their intention was to continue on these progressive lines, and to develop whenever opportunity offered. Their business was an all-British one. They were assisting to develop the resources of a British Colony with British capital. Their position was a very happy one in the national sense, and their proceedings that day should place their business on a solid financial basis.

Major H. L. Sapte seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Resolutions were also passed to increase the capital to £850,000 by the creation of 300,000 new shares of £1 each, and to confirm the provisional agreement with the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company.

We regret to learn that there was rather a serious outbreak of fire on Waterloo Estate, Trinidad, at midnight on November 24th, involving damage to the extent of from £6,000 to £8,000. It was caused by some pilferers upsetting a light which destroyed 10,000 gallons of rum and set fire to the new laboratory, which was completely gutted. The fire eventually spread to the mill house and destroyed the engines.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Onion Growers' Association.

The report on the work of the Onion Growers' Association during the season 1916-17 shows that 34 estates contributed their produce to the undertaking and that the total weight of onions received at the Association's premises amounted to 302,968 lbs. Six other estates contributed onions and 1,079 lbs. more were received this year than last. The total number of crates shipped by the Association was 5,664 as against 5,353 in 1916-17; the number being 311 in excess of last season's shipments, this number constitutes a record. It should be pointed out that the total quantity of onions shipped from Antigua amounted to 6,940 crates; therefore the Association handled about 82 per cent. of the island's crop. Shipments were made to the following points:—New York, Trinidad, Martinique, Demerara, Canada, Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent; four crates were sold locally. Appended to this report is a summarised statement showing the number of crates shipped to each point and the net proceeds f.o.b. Antigua. It will be seen when comparing the year's work with previous seasons' operations, that on the whole all markets have proved decidedly remunerative. After paying all expenses, the total sum of money available for distribution among growers amounted to £1,855, or at the rate of 294 cents per hundred pounds of onions delivered. In 1915-16 the bonus paid amounted to 88½ cents per hundred pounds of onions delivered, and in 1914-15 the bonus was 51½ cents. In other words, the second payment made during the past season amounted to more than three times as much as during the previous season, and nearly six times as much as the 1914-15 one.

BRITISH GUIANA—Combined Court.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, NOVEMBER 21st—Mr. C. W. H. Collier, of the Immigration Department, was married on the 7th instant to Miss Carroll, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Carroll. The ceremony took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Main Street, and a reception was held afterwards at Colonel Clark's home at the Brickdam, at which there was a large attendance.—The Annual Session of the Combined Court was opened with the usual formalities on the 18th instant. The Governor's speech referred to Sea Defences, Civil List, Clergy List, Estimates, Bonus for Civil Servants and Schoolmasters, Education, Immigration, Land Settlement and Hinterland Development. The Court was adjourned until to-day. Details of the speech were given in the Mail Edition.—The Mayor revived an old custom and gave a dinner at the Town Hall on the 5th instant, which was attended by about fifty guests including the Governor.—Lieut. A. P. Field (of Demerara), late of the Royal Flying Corps, has been promoted Captain and posted to the 9th London Regiment. Capt. Field is at present at a sanatorium in Scotland, recovering from shell shock. (Son of Mr. J. H. Field, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.)

A correspondent reports that success has attended the efforts of Messrs. M. S. and A. S. de Souza, who are engaged in the wood-cutting business on the upper reaches of the Bonasika Creek, Essequibo River. Operations have been commenced and at present there are no less than 137 hands employed on the grant. Large quantities of shingles of good quality, vat staves, etc., are being shipped from the grant. The proprietors have under consideration the inauguration of a launch service between Parika and the grant. The launch will, of course, be used principally in connection with the business.

GRENADA—Income Tax Bill.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, NOVEMBER 14th 1917.—£100 has been forwarded by the Popular Subscription Committee for Christmas Gifts to "Our Boys." The Income Tax Bill was passed on November 13th. The Hon. E. D. Laborde, I.C.O., Colonial Treasurer, returned from England on November 9th, and Mr. H. W. Sharpe, "Our

Local Admiral," who has been acting for Mr. Laborde, returned to Granville. Recruits for the 6th Grenada Contingent are drilling in the Volunteer Drill Yard preparatory to an early departure.—We have had some very heavy rains, causing many landslides. The cacao crop is late; it is to be hoped some means may be devised to ship some of our cocoa to France, the New York market being congested.—Mr. H. P. Strange, Commissioner of Tobago, and his wife and daughter have been spending a few days in the island as guests of Major Heidenstein, Chief of Police.

