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West India
Committee,
Circular. . . .

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VII

The West India Committee Circular.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL
15, SOUTHMOSE LANE,
JANINGTON, E.C.4.
Telegrams: LARON, LONDON.
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The Index for Volume XXVIII of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is published with the present issue which forms the first number of Volume XXXIII. In order, however, to economise postage and paper, the Index will only be posted to those subscribers making special application for copies of it within two months for binding or otherwise.

East Indian Immigration.

FROM the letter addressed by him to the India Office, which we publish in another column, it will be gathered that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is fully alive to the weak points of the scheme recently formulated by the Inter-departmental Committee for assisted East Indian immigration into the British West Indies. While welcoming the substitution of aided colonisation for the indenture system, he points out that before public feeling in India became so pronounced, the Colonies had shown every disposition to meet Indian opinion in the matter. Indeed, when LORD HARDINGE made his announcement as to the termination of indentured labour the Immigration Ordinances in the West Indies were undergoing drastic revision. MR. LONG also emphasises the fact that the Colonies concerned are anxious to afford Indian immigrants the same legal, political and religious rights as are afforded to the other inhabitants of whatever race. And we may remind our readers that the attitude of the West Indies in this connection is widely different from that adopted by the Dominions. The Colonies want further to offer material advantages to attract a supply of labour; but MR. LONG rightly adds that

there is a limit to the expenditure in this connection, which the industries, especially sugar, can afford. It is all a question of expense, and MR. LONG is clearly in doubt as to whether the Colonies will be able to afford to maintain immigration under the new system. He points out that the immigration of families, members of which will be under no obligation to work, and the substitution of three years of labour for five years of indenture, besides numerous minor advantages and concessions, will all involve additional expenditure, whilst the greatly increased cost of passages between India and the West Indies will also be a serious consideration. In conclusion MR. LONG, while stating that he does not put forward the increased expense as a reason for rejecting or modifying those provisions of the new scheme from which it arises, adds that he has felt it right "to call attention to the gravity of the financial aspect of the problem, since, if the burden imposed on the industries is too heavy, the effect will be widespread and particularly in the sugar industry," and he points out the failure of the staple industries of the Colonies concerned would most seriously affect the fortunes of the Indian settlers who form by far the most numerous section of the Indian communities concerned.

We have yet to hear that the far-reaching proposals of the Inter-departmental Committee have met with the approval of the Indian Government, and we hope that if they are still under consideration due attention will be given to MR. LONG'S warnings. When prices are high the staple industries in British Guiana and Trinidad may be able to meet the increased cost of assisted immigration, but it is far from certain that they will be able to do so when they are low. From Press comments it appears that MR. LONG'S misgivings are shared in the West Indian Colonies mainly concerned. Thus the *Demerara Argosy* goes so far as to say that the "scheme as it stands at present . . . is not likely to be made use of, because no employer could afford to import labour on these terms." The *Trinidad Guardian* is equally emphatic:—"The enormous expenditure that must be made to transport whole families from India to the Colonies, without any obligation on the part of the women to work, and the obligation on the part of the planters to feed the children who would be non-working de-

pendents, would render the performance of any such philanthropic feat a matter of grave doubt to any planter in the West Indies who has any fear of absolute ruin leading to the bankruptcy court. But this is not all. The term of work is only three years with the allowance of a garden plot, after which liberal provisions must be made for the immigrant to settle on the land. These and other concessions are recommended by the Committee for the luxurious comfort of any immigrant who might be employed under the new scheme. It is not difficult to see that the cumulative effect of these stipulations on behalf of people in search of work would involve expenditure that would be positively prohibitive." The *Demerara Chronicle* also devotes space to the consideration of the subject, and in the course of an interesting article states, "In our opinion, to make this new immigration scheme practicable, the cost of introduction will have to be borne by the Colony," and again, "The actual cost of introduction, however, should be borne by the Government. The scheme is practicably a scheme of colonisation and the colony, that is the whole community, will have to pay for its colonisation." We are fully in agreement with these views, that the burden is too heavy to be placed upon the sugar or any other industry, and while it is obvious that any industry which may be deriving any special advantages should be expected to make a special contribution, yet we think that the time has come for these West Indian Colonies which desire to see the continuation of an Indian colonisation system to turn their thoughts to the various methods—and several have been suggested which, however, we feel that it is at present premature for us to discuss—of raising such necessary revenue as will enable the cost to be spread in an adequate manner throughout the community.

The West Indies and Ex-Soldiers.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE recently appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. EDWARD DAVSON, Mr. W. GILLESPIE, Mr. G. MOODY STUART and the SECRETARY, to consider the question of the employment and settlement of ex-soldiers—including officers, non-commissioned officers and men—in the British West Indies after the War, and as a preliminary they are addressing a letter to the various Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural Societies on the subject. These bodies are being invited to furnish the Committee with reports as to the openings afforded for ex-soldiers as overseers, managers of estates, managers and clerks in stores and business premises generally suitable for officers and men without capital on their discharge from the Army, and the assistance of the Governors is also being invoked. It is also suggested that steps might be taken to make more generally known the

opportunities existing for the investment of capital and for the reception of intending settlers with capital, it being clear that many young officers with money to invest will be unwilling to continue a humdrum life in England after their experiences abroad. It will be within the knowledge of our readers that for some years past the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have made a feature of bringing prominently before the notice of possible settlers the many amenities of the West Indies, and that as an outcome of their suggestion pamphlets and handbooks have been issued by the more enterprising colonies. It is felt, however, that a special effort is now called for, and it is to be hoped that the various agricultural and commercial bodies in the West Indies will rise to the occasion and help to bring their colonies more into line with the Dominions in attracting desirable settlers and capital. It will, we think, be agreed, if ex-soldiers can be encouraged to carve out their career in the British West Indies, it will be a means not only of replacing those who—alas!—will never return, but of doing so with a stamp of man who, by reason of experience and discipline should prove of value to the commercial and agricultural life of the communities.

CACAO IMPORTS.

Advisory Committee Formed.

Correspondence has passed during the fortnight between the Ministry of Food and the West India Committee relating to cacao. On December 28th the Ministry informed the Committee that the Food Controller proposed to constitute a Committee, on which all branches of the trade would be represented, to advise him on matters connected with the importation, sale, manufacture and distribution of cocoa, and invited the Committee in communication with the West African Association, the Ceylon Association and the dealers, to convene a meeting of leading importers to nominate two representatives for appointment by the Food Controller to its Advisory Committee. The West India Committee in reply, while expressing their willingness to co-operate with the Associations named, suggested that three gentlemen might be nominated to act on the Advisory Committee, one by the West India Committee, one by the West African Association, and one by the Ceylon Association. On January 4th a further letter was received from the Food Controller, asking the Committee to nominate a representative of the leading importers and merchants connected with the West Indies, and similar letters were sent to the other two Associations concerned. On January 8th a representative meeting was held at the West India Committee Rooms of West Indian interests, when Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter was appointed to represent West Indian interests on the Advisory Committee and it was reported that Mr. J. H. Batty, Sir Edward Rosling, Mr. C. E. Woodhouse and Mr. G. E. Vasmer had been appointed to represent West Africa, Ceylon, brokers and dealers respectively.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

[Readers are invited to contribute notes of social and general interest in connection with the West Indies for publication under this heading. All contributions should be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.—EDITOR.]

We regret to hear that Sir George Foster has met with rather a serious accident in Canada, which will incapacitate him for some weeks.

ATTENTION is called to the notice regarding the Index of Volume XXXII., which appears above the first leading article in the present CIRCULAR.

COLONEL WILLIAM EDEN CLARK, Inspector-General of Police and Commandant of the Local Forces in British Guiana, has been awarded the King's Police Medal.

MRS. BLACKWOOD WRIGHT, who appeared as prosecutor of a woman who stole her purse in St. Paul's Cathedral just before Christmas, is the wife of the second Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago.

MR. F. A. C. COLLYMORE has forwarded a further draft for £500 towards the British Red Cross Motor Ambulance Fund. This brings the total amount collected by him from the People of Barbados towards that object to £5,500.

MR. A. C. ROBINSON, B.A., Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, has been appointed Registrar-General and Circuit Magistrate in the Bahamas. Born in 1875, Mr. Robinson was educated at Lancing and Hertford College, Oxford. He was called to the Bar in 1901.

JAMAICA, it appears, was chosen as the scene for photographing the spectacular film, "A Daughter of the Gods," featuring Annette Kellerman, which has been exhibited in London. Jamaica, it is stated, was selected on account of its beautiful rugged scenery and the crystal clearness of the sea on its shores.

THE Postmaster-General announces that letter and parcel mails for Jamaica have been lost at sea through enemy action. The letter mail for Jamaica contained correspondence posted on December 20th last, and the parcel mail for Jamaica contained parcels posted between November 30th and December 20th.

MR. AND MRS. ALAN MESSER, who are now staying at Oxhey Wood Lodge, Northwood, for reasons connected with the last air raid, are receiving many congratulations upon their providential escape on that occasion. Mrs. Messer, who had taken refuge in a basement, prevented, by her presence of mind, an explosion which must have been accompanied by disastrous results.

MR. GEORGE HUGHES, of the Molascuit Co., 155, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3, publishes elsewhere in this

issue an advertisement of interest to proprietors of sugar estates who do not possess the necessary distilleries for the manufacture of alcohol. Such proprietors, he says, might find desirable the manufacture of solid "Molascuit" which, he states, requires simple packing and takes up less space than sugar.

THE New Orleans correspondent of *Facts about Sugar* (New York) writes, on December 4th:— "Louisiana's yield of cane per acre, its yield of sugar per ton of cane, and, in consequence, the financial results of the season from an agricultural standpoint, are so poor this year, taking the belt as a whole, that the producers, especially in some of the outlying districts, are talking of planting cotton or corn in place of cane next year."

We take the following from the *London Gazette*: The King has been pleased to give directions for the following . . . appointments to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George:—

ALGERNON EDWARD ASPINALL, Esq., Secretary, the West India Committee.

ROBERT WALTER, Esq., Colonial Secretary, British Honduras.

We are glad to learn that Miss Dora Alleyne, youngest daughter of the late Hon. Forster Alleyne, of Porters, Barbados, and of Mrs. Alleyne, of 21, Overstrand Mansions, S.W., is making a good recovery from the serious illness by which she was attacked at the end of the year before last. Her brother, Major Charles Alleyne, who was A.D.C. to Sir Frederic Hodgson whilst he was Governor of British Guiana, is now on his way to the Cape to take up an important five years' appointment in connection with the Army Service Corps.

THE latest list of recipients of the Order of the British Empire includes several gentlemen well known in West Indian circles. Sir William Grey-Wilson, who becomes a Knight Commander in recognition of his services as Chairman of the Central Committee for Patriotic Organisations, is remembered as a former Governor of the Bahamas. Mr. William Athelstane Meredith Goode, whose valuable work as Hon. Secretary of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium has won for him the K.B.E., has been a familiar figure for many years as Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club. The Companionship of the Order has been conferred upon Mr. William Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who has done war work as Director of the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department, and upon Mr. Terence Charles Macnaghten, Principal Clerk of Colonial Office, and for some time the head of the West Indian Department. Captain William John Dagnall, Commodore-Captain of the R.M.S.P. Co., whom we remember as Captain of R.M.S. *Eden*—and Mr. Frederick Henry Dumas Man, of the well-known Mincing Lane firm, become O.B.E. or Officers of the Order.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Peace Mirage.

That Germany has any faith in the Bolsheviks, who, in the absence of a stable government in Russia, are assuming the highest powers of one, is extremely doubtful. Her aim is, through them, to secure economic control of all the vast territories to the east of her, and an opening towards peace in the Allied countries. It is not the fault of a minority in Britain that she has so far failed to make a breach in the home front of her enemies. But the Government has firmly resisted all pressure to discuss peace terms as outlined at Brest-Litovsk. Fortunately the Bolsheviks, who could not grasp international realities until they were up against them, are discovering the true character of the Hun for themselves. One of the conditions of the armistice was that no Austro-German troops were to be transferred from the Eastern front to the West, a condition which was immediately broken. Again, each party to the contract was to evacuate occupied territory. The Bolsheviks are ready to withdraw Russian Armies from the Caucasus and Armenia, but the Germans decline to withdraw from Poland, Lithuania, and Courland. As for the condition that these territories are to determine their own future by plebiscite, Germany evades it by pointing to the vote of bodies controlled by herself. The Bolsheviks, however, are urging that it has no value.

The Rift Widening.

Moreover, they want to know when Germany proposes to re-patriate the 300,000 able-bodied adults taken from Russian Provinces into slavery, and to release leaders of opinion now languishing in gaol because they advocated peace. The negotiations hinge on the recall of the German Armies on the Russian front, since even the Bolshevik Party perceive that, as long as they are in the occupied territories, no independent vote can be taken as to the future, so now the Central Powers are being accused of perfidy, oppression, and all the other characteristics, which have brought about the present war. With the arrogance of the intellectual the Bolsheviks have assumed that their fine theories had only to be put into practice for the tiger to turn into the tabby-cat. At enormous cost to Russia and the Allies they have discovered their error, and now talk of continuing the War.

In the meantime the British Minister has defined the minimum of Allied War aims, so that people who professed not to know what we are fighting for have been enlightened, and the ground cut from under their agitating feet. The only change of importance from previous re-statements of peace terms is the reference to Turkey, who is to be allowed to retain Constantinople, the Straits being inter-nationalised.

On the Western Front.

Here the cold is intense, and military operations on a large scale are at a standstill. But all along the line the Germans are feeling for a weak spot, sometimes with heavy loss, as at Bullecourt and Marcoing, but, for the most part, the raids carried out by either side are of no great importance. What

the enemy intends to do is purely a matter of speculation, but that he will engage in some big venture next spring is a contingency, which must be provided for by the Allies. The French have shown their determination by calling up the 1919 class, but there has been no action to correspond with this on the part of the British Government. The army of manœuvre promised by Mr. Lloyd George is not materialising. For the incompleteness of the Allied successes during 1917 cannot all be ascribed to the Russian defection. Between the various offensives on the Isonzo, at Moronvillers, in the Chemin-des-Dames, Arras, and in Flanders, there were long pauses, whereas all of them should have been launched at the same time and pushed home. True, the torrential rains in August prevented the British from following up the Messines exploit, but they do not explain the general want of unity in Allied operations. There is a tendency in uninstructed circles to lay the blame on the absence of a supreme Council, such as has recently been established in Paris. But a much more serious reason is lack of men. The best advice and the most reasoned plan will come to-nought if adequate provision is not made for carrying them out.

On the Italian Front.

The superb valour of the Italians, aided by the British and French, have, so far, defeated the enemy's design of breaking through to the Venetian Plain. Even the loss of Mount Asolone, which put the enemy on a level with Monte Grappa on its west flank, has been retrieved by the re-capture of the position, one of the best pieces of work the Italians have done. For one more Austro-German step south-eastwards from Asolone would have jeopardised the rear of our Allies on the west bank of the Brenta. On the Asiago plateau there is no slackening of the long-drawn-out battle which began in November. In the east the French have scored their first striking success in capturing the crest of Monte Tomba, which was taken from the Italians nearly two months ago. Our Allies have also a gallant exploit to their credit, having driven the enemy from Zenson, on the Piave, where he established a bridgehead nearly six weeks ago. At great cost he resisted the pressure of the Italians, but was ultimately obliged to pass again to the left bank of the river. That the Austro-German High Command desires a decisive success on this front is certain, but that his original plans provided for conquest on a large scale is doubtful. He was as much surprised at the rapid advance he made from Tolmino as the Allies at the completeness of the Italian disaster. Hence his attacks are directed against positions on the Piave, Brenta, or on the Asiago plateau, not in combination, but separately, sure sign of the want of a definite plan.

There is now four inches of snow in the passes.

Progress in Palestine.

As by the crossing of the Ajaja the British left was materially advanced, so was the British right as a result of the big counter-attack by the Turks for the recapture of Jerusalem. One corps, including a new division from the Caucasus, moved along

the Nablus road, another making a demonstration from the east. For twelve hours the British beat off assault after assault on vital positions, when, by a masterly counter-stroke, the enemy's right was rolled up. The Yeomen and Irish advanced with such dash that they covered as much ground as if they were engaged on a successful offensive, taking the redoubtable Zeitun ridge in their stride. Other hills were so precipitous that they could only be occupied by making a wide *détour*. Not only were the enemy's losses heavy, but, in spite of the difficult terrain, British troops forced him from one almost impregnable position to another, forestalling his counter-attacks and pushing counter-attacks of their own. The result is that the whole of the watershed between the Mediterranean and the Jordan as far north as Bireh is under Allied control. That Germany intends to discount the Turkish defeats in Mesopotamia and Palestine is more than likely, for she knows very well that Bagdad and Jerusalem have seriously shaken her prestige in the Moslem world, and unless she can retrieve them it is good-bye to her dreams of domination from Berlin to Bagdad. If she fails to make the effort her case is worse than the most optimistic of her enemies supposes.

Admiralty Changes.

At intervals all through the war instructed criticism of the Admiralty has found vent in the Press. Dissatisfaction is, however, not directed against the Navy, but in the use of it by the powers that be as the most potent instrument of the national will. Of late matters have come to a head (1), by the continuance of enemy submarine activity; (2) the convoy disasters in the North Sea, followed by the loss of three destroyers off the Belgian coast on December 22nd-23rd. In consequence Sir John Jellicoe has resigned his post as First Sea Lord and is succeeded by Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, who conducted the naval operations in the Allied evacuation of Gallipoli so admirably. If the change is merely one of men, it will not prove more effective than its predecessors at the Admiralty. What is wanted is a different conception of sea-power, which, up to now, has been regarded defensively, whereas if we are to remain a Great Power after the conclusion of peace it must be regarded offensively. The reflection here is not on our naval, but on our political leaders, who even at this time of day can make important speeches on the war without mentioning the Navy. It is believed that the younger men in the service are likely to exert their influence in giving a sounder direction to policy. Hence the passing of the older Captains, their splendid achievements notwithstanding.

The War in the Air.

It is known that Germany is hard pushed to keep up her Air Service. The wear and tear on material is enormous and heavy on the personnel. Moreover, the daring and initiative required for a good scout are not common in enemy countries. Apparently, Germany cannot maintain an adequate force of aircraft both in Italy and on the West. Hence the absence of aeroplanes in the Cambrai sector, when the British broke the Hindenburg line and the ability of French and British aviators to raid German towns. The most important of these recently

attacked was Mannheim, a great centre for munition factories, 100 miles from the frontier. British pilots, though the temperature registered 30 degrees below zero, showed extraordinary skill, not only in maintaining cohesion in their formations during the raid but in returning home with the loss of but one machine.

In Italy the enemy is repeating the savagery which has destroyed many of the world's masterpieces in France and Belgium. One of the chief sufferers has been Padua, the facade of its beautiful cathedral having been destroyed and several historic churches set on fire. The Italians, with the aid of the British and French, have replied by bombing enemy aerodromes, and during an enemy attack on Treviso brought down eleven out of his thirty machines.

Shipping Losses.

The toll of our merchantmen taken by "U" boats has risen again. For the first time since September 2nd the number of big ships lost stood in the week ended December 29th at 17, larger by 5 than the number sunk in the week ending December 22nd. There were 4 smaller vessels lost. The figures for the week ended January 5th are for ships of 1,600 tons and over 16, under 1,600 tons 2.

An East African Reverse.

The Germans, 2,000 strong with ten machine-guns, who were driven over the Portuguese frontier from British East-Africa, have cut up a Portuguese force of 250 men and, after many hours bitter fighting captured the position it held. They also took as prisoners the Commander, seven officers and thirty-four men. But as Von Lettow is cut off from supplies by our patrol of the coast, and is in enemy territory, he must sooner or later surrender.

(To be continued.)

SHIPPERS from the British West Indies must count themselves fortunate in retaining the services of the "Direct" Line of Steamers, but for which they would be in a pitiable plight. Martinique and Guadeloupe are paying £18 to £20 a ton freight to France and, moreover, the freight is payable on shipment, the freight insurance being consequently for account of the shipper, and war insurance by sailing ship would be about £30 per cent. In the circumstances no one could charge Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co. with profiteering when asking 100/- to 120/- for sugar, 200/- for cacao, and 120/- for general cargo with 10 per cent. primage, but no war surcharge.

Membership of the West India Committee is by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British Subjects.

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 or 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 couponing subscription for life membership is £10 10s. (\$60.40). 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.

had been a source of anxiety to the British sugar producers and refiners. Not only were the former being ousted from the home market, but were also seriously affected by the drop in the world's price of sugar as the result of the increasing production of Germany and Austria.

Several half-hearted attempts were made by Great Britain at the instance of British sugar producers and refiners to put a stop to the Continental bounty system by means of Conferences with the Powers concerned. Up to 1902 these were abortive, owing to the unwillingness of Great Britain to take definite steps in the direction of penalising bounty-fed sugar.

In 1902 the position had become acute. In that year German sugar producers were selling 88 deg. beet for export f.o.b. Hamburg at £7 5s. per ton, £1 5s. per ton below its average cost of production. The British sugar exporting Colonies which had endured the unfair competition for many years were now on the brink of ruin, and, as the result of continued urgent representations, Great Britain again called a Conference of the Powers, which met at Brussels in December of that year for the purpose of reopening the question of the abolition of the bounties.

At the outset the proceedings of the Conference did not promise more satisfactory results than had been obtained at the previous conferences. But when Great Britain declared that if the bounties were not abolished, the importation of bounty-fed sugar into the United Kingdom would be prohibited, the position of affairs at once changed, and in March, 1902, a Convention was signed and subsequently ratified by which it was agreed that the direct bounty should be abolished, and the duty on imported sugar reduced to a maximum figure of £2 10s. per ton for refined sugar, or £2 5s. 5d. per ton for raw sugar.

All the principal European Powers, with the exception of Russia, who declined to give up or modify her fiscal system, and whose sugar was consequently prohibited entrance to, or subjected to countervailing duties in, the markets of the signatory Powers, were parties to the Convention, subsequently known as

The Brussels Convention.

On her side, Great Britain undertook not to give bounties on sugar, or preferential treatment to her Colonies' sugar in her Customs tariff. The Convention was for five years, at the expiration of which period it was renewed for a further period of five years, Russia being admitted on the understanding that while she retained her fiscal system, she would not export westward more than 200,000 tons of sugar annually.

At the end of the second period Great Britain withdrew from the Convention, which was renewed by the other signatories for a further period of five years. This action of Great Britain which, under another Government, had been instrumental in bringing about the Convention, was due to the pressure of the sugar-using trades, who wanted cheap sugar—at any cost—and deprecated the prohibition of bounty-fed sugar.

In the interests of the same fraternity who did not wish to see the exports of confectionery to the Con-

tinents penalised by the remaining parties to the Convention, Great Britain pledged herself to adhere to the principle of the Convention in respect of not giving bounties to sugar or preference in the Customs tariff to Colonial sugars. As a return the Continental Powers agreed not to discriminate against British Confectionery.

The Brussels Convention stopped the rot in the British Colonial exporting sugar industry, but it gave it no opportunity for expansion. It left the Continental sugar producers with the advantage derived from protection equivalent to 25 per cent. of the value of sugars, and the British Colonial industry with the door of the market of the Mother Country closed to preferential treatment in its favour.

America's Protective Policy.

The important factor in the development of the cane and beet sugar industries, especially of the former, was the protective and Colonial policy adopted by the United States in 1898. Hawaii had for some years enjoyed the benefit of reciprocity with the United States, the sugar of that island going into the United States free of duty, while the products of the United States received favoured treatment in Hawaii. But in 1898 Hawaii was annexed and became part of United States territory, and in the same year Porto Rico and the Philippines became United States property as the result of the Spanish-American War.

The United States, in the Dingley tariff of 1897 had taken up a highly protective attitude towards sugar, and the result was that not only was there great stimulation of domestic and territorial sugar production, but also, by means of a reciprocity treaty with the new Republic of Cuba, by which sugar received preferential treatment in the United States, the sugar industry of that island began to develop rapidly. In 1896-7 the sugar production of the United States consisted of 287,579 tons of domestic cane sugar and 37,536 tons of domestic beet sugar, together with 263,513 tons of Colonial cane sugar, in all 588,628 tons. In that year, also, the sugar output of Cuba was 212,051 tons. The 1916-17 production of sugar in the United States was 271,139 tons of domestic cane, 734,577 tons of domestic beet and no less than 1,245,652 tons of Colonial cane sugar, in all, 2,251,348 tons. In addition the estimated 1916-17 crop of Cuba was 3,400,000 tons, although only 3,200,000 tons were actually reaped, owing to the troubles connected with the insurrection on that island.

In 1913 the Democratic party came into power in the United States, and a part of their policy was the removal of the protective tariff. Under the Underwood Tariff, an immediate reduction of 25 per cent. was provided for with extinction in two years' time. At the end of this period, however, the free sugar clause of the tariff was abolished, and the duty then standing allowed to remain.

Canadian Preference.

In 1898 Canada adopted the policy of giving preferential treatment to British produced sugar in her Customs Tariff, fixed later, in 1913, by the Canada West Indian Trade Agreement at a figure which provided a minimum reduction of import duty in the

case of 96° refining sugar of 16½ cents, per 100lbs., equivalent to 17/8 per ton, increased later on to 33½ cents or 28/8 per ton. This naturally attracted British West India sugar to Canada.

Beet Experiments in England.

The question of the manufacture of beet sugar in the United Kingdom was taken up so far back as 1831. In that year a small Company was formed for the purpose of growing and manufacturing beet sugar on Continental lines at Ulting in Essex. A plant was erected, but the scheme was not a success. In 1870 a factory was erected at Lavenham, in Suffolk, for the manufacture of syrup from sugar beets, the syrup being converted into sugar at a London refinery. This factory worked for nine years, after which the project was abandoned. In 1872 a beet-growing venture was started at Buscot, in Oxfordshire, 1,600 acres, but this was with the view of converting the beets into alcohol, and was a failure.

These misadventures, coupled with the increased cheapening of sugar from the Continental development, led to interest in home-grown beet languishing, but towards the end of last century the subject was again taken up, and experimental growings of sugar beet took place throughout the Kingdom. These demonstrated the fact that sugar beet, equal in saccharine richness and in extent of yield to those produced on the Continent could be grown, and in 1911 the matter was crystallised by the erection of a factory at Cantley, in Norfolk, by the Anglo-Netherlands Corporation, which owned sugar factories in Holland. This factory did not prove a financial success, and was closed down in 1916, owing to the absence of roots from the impossibility of obtaining seed for planting on account of the War. In 1915 the Government definitely accorded protection to the sugar produced by it by fixing the Excise Duty £2 6s. 8d. per ton below the Customs duty on imported sugar.

Quite recently an estate has been purchased at Kelfham, in Nottinghamshire, on which a factory is to be erected, and on which beets are to be grown. This scheme will be subsidised to the extent of £125,000 by the Government, and it is hoped that a satisfactory decision of the problem of home-grown sugar will be arrived at.

(To be continued.)

An important announcement has been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the question of compensating the dependents of Colonial officials who may lose their lives through hostile attack while travelling to or from duty. In a despatch addressed to, and published by the Governor of Barbados, Mr. Long says:—

"In the case of the African Protectorates I have decided, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that in the circumstances indicated the dependents should be awarded pensions or gratuities computed on the basis of the Treasury warrants regulating the grant of gratuities and allowances under section 1 of the Superannuation Act of 1887. I am of opinion that the same ruling might well be applied in the case of all Colonial Officials, and I therefore request that you will submit the matter to the Legislature and suggest that the principle should be approved in the case of officials of the Colony under your Government."

THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN.

II.—River Wall Proposals.

By LUKE M. HILL, M.Inst.C.E.

As a sequel to the article in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 29th last, it may be of some interest briefly to review the various proposals made from time to time for the construction of a river wall and continuous wharf along the waterside premises extending from Fort William Frederick, near the mouth of the Demerara River, to La Penitence, a distance of about one mile and three-quarters.

It may, perhaps, be well at first to explain that what is now known as Water Street, the principal business thoroughfare of Georgetown, was the original river dam, protecting the plantations abutting on the right, or east, bank of the Demerara River, and which now form the several wards of the city. Originally the business stores and premises were erected on the east side of this dam, with wooden wharves, or stellings, projecting into the river from the other side, for receiving and delivering goods, merchandise and estates produce; and on these stellings were eventually erected the commodious warehouses, practically as now existing. At first these stellings did not project far into the river, as comparatively deep water, sufficient for punts, barges and other small craft, extended close up to the dam, or street, at high tide. Gradually, however, the foreshore got silted up by the flood tide from the mud-laden outer coastal currents referred to in Mr. Case's recent report. The greater portion of this deposit probably takes place during the quiet period between the flood and ebb, the outflowing return tide and river current losing much of their scouring effect through the interruptions caused by the piles of the stellings and the numerous timber flats on which forest timbers from the interior are dropped or unloaded; these timber flats projecting out a long way on to the foreshore, act the part of groynes, checking the flow of the current and thus aiding in the deposit of mud underneath the stellings and wharves. In this way the foreshore became gradually silted up, necessitating the constant extension of the stellings in order to reach deeper water; and so, as further silting took place, this process was repeated and the evil results perpetuated. It was also believed that emanations from the muddy foreshore caused yellow fever; but this was before the days of the mosquito theory of the origin and propagation of malaria.

In order to remedy this state of matters, suggestions were made from time to time to build a continuous wall along the river frontage and fill up the foreshore. The earliest of these was probably suggested by Major Staples, an officer of Engineers stationed in the Colony about 1825-30: he who sunk the first Artesian wells in British Guiana. In August, 1841, the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown advertised for designs and estimates for a "River Wall and Quay," apparently leaving a more or less free hand to the competitors. Five replies to the invitation were received from the following:

Lieut. A. G. Glascott, R.N.

Peter Lawrie.

William Hayley (afterwards Town Superintendent, 1852-1878).

James Hackett, Civil Engineer and Architect.

Rigby and Nicholson, Building Contractors.

The plans, specifications and estimates submitted were announced by the Secretary to the Town Council to be open to the inspection of the public for one week from the 10th January, 1842; but sufficient information is not at hand to know what ultimately became of the proposals: they probably shared the fate of many other reports—shelved, pigeon-holed and forgotten!

So far as the writer can ascertain, in the absence of exact data, the proposed wall was intended to be about 4,000 feet in length, extending from the south side of Cuming's Canal to the south side of the Stabrock draining trench (since done away with in 1879, its place being now taken by the northern outside passage of Staboeke Market) and to be erected 60 feet beyond low water-mark, the exact position of the latter line at the time not being stated, which is a pity, as the information would have been valuable for reference and comparison: the wall was specified to be built of either brick or granite, concrete and ferro-concrete being then practically unknown as building materials.

1. Lieut. Glascott's estimate of cost was £350,000 for a brick wall, built on a series of timber-framed foundation platforms, slung by chains from piles, driven on either side of the proposed site, and then lowered by sections into place on a levelled bottom prepared by divers.

2. Mr. Lawrie gave no estimate of cost, but designed his wall of brick, to be built in sections in punts, or pontoons, with strong timbered bottoms to act as permanent foundations for the wall after being sunk into place between a series of guide piles, driven along the site of the wall, the sides and ends of the punt being disengaged for use in other sections, after being lowered into position.

3. Mr. Hayley's design was for a granite wall, built on a *pierre-perdue* foundation of granite blocks, thrown in to form a natural slope, with a top 6 feet wide, to low water, from which level the masonry wall would be built. The estimated cost was \$212,000, plus the first cost of 120,000 tons of granite stone, required for foundations and the wall itself.

4. Mr. Hackett's estimate was \$640,800 for a granite wall, his scheme embracing the employment of a diving bell and the provision of a platform of greenheart timbers placed in position on a prepared bed between three rows of piles, on which foundation raft, the masonry wall was to be built with the aid of the diving bell.

5. Messrs. Rigby and Nicholson estimated the cost of a river wall in the position proposed at £477,200 per mile, exclusive of the filling in; and that of a brick wall erected on a piled foundation on the line of low water-mark at £166,000 per mile. Their letter, however, gives no details of the work proposed.

NOTE.—Estimates 3 and 4 seem to be a long way below the probable cost of the work as proposed on the line indicated: say, 60 feet beyond low water-mark.

The next record we find of a river wall is in 1864-66, following the great Water Street fires in Robbstown and Cumingsburg, when the regulations for the reconstruction of the burnt districts included provisions for the building of a river wall at about the line of the then existing low water on the riverside frontage of all the mud lots in those districts. In course of time these regulations were given effect to, and most of the Water Street properties provided with what might be termed inner walls along their river fronts, at an average distance of about 100 feet from Water Street, and the space between filled in; but none of these was of any practical use as wharf walls, the stellings overhead projecting far beyond them into the river for the accommodation of the harbour trade.

In 1875, the Hon. B. S. Bayley, then a member of the Court of Policy, made a proposition for the building of a comprehensive wharf wall along the entire river façade of the city. Details are not available to the writer at the present time, but the debate on the subject, which took place in the Legislature, is reported in the *Demerara Times* of the 22nd December, 1875. Probably arising out of this discussion, a definite line was determined on by the Government in 1877 as the ultimate site for the proposed river wall, whenever the scheme became practicable; and a plan was prepared by Mr. W. B. Pollard, Jun., then Colonial Civil Engineer, in conjunction with the Crown Lands Department, laying down the line as extending from the stelling at the Public Works Department to the south-west corner of Messrs. Sandbach Parker & Co.'s stelling Werk-en-Rust, with a subsequent prolongation of the line to the Riverside Wharf, La Penitence. A harbour regulation was then passed by the Government, prohibiting the extension of any stelling beyond such line, the distance of which from the western side of Water Street varied from 355 feet at the Dockyard stelling, Charlesstown, to 555 feet at Kingston stelling. In time, many of the private wharf stellings were extended to this line; but later on, when the necessity arose of deeper water to allow of ocean-going steamers coming alongside, special permission was granted in a few cases to extend the stellings beyond the prescribed line, pending the actual construction of the contemplated river wall; and probably this "creeping out" process has been repeated under conditional permission up to the present time.

In 1879 Baron H. T. Hora Siccama, M. Inst. C.E., the specially appointed Government Hydraulic Engineer, was requested to examine and report generally on the Demerara Bar and the Port of Georgetown. Under date of 31st December, 1879, Baron Siccama submitted to the Government of British Guiana a comprehensive report, giving a lucid exposition of the probable causes contributing to the existing conditions, with recommendations as to the best means of dealing with them, with a view of improving the approaches to and accommodation within the harbour. One of his recommendations was "that the lines of stelling along the city waterside should be replaced by a continuous quay wall, as much as possible parallel with the fair way." Until such a work could be accomplished, he advocated that no stelling should be extended beyond

a fixed line; and that "along this line and to the west of it, a continuous deep channel should be dredged so as to allow of deep-going ships to approach the stellings." Beyond these general recommendations embraced in the report, no definite plan or estimate of cost for the construction of the wall appears to have been presented; and there the matter has practically rested up to the present time, until Mr. Case's recent report revived interest on the subject of a river wall for Georgetown.

From a series of soundings made by the writer along the water frontage of Georgetown for some years in the early "eighties," it was found that the recession of low-water mark averaged about 10 to 15 feet per annum, caused by the constant silting up of the foreshore; and it was also ascertained that beyond low water, the slope of the mud flat continued at the same low angle of about 10 to 15 degrees for a distance of about 80 or 100 feet, when it suddenly dropped at an angle of about 45 degrees, to the river bed. Probably these conditions still prevail, more or less, rendering it difficult to secure a good foundation for a quay wall; and for this reason, especially if dredging in front of the wall is to be carried out to afford a minimum depth of water alongside of 30 ft., H.W.S.T., the wall must rest on piles, well-foundations, or caissons, as the "pierre-perdue" and "raft" systems of foundations, as suggested in the 1842 proposals, would be impracticable for a deep-water quay wall.

The wall on the river front of Stabrock Market, built in 1879-80 on the edge of low water and founded on a *pierre-perdue* mass, slipped forward some feet, and had eventually to be secured by driving a row of greenheart piles in front of the stone slope.

No large quantity of mud or sediment is conveyed in the water discharged from the city draining trenches, especially now that most of the open drains are lined with stone, brick or concrete, and therefore the evil effects apprehended by Mr. Case, are not likely to give trouble if the koker discharge channels are carried right out, either by culverts or side-runs, to the face of the wall itself.

Baron Siccama's estimate for the improvements recommended by him was \$3,000,000, and that of Mr. Case at \$1,250,000; but probably neither estimate includes the cost of the river wall, extending from the Fort to La Penitence, which will cost, certainly not less than \$2,000,000.

Taken together, therefore, the probable total cost of improving the approaches to, and accommodation of, the harbour of Georgetown, as proposed, will not be much (if anything) short of \$5,000,000, which, however, will be money well spent, if the object aimed at is to be attained in commanding, in connection with the hinterland railway, the trade of the north-eastern corner of the South American continent passing in and out through the port of Georgetown.

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.

CONSERVATION OF SOIL MOISTURE.

By LEONARD J. WILD, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S.

The following article was published in a recent issue of the "Journal" of the Canterbury (New Zealand) Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

The six or eight inches of surface soil in which the roots of plants mainly work receive moisture in two principal ways:

- (1) Directly as rain from above;
- (2) Indirectly as water lifted from the subsoil.

Of these two sources the direct rainfall is by far the most efficient, but owing to the fact that no human means can regulate this supply as regards either the amount or the time of its delivery, it is usually the case that we get too much at one time, and not enough at another. The question therefore arises to what extent the excess rainfall of one period can be stored up against a time for future shortage.

Dry soil has considerable power of absorbing water. Experiments show that the soil of this neighbourhood will take up about two-fifths of its volume of water, and will retain it against the force of gravity trying to drain it away; that is to say, the surface eight inches of soil can retain a little over three inches of rain. The water held in this way is mainly in the form of a coating round each individual soil grain. But though the soil will not allow the water to drain away into open spaces—for example, up to this limit of two-fifths it would not be carried off by drain pipes—it will part with moisture to drier soil placed in contact with it, as, for example, to the subsoil, if that happens to be drier than the surface soil. The subsoil also will absorb a considerable amount of moisture, greater or less according as to whether it is close or open in texture. It is possible, therefore, that soil and subsoil together may retain within the surface twenty inches, the equivalent of about eight inches of rain. With the object, therefore, of conserving the rainfall it is desirable that soil and subsoil be sufficiently permeable to let the water in; otherwise it lies on the surface, and is partly evaporated, or runs off if the land is sloping, and, in either case, is lost. The condition of permeability to some extent depends on the nature of the soil itself, which cannot be modified by the farmer except with the expenditure of time and money, but something can be done by breaking up instead of allowing the rain to fall on a hard sun-baked or stock-trodden surface.

Having got the water in, the next thing is to keep it there for the use of the crop. Water is lost from the soil and subsoil:—

- (1) By percolation, which cannot be entirely prevented, but, as already stated, the soil will hold a large quantity of moisture despite the force of gravity tending to drain it away;
- (2) By evaporation from the surface of the soil;
- (3) By being used by plants to carry up their food from the soil, after which it escapes into the air by way of the leaves, a process which botanists call transpiration.

Both of these last two modes are very important,

and, to a large extent, controllable, and so demand further consideration.

Surface Evaporation.

If some soil is spread out in the sun in a thin layer it rapidly becomes "air dry." In this condition, while it still retains a few per cent. of moisture known as "hygroscopic moisture," which is removable only by further heating at the temperature of steam, it is too dry to support plant growth. Indeed, experiments show that plants wither or wilt before drying of the soil has reached this stage, and even when the soil retains 7 per cent, or 8 per cent. of moisture. This is because the soil clings to the last traces of water with a greater force than the plant rootlets can exert to draw it away. Under the influence of the sun's heat therefore, the soil rapidly dries at its surface, and if the conditions are suitable more water is transferred from the lower and moister layers of soil to be evaporated on reaching the surface, so that the soil may become desiccated to a considerable depth. Conditions suited to bringing about this condition would be a closely packed surface, so that the soil grains are pressed together to touch one another at as many points as possible, for water travels in the soil from grain to grain passing over at the points of contact, spreading as a film round the whole grain, and so passing onwards, and in this case upwards to the next grain, and so to the surface. Conversely to prevent water from coming to the surface there to be evaporated, the surface should be kept loose to a depth of a few inches to reduce the surface of contact between the grains, and thereby to decrease the facilities for the movement of water. In practice that is accomplished by harrowing or cultivating with a light implement as frequently as possible, or whenever the surface shows signs of settling down firmly.

The loss of water by evaporation from the surface of the soil under conditions favourable to the process has been estimated at Rothamsted Experiment Station to be the equivalent of about five inches of rain during the six winter months, and about eleven and a-half inches during the six summer ones. It may fairly be assumed that in our Canterbury climate the figure is certainly not less, and this represents a very important fraction of our normal rainfall.

Transpiration.

An even more rapid loss is that due to transpiration of water by vegetation. This depletion takes place not merely at the surface of the soil, but throughout the whole depth to which plant roots penetrate; plants, in fact, literally pump moisture from the soil. Large numbers of experiments illustrating this fact could be quoted, but some figures obtained at this farm last year will suffice. After the heavy rains ending on August 8th, 1916, moisture determinations were made on August 9th in Field 14, carrying autumn-sown wheat, and in the adjoining Field 21, an old pasture. Both soils proved to be saturated, containing 36 parts of moisture per 100 of "air-dry" soil. On the same day a small plot, about six yards square, was grubbed up in the wheat field, and during the succeeding months

this was maintained as bare fallow by occasional hoeing.

The strong growth of grass in early spring made a heavier drain on the soil moisture than did the wheat which, at that time, did not cover the ground so closely. By about November 12th the grass was failing badly, having used up practically all the water it could command; while the wheat, by this time just coming into ear, had reduced its supply to the same level, though, presumably owing to its deeper rooting system, it continued its development, and by December 5th had dried out its soil more thoroughly than the grass. It may be pointed out that the conditions for this experiment were almost ideal, because owing to the scant rainfall of September, October, and November, which totalled only 2.68 inches, for the most part in light showers, the crops had to depend mainly on the July-August rains stored in the soil. The main fact that we desire to emphasise here is that while both wheat and grass had reduced the soil nearly to an air-dry condition, the fallow plot, where the loss was merely that due to surface evaporation, retained 13.55 per cent. right up to December 5th.

Now, when it is remembered that weeds use water just as other plants do, the practical inference is that weeds are objectionable, not merely as being useless plants, but as being intolerable robbers of moisture. Land ploughed in the spring for late spring or summer sowing, say for the turnip crop, should be cultivated frequently, both to keep the surface soil loose so as to reduce evaporation at the surface, and also to destroy weeds.

The Movement of Water.

It has been stated that water moves in the soil upwards as well as downwards by spreading from particle to particle. This fact is, of course, widely known, and receives practical recognition when one waters a plant growing in a flower-pot by standing the pot in a saucer of water. The importance of the phenomenon is, however, frequently overstated, and many text-books emphasise unduly the supposed power of soils to derive a sufficient supply of moisture from the standing water at some depth below. A proportion of our space must therefore be used to set forth what reliable experiments teach us concerning this matter. The ordinary text-book usually invites us to set up half-a-dozen glass tubes eight inches or ten inches long, say lamp glasses. These are filled with different kinds of soil placed each in a saucer of water, and the rise of water noted. It will be found that the water rises most rapidly in pure fine sand, and if the tubes be not more than about ten inches long it quickly reaches the top, while progress is slowest in the clay. We obtain, by this means, a very misleading idea of the true state of the case, as is soon seen if the experiment be repeated with the same soils in tubes not less than, say, two feet long. It will then be found that the rise in the sand very soon peters out, and at about twelve inches practically ceases, while a steady though slow rate of progress is maintained in the clay inch after inch, and even foot after foot for days and months. With other soils intermediate between these two extremes the results show a corresponding variation. The following results were

obtained in an experiment made in this laboratory with tubes five feet long and about one and a-half inches in diameter. The soils used were prepared as follows.

No. 1.—Clay subsoil from Field 4 passed through sieve 10 meshes to inch.

No. 2.—Mixture of one part fine sand, and one part strong loam from Field 29.

No. 3.—Strong loam from Field 15 passed through sieve with 20 meshes to inch.

No. 4.—Fine sand, passed through sieve 10 meshes to inch.

No. 5.—Mixture of one part very fine sand (passed sieve 50 meshes to inch), and one part strong loam as in No. 3.

No. 6.—Loam from Field 21, passed through sieve 10 meshes to inch.

From these facts we conclude that only the heaviest classes of soils and subsoils are capable of lifting water from a depth exceeding about two feet, while even in these cases the rate of lift is so slow as not to benefit plants appreciably. On the contrary a subsoil well stocked with moisture is able to be drawn upon to a depth of twelve to fifteen inches, and especially if fine sand and coarse silt bulk largely in the composition of the soil.

We must now summarise our main points, and at the same time attempt to set forth, not exactly hard and fast rules, but rather the guiding principles of the conservation of moisture.

1. Ordinary soils have a great power of absorbing and retaining moisture. Ten inches of good loam may hold the equivalent of as much as four inches of rainfall.

2. To accumulate the maximum amount of moisture the soil should be got into a receptive condition. Thus land intended for late spring or summer sowing, e.g., for mangolds, rape, turnips, etc., should be ploughed very early in spring at latest.

3. The chief losses of water are due to evaporation from a firm surface, and to transpiration by weeds. To prevent such losses the surface should be frequently stirred both to loosen the soil on top and to destroy weeds.

4. Plants cannot benefit by water standing in the subsoil at a greater depth than, say, thirty inches, as such water is raised too slowly. Moisture stored in the subsoil within, say, eighteen inches, can, however, be effectively used. To increase the soil's power to raise water for the use of the crop the land may be well rolled as late as possible in spring. This will not greatly increase the loss due to evaporation from the surface, as the surface will, by this time, be shaded by the crop.