JAMAICA—Public Works Report.

The annual report has just been gazetted in Jamaica of the Public Works Department for 1916-17. The total expenditure on maintenance was £125,497—the largest amount ever spent in one year by the Department under this head. This considerable outlay was partly due to the completion of repairs rendered necessary by the hurricane of the previous year and partly to the further repairs following on the hurricane of August 14-15 of the year under review, and partly to the extremely heavy rains of the year. This rainfall averaged 104.09 inches as against an average for most years of 72.71.

The annual report on the working of the Government Savings Bank for the year ended March 31st, shows that the deposits on that date amounted to £260,201—a decrease of £7,252. The financial statement on the whole shows an improvement in comparison with similar ones of late years, in consequence of the withdrawals being in excess of the deposits only to the extent of £7,000 odd which did not necessitate the realisation of any of the securities which in previous late years had to be done at a loss.

The economic effects of hurricanes are in evidence in another annual report just published—that on the administration of poor relief during the year ended March 31st, 1917. The total number of registered poor is 7,751, an increase of 246 compared with last year. In certain parishes the increase is due to the hurricane of August, 1916. Says the Board of Supervisors: "Nearly all the poor houses have increased their inmates. While this would appear to point to better treatment in poor houses it also shows an accentuation of the ordinary poverty which can usually be relieved by a small weekly dole, and we are of opinion that it is also due in no small measure to the difficulty of coping with diseases which sooner or later deprive so large a number of our people of their earning power and make them invalids for life. The total amount disbursed for the relief of the poor in the several parishes was £45,183 which with the cost of lunatics and industrial school children chargeable to the parishes makes a total of £61,015. This is an increase of £4,015 over last year's expenditure."

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, DECEMBER 12th.—The annual report of the Postmaster for Jamaica, for the financial year ended March 31st last, shows that revenue from postal receipts amounted to £49,796, and from telegraph receipts £8,615, being in all £411 in excess of the revised estimates. The hurricane which struck Jamaica on the 29th of last month swept Grand Cayman doing great damage to that dependency. Relief, in the form of a cargo of foodstuffs, etc., has been sent from here, and an agricultural instructor to give advice as to re-planting will follow at an early date. The export, except under special license, of sugar until the next crop season, has been forbidden owing to shortage of local stocks.

Efforts are being continued to obtain permission for the shipment of last year's coffee crop. It is hoped that should such permission be granted sufficient notice will be given to allow for the milling of the crop before shipment, should a specific steamer be named, as in order to preserve the berry it is necessary to keep same in the "parchment."—A proposal is on foot to erect a Government Sisal Hemp factory in view of the success which has attended the growing of the product on experimental farms.—A central sugar factory is to be erected near Spanish Town by a company in which Messrs. William Wilson, C. G. Hudson, and A. S. Dunnitt are understood to be largely interested. Messrs. Lindo Bros., in con-

junction with Mr. A. L. Keeling are also planning to erect a central factory, at Barriard Lodge, in St. Catherine, and in this connection arrangements have been made to start planting canes in the vicinity at once.—The recent hurricane disaster has once more given rise to agitation for an insurance scheme for planters, but it remains to be seen whether, even at this late hour, anything will really be done to this end.—An oil tank steamer, which went ashore off Old Providence has been successfully salvaged and towed into port.—"Our Day" was celebrated in Kingston on the 18th and in the other parts of the island on various dates during October, with the idea of avoiding interference by one celebration with others. The programme in Kingston was somewhat interfered with by showers of rain in the afternoon, nevertheless it is hoped that the final returns will reach a substantial sum. In Montego Bay a large Red Cross Fair was held on the 28th, and in St. Andrew a Motor Gymkhana on the Knutsford Park grounds on the 30th. From these and other sources the Red Cross Fund (Jamaica) has now been augmented to over £10,000.—Hon. F. E. Reed, B.A., who has been acting as Director of Education since the death in 1916 of Mr. J. K. Williams, has been confirmed in the appointment.—Mr. R. W. Bryant has been re-elected Mayor of Kingston for 1917-1918.—Mr. J. E. Fletcher has succeeded Mr. C. F. Duff, and Mr. J. Guilfoyle Mr. G. A. Hart in the Post Office Department.

A remarkable cause has been assigned for the loss off the coast of Jamaica of a schooner, together with the captain, her twenty-five passengers and the ship's cook. The disaster is attributed to what is called a "sea-quake."

It appears that on November 13th the schooner *Estrella* was proceeding from Jamaica to Cuba, when about 12 miles from the former island she met her fate. The weather was good, the sea calm, most of the passengers being on deck when, suddenly, says *The Northern News*, "the vessel started to quiver like a wounded animal and in an almost incredibly short time, she was engulfed by waves, carrying the twenty-five men and women who comprised her passengers, the captain and the cook to a watery grave. As the boat started to quiver and sink and the sea to rise, some of the passengers jumped into a boat which was immediately capsized.

"The mate, Mr. S. E. Hulston, and two seamen clambered into a small boat, drifted about until 5 a.m. when they were fortunate enough to pick up a pair of oars and pulled to Port Morant, which place they reached at about 10.30 a.m., wet, heart sick and sore. There were four boats on board the *Estrella* and forty-six life belts, but as everything happened within four minutes there was no time to do anything.

"The cause of the disaster is what is termed 'Sea quake.'"

TRINIDAD—Cacao Production.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 23rd.—At a meeting of those interested in the cacao industry, convened by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, on the 16th instant, it was resolved that an Association be formed to be registered in the Colony as The Trinidad Cacao Producers' Organisation, and affiliated to the British Empire Producers' Organisation. The following were named a committee to draft objects and rules, and to give effect to the decision of the meeting:—W. Gordon Gordon, Hon. A. Warner, B.A., K.C., J. B. D. Sellier, F. D. Clarke, H. Warner, L. de Verteuil, E. Gransaul, F. E. Olivieri, A. R. Carr, with myself as temporary Hon. Secretary, until the establishment of the organisation is completed.—The *Caraquet* was successfully floated on the 17th.—In order to cope with the accumulation of foodstuff cargo at Halifax, the *Chaienr* will be hurried up in every possible way, by order of the Canadian Government, and will call only at Barbados, St. Lucia and Bermuda, missing out all the other islands, so that it is hoped that no very serious inconvenience will result. A very sad accident recently occurred at Mayaro, when young Mr. Lazari, son of the well-known planter of that name, was drowned whilst bathing with a party of friends on a pleasure outing in the district. An extraordinary plucky attempt to save him was made by Miss Audrey Collins, who nearly lost her own life in the effort.—At the initiative of the Governor who was impressed "by

the anomalies and inconsistencies in the existing arrangements for the division of the Island for the purposes of the work of the departments of the Administration," a committee was appointed, of which His Excellency was chairman. This committee has now issued a comprehensive report, with suggestions that meet universal approval, and will no doubt when carried out greatly facilitate the work of the Wardens and others, and the general administration of the Colony.

TURKS ISLAND Salt Proprietors busy.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—September has been an anxious month for the salt pond proprietors, most of whom, despite the squally weather, have been raking all possible, the demand being far beyond the supply. Practically all the salt has been sold for future shipment at an increased price, and at Grand Turk it has been shipped as fast as it could be raked. At East Harbour and Salt Cay they have large quantities on hand, but from what one learns it has been booked for future shipment. On the 1st inst. the first barque arrived for a cargo of salt for St. John's, Newfoundland. News of the death of Mr. George Silly, of Chalk Sound, the promoter of the Caicos Development Co., was received at Grand Turk. He was sixty-eight years old.

Large quantities of sponge are being prepared for early shipment. Both at East Caicos and Grand Turk they are extracting all the sisal possible, and many are shipping hand-cleaned fibre. Reports from the Caicos group indicate that farmers are doing well, and a good crop of vegetables and corn is looked for, for the fall crop. Owing to the embargo on shipments from the United States, and the absence of fruit and vegetables from the neighbouring Republics, things generally have been hard, and had it not been for the Caicos Islands having had above the average crop of corn, the Dependency would have been in a bad way. Shipments of sisal, canned lobster, and sponge have been made during the month, also several barrels of conch shells. This trade seems to be reviving, and if not overdone would be a great help to the fishermen, as the conches are dried and the greater portion of them shipped to Haiti, and the shells bought at Grand Turk. (This report has been greatly delayed owing to war conditions.)