5. Autumn sowing on freshly ploughed stubble must be delayed until heavy rains have renewed the supply of moisture.

The new Joint Department of the Board of Trade and Foreign Office to deal with Overseas Trade, has now been constituted, with Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., as Under-Secretary of State, to represent it in Parliament, Sir William Clark, M.C.S.I., C.M.G., as Comptroller-General, and Mr. F. G. A. Butler, C.B., C.M.G., formerly of the Colonial Office, Director. It is called the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence) and has temporary headquarters at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

CACAO BOOMING IN GRENADA.

A crop which exceeded all records.

Grenada has reason to be proud of the local production of cacao. The latest crop returns exceed all previous records, and 1916 will have a special place in local agricultural history as the year with 76,980 bags to its credit.

Here is the report of the Agricultural Department:—

"The large increase in the 1915-16 crop that was anticipated, when the last annual report was being written, has been fully realised. The following figures show the crop to have been a record one for Grenada, exceeding by 3,117 bags the previous highest record of 73,863 bags in 1909-10. During the latter half of 1916, the cacao thrips was very prevalent in its usual haunts and many planters complained of serious loss of crop, which they attributed to the unusual severity of the attacks of this insect. The information available in regard to the prospects of the current crop, 1916-17, is of a distinctly promising character, although it is improbable that the output figures of last year will be reached. The very dry weather during April and May will reduce the late pickings. Satisfactory prices were maintained throughout the year.

"The Colonial Treasury records show that from October 1st, 1915, to September 30th, 1916, 123,718 cwt. 44 lb. of cacao were exported. This is equivalent to 76,980 bags of 180 lbs. each. For the period October 1st, 1916, to April 30th, 1917, the export figures represent 62,123 bags of 180 lbs., while shipment in May of 1,195 bags, and estimated bags awaiting shipment on June 5th of 8,500 bags of various weights, indicate the current crop to be approximately 71,818 bags up to June 5th."

CACAO CROPS FOR TEN YEARS.

| Crop year ending Sept. 30th | Number of Bags.* |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1907 | 60,089 |
| 1908 | 64,398 |
| 1909 | 67,329 |
| 1910 | 73,863 |
| 1911 | 67,144 |
| 1912 | 70,082 |
| 1913 | 63,456 |
| 1914 | 65,510 |
| 1915 | 62,166 |
| 1916 | 76,980 |

*Bags calculated at 180 lbs.

Position of other Industries.

The sugar industry remains about normal. Local consumption absorbs the products—muscovado and rum. As yet good prices have failed to stimulate production.

The export of raw cotton from Carriacou during 1917 was slightly below the quantity for 1915. Prices were better, but this, we are told, was due to the influence of war conditions, and not to any improvement in the quality of the lint marketed.

The number of lime plants sent out from the Botanic Garden nurseries in 1915 was 23,098, and in 1916 26,353, a total of 54,451. These, planted at 20 feet by 20 feet, were sufficient to plant about 500 acres, but allowing for losses and variation in planting distances, the acreage established by these plants

would be more accurately estimated at 365 acres. To these figures is to be added the area planted by estate raised plants, which is estimated at 159 acres.

In terms of barrels of fruit, lime crops of the past three years would be as follows:—

| | Barrels of Fruit. |
|------|-------------------|
| 1914 | 2,684 |
| 1915 | 8,396 |
| 1916 | 27,265 |

Take a Lesson from St. Lucia.

Grenada apparently has not evinced the foresight in regard to local food production, which St. Lucia was so prompt to display, as noted in our last issue.

Says the Grenada report:—

"The production of locally grown food crops, such as are in daily requisition in every household in the island, is an industry which receives insufficient attention. Bluggoes and breadfruit, grown primarily as shade for cacao, are generally plentiful; and sweet potatoes and corn are available in moderate quantities, while eddoes, tannias, and yams are, as a rule, so scarce, that they can seldom be purchased at prices below that of imported English potatoes. Large quantities of English potatoes are imported.

"European vegetables, such as cabbage, bean, carrot, turnip, lettuce, beet, tomato, eschalot, and many others, can be successfully grown here, but, with few exceptions, the comparatively small quantities of these articles offered for sale are generally inferior, and expensive. The present local economic conditions arising out of the war are giving rise to greatly increased activity in the cultivation of local food crops, and it will be of great value to the Colony if this stimulus results in permanent improvement in the industry."

Land Settlement Progressing.

We learn that progress has been made in the extension of the cultivation on all the Settlements. This has been specially marked in the area under sugar-cane at Westerhall, and in ground provisions at St. Cyr Mountain. A large quantity of Lima bean seeds was distributed among the allottees at St. Cyr Mountain and Westerhall. More than 100 allottees received at least half-pint each.

A large amount of draining work has been done at St. Cyr Mountain, and wind-belts and hedges are being grown by a large number of allottees at this Settlement. The Morne Rouge Sugar Factory was operated during the 1916 crop by one of the allottees who rented it for the season, and a more satisfactory crop was manufactured than in the previous season. Forty-two barrels of wet sugar were made.

THE recently-formed Dominion Chamber of Commerce has been registered as a limited liability company, with headquarters at the Commercial Hall, Roscau, under the local Companies Act of 1884. The first President is Mr. W. Stedman Archer, the Vice-President Mr. W. C. Winston, and the Committee comprises Mr. H. A. Franpton, Mr. S. L. V. Green, Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, Mr. Aug. Emanuel, Mr. D. O. Riviere, and Mr. F. Potter, with Mr. J. R. Marson, Secretary.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. W. Long and the New Scheme.

We publish below a letter addressed by Mr. Walter Long, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding the report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Immigration:—

Downing Street,

26th July, 1917.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant enclosing the Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Assisted Emigration from India to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Fiji.

2. Mr. Long notes that the Report recommends to the Government of India and to the Governments of the Colonies concerned the establishment in future of a scheme of aided colonisation which would be entirely free. He would welcome the abolition of the existing system of indentured emigration and all the features of that system, whether social or political, which have given rise to so much adverse criticism in India and have been regarded as repugnant to Indian national self-consciousness, and he is aware that the representatives of the industries concerned take the same view. He desires to place on record the fact that before the expression of feeling in India became so pronounced the Colonies had shown every disposition to meet Indian opinion in the matter so far as it is possible to do so.

3. In particular I am to point out that the Colonies concerned are anxious to afford Indian immigrants exactly the same legal, political and religious rights, privileges and duties as are afforded to other inhabitants of whatever race. They wish to add sufficient material advantages to attract a supply of labour sufficient to maintain their industries and so furnish trained colonists; but it is impossible to increase these advantages beyond a point which the industries can bear and I am to express Mr. Long's opinion that those offered under the proposed scheme approach, if indeed in some cases they do not exceed, the limit of expenditure which, on any reasonable assumption of prices, the greater part of the staple industries, especially sugar, can afford.

4. The encouragement of the emigration of whole families, which is in itself a desirable feature of the scheme, will make the proportion of passages to working emigrants higher than under the existing system, especially as the women will be under no obligation to work and non-working dependents are not to be rejected medically merely on the ground of physical incapacity or the score of age. Further, the substitution for the present system of five years' labour under indenture, of a period of three years' free work under an approved employer followed by liberal provisions for settling on the land will in all probability necessitate the introduction of a larger number of labourers annually if an equivalent labour force is to be maintained. Also the experience of Assam points to the aggregate productivity of the labour force being reduced by the provision of attractions such as the extra garden ground and allotments contemplated by the proposed scheme. Mr. Long would emphasise that the effect of these different proposals will be cumulative and they will thus greatly increase the cost of introduction. In addition the proposals for improved housing, for the issue of free rations to children and to pregnant and nursing women, for a minimum wage based on the cost of living and other minor concessions will all involve additional expenditure.

5. An equally important factor which again is cumulative in its effect is the fact that the cost of passages will be much higher after the war. It is impossible to give an accurate forecast of the amount or duration of the increase, but inquiries that have been made point to the probability that the actual contract price for passengers will be for some years as much as 100 per cent. higher than the minimum pre-war figure. The serious effect of this increase will be appreciated when it is stated that the

cost of passages at the cheapest rate to British Guiana had by 1916 already risen to £16 as compared with £11 12s. 6d., the cost of passages to the Colony before the war, and the rate to Fiji had increased from £8, under a contract made in 1913 to £15 under a special contract made for the year 1917.

6. The higher cost of passage will for some years add very considerably to the expense of repatriation, which will also be affected by the increase in the assistance to be given for return passages, by the shorter period of residence after which such assistance will be forthcoming and by the greater number of introductions and consequently of repatriations. Experience alone can determine how far these factors will be offset by the numbers of immigrants induced to stay in the Colony by the local land settlement scheme.

7. Mr. Long does not put forward the increased expense as a reason for rejecting or modifying those provisions of the scheme from which it arises. Indeed, he welcomes those provisions on their merits. But as the question of cost is not one on which the Government of India can easily obtain first hand information, he thinks it well to bring to their notice an aspect of the scheme which might otherwise escape consideration. It is for this reason that he has felt it right to call attention to the gravity of the financial aspect of the problem since if the burden imposed on the industries is too heavy, the effect will be widespread, particularly in the sugar industry. Many natives of India are already operating as sugar planters and the proportion of canes produced by Indians increases yearly. The failure of the staple industries of the Colonies concerned would most seriously affect the fortunes of the Indian settlers, now by far the most numerous section of the Indian communities concerned.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) G. GRINDLE.

The Under Secretary of State,
J. & P. Department, India Office.

BRITISH WEST INDIA REGIMENT.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT.

Sir Douglas Haig's Praise.

The West India Committee have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies the following report from the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the British Armies in France, as to the services of units of the British West Indies Regiment in the respective commands under his control:—

"These Battalions have been chiefly employed on ammunition duties in all the Armies, but they have also been employed on light railways and roads in forward Arcas. The ammunition duties have consisted in working at ammunition dumps, in handling ammunition at railheads and in carrying ammunition up to batteries. This work has been very arduous and has been carried out almost continuously under shell fire. In spite of casualties the men have always shown themselves willing and cheerful workers, and the assistance they have rendered has been much appreciated by the units to which they have been attached and for whom they have been working.

"The physique of the men is exceptional, their discipline excellent and their moral high. They have rendered valuable services at times of great pressure and have been of the utmost assistance to the Siege Artillery of the Armies.

"Since they have arrived these units have been employed in all the main operations that have taken

place, including the battles of the Somme, Arras, Messines and the operations near Ypres this year.

"Originally two Battalions were sent to France in 1916; there are now six serving in France, and a seventh Battalion has just arrived."

Extract from a report from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, East African Force to the Secretary, War Office, London, S.W., dated 3rd August, 1917.

"Detachment British West Indies Regiment. (Up to 15th June, 1917.)

"This detachment landed in East Africa from Egypt on 6th August, 1916, and has served on Lines of Communication from Korogwe to Wami River and Mikesse to Rufiji and is still employed on the latter section.

It was originally intended that this detachment should reinforce the 2nd Battalion West India Regiment, but it has acted throughout as a separate unit."

We publish below a list of honours awarded to officers, non-commissioned officers and men in the British West Indies Regiment as far as can be ascertained at present:—

MILITARY CROSS.

Dunlop, 2nd Lieut. A. A., Jamaica.

MILITARY MEDAL AND BAR.

Walker, Corporal, J. (7th Batt.).

MILITARY MEDAL.

Ennever, Sergeant R. V. (3rd Batt.).

Mais, Sergeant Donald C. (3rd Batt.).

Thom, Corporal R. A., British Guiana (3rd Batt.).

Goater, C.Q.M.S. C. H. (4th Batt.).

Holland, Sergeant F. W. (4th Batt.).

Barton, Private S. (4th Batt.).

Davis, Private J. (4th Batt.).

De Pass, Private A. (4th Batt.).

Ferguson, Private H. (4th Batt.).

French, Private L. (4th Batt.).

Williams, Private E. (4th Batt.).

Archer, Lance-Corporal G. (7th Batt.).

Boyce, Lance-Corporal J. (7th Batt.).

Coates, Private L. (7th Batt.).

Smith, Private D. (7th Batt.).

Thomas, Private J. (7th Batt.).

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S MEDAL.

Ogilvie, Major C. M. Babb, Private D. C.

Mr. J. J. CARLEE, manager and attorney of Waterloo Estate, Demerara, has made the suggestion that, in the interests of the development of the sugar industry in the West Indies, an Association of West Indian Sugar Producers should be formed, and should meet once a year in Georgetown, Bridgetown, or Port-of-Spain. This he considered would have the effect of concentrating the energies of planters on the consideration of ways and means of developing their staple product. He contends there is too much isolation of the industry in each colony. On account of their existence as separate entities, the British West Indies although producing over one quarter million of tons of sugar annually have no standing as a sugar producing colony. Mr. Carlee's suggestion (says the *Barbados Advocate*) should bear fruit.

PUBLIC OPINION IN JAMAICA.

New Organisation to be Formed.

Mr. A. W. Farquharson, formerly Crown Solicitor of Jamaica, has circulated a letter of which the text is given below, urging the formation of an agricultural and commercial association to discuss and deal with public affairs regarding which there is, it is complained, at present much apathy. The letter runs:

Kingston,
November, 1917.

"There is perhaps no feature of life in Jamaica that strikes a thoughtful observer more forcibly than the apparent apathy and lack of interest in public affairs. This indifference is perhaps more apparent than real. Considerable discussion takes place from time to time, but for lack of some machinery whereby discussion may be led into definite channels and whereby opinions may be crystallised and put in a concrete form, the consideration of questions of the greatest importance seldom gets beyond the stage of general discussion. Institutions, such as the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce, undoubtedly perform useful functions, but their suitability for the particular purpose under consideration is limited. The Jamaica Agricultural Society is perhaps the most useful educational institution in the island, and is by degrees producing a revolution in agricultural practice, particularly among the smaller cultivators; but it is an institution which is supported by Government grant, and its Board of Management is presided over by the Governor. It does not therefore offer the best medium for the discussion of questions of public importance. The Chamber of Commerce is mainly concerned with matters that affect the commercial community. Planters' Associations are practically non-existent.

"There would appear therefore to be ample scope for an institution, the functions of which would be to consider, discuss and deal with any question affecting the economic, social, agricultural, or industrial welfare and development of the Island. Sane, temperate discussion with a view to appropriate action on any such questions could not fail to be productive of beneficial results. It is obvious that if an active institution of the kind were linked up with other important associations having similar objects in view in respect of the Empire generally, or in respect of that portion of it which Jamaica forms a part, its influence and practical usefulness would be greatly increased. The driving force resulting from the sympathetic and active support of such institutions would raise the initiative of the local institution to a power far higher than could possibly be attained by its unaided efforts.

Existing Institutions.

"Fortunately there are such institutions in existence. The West India Committee, an association of representatives of the West Indies, founded in 1750, and since incorporated by Royal Charter, has by its beneficent activities earned for itself the well-deserved reputation of the watchful guardian and

champion of the interests and rights of the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, its aim being to use every possible means to induce a healthy development of the resources of the Colonies in question.

"The Royal Colonial Institute, an organisation which has been in existence for half a century, the main objective of which is the promotion of Imperial unity and strength. One important branch of its activities is under the management of an influential Committee, termed 'the Empire Trade and Industries Committee,' the aim of which is to encourage trade relations between various parts of the Empire. The British Empire Producers' Organisation, an association representing capital close on 1,000 million pounds, has as its special object the linking together and giving force and direction to every effort throughout the Empire, which aims at the development of each and every part of the Empire.

"The three institutions above referred to, as recently as November, 1916, collaborated in a deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in connection with the development of the natural resources and the improvement of labour supply, transportation and inter-communication services of the Crown Colonies and Colonies not possessing responsible government, so as to make the Empire more self-supporting. With such a precedent it would appear sufficiently obvious that any well directed local efforts could count on the support of the institutions referred to. If all the members of the local institutions were also members of all or even one of the three organisations, the claim to their support would be greatly strengthened. There are in the Island to-day many who are members of the West India Committee, Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute, or local Associate Members of the British Empire Producers' Organisation.

Strong Local Body Needed.

"The combination of existing conditions appears therefore to clearly indicate the feasibility and desirability of forming a strong local institution, the beneficial results of which it is believed might be incalculable. The war is producing a world-wide revolution in economic and social conditions. There are grave questions confronting us which demand thoughtful and earnest consideration from all who have at heart the welfare of the Island, with which is bound up the interest of each and all of us. Merchants, traders, professional men, landowners, labourers, are all deeply concerned in a sane and equitable adjustment which will further the development of our rich resources in order that we may play a worthy part in the process of Empire building. Your attendance is invited at a meeting to be held to consider and discuss the terms of a draft of the Constitution and Rules of an Association to be formed for the objects indicated in this circular. The date and place of the meeting will be intimated to you in due course."

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee may be paid at any branch of the Colonial Bank.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.

Among the members of the West India Committee who have subscribed to the Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers from the Halifax disaster, since last list was published, have been the following:—

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|------|
| Halifax and Bermuda and Direct West India Cable Companies | £ | s. | d. |
| Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller | ... | 25 | 0 0 |
| Messrs. Lee, Spooner & Co. | ... | 21 | 0 0 |
| Harry Berger, Esq. | ... | 15 | 15 0 |
| G. Campbell Arnott, Esq. | ... | 2 | 2 0 |

We publish below the appeal which was issued by the Lord Mayor:—

"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, Mansion House, London, E.C., or to the Bank of England. Cheques should be made payable to bearer and crossed "Bank of England."

COMFORTS FOR OUR CONTINGENTS.

The West Indian Contingent Committee earnestly appeals for warm socks, mufflers, cardigans, games and musical instruments, which may be sent to the Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3. The following gifts of comforts are acknowledged with grateful thanks:—

Lady Llewelyn: 2 prs. socks, 12 khaki handkerchiefs, 4 photo and letter wallets, 2 packs dominoes, 2 compendiums, 2 purses, 12 collar studs.
 Miss Harvey: 2 prs. socks.
 Lady Cameron: 5 mufflers, 1 cap, 4 prs. socks, 4 prs. gloves, 1 pr. mittens.
 Miss Anderson: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Cathcart Watson: 1 cardigan, 2 mufflers.
 Mrs. Wolseley: 2 scarves, 1 helmet.
 Mrs. Hancoed: 6 Bandana handkerchiefs.
 Mrs. Nourse: 12 prs. mittens, 12 helmets.
 Mrs. Lynch Thomas: 10 prs. mittens, 4 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Charles Leslie: 1 helmet, 3 prs. mittens.
 Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas: 7 mufflers, 1 chest protector, 2 prs. wristlets, 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Cowie: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Donald McDonald: 1 muffler.
 Mrs. Woodroffe: 1 sweater, 1 pr. mittens.
 Home Association of Voluntary Work Organisations: 40 mufflers, 60 prs. mittens, 30 helmets, 30 prs. socks.
 Mrs. J. W. Russell: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. Crum Ewing of Strathleven: 5 prs. socks.
 Mr. C. H. Hamilton, C.M.G.: magazines and papers.
 Lady Grey Wilson: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. G. Alleyne: 1 pr. wristlets, 1 pr. mittens, 2 prs. socks, 1 helmet, 5 mufflers.
 Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 4 prs. socks, 5 prs. mittens.
 Lady Hodgson: 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Woodroffe: 1 cardigan, 1 pr. gloves.
 Mrs. Stanley Taylor: 5 prs. socks, 7 prs. gloves, 1 helmet, 1 cap, 2 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. Campbell Anderson: 4 prs. socks, 1 pr. operating stockings, 2 prs. bed socks.
 Miss Lay: 3 comfort bags.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

PRIVATE PERCY NUGENT DALTON (son of the late Mr. Goring F. Dalton, of Georgetown, Demerara, and Mrs. Dalton, 9, Clydesdale Mansions, Colville Square, W., and nephew of Dr. Norman Dalton), was killed in action on the 30th November. He belonged to the London Scottish and was 32 years of age.

RIFEMAN F. V. BARNES, of the 2/6th City of London Regiment, whose death has been already recorded in the CIRCULAR, fell a victim to a sniper's bullet. In a letter to his father, Mr. W. F. Barnes, Sergeant Fred. Yelland wrote: "I was talking to him at the time he was hit, with one short 'Oh' he went to meet his God. No man could ever wish a finer death on the field of battle, although my heart was in my throat when I realised that a life so full of promise had been cut short. Although he had only been with me for a short while I knew his worth. He led his section to the final objective bravely. His conduct throughout was great. To-day a rifle reversed marks the resting place of a hero."

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN C. GRAHAM HAYNES, King's Royal Rifles, has been awarded a Bar to his Military Cross.

SECOND LIEUTENANT A. W. BOYCE, of Barbados, Gordon Highlanders, has been mentioned in despatches.

MAJOR S. A. BODDAM-WHETHAM, D.S.O., M.C. (formerly A.D.C. to the Governor of the Bahamas), has again been mentioned in Despatches.

CAPTAIN, ACTING-MAJOR MARTIN PERRONET SELLS, eldest son of Mr. H. Martin Sells, who joined the Royal Engineers in May, 1916, and is now Acting-Major in the Railway Operating Division, has been mentioned in Despatches.

SECOND LIEUTENANT GIBSON has been awarded the Military Cross. During very heavy shelling and repeated counter attacks he behaved with utmost gallantry, reorganising the men and leading them on to counter attack. Though wounded in the hand he again collected men for fresh attack which he gallantly led till disabled by a wound in the pelvis.

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.

Armbrister, 2nd Lieut., F. S. (of the Bahamas), Royal Flying Corps.
 Cave, Cadet C. Forte (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), R.F.C. Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Culpeper, Cadet B. A. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Farmer, Cadet C. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), R.F.C. Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Foster, Cadet C. I. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), R.F.C. Officers' Cadet Battalion.
 Franklin, 2nd Lieut. C. J. W. (son-in-law of the late Robert Schult, West Norwood, formerly of Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.
 Hale, Richard (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Corporal of Horse, Household Battalion.
 Knowles, Cadet Erol (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Officer Cadet Battalion.
 MacFarlane, Capt. G. S., M.C. (son-in-law) of the Hon. A. W. Black, Hamilton, Bermuda), Eastern Ontario Regiment, C.E.F.
 Mullen, Cadet R. D. (of British Guiana), Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Murphy, Cadet C. E. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Musson, 2nd Lieut. John McDougall (elder son of Mr. J. T. Musson, late Resident Magistrate, Jamaica), Royal Flying Corps.
 Redman, Cadet E. D. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Officer Cadet Battalion.
 Rochemont, 2nd Lieut. Jules (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Flying Corps.
 Solomon, 2nd Lieut. Eric V. (of the Bahamas), Royal Flying Corps.

HOMeward MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Report on Schools.

The Inspector of Schools reporting on the work of the Education Department of the Leeward Islands for the financial year ending March 31st, 1917, says: "During the year one assisted school was closed in Dominica and two fixed grant schools were temporarily closed as a result of the hurricane in the Virgin Islands, so that on March 31st the number of schools at work was 95 only. A further change took place in Dominica, where the school at Pointe Sarib was removed from the list of assisted schools and became a Government school. This did not affect the total number of schools in that Presidency. While the number of children enrolled has slightly increased over the number in 1914-15 and 1915-16, it is less than in 1912-13 and 1913-14. The numbers in average attendance, which had fallen in 1915-16, have slightly improved in the year under consideration in all the Presidencies except Dominica and the Virgin Islands; the hurricanes in these two Presidencies seriously affected the attendance for some months. It is a matter for regret that the average attendance is still below 50 per cent. of the numbers enrolled."

BARBADOS—Proposed Theatre.

Says the *Weekly Illustrated Paper*: "The theatre scheme appears to be evolving. The nebulous stage has been passed and now the matter seems to be taking a definite shape, since land to erect a building has been obtained and a plan of the structure set out. The building was estimated to cost £4,000, but at a meeting of directors and shareholders of the company held this week, that sum was deemed insufficient and a suggestion to increase the capital to £8,000 adopted. A theatre of classical design to be used only for the staging of classical plays will deteriorate from disuse in this colony. Historic talent has to be carefully cultivated and we have not the time for it. Except the directors are satisfied to substitute cheap cinema shows for the drama we fear when the building is constructed it will be shut up for months on a stretch and the chance of declaring a dividend will be extremely remote."—At a meeting of the House of Assembly a message was received from the Governor, drawing attention to the existing strength of the Mounted Infantry section of the Barbados Volunteers, namely, 21 of all ranks as compared with the authorised strength of 50. His Excellency added: "Although the Mounted Infantry forms an important element in the scheme for colonial defence, unfortunately experience shows that there is constant difficulty in getting the section up to strength. In view of the above, His Excellency has the honour to suggest to the House of Assembly that a Joint Committee of the Legislature should be appointed to consider whether it is practicable to adopt measures calculated to overcome the above-mentioned difficulty."

On November 24th, Bridgetown was gay with flags in honour of the British victory on the French front. On Friday flags were flying on nearly all the staffs in the City, but on Saturday there was a great additional display of bunting on all the ships in harbour and across the streets. The Church bells were also rung for some time.

A correspondent says: "There has recently been inaugurated a limited association to be known as 'The Plantations Limited, the purpose of which is, 'to deal in plantation supplies on a co-operative basis.' The company has been formed with a capital of £100,000; the dividend on paid-up capital should not exceed 3 per cent. It is to be managed by a directorate composed of not less than three, or more than five, of the shareholders whose qualification will be not less than the value in shares amounting to £500.—Barbados recently received Sir Ernest Shackleton, C.V.O. scientist and explorer. He remained here during the following day but the island was on holiday so that little could be seen by him of the business life here. He called at Government House. Sir Leslie Probyn was, at the time, attending the cricket match at Kensington, held in aid of the Red Cross Fund. Sir Ernest's vessel sailed next day for her destination.—Fairview and Prospect plantations, St. George, containing 171 acres, of which 129 are

arable, with a growing crop of canes, were recently sold to Mr. G. G. Gale, of Monclieffe, St. John, for £11,850.

Quite recently, a shipment of 10,000 gallons Trinidad gasolene and 4,000 gallons Trinidad fuel oil was made by schooner to Barbados, and on the same day there were shipped by sailing craft to St. Kitts 10,000 gallons Trinidad crude oil and 5,000 oranges.

BERMUDA—Boy Scouts' Display.

At a recent Red Cross Fete the Ireland Island Boy Scouts, under the command of Scoutmaster Bunyan, formed the guard of honour for the Governor, by whom the Scouts were inspected. A display was then given by the Scouts. The Governor congratulated the boys on their display and told how interested he was in the Scout movement, saying that Sir Robert Baden Powell, the Chief Scout, had asked him to try and spread the movement in this Colony, which he intended to do, by trying to raise several other troops. When this had been done he would at some later date, get all the troops together for the purpose of competing against each other. There was not, in his opinion, anything better than this famous movement for the boys of our Empire, which so efficiently trains them for the years to come, both in mind and body.

BRITISH HONDURAS—For the Red Cross.

The latest subscriptions on behalf of the Red Cross total \$3,028.—It is proposed to establish a Boy Scouts' Association for the Colony with Mr. G. F. Grabham as Commissioner.

DOMINICA—Fever in Roseau.

The *Guardian* of the 22nd November states that fever of a malignant type is surely and rapidly spreading in the town of Roseau. It is beyond doubt that this fever, which, so far, has taken a strong hold of the northern part of the town, and is making its encroachment inward, has come from Balahou Town, where it has been raging these many months past.

ST. KITTS—Red Cross Efforts.

MR. SHELFORD, NOVEMBER 29th.—Red Cross efforts realised £385 10s. for the Presidency.—The Government have commandeered our cotton under conditions which without further information, are not satisfactory. The present situation is particularly embarrassing to the small grower, who may have to wait for an indefinite period for his money. Some planters are doing well and getting excellent returns of lint per acre—it is largely a question of locality.—The island rainfall to date for the year, with the exception of the N.W. and W. Districts, is much below the normal, and crop prospects for 1918, in many localities are not satisfactory. The Basseterre Valley, after two fair seasons, is very hard hit again, and the central factory will suffer accordingly. Good rains coming now to the end of December may retrieve the situation somewhat with the late field plants and ratoons. Fortunately the markets should be strong for some time to come, as there appears to be a general sugar famine—With rather a small crop in evidence emigration continues heavily, and there will certainly be a serious shortage of labourers on many places next year. The men go and many of them never give another thought to their dependants left behind, who are left to struggle on and be a burden to the community.

ST. LUCIA—The Road Scheme.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council in November, a letter was read from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding the Road Scheme. Mr. Long said in the course of his letter: "I am not prepared in present circumstances to consent to more than the completion of the first part of the Scheme, so far as funds available may permit; that machinery is not to be obtained from this country under existing conditions; and that purchases elsewhere should be restricted. During the present crisis it is necessary to defer schemes of development, except in very special cases, and to reduce expenditure and the

issue of loans, other than those for war purposes, within narrow limits. It will no doubt be advisable for the road scheme and the means of financing it to be fully reconsidered at the end of the war." The Council, however, passed a resolution urging upon the Secretary of State the construction and grant permission to raise a sum not exceeding £30,000 to pay for the completion of the work now being carried out and at the same time to undertake the construction of the second part.

ST. VINCENT—Educational Report.

The report on the Elementary Schools for the year 1916-17 says the regular schools number twenty-seven and the aided eight. As regards the Grenadine Schools, the number on the roll is 530, presented for examination 267—a decline on the previous year in both cases. It is stated that the schools have undergone a series of experiences during the year which are sufficient to account for the decrease.

TOBAGO—Cacao Crop.

MR. ROBERT REID, writing from Trinidad on November 5th, says: "It is tantalising to read of cacao being sold in London at 95/- per cwt., while local prices are the equivalent of about 55/- per cwt. To clear the way for cacao, coco-nuts are being picked and dried into copra in the Leeward districts.—At the Legislative Council on November 2nd, Sir Norman Lamont in his "forward policy" speech, showed that he had made good use of his visit to Tobago and urged developments by road and steamer to keep in line with the progress of the island. He specially mentioned the coco-nut fields in the Leeward, the extent of which is surprising even to residents.—The tobacco crop is being marketed at Scarborough at fair prices. Growers, who were more keen on quantity than quality, got a useful lesson, when buyers retired from the market on account of bad quality, mixed and defective leaves. With proper care at the right time, tobacco may yet become an important industry here.

TRINIDAD Cacao Industry.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 26th.—The position of the cacao market here is a strange one. Whilst we hear of rising prices in London which would indicate shortage of supplies, values here are falling, and there is general stagnation in the trade. It is most difficult to effect sales, unless under concession of price. Stocks in U.S. are large, and buyers there are evidently holding their hand with a full knowledge of the situation, of which they can hardly be blamed if they take advantage. I am pleased to report that the froghopper pest is not so virulent for the moment. We are interested in the telegraphed prices realised for the Newbauer properties. Trinidad is elated, and many flags have flown, over the great British drive.

On November 23rd Mr. Tripp wrote: 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, E. D. Clarke, H. Warner, L. de Verteuil, E. Gransaul, F. E. Olivier, A. B. Carr, with myself as temporary Secretary, until the establishment of the organisation is completed.—A very sad accident recently occurred at Mayaro, when young Mr. Lazari, son of the well-known planter of that name, was drowned while bathing with a party of friends on a pleasure outing in the district. A plucky attempt to save him was made by Miss Audrey Collins, who nearly lost her own life in the effort. Many a R.H.S. medal has been awarded for less heroism than she showed on the occasion and it is generally hoped that the matter will have been brought to notice in the proper quarter by the Governor. Miss Collins is the daughter of Mr. Frederick (Fish) Collins, one of the most famous of our cricketers of some years back, and now Deputy Registrar of the Court.—At the initiative of the Governor who was im-

pressed "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 general approval, and will no doubt, when carried out, greatly facilitate the work of the Wardens and others, and the general administration of the Colony. His Excellency is to be congratulated on this further proof of the energy with which he is dealing with many matters of importance which have too long been slumbered over hitherto.

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

| Destination | Weight in lbs. |
|------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 339,000 |
| Total for November | 339,000 |
| Shipped previously | 67,890,372 |
| Total from 1st January | 68,229,372 |
| To same date 1916 | 52,875,425 |
| " " 1915 | 45,869,353 |
| " " 1914 | 61,638,496 |
| " " 1913 | 46,431,247 |
| " " 1912 | 40,472,755 |
| " " 1911 | 49,496,702 |
| " " 1910 | 53,684,899 |
| " " 1909 | 45,480,098 |
| " " 1908 | 39,790,047 |
| " " 1907 | 35,062,616 |

TURKS ISLAND—Cotton Industry.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, JANUARY 1st.—The cotton industry is still growing and it is hoped will prove a permanent and valuable asset to the island. Amongst those who have given time and patience in encouraging the peasantry to take up this new industry, Mr. H. H. Hutchings has been one of the foremost. Mr. Hutchings also took a prominent part in the organisation of the Local Agricultural Society, of which he became Secretary.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The Public School and Commerce.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I have been reading in your editorial pages some interesting discussion as to the relation between university training and success in business careers. It is not a subject which can be reduced to any general principle. But some few years ago my wife and I were visiting Cambridge, and at luncheon at the Master's lodge at Jesus College, the Master, who was the tutor when I was there, told me that he had recently been called upon by a visitor to the University who introduced himself by mentioning that some years before he had consulted him on the subject of whether two nephews who were intended for a family business had better go through the University curriculum for a degree: the advice that they should, given by the Master, then tutor, had been taken, and this visitor called to say that as soon as the young men entered the business they had to begin at the beginning, but soon went ahead of others and he, the uncle, would ever feel indebted for the advice.

Given personal aptitude—a *sine qua non*—for business, I believe the addition of the three or four years' reading and study at Oxford or Cambridge creates a personal asset of associated value throughout the whole business career—especially in its later and more responsible stages. It would be needless to remind you that counsel and conveyance at the bar would without classical or mathematical training be seriously hampered in a ready and exact mastery of the complicated details in property and business questions which come before them.

Yours faithfully,
WALWYN POWYER H. SHEPHERD.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central
Telegrams—Carrib, London.

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3

January 10th, 1918.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1916.
5 per cent. War Loan, 93; Consols 54½.

SUGAR. The official quotations remain unchanged, viz:—

| | |
|---|------|
| Cubes | 399 |
| E.W.I. Crystallised, Crystals and Granulated | 46/9 |
| Muscovados, W. I. Grocery Syrups | 44½ |
| Syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing | 39½ |

The sugar distribution scheme is working with comparative smoothness. The present ration is ½ lb. per head per week, a quantity far below that which was being consumed prior to December 31st, and as supplies of sugar in bond on December 13th were double what they were at the corresponding date in 1916, the position is decidedly sound from the consumers' standpoint. The Cuban Commission in consultation with the International Sugar Committee have agreed to 4.90 c. c. and f. New York, based on a 30 c. freight note, as the basis price of Cuban sugars for the coming crop, corresponding to a duty paid and landing price of \$5.92 for 96° sugar.

The *Australian Sugar Journal* gives the following table showing the amount of sugar produced in, imported into, and exported from the Commonwealth in each year since 1900:—

| Year | Production tons. | Imports tons. | Exports tons. |
|------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1901 | | 88,519 | 4,738 |
| 1902 | 98,795 | 89,444 | 3,336 |
| 1903 | 111,639 | 81,615 | 2,365 |
| 1904 | 164,679 | 88,086 | 2,914 |
| 1905 | 172,242 | 24,865 | 11,158 |
| 1906 | 203,576 | 42,925 | 9,253 |
| 1907 | 214,244 | 6,201 | 18,780 |
| 1908 | 165,715 | 19,898 | 14,741 |
| 1909 | 146,470 | 99,774 | 8,051 |
| 1910 | 228,584 | 34,060 | 6,585 |
| 1911 | 190,595 | 33,275 | |
| 1912 | 129,783 | 98,541 | 2,256 |
| 1913 | 266,267 | 74,801 | 3,419 |
| 1914 | 246,403 | 17,125 | 13,091 |
| 1915 | 159,681 | 22,510 | 2,181 |
| 1916 | 192,831 | 125,047 | 1,071 |

The *International Sugar Journal* publishes the following table of Cuba's exports and stocks of sugar for the past three years:—

| | 1914-15 Tons. | 1915-16 Tons. | 1916-17 Tons. |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Exports | 2,292,193 | 2,777,565 | 2,884,284 |
| Stocks | 183,113 | 140,958 | 31,971 |
| Local Consumption | 2,475,306 | 2,918,523 | 2,916,285 |
| Receipts at Ports to Oct. 31 | 2,546,646 | 2,991,493 | 3,000,655 |

Tons of 2,240 lbs.

The *Neue Freie Presse* gives the 1917 crop of Austria as 530,000 tons, 200,000 tons less than in 1916. In Hungary the 1917 crop is estimated at 130,000 tons as against 200,000 tons in 1916. The same organ gives the factory price of loaf sugar in Austria as 130 kronen per 100 kilos, and in Hungary, 220 kronen per 100 kilos. Hungarian sugar pays a higher duty by 16 kronen per 100 kilos than the Austrian.

The West India sugar statistics in London from January 1st to January 5th, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------|--------|-------|-------------|
| Imports | 758 | 120 | 1,520 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 1,499 | 972 | 1,180 |
| Stock (Jan. 5th) | 10,246 | 7,163 | 11,440 |

RUM. Market quiet but firm with some inquiry for new crop rums. There is nothing doing on the spot.

Mr. F. H. D. Man, of Messrs. E. D. and F. Man, has been the recipient of many congratulations upon the honour of O.B.E. conferred upon him by the King.

The stocks in London on January 5th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Jamaica | 7,077 | 11,065 | 6,310 puns |
| Demerara | 5,171 | 10,195 | 3,933 |
| Total of all kinds | 19,270 | 35,719 | 20,838 |

CACAO. Reference is made elsewhere to the Advisory Committee which is being set up to advise the Food Controller regarding the importation, sale, manufacture and distribution of prices is aimed at. The solution of the problem—if any exists—would appear to lie in increasing the importable quantity of colonial cacao to 100 per cent. of the imports of 1916. In the circumstances the market is very quiet. Grenada is quoted at 96/- for fine Plantation Trinidad 98/-.

The stocks in London on January 5th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Trinidad | 16,822 | 17,466 | 7,489 bags |
| Grenada | 16,234 | 12,184 | 5,009 |
| Total of all kinds | 208,589 | 209,447 | 99,882 |

COTTON. The total imports of cotton for the year 1917 was 3,081,502 bales as against 4,205,935 bales in 1916 and 5,077,056 bales in 1915. In 1917, 3,136 bales of West Indian were imported. The total exports of cotton for 1917 was 168,217 bales as against 316,392 bales in 1916, and 601,500 bales in 1915.

Quotations remain fixed under the arrangement with the Admiralty as outlined in the Circular of November 29th.

ARROWROOT. No business is reported at first hand and quotations are unchanged.

COPRA. The market is now controlled, and the price for West Indian remains at 4/6 c.i.f. London or Liverpool.

LIME PRODUCTS. Owing to the incidence of the holidays the market has been quiet. **Lime Oil:** Hand-pressed, little business at 17/6; distilled neglected. **Lime Juice:** No business.

SPICES. There is very little demand for ginger only occasional small sales at rather easier rates. **Nutmegs** At auction 392 packages of West India were offered, consisting chiefly of slightly defective qualities. All sold with good demand at irregular but dearer rates, most noticeable for broken, which realised much higher prices. 60's sold at 3/6, 70's at 2/6, 92's at 1/9, 120 to 184's at 1/8, broken and defective at 1/6 to 1/7. West Indian mace was in heavy demand at auction, when 1,060 packages were offered. Good to palish sold at 3/10 to 4/3; fair to good pale at 3/- to 3/9, ord. dark 2/10 to 3/5, blood red at 3/2 to 3/4; and broken common to good at 2/5 to 3/3. No demand for pimento. The nominal value of fair on the spot is 4d. sellers' price.

BALATA. Venezuela block, sellers at 3/4 per lb. c.i.f.; buyers at 3/3.

RUBBER. Para 2/9 c.i.f.; spot 2/10 to 2/10½. West Indian sheet forward 3/9 to 3/10; spot 4/- to 4/7.

BIRTH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Branch. At Bath House, Dominica, on September 24th, the wife of Mr. George Branch of a daughter.

WANT.

Planter West Indies, Englishman, manager in St. Lucia for sixteen years, requires position as Manager. Apply to George Deuchey, 23, Gwynne Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24th, 1918.

Subscription 2l 1s. per ann. post free. Single Copies 1s. Published Fortnightly No. 504

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.
January 24th, 1918.

Import Restrictions.

IN the next few weeks an announcement will, no doubt, be made as to the restriction of imports in respect of the year 1918-1919. The Order in Council of February last covered the period of one year only, and, presumably, a further Order will shortly be issued. It is clear that there is not the remotest chance of the all-round relaxation of the restrictions which at one time it was hoped might be possible. Indeed, the tendency will be the other way, for though the activities of the U-boats have been a less serious factor than was anticipated, the entry of the United States into the war has accentuated the shortage of tonnage for commercial purposes. It is obvious that a great army of over a million men cannot be transported to Europe and victualled without serious inroads being made into the available shipping of the Allies. And the effects of the submarine warfare must not be underestimated, for though the output of new ships is understood to be within measurable distance of making good our losses, the duration of voyages has been greatly increased by the necessity of reverting to the Convoy system. While, therefore, no immediate relief in regard to import restrictions can be looked for, we may reasonably hope that, in the light of experience gained last year, some readjustments may be made for the benefit of consumers and producers alike. It will be recalled that at the instance of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE the Colonial Office induced the Board of Trade to sanction earlier

shipments of the importable ration of colonial cacao—which has already relieved the situation in our cacao-producing colonies—on it being pointed out that cacao deteriorates very rapidly in the tropics and that the steamers are less congested now than they will be later on when the sugar crop comes forward. We now learn that the authorities have taken a similarly broadminded view in respect of coco-nuts, which—or better still, the copra made from them—are greatly needed for the manufacture of margarine in this country to replace the Dutch product. In this connection could anything be more absurd than that we should have been sending copra across the sea to Holland to be manufactured into margarine which is then sent back to England—a double voyage in perilous waters! It is to be hoped that other much needed reforms will be instituted. As we have pointed out before the position is frequently most anomalous. The Shipping Controller allows certain kinds of produce to be shipped when there is room available, but the Restriction Order says "no," with the result that space which might be devoted to cacao, for example, is filled by cargo not happening to be on the restricted list which is useless for war purposes. As a case in point we may mention pimento. We have every sympathy with shippers of that spice; but does it not seem rather ridiculous that though many tons of it are lying at the docks unsold and unsaleable it should still be taking up space in homeward bound steamers which could be far more profitably filled by cacao, coffee, and other produce of a food value? Events have shown that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE were fully justified in deciding at the outset to support the Government in its policy of restricting imports—for which they received the thanks of Mr. WALTER LONG—and their attitude should strengthen their hand in the representations which they are now making as to the desirability of certain modifications being effected.

International Trade in Manures.

THE Transactions of the Agricultural Society of Scotland give an interesting account of the growth of the volume of trade in manures. It is interesting to note in connection with this interesting fertiliser of by-gone days that the first

international trade in manures began about 1840, when Peruvian guano was first imported to Europe. The export was continued until 1880 when the deposits were practically worked out. The annual export of sodium nitrate from the neighbouring country, Chili, increased from 3,000 tons to no less than 3,000,000 tons between the years 1830 and 1916; the quantity going to Great Britain having risen from 99,000 tons to 143,000 tons between 1905 and 1913. But the nitrogenous manure which largely affects the West Indies is sulphate of ammonia. The great source of this is the gas industry. Great Britain, in 1870, produced 40,000 tons, and the production had risen in 1913 to over 400,000 tons, 300,000 tons of which were exported. Germany, Belgium, and the United States, on the other hand, imported more than they produced. In 1890, the world's production of sulphate of ammonia was 500,000 tons; in 1913, 1,500,000 tons. The production of nitrogenous manures from the air has increased enormously in the last few years. Calcium cyanamide was made to the extent of 20,000 tons in 1903, in 1913 the production had risen to 156,000 tons. Norway turned out in 1905, 127 tons of calcium nitrate, whereas in 1913, 73,000 tons were made, most of which was exported to Germany. As regards another important manurial agent, phosphoric acid, the earliest form, bone phosphate, has India as the largest exporter, the amount being 100,000 tons. The use in Great Britain of this fertilizer is 100,000 tons a year, 60,000 tons of which are of home production. In 1903 the world produced no fewer than 2,500,000 tons of mineral phosphate, of which the production in North Africa amounted to 350,000 tons. In 1913 the production amounted to 7,000,000 tons, of which North Africa turned out no less than 2,500,000 tons. The great use of mineral phosphates is for conversion into superphosphate, of which Great Britain manufactured 620,000 tons in 1900, and 820,000 in 1913. France's production of superphosphate was in those years 1,000,000 tons and 2,000,000 tons respectively, while Germany turned out 600,000 tons in 1910 and 1,800,000 tons in 1913. Basic slag, a comparatively modern form of phosphate, a by-product of the Thomas system of steel manufacture, was introduced about 1880, when 10,000 tons were turned out. This quantity increased in 1900 to 1,750,000 tons. From 1900 onwards there was a big increase in production. In 1913 the output of Great Britain alone had increased to 400,000 tons; of Belgium to 600,000; of Germany to 2,500,000 tons. Practically the whole of the potash supplies in recent years have come from Germany. In 1861 the total output of crude potash in that country was 2,200 tons; in 1913 the enormous quantity of over 11,000,000 tons. Germany is also the greatest user of potash, consuming in agriculture as

much as all the other countries of the world put together. In Great Britain the consumption increased rapidly between 1900 and 1913. The article concludes with some interesting details regarding crop production in Austria and Germany as compared with that of Great Britain and France. Calculated per head of population the figures are, in lbs. :—

| | Central Powers. | Great Britain. | France. |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Wheat Rye | 460 | 77 | 570 |
| Other Cereals | 440 | 210 | 330 |
| Potatoes ... | 1,200 | 320 | 759 |

NOTES OF INTEREST.

WE regret the delay in the publication of last CIRCULAR which was due to a breakdown.

* * *

MRS. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, wife of the Commissioner of Montserrat (who is seconded and is acting as Assistant Director of Labour abroad), is working at the War Office.