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Bayley.—On the 7th Dec., at 34, Albert Road, Regent's Park, the wife of Captain H. H. R. Bayley, R.A.M.C., of a daughter. Jamaican papers please copy.

WANT.

Planter. West Indies, Englishman, manager in St. Lucia for sixteen years, requires position as Manager.—Apply to George Demichy, 23, Gwynne Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Sugar in the United Kingdom.

Replying to Mr. Lough, M.P., on December 13th, Mr. Clynes said that the recorded quantities of sugar remaining in bonded warehouse or entered to be warehoused at the end of last month were 1,445,000 cwt. of refined and 3,352,000 of unrefined sugar, as compared with 764,000 and 2,244,000 cwt. respectively at the corresponding date of 1916.

Home Produced Beet Sugar.

In the course of a reply to Mr. Billing on November 29th, Sir R. Wintrey, on behalf of the President of the Board of Agriculture, said that during the years 1912-1915, a privately-owned factory at Cautley, in Norfolk, manufactured approximately 8,700 tons of sugar; but that this enterprise had ceased in 1916.

CANADA-WEST INDIES TRANSPORT.

The Barbados Press publishes a letter received locally from Dr. A. T. Drummond, of Canada, who has evinced much practical interest in the question of the closer political and commercial union of the Dominion and the West Indies.

In the matter of the development of a fast steamship service between these two sections of the Empire, Dr. Drummond writes: "The Intercolonial Railway management has replied very favourably to my proposal for a fast service between Halifax and Montreal and Toronto to accommodate the British West Indies trade, although pointing out that both railway and steamship services are just now disorganised by war requirements." Dr. Drummond adds:

"The points of view from which I am looking at the transport question, and possibly they may interest you, are:—

"(1) The fast express freight service by rail to Canada.

"(2) Regular weekly steamship services, suggestively, one between Halifax, Bermuda, Barbados, Port of Spain and Georgetown, and the other between Halifax, Nassau, Kingston and another point in Jamaica, Belize and possibly Pt. — the output of the Guatemala Railway, inter-ular services to connect the other islands regularly with the through steamships at Barbados and Port of Spain.

"(3) Cold storage facilities for fruit, etc., at shipping points.

"(4) The greatly increased trade which federal union of the West Indies would bring about in every colony and the equal certainty of the large investment of Canadian capital there, so soon as federal union there, and commercial union with Canada, were consummated.

"(5) The necessity of giving wide information on these questions to the merchants and the planters in the British Indies, and to our manufacturers and merchants here."

OUR LIBRARY.

A SHORT HISTORY OF SUGAR, 1856-1916: A WARNING. By George Martineau, C.B. London: The British Empire Producers' Organisation, 1917.

Though this pamphlet is mainly historic, it is well that the mistakes of the past should be clearly and concisely recorded so that they may be avoided in the future, and no one is better able to record them than Mr. George Martineau, who may be regarded as our greatest English expert on sugar. For the doctrinaire Free Trader, Mr. Martineau has a supreme and wholesome contempt, and he shows us in simple phrases how the supporters of the dogma "duty for revenue purposes only" persistently refused to permit free trade in sugar in the true sense of the term for a period of no fewer than sixty years. It was to combat this attitude of the "pedantic theorist" or "person who applied principle without allowance for circumstances" (to give the Oxford dictionary's meaning to name "doctrinaire") that the British Sugar Refiners' Committee was formed in 1872, with the author of this pamphlet as secretary, and the outcome of the co-operation of that body with the West India Committee was the abolition (to a great extent) of the foreign sugar bounties and the suppression of Cartels in 1902. Mr. Martineau was the guiding spirit of the campaign so far as the refining interest was concerned, and his knowledge of the subject—admittedly a most intricate one—was recognised by his appointment as adviser to the delegates at successive International Conferences, and as Assistant Delegate to the Permanent Commission which was set up to secure the proper observance of the terms of