* * *

MR. L. H. MILLER, who was for many years in the service of the Colonial Bank in the West Indies, latterly at Grenada, is now in charge of the West Indian Department of the London Office.

* * *

MR. G. R. ALSTON, Mr. E. R. Davson, and Mr. R. Rutherford were present at the British Imperial Council of Commerce luncheon on January 15th, representing the Chambers of Trinidad, Georgetown (British Guiana), and Barbados respectively.

* * *

SIR A. STEEL-MAITLAND, of the Department of Overseas Trade, who was the chief guest, made an admirable speech and a capital joke. He read an extract from a newspaper adversely criticising the Consular Service amid cheers and applause, and then drily remarked that the newspaper from which he was reading was a German one!

* * *

JAMAICA papers are invited in the home Press to note the death at Boscombe on January 5th, of Miss Caroline Louisa Dignum, formerly of Ealing, the youngest and last surviving daughter of the late Andrew Graham Dignum, Master in Chancery.

* * *

CAPTAIN ALAN G. HOTHAM, whose appointment as Director of the Trade Division of the Admiralty has just been announced has many friends in the West Indies. Before the war he commanded the *Aeolus*, and he was Captain of the *Comus* in the Battle of Jutland.

* * *

OUR readers in Trinidad will be interested in the wedding which took place in London on January 16th of the Hon. D. R. H. Cochrane, late 2nd Life Guards, younger son of Lieut.-General the Earl of Dundonald, to Enid Marian, youngest daughter of the late Miles Leonard Davis and Mrs. Leonard Davis of Llanrhajadr Hall, Denbigh.

THE unique British Guiana one-cent stamp of 1850, and five of the two-cent 1850 circular issue of the same colony which have sold for £1,450 each are included in the most valuable stamp collection in the world—the Ferrary Collection, valued at £400,000, and now bequeathed to the Imperial Postal Museum at Berlin.

"HE was absolutely convinced that the rum ration was of great value to an overworked man at 5 o'clock in the morning when it was snowing and freezing. Hot coffee might be still better, but it could not be got up to the trenches." So testified Major Boylan Smith, D.S.O., at a recent gathering of medical men by whom the rum ration was discussed.

AMERICAN papers (says *Shipbuilding*) report that the New York branch of Chr. Hannevig has decided to start new steamship services to Liverpool and the West Indies from New York. It is intended to put two 4,000-ton boats in the West Indies service, and four ships of from 7,500 to 12,000 tons in the Liverpool service, the vessels being built at American yards of which Mr. Hannevig is the owner.

MRS. ELEANOR O'NEAL, who, we regret to learn, died at Clevedon, Somerset, on January 5th, at an advanced age, was born at Culloden, Barbados. Daughter of the late Thomas Louis, she was a sister of Mr. Elliot G. Louis, who died in June, 1911. Her husband was Mr. Thomas Whitfoot O'Neal, of Friendship, St. Lucy, Barbados, and her son, Mr. T. W. B. O'Neal, who represented St. Peter in the House of Assembly, is now serving in the Royal Defence Corps.

THE *Louisiana Planter* of the 8th December contains an interesting letter from Mr. Peter Abel on the subject of cane farming in Trinidad. This letter was the outcome of a statement in a previous issue of the *Louisiana Planter* that "Mr. Peter Abel was rather opposed to the development of the cane farming industry." The letter—to which we refer our readers as a valuable contribution to the history of cane farming in Trinidad, and of Mr. Abel's connection with it—shows clearly that it was not cane farming by small farmers to which he objected.

ON the contrary, by his energy in developing the railways in connection with the Usine Ste. Madeleine and their loading system, and by his satisfactory control of the Ciperu Railway, Mr. Abel gave inestimable aid to the young cane farming industry in the Naparimas. But what he did object to was the location of peasant farmers on the lands of the estates serving the Usine Ste. Madeleine, leading to bad cultivation of land which could be better utilised by the estates authorities themselves. Summing the whole matter up, Mr. Abel objected to internal estates' peasant cane farmers, but did much to help the external independent farmers growing canes on their own lands. To the latter especially he rendered great assistance, and should thus rank as an important pioneer in the development of this valuable industry.

THE death of Mr. Percy Thornton removes a man who was not only Unionist Member for Clapham for many years, and a prominent athlete, but one whose ancestors played a prominent part in the fortunes of the West Indian Colonies. Mr. Thornton's early home was Battersea Rise House, Clapham Common. Here his grandfather and William Wilberforce resided, and here assembled the famous "Clapham Sect," whose practical zeal was destined to effect the abolition of slavery in the West Indies. In Battersea Rise House also were established two of the most famous missionary movements in the world—the Church Missionary Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society.

SIR CHARLES BRUCE, who is well remembered in the West Indies as a former Governor of the Windward Islands and Lieut.-Governor of British Guiana, contributes to the current issue of *United Empire* an article on "Religion and Empire." Sir Charles writes that during the war the question has been constantly asked: "Has the Christian religion failed as an agency for the relief of human suffering?" The object of the article is, he says, "to show that what has failed is not the practice of the Christian religion but the profession of Christianity by agencies whose practice has been the direct negation of their profession. They may be grouped under the heads of Church, law and politics."

BEING precluded by "Dora," as the Defence of the Realm Regulations are now called, from mentioning the names of ships, we are unable to report fully what the West India Committee has been doing during the fortnight with regard to the West Indian steamer services. It must suffice to say that both the Transatlantic and Canadian services were threatened with the loss of many steamers. The former will, however, be carried on as heretofore, while the Canadian service will be somewhat restricted, though certain concessions have been made which will mitigate inconvenience to some extent as compared with what might have been experienced if the original intentions of the Government, had been carried out.

THE book of the moment contains many interesting references to the West Indies, and several photographs of the beautiful scenery to be found in the Caribbean. We refer to Lord Brassey's "The Sunbeam, R.V.S." Prominent among these records of past years is the story of Lord and Lady Brassey's trip to West Indian waters in 1883. In the light of present events the following extract is distinctly topical:—

As we neared Port-of-Spain, the capital of Trinidad, what was thought to be a British man-of-war was seen lying in the harbour. The White Ensign appeared to be fluttering at the peak. Closer inspection showed that the vessel was the German frigate, the *Olga*, on board which Prince Henry of Prussia was serving as a lieutenant. At noon we dropped anchor in our first West Indian port. The harbour master, Mr. Norman, came on board, and Capt. Bingham, aide-de-camp to the Governor, Sir Safford Preeling paid an early call to inform us that the Governor particularly wished us to dine with him that night at the special request of Prince Henry of Prussia,

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Sir Douglas Haig's Dispatch.

For the first time we have a clear view of the British operations on the Western Front in 1917 up to November last. Sir Douglas Haig's lucid and concise despatch, published on January 8th, is at once a splendid record of British generalship, of leadership on the part of officers, and of heroism, dash, and endurance on the part of their men. They had to contend with adverse conditions caused by the Russian revolution, the almost unprecedented bad weather in August, and the Italian reverse on the Isonzo. Nor was that the worst, for the plans arranged at an Allied Military Conference in November, 1916, were altered to meet those of the French when Marshal Joffre was succeeded as Commander-in-Chief by General Nivelle. The original idea was that all the Allies were to strike at the enemy simultaneously, the British to undertake the important operations in Flanders, which were carried through in the late summer and autumn. But in January the French asked General Haig to take over part of their line, and to make the British offensive complementary to theirs, a re-arrangement of plan which our High Command loyally accepted. Unfortunately the French, after their initial success on the Chemin-des-Dames in the spring, could not push their offensive home, the Russians collapsed, and the Italians were not able to make their great thrust in the Isonzo until the summer. Consequently the Passchendaele operations were begun so late that General Mud prevented the rapid advance which would have been possible earlier in the year. The despatch covers the battles of Arras, Messines, and the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), whose features are given in detail.

Man-Power.

But it was not only adverse circumstances, which were unavoidable, that thwarted the Franco-British plans in 1917, but a lack of men, which, had the Government done its duty, was avoidable. Only a short time ago the Prime Minister told us that there was, if not an army of manoeuvre in France, a decided superiority in numbers; but in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch it is pointed out that the British Expeditionary Force has at times been opposed by twice as many Germans; that the attack on Messines could not be undertaken in 1916 because enough men were not available; and that, to push the Flanders offensive, the other part of the front had to be denuded while leading the enemy to imagine that the Hindenburg line was still the object of attack. Moreover, drafts, when they arrived, were too often inadequately trained, the result of which was unnecessary losses. From the recent speech of the Director of National Service, it is clear that measures which should have been taken four months ago are now to be adopted. But will they meet the shortage of men by the early spring? For Ireland is still to be exempted from the operation of conscription, and the younger generation of the working classes, who defy the Trade Unions, have not yet been squarely faced by

Ministers. But even a partial comb-out from Government factories, dockyards, and offices will help to eliminate from the population those sections from which strikers and pacifists are mostly drawn, and will give the Army the raw material of good soldiers.

Taking the total number of men raised for the armed Forces of the Crown at 7,500,000 since the beginning of the War, the contributions of the different parts of the Empire are as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|-------------------|
| England | ... | 4,530,000 | or 60.4 per cent. |
| Scotland | ... | 620,000 | or 8.3 per cent. |
| Wales | ... | 280,000 | or 3.7 per cent. |
| Ireland | ... | 170,000 | or 2.3 per cent. |
| Dominions & Colonies | ... | 900,000 | or 12.0 per cent. |
| Indian, African, and other Dependencies | ... | 1,000,000 | or 13.3 per cent. |

The Allies, Russia, and Peace.

The Prime Minister has restated the minimum of Allied war aims. It was chiefly remarkable for its common-sense attitude towards the League of Nations ideal and the omission from it of all mention of reparation except to Belgium, of guarantees, and of Russia as a possible entity under the Bolsheviks. President Wilson later in the week made sympathetic references to them in the hope that thereby the situation might be eased. Unhappily Russia is becoming so anarchical that soft words from Western statesmen are powerless to check her road to ruin. She can be saved from within, but not from without. In the meantime the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk are proceeding, and against the lurid background of violence, military collapse, and social disorder in Russia the aims of the Central Empires stand clearly forth. They refuse to allow the venue of the negotiations to be transferred to a neutral country, as the Leninites desire; will not consent to withdraw Austro-German armies from any occupied territory before a vote of the population is taken as to its wishes for the future; and has forced the Maximalist leaders to deliberate in private with Austro-German representatives, while professing a passionate adherence to the methods of open diplomacy. On the other hand, the Lenin-Trotsky combination has failed to draw the Allies into the peace trap, and has made Germany take up a more definite line with regard to her aims than she desires—at this stage of the War, at any rate. Thus it is evident that there are two parties in Germany, moderate and extremist, the one hoping by diplomacy to make profit out of the Russian situation towards peace, the other determined to drive a hard bargain by reason of Russia's military helplessness.

On the Italian Front.

As on the French, so on the Italian Front artillery duels and raids have succeeded heavy fighting on a large scale. Ground changes hands frequently, but on the whole our Allies have cause to congratulate themselves, especially on the lower reaches of the Piave, whose canals and polders have been transformed by the frost into the hardness of a metal road. What German rule means to

a conquered territory the Italians north of the Piave are learning already. Men, women, and children are forced to labour for their brutal masters from dawn to sunset, under the lash or threat of fine and imprisonment.

The restatement of Allied peace aims by Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson has not been satisfactory to Italy, because neither recognised the fact that she requires strategical frontiers, so as to achieve security on the north and an opening to the Near East. It is not generally realised that she has no good ports on her eastern coast, either for naval or commercial purposes.

The Betrayal of Roumania.

The Bolsheviks, who act in the name of Russia, have not only broken faith with the Allies as to continuing the War and making a common peace, but they are involving Roumania in their own country's military collapse. Just as she had re-organised and re-equipped her army, the Russian revolution checked the Moldavian offensive, for whose resumption she has waited so long in vain. With time the anarchy beyond the Pruth increases, preventing her from receiving either foodstuffs or munitions, and forcing her to join in the armistice entered into between Russia and the Central Powers. Germany has met the Roumanians here, hoping that by this accommodation she may be able to conclude a peace that will satisfy Roumania at the expense of Russia, instead of at the expense of Hungary. But she will find that the Roumanians are made of sterner stuff.

The latest news is that the Leninists are threatening Roumania with war because she is taking vigorous measures against Bolshevik agents, who are trying to spread Maximalist propaganda in the Roumanian Army. Not only that, but she has been wantonly insulted through the treatment meted out to her representatives in Petrograd. Her minister to Russia and his staff were recently arrested and imprisoned as common criminals, being released only after strong pressure on the part of neutral and Allied Ambassadors on the spot.

The War at Sea.

In ten months the Germans have sunk six hospital ships, and all of them at night. The latest victim, the *Rexa*, was torpedoed in the Bristol Channel as she was returning home from the Mediterranean. Every soul on board, including cot cases, was saved except three Lascars who were killed by the explosion—a triumph of seamanship, organisation, and discipline. The outrage was aggravated by the fact that the ship fulfilled all the conditions arbitrarily imposed by the Germans as to course and the presence of a Spanish Commissioner on board, in addition to the conditions laid down in international law, constituting a fresh demonstration of the unwisdom of trusting to enemy promises and pledges.

A destroyer, the *Raccoon*, has been lost in a snow-storm off the north coast of Ireland. From the wireless messages sent out it was evident that the Commander did not know his exact bearings, his ship foundering with all hands. A few days later two other destroyers were lost in severe weather

off the coast of Scotland. Through these disasters the nation mourns the loss of over 250 valuable lives. Some adverse comment has been made on these losses, but two excellent reasons account for them. One is that the weather has been more severe at sea than in any previous winter since the War began. The other is that destroyers are put to sea and compelled by their duties to follow dangerous courses, whatever the weather may be. It is due to the superb navigating capacity and endurance of our seamen that relatively so few ships are lost by foundering.

On the night of January 14th the enemy raided Yarmouth on the tip-and-run principle. The particular type of warship he employed for the purpose has not yet been announced. After dropping about fifty shells on the town it departed for home. The loss in life and property was small.

Our Shipping Losses.

The number of large British ships sunk in the week ended January 13th was six, the smallest but one since unrestricted submarine-warfare began in February last. On November 11th the sinking of only a single large merchantman was recorded, on September 16th eight, and on November 4th eight, so that if the present rate of decrease can be maintained, the "U" boats are being mastered. The number of small ships sunk was two.

The End of the *Breslau*.

Early on Sunday morning, January 20th, the *Goeben* and *Breslau* made a sortie from the Dardanelles, and were engaged by H.M. destroyers *Lizard* and *Tigress*. They sank H.M.S. *Raglan*, a monitor, and Monitor M 28; but at 7 a.m. the *Breslau*, which had been driven on to a minefield, was mined and sank. The *Goeben* then made for the straits, but she, too, was mined, and was beached in a damaged condition at Nagara Point, where she has since been attacked by our aircraft. The escape of these two cruisers from the Mediterranean and their appearance later in the Bosphorus were unexplained incidents in the early stages of the war at sea. Undoubtedly they were a factor in driving Turkey into alliance with the Central Powers, and their elimination removes an integral part of German power at Constantinople.

(To be continued.)

There appears to be an impression in some quarters that the West Indian Contingent Committee has ample funds. This is quite erroneous, as many of the contributions are earmarked for specific purposes, and the calls on the Fund are becoming increasingly heavy. It is, moreover, quite certain that when the War is over the purchase of civilian clothing for the men who came over independently, to supplement the meagre Government grant, will prove a heavy item. An example of the sudden calls to which the Fund is subject is furnished by the case of four men who were recently being repatriated by the Committee. The steamer in which they were sailing was torpedoed, and they lost their all. One man, indeed, reached shore in nothing more than a felt hat and pair of trousers! These men will, of course, immediately be re-equipped by the Contingent Committee, which is also providing them with board and lodging at the Y.M.C.A. Donations to the Fund may be sent to the Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership still going ahead.

Last year 152 new members were elected to the West India Committee, and it is hoped that this record will be largely exceeded in 1918. At a meeting of the Executive held on January 10th the following were elected:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2nd Lieut. R. M. Murray | { Captain W. S. Mitchell. |
| | { E. A. de Pass, Esq. |
| Lieut. R. J. Graham | { Captain W. S. Mitchell. |
| (Jamaica) | { E. A. de Pass, Esq. |
| 2nd Lieut. K. D. Andrews | { Captain W. S. Mitchell. |
| | { E. A. de Pass, Esq. |
| Charles K. O'Hara, Esq. | { Jose Anjo, Esq. |
| (Antigua) | { F. A. Joaquim, Esq. |
| T. H. Scott, Esq. | { Wm. Gordon Gordon, Esq. |
| (Trinidad) | { Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G. |
| John C. King, Esq. | { W. Gillespie, Esq. |
| | { H. A. Trotter, Esq. |
| Captain G. N. Hobbs | { R. Rutherford, Esq. |
| | { G. R. Alston, Esq. |

Membership of the West India Committee is by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. 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 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 is. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). 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.

WITH reference to the suggestion made in a leading article in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR recently that cocoa might be used as a ration for the troops, we understand that successful experiments have been made with the manufacture of biscuits with cacao butter as an ingredient. It is claimed that means have been found of eliminating the taste of the butter, and that the biscuits are extremely palatable, being in this respect in marked contrast to the ordinary ration biscuit issued in the Army.

THE importance attached by Canada to the efficient maintenance of steamship facilities between the Dominion and the West Indies is evident from recent comments of the *Maritime Merchant* of Halifax, N.S. Having deplored the fact that one of the Royal Mail boats was ashore at Trinidad, our contemporary praises the resource exhibited by Mr. Allsopp, Canadian manager of the Royal Mail Co., in meeting the emergency. "Nowadays tonnage is a commodity more precious than gold, yea, than much fine gold (adds the *Merchant*) and the loss of even one ship from the West India service would have made the problem of lifting the cargo that must be moved between the two countries most glorious indeed."

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

II.—CULTIVATION OF CANE AND BEET.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of this article appeared in last issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the article shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and an especial feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

Sucrose, the sugar of the sugar cane and sugar beet belongs to a class of bodies termed by chemists carbohydrates.

This name was given to them on account of the atoms of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, which go into their composition being so proportioned that the hydrogen and oxygen are invariably present in the relation to form water. The primary carbohydrate is starch, which had the formula C₁₂ H₂₀ O₁₀. The commercial sugars differ from this body by the addition of one or two molecules of water. Thus maltose, the sugar of malt, and sucrose have the composition represented by C₁₂ H₂₂ O₁₁, and glucose, or grape sugar, is formed by the further addition of water H₂O, and has the composition C₁₂ H₂₄ O₁₂. Maltose and glucose can be formed artificially in the laboratory, but no amount of research has yet resulted in sucrose being thus prepared from starch.

Sucrose is called crystallisable sugar, from the well-known crystallisable form it is capable of assuming, and which is the form of nearly all commercial sugar. Maltose and glucose do not crystallize in the ordinary sense of the word. A sugar, invert sugar, is formed from sucrose either in nature as the result of fermentative changes, or in the laboratory by boiling a solution of sucrose with acids. Sucrose exists in the sugar cane and the sugar beet in a dissolved condition in the juice.

The Sugar Cane

Saccharum Officinarum belongs to the natural order *Gramineæ*, and grows in all tropical and sub-tropical countries. It attains its best development in lower levels, although it is stated to be capable of cultivation up to elevations of 6,000 feet. The climatic conditions most favourable to its growth are those of heat and moisture, while a dry season is necessary in order to ripen the cane.

A sugar cane consists of root, stalk, flower and leaves. The roots, which ramify from the base of the stalk, extend to varying distances, or according to the nature of the soil, on all sides. If the soil condition permits, cane roots will penetrate to a considerable distance, especially if in search of water. The stalk consists of joints, which vary in size and number. A fair average length of joint is five to six inches, with a diameter of one and a half inches. Immediately above each node or joint division, a contracted ring is invariably found. The length of the stalk of a cane may be as much as 20 feet, but 8 to 12 feet is a fair length.

As regards structure, the main bulk of a cane is

made up of soft, pith-like walled cells, which contain the sugary juice. Among these run, lengthwise, bundles of fibrous walled tubes, through which the sap of the cane flows. These are principally towards the rind of the cane, rapidly diminishing in number towards the centre. The rind is hard and siliceous, and coated to a greater or less extent with a waxy body.

In the contracted ring above each node already referred to are small spots from which roots develop during the germination of the bud. A leaf springs from each joint, and, nestling in the sheath of the leaf, there is a small bud, which forms the source of future canes. When the cane matures, a bloom or arrow, as it is termed, bursts from a sheath shooting up from the apex of the cane. This consists of large compound clusters made up of innumerable white or grey small silky flowers.

Propagation effected by Cuttings.

In the cultivation of the sugar cane, propagation is invariably effected by cuttings. The flowers, or arrows, contain seeds, which become fertile, but from the tendency canes grown from seed have to atavism, or the harking back to the types of before-time progenitors, and from the length of time the sugar grown from seed takes to mature, this system of propagation is quite unsuited for estates purposes. Cuttings, therefore, are invariably used for estates' planting purposes, although some difference in practice exists as to what portion of the cane is used. In most countries the top or upper joints of the cane, after the head has been removed, are exclusively used, but frequently the whole cane is cut up into lengths, each length to include two or more joints, and used for planting.

As already mentioned, each joint contains a bud, the germination of which provides the next generation of cane, and as these are in the best condition for development on the upper or softer portion of the cane, "tops" are generally considered more suitable for planting than the body of the cane. The buds, or "eyes," spring into life, while roots are thrown out from the rings above the node, which obtain food for the young cane.

Planting is done either in furrows or in holes. In both instances the cane "plant" or portion of the cane stalk to be planted, is thrust into the soil at angles varying according to the local practice, or else is laid horizontally, and lightly buried. The sugar cane requires a considerable amount of water for its growth, and, at the same time, good drainage, and in those countries where there is a deficient rain supply, but good water opportunities, with suitable soil and climate, irrigation is practised with great success.

Main Features the Same.

Although the cultivation details vary considerably in cane-growing countries, the main features are the same. The soil is prepared for planting by ploughing, either by steam ploughs, or ploughs drawn by mules or oxen, or by hand forking. The canes are then planted, and when the new canes are of sufficient age, that is to say, when from one to three months old, are manured. Where farmyard

manure is used, this is incorporated with the soil before the cane is planted. As the canes grow, they are moulded from the surrounding soil, so as to keep the roots well below the surface, and the necessary weeding and tillage is done.

After six months or so the young bunch of canes, called a "stool," now covers the ground with leaves sufficiently to render further soil operation unnecessary, and is left to continue its growth and to mature. As the cane approaches maturity, the "trash," or dead leafage of the early growth, is generally removed, and the removal of the remainder takes place immediately before cutting, either by hand, or, in some instances, by burning. The usual period of maturity of plant canes is sixteen months, but this varies according to climate, time of planting, and the variety grown. After cutting, in most instances, the roots are allowed to remain in the ground, and fresh canes spring up from these, which are similarly treated. These canes are called "ratoons," and the extent to which the ratooning operation can be carried on depends upon the soil and system of cultivation adopted.

As the flowering season approaches, various changes take place in the juice. The proportion of uncrystallisable to crystallisable sugar increases, as well as that of the other organic impurities. When flowering is over, and the "arrow" drops, the proportions of uncrystallisable sugar and impurities diminish, the juice becomes richer in crystallisable sugar, and the cane is ready for reaping.

The Soils most suitable.

The soils most suitable to the sugar cane are rich clays and loams, which, while retaining moisture, remain porous enough to permit of proper aeration and drainage. The sugar cane makes but a small demand upon the constituents of the soil, less than half a per cent. of its weight being abstracted in the form of mineral matter. Potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen are the principal soil foods required, and the fertilisers used are sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, phosphates in the form of super-phosphate and basic slag, and potash either as nitrate or chloride. Green soiling is, also, carried out with the view of maintaining the proportion of humus in the soil, the trash, or dead cane leaves, being also used for this purpose.

The following gives a rough idea of the composition of the cane as cut:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|-------------------------|
| Water | ... | ... | ... | from 69 to 75 per cent. |
| Crystallisable Sugar (Sucrose) | ... | ... | 8 .. 16 | |
| Uncrystallisable Sugar | ... | ... | trace .. | |
| Fibre | ... | ... | 8 .. 16 | |
| Mineral Matter | ... | ... | 0.3 .. 0.8 | |
| Albuminous and other Organic Matter | ... | ... | 0.2 .. 1 | |

The cane is very susceptible to soil and climate, and a description which gives a rich juice under certain conditions might give a poor juice under others. The yield varies greatly. In the rich volcanic soils of Hawaii, with irrigation, as much as 100 tons per acre have been obtained. In Java, where "plant" canes only are reaped, 40 tons per acre is an average return. In the majority of cases, however, an average yield is 20 to 25 tons per acre.

Varieties of Sugar Cane.

A large number of varieties of sugar canes exist, and these may be classified according to colour. Thus a useful division is:—

- (1) White, yellow and green canes,
- (2) Striped canes,
- (3) Red and purple canes.

No general rule can be laid down as to the description of cane to be adopted in any case. Experience is the only guide.

Sugar canes, in common with other plants, are apt to deteriorate, and become especially liable to disease after prolonged cultivation from cuttings. Up to thirty years ago it was not thought that they could be propagated from seed, but when the possibility was recognised, a means was at once afforded of obtaining new varieties to replace those worn out. If a bloom or arrow is sown under advantageous circumstances, a large number of seedlings may be obtained. These invariably show a multiplicity of characteristics, and, by careful cultivation, coupled with chemical and physical selection, new varieties may be and are obtained. Actual crossing of desirable varieties has also been successfully effected, and it thus happens that many of the canes now being grown on sugar estates are new varieties obtained in this way.

The sugar cane is liable to the attacks of both insect and vegetable pests. Several varieties of "borers" are known which attack the sugar cane, prominent among which is the "moth"-borer. The eggs are laid in the sheath of the cane, and the caterpillars from them find their way through the softer part of the rind near the joints, boring tunnels to the interior. The beetle of the "shot" borer penetrates the rind in the same way. Through these holes fungus pests find their way, causing growths which spread throughout the body of the cane. These fungoid diseases of the sugar cane are many, and roots, stems and leaves are all liable to become attacked by them.

The principal diseases which have caused especial trouble in recent years are the rind and root disease in the West Indies, which brought about the downfall of the Bourbon cane, the Screeh disease of the Cheribon cane in Java, and the gumming disease of Mauritius.

Reaping by Hand.

The reaping of the cane is invariably done by hand, the luxurious habit and recumbent tendency of most of the varieties profitably cultivated, rendering machine reaping a matter of extreme difficulty. In fact, up to the present time, no machine invented has been a success. The knife used for cutting is a cutlass or "machete," which forms a handy tool for the purpose. The cane is first severed from the root as low down as possible, the upper part, unfit for grinding, lopped off, and the canes trimmed and divided, if long enough, into lengths suitable for loading and grinding.

The canes thus cut are then transported to the mills, either by carts, in the case of small factories, or on trucks with a train or railway system. In British Guiana, the system obtains in which canals

are employed with flat bottomed punts. In hilly countries rope transport is used, while in Hawaii, on those estates connected with the irrigation, the canes are "flumed" from the higher lands by water.

Sugar Beet.

The sugar beet (*Beta Vulgaris*) belonged, according to some accounts, to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, where it existed as an annual, although it flourishes in a temperate climate. Its commercial cultivation is practically confined, however to the latter. In its original state it possessed a sugar content of about 6 per cent., but, as it is now cultivated, 14 per cent. to 18 per cent. may be looked upon as a normal range. This increase in saccharine richness has been obtained as the result of a century and a quarter of scientific cultivation.

A typical sugar beet is pear-shaped in form, with a crown of leaves projected from the centre of the thick and upper end. The weight of a root trimmed for manufacture weighs from 1½ lbs. to 2½ lbs. Its "flesh" is white. The sugar beet is propagated from seed, and a property of it which has been of the greatest value to beet sugar growers is that plants, thus obtained, faithfully reproduce the characteristics of the parent, differing in this respect from the sugar cane. The yield of roots per acre varies in different countries, but it may be taken that 13 tons of beets containing 15 per cent. of sugar, washed and trimmed, is a good return.

A sugar beet consists of a number of concentric rings composed of cells filled with juice, which contains, in addition to the sugar, saline bodies in which potash salts predominate, coupled with albuminous and pectinous bodies. The structure is, of course, of cellulose. A fair composition for a sugar beet is as follows:—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Water | 78.0 |
| Crystallisable sugar | 15.0 |
| Fibre | 4.5 |
| Albuminous and other organic matter | 1.5 |
| Mineral matter | 1.0 |
| | 100.0 |

No Glucose in the Beet.

It will be noticed that there is no uncrystallisable sugar, or glucose, in the beet, as there is in the sugar cane. This has an important bearing on the processes of clarification adopted with the sugar beet as compared with those used for sugar cane.

The best time for sowing beet in the northern hemisphere is in April, at the beginning or middle of the month. The cultivation resembles that of mangolds, but is more intensive. After germination, the young plants require thinning, the distance between the rows and from plant to plant being from 12 to 18 inches. The young beets are often hoed and moulded so that the soil covers the head of the root, contrary to the practice with mangolds, which are allowed to grow considerably out of the soil.

The manures used are, as regards nitrogen, mostly nitrate of soda, and to some extent, sulphate of ammonia. Superphosphate and guano are also used, with bone manure, and, if necessary, potash. The harvest time of beets is in October, before frost

sets in. After "pulling," a delicate operation, and "trimming," the roots are stored either in stacks, covered with a layer of earth, or in regular silos, or in specially constructed cellars, the object being to protect the roots from being frost-bitten. These stores are drawn upon as manufacture progresses.

The soils most suitable to beets are loams which are neither too clayey, too sandy, nor too calcareous. A certain amount of lime is, however, necessary to keep them free from acidity. The working soil must be fairly deep, as cultivation to a depth of at least fifteen inches is necessary, and the subsoil must be well drained.

In Germany a four-year rotation is practised on the "Norfolk" system, wheat, oats and a green crop forming the other items in the rotation.

The pests of the sugar beet are many. The caterpillar of the Silver Y-moth (*Phisia gumma*) causes much damage; nematode worms induce the malady known as "fatigue"; while the mycelium of a fungus (*Peronospora*) eats into the interior of the root. "Heart-rot" is a leaf disease caused by the fungus *cladosporium putrefacens*.

(To be continued.)

SUGAR REVIVAL IN JAMAICA.

Opinion of "The Louisiana Planter."

Our distinguished contemporary, *The Louisiana Planter*, publishes some comments, of interest to the West Indies generally, on the increased attention now being devoted to the cane industry of Jamaica:

"The recovery of the sugar industry in Jamaica from its somewhat torpid condition during many decades (says the *Planter*), is very noticeable and the recent improvements in some of the new central factories in Jamaica have given such excellent results that a general inquiry is making as how best to proceed in the maximum development of the industry in that island, and as how to finance the outlay necessary to a full development of Jamaica's sugar resources. Jamaica used to be considered as one of the jewels in the crown of England, but the abolition of slavery in that island in 1833 practically destroyed its sugar industry, and it has gone on in a half-hearted way for three quarters of a century or more, and is only now springing into new life because of the practical destruction within a few years of its immense banana crops, the cultivation of which has been found quite profitable in the past but which of late have suffered considerably from the severe storms that have swept the island, and may perhaps never regain the ascendancy that the banana crop once had.

ADEQUATE SUPPLIES FROM FARMERS NECESSARY.

"We may be quite sure of this, that if the sugar factories now in operation are not successful in getting adequate supplies of sugar cane from the cane farmers they may have some trouble in building up the country with a new sugar industry. Still, such farming is successful in Cuba, in Porto Rico and in St. Domingo, and we know of no reason why it should not be successful in Jamaica. We shall hope that the promoters of the present revival of the sugar industry in Jamaica will be successful and secure such profits as will justify the ventures they are making. It will, of course, be a problem for some time as to what England will do to protect the British West Indies in the manufacture of sugars, but the present war will likely change the views of the English legislators as to the expediency or in expediency of their close adherence to

extreme free trade, such as they have held during the last seventy years, since the days of Bright and Cobden.

"A special feature of the Jamaica sugar industry is the capacity of that island to make rum of a high grade and rum which is very popular throughout the world and commands high prices. It is stated that under efficient management one ton of sugar will yield 140 gallons of rum of 40 per cent. proof. Fancy rums sell at 3/6 to 8/- per gallon and are therefore equivalent to sugar at about £24 to £56 per ton. The problem as stated in a recent report by the Jamaica Department of Agriculture will be as to whether it will pay better later on to continue the old system of rum manufacture, or to centralise into large factories and manufacture sugar on a large scale, and with the inferior residual molasses produce perhaps one quarter of the relative quantity of common rum that is now obtained in their smaller concerns? The reported return of sugar from the cane in these new factories is 11 per cent. Cuba tries to average 12 per cent. but does not always get it, and this is given as the result at the Moreland Estate in Jamaica now under chemical control. One gallon of 40 per cent. rum is said to be obtained from every 18 pounds of sugar left in the low grade molasses which is sent to the distillery. These returns would indicate that this new Jamaica factory is now doing as well as the older large factories farther down in the islands, say at Antigua and St. Kitts, the production of sugar and rum being both considered."

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Government asked to end Anomaly.

In its December issue *The International Sugar Journal* ably supports the recent appeal of the West India Committee to the Imperial Government to define its attitude with regard to the Brussels Convention. The *Journal* is anxious that British cane-growing Colonies should know precisely how they stand and should be freed from any uncertainty regarding the future.

Says our contemporary:—

"The West India Committee has done well to address a letter just lately to the Government to ask once more whether the latter will now subscribe to the view long held by the Committee (and others) that the Brussels Convention of 1902, the Additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations, and Agreements were all annulled by the outbreak of war in 1914. Attempts have been made before now to get an expression of opinion from the Government on this point, through the Foreign Office if we remember aright, but so far without result. The latest appeal, we note, is made to the Colonial Office, this Department being assumed to have an interest in the matter owing to the fact that no preference can be given to sugar produced in our Colonies till six months' notice has been given to the International Sugar Committee.

France in no Hurry.

"We have repeatedly pointed out in our pages since the war broke out, the grounds on which it is claimed that the Convention has been annulled through the war. But it is clear that with a view to avoiding any offence to the neutral members of the Brussels Convention no hurried or drastic step has been taken to denounce that measure, even by France, the country which seems to have the most urgent reasons for dispensing with the agreement. France, as we have shown, has decided to assume for convenience's sake—or perhaps we should say for diplomatic reasons—that the Convention still exists, and she has taken the alternative and equally effective step of giving notice to withdraw from its provisions on and after September 1st, 1918.

"Our Government may or may not think the Convention is voided by the war; but their sole connexion with

that measure is due to an entirely gratuitous undertaking that they would even after they withdrew from it in 1913 not grant any preference to sugar produced within the British Empire without giving six months' notice. It rests with them then to give this notice, failing any definite belief on their part that the Convention is now null and void and that they have hence complete liberty of action in respect of their treatment of British produced sugar.

A Duty to the Colonies.

They owe it to our colonies to free the latter as soon as possible from an unnecessary restriction, and if the Colonial Office have at heart the interests of the sugar industry in British colonies they ought without any further delay to get the matter settled, and so enable plans to be made for increased sugar crops with the assurance that these will not be barred from a reasonable preference in our markets owing to discredited pre-war treaties.

"As France retires from the Convention next September and thereafter regains complete liberty of action for her sugar industry, we suggest that His Majesty's Government might arrange to give that six months' notice not later than the 1st of March next, in which event the notice would mature on the same date as will the twelve months' notice the French gave to the Belgian Government on 1st September last. Not that it is necessary to wait till next March; but it seems highly desirable that our Government should not fall behind their French ally in the date of withdrawal. And it must not be overlooked that by the undertaking made on behalf of the British Government under dates August 2nd, 1912, and June, 1913, with the Brussels Sugar Commission, the six months' notice covered not only the intention to grant a preference to sugar produced within the British Empire but also any departure from the fundamental principles of the Convention, e.g., by imposing a higher Customs duty on beet sugar than on cane.

"It will hence be necessary for the Government, in order to obtain general liberty of action, to give notice of withdrawal from all its undertakings specified in Sir Edward Grey's letter of August 2nd, 1912, addressed to the British Charge d'Affaires at Brussels, wherein Great Britain's continued adherence (in the spirit) to the Convention was affirmed. For otherwise, in the absence of any establishment of the fact that the Convention has become null and void through the war, we appear to be precluded from penalizing German sugar at some future date, unless we have given six months' previous notice to that effect."

It appears from a report by the United States Consul at Guatemala City (so recently devastated by earthquake) that there are 20 sugar mills in the Pacific Coast region, each having an average crushing capacity of 12,000 quintals (540 tons) per day, and several smaller mills. The machinery used in the sugar mills is modern, and prior to the war was imported mainly from the United Kingdom and Germany. The grades of sugar manufactured are 86 to 89 deg. brown sugar, and from 96 to 99 deg. white sugar. The quality of sugar produced is declared to be excellent, and there is a large local demand for the product. The sugar exported is principally the raw product known in Guatemala as "moscabado" (muscovado). During 1915 Guatemala exported 109,188 quintals of sugar, valued at £67,000. Of this amount (says *The International Sugar Journal*) 63,671 quintals were sent to the United States, 25,190 quintals to Honduras, and the remainder to Panama and other countries of Central America.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now due.

RUBBER IN TRINIDAD.

The special Committee of the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago appointed to report "on the present position and prospects of rubber cultivation and to suggest means whereby the most efficient methods of tapping and a uniform method of preparing rubber may be introduced on each plantation," has been published.

It appears from the Report that there are 155 estates in the Colony that with the exception of two of the boards, the returns from which were considered unreliable, there are 1,500 acres under cultivation in Trinidad and Tobago. Fifty-five of the estates are stated to have 250,000 trees in growth, consisting of 130,593 *Hevea* trees, 81,975 *Castilloa*, and 45,000 *Funtumia*. As 103 estates were not accounted for, this does not give an idea of the number of trees in the industry as a whole.

The exports for the last twelve years have been as follows:—

| Year ending. | Total, lbs. | Value, £. |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| March 31, 1905 | 3,659 | 549 |
| " 1906 | 9,394 | 1,221 |
| " 1907 | 27,505 | 4,150 |
| " 1908 | 4,444 | 603 |
| " 1909 | 4,614 | 617 |
| December, 31, 1909 | 13,204 | 1,388 |
| " 1910 | 7,376 | 1,395 |
| " 1911 | 4,867 | 730 |
| " 1912 | 6,916 | 1,040 |
| " 1913 | 6,454 | 1,291 |
| " 1914 | 4,642 | 500 |
| " 1915 | 5,492 | 668 |
| " 1916 | 10,170 | 1,524 |
| To Sept 30th, 1917 | 12,102 (nine months) | |

The Report concludes that *Hevea*, under favourable conditions, gives a return of rubber per acre comparable with that of average estates in Ceylon and the Federated Malay States, but that *Castilloa* has been a costly disappointment.

Hevea appears to suit most of the soils of the colony, with the exception of those of Naparima, the subsoil of which in many places consists of an impervious blue clay. St. Andrew and other moist districts are especially recommended. The Committee strongly recommend the full "herring bone" as the system of tapping to be employed.

Co-operation is strongly recommended by the Committee, and it is suggested that local rubber growers should combine and form a co-operative association on the lines of the Trinidad Cacao Planters' Association.

THE latest official figures of cacao exports for the Gold Coast are given below:—

| Month | 1916. | Quantity. | Value. |
|------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| | | Tons. | £ |
| January-December | | 71,763 | 3,840,567 |
| | 1917. | | |
| January | | 10,977 | 462,248 |
| February | | 10,485 | 471,770 |
| March | | 6,556 | 248,364 |
| April | | 4,778 | 177,870 |
| May | | 11,941 | 400,459 |
| June | | 10,064 | 317,762 |
| July | | 4,950 | 148,055 |
| August | | 6,058 | 212,843 |
| Total | | 66,809 | £2,440,371 |

West Indian Roll of Honour.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER FRED A. WARNER, who was killed in action in one of H.M. Destroyers in the recent engagement off the Dutch coast, was the only surviving son of Mr. Thornton Warner, of Trinidad.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN NORMAN M. SMITH, who died of wounds in Palestine on December 12th, was second son of the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Educated at Queen's Royal College, he left the Colony in 1904, and entered Glasgow University to study medicine. He had not graduated when war was declared, but in July, 1915, he volunteered for service and went out with the R.A.M.C., first to Gallipoli and then to Egypt.

LIEUT. H. L. DEVLIN, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attached Royal Flying Corps, who has been killed, was formerly chemist on Pln. Diamond, British Guiana. Aged 26, he was the elder son of Lieut. Henry Devlin, of Greenock. He left Demerara soon after the outbreak of war and volunteered for service. Lieut. Devlin was a good all-round athlete and footballer, and for some time acted as instructor in gymnastics and bayonet drill at the Ripon training camp.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. MALCOLM T. MAXWELL, son of Sir Fred Maxwell, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

MAJOR GEO. G. KIRTON (son of the late Mr. S. J. Kirton, late manager of the Colonial Bank, Trinidad and St. Kitts) who was recently wounded, has been awarded the Military Cross. He is now in temporary command of a Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment.

LIEUT. J. F. IRVING, of the K.O.S.B., son of Dr. Irving, G.M.O., British Guiana, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co., La Penitence, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallant conduct in the field, assuming command of his company after his captain was disabled.

LIEUT. MARK SPROT MOODY-STUART, Northumbrian Royal Field Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross. Mr. Moody-Stuart, who soon after the outbreak of war temporarily gave up managership of the St. Madeleine sugar factory in Trinidad to join the Army, is eldest son of Mr. George Moody-Stuart, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment at various fronts:—

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—5073 Collic, W. A.

JAMAICA.—7626 or 9726 Brown, J.; 8354 Lyons, R.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BAHAMAS.—14836 McNeil, John P.

BARBADOS.—7504 Carter, Sgt. L.; 14242 Green, Z.; 11373 Lewis, M.; 14351 Prescott, D.; 14603 Thompson, R.

JAMAICA.—13544 Brown, L.; 13576 Byles, P.; 12229 Cook, V.; 9628 Carrie, J.; 7564 Davies, Sgt. W.; 8049 Dunn, T.; 8704 Edwards, B.; 15745 Ellis, P.; 15,878 Fuller, N.; 8737 Grant, P.; 2959 Griffiths, Jas.; 8411 Hossack, T.; 8778 Harris, J.; 14335 Howell, J.; 14497 Jackson, L.; 3024 Josephs, W.; 14172 Johnson, A.; 7395 Lewis, J.; 5862 Maxwell, J.; 16120 McCrobie, W.; 2312 McPherson, L.; 3604 Murray, L.; 7932 Myers, M.; 5590 Osborne, P.; 10076 Poryer, P.; 12487 Rhoden, N.; 8642 Richards, E. E.; 3000 Salmon, C. O.; 16123 Stevenson, A.; 4135 Stevenson, J.; 10503 Stewart, T.; 10595 Stewart, T.; 10848 Young, T.

TRINIDAD.—6910 Cumberbatch, S.; 16422 Thompson, L.; 11794 Williams, A.

St. Lucia.—11095 Emanuel A.

St. Vincent.—11732 Williams, E.; 11777 Wiltshire, W.

WOUNDED.

BARBADOS.—10752 Austin, H.

JAMAICA.—2nd. Lieut. J. A. V. Thompson; 3215 Black, G.; 9888 Cameron, E.; 3406 Fagan, N.; 12710 Heath, P.; 3297 Keating, Sgt. R. V.; 7652 Kelly, M.; 7924 Moodie, T.

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.

Arthur, 2nd Lieut. Henry A. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Rifle Brigade.

Bright, Capt. John Williams (son-in-law of the late Arthur C. R. James, Inspector of Police, Jamaica, W.I.), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, of Wellington, N.Z.

Otway, 2nd Lieut. Rupert C. (of the St. Vincent Civil Service), Royal Engineers.

Phillips, Dr. J. E. (Barbados), Surgeon, Royal Navy.

Townend, Pte. Arthur E. (eldest son of Arthur Townend, Esq., of Devonside, Laughlands, St. Ann, Jamaica), Coldstream Guards.

IN HOSPITAL.

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. Brauch, Durham Light Infantry, Bournemouth.

BAHAMAS.

Trpr. Bruce S. Bethell, Royal Dragoons, London; Pte. Bruce M. Maura, Somerset Light Infantry, Edinburgh.

BARBADOS.

Pte. J. E. Crawford, Artists' Rifles, Purfleet; Lcc./Cpl. McConney, Batham.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Rfn. A. J. Darrell, K.R.R.C., London.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate.

MONTSERRAT.

2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Bood, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London.

St. Kitts.

Pte. O. L. Dimsey, Royal Fusiliers, Dublin.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., Brighton; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwick's, Wandsworth; Lieut. Gordon Burke, R. Welsh Fusiliers, Mundesley; Trpr. M. A. Govia, Household Battalion, Trpr. Sydney Daly, Household Battalion, Cpl. Murray, Household Battalion, Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, London; Trpr. F. Villarroel, Household Battalion, Richmond; 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Marryat, Lancashire Fusiliers, 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, 2nd Lieut. H. M. Pattinson, Capt. Roberts, London; Capt. W. A. Holan, Lieut. C. Massey, Lieut. C. V. Thompson, Wandsworth; Sgt. Pinto (Jamaica), London; Pte. S. Brown (Barbados), Tooting.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment which had an unpleasant experience through the troopship in which it was being transported being diverted to Canada in arctic weather, has forwarded £40 through the West India Committee towards the Halifax fund as a mark of appreciation of kindness shown to all ranks by the people of that city.

Included among the officers, non-commissioned officers and men "mentioned" in despatches dated June 23rd by General Sir Archibald Murray, late Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force are Lieut.-Colonel J. H. L. Poe, Lieut. G. B. L. Porter, Private H. Butcher, 2465 (Bahamas), and Sergeant R. B. Craig, 47 (British Guiana), all of the British West Indies Regiment.