the Convention of 1902. There has surely been no happier combination than that of Mr. Martineau, representing the refiners, and the late Sir Neville Lubbock, the champion of the West Indies and other sugar growing colonies. The whole history of the successful movement of which they were the mainspring, is now concisely summarised with becoming modesty in four chapters, significantly headed, "Before the Flood," "the Deluge," and "the Dump," (of bounty-fed sugar, of course). In the following chapter Mr. Martineau deals with sugar during the War. He has got into hot water more than once for adversely criticising the Government for their panic buying of sugar at the outbreak of war which, he contends, drove prices up compelling them to prohibit the importation of sugar to protect themselves from a loss and to avoid burning their fingers; and it is noteworthy that his view is supported by the memorandum appended to the report of the Parliamentary sub-Committee, published in last CIRCULAR, which is presumably endorsed by that Committee. The past is, however, past and the subject can have little more than academic interest except as an object lesson for the future, and readers will turn eagerly to the chapter devoted to "After the War," to learn what hope this eminent authority holds out for the development of the British Sugar Industry. In this connection Mr. Martineau believes that "Getting things done is gradually being substituted for the waiting policy with which we set out in 1914, to fight the Germans." He warns us that after the war we must keep up this excellent new habit forced upon us by dire necessity if the British Empire is to hold its own in the coming struggle for industrial progress—even for its very existence. He urges that the 1,800,000 tons of sugar costs at least £20,000,000 which we import and pay for every year in normal times should be produced within the Empire. We are pleased to find that in his comparative retirement Mr. Martineau has lost none of his courage and vigour which he showed in his campaigning days.

Coast of North America. In my opinion there is too much bad weather to be taken into consideration to make it possible for a regular service to be run, until flying boats have increased in size and seaworthiness. Everywhere, that is to say amongst the islands of the West Indies, I think the service presents no meteorological difficulties whatever.

It is, of course, very early in the day to begin catering for an All-British Route; first of all we must obtain the sympathy of the inhabitants of the West Indies and surrounding countries; then the service must be started, and eventually prolonged and magnified as the growth of flying boats permits.

With regard to the letter of "Flight Commander," I can quite understand the writer's remarks about flying at 20,000 feet. As a general commercial principle I should say that high flying was wrong. However, very little is known, or comparatively very little is known, about the wind currents of the upper air, and circumstances may arise to warrant flight at this height. It is on record that at great altitudes a wind speed of 130 miles an hour has been proved, vertically over a spot near sea level where the wind speed was only 22½ miles an hour. It may therefore pay us under certain circumstances to fly very high.

With regard to the difficulty of breathing and the falling off of engine power at these high altitudes, I feel that I should be careful in what I say with regard to these. I know of the existence of these difficulties and I believe they have been, or are being, or at all events shortly will be circumvented and this without the actual carrying of compressed oxygen. For fear of giving any useful hints in the wrong direction, however, I refrain from giving any details.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. SWINTON (Capt.).

Royal Thames Yacht Club,
80, Piccadilly, W. 1,
December 20th, 1917.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Guiana—Jamaica by Air.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I had the pleasure of reading in your paper, an article on the possibilities of the Flying Boat.

May I, as a pilot, heartily endorse Captain Swinton's remarks?

One point, however, I would like to raise, and that is why fly at 20,000 feet?

In war-flying it is sometimes essential, but I cannot conceive why it should be done under peace conditions. Comparatively few people can fly at that height without the use of oxygen.

Another point in connection with this height is the decrease of speed. If your machines have a speed of 100 miles per hour near the ground, they will not have that speed at a height, and consequently the time allowances will have to be increased.

These objections do not alter the fact, however, that possibilities are enormous and well worth serious consideration.

Yours obediently,
FLIGHT COMMANDER.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I notice two letters concerning the article I recently wrote for your CIRCULAR on the question of aerial transport in the West Indies. I will reply to them both in one letter.

The question of the actual choice of route really amounts to the purchase of flying boats and putting them into commission on whatever lines on which they appear to be likely to succeed. When writing the article I had to bear in mind that I do not conscientiously believe that the flying boat of to-day is capable of conducting anything in the nature of a regular service over that stretch of the Atlantic Ocean between Halifax, Bermuda and the S.R.

Humus in British Guiana.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—As a reader of your CIRCULAR I am greatly interested in the article in your issue of November 29th, suggesting the renovation of the partially exhausted soils of British Guiana by the addition of peogass as a means of supplying humus.

To my knowledge, crops of sugar cane have been reaped for over fifty years from the same land in the Colony; it is therefore hardly necessary to point out that with open drains at intervals of every 36 feet, and subject to tropical rains, the land has lost a good deal of the humus it originally had.

In one part of the Colony the estates are bounded on the south by a savannah, having a depth of peogass of approximately seven feet. This peogass is decayed vegetable matter, bearing in appearance a close resemblance to peat.

With a dredger and aerial wire tramway, peogass could be economically excavated and transported to the land in cultivation. Previous to application it might be left in heaps to drain and dry. A moderate quantity of peogass sprinkled along the cane rows soon after the canes are cut, would, in the writer's opinion, improve the soil by making good some of the deficiency of humus.

In your issue of September 20th, 1917, you give an article from the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* of July 23rd last, which stated that a planter in Hawaii estimated that he had obtained, or expected to obtain, an increased yield of ten tons of cane per acre by spreading strips of tar or asphalt felt (subsequently described as paper strips or papers) on the stubble cane rows, which among other benefits reduced by one half the cost of the labour required to bring the cane to maturity.

While not expecting similar results from the application of peogass, I think the experiment would be remunerative.

Yours faithfully,
W. A. WOLSELEY.

An Appreciation by a Visitor.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Although there is much to sadden visitors to England at this time, yet it has been an experience well worth the having, and above all the West Indian in London now must be much cheered when he has an opportunity of seeing the work of the West India Committee, the Contingent Committee, and the Ladies' Committee of the latter. Between these three organisations the West Indian fighting man is cared for and looked after in a way undreamed of by his people in the Islands. In addition to his numerous duties as Secretary to the West India Committee, Mr. Aspinall still finds time to be "guide, philosopher, and friend" to every West Indian who will call at 15, Seething Lane, and it means a great deal to parents and friends in the West Indies to know that none of their lads need go out to fight without all possible assistance and advice, or without that grip of the hand and "good luck" which mean so much.

Miss Moseley, the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, has spent three years working devotedly and unselfishly for all the West Indians who are fighting, whether of the West Indies Regiment or of other units. Nor does her work cease after office hours, as much time is devoted by her on Saturdays and Sundays to visiting West Indians in Hospital. Miss Moseley has placed the West Indies under a debt of gratitude difficult to express and impossible to repay.

Having had the privilege of seeing a great deal of the work, in which the whole staff of the West India Committee assists cheerfully and heartily, it was with a great deal of pleasure that I accepted Miss Moseley's invitation to be present at the General Meeting to receive the Secretary's report of the working of the Committee.

The report, read by Miss Moseley, dealt very fully with the distribution of comforts, concerts, hospitality to men and officers, hospital visiting, Flag Day collections, etc.; but naturally it did not deal with a great deal which is done by the Committees and their representatives.

Major De Boissiere made some practical remarks regarding the over-supply of warm garments, which, I take it, refers only to certain battalions, as it would be a pity if the ardour of workers was damped in any way by what he said; there must be a continued demand generally for warm clothing.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise also struck a very practical note in her remarks, and read a letter from Mr. Aspinall suggesting more assistance in the office work, such as card indexing, addressing parcels and letters, and in hospital visiting. Her Highness made a very touching reference to the Islands and to the kindness and loyalty of the people. West Indians, however, I think, feel that it is they who are deeply indebted to Her Highness for her kindness and interest during the time of her visit and since. The people of these Islands are loyal, as well they may be when every crumbling fort and every palm-fringed beach speaks yet of

"Old, forgotten, far-off things,
And battles long ago."

But if anything had been required to quicken or increase that loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of His Majesty the King and to the Motherland, the visit of Her Highness to the Islands and her great interest in them would have accomplished much.

Native mothers will for a long time tell their children of the visit of the Princess—not of her of the nursery fairy tales, but of "A'we Princess," as they say, who smiled graciously on them and took such an interest in them and all that was theirs.