The British West Indies Regiment figures well in the despatches of General Sir Edmund Allenby, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Commanding-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, dated January 16th. The following are "mentioned" for distinguished service: Major G. J. L. Golding, Private B. Forde, 836 (Barbados), Co.-Quartermaster-Sergt. E. E. Hughes, 874 (Grenada), and Co. Quartermaster-Sergt. S. G. Wishart, 258 (British Guiana).

The following names can now be added to the list of those N.C.O.'s and men in the British West Indies Regiment who have been awarded the Military Medal:—

Goldson, Acting Sergeant A. (6th Batt.).
Bailey Private (now A/Corporal) (6th Batt.).

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past month:—

P. Gomez, Pte. P. C. Gibbon, Gunner R. E. Vignale, R.N. J. H. Llanos, Trpr. Wm. Howard, Lieut. L. E. Prada, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, 2nd Lieut. D. Pogson, 2nd Lieut. J. Rochemont, 2nd Lieut. P. Sherlock Maingot, B. Agostini, Trpr. W. Hale, Gunner R. C. Lawrie, M. M. Nock, H. Wilson, E. S. O'Connor, Capt. F. D. McPhail, Lieut. H. Dow, J. C. McLelland, J. Stopford, Cadet R. Johnstone, J. L. Hendry, F. P. Marryat, R. Dunn, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Marryat, 2nd Lieut. A. J. Barnard, 2nd Lieut. Jos. G. Kernahan, 2nd Lieut. L. C. Tristral, Pte. N. Sellier, Pte. W. S. Knox, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Norman, 2nd Lieut. W. Andre, Trinidad; Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, Gunner H. S. Phillips, Pte. A. P. Cox, Pte. W. C. Boxhill, Pte. D. G. Ward, Cadet H. A. Arthur, Pte. E. Atwell, Pte. C. K. Nichols, Lieut. A. W. Boyce, L/Cpl. L. H. Rose, Pte. C. A. Wood, L/Cpl. H. M. McConne, Barbados; 2nd Lieut. R. C. Otway, Grenada; Pte. L. O. Child, St. Lucia; Pte. F. St. J. Hill, R. P. Gallway, 2nd Lieut. W. V. Turner, Lieut. M. H. Pattinson, C.O.S.M. W. G. Stratford, Cpl. C. A. Brooks, Jamaica; Gunner R. Frith, Gunner N. Frith, Pte. H. Abbott, 2nd Lieut. Eric V. Solomon, 2nd Lieut. P. S. Armbrister, 2nd Lieut. R. Knowles, Bahamas; L/Cpl. T. R. Waldron, British Guiana; Gunner G. J. Dent, and Lieut.-Col. G. V. Hart.

Acknowledgments of the Contingent Committee's Christmas gifts of cigarette cases and wallets are now being received daily. The Officer Commanding one battalion of the British West Indies Regiment wrote:—

On behalf of the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of this Battalion, I wish to thank your Committee most heartily for the excellent Christmas Gift which they so kindly sent.

The gifts were distributed on Christmas Day and gave the highest satisfaction to all ranks, and I might add that the health of the Committee was drunk in the Officers' Mess.

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Mrs. Rutherford: 4 prs. socks.
Anon: 1 muffler.
Miss McNeil: 10 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens.
Lady Sendall: 32 prs. socks, 2 comforters, 6 prs. mittens, 2 prs. muffeteers, 4 helmets, 1 cardigan.
Capt. Fielden: 12 prs. socks.
Mrs. E. B. Arthur: 2 helmets, 4 prs. socks.
Mrs. Spooner: 2 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
Miss Cowie: 5 prs. socks.
Mrs. Sabey: 6 prs. socks, 6 prs. gloves.
Miss Mollie Moseley: books.
Mrs. Woodroffe: 1 muffler, magazines.
Mrs. Harley Moseley: magazines.
Lady Llewelyn: 4 prs. socks.

Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----------|----|----|
| Grenada Flag Day, per H.E. Sir George Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G. | 229 | 0 | 9 |
| Bahamas Flag Day (1st donation), per Miss Alice Menendez | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| R. P. Pile, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Molimeux-Montgomerie | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:— | | | |
| Kingstown Club | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Hon. C. E. P. Richards | 10 | 0 | |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 8 | 4 | |
| Jas. H. Hazell, Esq. | 3 | 0 | |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 2 | 0 | |
| A. L. Gillezeau, Esq. | 2 | 0 | |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. | 1 | 0 | |
| | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| Mrs. E. Alleyne | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| "Table Collection," per R. J. M. Lewin, Esq. (Philadelphia):— | | | |
| | \$ | | |
| Miss L. M. Lewin | 1.00 | | |
| Mrs. M. E. Walters | 1.00 | | |
| Mrs. J. Guildford | 3.00 | | |
| Miss A. Laidley | 1.00 | | |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. Boyle | 5.00 | | |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. Booth | 1.50 | | |
| C. Laidley, Esq. | 1.00 | | |
| B. Archer, Esq. | 0.50 | | |
| R. Lewin, Esq. | 1.00 | | |
| | \$15 | | |
| | Realised | 3 | 1 |
| W. F. Lawrence, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| G. Peterkin, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| F. Goodwin, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Luke M. Hill, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Guy Wyatt, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| McDonald Donald, Esq. (further donation) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sale of Flags (St. Thomas) | 15 | 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.

"FLAG DAY" IN THE WEST INDIES.**VI.—WHAT THE BAHAMAS DID.**

The West Indian tradition of warm-hearted generosity is most worthily maintained by the Bahamas. Remotely placed, consisting of scattered islets, the group are nevertheless closely united in loyalty to the Mother Country. The patriotism of the Colony has been exhibited in many practical forms during the War. Indeed, it can be stated with confidence that no Dependency of the British Crown has contributed more liberally to the Imperial cause in proportion to its population and its means. Bahamians may point with rightful pride to the fact that these monetary gifts amount to no less than £25,000—the freewill offerings of a Colony numbering some 61,000 souls. In addition 35,000 articles, mostly hand-made, have been sent overseas for the benefit of soldiers and sailors, but more especially the sick and wounded of His Majesty's Forces.

Eager Organisers.

Consequently the suggestion that the Bahamas should hold a "Flag Day" for our Contingent Fund fell on responsive ears. The matter was taken up with enthusiasm and a many-sided and picturesque effort was the outcome. It was perhaps a little unfortunate that the "Flag Day" should follow so quickly upon a successful appeal on behalf of the Red Cross Fund. But for that fact the financial result of the "Flag Day"—£120 to date—would doubtless have been more striking. This figure, however, represents the total only as regards New Providence. The collections in the other associated islands have still to come to hand.

Once the wishes of the Contingent Fund Committee had been made known to him, the Governor of the Colony, Sir Wm. Allardyce, took prompt steps to carry them into effect. His Excellency at once invited the co-operation of the Recruiting Committee, who decided to ask Lady Allardyce to form a Ladies' Committee to undertake all arrangements for the disposal of the flags. This she consented to do and the following Committee was formed:—Lady Allardyce, Hon. President; Lady Tudor, Mrs. T. H. C. Lofthouse, Miss Hart Bennett, Mrs. G. H. Johnson, and Mrs. C. Menendez, Hon. Secretary.

It was found impracticable to adopt the date first suggested, June 18th, and for various reasons the event was postponed till November 16th. The Ladies' Committee having undertaken the distribution of the flags throughout the Colony, the aid of numerous helpers was invoked—Daughters of the Empire, Ministers of Religion, Out Island Commissioners, school teachers and many others—all of whom gave their assistance most cheerfully. In Nassau the general public had been urged to do everything possible to make the day a success worthy of the cause.

A Many-sided Effort.

The organisers decided that the effort should not be restricted to the sale of flags and badges. Prizes were offered for the best decorated windows, a programme of sports was arranged and in the evening

an entertainment helped to swell the funds. The day, in fact, was regarded as a public holiday and the participants in assisting a worthy cause experienced no small amount of personal enjoyment. Bunting was displayed from private residences, business houses, vessels, masts and the signal stations, while the vehicles on the streets—motor cars, carriages, bicycles, etc., all bore evidence of a determination to assist in filling the atmosphere with the spirit of the day. Soon after breakfast the Daughters of the Empire, to whom was given the task of disposing of the flags, appeared on Bay Street with their stocks. The motor cars that carried them around were gaily decorated and no open door was passed. The public offices, Bank and business places were all visited not once but several times, and each time fewer flags were brought back to the base. The Daughters of the Empire were in charge of the city district, and Mrs. Lofthouse, President, Lady Tudor and Miss Hart Bennett, Regents, took up their station in a car in front of the centre Public Building to receive the money from the vendors.

Many shop windows were tastefully decorated and the first prize for this event was awarded to Mrs. L. A. Berger, whose windows were most attractive, the photographs of the various Bahamas Contingents, nicely arranged, lending in no small measure to its success. The opportunity of advertising her wares was embraced as well and this was well done. Mr. Shepherd's prize of two pounds we understand has been given by Mrs. Berger to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The window of the City Pharmacy was a good second, and the prize of one pound awarded by Dr. Bleby is also to be given to the West Indian Contingent Fund. The General Hardware Co. displayed a broom along with the flags of the Allies, suggesting "a clean sweep."

The Sports.

At mid-day all public offices, shops, etc., closed in order to give everyone an opportunity of attending the sports arranged for the afternoon by the Recruiting Committee, of which Major Turner, Commandant, is chairman. The Eastern Parade became the scene of a large crowd. The Police, and Eastern and Southern Bands rendered lively music and the races were keenly contested by members of the Home Defence Force, the various Brigades and others. His Excellency and Lady Allardyce were present, Lady Allardyce distributing the prizes. Capt. G. M. Cole, Mr. Charles E. Bethell, and Mr. A. G. Sweeting acted as judges.

The school children also had a section of the ground reserved for their races. A "clown" was on the grounds and with his donkey played the fool to the amusement of the onlookers. There was also a baby show.

For the evening the Hon. F. C. Wells Durrant and Mr. R. Barnes Shepherd arranged an entertainment with a very appropriate programme, to which the Mandolin Band contributed some popular items, and an enthusiastic audience filled to overflowing the Imperial Theatre, which, together with some picture films, was generously lent for the occasion by the proprietor, Mr. Hartley Albury. This was the means of adding £15 to the Fund.

"B'RU 'NANSI."

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK.

B'ru 'Nansi—the black, hairy spider of the Fanti folk-tale—was a prime favourite in the West Indies before-time. I don't know how it may be now. They tell me he has gone out of date. He is obsolete they say, or obsolescent. West Indians who want a folk-tale go to Grimm or Andersen, or to one of Andrew Lang's Fairy Books. If they do—if they neglect and forget B'ru 'Nansi—believe me, they miss a great deal. Half the natural gaiety of the West Indies will be eclipsed if and when B'ru 'Nansi goes under.

It may be admitted at once that much of the success of an Anansi Story depends on the telling. Much of the success of any story hangs on that, indeed. Not everybody can tell a simple anecdote effectively. Some people murder a joke. And the Anansi Story is no simple anecdote. If the fine and cultivated art of the raconteur is wanted anywhere it is wanted in the unfolding, event by event, adventure by adventure, of the wonderful tales about B'ru 'Nansi. I say "unfolding" advisedly. It is a deliberate process. The tale is worth it. You sip your tale as you might sip a liqueur. An Annual Story is not to be gulped like any passing, ephemeral tale that is told. It is not for that that, springing to life perhaps a thousand years ago, it was ageing and maturing—"long-long time"—in the depth and dark of an African Forest.

It took one of the Old Guard—one of the old Black Watch—to tell an Annual Story. The nearer in blood to Africa the better. The past type of black nurse—the "Nana" of one's boyhood—was famous for her 'Nansi stories. We may picture her: her ample red handkerchief, her necklace of big, big red corals. She filled a niche in the West Indies of the old time; she was an institution. Who more interested in the white folks in the Great House: who more happy when happiness came to them: who more faithful in sickness—more successful too very often with her lemon-grass tea and her bush-bath: who more genuinely bowed with grief when the old master died and was carried to his long home within the rude enclosure which was known as the plantation burial-ground? She had grown up with white people, and—as she had occasion to remind a saucy Creole occasionally—had "white people ways." But one heirloom of the black people she never parted with, and that was the folk-tales of Buru 'Nansi. Whatever education the white child growing up in the West Indies in those days had or had not—frequently had not—at any rate he was thoroughly posted in the traffiques and discoveries of Buru 'Nansi. How real to him became that accomplished rogue! How green his memory! How black his reputation! B'ru 'Nansi took life again in the telling: and the black spider—with his wheedling voice, "covetchus" mind, and bold, bad, humorous eye—stood before us vividly, as clearly as someone we had met.

There were others who kept B'ru 'Nansi alive. I recall one or two "Daddy's" and "Uncles" whose

mental faculties, somewhat shaken otherwise by age, were yet sufficiently alert when it came to Buru 'Nansi. Of work they could do little. They picked up the leaves in the avenue, and minded the poultry who practically minded themselves. They complained of the rising generation that "their eye suggested them." The rising generation—as is its wont occasionally—did regard them as back numbers. But they were not back numbers when it was a wet night, or when Christmas came round and anybody suggested an Anansi Story! Nobody told an Anansi Story like Daddy Quashie. Daddy Quashie was "head-man" for Anansi Story! So he was. There was nobody to match him.

There is a deal of dialogue in most Anansi stories. Buru Tiger speaks (in a deep, deep, growly-growly voice, especially when he is hungry or angry, which is pretty often): Buru Deer speaks (a timid voice, tremulous with entreaty or fright): Buru Dog speaks (a barking style, rather like a Company Sergeant on parade): Buru Snake speaks (a quiet, sibilant voice, dreadfully repulsive, although you don't know why). And all of those voices had to be imitated; and wonderfully successfully imitated they were. Daddy Quashie, sitting a little in the dark, might himself, himself (when it came to that part), have been Tiger or Dog!

And then the tone, even in the narrative. A tale has its light and shade, like an etching. Here—in the intense, dramatic passages—the voice sinks; then it stops: Buru 'Nansi is in a bad hole. Then a word or two: there is just a tiny glimmer of hope. And then a quickening: a rush: the tale races! Hurrah! Against a hundred chances to one Buru has got out: he is away, away! Was there ever such a fellow as Buru 'Nansi?

Why is Anansi so popular? Why indeed! One should hate him, of course. One should abhor and contemn so black a rogue. Tricky; greedy; a thief; a liar; your friend (so-called) to-day, and to-morrow doing you—"dry-dry so"—in the eye. How many of his boon companions—Buru Tiger, Buru Deer, Buru Goat—does Buru 'Nansi not do in the eye! "Buru 'Nansi no know wha' call grateful." Of a truth he does not. It staggers one (recalling the long calendar of misdemeanours to the credit of B'ru 'Nansi) that any person of moral principle should be found to say, "I like Buru 'Nansi."

And yet we do like B'ru 'Nansi, and are happy and eager to say so. What is the explanation? Well, if Buru 'Nansi puts you in a hole at any rate he allows nobody else to do it. He must have a monopoly in the business. Himself, he will land you in a hole as soon as look at you. You may have done him a kindness only an hour before: it avails not, you are tricked like any stranger. But let Buru Tiger put you in a hole—or attempt to—and who so quickly at your side as Buru 'Nansi!

And it is this brainy part of him that fascinates, too. B'ru 'Nansi is no fool; although now and again, unexpectedly, a very simpleton can fool him. But this does not happen often. You have to get up ve-ry, very early in the morning to fool Buru 'Nansi. He was not born yesterday. His moral character is past redemption. His morals, taking them by and large, are past praying for. But for

cleverness, for deep-laid schemes which go seldom a-gley, for a well-thought-out plot, you cannot match Buru 'Nansi!

And then he has another quality which appeals to us in a (now-and-then) drab world. He has a keen sense of humour. His friends will tell you that, wryly enough. You remember how he rode Buru Tiger to the dinner-party: Buru Tiger himself having provided the bridle, stirrups and whip necessary to his humiliation. And lastly, Buru 'Nansi displays such pluck, such cool resource in circumstances that would terrify anybody else to death, that you are bound to admire him, rogue or no rogue. We have seen him—often and often, oh, more times than one can remember—badly trapped. His end had come, his number was up. It was only left to toll the bell for B'ru 'Nansi. But did he lose his head? Did that wonderful brain of his fall to bits under the strain? Did he give up hope? Not he! Oh, no. That is not the way with Buru 'Nansi. His brain worked more icily cool than ever, he carried it off with a consummate bravado; and was successful.

Now the Old Guard—the old Black Watch—who kept B'ru 'Nansi alive are themselves dying out. Gaps occur in the ranks from month to month. In a few years they will be "dead out." Even now you come across them—"one-one." Readers of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR may recall "Daddy Quashie."* This veteran happily is still alive. His foot "jouks" him sometimes; so much so that he does not sleep "whole night." Now and then he gets "eye-burn." Occasionally he suffers from a vague complaint known as "the bad feelings." These no doubt are symptoms that Daddy Quashie is "ageable." Another symptom that he is ageable is his belief in Anansi.

The other Saturday he had fished from some erudite quarter or other—he has a grandson, a bookman, who is becoming somewhat learned—a "Bakra 'Nansi." He was disappointed that I did not want to hear it.

I told him I did not want a Bakra story.

"But dis wan come out of a book."

"Same thing make me no want am," said I in the vernacular.

"Eh-eh!" Daddy Quashie is surprised. He has a great veneration—an undue veneration (as I could tell him)—for whatever comes out of a book. "Book story no good?"

"Not always."

"No sah!"

"No, old man. I want 'Nansi what grow up in Africa."

"Naked, naked Afrukay?"

"Yes."

"Well—"

Daddy Quashie "studies." His black face is seamed and wrinkled; just now it reminds me, subconsciously, of a withered star-apple. Presently a twinkle comes into his eye, filmy with age; a smile plays around the corners of his mouth: Daddy Quashie in searching his mind, has come upon Buru

'Nansi (characteristically enough) in one of the crevices of his memory.

He chuckles.

"You ever hear 'bout Buru 'Nansi and Buru Temaku?"

"No."

"A-h. Wan sweet 'Nansi dah."

And then he narrates the famous tale of "Buru 'Nansi and Buru Temaku."

(To be continued.)

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Jamaica's Remarkable Trade.

Disaster would seem to possess little power to handicap the trade of Jamaica. The report for the financial year ended March 31, 1917, states that but for the hurricane in August, 1916, the exports would probably have created a record in the history of the Colony. Bananas suffered from the cause indicated. Owing to war conditions other staples such as sugar, rum, logwood, annatto, ginger, orange oil, and hides have sold for high prices. As a result the returns, both as regards imports and exports represent the highest figures, set out in the following table showing imports and exports at ten-year intervals since 1878:—

| | Imports. | Exports. |
|------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1878 | 1,552,839 | 1,517,015 |
| 1886 | 1,322,336 | 1,280,118 |
| 1896 | 1,856,377 | 1,873,105 |
| 1906 | 2,261,469 | 1,843,180 |
| 1916 | 3,107,004 | 2,821,234 |

In the main the increase in values as regards 1916-17 was rather the result of greatly enhanced prices than increase in quantity; shortage of tonnage operating in Jamaica, as elsewhere, to restrict exchange of commodities. But for the hurricane, good crops of sugar and rum, and a very strong demand at maximum prices for most of the exportable products of the island would have created a record, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way of obtaining freight. The items showing the principal improvements were sugar cane products, £606,603; dyewoods in bulk, £281,807; and dye extracts, £207,461; tobacco, £11,821; coco-nuts, £61,980; cacao, £14,355; hides and skins, £28,854; and honey, £9,963; the only two considerable items of the Island's agricultural produce showing any appreciable shrinkage in value being coffee, £37,028, and pimento, £22,643.

The hopeful expectations as to the sugar industry were realised and 28,000 tons of sugar and 18,000 puncheons of rum, the largest crop since 1884, were exported. The revival of the sugar industry is now being prosecuted, and, with an Imperial market for its produce, the Colony can be relied on to push this industry with enterprise and success whenever the conditions are favourable. Remarkably good returns of sugar on the canes sent to the mills have been realised in Vere. The demand for cane tops by large and small planters has been brisk. The varieties "White Transparent" B. 208, J. 72, and B. 6,450, have all done well and are in general demand. Logwood experienced a period of unexampled prosperity owing to the lack of German synthetic dyes, and a sum of £800,000 was realised for logwood products during the year. Owing to the speculative operations abroad the market brake, and the prices and demand for logwood are now again on a moderate basis only. The incidence of Panama disease of bananas during the year has shown a marked reduction, only 163 diseased plants having been reported on forty separate spots, or an average of four plants per base.

The direction of the Colony's trade since 1876 is indicated by the following tables. The United Kingdom has gradually lost ground as a source of supply of imports, while the United States has gradually advanced. Canada,

*WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, May 19th, 1914

tapped only to a slight degree is declining farther in the scale. She is making headway, however, as one of the destinations of exports:—

Sources of Supply of Imports.

| | 1876 | 1886 | 1896 | 1906 | 1916 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| United Kingdom ... | 53.6 | 51.8 | 49.9 | 49.8 | 32.4 |
| United States ... | 29.2 | 33.6 | 39.4 | 38.2 | 57.4 |
| Canada ... | 12.4 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.5 |
| Other Countries ... | 4.8 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 3.9 | 2.7 |

Destination of Exports.

| | 1876 | 1886 | 1896 | 1906 | 1916 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| United Kingdom ... | 80.9 | 39.9 | 27.7 | 19.4 | 43.4 |
| United States ... | 10.0 | 43.9 | 56.9 | 57.4 | 32.7 |
| Canada ... | 2 | 3.5 | 1.6 | 6.1 | 13.7 |
| Other Countries ... | 8.9 | 12.7 | 13.8 | 17.1 | 10.2 |

Grenada's Wonderful Exports.

Grenada received congratulations last year when, despite the War, she was able to report exports (for 1915-16) amounting to £466,918. This total, satisfactory as it was, has been surpassed during 1916-17 by nearly £70,000, the grand total being £534,223. Compared with the previous year the main products exported were as follows:—

| | 1915. | 1916. |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Cacao ... | 402,394 | 449,944 |
| Spices:— | | |
| Nutmegs ... | 25,319 | 31,947 |
| Other kinds (principally mace) ... | 17,122 | 17,145 |
| Cotton ... | 8,490 | 14,543 |
| Cotton Seed ... | 1,979 | 1,545 |

The crop of cacao exported in the last completed crop year ended September 30th, 1916, amounted to 80,034 bags of 180 lbs. each, a record which exceeds by 6,171 bags the highest previously recorded. This quantity is equivalent to 128,626 cwt. or 14,406,120 lbs. The value of cacao exported in the calendar year 1916 was £449,944, equal to 84 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony.

In view of the reported loss from thrips, the returns of the current crop are somewhat astonishing, as there is every indication that the present year's crop will be the second highest on record, and will approach very closely the record of last year. It is probable that the total crop will not fall short of 77,000 bags.

Nutmegs and its by-product, mace, are the principal spice products exported. There has been a steady upward tendency in production for the past six years. Last year's crop was very satisfactory, amounting to 1,940,965 lbs. and good prices were realised. The value of spice exports in 1916 was £49,092, representing 9 per cent. of the total exports.

A large increase in production of limes took place during the past year. The exports in 1916 were 150,525 gallons of raw juice and 7,500 of concentrated juice, of a total value of £14,486.

The cotton crop produced was less than in 1915, being 3,116 cwt., as against 3,293, but owing to high market prices the value rose to £14,543 from £8,490 in the previous year. The value of the cotton seed exported was £1,545, as compared with £1,979 in 1915.

A remarkable feature of the imports valued at £343,437—an increase of £82,942—was muscovado sugar, 1,278,338 lbs. in weight and valued at £11,021, brought over from Barbados, Trinidad and St. Vincent. Sugar cane cultivation, despite high prices, shows little sign of extension and there is not enough grown to meet local consumption.

The revenue of the island was the highest yet recorded—£112,759. The expenditure, amounting to £106,603, exceeds the record expenditure of last year, and includes a sum of £11,641 expended on the maintenance throughout almost the whole of the financial year of the third contingent, together with the cost of separation allowances and other expenses incidental to the drafts that had already left the Colony.

British Guiana's Increased Trade.

The Report in the Blue Book for the year 1916 shows that the revenue of British Guiana amounted to £669,385, disclosing a surplus of £26,902 over expenditure which came to £642,483. The public debt to the Colony showed a decrease of £6,075 as compared with the previous year. The total value of the imports including transit trade was £2,471,944, being £503,730 more than the aggregate value of the imports of 1915. Cotton manufactures, paper, flour, corn, manures, and machinery, are mainly accountable for the increase.

The total value of the exports for the year was £3,758,066. This includes British and foreign goods re-exported and transhipped (£385,543). The value of the export trade was greater than the previous year's transactions by £421,728, or an increase of 12.64 per cent.

Although there was an increase of £41,465 in the value of sugar exported in 1916, the quantity was less than that exported in 1915 by 14,547 tons, the figures for 1916 and 1915 being 101,650 tons, valued at £2,100,417, and 116,224 tons valued at £2,058,952, respectively. The year 1916 has been a prosperous one for sugar estate proprietors, as good prices were obtained. The crop was somewhat below the average. The returns submitted by estates show that in 1916 more than four-fifths of the total area—78,350 acres—under cane was planted in varieties other than the Bourbon. Only 9,450 acres are now occupied by Bourbon unmixed with other varieties. Of the area, estimated at 68,900 acres, cultivated in new varieties, 88 per cent. was under canes raised from seed in this Colony, while about 11 per cent. was occupied by varieties imported from Barbados. The quantity of rum shipped during the year fell below the record established in 1915 by 311,396 proof gallons. Prices advanced during the year and the value exceeded that of 1915 by £169,765. The exports for 1916 were 4,384,834 proof gallons, valued at £626,480, as against 4,698,230 proof gallons, valued at £456,725 exported in 1915. 4,242,817 proof gallons of the quantity exported in 1916 went to the United Kingdom.

Exports of rice for the year have been unprecedented. The exports were 29,141,956 lbs., of a value of £217,996, showing an increase of 8,881,472 lbs., valued at £83,508, when compared with the exports for 1915. As in 1915, the bulk of the exports went to the British West Indies.

The area under rice amounted to 57,000 acres, of which 4,200 acres yielded two crops. The total yield was 72,000 tons of paddy, equal to 36,000 tons of rice last year. The increase in the area cultivated was particularly marked in the Mahaica, Mahaicony, and Abary River Districts. The rice grown was of excellent quality; 13,000 tons of rice and 800 tons of rice-meal were exported during the year 1916. The very keen demand among planters of rice for the specially selected seed-paddy produced at the experimental fields of the Board of Agriculture steadily increased during the year. Very large areas of the front lands of the Colony undoubtedly are pre-eminently suitable for the cultivation of rice, and the proportion of them planted in paddy increases year by year.

The acreage under cacao remains stationary at about 2,200 acres. A very large proportion of the cacao produced is used locally either in the preparation of chocolate or of confectionery. There is an extensive belt of land in the Colony well suited for cacao, and it is to be regretted that its cultivation is not extending as it ought to do.

The planting of Para rubber has not increased. It is estimated that nearly 5,000 acres are now planted with Para rubber in the Colony. There was little demand during the year for Para rubber plants; only 27,000 were sold to planters by the Department of Science and Agriculture. It has now been proved that the Para rubber tree grows well on suitable lands in the Colony. Tapping operations are being conducted on a small scale as the majority of the trees in the planted area are young. The initial tappings of five-year and six-year old trees have shown that the yields of dry rubber per tree compare very favourably with those obtained in the Straits Settlements, Malaya and Ceylon, and that the quality of the product is excellent. In 1917 tapping operations will be on a large scale. Tapping experiments at the various experimental stations established by the Government continue to give satisfactory results, both as regards

the yield of the trees and the cost of collecting the rubber.

The area reported to be under coffee was 4,600 acres. The export of coffee during the year amounted to 4,474 cwt., as compared with 1,536 cwt. in 1915—an increase due to seasonal changes and young plantings coming into bearing.

Coco-nuts are now planted on 20,100 acres of land, whilst the acreage last year was 17,920. The export of nuts decreased from 2,090,000 to 1,631,000, whilst in addition, 2,117 cwt. of copra and 18,000 gallons of oil were exported. By far the greater number of the nuts grown are used locally for the manufacture of oil. There is a very wide area of land suitable for the planting of coco-nuts on parts of which extension of such planting is being actively carried on. Under proper cultivation and drainage the yearly crop will be very largely increased in the near future.

The cultivation of limes is increasing; about 1,000 acres are now occupied by this product. The erection of machinery at Plantation Providence, Berbice, and at Plantation Agatash, Essequibo, for the production of concentrated juice and of citrate of lime is giving this promising industry a much desired impetus. A small factory for the preparation of concentrated lime juice is in course of erection by the Government at Oudemanning, Essequibo. 446 cwt. of citrate of lime, 8,600 gallons of lime juice, and 290 gallons of oil of limes were exported.

There are large areas of land suitable for the raising of cattle. The number in the Colony is estimated at 100,500, but it is certain that this estimate is far below the actual figure. 622 cattle were exported. Horses are returned at 1,010; sheep at 22,800; goats at 22,800; swine at 12,500; and donkeys at 6,500.

Diamonds were exported to the United Kingdom to the value of £29,801 (16,180 carats), as against a value of £10,702 (6,203 carats) in 1915. Gold, on the contrary, was down by nearly £60,000 compared with the previous year.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—A Popular Official.

Commenting on the appointment of the Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, to be Governor of British Honduras, the *Nassau Guardian* says:—"It will be remembered that twice quite recently Mr. Hart-Bennett has refused to leave the Colony, and while we extend to him heartiest congratulations on his new appointment, which is such well merited promotion, we are confident that we voice the sentiment of the entire community in expressing sincerest regret at the loss of a man who has not only proved himself an excellent official, but who has shown in innumerable ways a personal and comprehensive interest in all that affects the highest welfare of the Colony. The spontaneous action of the House of Assembly—the representatives of the people—during the last session in passing a Bill to increase Mr. Hart-Bennett's salary while holding the office of Colonial Secretary was a proof of the genuine esteem in which he is held and the high appreciation of his valuable services to the Colony."

"During her stay here Miss Hart-Bennett, who will accompany her brother to his new sphere of service, has by her unflinching kindness and sympathy and a very active interest in all matters pertaining to the public good made for herself a very warm place in the affection and esteem of all who know her and many who have not that privilege."

BARBADOS—New Machinery going up.

Mr. J. H. WILKINSON, DECEMBER 17th.—The Island is suffering from a severe drought, and I fear the crop to be reaped in 1918 will be at least 25 per cent. less than 1917. Planters are also having real difficulty in establishing the young crop and many acres will have to be replanted. The weather is now extremely hot for this time of the year, and I hope this is an indication that rain is not far off.

Machinery is arriving by almost every boat from

America for the new factory at Searles, the erection of which is going on steadily. The directors hope to get to work next year. Todd's Plantation has been sold to Mr. G. E. Sealy for the sum of £22,000 as from the 1st January, 1918. Mt. Brevitor purchased by Messrs. L. Archer, R. & B. Parris for the sum of £10,500, and Bolders purchased by Messrs. S. & E. Thorne for £9,750. All good prices.

The old-established firm of Messrs. Collymore & Wright has sold out to the new company styled "Plantations Limited." The business will be continued as before, the Hon. J. O. Wright and Mr. C. B. Wright remaining as managers. The Annual Industrial Exhibition was held at Queen's Park on Wednesday, the 12th. The weather was excellent and the attendance better than last year. The quality of the exhibits was, in most cases, up to the standard of last year, but the quantity was very small. The fourth Barbados Contingent of the R.W.I. Regiment, left on ———. The men looked very fit and made a brave show on their departure.

BRITISH GUIANA—Combined Court.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN writes on 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 8th instant. The Governor's speech referred to the Sea Defences, Civil 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. Captain Field is at present in a sanatorium in Scotland recovering from shell shock. (Son of Mr. J. H. Field, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.)

JAMAICA—A Distinguished Visitor.

Among recent visitors to Jamaica has been the Right Rev. Lord Abbot of Caldey, a Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church. He was the guest of the Jesuit Fathers at Winchester Park.

The control of the food situation of the island was recently discussed at a conference between the Governor and the Food Commission on the one hand, and the merchants. The idea is to prevent consumers from being charged too much for imported goods. The question of regulating the wholesale prices of foodstuffs was fully discussed and it is understood that an agreement has been reached whereby the wholesalers will submit their invoices to the Food Commission and a certain percentage of profit will be fixed on the different articles so that the Commission would be able to arrange the wholesale prices of certain articles of imported foodstuffs.

Mr. Barclay, secretary of the Agricultural Society, reporting on a recent visit to the Western districts, including the rice-fields. Nearly all the fields, he says, are grown by East Indians who rent the lands, comprising some 750 acres. He adds: "Rice forms the third most important food import of Jamaica, coming next to wheat, flour, and salt fish. On an average we have imported about £80,000 value of rice mostly from India; 1,000 acres only produce 10,000 bags. It would take the product of 8,000 to 10,000 acres to replace our imports."

"I was much interested in my visit to the Great Morass, which lies on the borders of Westmoreland and Hanover. It contains, I was told, 25,000 acres, 2,000 acres of which belong to the Government. . . . Here is a quick source of a fine food supply. I was assured that the men were available for very large areas under rice to be grown."

The Governor (Sir W. H. Manning) addressing the Legislative Council, at a special session held on December 18th, referred sympathetically to the loss and suffering

caused by the recent hurricane; a disaster which, said His Excellency had called forth the exercise of the highest qualities of endurance and fortitude. He recognised abundantly and gratefully the spirit in which the misfortune had been met. His Excellency, turning to a matter which he described as one calling for instant action, emphasised the necessity for the most economical consumption of food supplies both imported and home-grown. He was about to take steps to endeavour to limit the quantities of imported articles of food in response to a request that he should estimate the minimum requirements of the island in this respect. It was for the people themselves to produce sufficient to redress the balance and ensure there should be no shortage. Unless the production of home-grown foods was increased there was a menace of starvation. "It is as much by the conservation of the food supply of the world," added His Excellency, "and by its increase, as by the force of arms that we shall emerge victorious from this terrible conflict." When on leave he had visited the battle areas of France, and he had heard nothing but praise for the soldierly qualities of the officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment, and for the value of their services.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY (received January).—Logwood is once more booming, and, at £6 per ton, considerable quantities are being shipped to the United States. At this price logwood can be profitably marketed and it is hoped that this figure will be maintained for some time. Lately it has only been fetching £3 per ton, an obviously impossible figure.

Under special license from the Home Government, Jamaica was permitted to export this month 1,500 bags of coffee to England. This, although better than nothing, was a very small quantity when it is realised that there are still some 20,000 bags awaiting shipment, and that this amount is about to be largely increased by the new crop now coming in. In regard to cocoa it has been announced that the same restrictions which were in force during 1917 are to apply to 1918, but that shipments of the proportion licensed may be commenced as from January 1st.

The food situation is becoming rapidly more serious. Strict restrictions have been placed on exports of food-stuffs from the United States and at one time it appeared that no more flour would be obtainable this year. The situation has not yet been cleared up, but it has been abundantly proved that unless we can greatly increase local production the situation in 1918 will be extremely serious. Owing to bungling somewhere, such as appears to be inevitable when anything of real importance is undertaken, retail prices of certain essential foodstuffs, including lard compound, sugar, salt beef and cooking oil, were fixed at a figure which prohibited their sale except at a loss, and in consequence, for some days, most of the important firms refused to sell these articles at all. Wholesale prices have not been regulated. The Press has been inundated with complaints, and there is crying need of a competent food controller.

Customs returns up to the end of October show a decrease of £42,607 over the corresponding period of the previous year. Duties collected on rum show an increase of £640. The chief cause for the former unsatisfactory figures, is of course the recent hurricane. A proposal for the erection of a clock tower at the Kingston Parish Church, is receiving considerable attention. A Committee has the matter well in hand, and detailed plans have been drawn up. The tower is to be erected by private subscriptions.

ST. LUCIA—Emigration of Children.

An Ordinance recently approved by the Governor, and applicable to any country beyond the British Dominions provides that no child shall be allowed to leave the colony for any such country unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and unless the latter possesses the written permission of the Governor. Such permission will not be given unless the Governor is satisfied that it will be for the benefit of the child and that the child will be under proper care and custody in the country to which it is proceeding. Penalties are provided for breaches of the Ordinance.

ST. VINCENT—Visit of the Governor.

The latest local papers to reach England record the hearty reception accorded to the Governor of the Windward Islands and Lady Haddon-Smith.

Ginning (says the *Times*) has been commenced at the Government Central Cotton Ginnery at Richmond Hill. The Kingstown Factory as customary had started a few days before. At the Central Ginnery everything seems to be working in order and the management made a record first day's ginning. With reference to the rumour that a large increase in the charges for ginning and baling cotton would be made, we have been interviewed by several cotton planters, large and small, and we have been informed that should the ginneries in Kingstown increase their charges unduly, other ginneries would be erected, both at Kingstown and on the estates.

TRINIDAD—Increased Produce Taxes.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, DECEMBER 14th.—We were glad yesterday to welcome back once more Mr. G. F. Huggins, who seems to have had a strenuous as well as useful time with you lately.

The continued efforts of the Agricultural Society to get a Vagrancy Ordinance in force have at last borne fruit. A Bill for the disciplining and reformation of habitual idlers has been introduced, and a draft was submitted for the observations of the Society at a meeting held yesterday. It seems a good practical measure which, in combination with a labour exchange it is hoped also to establish, should go far to assist in the campaign against praedial larceny. The Governor, who presided, as usual, at the meeting, received the thanks of the members for this further proof of the prompt attention he is giving to many matters which have been too long hanging fire.

A breaking-up entertainment was given this week at St. Mary's College, when a crowded audience filled the hall of the building, consisting mostly of parents and friends of present pupils, and a large number of old boys who hold the school in ever affectionate memory. *Twelfth Night* was presented; an ambitious attempt, but it was rendered in a most creditable manner, the scenery and stage arrangements being also excellent. The Governor and Lady Chancellor were present, with the Archbishop, and a goodly gathering of the powers that be.

Things are not as lively as at this time last year when cacao was pouring in. The pickings for this time of year are singularly short, although the aggregate for the year is so high. One always knows when cacao is coming in by the crowding of the stores at Christmas time. A successful sugar season is not so apparent locally, for the sugar crop is marketed abroad. With cacao, most of the money is paid direct by merchant to planter and goes into circulation at once.

A long desired concession to mercantile representatives has been made in the reduction as from 1st January next of the rate of postage to United States from 2½d. to 1d. This was done on a motion of the Colonial Secretary, who stated that the American Government had suggested the reduction since October, 1914.

At same meeting of Council, the taxation on Produce for coming year was fixed as follows:—

| | General Revenue. | | In aid of Agriculture. | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| | £ | d. | £ | d. |
| Sugar, for every 1,000 lbs. ... | 2 | 6 | — | — |
| Rum, for every gallon ... | 2 | — | Nil | — |
| Molasses, for every gallon ... | — | — | — | — |
| Cacao, for every 100 lbs. ... | — | 8½ | — | — |
| Coconuts, for every 1,000 nuts ... | — | 9 | 1 | 0½ |
| Copra, for every 1,000 lbs. ... | 10 | 0 | — | — |
| Cedar, for every cubic foot ... | — | 3½ | Nil | — |
| Hides, for every hide ... | 2 | 8 | — | — |

WANT.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

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 COMPANIES.

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

Presiding at the first annual general meeting of the company on December 28th, Mr. Alexander Duckham gave an interesting survey of the position of the Trinidad oil industry. After referring to the fact that the British Empire produced only about 2.2 of the world's production of petroleum, he said: "In considering Trinidad as an Imperial asset, it must be remembered that it is the shortest distance by sea from the United Kingdom of any oilfield, and that its fields are all within a few miles of the coast—indeed, I suppose the distance is in no case more than 20 miles. Thus the pipelines are short, and, moreover, are not subject to hostile attack, as is the case of oil lines in other countries. In Trinidad itself you may already know that there are only five undertakings which can claim to be of any considerable importance. They are as follows:—Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Trinidad Leaseholds (Limited), Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, United British Oilfields of Trinidad (Limited), and our own company. My information as to the areas held by these various companies is not up to date, but I believe I am right in saying that the Trinidad Leaseholds, the United British, and our own company control by far the largest areas—that is to say, somewhere between 70,000 and 100,000 acres whilst the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company (an American Company) has a smaller area (I believe under 10,000) and the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company some 1,200 acres.

"As regards our own company, I would draw your attention to the fact that it controls areas in different parts of the island, which fact is in the nature of an insurance. First, we have 25,729 acres in the centre of the island, which were held by the old Trinidad Central Oilfields Company; the Cruise Syndicate brought in 483 acres at Guapo, 799 at Barrackpore, and 974 at Lizard Springs; the Oil Concessions of Mayaro contributed 4,548 acres in the Ward of Mayaro, whilst from the Ortoire Syndicate we have the large parcel of 42,216 acres lying round about the Mayaro area and to the north and north-east of it, making in all an area of some 74,000 acres. Of these the Guapo and Tabaquite areas have been proved by drilling, and both we know to be valuable producers. During the past year a special exploration party has been working on the Ortoire area, and we are now awaiting a report. Pending receipt of that report, it need only be stated that from time to time the geologist in charge has notified us that indications of oil have been discovered in many localities within that area.

"You are probably aware that the island of Trinidad has a reputation for the production of heavy asphaltic oils, and this, as to the greater part of its production, is true, but in the Tabaquite area—and we believe in the Lizard Spring—we have an oil which is unique and certainly equal to any in the world. Actual working figures obtained in our refinery over many months' working show that on this field over forty-three gallons of spirit have been obtained for every 100 gallons of crude oil that have gone into the still. We do not pretend that the refinery is complete, nor that it is fitted with those devices which would ensure completely against loss of spirit; therefore, when the oil is treated by a more expensive and more up-to-date plant, you can be sure of adding 2 per cent., and perhaps even 3 per cent., to the yield of spirit, making in all some 45 per cent. A percentage of over 40 of spirit as compared with the average percentage of 8 of spirit found in the oils of the world is very remarkable, whilst in Trinidad itself some of the crudes yield only 1 per cent. or 2 per cent. others yield 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., and it can generally be assumed that the percentage of spirit is the criterion of the value of the crude oil. Again, a remarkable feature about this oil is its freedom from sulphur, and, therefore, the cheapness and ease of its refining. Another favourable point is the shallow depths at which the production is obtained. The life of the wells can be considered to be good. Your other lands, as apart from Tabaquite and Lizard Spring areas, afford indications that they will yield the same heavy asphaltic oil as is at present being developed successfully by other

companies in the island. The board has decided to concentrate at Tabaquite for the time being to obtain production.

DIFFICULTIES OF OILFIELDS.

"Most oilfields have their peculiar difficulties, and the chief difficulty, in my opinion, in Trinidad is that of exploration and prospecting work, owing to the dense jungle that covers most of the lands, the absence of roads through them, and the rainy season which makes geological work almost an impossibility, and on some of our lands we are sure to meet with the troubles of surging formations. It will necessarily be a long time before we can properly estimate the value of our lands, for up to the present we have only touched with the drill an area of about one-hundredth of the whole, and we have no right or reason to anticipate that the remaining lands will yield such favourable results as Guapo and Tabaquite; indeed, we feel that we shall eventually exercise our right to lease only over a comparatively small portion of the whole—a condition of things which will pertain also with the other companies controlling large areas in Trinidad. That prospecting is a lengthy business is recognised by the Government in allowing us a renewal of our prospecting rights for a period of four years from after the conclusion of the war, and at the end of these four years our prospecting work should afford us a fairly complete indication of the value of our rights."

In conclusion, he said that the Company had obtained very favourable terms from the Government, although each of the participating companies had under their agreements to conduct boring operations on each of their properties, it had agreed that drilling may be concentrated in one area. Furthermore, although the rights of the participating companies had expired, the Government had agreed to extend the privilege of applying for new prospecting licences over the whole of this ground with the exception of 5,000 acres, of which 4,000 acres was being surrendered as barren, and 1,000 acres taken on lease, and those licences would give four years in which to conduct prospecting operations. Still another benefit attached to this new agreement was the right secured of laying pipelines and so being protected against any monopoly of pipe-lines control. The pipe-line was now complete with pumps and runs to tank depot at Claxton Bay—a distance of 18 miles—and from the tanks a submarine line ran to the mooring dolphin some three-quarter mile from the shore.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The directors in their sixth annual report for the year ending September 30th, 1917, which was adopted at the general meeting on December 27th, state that St. Kitts has again had a satisfactory season with good and well distributed rainfall. The weight of the canes was slightly below that in 1916, but higher sucrose and higher purity of juice have compensated for that. The estates again maintained their deliveries well throughout the season, and the canes were well cleaned and free from stale cane. The factory has done better work this year than ever, and its recovery of sucrose is now markedly above that of the best Cuban factories. Further, though its output of sugar is larger than the 1916 record, it was made in three weeks less time. This indicates not only the excellent condition of the plant and good supervision by the staff, but, as the manager points out, the unusually good work of the labourers employed has also contributed to the result. The cost of production shows a considerable increase, due mainly to war conditions. On the other hand, the price realised for the sugar also shows an increase.