One left the meeting with a great sense of the earnest desire of this Committee to do everything possible in the future as they have done in the past to lighten and comfort the hardships of the West Indian who is fighting for his Motherland.

Yours faithfully,

WEST INDIA.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Bahamas War-time Prosperity.

The War has not afflicted the Bahamas with that severe financial stringency from which some larger communities have not escaped. It appears from the Colonial Report for 1916-17, just to hand, that the exports of sponge and sisal—the chief local products—have been very large and prices have ruled high. In consequence the people are comparatively well off, and have had the advantage of the very low freight rates (for war time) provided in the contract with the New York and Cuba Mail S.S. Co.

On the other hand, the prices of provisions—which are to a very large extent imported from America—have risen to a very high figure. The Government has instituted a food campaign with the object of inducing the inhabitants to plant more maize and other food crops so as to be less dependent on outside supplies. In many cases land has been given free to bona fide cultivators, and the sympathies of private owners of large tracts of suitable land have been enlisted. The entry of America into the War was, as far as this Colony is concerned, not an unmixing blessing, because it meant greater difficulty in getting supplies, a probable further increase of prices and, certainly, a cessation of the mail contract with, consequently, infrequent and irregular communication with New York, and higher freight rates.

Two Hotels Closed.

In this connection the report adds:—"When prospects were most brilliant there came the unfortunate series of events; first the lighting restrictions, then the failure of the Jacksonville Service caused by the unsuitability of the vessel to perform the service. These put an embargo on any success to our season, and practically frustrated any further serious efforts of the Board to revive it, and the climax to this was added by the rupture of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany and immediate prospects of war between those nations. From hotel advices received, there had been unprecedented bookings for accommodations, which were in greater part later cancelled. In consequence, the Royal Victoria Hotel closed on February 14th, and the Hotel Colonial on March 23rd, considerably before the time intended. The Board is advised by the management of these hotels that up to March 1st there were cancellations to the number of 501, aggregating \$110,000, that the carriage business was \$457 67, against \$1,792.57 last year, and that the boating and bathing beach was reduced to less than one-third, all owing to lighting restrictions and others consequent on the War. The Board regards the lighting restrictions as an insuperable bar to the prospects of any future winter season during which they may be in force, and are of the opinion that all their efforts to induce tourists to visit Nassau will be frustrated by these regulations. The numbers of tourists and others arriving during the season 1916-17 were as follows:—From New York, 953; from Jacksonville, 258; from Havana, 75; total, 1,286, as against the season 1915-16 of 2,680.

The imports and exports for the last six years have been as follows:—

Year	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1911	308,726	209,251	517,977
1912	357,808	276,115	633,923
1913	398,244	263,954	662,198
1914	367,524	223,491	591,015
1915	363,410	243,431	606,841
1916	475,067	332,679	807,746

The total increase of trade was £200,905, as compared with 1915.

Revenue was £90,472 as compared with £86,251 in 1915-16; of this £76,665 was derived from Customs duties—an increase of £5,507 on the previous year.

The expenditure was £97,213 as against £90,925 in 1915-16. The increase was mainly due to expenditure on the Bahamas Contingent.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3
December 27th, 1917.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th. 5 per cent. War Loan, 93½; Consols 54½.

Interest in the campaign for the sale of National War Bonds continues unabated. In the case of Bonds held by *bona fide* residents abroad, the interest is free from all Imperial taxes. The investment should, therefore, make a specially strong appeal to residents in the Colonies. The scramble for Bonds issued by two enterprising stores which have offered prizes to be drawn for among purchasers augurs well for the success which would attend the issue of Premium Bonds.

SUGAR. The quotations of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply remain unchanged as from May 29th last, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. crystallised, crystals, and granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and 39/6 for syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes.

The Royal Commission have made further purchases of 960 West India at 21/- f.o.b., including a fair amount of Demerara. The International Sugar Committee is reported to have acquired a good proportion of the new Cuban crop at 4.60c. f.o.b., equal to about 21/7½ per cwt. f.o.b.