The following figures give the results of the year and a comparison with previous years:—

| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Canses ... | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| Sugar ... | 37,500 | 54,338 | 52,812 | 58,967 | 101,248 | 92,372 |
| | 3,391 | 4,226 | 5,670 | 8,128 | 11,581 | 11,843 |
| | Per | Per | Per | Per | Per | Per |
| | cent. | cent. | cent. | cent. | cent. | cent. |
| Sucrose in cane | 14.60 | 13.82 | 13.49 | 12.02 | 12.84 | 13.38 |
| Sucrose in megass | 5.47 | 3.83 | 3.85 | 3.18 | 2.90 | 2.80 |
| Purity of juice | 86.14 | 87.14 | 86.86 | 84.40 | 84.70 | 85.5 |
| Recovery of sucrose | 68.07 | 80.84 | 78.11 | 81.01 | 85.57 | 87.08 |
| Yield of sugar 96 deg. | 10.38 | 11.46 | 11.09 | 10.93 | 11.44 | 12.16 |
| Price of sugar | | | | | | |
| per ton ... | £13/2/0 | £9/10/3 | £9/2/10 | £16/6/5 | £12/18/10 | £13/13/2 |

After charging revenue with £19,000 for interest and sinking fund on debentures, additions sinking fund and railway extension loan, there remains a surplus of £59,254 10s. 5d. to be allocated as follows:—To original contractors £29,627 5s. 3d., giving a supplementary payment of 7/4.23 per ton, making a total of 26/4.98 per ton. To "A" shareholders £29,627 5s. 2d. The amount remaining at the credit of the "A" shareholders, after additions and deductions as shown in the balance sheet, is £36,278 12s. 6d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 1/- per share, which will absorb £3,250, leaving £33,028 12s. 6d. to be carried forward, subject to Excess Profit Duty. The Excess Profit Duty has hit the company very severely, the reason for this being that the company had an unduly low pre-war standard of profits, owing to its not receiving the quantity of canes that the factory was erected to deal with. Now that the full supply is received, the company gets almost no benefit from it. As will be seen from the balance sheet, £26,517 18s. 1d. has already been paid in respect of this duty, an enormous duty as compared with the small sum left to the shareholders.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central
Telegrams—"Carib. London"

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3

January 24th, 1918.

BANK RATE continues at 5 per cent. as from April 8th, 1916. 5 per cent. War Loan is weak at 93; Consols are quoted at 55.

SUGAR.—The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply maintain their prices. Cubes are quoted at 53/9; casters, 53/9; crystals and granulated, 46/9; British West Indian and refiners' white pieces, 46/9; muscovados and raw brown cane, 44/6; refined pieces (No. 1 whites), 44/6. White Javas are quoted l.o.b., 15/9, with No. 17 Dutch standard at 13/- l.o.b.

The New York market remains at the fixed price of \$5.92 per 100 lb. landed for 96° sugars.

There seems to be some difference of opinion among experts as to the probable extent of the current Cuban crop. Hingley gives it as 3,620,857 tons, while Guma-Meyer, who was quoted in a recent CIRCULAR, gave it as likely to be 3,200,000 tons. There seems, however, to be every probability of the crop being a record one. Up to the 12th of January, 168,137 tons had been made for the present crop, as compared with 127,296 tons to the same date last year. President Menocal has signed a contract for the delivery of 2½ million tons to America for distribution to Allies.

4,000 tons of Trinidad and 1,250 tons of Jamaica grocery have been bought by the Government at £45 15s. per ton landed duty paid, with Admiralty freights in the former instance at £5 and in the latter at £6 per ton.

According to *Facts about Sugar*, the new crop canes in Cuba are turning out extremely well. 10.2 per cent. of sugar is spoken of as having been obtained, a high figure for the commencement of crop.

The same organ gives the total of last year's crop as being 3,353,045 tons. This is contrary to Guma-Meyer, who showed a crop output of 3,023,720 tons.

The United States Food Controller has fixed the *per caput* consumption of sugar at 7 lb. per week.

Cuba sugar dividends have not been large considering the price of sugar. The recent quarterly dividends of the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation and of the Manati Sugar Company have been 1½ per cent., while the United Trust Company, extensive holders of sugar property in Cuba, have declared a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent.

The German Government has raised the price of raw sugar to 23 marks per 50 kilos, equal to about 24d. per lb.

The *Louisiana Planter* states that the first contingent of Spanish labourers contracted for by the Cuban Association for the Promotion of Immigration have arrived at Santiago de Cuba. The men came from the Canaries. Labour is the great problem now before the Cuban sugar industry.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London from January 1st to January 19th, 1918 were:

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Imports | 1,065 | 2,784 | 2,857 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 3,428 | 2,250 | 3,569 " |
| Stock (Jan. 19th) | 8,624 | 8,549 | 10,388 " |

RUM.—Market firm with absence of spot transactions. Contracts have been made with the Government for the sale of several thousand puncheons of Demerara rum at a price in excess of that offered by the Minister of Munitions for alcohol.

The Stocks in London on January 19th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 6,918 | 11,016 | 6,110 puns. |
| Demerara | 4,773 | 9,839 | 3,854 " |
| Total of all kinds | 18,427 | 35,019 | 20,569 " |

CACAO.—Market quiet. At auction on the 15th, 38 bags of Grenada were bought in. Out of 191 bags St. Lucia, 130 sold at prices ranging from 78/- to 83/-. 948 bags Jamaica were bought in.

Up to the 15th of October Trinidad exported 67,189,672 lbs. of cacao for last year. Grenada, up to the 15th November, 11,606,085, lbs.; St. Lucia, up to the 30th November 106,064 lbs.; St. Vincent, up to the 15th November, 123,508 lbs.; and British Honduras to the same date, 7,936 lbs.

The Board of Trade Returns show that 44,950 tons of cacao were in stock in the United Kingdom on the 31st December.

The Stocks in London on January 19th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Trinidad | 16,182 | 17,177 | 6,487 bags |
| Grenada | 14,554 | 12,246 | 9,033 " |
| Total of all kinds | 206,578 | 223,242 | 100,163 " |

COFFEE.—Market continues firm. At auction sale on the 15th, out of 236 bags Jamaica 120 sold; bold pale greyish, 85/- to 86/6; fine ordinary, 82/-. At auction on the 17th, the market was strong, 31 barrels and 71 bags of Jamaica sold at prices varying from 80/- to 160/6 for pea-berry. On the 22nd 550 bags of Jamaica were offered of which 250 sold at prices varying from 79/- to 85/6 for fine ordinary.

COTTON.—The British Cotton Growing Association have fixed the buying price of cotton in Nigeria all at 2d. per lb. of seed cotton for the 1917/18 cotton crop, as compared with 1½d. per lb. last season. As in previous years, an extra price will be paid for the long staple cotton which is grown under the auspices of the Government Agricultural Department. It is hoped that this increase in price will induce the natives to extend the area under cotton. 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 674 bales for 1915. The market for Sea Island remains quiet. The value of Sea Island is 44d. for fine.

COCO-NUT OIL.—The official maximum price remains at £70 for crude, and £85 for refined.

COPRA.—Market unchanged under Government control, value £46 c.i.f. terms London or Liverpool.

ARROWROOT.—Moderate sales from 6½d. to 7d. for common to fine. Quotations nominally about 6½d. to 7d.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw is unchanged Common to fair quality 2/- to 3/-. Concentrated unchanged. No business to report at present. Lime Oil: Handpressed, small sales at 17/6; distilled, no demand, normal price 7/6 per gallon. Citrate of Lime unchanged.

HONEY.—There is an active demand owing to honey being used as a substitute for sugar. The supply of West India has been short. At auction sales on the 17th, Jamaica realised 148/- to 155/- for dark liquid to palish set. St. Lucia in tins fetched 144/- to 150/-. Cuban and San Domingo, 139/- to 147/- per cwt.

SPICES.—Ginger: Jamaica has been in small demand. Prices vary from 87/- to 115/- per cwt. for small dull to bold bright. Nutmegs: 392 packages West Indian were sold at auction. These were mostly defective, but the prices were higher ranging from 3/6 for 60's to 1/9 for 184's. Worn and broken fetched 1/6 to 1/7.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CANIB, LONDON. February 7th., 1918.

A Jamaica Imperial Association.

WE welcome with pleasure the inauguration of the Jamaica Imperial Association, which was successfully launched at a meeting in Kingston on December 15th, and we forecast for it a career of eminent service alike to the island and the Empire. It is in no spirit of criticism that we admit that the lack of some thoroughly representative combination of citizens to voice the social, commercial, agricultural and industrial needs of the island of Jamaica has often, in the past, militated against the best interests of the community, either by delaying the representation of some urgent matter whilst a committee was being formed *ad hoc*, or through diverse views on such matters being ventilated both there and over here, owing to there being no organisation for crystallizing such views. The absence of a society of this sort has also tended to give, what is assuredly, a very false impression, of an absence of public spirit in the island, or of a sentiment of sectionalism. It is greatly to be hoped that this Association—of which the qualification for membership is to be either membership of the West India Committee, fellowship of the Royal Colonial Institute or associate membership of the British Empire Producers' Organisation—will embrace representatives of every section of the island and of every interest therein, so that full and frank discussion of outstanding topics may lead to that unity of aim and view which will give its decisions and desires a driving-force otherwise unattainable. The objects of

the Association, as set forth in its constitution, are to support the aims of the West India Committee and kindred bodies, and to work in concert with them with the special object of ensuring that Jamaica shall play a worthy part in the consolidation and development of the British Empire.

The first Chairman is MR. ARTHUR W. FARQUHARSON, who thus adds another to his claims upon the gratitude of his fellow citizens. One of the first objects of the Association will be to endeavour to elaborate a solution of the labour problem, which is rapidly becoming acute owing to the cessation of East Indian immigration and the emigration of native labourers, tempted by the apparently high wages obtainable during the sugar season in Cuba. No more important subject, affecting as it does the interests of the island and of the entire Empire, calls, even in these times of crucial problems, for the wise and sympathetic attention of all classes in Jamaica. We have long believed that the workers in the West Indies were capable of greatly enhanced efforts if their conditions of life could be amended, a consummation which necessarily implies increased wages and the bringing of increased amenities of existence within their reach. Nor will this Association be concerned solely to seek purely local advantages. It will deal, in what we are sure will be a broad-minded and patriotic spirit, with the enhancement of Imperial cohesion and the promotion of Imperial interests, and we hope that one of the first decisions of its Council will be to seek affiliation with the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies. At a time when the very word "Imperial" is anathema to certain minds, when its application is "soiled with all ignoble use," it shows the courageous and patriotic spirit of the creators of this Association that they do not hesitate to make it a part of their title. The Association has our most cordial good wishes, and we trust it may be the privilege of the West India Committee to co-operate with it in many labours for the good of Jamaica and of the Empire.

Banking in the West Indies.

AN announcement of what may prove to be of far-reaching importance to the British West Indies was made by MR. GOODENOUGH, Chairman of Barclay's Bank, at the annual meeting of that institution on January 24th. He stated that his bank had entered into a working arrangement

with the Colonial Bank for the mutual benefit of the customers of both concerns and with the object of financing on joint account exports and imports between this country and those places where the Colonial Bank may carry on business. Inasmuch as Barclay's has a subscribed capital of £12,679,440, of which £4,594,443 is paid up, and a reserve fund of £2,200,000, it will be realised that the British West Indies, which is still the main sphere of the operations of the Colonial Bank, whose capital is now £2,000,000, of which £600,000 is paid up, will enjoy the services of a powerful and wealthy corporation, which should take a prominent part in the reconstruction of trade and industry of those colonies which we all hope may follow the declaration of peace. Banking facilities in the West Indies have undergone surprisingly rapid development in recent years. Prior to 1836, when the Colonial and British Guiana Banks were founded, there were no institutions of the kind in those colonies, and for half a century those two banks had the field to themselves. In 1889 a competitor appeared in the shape of the Bank of Nova Scotia, which opened a branch in Kingston, Jamaica, where it still operates successfully; this was followed, in 1902, by the Union Bank of Halifax, which started business in Trinidad in that year. In 1908 the Royal Bank of Canada, which had commenced operations in Cuba in 1899, after the close of the Spanish-American War, opened a branch in the Bahamas, and three years later that powerful organisation extended its operations to Barbados and Jamaica. The advantage of this active competition soon made itself apparent; branches were opened throughout the West Indies, and this Canadian bank, which absorbed the Union Bank of Halifax and the British Guiana Bank in 1910 and 1913 respectively, has now no fewer than seventeen branches and agencies in those colonies, the latest being one opened in Nevis, an island which has not hitherto enjoyed banking facilities. The Colonial Bank, which had, with some justice, been regarded as rather behindhand in its methods, responded with alacrity to this competition, and it is noteworthy that while in 1899 the Directors had announced that its Dominica branch was to be closed, it can now boast twenty-six branches and agencies throughout the West Indies and has opened offices for the transaction of business in London, Liverpool and Manchester, besides West Africa, for which too much credit cannot be paid to LORD BEAVERBROOK, its chairman, and its Managing Directors. It will be recalled that in 1912 arrangements were almost complete for the amalgamation of the Royal and Colonial Banks, but at the eleventh hour negotiations to this end were broken off, and we cannot help feeling that this has proved to the advantage of the British West Indies, who are clearly better off with two banks than they would have been with one, enterprising though that one would have shown itself to be. To revert to the arrangement between Barclay's and the Colonial

Bank. We are informed that it is already practically in force, and we think it will be agreed that the Directors of the two undertakings have seized the psychological moment for this concentration of effort, which will, it is hoped, obviate the recourse to foreign corporations for financing trade, prevailing before the war—and we have in mind the activities of MESSRS. NEUBAUER and the DRESDNER BANK.

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.]

A 5,000 TON ship, built of concrete, is being constructed in San Francisco.

* * *

MR. H. F. PREVITE has been elected an Honorary Treasurer of the West Indian Contingent Committee.

* * *

MR. F. I. SCARD, F.I.C., has been elected a member of the Committee of the London Section of the Society of Chemical Industry.

* * *

THE Rev. George Petrie, M.A., formerly minister (Church of Scotland) in British Guiana, has been appointed Minister-in-charge of Toward Chapel, Inellan, Argyllshire.

* * *

COPIES of the Index to Volume XXXII. of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR can be obtained post free, on application to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

* * *

MR. W. MITCHELL-THOMSON, M.P., has informed his constituents in North Down that he will not seek a renewal of their confidence at the General Election. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, who is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has sat for North Down in the Unionist interest since 1910. Previously he represented North-West Lanark for four years.

* * *

It is feared that all copies of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 503, addressed to the West Indies (Jamaica excepted) have been lost at sea. As the type has been distributed it will not be possible to reprint, and we shall be grateful if readers in this country, who do not keep their CIRCULARS for binding, will send us copies of No. 503 for despatch to subscribers in the West Indies.

* * *

CONSIDERABLE attention is now being paid to the recovery of potash from the dust of blast furnaces. The Journal of the Board of Agriculture gives a possibility of 15,000 tons of potash being thus available in the United Kingdom. The potash is present in the ironstone with which the furnace is fed, and in the fuel used. The dusting in blast furnace dust has been forbidden by the Government.

THE warmth of the Entente Cordiale is felt not merely in Europe, but in the West Indies. Comradeship in arms has strengthened the friendly ties between the British and French islands, and on the occasion of the New Year, greetings were exchanged between the Governors of Martinique and Guadeloupe on the one hand and the Administrator of Dominica on the other.

THE British Empire Producers' Organisation have published a World's Trade Atlas, which we recognise as an old friend in a new guise. It is to be regretted that no date is given on the title page, as many of the diagrams give quite a wrong impression if taken for the current year. Thus, a year's production of sugar in Cuba is given as 940,130 tons and that of cocoa in British West Africa as 22,830 tons only!

HIS friends will regret to learn of the death, under tragic circumstances, of Mr. Ernest Nevile Lubbock, fifth son of the late Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., President of the West India Committee. Mr. Lubbock, who was Accountant of the Public Works Department, Nigeria, is believed to have been drowned at sea on the steamer *Umgeni*. He was 42 years of age. A memorial service was held at Grosvenor Chapel on January 24th.

SUGAR planters throughout the world will be interested to learn that a plant has been discovered in Cuba which promises to yield a fibre suitable for sugar-bags. According to *Facts about Sugar*, the Department of Agriculture in Cuba has been experimenting with it, and state that all that is required is suitable machinery to deal with it. The plant is known in Cuba as "Malva blanca," and probably exists elsewhere in the West Indies.

THE Government of British Guiana is about to release 6,700 feet of film, depicting scenes of life and character in the colony, which are to be shown in the West Indian islands and elsewhere, with a view to attracting settlers. The series of views includes scenes on a trip to Kaieteur. The idea is an admirable one, and it will be recalled that publicity on these lines has been warmly advocated in the CIRCULAR. It is to be hoped that the films will be shown in India.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Halifax:—"We regret very much indeed to say that the sugar situation, particularly as between Canada and the West Indies, has not improved. Matters are about as unsatisfactory as they possibly can be. We can only hope that there will be some change for the better. Our greatest criticism is that nothing appears to have been done, and the crop, particularly in Jamaica, is now well under way. Neither the planter in Jamaica nor the broker here knows what he can do or what he cannot do."

WE are glad to note that the war and the difficulties of printing and publishing which it has created, have failed to affect the Christmas Annuals issued in British Guiana. From the office of the

Argosy we have received a copy of "Christmas Tide"—an excellent compilation of fiction, local photographs and messages from leaders of public life. The "Chronicle Christmas Annual" has been prepared with equal care. In the case of "Christmas Pie," received from Barbados, we note contributions by the Governor, the Attorney-General, and others.

THE first annual report of the United States Tariff Commissioner has been issued. The Commission was especially authorised to investigate the decision arrived at by the Paris Conference. The Report states that—

The commission is preparing an extensive report on bargaining tariffs, commercial treaties and economic alliances. The United States has never had a consistent policy with reference to bargaining tariffs, whereas the countries of Europe have worked out several different systems. The Tariff Commissioner's report will provide the facts upon which Congress may find a method for using the bargaining power in American tariffs, and also upon which American commercial treaties may be adjusted to meet the conditions of the modern world.

THE West Indies have again made a splendid response to the "Our Day" appeal of the British Red Cross Society. Sir Robert Hudson tells us that the following contributions were received up to February 1st:—

| | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Barbados ... | 200 | — | 780 |
| British Guiana ... | 2,320 | 2,800 | 3,650 |
| British Honduras ... | 1,300 | 465 | — |
| The Bahamas ... | 2,015 | 1,850 | 2,755 |
| Trinidad ... | 1,061 | 974 | 780 |
| Jamaica ... | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Grenada ... | — | 1,000 | 785 |
| St Lucia ... | 918 | 965 | 686 |
| St. Vincent ... | 36 | 132 | — |
| Dominica ... | 302 | 142 | 113 |
| Antigua ... | 226 | 215 | 179 |
| Montserrat ... | 67 | 190 | 34 |
| St. Kitts-Nevis with Anguilla ... | 387 10s. | 215 | 179 |

The contribution from Grenada has not yet been received.

SIR WILLIAM GOODE, K.B.E., Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., and Captain Tebbs, O.B.E., were the guests of the West Indian Club at a luncheon on January 29th, in recognition of the Honours recently conferred upon them. Mr. R. Rutherford presided, and the company present included—

Lord Rhondda, The Hon. A. C. Ponsouby, Sir Thomas Lipton, Bart., K.C.V.O., Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.M.G., Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., Major R. Cockburn, Mr. Lewis P. Sheldon, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. J. E. Munro, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. H. F. Previt , Mr. G. A. G. Paterson, Mr. Oscar Thompson, Capt. G. H. Mason, R.A.M.C., Mr. C. T. Berthon, Major A. de Boissiere, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. E. H. Craig, Mr. W. S. Grigson, Mr. B. A. de Pass, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. P. M. Davson, Capt. W. H. Daniell, R.N., Mr. Charles H. Hewett, Mr. Wm. Perkins Bull, K.C., Mr. W. J. von Winckler, Mr. A. Roger Ackerley, Mr. H. M. Graham, Mr. Wm. W. Craih, Mr. George Hampton, Mr. Harry Berger, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. Harold de Pass, Lieut. A. B. Whiting Baker, Mr. Alex. Elder, Mr. E. M. Shine, Mr. H. K. F. Smith, Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. J. C. Ponsouby, and Mr. E. Sturridge, D.D.S.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

A persistent agitation in the Press and in Parliament against the High Command, supported by faint-hearts, pacifists, and intriguers, has happily petered out, as a similar agitation against Kitchener petered out earlier in the War. Is the Defence of the Realm Act only to be employed in the defence of politicians? It looks like it, since public opinion has been left to put an end to the scurrilous attacks upon Sir W. Robertson and Sir D. Haig. It is a pity that civilian Ministers do not perform what is, after all, one of their duties under the Constitution. Then two distinguished military correspondents are holding forth, each in a powerful newspaper, on the present situation as regards men. The one argues from the "war-in-little-packets defensive" point of view, the other from the point of view that the only way to beat the Germans is by an overwhelming weight of numbers on the West. The measures being taken by Sir A. Geddes to procure more men will do little more than maintain the British Armies in France at their present level. But, if the Germans have been in relation to the British as two to one in the immediate past, they are certain to be in much greater strength before long. Mr. Lloyd George has promised that an "army of manoeuvre" shall be sent to France. Why does it tarry? No successes in the more distant theatres of the war will enable us to beat the enemy's main forces, a point which the school of the "war-in-little-packets" conveniently forgets. In the meantime, even the raising of the limited number of men, as proposed by Sir A. Geddes, has been muddled, the Government being up against the A.S.E., one of the most powerful Trade Unions in the country, and the matter in dispute is not settled yet. These divisions are just what Germany desires.

The Supreme War Council has met again in Paris. As a result of its deliberations the Allies reject the sham peace terms of the Central Powers and announce that they intend to prosecute the war with "the utmost energy."

Peace Terms and the Enemy's Peace Offensive.

The Bolsheviks have failed to secure peace at Brest-Litovsk. They have been bluntly told that the German boundary is to run from the Gulf of Riga, so as to include the Russian Baltic Provinces, and if these terms are not accepted Reval will be occupied within a week. As for Count Hertling, he is more truculent than ever. He will not consider the cession of Alsace, Belgium is to be debated at the Peace Conference, Poland and the Balkans are matters solely for the decision of the Central Powers. The crowning insult conveyed in the Chancellor's speech is directed against England, which is required to give up all her Naval bases. Count Czernin pitches his tone in a lower key, but sings his part in the duet all the same, in that he is all for the "freedom of the seas." From both Austria and Germany come the most sensational accounts of strikes and mutinies, which have the appearance of being stage-managed, their object being to impress gullible pacifists in Allied countries. They coincide with the Labour Conference and with the preliminaries of

the coming Allied International Socialist Conference. It has been said that Germany, in desperation, will pretend to democratise herself. She may, and find that she may have to be so in reality.

The Russian Situation.

The Constituent Assembly having been pulled down by force, the Soviets are continuing their anarchical course unchecked. In Finland the National Government has been replaced by one more in accordance with Bolshevik views, and the country is being given over to the horrors of civil war, brought about by the agency of Russian Red Guards, as Bolshevik soldiers are called. Rumania, for daring to oppose the new disorder of things, has incurred the bitter hostility of the Bolsheviks, who have expelled her Legation from Petrograd, and declared war upon her, at the same time outlawing General Tcherbatcheff, the Russian General on the Rumanian Front. Since the maintenance of uninterrupted communication between Rumania and the Don is highly important to her independence, she has sent troops into Bessarabia at the invitation of the Provincial Authorities, in order to prevent the extension of disorder, defeating the Bolsheviks at Galatz and occupying Kishineff the capital. As for the Ukraine, Don, Siberia, and a dozen other Russian Provinces, they are all pursuing their own way, more or less independently of Petrograd.

An Italian Success.

The Italians, to the east of the Asiago Plateau, have, in two days of fighting, retaken the heights between Cison and the Brenta, which were lost on Christmas Eve. As the fighting was grim the Austrian losses were heavy and included 2,600 prisoners. The booty in guns and war material of all kinds, captured by the Italians, was, too, considerable. The bayonet played a great part in the battle, as did British, French, and Italian aircraft. No fewer than 12 enemy machines engaged in scouting or bombing were brought down. Not only have the Austro-German forces suffered a reverse in losing the chief bastion of their position in this sector in Monte di Val Bella, but have discovered that the Italian Army, under General Diaz, has recovered the dauntless spirit which carried them across the Isonzo earlier in the war.

War in the Air.

An enemy raid on London took place on 28-29th January, resulting in an unusually long list of killed. 30 alone were caused by a bomb striking a shelter in which a number of civilians had sought refuge, and at least eight were due to the lack of restraint shown by East End aliens when danger threatens. Directly the signal is given that one is expected they rush to the nearest shelter, and, unless the police are on the spot to keep order, women and children are trampled upon and injured in the wild struggle for a place. This happened in one during the raid of the 28-29th inst. with fatal results. In another case a house was struck and eight persons in the basement were killed. The total casualties were 216, of which 47 were deaths.

Three groups operated, two crossing the coast at different points sometime before midnight, but only a few units were able to fly over London; of the third group, which followed in the wake of the first two when they had done their worst, only one machine reached the Capital. As seventy British machines went up there were many engagements in the air, none of which were decisive. But in Essex, two scouts, in a brief running fight, brought down a Gotha. It fell in flames from a height of 10,000 feet, all the occupants being burned to death.

On the following night there was another raid, against which the home forces made a very successful defence. Fifteen machines, divided into small detachments, tried to reach London from different directions. None succeeded in getting beyond the outskirts, in one of which 3 persons were killed and 10 injured, and there was some damage in another. Several engagements between our own flying officers and the enemy took place with excellent results in helping to beat them off.

The first aeroplane raid in strength was made on Paris on January 31st. Four squadrons, flying at a great height, crossed the French lines north of Compiègne, and favoured by the clearness of the atmosphere, were able to reach their objective with comparative ease. Approaching the City from the north and north-east, they dropped bombs on the outskirts as they went. They then flew over Paris proper, chiefly on the right bank of the Seine. Here, most of their missiles fell in the course of a few moments. Damage was done to houses and public buildings, but none of military importance. The casualty list was heavy. This was the most serious raid on Paris since January 29th, 1916, when a single Zeppelin, at a high altitude, caused many deaths. Only once before has more than one enemy machine succeeded in reaching Paris.

The War at Sea.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, on December 30th, the transport *Aragon*, once a luxurious passenger steamer engaged in the South American trade, was torpedoed and sunk in sight of land, with hundreds of soldiers on board, who went down singing. A destroyer escort, while picking up survivors, shared the same fate. Fortunately, several trawlers, who were also employed in the work of rescue, were able safely to get away. The next day the *Osmanieh* was lost in the same locality by striking a mine. The loss of life by the sinking of these vessels reached the high total of 849.

The *Hazard*, an old destroyer, in a collision with a hospital ship, was sunk. Though only a few lives were lost, the injuries to the survivors by scalding were severe.

Five German destroyers were cruising along the coast of Jutland. One of them, A77, struck a mine and sank. A73 on going to her assistance shared the same fate, and the remaining three destroyers were so afraid that it would be theirs also that they steamed rapidly away from the spot. With true German callousness they left the survivors of the two destroyers which were lost to shift for themselves. After four days in an open boat they reached Honvig, in Danish territory, all suffering badly from exposure, as a result of which two died.

The Anchor liner *Tuscania* was torpedoed on the night of February 5th off the coast of Ireland while carrying American troops. Perfect discipline was maintained, and out of 2,397 souls on board, 2,187 were saved.

The Goeben again.

Unfortunately, as the weather prevented further bombing attacks from the air, this ship has been re-floated, and as probably she has all her guns intact, will continue to play her old part in keeping Turkey tied to the chariot wheels of the Central Powers.

In trying to prevent her escape from Nagara Point E14, whose exploits in the war caused consternation in Constantinople, was sunk off Kum Kale with all her crew save only seven survivors.

Further accounts of the action in which the *Breslau* was sunk show that our little naval force was surprised, the two German ships having steamed down the Dardanelles in the night. Their plan was to move out early in the morning and destroy the British monitors stationed near the entrance, and in this they succeeded. But the *Tigress* and *Lizard*, when they arrived on the scene manoeuvred so skilfully that the *Breslau* could not shake them off and was forced on to the mine field in which she sunk. The Navy cannot maintain cruisers near the entrance of the Dardanelles; there are no protecting harbours near enough. In the circumstances monitors are held to be the best support of patrol vessels and the best means of preventing mine-laying.

Our Shipping Losses.

The weekly toll of piracy has risen again, but even so the figures in the Admiralty return have been smaller only five times since February last, so that for three weeks running British shipping losses have been kept at a relatively low figure. Several reasons are given to account for this: (1) That the Navy is mastering the submarine menace; (2) that the enemy is concentrating his "U" boats in the Atlantic in order to harass the lines of communication by which American troops, munitions, and supplies are being conveyed to Europe; (3) that Germany is not able to build submarine craft as fast as they are destroyed; (4) that, as losses are greater in the months of even figures and smaller in the months of odd figures the activities of the enemy are more intense every second month, which is probable.

The *Andania*, a Cunard liner, was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland on January 26th. As perfect discipline was maintained on board most of the passengers and crew were saved by patrol boats, though landed in a pitiable condition from exposure to the weather half-clad.

Of large British vessels sunk in the week ended January 26th there were 9; of smaller vessels, 6. In the following week, of the first there were 10; of the second, 5.

(To be continued.)

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, without delay. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

NEW USES FOR CACAO BUTTER

A VALUABLE COOKING FAT.

Its increased retail sale advocated.

The West India Committee continues to urge that cacao and coco-nuts and coffee may be imported into the United Kingdom—even after the importable quota of the two first named products have been shipped—in any spare space in steamers sailing from the West Indies in the place of commodities which have no food value and are useless for war purposes. It has been pointed out that it would be obviously more advantageous to sanction the importation of cacao, which furnishes not only cocoa powder but also cacao butter, rather than that odds and ends of space should be filled up with such produce as pimento—in the case of Jamaica—which is at the moment a drug on the market. In this connection it is satisfactory to note that the advantages of cacao butter for cooking and as a substitute for lard, margarine, butter and other fats now used for that purpose, are beginning to receive increased recognition. For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be explained that this "butter" is a fatty substance expressed when the cacao bean is crushed in the manufacture of cacao powder or "cocoa." An analysis of the cacao bean gives the following results:—

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Cacao butter | 50 |
| Albuminoids | 20 |
| Starch | 13 |
| Salts | 4 |
| Theobromine | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | 11 |
| | 100 |

Hitherto the butter has been chiefly used in the manufacture of confectionery, but the bulk of that produced in this country has been exported to foreign countries, the cacao manufacturers receiving a drawback of duty on exportation.

It was mentioned in last CIRCULAR that successful experiments had been made with the manufacture of biscuits from cacao butter, and a correspondent now sends us the following recipe for the preparation of cacao butter emulsion for cake and biscuit-making on a commercial scale:—

- 10 lbs. Cacao Butter,
- 1 lb. Cornflour,
- 4 oz. Dry Carbonate of Ammonia (in fine powder).
- 3 oz. Dry Salt (in fine powder).
- 1½ gals. Water.

(Yields about 22 lbs. of Cacao Butter preparation.)

Mix the cornflour with about a pint of water to a smooth cream, and bring the rest of the water to boiling. Pour this over the cornflour and stir well so as to yield a clear, transparent mucilage. Melt the cacao butter in a tinned utensil over a vessel of hot water so as not to unduly heat the fat or run any risk of burning, as would be the case if an open fire or steam pan were used.

As soon as the butter is melted, add the dry carbonate of ammonia and dry salt to it. Both the starch mucilage and the cacao butter should be cooled down to a temperature of about 100° F. to give the best emulsifying effect. Then add the cornflour emulsion to the butter and whisk vigorously. A thorough mixture of the fat and cornflour will be obtained in a minute or two, and there is no fear of spoiling by the whisking. It should be given a stir

from time to time until it cools to a temperature of 80° F., after which there is no likelihood of separation of the cacao butter from the starch emulsion.

The whisking operation should not be carried out in a copper or brass vessel as the carbonate of ammonia acts detrimentally on either of these metals. Any well-tinned vessel is quite suitable, and if such an apparatus is water jacketted through which cold water can be circulated, it will materially reduce the time in preparing the mixture.

Cacao butter is a pure fat—1 lb. equals 1 lb. 2½ ozs. of butter or 1 lb. lard in cooking, but as made above it will be necessary to use 21 ozs. of the preparation for each pound of fat previously employed.

The above details are satisfactory for general purposes, but individual users may find that to slightly reduce the amount of water will give a stiffer cacao butter mixture which may serve better for their particular purpose, and the salt may be omitted or increased to suit. It is recommended that no more than a week's supply should be made at a time. Store in a cool place.

The next step should be to popularise cacao butter, which has hitherto only been purchasable wholesale, on the retail market. Whilst supplies are restricted, regulation of prices would be necessary. In some districts it is already being offered at 2/4 per lb., the wholesale price being 1/9½, and it is certain that a reduction in price would lead to a great increase in its use.

If, as is probable, the demand for cacao butter then exceeds the available supply, it is reasonable to assume that an increase in the importation of British Colonial cacao will be sanctioned, and in any case weight will be added to the West India Committee's representations above referred to.

GOLD COAST CACAO.

Sir Hugh Clifford, in the Legislative Council of the Gold Coast, referred recently to the development of the cacao industry in that colony. The year 1916, he said, marked the completion of a period of a quarter of a century since cacao first began to be regularly exported from this Colony. In 1891 a consignment of locally grown cacao, weighing 80 lbs. and valued at £4 sterling was exported from the Gold Coast. Some years earlier another small consignment had been shipped, but it had no successor until 1891. From that date onward, however, shipments of cacao were made annually, and at the end of the first decade, viz., in 1901, their volume had risen from this small parcel weighing 80 lbs. and worth £4 sterling, to 960 tons, valued at £42,827.

No fewer than twenty-three members of the Colonial Civil Service in Nigeria are reported to have lost their lives through enemy action by the torpedoing of ss. *Umgeni*. In the *Nigerian Gazette* the Governor-General tenders sympathy to the relatives.

THE Administrator of Dominica, in an address to the Legislative Council of the island, drew serious attention to the food shortage and emphasised the need of economy. His Honour properly rebuked "the sin that is committed by wasting foodstuffs at a time when our very existence as British subjects is threatened for want of transport and the real shortage of foodstuffs throughout the world."

JAMAICA IMPERIAL ASSOCIATION.

Scheme launched under Influential Auspices.

The Jamaica Imperial Association, the objects of which were recently set forth in the CIRCULAR, was definitely constituted at a meeting held at Kingston on December 19th. There was a large attendance of business men, and many letters of support were received.

Mr. A. W. Farquharson, who has been the leading spirit in the movement, proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of Members and Fellows of the West India Committee, the Royal Colonial Institute, and the British Empire Producers' Organization, hereby resolves to form a local Association to support the objects of the said bodies and to work in concert with them or other similar bodies, with the special object that Jamaica shall play a worthy part in the consolidation and development of the British Empire, and that the meeting do now proceed to consider in detail the draft Constitution and Rules of the Association."

In the course of a long speech in support of his motion, Mr. Farquharson said the war would bring changes, and they should endeavour to make a new Jamaica; an awakened Jamaica; a Jamaica with a wider outlook, a Jamaica with a wider vision in the meaning of Empire and its needs; a Jamaica with a deeper interest in the industrial and social needs of her own people. That would be an offering that would be acceptable to the Empire and the object of the call that day was to invite them to join in the formation of a local association which would deal with matters from an imperial standpoint, and would aim at the development of Jamaica on imperial lines, so that she may in the future play a worthy part in building up an even mightier British Empire. (Hear, hear.) This was the sentimental part, but he would tell them it was a subject in which he felt very strongly. He would now come to the question of practical politics. If they were to do their duty to the Empire, they should work day by day to increase their production. (Hear, hear.) In approaching the subject of increased production he recognised that there were many blocks in the path. Perhaps the greatest obstacle they had to contend with was that of labour. A remedy could be found for it, he was certain, but it was impossible to discuss the matter in detail that afternoon. He might outline in general terms the methods he thought should be adopted. They would have to make better provision for the housing of the labouring population. They would have to take steps to eliminate preventable diseases. All these things would undoubtedly improve the conditions of living and with that improvement there was bound to be a great feeling of self-respect on the part of the labouring population. And self-respect was an unfailling basis of progress.

A very difficult problem.

He felt confident that if they proceeded on proper lines they could do something toward the solution of what was a very difficult problem. The position in Jamaica to-day was certainly a most anomalous one. The island was looked upon as the happy hunting ground for labour by other countries, while the planters were always complaining that there was a shortage of labour here. The state of things was

no fault of the planters; he was sure of this, because he had been a planter himself and had been so for many years. (Laughter.) The cause was as follows: Other countries were developing rapidly—take Cuba, for instance. There they had money pouring into Cuba, and new machinery, an enormous competition for labour; flourishing industries; the country rapidly progressing; money to be made out of the land, consequently a large market for labour. In Jamaica they had industries stagnated in the past; they had very little progress, and not much demand for labour. Unfortunately there was a tendency to blame the sugar planters for this. All he could say was that it was a mistake for anyone to lay the blame on the niggardliness of the sugar planter for the situation of affairs that existed in the island. He spoke of a sugar parish and he had no hesitation in saying from his connection with a sugar factory, that for twenty-five years the industry had been carried on for the benefit of the labourer, because the planters could make no profit. He admitted that since the war they had, by a combination of good seasons and prices, been trying to make up some of the ground lost in the past. At the same time he thought the question of paying attention to the labouring population was one which required very careful consideration indeed. He made this statement not in the spirit of philanthropy, but because he realised that the welfare of any industry must depend upon the well-being of the men and women interested in it—actually working in it. He realised that the first charge on any industry must be an amount sufficient to keep the labouring population in a decent state of livelihood. They should do more; they should think about and provide for the future labouring population, for it was on the welfare of the future labouring population that the future of their business depended. He said this as a practical sugar planter, with years of experience.

The election of members of the Council resulted as follows:—Messrs. A. W. Farquharson, William Wilson, W. A. S. Vickers, Lionel de Mercado, W. Baggett Gray, J. Dougall, H. P. Sewell, J. H. Phillips, F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, W. H. Farquharson, E. H. Kerr, Clarence Lopez, S. S. Stedman, C. W. Hewitt, E. W. Muirhead, and J. C. Farquharson.

The following gentlemen signed on as members of the Association:—

Messrs. Clarence Lopez, John McPhail, J. C. Elliott, W. H. Farquharson, Thomas Abrahams, T. H. Sharp, Archibald Spooner, C. W. Hewitt, E. W. Muirhead, W. Coke Kerr, E. H. Kerr, Alex. Stewart, J. H. Phillips, C. H. Levy, Lionel de Mercado, W. Baggett Gray, H. Holgate, T. L. Roxburgh, J. Dougall, William Wilson, D. O. Kelly-Lawson, H. P. Sewell, G. P. Dewar, W. N. C. Farquharson, S. S. Stedman, C. W. Hewitt, F. M. Kerr-Jarrett, W. A. S. Vickers, J. C. Farquharson, R. A. Stone, L. B. Melville, and A. C. L. Martin.

We have since learnt that Mr. Herbert G. de Lisser has been appointed General Secretary.

THE marriage of Mr. T. W. Giffard, M.B.E., to Miss Angela Erskine Trollope, elder daughter of Sir William Trollope, proprietor of the Pool Plantation and Long Bay Castle, Barbados, was solemnised at St. Thomas's Church, Portman Square, on February 7th.

COLONIAL BANK AND BARCLAY'S.

WORKING ARRANGEMENT ARRIVED AT.

The Development of the Colonies.

In the course of his speech at the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Barclay's Bank on January 24th, Mr. Goodenough, the Chairman, made the important announcement that a working arrangement between that institution and the Colonial Bank had been arrived at.

"We look," he said, "to great developments in trade between the Mother Country and the Dominions and Colonies—(hear, hear)—and with this in view we have, I am pleased to say, entered into an arrangement with the Colonial Bank which has for its object the joint working for the mutual benefit of both banks, and of their respective customers, in matters where we feel that co-operation will be advantageous. These matters of mutual interest will be attended to by a joint committee of directors selected from the boards of the two banks. We look forward with confidence to the development of a substantial business in common through this arrangement, which will, of course, involve working together on joint account in financing exports and imports between this country and those places where the Colonial Bank may carry on business."

The Question of Exchange.

Mr. Goodenough also referred to the question of exchange. The maintenance of our reserves of gold would, he said, require special attention, and that was a problem which related to the British Empire as a whole. Just as in the past there were questions of exchange between London and the various cities of the Kingdom which, by the expansion of our banking organisation, were swept away, to the greater advantage of trade within the Kingdom—thus removing from the shoulders of the individual, or of the few, the burden of conditions created by the many—so should we now recognise that the extension of banking organisation and the maintenance of fixed rates of exchange within the British Empire would give to our Dominions and Colonies a substantial preference, and would serve to consolidate and promote trade within the Empire, to economy in the use of gold, and so enable our gold resources to be utilised elsewhere. Drafts on London at fixed rates would be obtainable at all points, and similarly London would sell in the same manner, and the balance of trade within the Empire would be adjusted by a closer administration of inter-Imperial finance.

Trade within the Empire.

Other measures had already been recommended with the object of promoting trade within the Empire, such as uniformity of the metric system and currency. There was also the codification of the mercantile law, which was recommended in the year 1898 at the Third Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, but postponed to a more convenient season. Such a codification should now be taken in hand and carried to completion, for the

time was opportune. Much had been done by recent enactments in this country to codify the law relating to partnership, agency, bankruptcy, bills of exchange, and negotiable instruments, sale of goods and lien, marine insurance, and the laws relating to shipping and to companies, and many of these enactments had been adopted by the Dominions and Colonies, but there remained many differences and doubts amongst the tangled mass of judgments and precedents based upon the English, French and Roman-Dutch systems, and one code would, besides being a symbol of unity, be an encouragement to Imperial trade, and a benefit not only to the trader, but also to the banker. The advantages gained to France by the Code Civil and to Germany and Italy by their respective codes have been great.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

III.—THE MANUFACTURE OF CANE SUGAR AND BEET SUGAR.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of this article appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the article shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and an especial feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

The primeval method of manufacturing sugar, the germ of the highly scientific process of to-day was simple. The cane was squeezed in a press or vice by the simple husbandman, and the juice transferred to a pot heated by a wood fire. Here some of the ashes of the wood boiling the contents—which contained the alkali, carbonate of "potash"—were added in order to counteract the natural acidity of the cane juice, and to prepare it for clarification. As the contents of the pot came to the boil, the impurities thus set free rose to the surface, and as they did so, were removed by skimming. The juice, thus clarified, would then be concentrated to a thick syrup, which was removed, either to earthenware jars or baskets where it would cool, in the one case forming a solid mass of crystallised sugar in conjunction with the other solid constituents of the juice, and in the other, giving a sugar from which a great part of these impurities, together with some sugar, would be drained away in the form of what is known as molasses.

From this elemental plant, the powerful and scientifically controlled factory of the present day has been gradually evolved.

As a rule, the sugar made in modern cane sugar factories is not sugar that goes into direct consumption, but sugar made for the further operation of refining. Such factories are of considerable size. Cuba has the record in this respect with one turning out some 80,000 tons of sugar annually, a quantity sufficient to keep two million of the British population going at the full pre-war consumption. A fair size, however, for an up-to-date factory is that capable of dealing with, say, 1,000 tons of sugar

cane in 24 hours, turning out about 135 tons of sugar, the annual output depending upon the length of time that climatic or crop conditions permit of the factory working economically, say, from 100 to 150 days. The method of manufacture pursued in such a factory, turning out a sugar for refining purposes, containing about 96 per cent. of pure sucrose, is briefly as follows:—

The canes having been brought to the factory by any of the means referred to in the previous chapters, are discharged into a travelling carrier. The usual form of this consists of a constantly moving apron composed of transverse wooden slats bolted on to a chain at each end of the slat. This carrier is as wide as the length of the rolls of the mill into the jaws of which it conducts the canes, and moves continuously. The course is horizontal for some distance, and then rises to the higher level of the mill. On the horizontal portion of it the canes are dumped, either by hand or mechanical contrivances, and a continuous flow of cane thus established to the mill. In some instances the carriers have no horizontal portion, but start from the bottom of a pit, rising at an acute angle to the mill level, and are provided with rakes working along fixed wooden or metal bottoms instead of flat slats. With carriers of this description the canes are dumped into the pit, either by tipping trucks or electrically driven grabs, and from the pit the canes are raked up to the mills.

The first stage of the manufacturing process is now reached, viz., the extraction of the juice, and, with the juice, the sugar from the sugar canes. This is done by combinations of large iron rollers, a common size of which is 6 feet in length by 2 feet 10 inches in diameter. These are divided into groups of three, each group forming a single unit of the entire mill plant.

The three rolls of the unit are arranged horizontally in such a manner that lines joining the centre of their shafts form an isosceles triangle, of which one side is horizontal. There is thus one roller at the top and two below. The canes, or crushed canes, are then subjected in each unit to two squeezings, the one between the top and front rollers, and the other between the top and back rollers, the crushed cane from the first squeeze being directed by an iron plate, called a "trash" plate or "dumb returner," to the point of approach of the second squeeze.

Mill plants consist of a varying number of mill units, but a common type of multiple mill plant possesses four of these units, comprising 12 rolls. The crushed cane is conveyed from the back roll of the one unit to the front roll of the succeeding unit by means of short carriers akin to the carriers bringing the canes to the mill.

In addition to the mill plant proper, a "crusher" is usually placed just before and at a certain height above, the first unit of the mill plant. This consists of two rollers with corrugated surfaces, and the canes passing through these are broken and brought to a suitable condition for treatment by the mills proper. The shafts of the roll of each unit revolve on brass bearings set in headstocks, or cheeks, securely bolted to the mill foundations, the rolls being kept in position by caps and bolts.

The motive power driving the mills and crusher is steam, but a few mills have recently been installed in Cuba, which are driven electrically. As a rule the first eleven rollers, that is to say, the crusher with the first three mill units are driven by one engine with gearing with a further extension of units by a separate engine. The engines are horizontal, and non-condensing, the exhaust steam being used for heating and evaporating purposes, and the power is transmitted through compound gearing acting on the top roller of each unit, which in its turn, distributes the share of power to the lower, or side rollers, by means of pinions. A 6 feet by 2 feet 10 inches mill plant of crusher and four mill units consumes about 800 indicated horse-power to drive it, and, with average canes, will deal with fifty tons of canes per hour.

A common feature in modern mill plants is the use of hydraulic pressure transmitted by rams to the top brass of the top roll of each unit. A mill of the above description will have 400 to 500 tons pressure on each unit. As a substitute for hydraulic pressure a special kind of powerful spring gear, called "toggle" gear, is sometimes used. The object of these attachments is to afford relief in case of sudden strain.

In a 14-roll mill plant, therefore, consisting of four mill units with crusher, the canes are subjected to five separate treatments, and in all, to nine squeezes. A cane contains a considerable amount of fibre, 12 per cent. on the average, and after a time refuses to deliver up further juice by the exercise of pressure only. It is customary, therefore, with these multiple mill plants, to couple with the squeezing a water treatment. As the canes come from the first unit, already crushed into an almost indistinguishable mass of fibre, water is sprinkled on the "megass," as the crushed cane is called in British Colonies, or "bagasse," as it is termed in Latin Colonies. This is readily absorbed by the sponge-like mass, and if the process is carried on up to the penultimate mill unit, a much greater extraction is obtained.

With a plant of the above number of units, with average canes and adequate maceration, as the water treatment is called, 94 per cent. of the sugar in the cane can be extracted in the form of juice.

The ultimate crushed and extracted cane residue, containing all the fibre and the remainder of the juice is conveyed away from the last mill-unit by a carrier consisting, as a rule, of a wide flat-bottomed trough, along which rakes, actuated by chains, carry the "megass" or "bagasse" to the furnaces attached to the boilers supplying steam to the factory.

The juice, as it comes from the mill plant, is a turbid, frothy, greenish yellow, or greyish-green in colour, according to the character of the cane being manufactured. It is slightly acid and has to be worked up at once before fermentation sets in. From the mills it flows or is pumped after passing a strainer made of wire mesh, which separates the fine particles of the fibre of the cane floating in the juice, to the measuring tanks or mechanical measure and, after measurement, is carried on to the liming tanks. Lime, in the form of milk of lime, made from fresh caustic lime, is invariably the agent used to neutralise the acidity, for the purpose of clarifying

the juice, and takes the place of the "potashes" primarily used for this purpose.

Lime having been added to the juice in quantities just sufficient to neutralise the acidity, the juice is heated to 212°F., or a few degrees above, by being pumped through closed heaters in the form of cylindrical vessels, in which are tubes through which the juice passes, and which are surrounded by steam. From the heaters the juice emerges in a boiling condition and flows into rectangular vessels arranged in the form of a battery. In these the juice is allowed to remain for an hour, or an hour and a half. The solid impurities separated by the clarification process have now settled to the bottom of the "clarifier," as the subsiding tank is called, the upper part of the juice, which is quite clear, is now drawn off, while the muddy bottom parts are run down in a lower tank, fitted with steam coils, where they are further limed, if necessary, heated, and allowed to subside. From this, the clear liquor is again decanted, while the mud is filtered through close-woven cloth in especially constructed presses under a pressure running up to 50 lbs. or so on the square inch. The hard cakes thus formed are washed and steamed to extract as much of the sugar remaining in them as possible, after which the cake is used for manurial purposes.

The decanted clear juices, together with the juice and washings coming from the presses, now pass on to the evaporator to be concentrated into syrup.

Evaporation in modern cane sugar factories is conducted by what is known as the multiple-effect system. The object of this system is to secure economy of fuel, and this is obtained by the application of the principle that, as the air pressure on a liquid diminishes, there is a corresponding lowering of the boiling point. Thus, if there are two vessels of water, the contents of one of which is under atmospheric pressure, while that of the second is under a vacuum, vapour generated in the first vessel can be utilised to boil the contents of the second vessel, the heat used in the first vessel thus having a double evaporation effect.

In cane-sugar work an evaporator is usually of the triple or quadruple type—that is to say, consists of three or four vessels. These vessels are closed, having cylindrical sides, dome-shaped tops, and saucer bottoms. They are fitted with heating apparatus in the form of calandria, that is to say, drums into the flat top and bottom of which, brass tubes are inserted, which form a communication between the upper juice space and the bottom space, and into the closed space of which around the tubes the heating vapour is admitted.

The mode of working is as follows :—

Steam is admitted into the heating drum of the first vessel, which is charged with the thin juice. The juice boils, and the vapour generated passes into the calandria of the second vessel through a vapour connection from the top of the dome of the first. There is a slight vacuum in the second vessel obtained by means explained later, and the vapour coming over from the first vessel has therefore a higher temperature than the boiling point of the contents of the second vessel, and consequently is able to generate a corresponding amount of vapour from the contents of the second vessel, being itself con-

densed in so doing, but apart from the juices. The same process goes on as regards the third vessel for a similar reason, and in the fourth, if there is one.

The vapour connection from the last vessel, the third or fourth as the case may be, leads to a condenser, where the vapour it conducts comes in contact with cold water and is condensed. The condenser is also connected with an air-pump, which creates a high vacuum, 27 inches out of a possible 30 inches or thereabouts, in the last vessel. The vapour from the third or penultimate vessel, in the case of a quadruple, is condensed in the calandria of the last vessel on account of the lower boiling of the juice in the latter from the higher vacuum. In the same way a vacuum is created in the second vessel with a corresponding lowering of the boiling point of its contents, although not to the same extent as that obtained in the third vessel, by reason of the high vacuum obtained in the fourth vessel by the condensation with cold water plus air pump of its vapour, and the vapour from the first steam-heated vessel can thus be used to boil its contents. Each vessel, therefore, has its contents under higher vacuum than the one in front of it, and thus the multiple use of the steam introduced into the calandria of the first vessel is secured. The juice, as it becomes concentrated, is passed on from the one vessel to the next vessel, finally being drawn out as syrup from the last vessel by means of a pump. The condensed vapours in the calandrias are also removed by pumps.

The juice as it enters the evaporator is of low density, and where maceration water has been used in the major quantity, quite 78 per cent. of the volume of the juice may have to be boiled off at this stage of the process.

The syrup obtained is approaching saturation point as regards its sugar contents, and is now further treated in the vacuum pan. As cane juice becomes concentrated, there is great danger of destruction of sugar, coupled with discoloration, unless the boiling is done at a comparatively low temperature. This is one of the great advantages of the multiple effect, as the juice becomes concentrated, so the temperature at which it is boiled is reduced. Thus, while the boiling point of the contents of the first vessel, corresponding to the vacuum, may be 212°F., that of the fourth is probably 120°F., and the syrup is thus preserved from damage. This principle of low temperature boiling is further carried out in the vacuum pan, where the remaining evaporation takes place at the same time as the crystallisation of the sugar.

The vacuum pan, which was invented nearly a hundred years ago, and which is the basis of all modern sugar making, very much resembles in construction the last vessel of the multiple effect. As a rule, the heating is done by steam coils, instead of tubular calandria, but some vacuum pans have, of recent years, been constructed with the latter. The condensing and air pump details are precisely the same, but the bottom of the pan is cone shaped, the point of which is cut off so as to allow of the discharge of the crystalline mass when the boiling of the contents of the pan is finished, the opening being closed during work by a valve.

(To be continued.)

CANE SUGAR PRODUCTION.

Its Importance in Food Problems.

Mr. Cleve. W. Hines, Sugar Technologist of the Department of Agriculture of the Philippine Islands, in the course of an article contributed to *Facts about Sugar* (New York), writes:—

"Never before in the history of the sugar industry has there been presented to the sugar producer such golden opportunities as those of to-day, for the present condition offers an opportunity of performing two duties at once, a patriotic duty and a personal duty. Every loyal American will gladly do his patriotic duty, once he is instructed in what is required of him, and by so doing the food problem will be solved. There is also the personal duty of every man who owns a tract of agricultural land or a factory in a time of high prices to make the place produce the most it is capable of in order to relieve the situation.

"It has been asserted that there is a great shortage of carbohydrate foodstuffs in particular. This shortage must in a very great measure be relieved by the enterprising sugar producer of the United States and its dependencies. This applies in particular to those producers whose source of supply is the sugar cane, since even the by-product of sugar manufacture, molasses, forms a source of valuable human food and may be converted into a palatable food as well. . . .

Value of By-Products.

"In many of the large tropical factories thousands of tons of molasses are thrown directly into the sea or diluted and applied to the land with the irrigation water. This material contains upward of 40 per cent. sucrose, which alone, if employed as a food-stuff, would form a great quantity of carbohydrate material of considerable value.

"It is also essential that the soil be made to produce larger crops of cane on the majority of plantations and that the manufacturer deliver to the consumer more sugar than he now delivers. To solve the first problem, the agriculturist should be on the alert and employ the strictest economy that science has devised in order that every movement be made to produce definite results.

"Perhaps many planters will say: 'This does not apply to my case, for I have done the very best possible for the advancement of the work on my plantation.'

"The writer has many times heard a similar reply from planters in the Philippine Islands during his instruction work throughout the sugar districts. No doubt improvements over the methods used by their forefathers have been introduced, yet the pace has been too slow and now they are confronted with an emergency which demands that drastic measures be taken.

Larger Yields Obtainable.

"Further inquiry has often revealed the fact that a yield of less than thirty tons of cane per hectare was the crop ordinarily harvested by these planters, while similar land at the Government sugar demonstration station in the same community, where modern methods were employed, produced upward of three times as much, and in addition left a thriffter root system for the following ratoon crop.

"The large modern plantations, with their corps of scientific and technical men, have long since reached the stage of strict economy in production, and now harvest very large crops. It is the smaller plantations and factories, and these are in the great majority in the greater number of sugar producing countries, which have not fallen in line either in the march of progress or the call to patriotic duty. These now have a great task before them and may possibly be benefited by special instructions in the solution of their problems as well as in the results obtained by others.

"The fact will not be denied that a great many cane sugar producers in various sugar countries have contributed their share in adopting improvements and even in inventing new devices for the advancement of the industry. The very striking results from the adoption of modern methods are seen in the sugar industry of Hawaii, where no doubt the world's record in possible cane production and in milling efficiency has been attained. The planters there have spared neither time nor money to secure the very best attainable for the advancement of their industry, and when it was found necessary to solve especially difficult problems they were only satisfied with the best talent that money could procure.

Value of Trained Men.

"These planters years ago recognised the necessity of having a force of specially trained technical men to employ their entire time investigating the various cane sugar problems and discovering means for their solution. They organised themselves in consequence into a great association and contributed liberally to the support of an experimental station, the work of which will remain as a monument to the sugar producers of that country. They have not even been content with securing the best talent available for the research and experimental work, but have gone further and secured similar men to handle the technical positions in many of their factories and on their plantations. Indeed the time has arrived when it is difficult to retain the recognised experts at the experiment stations where they are so badly needed, so keen is the demand for these men on the various plantations, especially where there are important problems to be solved.

The Problem of Labour.

"While the burden of meeting the present emergency falls largely upon the various plantations and factories, yet these are able to accomplish no more than their individual workmen are willing to contribute. Since human labour is one of the essentials in the production of cane sugar it follows that the question of providing an abundant supply of labour forms one of the most important problems confronting the sugar producer. Were the labour supply to be entirely cut off the plantations would cease to exist as sugar plantations, notwithstanding the fact that numerous automatic machines and labour-saving devices are installed on the plantations each year. This condition would likewise close down the numerous crude sugar factories, which in turn would abolish the great refineries, where efficiency in every detail is the watchword of the day."

TEXTILE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

British Grown Cotton.

The question as to whether what has come to be known as "bread and butter" cotton cannot be grown profitably in British Guiana, whilst the West India islands remain true to the Sea Island variety, will perhaps be revived by the report of the Departmental Committee as to Textile Trades, which has recently been published.

Bryan Edwards records that (1793) the finest grained and most perfectly clean cotton which was brought to this market came from the Dutch plantations in Berbice and Demerara—now counties of British Guiana—and Surinam.

The Committee say: "We have drawn repeated attention to the exceptional and very powerful position the British Empire holds with regard to the production of textile raw materials. India grows a class of cotton which is largely used by our competitors, and has a practical monopoly of the world's supplies of jute. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa produce two-thirds of the world's surplus production available for export of merino and crossbred wools, while Australia has a practical monopoly of the finer merino wools. Egypt and the West Indian Islands have a practical monopoly of the production of the long-stapled cotton which is essential for spinning the finest counts of yarn."

They proceed as follows:

There is already a deficiency in the world's annual cotton crop as compared with the present possible consumption. It is probable that unless special steps are taken, this deficiency will tend to increase in the immediate future. The cotton trade in the United Kingdom is at present mainly dependent on the United States for its supply of raw material. It is eminently unsatisfactory that one of the principal industries of the United Kingdom should be so largely dependent upon one source of supply, and that a source entirely beyond its control.

If proper steps are taken it is reasonably certain that all the cotton required by the British Empire can in time be grown within its own territories. The actual and potential sources of supply within the British Empire are India, Egypt and the Soudan, the West Indies, and some of the African colonies and protectorates. Of these India offers the most promising prospects of any considerable increase of output within a reasonably short time. The cotton grown in Egypt and the West Indies is of a special character, which cannot at present be produced on a large scale in any other part of the world, and therefore the control of these sources of supply enables the British Empire to control to a great extent the spinning of fine counts of yarn, which are mainly used in the production of finer cotton materials. This is the more important inasmuch as there has been for many years a marked tendency in the British cotton industry towards the spinning of finer counts of yarn. In the West Indies, Egypt, and some of our African colonies and protectorates, cotton suitable for the spinning of these fine counts can be grown under exceptionally favourable conditions. The British Cotton-growing Association is practically at the end of its resources, and unless some new departure is taken it will have to curtail rather than enlarge its sphere of operations.

MALARIA causes 350,000 deaths and 200,000,000 days of sickness annually in the Presidency of Bengal, said Lord Ronaldshay, the Governor, recently, in announcing a new drainage project involving 700 square miles of fever-stricken districts.

THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN.

By LUKE M. HILL, M.Inst.C.E.

III.—"Pros and Cons" of the River Wall.

The writer remembers that when, in 1875, Mr. B. S. Bayley's proposition in the Court of Policy revived the subject of a river wall for Georgetown, there was considerable discussion amongst the business men of Water Street as to the advantages and disadvantages of a continuous quay wall. In order to understand the occasion of such difference of opinion, it may be interesting to compare the then existing conditions of the trade of the harbour with the present conditions and future prospects of fuller developments.

In the year 1875 only a very small portion of the import and export trade of the colony was effected by steamers, the main portion being conveyed in sailing vessels, which, as a rule, anchored out in the river, and goods and produce were transported to and from the shore by lighters, or by sea-punts and coast droghers direct from the coast and river plantations. These sailing ships were frequently detained in harbour for weeks and months at a time, waiting for estates' produce to complete their cargoes of sugar, rum and molasses, all then filled into hogsheds, or other coopered packages. Few, if any, of the larger vessels moored alongside the stellings, or wharves, and so the methods of transportation adopted necessitated the employment of numerous fleets of shore lighters and sea-droghers, crowds of which might be seen, attached, three deep on either side of the loading ship, causing vessels not infrequently to break away from their moorings by force of the out-flowing river current.

These many punts and lighters required docking, or mooring, accommodation in-shore, close by the various waterside business premises; and it was feared that the construction of a river wall, apart from the considerable cost involved, would destroy all this necessary lying-in accommodation afforded by the stellings and the inner jetties attached thereto, although it was pointed out at the time that punt docks might still be allowed inside the wall, with bridged openings through the latter to permit the passage in and out of the lighters. Nowadays, however, these conditions are very largely altered, comparatively few lighters being employed, and the trade of the port being mainly confined to ocean-going steamers, which come alongside the various wharves and rapidly discharge and re-load cargoes within a day or two, the adoption of sugar-bags in lieu of heavy hogsheds, allowing of hurrying "truck-boys," working in and out of the storage warehouses, taking the place of lighters; and for this reason alone, a continuous quay wall should be acceptable and be in every way more convenient. Apart from its palpable benefits in directly improving the harbour by the elimination of the obstructing stellings and ensuring deeper quaying and a better run of water for deepening the approaches, the erection of a river wall would offer the following advantages:—

I. The filling in and reclamation of a large area of valuable ground along the river foreshore, which

could be utilised for the erection thereon of warehouses and other business premises.

2. Affording facilities for the receiving and delivery of cargoes along the entire waterside façade of the city, by means of rails laid on the quay side, or by a riverside roadway, thus relieving Water Street of the wear and tear of heavy goods traffic, as well as avoiding obstruction on the footwalks through the loading and unloading of carts.

3. By connecting the East Coast and Hinterland railways with the wharfside lines, cattle trucks and goods trains to and from the coast and interior could be brought directly alongside the steamers.

Loading and discharging facilities of this character will be absolutely necessary, if Georgetown is eventually to become, as has been suggested, the great *entrepôt* for the north-eastern section of the South American continent; and with this object in view the improvement of its port is of the first importance.

There may be a possibility of Imperial funds being available for these developments after the war, in connection with the Dominions Royal Commission's recommendations regarding the improvement of the Ports and Harbours of the Empire.

In connection with the subject of the foregoing articles on the Port of Georgetown, and its suggested improvements, it may be mentioned that in *The Illustrated London News* of the 26th January, 1918, there is an interesting view of one of the huge concrete monoliths used in the construction of the breakwater at Valparaiso, Chili, being towed into position for sinking. Each of these monoliths measures 65 feet 7 inches long, 52 feet 5 inches wide and 49 feet 5 inches high, weighing, when in position, 13,370 tons, afloat 8,560 tons; when sunk in place, the top is 3 feet 3 inches above the surface of the water. Messrs. S. Pearson & Sons, Limited, are the contractors for this important work.—L. M. H.

"B'RU 'NANSI."

By J. GRAHAM CRUICKSHANK.

(Continued from page 34 and concluded.)

BURU 'NANSI AND BURU TEMAKU.

The King had one cow-itch tree. He said he would give a cow to anyone who would cut down the tree without scratching his skin. ("And you known cow-itch?" interpolated Daddy Quashie. "Very well"). Buru 'Nansi said he would cut it down. So, now, the King gave Buru 'Nansi an axe, and he sent a boy to watch whether he would scratch himself while cutting down the tree. ("Buru 'Nansi, you know, is a man does walk naked-skin.") So, now, Buru 'Nansi knock that tree with the axe, so *ba!* and the tree squirt out juice which fell all over Buru 'Nansi body and itched him badly. So Buru 'Nansi say, "Boy! My father had a horse, mark *so*—and *so*—and *so*!" (Here Daddy Quashie passed his hand rapidly over his shoulder and across his chest.) Then he went on cutting down the tree, stopping from time to time to show the boy as before just how his father's horse was marked. ("Da scratch he a scratch," explained Daddy Quashie. "Nan-si! Ah! Head-man fo' tricky.") Then B'ru 'Nansi went to the King, and, the boy reporting that he had not scratched himself, the King gave him a cow, according to the Royal Promise.

"Now you know, sah, B'ru 'Nansi properly greedy. He greedy too bad." So instead of taking the cow

home to his wife and family, as any decent householder would have done, Buru 'Nansi took the cow away, away into the bush and killed it all for himself. Some of the meat he cooked and ate at once; part of it he smoked. Then he went to look for tekuma worms in a field. All of a sudden a voice came from a hole in the ground:—"Buru 'Nansi O! take me out. Oh, Buru 'Nansi, *t-a-k-e* me out!" (Here Daddy Quashie spoke in an imploring tone). Buru 'Nansi looked in the hole, and saw Buru Temaku. "What are you doing here?" asks Buru 'Nansi. 'Oh, never mind,' says Buru Temaku, who was not in a mood to talk, "Buru 'Nansi, *t-a-k-e* me out!" So, as Buru 'Nansi was jolly just then, happy after a good dinner, he took Buru Temaku out of the hole. Then Buru Temaku said:—"Buru 'Nansi O! I see smoke over there. Carry me to the smoke." ("Buru Temaku, you know, no got no feet. Without you carry him he no able fo' walk.") So Buru 'Nansi carried Buru Temaku, and put him down near the smoke, just by the meat that Buru 'Nansi had prepared for himself. Then Buru Temaku said:—"Buru 'Nansi, you better go dead," and Buru 'Nansi suddenly lost all control over himself and fell to the ground helpless. Then Buru Temaku ate up all the meat, Buru 'Nansi being unable to move or even to talk because of the enchantment Buru Temaku had put upon him. Then Buru Temaku said:—"Buru, 'Nansi O! Take me home with you." But Buru 'Nansi, whose feelings had been badly hurt, said indeed no, he must excuse him, he would do nothing of the sort. He was a good-hearted man very well, but there were limits to everything. And then Buru 'Nansi started to go home. Then Buru Temaku said:—"Buru 'Nansi, you better go dead," and for the second time Buru 'Nansi collapsed and fell to the ground helpless. So, most grudgingly, he consented to take Buru Temaku home, and Buru Temaku climbed on his shoulders and was taken away to the house of Buru 'Nansi.

Now Buru Temaku lived with Buru 'Nansi a long, long time. He was very happy, and disclosed no intention of ever moving off. All of the meat in the house, and certainly all the best parts of it, were eaten by Buru Temaku. And Buru 'Nansi got to look quite thin and bad.

One day Buru 'Nansi was out walking, much worried and depressed, when he met Buru Guinea Pig. Buru Guinea Pig covered an open mouth—*so*—and said:—"Buru *Nan-si*!" "Well?" said Buru 'Nansi, rather sharply, "well?" "You look so thin and bad! I thought you were a jumbi." "I very nearly am," said Buru 'Nansi; and then he told Buru Guinea Pig all his troubles, and Buru Guinea Pig listened attentively because he was good-hearted and even had occasional flashes of genuine inspiration in his head. Then Buru Guinea Pig said—"B'ru 'Nansi!" "Well?" said Buru 'Nansi. "Has Buru Temaku ever washed his skin?" Buru 'Nansi thought he never had. "Then ask him whether he would like to wash his skin, and if he says yes, carry him far away to a pool in—the bush. But first—" and here—because even bush has ears—Buru Guinea Pig bent low and talked in a profound whisper. So Buru 'Nansi went home, and next day he asked Buru Temaku whether he

would like to wash his skin. Buru Temaku said it might be a good idea. So Buru 'Nansi, after getting ready, told Buru Temaku to climb on his shoulder, and he carried Buru Temaku away, away, middle middle the bush, where there was a pool in which he might bathe. Then he put Buru Temaku down and Buru Temaku gave himself a proper washing. Then Buru 'Nansi started to go home alone. "Hi!" said Buru Temaku, "you're forgetting me." Buru 'Nansi took no notice. "I say!" said Buru Temaku, "what's wrong? Come back and carry me." Buru 'Nansi took no notice. "Look here!" yelled Buru Temaku, now thoroughly alarmed, "carry me, do you hear!" Buru 'Nansi took no notice. "Very well," said Buru Temaku. "Buru 'Nansi, you better go dead." But Buru 'Nansi just walked away and left Buru Temaku to his fate by the side of the pool.

On the advice of Buru Guinea Pig he had stuffed his ears tight, tight with cotton before leaving home, and so was deaf to the enchantment of wicked Buru Temaku!

"That is a good one," said I to Daddy Quashie.

"You like em?" said he, much gratified.

"Yes. 'Nansi got caught that time."

"Oh, well!" he explains, in defence of his hero, "man foot a slip in put-putta (mud) some-time! Sometimes, you know, 'Nansi se'f a fool."

I asked him why is it that the rising generation is giving up Anansi.

"Dey shame."

"Shame for what?"

"Ax dem."

"There is nothing to be ashamed of surely?"

"Well, me massa. Some does shame fo' dis, and some fo' tarra. Some a dem Croole dis shame fo' 'Nansi, but dey no shame fo' tief dey matty plantain."

He chuckled.

"Do you remember any more 'Nansi?"

"You ever hear 'bout 'Nansi and Baboon?" he asks suddenly.

"'Nansi and Baboon?" It is my turn to search my memory. "No."

"Well, sah, dis one short, but he good."

B'RU 'NANSI AND BABOON.

Baboon, who was hungry, looked in at Buru Tiger, whom he found grumbling because his wife had been out so long. Baboon said "Eh-eh! Tiger wife a treat Tiger so! No Tiger king fo' all dem meat dis!" He suggested that when she came in Tiger should kill and eat her. Tiger agreed.

B'ru 'Nansi, now—"who been dey a rafter"—overheard Baboon's wicked scheme, and being friendly with Tiger's wife, ran away to warn her. He met in the path on her way home. She was terrified and begged B'ru 'Nansi to suggest some way of escape. He gave her a gooby with a little molasses, and told her just what and what to do.

When Tiger's wife got near the house, she began talking aloud and said:—"I wish I could get some more of this! I wish I could get some more of this!" Then she ran in and giving the gooby to Tiger, bade him taste some of this glorious sweet stuff, quick! Tiger put his paw into the gooby

and, tasting the molasses, asked where in the world had she got this? It was sweet, too bad.

"Eh-eh!" said his wife. "You no know they a dig in Baboon for it?"

"What?" said Tiger.

"They dig in Baboon for it."

Then Tiger—"who is a man don't make fun"—killed Baboon, wishing for some more molasses . . .

So Buru 'Nansi saved Tiger's wife, and Baboon was punished for his wicked plot.

I gave Daddy Quashie a drop of a brown liquid, which was not molasses, although locally made; and Daddy Quashie went home.

NEW BISHOP OF TRINIDAD.

Principal Anstey of Codrington selected.

His many friends will congratulate the Rev. A. H. Anstey, Principal of Codrington College, Barbados, upon his selection as successor to the late Dr. Welsh, in the See of Trinidad. At the same time there will be general regret in Barbados at the departure of one who has evinced such practical interest in the well-being of the island. It is not many weeks since it was our pleasure to record the generosity of the new Bishop, which rendered possible the opening of the Girls' High School in Barbados.

Mr. Anstey succeeded Archdeacon Bindley as head of Codrington in 1910, and it is of interest to note that in following Dr. Welsh, in Trinidad, he follows a prelate who preceded him in the Principalship of St. Boniface College, Warminster, Wilts.

WEST INDIAN MAILS LOST.

The comparative immunity from loss of mails which the West Indies have enjoyed has been broken. We have to record, with regret, that letter mails for Barbados, Trinidad, and Tobago, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, British, French and Dutch Guiana, and the Virgin Islands of the United States, posted between January 12th and 18th, and parcel mails for British and Dutch Guiana posted between January 7th and 16th and parcels for Grenada posted between December 19th and January 16th, have been lost at sea as a result of enemy action.

Letter mails for Canada, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Honduras, Jamaica, and Turks and Caicos Islands, containing correspondence posted approximately between January 23rd and 25th; and parcel mails for Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and Bermuda, containing parcels posted between the same dates have shared the same fate.

THE Marine Society was founded by members of the West India Committee, and we have therefore particular reason for sympathising with that body in the loss by fire of its training ship *Warspite*. The Admiralty, recognising the good work done by the Society, has lent to it H.M.S. *President*—better known in the West Indies in the nineties as the *Buzzard*—which is now moored off Temple Stairs.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.**ITS FATE STILL IN DOUBT.****France's Definite Withdrawal.**

The following reply to the West India Committee's letter of November 5th last regarding the position of the Brussels Sugar Convention has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Downing Street,
5th February, 1918.

The Chairman, West India Committee

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th of November, and to inform you that the question which you raise as to the obligations of His Majesty's Government in connexion with the Brussels Sugar Convention is under consideration by a Committee, and that it cannot safely be assumed that the signatory Powers to the Convention, the additional Act, and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations and Agreements, have recovered full liberty of action as regards each other owing to the war as suggested in the memorandum which accompanied your letter.

2. Mr. Long has been informed officially that a note has been received from the French Government stating that the Government of the Republic have informed the Belgian Government of their withdrawal from the Brussels Sugar Convention.

I am, Sir, etc.,
G. GRINDLE.

The West India Committee's letter to which the above is a reply is given below:—

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.

THE HALIFAX DISASTER.**More West Indian Subscriptions.**

The third list of subscriptions to the Mansion House Relief Fund in aid of sufferers by the great disaster at Halifax, Nova Scotia, includes £40 from the 4th Battalion British West Indies Regiment.

The Secretary of the West India Committee has received the following letter from the Lord Mayor of London:—

January 18th, 1918.

DEAR MR. ASPINALL,

I am much obliged to you for sending me the interesting contribution—£40—which all ranks of the 4th Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment have collected for the Halifax Disaster Relief Fund, and I shall be glad if you will convey my gratitude to them through Colonel G. V. Hart, the Officer Commanding. I am sorry that so many of them visited Halifax under such miserable conditions of ill-health and bodily infirmity, but I can well understand the warmth of the greeting which they received from the kind-hearted citizens of Halifax, and the pleasure it now gives them to show their sympathy with that afflicted city in this period of deep distress and tribulation.

Believe me, etc.,
(Signed) CHAS. A. HANSON,
Lord Mayor.

The Extent of the Damage.

Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons, Ltd., West India and commission merchants, of Halifax, in a letter to the West India Committee, say:—

"The damage all occurred in the extreme northern part of the city, and the residences in this part were occupied mostly by railway men, stevedores, etc. The force of the explosion, however, can be partly estimated by the fact that houses between two and three miles distant were in some cases badly wrecked; and we do not think there is one shop or dwelling in the whole city that did not lose glass to a greater or less extent. It is most peculiar to see most of our shops having the plate glass replaced by boards and tar paper. Of course, this will be gradually remedied, but it will be summer before everyone is able to make repairs.

"Outside of the 1,400 people who lost their lives, the saddest part is the 200 or 300 people who have lost either both eyes or one eye. Nearly all the eye trouble was from glass. The sound of the explosion sent most people rushing to the windows to find out what the trouble was, and they therefore received the broken glass in their faces."

West Indian Roll of Honour.

SECOND LIEUTENANT FRANK VERNON BONYUN, Royal Flying Corps, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bonyun, of San Fernando, Trinidad, was killed in action in France early in January. Having been educated at the Boys' High School, Croydon, he matriculated at the London University in January, 1917, and on attaining the age of 18 in May, he joined the army, receiving a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps in August.

MAJOR HAROLD GWYER GARNETT, recently killed in action, whose forebears have been connected with British Guiana for over one hundred years, was best known in England as one of Lancashire's County Cricketers. His most successful year was 1901, when it was stated in the review of the season that "his consistency was remarkable considering his free and attractive style of batting." He was a member of the Maclaren team to Australia, and since 1906 had maintained his reputation in the Argentine, where he was elected to captain the side against the team taken out by Lord Hawke in 1912. Railroad extensions were concentrating Major Garnett's energies in the Argentine until 1914—extensions which may some day assist the fulfilment of Guiana's dream of a terminus at

Georgetown. On the declaration of war Major Garnett volunteered for service, and joined the South Wales Borderers. He was severely wounded in 1914. Always cheery, capable, and ready to do his best, he was as popular with his brother officers and men in times of war as he was with his fellow players and cricket spectators in times of peace, and, to quote the words of his Commanding Officer, "he was beloved by all, was a brave man, and died a brave man's death." He leaves a widow but no children. Of his two brothers, one, Eric, resides in Liverpool, and the other, Frank, in Burma.

WOUNDED.

PTE. GERALD DONAWA, Queen's Westminster Rifles (2nd Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded and is in hospital in Egypt.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. W. F. FARRAR, Tank Corps (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been awarded the Military Cross.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment at various fronts:—

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.—9743 Brown, N.

DIED OF ASPHYXIATION.

GRENADA.—12044 Duncan, J.

JAMAICA.—12435 Roberts E.; 12533 Stephens, A.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—10912 Birch, L.; 13574 Brooks, C.; 13522 Mills, Lee-Cpl. L.; 12550 Smart, N.; 11640 Smith, A.

BRITISH GUIANA.—134 Harper, A. M.

GRENADA.—10932 Bartholomew, G.

JAMAICA.—15360 Anderson, D.; 7514 Anderson, Sgt. H.; 13528 Anderson, Hylton; 9772 Barnett, C.; 15085 Brown, L.; 13595 Campbell, H.; 7505, Carter, L.; 9799 Coates, L.; 7076 Coke, S.; 13698 Coke, T.; 15985 Craig, Sgt. S. H.; 12085 Francis, N.; 7760 Graham, J.; 15397 Grant, S.; 16291 Hercules, M.; 7382 Hibbert, D.; 15686 McCarthy, C.; 14795 Milford, P.; 7929 Moore, W.; 15843 Peck, N.; 9589 Roddew, W.; 12550 Smart, N.; 10781 Weekly, J.

ST. VINCENT.—9836 Austin, G.; 11621, Spence, N.

TRINIDAD.—1391 Fisher, W. G.; 11474 Modeste, S.; 11720 Vincent, A.

WOUNDED.

BRITISH GUIANA.—10923 Ballack, —; 11243, Herod, G.
JAMAICA.—7277 Brown, J.; 3577 Brown, P. A.; 8758 Gittens, S.; 8772 Henry, C.; 4883 Jordan, J. N.; 8326 Martin, Sgt. J.; 8065 Parkinson, D.; 8016 Roy, W.; 8715 Simmonds, G. E.; 15628 Smith, H.; 3052 Smith, A.; 3378 Smith, O. P.; 3439 Wallace, R.; 8762 Williams, —; 3726 Williams, E.

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.

Ainge, 2nd Lieut. David A. Lloyd (younger son of the late Mr. David Ainge, of Pln. Philadelphia, Demerara), Machine Gun Corps (Heavies).

Brown, Pte. F. W. O. (of the Bahamas), Canadians.

De Nobrega, C. McDonald (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

De Vertenil, Marc (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

Farfan, Ray (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), 2nd Lieut. Royal Flying Corps.

Farrington, Pte. R. A. (of the Bahamas), Canadians.

Frampton, Hugh A. (of Dominica), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

Gibbon, Claude (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

Johnstone, Robert (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Queen's Westminster Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Rifle Brigade.

Jones, 2nd Lieut. Conyers (son of the late Mr. Salters Jones, of Georgetown, Demerara), Highland Light Infantry.

Lassalle, Gunner A. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Garrison Artillery.

Messervy, Lieut. Roney F. (of British Guiana), Duke of Wellington's Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps (Balloon Section).

Nock, Malcolm M. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

O'Connor, E. S. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

Stopford, John (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Probationary Flight Sub-Lieut. R.N.A.S.

Swaby, — (of Jamaica), Royal Horse Artillery.

Vincent, Sergeant Claude M. (son of Mr. Harry Vincent, of Trinidad, author of *The Sea Fish of Trinidad*) Motor Transport, Army Service Corps, attached to Royal Serbian Army.

Wilson, Hugh (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Cadet Royal Flying Corps.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The Military Cross has been awarded to Captain Ralph Havlock Lewis Fink (Jamaica), 1st British West Indies Regiment, for gallantry and devotion to duty on November 7th last.

* * *

When two Platoons of the Battalion were covering the withdrawal of a Squadron of Imperial Service Cavalry, and on the death of the Squadron Commander, Captain Fink took command, re-organised and successfully withdrew the whole party under heavy shell fire without loss. He showed high qualities of skill and leadership.

* * *

At the request of the West Indian Contingent Committee, the Secretary of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Ltd., has kindly placed in the grocery department of the Stores a large basket marked "Gifts for the West Indian Contingent."

* * *

The West Indian Contingent Committee recently urged that the privilege of temporary membership of the Royal Club for Officers from Beyond the Seas enjoyed by officers of Overseas' Contingents—and consequently the British West Indies Regiment—might be conceded to officers domiciled overseas who are now serving in Imperial Regiments. We are glad to learn that this concession has now been granted by the Committee of the Club. Officers from the West Indies desiring to avail themselves of the Club, which is better known as the Royal Automobile Club, should communicate with the Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E. C. 3.

* * *

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Mrs. Sabey : 6 prs. socks.
Mrs. Westaway Conrad : 1 muffler.
Mrs. Woodroffe : 1 muffler.
Lady Cameron : 1 muffler, 1 pr. mittens.
Mrs. Cunningham Craig : 1 muffler.
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall : 10 prs. mufftees, 2 mufflers, 3 treasure bags, 12 handkerchiefs, 3 prs. socks.
Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas : 3 mufflers, 8 prs. socks, 4 prs. wristlets.
Trinidad Ladies' W.I. Committee : 1 case guava jelly for Trinidad men.
Mrs. MacAdam : 2 prs. socks.

Mrs. Wolesley : 2 prs. socks, 2 hose tops, 1 cardigan,
1 helmet.
Mrs. Haster : 3 doz. face swabs.
Mrs. Arthur Johnson : 4 prs. socks.

* * *

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight :—

C. D. McClean, C. H. Spencer, P. Gomez, Trpr. W. Hale, Lieut. Eric McLeod, Lieut. Stuart Scott, 2nd Lieut. R. Ouesnel, Lieut. L. E. Prada, Sgt. Wilton W. Spencer, Hugh Wilson, 2nd Lieut. Cyril Norinan, 2nd Lieut. Jos. E. Kernahan, L. Crombie, Pte. P. T. O'Connor, E. S. O'Connor, M. M. Nock, Trpr. A. Gonzalez, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Farfan, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel Smith, Trpr. W. Howard, M. de Verteuil, J. P. de Verteuil, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, 2nd A.M.L. G. Porteous, Prob. Flight Sub-Lieut. J. Stopford, Pte. C. Gibbon, 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Major A. de Boissiere, 2nd Lieut. R. Johnstone, Trinidad; Pte. C. R. Honeychurch, 2nd Lieut. H. D. Weatherhead, Lee.-Cpl. H. N. McConney, Lee.-Cpl. L. R. Hutchinson, Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, Cpl. J. H. Carrington, Pte. J. E. A.C. Crawford, R. Basil Armstrong, Lieut. G. F. Lague, Cadet E. W. Redman, Barbados; Pte. B. Branch, Rev. R. C. Young, C.F., 2nd Lieut. F. C. Fisher, 2nd Lieut. P. Gallwey, 2nd Lieut. N. Wood, Sgt. A. G. Pinto, Cpl. E. Dakers, Cpl. C. Grant, John Woodcock, Lieut. S. B. Meyers, Jamaica; 2nd Lieut. H. Vincent Jellieoe, Bahamas; C.S.M. J. S. Lambkin, C.S.M. G. W. Sair, British West Indies Regiment.

* * *

Since the last list was published (January 24th) the following donations have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund :—

| | |
|---|--------|
| Professor P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S. | 4 19 2 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, for November :— | |
| Kingstown Club | 1 3 0 |
| Hon. C. B. F. Richards | 10 0 |
| H. F. Hazell | 10 0 |
| F. W. Reeves | 10 0 |
| J. H. Hazell | 3 0 |
| Evan Hopley | 2 0 |
| A. L. Gillezeau | 2 0 |
| J. A. Davy | 1 0 |
| | 3 2 0 |
| Thos. Osment, Esq. (collected by) | 2 10 0 |
| R. H. McCarthy, Esq., C.M.G. | 2 2 0 |
| The Misses Simmons (per Colonial Bank) | 1 0 0 |
| Miss A. Arrindell | 10 0 |
| A. J. Munt, Esq. | 2 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 British West Indian Contingent, 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 General Officer Commanding in Palestine has awarded the Military Medal to the undermentioned non-commissioned officer and men of the British West Indies Regiment for gallantry in action :—

No. 368 PTE. C. HYNEMAN (Trinidad).—For gallantry and devotion to duty on November 7th, 1917, when his company was covering the withdrawal of a Squadron of Imperial Service Cavalry from Two Tree Farm. Under heavy shell fire, he repeatedly volunteered to run messages from the officer conducting the withdrawal to the advanced parties. He showed a fine example of courage and devotion to duty to those around him in trying circumstances.

No. 2434 PTE. F. PULLAR (Jamaica).—For gallantry and devotion to duty shown repeatedly whilst acting as a

scout in patrol work in No Man's Land on the night of 7/8th November, 1917, when the main patrol at Atawineh Redoubt had failed to reach its objective. He volunteered to again go out; and brought back valuable information as to the enemy's movements.

LCR-CORPORAL V. E. JOHNS.—For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On November 7th, 1917, he laid a telephone line from Dumbell Hill to Two Tree Farm, where he established a telephone station, remaining with the advanced troops covering the withdrawal of a Squadron of Imperial Service Cavalry. Under heavy shell fire, he remained on duty at his post in a particularly exposed position in the Wadi, and throughout the operations maintained telephonic communication with the Battalion Headquarters.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISABLED MEN.

A Kitchener Memorial Scheme.

Opportunities for soldiers for overseas scholarships, tenable at British Universities and higher technological institutions, are offered by the Executive Committee of the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund to suitable disabled officers and men of the forces of the Colonies and Protectorates.

From particulars of the scheme which the West India Committee have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it appears that about six of these scholarships in all are likely to be available at present for candidates from the Colonies and Protectorates, including any who may be recommended by the various War Committees in this country which are looking after the contingents from the various Colonies and Protectorates.

On the subject of these scholarships the following memorandum has been issued by Lord Selborne, Chairman of the Fund :—

MEMORANDUM.

There are in the naval and military forces now on active service many officers and men from the Colonies and Protectorates who have :—

- Graduated at an Overseas university;
- Had their studies at an Overseas university interrupted by the call to serve;
- Passed examinations of university entrance standard, but have not attended a university;
- Had practically no education since leaving school at an early age, but have developed considerable character and power of thought, and would benefit greatly by a course of study at a university;
- Attended technical schools or been engaged in occupations demanding a high standard of technical knowledge.

A number of these men come to England from the fleets at sea, and armies in the field, suffering from wounds or sickness, and after a time spent in hospital those who are unfit for further active service generally return to their own countries. It is believed that many would be glad to avail themselves, before returning to their homes, of the facilities for special education afforded by British universities and schools of technology. It has been ascertained that the universities and technical schools will welcome such men and provide one year courses of study specially designed for all needs.

It is estimated that a scholarship of the annual value of from £150 to £250 a year—varying according to the university, college or school selected—would amply cover all expenses of a scholar, including tuition and other fees, and cost of living.

A scheme is at present under consideration for providing a considerable number of such scholarships.

Meanwhile funds have been made available to enable selected men, who are now unfit for further service, to attend the universities and technical schools.

Each scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of the Governor of the Colony or Protectorate to which the candidate belongs, upon the University, College, or School to which the candidate is proposed agreeing to accept him. The scholarships will be paid in quarterly instalments, the first on beginning residence at a residential university, college or school, or on the date appointed for the commencement of attendance at a non-residential university, college, or school, and thereafter terminally, provided that the university, college, or school to which any scholar may belong be satisfied with his work and conduct. Should a scholar fail to give satisfaction to his university, college, or school, his scholarship may be withdrawn.

The naval or military status of a scholar will be determined by the conditions prescribed by the authorities of the Colony or Protectorate to which he belongs, e.g., he may be:—

- (1) A retired officer or discharged man.
- (2) An officer or man still serving, and
 - (a) on leave and in receipt of pay, or
 - (b) on leave without pay.

It is to be clearly understood that normal university and college conditions shall prevail in regard to all scholars, irrespective of naval or military rank or status, i.e., the scholar shall:—

- (a) Be subject to the ordinary rules of university and college discipline.
- (b) Follow a course of study approved by the university, college or school of which he is a member.

Forms of application may be had, and any further information desired can be obtained on application to:—

Lieut.-Colonel E. H. W. Lascelles,
Organising Secretary,
Overseas Sailor and Soldier—Scholarships,
Seymour House,
Waterloo Place,
London, S.W. 1.

N.B.—These scholarships are not restricted to officers and men of the forces of the Dominions and Colonies. They may also be awarded to any officer or man serving with a naval or military force other than that of the Dominion or Colony to which such officer or man belongs.

OBITUARY.

MR. WILLIAM PINDER EVERSLEY.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. William Pinder Eversley, which took place at his residence, White House, Cotteshall, Norfolk, in January.

Mr. Eversley, who was until recently the owner of Bentley Estate in Christ Church, Barbados, was Recorder of Sudbury, Deputy Judge of the Suffolk County Court and Norwich County Court, Chairman of the Munitions Court for Norwich and Cambridge and the Eastern Counties, and a Commissioner in respect of military service civil liabilities. Born in 1859, and educated at Somerset College, Bath, and Queen's College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in 1873 and his M.A. and B.C.L. three years later, he was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1877, and previous to his appointment as Recorder of Sudbury was Official Principal of the Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Mr. Eversley was one of the oldest members of the West India Committee, in the work of which body he always took a lively interest.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BAHAMAS—Flag Day Fund.

The receipts to date total £138 13s. "Our Day" Fund now stands at £1,182.

BARBADOS—The Cane Crop.

The *Agricultural Reporter* says: We are glad to be able to state that the tillage for the new cane crop is almost completed. Everywhere the fields present a satisfactory appearance. It is due to this fact that the late rains, heavy as they were, did not cause a severe wash. The water was enabled to sink quickly into the crevices of the recently upturned earth, and thus, to a great extent, the removal of the surface soil into the surrounding roads was avoided. A large number of cane holes have been filled up with loose mould in the districts where the fall was abnormal, but, with energy, these will soon be set right again. We notice that fields which had been drained have suffered but little in this respect.

£15,000 is the price at which Springhead plantation in the parish of St. James, containing 312 acres of land, has been purchased by Dr. Hallam Massiah, M.C.P., from Mr. G. Elliott Sealy, M.C.P.

DOMINICA—Compensation for Dependents.

The Legislative Council has passed a resolution pledging itself to vote pensions or gratuities computed on the basis of the Imperial Treasury Warrants regulating the grant of gratuities and allowances under section 1 of the Superannuation Act of 1887 (Imperial) to the dependents of officials who may lose their lives through hostile attack while travelling to or from duty.—The total revenue of the Presidency for the period April-September, 1917 amounted to £20,876 a decrease of £735 as compared with previous year. The total expenditure for the same period was £26,451, an increase of £805. The surplus stood at £4,688. Sir Robert Hudson, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Red Cross Society in a letter to the Administrator, acknowledging the receipt of £302 collected in response to "Our Day" appeal says: "I am desirous by the Joint War Committee to convey to you, and through you to all who helped either with time or money in raising so magnificent a collection, the deep gratitude of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John for the generous manner in which our friends in Dominica show their sympathy with the cause of the sick and wounded."