The quotation for 960 in New York remains at 6.90c., as against 5.64c. at the same date last year. Freight from Cuba to New York have been fixed at 39c. per 100 lbs. from the north side and 47c. from the south. Willet & Gray give the following estimate of European beet crops:—

	Possible Yield. Tons 2,240 lbs. 1917-18	Yield Tons 2,240 lbs. 1916-17
Germany	1,200,000	1,350,000
Austria-Hungary	800,000	900,000
France	210,000	181,385
Belgium	125,000	135,031
Holland	210,000	269,180
Russia	900,000	1,158,920
Sweden	100,000	150,000
Norway	No data	—
Denmark	115,000	112,800
Italy	75,000	150,000
Spain	110,000	125,092
Switzerland	4,000	4,000
Roumania	No data	15,000
Servia	No data	—
Bulgaria	No data	15,000
England	—	—
Total Europe	3,849,000	4,566,408

The West India Sugar Statistics in London from 1st January to 22nd December, 1917, were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Imports	81,176	55,148	53,313 Tons.
Deliveries	77,343	57,900	48,303 "
Stock (Dec. 22nd)	11,848	8,353	11,019 "

RUM. There are no transactions to report.

The stocks in London on December 22nd were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Jamaica	7,352	10,880	6,354 puns
Demerara	5,614	10,482	3,706 "
Total of all kinds	20,185	35,923	20,666 "

In the House of Commons on December 20th, Sir A. Stanley said that on November 30th, 139,000,000 gallons of home-made and imported spirits remained in bond. On December 12th the King visited the docks, where he was shown acres of stone jars used for sending rum to men at the front. He remarked, "I know those trenches, and can understand how the men appreciate their rum ration." In the next storehouse the actual bottling and packing of the rum was seen in various stages, a big

rum store was visited, and their Majesties watched the operation of "kegging" for dispatch in large quantities.

CACAO. The next auction is fixed for January 8th. The demand has been less brisk, though fairly large sales have been effected privately. Trinidads have changed hands at 94/- to 98/- for good middling to fine plantation; Grenada at 85/- to 96/- for good common to fine estate; St. Lucia at 91/- to 96/6 for good to fine, and 50 bags choice Demerara at 100/6 to 101/6.

The stocks in London on December 22nd were:—

	1917	1916	1915
Trinidad	17,419	17,903	7,268 bags.
Grenada	16,599	12,836	1,719 "
Total of all kinds	215,525	213,921	100,020 "

COTTON. With the help of the British Cotton Growing Association, good progress is being made with cotton cultivation in West Africa, and 833 tons of cotton seed have been distributed, as compared with 780 tons for the previous year. Since our last report, 1,048 bales British West Indian have been imported. Quotations remain as fixed under the arrangement with the Admiralty as outlined in the CIRCULAR of November 29th.

ARROWROOT. The market shows no change. No business is reported.

COPRA. The market is now controlled, and the price for West Indian is fixed at £46 c.i.f. London or Liverpool. Margarine factories are being opened here, and it is hoped that they have come to stay, so that the wasteful system of sending copra to the Continent to be manufactured into margarine and the margarine brought back here may be obviated.

HONEY. Owing to the demand for sugar substitutes, prices have continued to advance. Jamaicas have sold at 134/- to 144/-, and St. Lucia at 125/- to 141/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed 17/6 nominal; distilled 7/6 to 8/- nominal; no demand. Lime Juice: Concentrated unchanged, with an easier tendency; raw quiet, 2/- to 3/- common to fair. Citrate unchanged.

SPICES. Nutmegs and Mace Large arrivals ex Spheroid will be offered early in the New Year.

PIMENTO. Flat at 4½d., holders asking 4½d.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuela block, 3/3 c.i.f. business done. Panama block, 2/10½ landed terms. Tunaco block, 3/- spot. West Indian sheet, 4/- to 4/1 spot.

RUBBER. Steady. Para 2/8½; crepe 2/5½, and sheet 2/5.

The British Empire Producers' Organisation believes that after the war rice is destined to come into far greater consumption in the United Kingdom than hitherto. Before the war, for instance, the use of rice as a vegetable in this country was almost entirely confined to those who had lived in the tropics. During the last three years, however, its food value has been increasingly recognised here, a fact which its authorised introduction into war bread has served to emphasise—*The Graciers' Review*.

The subscription to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, post free to any part of the world. Forms of application for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated), for which only British firms and individuals are eligible, can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership (for individuals only) is £10 10s. or \$50.40.