ST. VINCENT—Reaping in Full Swing.

MR. W. N. SANDS, DECEMBER 12th.—The reaping of the cotton and arrowroot crops is in full swing. In the groundnut districts, particularly, the cotton bolls were attacked by the hush bug (*Necara viridula*) earlier in the season, but egg parasites are now keeping it in check.—The campaign against the cotton stainer conducted by the Agricultural Department last season has been very beneficial, and planters generally are much pleased at its success. With the systematic destruction of any native food-plants that may grow up, a close season for cotton, and care in the disposal of refuse seed-cotton, cotton seed and meal, there now appears to be no reason why the cotton stainer should not become a minor pest. The action taken a few months ago at small cost (£300) has been recouped tenfold this season in the form of increased crops, and the industry has been put on a more stable footing. The Mycologist and Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture have both spent some weeks here conducting valuable investigations in connection with cotton boll diseases and bugs injurious to cotton bolls.—Our fifth contingent of young men for active service left some time ago.—His Excellency the Governor and Lady Haddon Smith paid us a visit of a fortnight's duration recently.

The King has approved of the reappointment of Mr. Frederick Augustine Corea as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of the island of St. Vincent.

TRINIDAD—Much Useful Legislation.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes on January 11th: Under the energetic direction of our present Governor, an unusual amount of useful legislation has recently been passed.

Deserving special mention are the Friendly Societies' Ordinance, the Sale of Produce Ordinance, an Ordinance for the confinement of swine and certain other animals to the premises of their owners, and one for the prevention of cruelty to animals. All of these were needed. The second and third were much wanted in the interest of the agricultural community, and owe the initiative and most useful suggestions to the Agricultural Society, whose influence is now generally recognised as one of much public good. Another Bill now before Council also owes its introduction to the persistent representations of the Society, viz: a Vagrancy Act, to provide for the discipline and reformation of habitual idlers, and no more useful Ordinance could be named. Of course the Society is indebted to the sympathetic interest and prompt action taken by His Excellency when he recognises that suggestions submitted are for the benefit of the colony.

TURKS ISLANDS—Salt sold ahead.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY, LTD.—The weather during November has been favourable to salt production. Proprietors have been raking throughout the month, which, generally, has been a fairly busy one in the salt industry; a number of cargoes have been shipped, the greater number to Nova Scotia, eight vessels in the Dependency waiting at the same time. Practically the whole of the salt of this season has been sold for future delivery. Quantities of fibre and sponge have been shipped to the United States during the month.

On October 8th Mr. T. Lindsay Smith passed away at the age of 76. Mr. Smith belonged to one of the oldest families in the Dependency, and for many years was a member of the Legislative Board, and took a very keen interest in the Victoria Library at Grand Turk. He had been in somewhat indifferent health for some time, and, although about quite recently, his death was not unexpected. Mr. Lea Smith, Postmaster at Grand Turk, is his only son.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Cacao: A Suggestion.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I do not know if it has occurred to you to notice the difference between the price of cacao as sold in London and the manufactured article. The price of raw cacao is 8d. to 9d. a lb. for the best quality, while cacao as sold in shops is 3/- a lb. No doubt you know that out here everyone takes the raw cacao and roasts and grinds it for themselves, so why should not this be done by any grocer in England, the same as coffee is roasted and sold at 1/6 per lb. I once went over a factory in England and the manufacturer confessed to me that the cacao butter, which is the most nourishing part, is now nearly all extracted and the sale of this article alone pays for almost all the cost of manufacture. It seems a pity that West Indian cacao should be partly prohibited when it seems to be just the thing you want, and can be made as easily as coffee, and should be as cheap. Possibly you might utilize wounded West Indians from the cacao islands for the manufacturer, and supply them with a simple granite roller revolving in a tray to crush and extract the butter if necessary, and so give them a means of livelihood which they already understand. Hoping you will at least look into the matter as from a selfish point of view it might cause the embargo on British West India cacao to be lifted and allow it to take the place of tea, which is now short.

With all reasonable good wishes,

I am, yours faithfully,

A CACAO PLANTER.

St. Lucia, Dec. 22nd, 1917.

Cacao and Kapoc.—A Suggestion.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In view of the obvious necessity of economising space in ships, it becomes most eminently desirable that all products that can be concentrated for shipment should be so treated.

I think that bulky cacao beans could be advantageously dealt with in the West Indies, and manufactured into their various products on the spot. Much of the beautiful aromatic and essential oils are lost by fermentation and sweating in the holds of steamers, and therefore a better article, ready for consumption, could be exported, and not deteriorate in transit. I have tasted, in Venezuela, chocolate made at a small factory for local consumption, and have never met with its equal in this country.

I confidently commend this matter to the consideration of cacao planters, and the establishing of cocoa factories on the spot, or the manufacturers of cocoa in this country might start branch factories for that purpose in cacao-producing colonies.

Another industry of minor, but at the moment considerable importance, was brought directly to my notice by two gentlemen whom I was introduced to at your Committee Rooms, and who had been saved by the use of Boddy life belts from a torpedoed W. I. steamer. This belt is an ingenious arrangement, which automatically keeps the head and chest out of water, and from which one cannot be capsized. These gentlemen were quite surprised when I told them that these belts were packed with the silk cotton! The hairy wings of this seed I am informed are five times more buoyant than cork. At present the supplies are limited, and are shipped from the Dutch East Indies under the name of Kapoc. Children in the West Indies, and especially in Jamaica, where the tree grows luxuriantly, might be employed to pick the seed. It is shipped in compressed bales like ordinary cotton, and should be kept as free from dirt as possible.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE HUGHES.

155, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. 3.

January 28th, 1918.

P.S.—Since writing, I have been informed that in the Government specifications for these belts it is stated Java Kapoc must be used. Probably the product is better prepared there. At any rate samples of West Indian silk cotton should be submitted by agricultural societies of the West Indies to the Imperial Institute for investigation, opinion and suggestions.

THE RAW CACAO ORDER.

We publish below, for purpose of record, the Raw Cocoa (Returns) Order, made by the Food Controller and issued under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, which was issued on January 19th:—

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Defence of the Realm Regulations and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, the Food Controller hereby orders as follows:—

1. (a) Every person having raw cocoa in his possession or under his control or holding raw cocoa for value or in trust whether as a Banker or otherwise, shall on or before the 2nd February, 1918, furnish to the Food Controller a return giving particulars of all raw cocoa in bond held by him at the close of business on the 22nd January, 1918, and such further particulars as may be required to complete the prescribed return.

(b) Persons resident in the United Kingdom who have obtained advances on the deposit of their cocoa warrants as collateral security shall include cocoa in their returns, and the persons who have made the advances shall not make a return of such cocoa.

Bankers and others holding cocoa warrants or other documents on account of persons residing outside the United Kingdom shall make a return of the cocoa to which such warrants or other documents relate.

2. The return shall be made on forms prescribed by the Food Controller to be obtained from and when completed to be returned to the Secretary of the Ministry of Food (Statistical Branch), Palace Chambers, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

3. All raw cocoa in bond sold or agreed to be sold, but not delivered, shall be included by the sellers in their returns, and shall not be included in the returns of the buyers.

4. A person who holds less than 100 original bags of

raw cocoa in bond at the close of business on the 22nd January, 1918, or who holds raw cocoa merely as a store-keeper for other persons shall not be required to make any return under this Order.

5. Failure to make a return or the making a false return is a summary offence against the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

6. This Order may be cited as the Raw Cocoa (Returns) Order, 1918.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E.C.3

February 7th, 1918.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 5th of April, 1915. 5 per cent. War Loan was quoted at 93½ per cent. Consols stand at 54½. A supply of 5/- notes are printed, but it is not intended that they should be issued unless the necessity arises.

SUGAR.—No change has taken place in the home market. The Royal Sugar Commission's prices remain at 53/9 for cubes, and 46/9 for granulated, plantation white sugar and British West Indian grocery.

The price of 96° sugar in New York remains as fixed by the International Commission, viz. \$6.05 per 100 lbs. duty paid and landed. It will be remembered that the original price determined upon by the Commission was \$5.92, and that it was found necessary as the result of the fixing of the freight rates by the Committee on Ocean Tonnage to raise the price to the first named figure.

The action of the American Sugar Refining Company in dispensing with brokers has been protested against by the National Association of Brokers in Refined Sugars.

The Cuban crop is in full swing. Up to the 28th ult. the deliveries were 383,000 tons as compared with 328,034 tons on the corresponding date of last year.

The 1917-18 Hawaiian crop is expected to be 100,000 tons short of the 1916-17 crop, which totalled 575,000 tons, and Messrs. Willett and Gray estimate the 1917-18 Philippine crop as 273,250 tons, of which 72,250 are centrifugals and 201,000 tons muscovados. Last crops exports from the Philippines amounted to 170,000 tons.

The Russian sugar crop is not expected to reach 1,150,000 tons. Indeed, 900,000 tons is mentioned as a possible figure.

The freight rates fixed by the Shipping Committee of the United States vary from Philadelphia and from Cuban ports to New York or Philadelphia from 38½ to 58½ cents. per 100 lbs.; from Porto Rico, American steamers only, 40 cents to 46 cents; and from San Domingo, 51 to 53 cents.

The United States Food Administration, which had limited the sales of sugar to confectioners and manufacturers to fifty per cent. of the normal requirements, has authorised the limit to be extended to 80 per cent., in view of the Cuban crop being in progress. It is, however, requested that the use of honey, glucose, etc., should be substituted as much as possible for sugar.

The sugar refining system in the United Kingdom appears to be working satisfactorily, a more even distribution being obtained.

One of the results of the War has been the re-opening of the Maffia beet sugar factory in South Australia, which had been closed for some time. One advantage possessed by beet sugar producers in South Australia is the fact that they are not faced with the labour difficulty experienced in the Queensland cane sugar industry.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from 1st January to 2nd February, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Imports | 1,781 | 3,170 | 3,405 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 5,454 | 4,175 | 5,650 .. |
| Stock (Feb. 2nd) ... | 7,314 | 7,010 | 8,855 .. |

RUM.—No change to report. The market is firm. The stocks in London on 2nd February, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Jamaica | 6,603 | 10,713 | 5,864 puns |
| Demerara | 4,155 | 9,870 | 4,891 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 17,164 | 34,666 | 21,092 .. |

CACAO.—No auction has been held since the date of last summary, pending the Food Controller's action as to the fixing of maximum prices.

The Controller has issued an Order requiring returns of all cacao in bond on January 22nd, 1918. The return must be made on or before February 2nd, and must include all raw cacao, whether held on account of persons outside the United Kingdom or otherwise. All persons liable to make returns must apply for forms to the Ministry of Food (Statistical Branch, Palace Chambers, Westminster). The Ministry does not undertake to supply forms except on application, and no one will be excused from making the return on the ground that he has not seen the Order or received a form.

Stocks in the United Kingdom on the 12th ult. amounted 208,431 bags, of which 43,960 bags were West Indian. This figure compares with 207,506 bags and 49,499 bags respectively to the corresponding date in 1917.

The West India Committee is fully alive to the desirability of the import allowance of British Colonial cacao being increased, and are in correspondence with the Colonial Office on the subject.

The stocks in London on 2nd February, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Trinidad | 14,199 | 18,051 | 6,459 bags. |
| Grenada | 11,789 | 14,067 | 8,966 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 204,390 | 226,132 | 101,109 .. |

COFFEE.—Market very firm. At auction on the 31st, 63 bags of Jamaica were offered, but bought in.

COTTON.—The world's stocks of cotton, ashore and afloat, on the 26th of January, were 4,057,000 bales. Some uncertainty exists as to the United States Government fixing the price of cotton, in view of the necessity for the growth of as many food products as possible. Were the price of cotton reduced, the cultivation of the latter would be more remunerative.

Mr. J. Arthur Hutton has resigned the Chairmanship of the British Cotton Growing Association, which he has held since its inauguration.

ARROWROOT. The exports of arrowroot from St. Vincent amounted to 4,628,816 lbs. for last year up to the 30th November.

COPRA.—The exports of copra from Trinidad last year, up to the 31st October, amounted to 67,890,372 tons; from British Guiana up to the 15th November, 148,639 tons, and from St. Lucia to the latter date, 12,325 tons.

The market remains under Government control, the price being fixed at £46 c.i.f. London or Liverpool.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, quiet. Small sale of common to good at 2/- to 3/- per gallon. Concentrated, quiet. No sales to report at present. Lime Oil: Handpressed, small sales at 17/6. Distilled, 7/6 nominal. Cannot recommend consignments.

BALATA.—Market firm. Venezuelan block is quoted at 3/4 c.i.f., 3/6½ to 3/7 landed. Panama block 2/9; c.i.f., 2/11 landed. Tamaco block nominal, 3/1 landed. West Indian sheet is unchanged, 3/10 to 4/- spot.

RUBBER. Market quiet but fully steady. In plantation, crepe is quoted at 2/3, with smoked sheet 2/2½. Hard fine Para easier. Spot value, 2/7½.

SPICES. Ginger: Very few orders in the market for Jamaica, but prices are steady. Small sales, rather dull. Small to bold bright is quoted at 92/6 to 115/- c.o.b.

Pimento: Very dull, no buyers on spot. Nominal value, 4d. per lb. The nominal quotation on c.i.f. terms is 36/- per cwt.

HONEY.—The market continues very strong, but there are no sales to report since we last advised you.

OUR contemporary, *West Africa*, acknowledging the receipt of our Calendar for 1918, says the West India Committee "is one of the most enterprising in London and works whole-heartedly in the interests of the colonies it represents."

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephones: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
February 21st, 1918.

Is There Oil in British Guiana?

CONSIDERABLE attention has been attracted in recent years to the possibility of the existence of oil deposits in British Guiana akin to those of the neighbouring island of Trinidad, and the Report of PROFESSOR HARRISON presented to the Combined Court of the colony, and now published, on "The occurrence of reported petroliferous areas in the North-West and Pomeroon Districts of British Guiana," brings the history of the subject practically up to date. The existence of "shows" of asphaltum—so-called pitch—the thickened residue of petroleum, in places on the sea-board of the North-West and Pomeroon Districts appears to have been known at an early date in the colony's history, but, as the Report states, but very little attention was devoted to them, except, perhaps, by the Portuguese fishermen and the coastland aborigines, who employed pitch collected on the sea-shore for caulking their boats. But the earliest recorded mention of the existence of pitch is found in the Government Archives, in the form of an old plan, dated 1798, in which a vein of pitch is noted in a locality on the Pomeroon River. About thirty years ago, attention was drawn by Mr. L. A. Lewis to the probable existence of a small pitch lake at the mouth of the Waini River, a supposition based on the appearance of the vegetation in that district, and from time to time various official visits were made

to the spot. Nothing definite, however, resulted from these until 1910, when the Government, on the advice of PROFESSOR HARRISON, instructed the late Mr. C. WILGRESS ANDERSON to inspect and report on the district. Borings were made to the depth of 46 to 48 feet, and the conclusions Mr. ANDERSON arrived at were that the fragments of pitch found on the coast did not arise from pitch deposits in "the tertiary beds lying on the flanks of Archean plains of the Guianas"; but that this "float" pitch probably came from Trinidad or Venezuela. Mr. ANDERSON left over the question as to whether it was worth while to continue the prospectious along the remaining portion of the coast in the direction of the Moruca and Pomeroon rivers, where pitch had also been found on the sea-shore. In 1910 two prospecting permits were issued by the Government, covering 1,100 square miles, in the North-West District, and in one of the areas an expert petroleum engineer was employed. His exploration only lasted to May, 1911, when prospecting by his Company ceased, mainly owing to difficulties connected with the Government Regulations, and partly to the land being under water in the wet season. Additional interest was added to the subject by the Report to the Government of Mr. HAYNES in 1912, that his boat hands had found shows of pitch on the Waini sea coast, a little to the south of Krunkenal Point. This gentleman's visit to the spot disclosed other deposits of pitch and also indications of petroleum. In view of the importance of Mr. HAYNES' Report a Standing Committee, consisting of the Director of Science and Agriculture, the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, and the Director of Public Works, was appointed to deal with the whole matter. The Committee visited the site of Mr. HAYNES' discovery, and came to the conclusion that the pitch had been formed by "the decomposition of the enormous quantities of organic debris in the great thickness of mud at that place, or derived from slow oozings of oil through the mud from underlying petroliferous beds." It did not recommend, however, that anything further should be done in the matter until the nature of the strata that might be revealed during the proposed sinking of deep wells on the front lands of the Colony had justified developments. These wells were sunk in 1914, and the result of these borings showed that a search

for the source of the pitch deposits noticed in the North-West District was a matter of far greater importance than it had hitherto been regarded. This view was strengthened by the opinion of the newly arrived Director of Public Works, MR. BUCK, a recognised authority on the subject, who expressed the opinion that "further investigations should be made at an early date." The outbreak of the war, however, unfortunately prevented the Government putting on one side any money for the purpose, but in April, 1915, MR. BUCK and PROFESSOR HARRISON visited the Sancretal shore southward of Krunkenal Point, and came to the conclusion that the pitch was "the inspissated residuum of a heavy asphaltic oil exuding from tertiary strata similar to those of Venezuela, Trinidad and Barbados." Here the question of British Guiana oilfields remains, with evidence distinctly in favour of their existence.

An Imperial Service.

At a moment when service to the Empire ranks pre-eminently among civic virtues, the DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY may justly claim place and precedence among British Corporations which have "made good." Nor is the Company's record merely a response to war-time demands. Over a long period it has exhibited those qualities of initiative and of enterprise which have borne fruit in the cheaper cable facilities enjoyed by the Antilles during the past four years. It is fitting that mention be made of this contribution to Imperial well-being at this juncture. The subsidy of £8,000 per annum granted by His Majesty's Treasury for twenty years from the opening of the Bermuda—Grand Turk—Jamaica cable in 1898 has just expired. Previously, of course, the associated corporation, the HALIFAX AND BERMUDA CABLE COMPANY, had maintained telegraphic communication between Nova Scotia and Bermuda in return for a subsidy which expired in 1910. The operation of these joint concerns has not only reflected credit upon the management, but has been wholly to the good of the Colonies whose interests have been served with such unquestioned efficiency. The Companies have been concerned not solely with the execution of their contracts and the literal interpretation of the responsibilities imposed upon them; a much wider view has been taken. A substantial reduction of charges was one of the earliest developments to engage attention. The provision of an excellent service has been and is being maintained. These benefits long placed Jamaica, Turks Islands, and Bermuda in a position which was the envy of all other British Possessions in the Caribbean. The balance would have been adjusted years ago as regards the other islands and British Guiana had the plans advocated been permitted to attain

fruition. As long ago as 1910 the project of a new cable from Bermuda to Barbados won the approval of a Royal Commission. By this means an all-British route from the United Kingdom would have become a welcome reality, and the passage of messages to and from the Mother Country *via* foreign territory would have been obviated. The experiences afforded by the War and the deepening of Imperial sentiment effected by Germanic designs have strengthened the argument in favour of such a route, and, let us hope, hastened the day of its realisation. It is no mean tribute to the joint Companies that during the whole period of the contracts with the Imperial Treasury no question has ever been raised and no deduction made from the subsidies.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership mounting up.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to show a gratifying increase. On 7th February the following nineteen new members were elected:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|---|------------------------------|
| Lt. William F. Wood (London) | { Capt. Norman Wood. |
| Capt. A. J. Swinton (London) | { Capt. W. Steele Mitchell. |
| Mr. Harold M. Ellis (London) | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Lt. Eric H. Clarke (Jamaica) | { Mr. H. A. Trotter. |
| Mr. Lewis A. Lewis (London) | { Mr. Harold Carey. |
| Mr. E. N. Wooler (Jamaica) | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (London) | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| Miss F. L. Carrington (Barbados) | { Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. Herbert R. McClean (Trinidad) | { Mr. D. Delbanco. |
| Lt. Arthur P. Huggins (Trinidad) | { Messrs. Paines & Reid. |
| Mr. George Mac Calman (Country) | { Mr. T. Du Buisson. |
| Mr. H. K. D. Urquhart (Country) | { Mr. G. Moody Stuart. |
| Capt. Richard A. Hoban (British Guiana) | { Mr. H. F. Previte. |
| Mr. Maurice A. Ockenden (London) | { Mr. G. R. Alston. |
| Capt. David L. Tate (Jamaica) | { Mr. J. J. Law. |
| Commander H. G. Briggs, R.N. (London) | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. John Sydney Dash (Barbados) | { Mr. Charles Paul Rojas. |
| Mr. Arthur John Webb (Jamaica) | { Mr. Edgar Tripp. |
| Archdeacon Josa (Country) | { Mr. H. F. Previte. |
| | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Miss Mary Moseley. |
| | { Mr. H. F. Previte. |
| | { Mr. A. Duckham. |
| | { Mr. Campbell M. Hunter. |
| | { Sgt. E. R. Rouse. |
| | { Messrs. D. Henriques & Co. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Mr. William Gillespie. |
| | { Mr. Clarence S. Pitcher. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | { Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| | { Mr. Luke M. Hill, M.I.C.E. |
| | { Mr. C. Guy A. Wyatt. |

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, *without delay*. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE sugar shortage has increased enormously the manufacture of saccharine tablets in this country. Large orders for machinery for this purpose are reported.

SIR CHARLES BATHURST, M.P., has accepted the position of Director of Sugar Distribution in addition to that of Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply.

No further licenses for the transshipment or re-export of logwood or fustic will be issued by the War Trade Department, save in exceptional circumstances, on and after March 1st next.

DURING the recent floods in West and South Africa, the cane-fields of the Sena Sugar Company were flooded for a time, but we understand that no damage of importance has been done.

It is officially announced from Washington that the American Government have taken steps to increase the supply to the West Indies of those exports of food hitherto despatched to the Caribbean.

LORD HAREWOOD, President of the West India Committee, is a relative of Lady Spring-Rice, who is receiving Anglo-American condolences on the sudden death of her distinguished husband, the British Ambassador at Washington.

THE Secretary of the West India Committee attended at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, Feb. 9th, when His Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

WE are informed that the British Empire Producers' Organisation is preparing up-to-date figures of production which will in due course be circulated to all who have received copies of the World's Trade Atlas, referred to in last CIRCULAR.

HIS friends in the Bahamas will welcome the news of the appointment of Sir Anton Bertram, K.C., formerly Attorney-General of the Colony (1902-7), to be Chief Justice of Ceylon. Sir Anton's new office is one of the most valued judicial appointments in the Crown Colonies.

THE appointment of Sir Frederic Cowen to be a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music recalls the fact that the distinguished composer was born at Kingston, Jamaica, in 1852. Years ago the name of Sir Frederic—then Mr. F. H. Cowen—became world-famous for his composition of "The Better Land."

LIEUTENANT W. R. DUNLOP, R.N.V.R., Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who obtained leave last year for the duration of the War to join the Forces, after undergoing

gunnery training at Whale Island and serving for some time on the Belgian coast patrol, has been transferred to the Grand Fleet.

BRITISH GUIANA'S list of Governors includes the name of the late Sir Charles Cameron Lees, who held office, 1893-96. Those who recall this former administrator will regret to learn that his widow died on February 14th, at her London residence. Lady Lees, who was 69 years of age, was the daughter of the late Sir Oliver Nugent, of Antigua.

THE late Lord Basil Blackwood, once Colonial Secretary of Barbados, was the heir-presumptive of his brother, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, whose death was recently announced. Sir Vincent Corbett, who will be remembered in Trinidad as a former British Minister to Venezuela, was one of the mourners at the funeral of the Marquis.

SIX British West Indies officers were included in the Overseas Escort (of commissioned rank), who attended the King and Queen on the occasion of the opening of Parliament on February 12th. The six officers were Major F. A. Liston (in command), Major J. G. Jones, Captain Jervis Read, Captain J. A. Tinne, Captain Nicholls, and Captain G. H. Gibson.

LORD BEAVERBROOK, the new Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister of Propaganda, has become well known—by name at least—to West Indians as Chairman of the Colonial Bank. A prominent Canadian financier, his lordship—formerly Sir Max Aitken—has been prominently before the British public in connection with various forms of war work.

THE American Ambassador and the Belgian Minister were present at a complimentary dinner given to Sir William Goode at the Savoy Hotel on February 16th. Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., was in the chair, and the company present included Mr. Harold B. G. Austin, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Douglas Pile, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. H. F. Previte, and Mr. Aspinall.

THE sanction of the Treasury has been given to the issue by Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., of 112,000 shares of £1 each fully-paid for the acquisition of the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., and of 170,000 shares of £1 each for cash, the proceeds of which will be utilised for the redemption of the loan of £200,000. The output of the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., for January was 4,313 tons.

THE Rev. H. H. Lewis Scale, whose death is recorded in another column, was an alumnus of Codrington College, Barbados, where he took the degree of L.Th. He was ordained in 1893, and was subsequently curate of St. George's, Dominica, and Rector of the Virgin Islands, which he left to act as S.P.G. Missionary at Franktown, Killaloe, and elsewhere in Canada. He was Rector of Alburni,

British Columbia, in 1914, when he came to England on account of his health.

* * *

"His visits to Egypt and the West Indies produced reports which proved of great value," says the *Manchester Guardian*, in referring to the resignation—announced in our last issue—by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, of the Chairmanship of the British Cotton Growing Association. "The Association under his direction (adds our contemporary) has not only had to promote the cultivation of cotton but it has had to do a great deal in the marketing and financing of the crops grown."

* * *

THE wedding has taken place at Reigate—very quietly, owing to the war—of Miss Marjorie Mary Rutherford, younger daughter of Mr. Robert Rutherford (Chairman of the West India Committee) and Mrs. Rutherford, of "Fairholme," Millway, Reigate, and Capt. Roginald James Sanceau, R.F.C. The bride, who has been a V.A.D. nurse at the Redhill War Hospital since the opening of the War, was given away by her father. The bridesmaid was Miss May Sanceau, sister of the bridegroom, Lieut. Winn, R.N., D.S.O., acting as best man. The service was fully choral. Owing to the war there were no invitations and no reception.

* * *

JAMES WOOLFORD, a native of Barbados, trading as Woolford Bros. at Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., appeared at the Guildhall on February 11th, charged with having entered into a contract to supply 70,000 tons of sugar outside the United Kingdom, without a permit of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply. There was a second summons in respect of a contract for the supply of 1,700 tons of sugar. Sir John Baddeley ruled that there was no evidence in the second case, and dismissed it. Counsel for the defence submitted that if any offence had been committed it was only a technical one. The defendant had been purchasing for the Italian and Belgian Governments. Sir John Baddeley imposed the maximum fine of £100, with the alternative of three months' imprisonment.

* * *

"Many thanks. Sugar lasted. Mast valued asset.—SHACKLETON."

A cablegram conveying the above gratifying message and dated September 9th, 1916, has just reached the West India Committee from Buenos Aires, after being held up for over 17 months owing to a mistake in the address. It refers, of course, to the sugar which the West India Committee supplied to Sir Ernest Shackleton for his Antarctic Expedition in 1914, that eminent explorer having stated he had used cane sugar on his last expedition and that he had had the best values of all his foods worked out by the Royal Army Medical College, and that there was no doubt that cane sugar was by far the best. It will be recalled that the *Endurance* was crushed in the ice pack, and that Mr. Frank Wild, the second in command, and twenty-two companions were marooned on Elephant Island, whence they were rescued by Sir Ernest Shackleton who had proceeded to South America for help. The gift comprised 243 cases each containing three 14 lb. tins of Demerara, lump and granulated cane sugar, which was packed by the West Indian Produce Association. When the holds of the *Endurance* were flooded, the cases of sugar were saved by being harpooned. The centre tin in each case was thus damaged; but the remaining cases remained sound, and the sugar in them undoubtedly helped to save the lives of the survivors.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Coming Offensive in the West.

That Germany is preparing a heavy blow against the Allies is as certain as anything can be certain in this war. In the rear of her positions on the Western Front a great offensive is being organised and rehearsed, behind which is a vast concentration of strength drawn from the East. But whether the operations will be on the scale anticipated by some military critics is a question. The highest authorities in Germany do not believe that the war can end decisively for either side, and that she can hold out longest, in which case she will have won, seeing that she is in possession of most of the territories she covets and is in no danger of crushing retributive measures from the Allies. As these views are more or less shared with the rank-and-file it is difficult to suppose that the three Battles of Ypres or the Battle of Verdun are to be repeated on a bigger scale in the coming spring. The hope of victory, not of attrition, nerved the dense masses who hurled themselves against the British and French in 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917. What will they do in 1918, when no "break through" is anticipated?

The British and French, on the other hand, are not only confident that they can win a decisive victory, but are conscious that they must. To them a drawn war would mean the triumph of Germany and the slavery of the world. For to her defeat would but mean the death of a bloated ambition, to them it would mean the degradation and ruin of every individual citizen. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the British Government in particular will quickly send large reinforcements to Flanders and take belated steps for raising more men, remembering that we are fighting not for abstract ideals, but for our life.

Changes in the High Command.

Unfortunately the recent changes in the High Command do not inspire confidence in the War Cabinet. They have been carried out in defiance of constitutional usage and by un-British methods. But when the Versailles Council was formed last November, it was obvious, as it had no executive authority, that it would not work. It has now been invested with executive authority. These changes were opposed by Sir W. Robertson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and by the Army Council, not only as unconstitutional, but as establishing divided control in a most mischievous form. Sir William Robertson has accepted the Eastern Command, and Sir Henry Wilson has been appointed his successor, with Sir Henry Rawlinson as the British military representative on the Versailles Council. It is to be hoped that these changes will work out better than expert opinion believes.

The Russian Betrayal.

The Brest-Litovsk farce has come to an end in the complete surrender of the Bolsheviks, who have accepted the peace terms of the Central

Powers. For that Lenin and Trotzky are in the pay of Germany has been only too obvious for some time. She is now, therefore, mistress of the Baltic and of Russia's Baltic Provinces. As for the Ukraine and Rumania, they cannot long hold out against her pressure. The *Mittel-Europa* dream of the pan-Germans is being realised. The Bolsheviks, with characteristic ingenuousness, lay the blame on the capitalists and *bourgeoisie* in the Allied countries as well as in the Central Powers. It was to support Russia in her defence of a small Slav State that France entered the war, and, a few days later, Britain.

As for the Russian Empire, it is dissolved, and the European Provinces north of the Ukraine are either in the hands of the enemy or given over to the unspeakable savagery of Bolshevik rule.

The Ukrainian Peace.

The Ukraine has negotiated a peace with the Central Powers through the Rada, whose opposition to the Soviet was a determining cause in the participation of the territory in the Brest-Litovsk negotiations. The Little Russians, who inhabit the Ukraine, have a discipline of their own, and have established a government capable of maintaining order against the spread of Bolshevism. The movement towards independence began long before the Imperial régime came to an end, though checked by the administrative severance of the Ukraine from Chelm, thus dividing the Little Russians under the Tsar from their kinsfolk under the Austrian Emperor. According to the terms of peace, Chelm has been restored to the Ukraine, together with part of Galicia, which, as the Poles form the bulk of the population, is raising ill-feeling against the Little Russians in Poland. The importance of peace with the Ukraine to Germany lies in its immense power of production, its "black-earth" areas having constituted the granary of Russia. It is, in fact, a vast reservoir of food and raw material, which we intended the Dardanelles campaign to tap. But it will be six months at least before Germany can begin to benefit, and a good deal may happen elsewhere before then.

The Plight of Rumania.

Rumania, whose constancy to the Allied cause is the only certain factor in the chaos of Eastern Europe, is surrounded by enemies. But she is not dismayed, relying on her army, which was never so efficient. She it is who holds the front from Galatz to Cernowitz, and is restoring something like order in Bessarabia, desolated by the Red Guards of Bolshevism. She is, however, making a firm stand against the Central Powers. These have tried to intimidate her by sending an ultimatum demanding a continuation of the armistice into which she was forced by the Russians, and giving her a week in which to make up her mind. But on her refusal, Marshal von Mackensen has not carried the matter further, giving out that he is merely endeavouring to come to an amicable arrangement with Rumania. Evidently Germany has her own reasons for not desiring any fresh complication on this front, particularly with a power whose decisions have disciplined force behind them.

On the Western Front.

Though fighting is reported daily from France, it is of an isolated character. Artillery duels are frequent, and successful raids have been carried through against the German positions south-east of Messines and near Lens. In the air for months the enemy appeared to acquiesce in Allied superiority, but, of late, he has tried to assert himself, though with disastrous results, his losses in aeroplanes far exceeding ours. The vast preparations being made behind the German lines can, apparently, largely dispense with information gained by aerial scouting.

On the historic battlefield of Verdun the enemy has savagely raided the Courieres Wood and the Fosses Wood. The violence of his attack carried him into the French first line trenches, but he was unable to maintain his hold and was turned out again. Taking advantage of a fog he tried to capture Hill 344, only to fail with loss.

The most important event on the Western Front of late was the French thrust in Champagne between Tahure and the Butte du Mesnil, where the advance in September, 1915, was brought to a standstill. The object was to bite off and retain a salient in the enemy's line, which had become troublesome to the French. After a six hours' preliminary bombardment the infantry entrusted with the task advanced, and with such dash as to penetrate the German third line, thereby throwing the enemy into some disorder and driving him out of the saucer-like depression among the hills which was so useful to him. American guns participated in this action.

The United States and the War.

If the United States came late into the war she is rapidly making up for lost time. Her vigour and energy have operated for good in two ways: (1) in stiffening the naval and military policy of the Allies as against the enemy; (2) in promoting greater unity of effort as between themselves. In consequence of the first there is now in France an American army of 500,000 men, a great achievement when the scarcity of shipping, the length of United States line of sea communications, and the enemy's submarine methods are considered. For it must be remembered that not only has this large force been transported in safety across 3,000 miles of ocean, but their equipment, munitions, and stores. To save tonnage many of their guns are being manufactured in France, and to avoid railway congestion in France, they have laid a steel road of their own from the coast to their base. In the prosecution of the blockade the United States has exerted a most salutary influence, not only in substituting direct negotiations with neutral Governments for British agreements with corporations and in securing the release of neutral tonnage for Allied use. In promoting unity of effort as between the Allies she has been equally successful. She has put an end to their wasteful bidding against each other in her market by threatening to stop the outward flow of American supplies which has forced the Allies to set up a central authority for the purpose of securing to each a fair share at the smallest possible cost. She has, too, by drastic measures involving self-denial on the part of her people, collected an

enormous total of foodstuffs to send to Britain, relieved the congestion on American railways, due to weather and the war, and organised a more elastic system for facilitating ocean traffic.

The Palestine Front.

The Arab forces of the King of the Hedjaz have had encounters with the Turks near Kerak in the Dead Sea region. In one the enemy was routed with 700 casualties and the sacrifice of considerable war material; in another only 40 Turks escaped and the losses included vessels sunk with grain stores. At intervals the Arabs raid the Hedjaz Railway with varying success, but it is not likely that they will do more than they are doing at present until the military situation in the Near East develops more decidedly in favour of the Allies. The Arabs are always to be found on the side which is certain to win.

In the meantime our Air Service is most active in bombing station buildings, the track, and station buildings of the Hedjaz Railway. Our aviators are also most successful in raiding enemy camps.

The War at Sea.

The "U"-boat campaign against America's long line of sea communications scored its first success in the torpedoing of the convoyed transport *Tuscania* off the Irish coast on a pitch-dark night. Fortunately, the loss of life was comparatively light, out of the total number on board, 2,235, all being saved but 166. The discipline and coolness of the American troops was splendid. So, too, was the seamanship of British destroyers which arrived early on the scene. At great risk to themselves they, to facilitate the work of rescue, drew alongside the sinking liner, at one stage also beating off an enemy submarine which attacked them. Many trawlers assisted in picking up survivors. The incident has inflamed war feeling in the United States, but it is a mistake to assume, as some British newspapers have done, that the enemy in torpedoing the *Tuscania* violated sea law. The operation was legitimate, and sanctioned by the usage of the British Navy, which sank several Turkish transports during the progress of the Dardanelles campaign.

Shipping Losses.

British losses from "U"-boat activity are still high. In the week which ended February 9th, 13 ships of 1,600 tons and over were sunk, and 6 ships of under 1,600 tons. In the following week the figures were 12 and 3 respectively.

The greatest sufferer amongst the neutrals at present is Spain. Within the past fortnight a coasting steamer of her own and an Italian steamer have been torpedoed in Spanish territorial waters, and two other vessels have been dealt a similar fate off the Canaries. In all Spain has lost sixty ships through enemy depredations at sea. As for Norway, her mercantile marine in three and a half years of war has shrunk by over 1,050,583 tons, and its personnel by 883 seamen. Nevertheless, the neutrals have not yet combined against German methods, nor, except in the case of Argentine, made any effectual protest. Lord Jellicoe, in a recent speech, has told us that while the Allies will be severely tried during the

next few months, the submarine menace will be mastered by August.

The Dover Patrol has been attacked by the enemy fleet on the tip-and-run principle in a swift raid of large enemy destroyers. A trawler and seven drifters, who were engaged in hunting a submarine, were sunk. This is the first instance made public of surface vessels operating in combined action with submarines.

Dover itself has been raided by a submarine and from the air, but the effect was very small.

Air Raids.

There have been several raids with London as the objective, the first on February 16th, when the solitary bomb that was dropped by the solitary aeroplane which got through demolished a famous old building and killed several of its picturesque occupants.

On the two following nights the enemy made organised attempts to raid London, but only one aeroplane was able to slip through our defences. The others were all turned back.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

III.—THE MANUFACTURE OF CANE SUGAR AND BEET SUGAR.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of this article appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the article shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and a special feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

The Vacuum Pan.

The *modus operandi* of a vacuum pan is as follows—

A vacuum having been formed in the pan, syrup is drawn in sufficient quantity to come to "grain" when concentrated at a point fairly low down in the pan. Steam is turned on to the coils, and water to the condenser, and evaporation and concentration proceeds until the sugar commences to crystallise. Suddenly a multitude of small bright crystals are seen in the sample of the contents of the pan, which is taken from time to time. Feeding with syrup is then commenced, and as the concentration proceeds the sugar from the incoming syrup is deposited on the grains already formed, which thus increase in size as the pan fills up with this saccharine content. When the desired point has been obtained, the feeding with syrup is discontinued, and the finishing touches put to the concentration. Molasses from a previous "strike" of the vacuum pan is frequently mixed with the last quantities of syrup used.

The contents of the vacuum pan now consist of a mass—called technically a "mascuite," consisting of crystals surrounded by a mother liquor—molasses. The vacuum is destroyed by stopping the pump and letting air into the pan. The valve at the discharge outlet is opened, and the contents of the pan fall

gradually into the "crystalliser," in which the massecuite is further treated before being subjected to separation into crystals and molasses.

A crystalliser consists of a long trough, either in the shape of a cylinder with closed ends, or of which a segment, greater or less as the case may be, has been cut off the upper portion. Through the centre runs a shaft, to which arms are attached radially, and which is made to revolve by outside gear driven by an engine or motor. In this the finishing touch is given to the crystallisation of the sugar. The "massecuite," as it comes from the vacuum pan, is hot, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 150°F., and as the molasses in it is concentrated to saturation, *i.e.*, to a point that when further evaporation is done, or when the temperature is lowered, more sugar crystallises out. One of the objects of the crystallisers is to secure, by keeping the mass in motion, that the sugar thus separated is deposited on the crystals already formed, and does not crystallise separately. Another is to obtain more sugar from molasses, already separated from the sugar of a previous "strike" of massecuite. This is done by adding small quantities from time to time to the contents of the crystalliser, the motion tending to cause the sugar in the molasses thus added to crystallise point, and thus further augment the extraction of sugar. A third object is to cool the massecuites more quickly than could be done at rest.

The massecuite, therefore, as it comes from the vacuum pan, is run into the crystalliser. The arms of this are made to rotate slowly, causing continuous motion in the mass; while during the 10 or 12 hours of operation, molasses is occasionally added.

Centrifugals.

This operation being concluded, the mother liquor, in this case molasses, is separated from the crystals by means of the centrifugal. This appliance consists of a cylindrical drum, 2½ to 4 feet in diameter, of which the bottom is closed with the exception of an adjustable valve for discharging its contents when the operation of "curing," as it is termed, is over. The upper part of the drum is open, and its sides are perforated with holes and lined with fine wire mesh. Attached to the bottom, and rising vertically through the centre of the drum to a considerable height above it, is a steel spindle, by means of which it is suspended from an upper fixed frame in such a manner as to permit of free revolving movement. This movement is transmitted to the spindle starter by means of a belt and pulley, or by water or electric motor. The rate of revolution is from 800 per minute with the larger size.

The massecuite is discharged from the crystalliser into a feeding trough for the battery of centrifugals. From this a charge is run into the drum or basket of the centrifugal. The basket is now made to revolve, and as it revolves, the centrifugal force brought to bear on the massecuite causes it to fly to, and to be pressed forcibly against, the sides of the centrifugal basket. The wire mesh holds up the crystals, but the molasses, being liquid, is forced through the mesh and side perforations, impinges against an outer and fixed drum, down the sides of which it streams and is collected in a gutter arranged

for the purpose. The sugar, thus dried, remains in a wall against the inner side of the basket. The centrifugal is stopped, the sugar raked down through the now open orifice in the bottom of the basket on to a travelling carrier which conveys it away to the sugar store, where it is packed in bags ready for shipment.

The molasses, which is driven away in the centrifugal from the sugar made from the syrup, still contains much sugar which is recoverable. It is, therefore, reclarified, that is to say, limed, if necessary, and heated by means of steam, any dirt or scum which rises to the surface being removed. Some portion of the molasses thus treated, as already mentioned, is used in the crystallisers. The balance, and major portion, is reboiled in the vacuum pan, "graining" or crystallising being done in the beginning of the operation, as in the case of the first sugar, some syrup from the evaporator being usually added to the first portions in order to secure the formation of a suitable "grain." When the boiling is complete the contents of the vacuum pan is discharged, as with first sugar, into a crystalliser, in which the stirring motion is continued for three or four days, no molasses being added during the operation, as in the case of "first" sugars. The massecuite now obtained is then "cured" in the centrifugals.

The sugar thus obtained is not of so good a quality as the first sugar. It is either shipped as such or else used as "grain" for the first sugar boiling, thus doing away with the rather long operation of "graining" from syrup, and at the same time procuring the conversion of the "second" sugar into first, at a loss of quantity inversely proportionate to the percentage of sucrose in the second sugar to that in the first sugar.

The molasses from the curing of the second sugar is sometimes reboiled in the vacuum pan up to a certain consistency, run into stationary tanks, where it is allowed to remain some weeks to permit of slow crystallisation of the sugar, when curing is done as before. In either case the resultant molasses is discharged from impurities, either to be sold as such, or made into rum, or into cattle food, or if no market exists for these by-products, got rid of in the best manner available.

The above process is a fair delineation of the process employed in making grey refining sugars, which on account of the saccharine strength which forms the basis of sale contracts—96 per cent. as shown by the polariscope—are called in the trade "96s." What modifications in the above process exist, are almost invariably in the treatment of the second massecuite, but are all on similar lines to the above. The quantity of the sucrose in the juice dealt with, recovered in the form of sugar, is, with juices of average composition, about 90 per cent.

Plantation White Sugar.

Of recent years, the attention of sugar makers has been given to the economic manufacture of white sugar direct from the cane juice, without the agency of refiners. This has been carried to considerable perfection, although the best sugar of this class is not equal in appearance to the refiner's products.

In the manufacture of this description of sugar,

the clarification part of the above process has to be considerably strengthened. The milling is, of course, the same, but a system of clarification has to be adopted, which not only gets rid of more impurities, but also secures a colour position favourable to the curing out of a white product.

The process generally adopted to this end is called the sulphitation process, on account of the sulphurous acid gas which is a prominent agent in it. The juice is limed, as in the process already delineated, but to a much greater extent, the juice being very alkaline after the liming is finished. The limed juice is then transferred to the sulphitation tanks, in which sulphurous acid gas is pumped until the juice is very faintly acid. The process then goes on as already described until the syrup point is reached, especial care being taken to secure clearness and brightness in the clarified juice. Another process of clarification sometimes employed with white sugar manufacture is the double carbonatation process. In this the juice is heavily limed, and then treated with carbonic acid gas until a moderate alkalinity is left. It is then heated to 150°F., and filtered through filter presses. The clear juice is then slightly limed again and treated with carbonic acid to neutral point, boiled and filtered.

Before the concentrated syrup is taken into the vacuum pan for crystallising purposes, it is subjected to a further process of clarification, by boiling for a minute or two and subsiding the boiled syrup in tanks. The clear supernatant syrup is then subjected to the action of sulphurous acid gas, in order to restore the degree of acidity which the clarified thin juice possessed, and which disappears from the boiling off of volatile organic acids in the evaporation.

The process of boiling in the vacuum pan is carried out in a similar manner as with 96° sugars, save that no molasses is taken in with the syrup and no lower grade sugars used for "grain." The cooling in the crystallisers is also conducted without the addition of molasses.

There is a material difference in the treatment of white sugar massecuite in the centrifugal to that of grey sugars. The molasses covering the surface of the crystal, as cured with washing is, it is true, of a lighter shade of colour to what it is in the case of grey sugars; but it has to be completely got rid of before the white crystals can show in a condition of purity. The operation of "curing" in the centrifugals is, therefore, generally divided into two stages. In the first, the massecuite is simply "spun" until it is dry, as with grey sugars. The sugar is then removed from the centrifugal, made into a magma with a little syrup, or with some of the washings from the following operation, and again centrifugalled. After drying, water is sprayed on the inner side of the layer of sugar in the centrifugal, which is still in motion, and as the water passes through the sugar and is flung outside the centrifugal, it removes the molasses adhering to the crystals of sugar. Steam is then applied in the same manner to wash and to dry the sugar further. The washings from this second operation contain a considerable quantity of sugar and are returned to the original syrup tanks after some has been mixed in

the dry sugar from the first curing, as already mentioned.

The treatment of the molasses from the first sugar may be different from that of the molasses from the grey sugar. Some of the first massecuite may be used as a basis for the crystallisation of the molasses in the vacuum pans. The resulting product being crystallised and cured as above described for the first sugar, a second white product being thus obtained. Or the molasses may be "grained" boiled and cured with grey sugars, and the dry sugar thus obtained re-melted in the clarifier juice. Or a combination of the two processes be adopted.

As regards the recovery of white sugar, it may be taken that 89 per cent. of the sucrose in the juice should, under normal conditions, be obtained as sugar of which 80 per cent. is first quality. The resultant first quality sugar contains about 99.7 per cent. of sucrose, in other words, polarises 99.7.

Demerara Sugar.

There is another kind of sugar made in comparatively small quantities in the British West Indies, known under the name of "Demerara" or West Indian crystallised grocery sugar. This owes its tint, which should be a canary yellow, to special canes yielding juice of the requisite colour and chemical properties and to the manufacture of the juice whereby its natural flavour and colour are preserved. The canes are not, however, subjected to heavy crushing, and the juice is treated with as little lime and sulphur as possible, its reaction when clarified being more acid than with white sugar manufacture. The clarification is generally divided into two stages, the one in which the juice has been sulphured, limed, heated and subsided, and the other in which the clear juice drawn off from the subsiding vessels is treated with phosphoric acid to develop the yellow colour, raised to the boil in vessels called eliminators, dry dirt coming to the surface being removed. Stannous chloride is also used in the vacuum pan to protect the sugar from becoming dark on exposure to air. No crystallisers are used, and molasses is not used with the first sugar boiling where good sugar is wanted. The manufacture is expensive, as high extraction from the canes cannot be aimed at.

The power driving a sugar factory is invariably derived from the "megass" or "bagasse," the crushed and exhausted cane. This, as already mentioned, is gathered up from the last unit of the mill plant by a carrier which conveys it to the furnaces of the boilers supplying the factory with steam. These furnaces are of special design, as the fuel used contains between 42 and 50 per cent. water. The entire fuel requirements of factory should be given by the megass, but as a general rule, one or perhaps two cwt. of coal are used as well per ton of sugar.

The motive power throughout most cane sugar factories is steam, but of recent years electricity has been applied to sugar factories with considerable success. As, however, steam in large quantities is required for evaporation, it has been found convenient to retain the steam engine principle for the mills, as the large amount of exhaust steam thus given is advantageously used up in the heaters and evaporator.

In some instances, the refuse molasses from the sugar works is made into rum, notably in the West Indies, in British Guiana, Jamaica, and Trinidad. Absorbed by the fine portions of megass, molasses also supplies an excellent dry feeding stuff for cattle.

In India, sugar manufacture is in a very backward state, and a very large proportion is made in the almost prehistoric methods mentioned in the historical account of sugar. In Barbados, also, small estates are still found which manufacture "muscovado" sugar on 250-year-old lines. The canes are crushed in a small mill driven by wind, or in some instances, steam; the juice is limed and boiled in a series of three or four cauldrons, arranged in a line, and heated by fires made from the crushed cane. The juice as it boils, is ladled from the one cauldron to the next, and the impurities are removed as they come to the surface during the boiling process. At the end of the concentration, the syrup is ladled into tanks, allowed to cool and granulate, and then removed to hogsheads with perforated bottoms. In these the molasses gradually drains from the sugar, leaving what is known as Muscovado sugar, the old "soft brown sugar." In some of these small works the syrup is treated in oscillators, a species of crystalliser, and after cooling, cured in centrifugals, producing "muscovado centrifugal sugar."

(To be continued.)

SUGAR ENGINEERS CO-OPERATE.

A New Association Formed.

Anticipating the recommendations of the British Ministry of Reconstruction, that in order to facilitate distribution of materials, and for other common purposes, all trades should form themselves into associations, a Sugar Machinery Manufacturers' Association was recently formed. It comprises the following firms—A. F. Craig & Co., Ltd., Duncan Stewart & Co., Ltd., Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd., George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., John McNeil & Co., Ltd., Mirrlees Watson Co., Ltd., Pott, Casseis & Williamson, A. & W. Smith & Co., Ltd. and Watson, Laidlaw & Co., Ltd.

The cessation of the import of beet sugar from Germany and Austria has rendered the United Kingdom entirely dependent upon the tropics for sugar, and there has been an urgent demand for cane sugar machinery. The Government has been in control of the whole engineering industry in order to attain the maximum output of War Munitions, and it has therefore been necessary to get special permission to employ metal materials for any other purpose, or to export machinery containing such materials. These questions may obviously be better discussed in official circles from the point of view of an associated section of industry than of individual firms.

A communiqué issued on behalf of the Association further states—"There is, moreover, a clear field of usefulness for this Association during the problematic period following the war. On the one hand it will continue to be necessary for British makers of sugar machinery to do their utmost to assist the development of the cane sugar industry,

while on the other hand it is to be expected that for some time there will arise questions of priority and precedence in regard both to supplies of metal and to shipping accommodation. The Sugar Machinery Manufacturers' Association is affiliated to the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which is determined to oppose the resumption of importation from Germany, and which is therefore actively interested in the increase of production in the Allied and neutral countries. The machinery makers are vitally concerned in this policy, and the whole purpose of their collective action as an Association is to enable them to co-operate more efficiently with the sugar growers on tropical estates, with whom they have had cordial relations for so many years, and also to deal effectively with the design and supply of machinery for the manufacture of beet sugar in the United Kingdom and other countries. The importance of this co-operation is not so widely recognised as it should be. It is, however, obvious that if the Empire is to produce what sugar it requires, that sugar should by rights be produced by machinery made also within the Empire—the same holding for all Imperial products."

AGRICULTURE IN ST. VINCENT.

Sugar exports expanding.

St. Vincent has always been a synonym for arrowroot. The island has also won a place among our cotton-producing possessions. It has never been associated in recent years with the sugar-cane countries. The time, however, has come for us to revise our estimate of St. Vincent's possibilities. Cane is advancing by leaps and bounds. British Guiana's rice industry has long provided a classic instance of rapid development. That development has found a rival in the cane-fields of St. Vincent.

In 1913 sugar to the amount of 250 lbs., and valued at £2, was exported. Four years later—in 1916—the export reached 1,198,314 lbs., worth £9,520. It is not surprising to read that sugar and sugar products now take third place in the list of exports. The following table tells the story of this very remarkable progress:—

| Year. | Sugar lbs. | Value. £ | Syrup and molasses gallons. | Value. £ | Total Value. £ |
|-------|------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 1913 | 250 | 2 | 3,252 | 171 | 173 |
| 1914 | 281,990 | 1,586 | 8,904 | 252 | 1,838 |
| 1915 | 505,232 | 3,253 | 10,079 | 503 | 3,756 |
| 1916 | 1,198,314 | 9,520 | 33,771 | 1,475 | 10,995 |

We take these figures from the Report of the Agricultural Department of St. Vincent for 1916-1917. This report shows a serious falling-off as regards the island's best-known industry—arrowroot. Compared with 1915, the export shows a decline of 849,539 lbs. Exports of Cassava starch were 70,282 lbs. more. Prices were maintained in both cases at a remunerative figure. The output of arrowroot was adversely affected by heavy rains.

Cotton handicapped.

Sea Island cotton, too, has been severely handicapped. A set-back in planting has been brought about as a result of several unfavourable seasons,

coupled with severe attacks of the cotton stainer and internal boll diseases. Only 2,401 acres were planted for 1916-17 crop—the smallest area for the past ten years. As in the case of arrowroot, heavy rains exercised a restrictive influence on output. Prices obtained for the cotton already shipped were good, but these, even if maintained for the remainder of the crop, will not, it is stated, cover the losses sustained by growers. Exports (99,588) were the lowest recorded for ten years.

At a moment when the entire tropical world is alive to the importance of cacao, it is sorry reading that in St. Vincent this crop continues to lose ground. Here, again, the export is the lowest recorded for nine years—178,744 lbs. as against 236,843 in the previous year.

SUGAR AFTER THE WAR.

BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

At the present time the thoughts of sugar producers are largely concentrated on the conditions as regards sugar which will prevail after the war. The difficulty of prognosis is naturally enormous, and much will depend upon the fiscal conditions which will follow the declaration of peace. The question very largely hinges on the future of European beet. In every European beet-growing country there has been an industrial upheaval, with a reduction of sugar crops, due partly to want of labour, partly to the destruction of sugar factories, but mainly to the necessity for the cultivation of other provisions. The points to be considered are, Will the pre-war crops be again realised? Will they be extended?

The chief European sugar-producing countries are Germany, Austria, Russia, and France. In the first two of these the pre-war factories remain standing, in the latter it may be expected that a good many of those in Poland have been destroyed, while we know that French factories have been sacrificed.

Germany, with its great powers of output, naturally occupies an important place in the consideration of the subject. Labour will inevitably be scarce, the utilisation of women for labour purposes hardly making up for the scarcity of men. On the other hand Germany will strain all her industrial powers to produce sugar for her own purposes, and will endeavour to export sugar for the purpose of bringing grist to the mill in the shape of money into the country. This opens up a further question. With the world in arms against her, will she be able to export sugar at anything but a ruinous figure, except in the remote contingency that peace will enable her to make such terms as will place her produce on the Allies' markets on equal footing with the produce of the Allies. Without venturing to prophesy, it looks as if this will not be the case, in which event it may be taken that Germany will not export sugar from the Continent, as she did before the war, Austria will be in the same position as Germany, and her exports are not likely to extend beyond supplying comparatively small Eastern demands.

The future position of the Russian sugar industry is very doubtful. If Germany acquires the commercial control of that country it is quite possible

that she will discourage the production of sugar in Russia beyond a certain extent, with the view of providing a favourable market for her own surplus sugar. The German cost of production is far below that of Russia, and duty-free German sugar in Russia would be a considerable damper to the Russian industry. The other European beet-growing countries will probably return to their previous output, but in no case will their excess sugar be an important asset in the world's market. There may be a certain amount of beet sugar grown in the United Kingdom.

The other large beet-producing country is the United States. Here the output will certainly be increased.

It may be taken, therefore, that the post-war production of beet sugar available for the world's supply will be much less than before the war for many years at least, and if cane sugar production goes ahead permanently it is not likely to recover its lost position.

Turning to cane producing countries, a prime factor in supply will be, as it now is, Cuba. It is not likely, however, that the output of that country will ever much exceed 3½ or 4 million tons. Transport and labour trouble will probably make this the economic limit. As the American beet sugar industry increases in volume, there will be a smaller market in the United States for Cuban sugar, the increasing excess being thrown on the world's market. It must be remembered that Cuba is in the circle of Allies, and will receive preferential treatment in Great Britain, the great market for the world's sugar, if any preference is given at all in her Customs tariff to the produce of the Allies.

Louisiana, Hawaii and Porto Rico have reached their limit, but the Philippines may be looked upon as likely to increase their output, and the same may be said of Formosa.

There is no indication of a change in amount of production in the Argentine and the Brazils. The Venezuelan industry may develop.

Java, the great sugar-producing centre of the East, is fast approaching her maximum of output, and is not likely to produce more than 1½ million tons at the most.

India has large possibilities in the shape of sugar production, but is a large importer and does not seem, for some internal cause, to be able to extend her sugar output.

The future of sugar in China has also to be reckoned in the calculation. There are signs that the Chinese are giving their serious attention to its production, and if they only increase their production to the extent of their imports, the extra amount will be an important item in the world's production.

The supply from the British Empire will depend largely upon the treatment accorded sugar in the Customs tariff of the Empire. To supply its wants, basing consumption on the pre-war figure, 5½ million tons are required. It now produces 3½ million, and is capable of turning out 7 or 8 millions.

Taking all things into consideration, it is evident that there will be a scarcity of sugar for some time after the war. How long this will continue depends

to a great extent on the fiscal policy of the British Empire. But no matter what this be the survival will be with those producers who can produce most cheaply. The industrial revival after the war will be stupendous, and those estates proprietors who look to continue sugar production should at once place orders with our sugar engineers for machinery to bring their factories up-to-date, so that there may be no time lost when the sugar machinery makers are released from their war obligations. It will not be the slightest use depending upon a favourable tariff treatment to make up for inefficient agricultural or manufacturing methods. Preference or no preference, *only the fittest will survive*, and the fittest will be the producers who are best equipped for survival in the way of low cost of output.

THE CACAO POSITION.

Incidence of Import Restrictions.

Assuming that no modifications are made in the import restrictions Order for cacao, the position of Trinidad will be serious.

The percentage importable from Trinidad is smaller than that from any of the other colonies. This is due to the fact that in 1916 a large proportion of the Trinidad crop went to France. The destination of the crop in the last four years is shown by the following table, the figures being for the crop seasons October 1st to September 30th:—

| Crop. | England. Bags. | France. Bags. | America Bags. | Total. Bags. |
|---------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1913-14 | 12,217 | 143,765 | 161,905 | 317,887 |
| 1914-15 | 60,478 | 35,982 | 140,545 | 237,005 |
| 1915-16 | 53,230 | 68,694 | 175,186 | 297,110 |
| 1916-17 | 28,917 | 117,649 | 208,786 | 355,352 |

Previous to the war shipments were made to "Havre for Orders," and it is safe therefore to assume that a large portion of the 143,765 bags would have been re-shipped to London and Hamburg.

Last year nearly the entire Grenada crop was imported into the United Kingdom. This was due to much of it having already been shipped to the market before the prohibition order came into force. Trinidad, on the other hand, enjoyed the advantage of a special sailing to France by one of the Direct Line steamers, which lifted 42,752 bags of cacao for that market.

Trinidad's difficulties are now increased by the vessels of the Campagnie Générale Transatlantique ceasing to take cacao from Port-of-Spain, and picking up instead cacao from Venezuelan ports. It is not without reason resented that a French steamship line should be giving preference to a neutral where much German capital is invested instead of to one of the colonies of her ally, and it is hoped that steps will be taken to adjust this anomaly. Meanwhile it is being urged on behalf of Trinidad that it would be more equitable if the proportion of her crop unportable into the United Kingdom were to be in the same ratio as that prevailing in the case of the other cacao producing colonies.

The Gold Coast is also a sufferer from the import restrictions. Says our contemporary, *West Africa*: "The importance of the British West African crop to the world's cacao industry is not generally appreciated. In 1916 it formed a third of the world's output, and it furnished Great Britain with more than a half of her total supplies. In 1918 there will be no imports, except from our colonies, and of these West Africa will provide three-fourths. The Gold Coast has leapt so suddenly into this predominant position that in her progress has been realised a more splendid success than even the Imperialistic imagination of Mr. Chamberlain or Sir Alfred Jones conceived. If we take a year so recent as 1910, we find her total exports of cacao to all countries to be 452,615 cwt., or less than half of her export to this country alone in 1916. Some idea of the rapid growth of her supplies to Great Britain can be seen from the following comparison:—

| | 1910 Cwt. | 1914* Cwt. | 1916 Cwt. |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total British Imports | 630,806 | 835,000 | 1,776,239 |
| British Imports from British West Africa | 98,130 | 187,000 | 953,925 |
| Per cent of total | 15.55 % | 22.40 % | 53.70 % |

*Up to 1914 Germany took large quantities from British West Africa.

"With the introduction of import restrictions our supplies from foreign countries disappear altogether:—

| | 1916 (Without restrictions.) Cwt. | 1918 (Estimated with restrictions). Cwt. |
|---------------------|--|---|
| British West Africa | 953,925 | 476,912 |
| British West Indies | 226,556 | 113,278 |
| Ceylon | 38,378 | 19,189 |
| Sundry | 2,508 | 1,254 |
| Foreign— | | |
| Brazil | 111,798 | Nil. |
| Portugal | 86,314 | Nil. |
| Guayaquil | 208,291 | Nil. |
| German Colonies | 59,365 | 29,732 |
| Sundre | 89,104 | Nil. |
| U.S.A. | | |
| Venezuela | | |
| Java etc. | | |
| | 1,776,239 | 640,365 |

"Unfortunately, just at the moment when the native cultivator might have expected to reap the advantage of an increased production—when there is a world-shortage of food and high prices in European countries—his price has dropped to a level unknown before. For several years the average price to the native farmer has rarely been lower than 30s., and was more often in the neighbourhood of 40s. During the present season his prices have not averaged higher than 14s., and have been much lower."

As regards the United Kingdom market it is understood that the decision of the Government as to the regulation of prices will shortly be announced, and that it will affect the raw material as well as the finished product. This brings us again to the question of the use of cacao butter as a cooking fat, and it may be noted that the demand for that product is steadily increasing. If, as may be assumed

will be the case, the retail price is lowered to the neighbourhood of 2/- per lb., the demand should rapidly expand.

New Uses for Cacao Butter.

The article on cacao butter in last CIRCULAR has attracted much attention.

A correspondent, who has been experimenting with the "fat," writes, that when it is used with strong flavoured foods, such as fish, the cacao taste seems to be entirely killed. Fish cakes and cutlets were successfully cooked with the butter, while sweet puddings and certain kinds of simple cakes, if anything, were improved by it. Potatoes can be fried in it without being tainted. Another reader tells us that 1lb. of cacao butter is equal to 1lb. 2½ozs. of ordinary butter.

Cacao butter figures in the following recipe for a ginger pudding for four, which was given recently by "Corisande," in the *Evening Standard* :—

Take ¼ oz. cacao butter, ¾ oz. lard or fat, ¼ oz. sugar, 1 dessert spoonful liquid egg, 1 dessert spoonful treacle, 1 level teaspoonful ginger, 2 oz. flour, 3 oz. potatoes (cooked and passed through a sieve), and ¼ teaspoonful carbonate of soda. Beat together the sugar, fat, cacao butter, then the egg. Add the flour, potatoes, and ginger. Then add the treacle, and mix all together to a batter with water. Steam for two hours.

"Housewife," in the *Daily Mail*, also advocates the use of cacao butter. Here, she writes, is a good recipe for chocolate or cocoa puddings :—

¼ lb. cacao butter, ¼ lb. sugar, ¼ lb. cocoa or grated chocolate, 2 oz. flour, 2 oz. ground rice, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoonful baking powder. The cacao butter, being extremely hard, must be shredded and well warmed, next add the eggs, mix with dry ingredients, and beat all together well. Steam 1½ hours. Serve with hot custard sauce or cornflour sauce, flavoured with cocoa or chocolate.

Chocolate or cocoa biscuits may be made as follows :—

¼ lb. sugar (Demerara for choice), 2 oz. cacao butter, 2 oz. cocoa or grated chocolate, ¼ teaspoonful of vanilla essence, 1 egg and enough cornflour to make into a stiff paste. Warm the cacao butter and beat up with sugar, cocoa or chocolate, flavouring, and egg, add the cornflour, and roll out thin, cut into biscuits, and bake about ten minutes. (The biscuits must be left on a tin or baking sheet until a little cool to prevent breaking.)

There can be no doubt but that cacao butter is gaining popularity, and if the retail price for it is fixed at a reasonable figure the demand will soon exceed the available supply of this nutritious fat.

THE Postmaster-General of British Guiana announces that a war tax of two cents has been imposed by the Government on all letters posted in that Colony to places within the Empire, and to the United States, in addition to the postage on such letters. The substitution of a postage stamp for a war tax stamp is not permissible, and will result in the letter being taxed double the deficiency. The war tax stamp is to be affixed to letters only. The rates of postage on all other postal matter have now reverted to what they were before the war. The postage to places other than the British Empire and United States of America has now also reverted to what it was before the war, and the addition of the war tax stamp is not required on such postal matter.

TRINIDAD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Retirement of Mr. Edgar Tripp.

The resignation by Mr. Edgar Tripp of the Secretaryship of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, has excited the deep regret of those best able to estimate fully the valuable services which he has rendered in that capacity. Cordial tribute to the work of Mr. Tripp is paid by the *Port-of-Spain Gazette*. To Mr. Tripp belongs the unique distinction of having been the sole occupant of the Secretarial chair since the establishment of the Society 23 years ago.

Says the *Gazette* :—

"It is singularly unfortunate at a time like the present when the agricultural resources of the Colony stand out as such an all-important factor in our economic life, that the almost inimitable individuality of Mr. Tripp should be lost to a concern whose interests are now so inseparably bound up with the welfare of the community as a whole. . . . Under his fostering care, Mr. Tripp has seen the fulfilment of a longed desire, in the successful inauguration of District Societies throughout the island: and it is undoubted that these offshoots of the parent body have already worked an incalculable amount of good in the agricultural affairs of the Colony."

Regarding Mr. Tripp's activity in other directions our contemporary adds :—

"For a number of years he filled the office of Honorary Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, whose members yet recall with real gratitude the yeoman service rendered by him in the cause of the Colony's trade and commerce. As local correspondent to the West India Committee, he has always been unremitting in bringing the claims of the Colony into greater recognition beyond the seas; and it is significant that with the movement for the establishment of an Associated Chamber of Commerce for the West Indies, the choice of first Secretary should have fallen on Mr. Tripp."

COLONIAL PRODUCE TRADE.

Question of Import Restrictions.

At the annual meeting of the London Produce Clearing House on February 12th, Mr. Charles Guthrie, Chairman, referred to the Import restrictions.

"We have been told," he said, "that these interferences with the ordinary course of trade are necessary for the good of the State. While many of us have very serious doubts as to whether the plans adopted and the manner of their execution were the best for attaining the objects aimed at, the trades affected have loyally submitted 'for the duration of the war.' We have yet to see the full consequences of Government interference with the course of trade. As I have already said, we accept as inevitable some interference under the prevailing war conditions. We hope, however, that it will not be carried a step further than is absolutely necessary.

"There is no trade in this country which is more complex and more highly organised than what is generally known as the colonial produce trade, which has its centre in Mincing Lane. From the time that the ground is cleared for planting until the fruit is placed on the table of the consumer there is hardly any sphere in which the activity of man is engaged which is not at some stage or other called upon to contribute its share to the efficient working of this great organisation. Agriculturists, chemists, engineers, shipowners, merchants, bankers, brokers, dealers, and dock warehouse proprietors, to mention only some, all form part of it and are essential to it. To describe any one of the foregoing as 'parasites' of the trade, as the

brokers were described in the Press the other day, displays an ignorance of their functions. Business men do not tolerate parasites. If any outside the colonial trade think that they can manage this great organisation as successfully as those who have spent their lives in it, they must be suffering from the form of madness which the French call *folie de grandeur*."

INDIAN EMIGRATION PROPOSALS.

Criticised by East India Association.

The East India Association, at a recent meeting in London, criticised adversely the scheme of "assisted emigration" to Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, and Fiji, which is to replace the now abandoned "indenture" system.

Mr. Henry S. Polak, who was for some years associated with Mr. M. K. Gandhi in South Africa (according to *The Times* report of the proceedings), controverted all the main "assumptions" of the conference on political, economic, moral, and social grounds, and said that India could not afford to export labour. When industries and agriculture within the country were starving for labour it was absurdly quixotic to help outsiders to obtain it. There was no way of protecting the ignorant Indian peasant from the tortuous devices of the unscrupulous recruiter. What Indians claimed, if emigration were at all desirable or feasible on a voluntary basis, was not merely an Indian labour settlement, the bulk of whose product and profits would be enjoyed by white planters, but an Indian colony in the full sense of the word.

Sir Valentine Chirol said that it was not sufficiently understood in this country that Indian sentiment had been very strongly roused on the immigration question, which must be solved gradually in course of time by a conciliatory feeling between India and the colonies concerned. It was important to prevent the question from again arousing the bitterness to which the indenture system gave rise; and he thought that the interests to be served by such a scheme were infinitesimal in comparison with the harm which anything approaching a return to the indenture system was calculated to produce.

Lord Lamington (formerly Governor of Bombay) said that it was going too far to object to all emigration to distant Crown Colonies, for this would mean a great deprivation to labourers in India who desired to better their condition. Save for the very strongest reasons of policy there should be no obstacle to voluntary Indian emigration.

Mr. T. J. Bennett (chief proprietor of *The Times of India*, Bombay) said that Indian self-consciousness and sensitiveness were now very strong; and he did not think that an inter-departmental committee in London was the right authority for doing justice to the intense feeling entertained in India on the subject of labour emigration.

DURING 1916 the United States (says an American contemporary) absorbed less cacao from Ceylon than in any of the preceding three years, the total amount being 135,520 lbs., as compared with 540,512 lbs. in 1915, 551,488 lbs., in 1914, and 468,768 lbs. in 1913.

BRITISH GUIANA'S HINTERLAND.

AN ELECTRIC RAILWAY SCHEME.

Promoters to receive land grants.

A scheme for a hinterland railway for British Guiana is said to have been approved by the Governor of the Colony, Sir Wilfred Collet. The line is to run from Georgetown to the Brazilian frontier.

This most interesting announcement is contained in the last mail newspapers to reach England from Demerara. The scheme, which has proved sufficiently mature as to earn the Governor's sanction, is being promoted by a Mr. D. Gordon Cameron, of South African experience, who is stated to be "backed" by capitalists in the United Kingdom. The information published so far relates to the conditions, financial and otherwise, surrounding the scheme, rather than to problems of route, mechanical construction, etc. The principle of the project is that the promoters will defray the entire cost—the amount of which is not stated—without any call upon local revenue or the Imperial Treasury. The promoters ask for no interest upon the capital to be invested. They do, however, seek a land grant, aggregating, it is understood, 5,000 square miles, such grant it is believed being sufficiently rich in resources as, when developed, to pay for the cost of construction and operation.

No Engineering Difficulties.

"The Great Central Railway of British Guiana," said Mr. Gordon Cameron, in the course of an interview with a *Daily Argosy* representative, "will, in my opinion, prove to be the easiest line to construct, the cheapest to build and the most economical to run, of any railway in the whole wide world. If the survey justifies it the line will be operated by electricity throughout. This will ensure a clean and dustless track, to the great comfort and convenience of the passengers. I may be wrong, but my present conviction is that the water power of this country is so great, and available in so many sections, that the electrical power is by no means a dream, but almost an outstanding certainty.

"There are no engineering difficulties worth noticing. Several small bridges and the Great Essequibo Bridge will be necessary; but even there fortune is with us, because the solid rock foundations, well above flood-level, already exist. Numerous culverts will have to be built, but nothing more than is usual in the case of an ordinary Colonial railway.

"One of these days you will wake up and begin to realise that Georgetown is destined to become the great import and export centre of the greater part of the northern portion of the South American Continent. If your harbour improvements only keep pace with the construction of the railway, then the limits of the city of Georgetown will have to expand into such an extension as no responsible man would care to define."

The Labour Problem.

Mr. Cameron added: "One item of my proposals to the Government is that labour shall be brought into the colony from outside in order not to interfere with the plantations or with any other industry in the colony which might be disturbed or upset by any withdrawal of labour which to them is a vital matter. I realise that very fully, and I am determined that we shall tread upon no man's toes and interfere with no existing interests. At the beginning we shall bring in 250 British families, each man being a skilled artisan, and not called upon to do any serious manual work. They will be followed by a further importation of unindentured labour, so far as the Home Colonial Secretary sees fit to permit. Until I have the opportunity of interviewing the Home Authorities, it is better for me to do no more than merely indicate our intentions in this respect. We have, of course, to be governed by the decision of those above us."

An important stipulation made by Sir Wilfred Collet is that the proposed line must be built on the Brazilian gauge, in order to provide for the ultimate linking up of the "Great Central Railway" with the Brazilian line from Manaos. Mr. Cameron stated that he was coming to England to consult the Home Government upon whose sanction Sir Wilfred Collet's approval is dependent. When Mr. Cameron returned to British Guiana, in six months, he would do so, he said, with full powers and ample funds, not only to pay over to the Government the stipulated forfeitable deposit which he had offered as a guarantee of good faith, but to begin the necessary survey for the construction of the line and the registration of the company as a purely local enterprise.

What "Truth" has to say.

Truth, in its issue for February 13th, publishes the following comment:—

Reference was made in *Truth* a few weeks ago to the simple faith with which the British Guiana press swallowed the story of a Mr. D. Gordon Cameron that he had come to the Colony on behalf of London and Glasgow merchants (unnamed) who had £800,000 to invest—money which was positively "going around begging for favourable opportunities"—in the development of the supply of "food and raw materials." Further newspaper cuttings now to hand, show that Cameron is hailed as the benefactor whom British Guiana has long needed. He has promised to construct a railway through the hinterland to the Brazilian frontier. Past schemes have fallen through because capital could not be obtained without a guarantee of interest from the revenues of the Colony in addition to grants of land. Cameron airily brushes aside this difficulty.

He, D. Gordon Cameron, will build the railway—"So long as there is health in my body," he says, "you can be sure of it"—without any guarantee whatever in return for grants of land along the line. According to the *Daily Argosy* the Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet, has recommended the project to the favourable consideration of the Secretary of State, but has left it to Downing Street to satisfy itself as to Cameron's ability to raise the money! There's the rub. It seems indeed hardly credible that His Excellency can have been so incautious as to commit himself to any sort of approval of a concession, no matter how qualified, pending inquiries as to the status and the resources of the concessionaire. I am inclined to think that British Guiana will discover that it has been badly bamboozled."

Nothing Known at the Colonial Office.

On enquiry at the Colonial Office on February 15th, a representative of the CIRCULAR was informed that no communication had been received on the subject from Sir Wilfred Collet, and that, in fact, nothing whatever was known there of the reported scheme.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Sugar-Beet in England.

On January 29th, Mr. Houlston asked the President of the Board of Agriculture whether it had been proved by experiment that sugar-beet could be cultivated in this country, and whether he could explain why the cultivation of sugar-beet had been neglected during the War, in view of the shortage of sugar in this country and the waste of fruit caused by the shortage of sugar or sugar syrup obtainable from the sugar-beet.

Sir Richard Winfrey (Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture), who replied, said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. But it had not yet been proved that the cultivation and manufacture were commercial propositions. The limited resources of the country did not at present justify the Board, on the ground of the extra amount of food obtainable from the soil, in demanding the machinery and buildings required for a sugar factory. Farmers had been making every effort to maintain and increase their normal production of food. It would be difficult to induce them to embark upon the growth of a new crop requiring for its cultivation special knowledge, a large quantity of fertilisers, and a greater supply of labour and skilled labour.

Alcohol for Munition Purposes.

On January 29th, Major Davies asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shipping Controller whether any molasses or spirits were being imported for use in the manufacture of munitions; and whether the necessary spirits could be made by redistilling immature whisky already manufactured in this country.

Sir Worthington Evans (Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions), said that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. The answer to the second part was also in the affirmative, but, after careful consideration of the question in all its bearings, it had been decided not to make spirit for munition purposes, for the present at any rate, by redistilling immature whisky.

Sugar Beet Syrup.

Replying to Sir Arthur Fell, M.P., on February 6th, Sir Richard Winfrey said that a syrup produced from sugar-beet by ordinary crushing and boiling would be of very little use as a means of sweetening, and would be unpalatable on account of the salt and betaine that it would contain. The Board of Agriculture were not, therefore, prepared to embark on experiments when every effort should be concentrated on potatoes and other vegetables the growing of which could be regarded as an assured success. Having grown sugar beet himself, he doubted whether his Hon. Friend was correct in stating that an acre of land sown with sugar beet seed supplied twice the amount of nutriment as with potatoes. The Board had come to the conclusion that it was impossible to start growing beet for sugar during the War.

A SMALL plant growing in Paraguay is said by M. Eugenio Antram, an Argentine Botanist, to produce leaves imparting a taste like sugar, fragments no larger than a bean sweetening the palate for more than an hour. Three or four leaves are, it is claimed, sufficient to sweeten a big cup of coffee.

A "FIVE LINE WHIP."

In view of the discussion as to whether the Brussels Sugar Convention is at an end or not, the reproduction of the "five line whip" on this page will be of interest. It was issued by the Unionist Whip, Sir A. Acland Hood—afterwards Lord St. Audries—in anticipation of the memorable debate

That now reproduced was the last of its kind to be issued, typewritten documents having taken their place. The Resolution was in the following terms:—

"That this House approves the policy embodied in the Convention relating to sugar, signed at Brussels on March 5th, 1902, and in the event of that Convention receiving the ratifications required to make it binding, is prepared to adopt the necessary measures to enable His Majesty to carry out its provisions."

After Mr. Chamberlain had wound up the debate in an incisive and brilliant speech, the resolution, which was moved by Mr. Gerald Balfour, was carried by a majority of 87 (126 to 213). The result was received with cheers in a packed House. The "whip" was picked up by the writer in the Outer Lobby after the debate, and has since been a valued souvenir of an historic event.

The Convention was subsequently ratified. It achieved its purpose in securing the abolition of bounties and cartels; but the Liberal Government which came into power in 1906 first insisted on Great Britain being released from the obligation to prohibit or impose countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar, and in 1913 finally withdrew from the Convention altogether. All the old uncertainty was thus revived, and those who once blessed the Convention began to call for its complete abrogation. British sugar-producing colonies now demand a definite statement as to whether the Convention is at an end or not, because, when withdrawing from it, the British Government took the remarkable step of pledging Great Britain not to give a preference to sugar from her colonies without first giving six months' notice to the signatories.

Thus, if the Convention is still in existence, we are in the anomalous position of being under a pledge to Germany and Austria not to give preferential treatment to our own colonies. If there is any

doubt whatever, the Government should, without a moment's delay, give notice to the Belgian Government, the guardian of the records of the Convention, of its intention to withdraw its pledge in six months' time.

Important

On Friday November 21st the House will meet at 12 noon.

The Indian Budget will be the First Order

The Osborne House Estate Bill will be the Second Order.

Your attendance is requested.

Most Important

On Monday November 24th the House will meet at 2 P.M.

The Sugar Convention Resolution will be the First Order

The Division on this will be of the greatest importance

The Colonial Secretary will wind up the Debate.

Your punctual attendance by 6 P.M. is most earnestly & especially requested.

A. Acland Hood

A MEMORABLE "FIVE LINE WHIP."

on the Sugar Convention Resolution on November 24th, 1902. The importance of these written summonses were commensurate with the number of lines ruled under their salient statements, and the issue of a "five line whip" was of rare occurrence.

JAMAICAN AFFAIRS.

We are indebted to the Direct West India Cable Company for the following items of news from Jamaica:—

The Governor, immediately after his return to the island early in the month, summoned a meeting of the Legislative Council, which met in special session on the 18th. The main object of the session was to set aside funds for the assistance, through the Agricultural Loan Banks, of the sufferers from the recent hurricane, in order to enable them to re-plant for the new crop season. To this end £19,000 was voted. Before taking up the regular business of the day, His Excellency, in an eloquent speech, referred to the distressing disaster in Halifax, and said he felt sure it was the desire of the Council to extend material help to the sufferers, especially remembering what Halifax did for Kingston in 1907. Mr. Corinaldi proposed a vote of £1,000, which was seconded by the Acting Colonial Secretary, and the following resolution carried unanimously: "This Council, at its first sitting after the dreadful calamity records its deepest sympathy with the citizens of Halifax in the appalling loss of life and heavy destruction of property caused by the recent disastrous explosion, and hereby votes the sum of £1,000 in aid of the sufferers."

The Governor also intimated that the importation of foodstuffs into the island would be limited in order to force the increase of local production. The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

The 25th annual meeting of the Jamaica Telephone Co. was held on the 10th. The report showed a net revenue of £1,465 0s. 2d., and a dividend of 2/- per share was declared. The West India Cold Storage Plant, recently purchased by Mr. Clarence Lopez, has been refitted, and is now once more in working order.

It has been decided to manufacture war bread locally, containing 85 per cent. wheat flour and 15 per cent. substitute (probably commea). The date when the regulation calling for its manufacture will be put into force has not yet been announced.

The Hon. Henry Cork has resigned his seat in the Legislative Council as representative of St. Thomas, on the ground that he finds it impossible to follow the fiscal policy of the present Government. Mr. C. E. Mellish, the new Acting Commissioner of Grand Cayman, has left the island for that dependency. Dom Aelred Carlyle, Abbot of Caldey, is at present visiting the island.

The death occurred on the 14th of Mr. E. A. Dodd, Junior Assistant Engineer of Ways and Works, of the Jamaica Government Railway. Amongst those who have died on active service this month appear the names of Lieut. W. C. Nosworthy, third son of Mr. R. Nosworthy, Censor and Supervisor of Revenue, Lieut. H. R. Mais, B.Sc., R.E., only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Mais, and Lieut. A. C. Roxburgh, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Roxburgh, of St. Ann. Lieut. Nosworthy met his death in an aerial combat over the French Front, Lieut. Mais in France during the Cambrai advance, and Lieut. Roxburgh in Palestine.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Perkins have arrived in the island from the United States, and amongst those who have left are Messrs. W. N. C. and H. J. Farquharson, Mr. J. C. Sharp, Auditor of the United Fruit Co., and Mr. A. H. da Costa, of Messrs. Lascelles de Mercado & Co.

The Red Cross Fund has now reached a total of £13,845 17s. 10d. A fund opened in the local Press immediately after news of the Halifax disaster reached here to assist the sufferers, and which has received generous support, under the auspices of a committee headed by the Mayor of Kingston, has already reached a total of about £700. It is hoped to raise at least £1,000 to supplement the £1,000 voted by the Legislature.

The weather in December, especially during the latter days was exceptionally cool and pleasant. The humidity was about normal. The rainfall was considerably below the average. The maximum temperature was 87.2 F., the minimum, 63.1 deg. F. and the average 75.1 deg. F. The total rainfall in Kingston was 1.04 inches. The maximum velocity of the wind was 30 miles per hour on the 31st. Northerly prevailed on the 1st, 4th, 27th, 30th and 31st.

TRINIDAD'S CACAO CROP.

We are indebted to Mr. Edgar Tripp for the statistics regarding the Trinidad cacao crop for the last eleven years which are given below:—

| Year. | Crop. Lbs. |
|-------|------------|
| 1917 | 70,144,898 |
| 1916 | 54,884,480 |
| 1915 | 54,061,452 |
| 1914 | 63,447,876 |
| 1913 | 48,116,377 |
| 1912 | 41,625,625 |
| 1911 | 46,790,353 |
| 1910 | 57,839,074 |
| 1909 | 51,575,071 |
| 1908 | 47,632,438 |
| 1907 | 41,038,204 |

It will be noted that in 1917 the crop reached the record figure of 70,144,898 lbs.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

LIEUTENANT O. C. RAYNER, of the Manchester Regiment, who has fallen, was the younger son of the late Sir T. Crossley Rayner, the popular Chief Justice of British Guiana. A sub-inspector of police in that Colony at the outbreak of the War, Oliver Rayner volunteered for service and received a nomination from the Governor (Sir Walter Egerton). He was accepted for service with the 3rd Manchester Reserve, and afterwards with the 2nd Manchesters. He was destined to see much active service—on the salient at Ypres, at La Boiselle, and at Thiépval. Later he became a bomb instructor and his brother officers declare that "what he did not know about bombs was not worth knowing." Going "over the top," young Rayner was first reported missing. Afterwards it was learned that he had been hit in the head and body by a shell which killed or wounded seriously nine others. He was identified by a brother officer three hours later.

LIEUTENANT F. A. S. LANSDOWNE, who met with a tragic death in August last, is still warmly remembered (writes a correspondent) among his comrades and brother officers. He was originally in the Manchester Regiment which took part in the Gallipoli operations, and then he worked as a sergeant at the base at Alexandria. All his commissioned service was with the 1st Battalion B.W.F.R., which he joined shortly before they entered the zone of operations East of the Suez Canal. Although quite young, Lansdowne was a very capable officer, with a good knowledge of his profession. He took an active part in all the various sports and games of the regiment, but the chief reason for the high place he held in our esteem was his singularly fine character coupled with a gentle and unassuming modesty. Lansdowne's funeral was attended by all of the Regiment who were available to pay the last tribute to one who was probably the most popular and respected officer in his battalion. R.I.P.

HONOURS.

PTE. ORIEL DUKE (of Antigua), Royal Fusiliers, who was awarded the Military Medal a few months ago in France, has now received a bar to it.

SIGNALLER ALFRED MENDES, (son of Mr. Alfred Mendes, of Port of Spain, Trinidad) has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty under fire.

LIEUT. R. B. FAWCETT, Royal Scots Fusiliers, son of Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., late director of Agriculture in Jamaica, has been awarded the Military Cross. He has been transferred to the Indian Army.

SECOND LIEUT. W. H. L. MEDFORD, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross. Mr. Medford, who is a son of the late Mr. W. E. Medford, M.C.P., of Barbados, came over with the 3rd Barbados Citizens' Contingent. He joined the A.S.C., from which he was transferred to a Cadet unit, and received his Commission in due course. He holds the Barbados Scholarship.

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.

JAMAICA.—6276 Brown, J.; 3218 Bryan, J.; 10609 Smith, C.; 10810 Wright, Z.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.—9725 Brown, J.; 8171 Brown, W.; 3240 Sparks, A.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BAHAMAS.—12232 Hall, A. W.
 BARBADOS.—10599 Alleyne, D.; 13574 Brooks, C.; 7504 Carter, Sergt. L.; Griffiths, G.; 15136 Mullin, W. F.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—16947 Marks, J.; 11761 Waterman, L. O.

JAMAICA.—15360 Anderson, D.; 15790 Ashley, J.; 8094 Blackwood, G.; 15665 Brown, L.; 13551 Brown, J.; 8093 Campbell, C.; 7544 Clark, J.; 7549 Christie, P.; 12000 Cook, N.; 9620 Currie, J.; 15398 Davis, J.; 7837 De Silva, H.; 11065 Duncan, J.; 8704 Edwards, E.; 10063 Eagle, E.; 15584 Grant, H.; 15397 Grant, S.; 7364 Hamilton, U.; 15758 Hylton, J.; 14917 Jones, H.; 6295 Johnston, A.; 8782 Lester, R.; 8630 McIntosh, S.; 15958 Moffatt, T.; 1032 Morrison, S.; 10416 Neumbhard, J.; 15652 Noble, A.; 8966 Parks, A.; 16075 Poryer, G.; 8489 Reid, A.; 8016 Roy, A.; 14220 Reeves, N.; 8642 Richards, H.; 15611 Samuels, L./Cpl. R.; 7998 Scott, E.; 15970 Shaw, E.; 7203 Skyers, C.; 14174 Smith, G.; 15416 Sparing, J.; 12724 Stewart, C.; 12529 Stewart, A.; 16123 Stephenson, A.; 10701 Thompson, J.; 11777 Wiltshire, F.; 5429 Young, D.

PANAMA.—8708 Edwards, E.

TRINIDAD.—10858 Alexander, T.; 16462 Charles, W.; 11067 De Labastide, A.; 16305 Pierre, F.; 11592 Ramirez, F.

WOUNDED.

JAMAICA.—9729 Brown, W.; 9888 Cameron, C.; 8925 Carty, A.; 9938 De Costa, A.; 8757 Gittile, S.; 10080 Gordon, C.; 3611 Graham, Sergt. C.; 8443 Jackson, E.; 7652 Kelly, M.; 10401 Mattison, H.; 10375 McNish, E.; 2657 Reynolds, —; 10524 Riley, E.; 8762 Williams, C.; 10795 Williams, J.

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.

Cave, C. Forte (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), 2nd Lieut., Royal Flying Corps.

Rayner, T. H., elder son of the late Sir T. Crossley Rayner, Chief Justice of British Guiana, is serving at the front as a despatch rider. He went out with the A.S.C. as driver mechanic, and went through his training as a Cadet in France. Allowed to resume his former work, he is now with the First Field Survey Co., R.E. He was born in Trinidad where his father once held office.

Hudson, Lieut. Lionel A. C. (son of Horace Hudson, Esq., and brother of F. W. Hudson, Esq., of Grenada), Royal Canadian Flying Corps.

LORD RHONDDA has informed Mr. Charles Price that his Department are preparing a scheme which should tend to divert supplies of confectionery from concerns selling other goods to those who depend upon its sale for their sole means of livelihood. The Secretary of the Sugar Commission has also written to Mr. Price informing him that, having regard to the supplies of sugar, actual and prospective, the Commission are unable to see anything which is likely to make an increased allowance to manufacturers of confectionery possible so long as the war lasts.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Cadet C. Schjolseth, attached to the Royal Flying Corps, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, has been passed as a pilot.

* * *

During the interval at the London Coliseum photographs are thrown on the screen depicting various celebrities and types of our overseas troops. At the request of the Secretary of the West India Committee, Mr. Arthur Croxton, the manager, has kindly included in the series one of a soldier of the British West Indies. The individual is Corporal R. A. Thom, one of British Guiana's Military Medallists. The picture is received with cheers.

* * *

The following have been among the visitors to the Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

2nd Lieut. R. A. Farfan, 2nd Lieut. D. P. Pogson, 2nd Lieut. J. E. McPherson, Trpr. O. Hamel Smith, Trpr. K. Max Smith, H. A. Date, Cadet C. Schjolseth, Lieut. and Q.M. S. A. Henderson, Robert Stanley, Edric Daly, P. Gomez, C. H. Spencer, B. Agostini, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, Lieut. A. J. Maingot, Cadet L. F. Maingot, Lieut. C. R. Massy, Cadet A. A. Scott, Trinidad; Capt. J. Hamilton, Staff Sgt. P. S. Duff, Pte. Bigbie, C.S.M. Herbert Hendricks, Jamaica; Pte. G. M. Cole, Pte. Bruce M. Maura, Bahamas; George Milne, Joseph Fernandez, 2nd Lieut. W. H. Morris, G. W. Haley, British Guiana; Pte. J. E. A. Crawford, Lieut. H. A. Collymore, Cadet E. W. Redman, Pte. A. P. Cox, Cadet H. O. Ramsey, Cadet C. A. Farmer, Cadet D. F. Chase, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, Barbados; Gunner C. D. Woolward, Dominica; C.S.M. C. Collingwood Denny, Lieut. and Q.M. W. F. Wood, Capt. T. A. Tinne, Lieut. K. D. Andrews; Lieut. L. R. Andrews, Lieut. S. F. Binns, Cadet R. L. Brandon, British West Indies Regiment.

* * *

Work parties have recently been held by the kind permission of Lady Davson, at 20, Ennismore Gardens. At the gathering on January 23rd the following ladies attended:—

Lady Olivier, Lady Sendall, Lady Davson, Lady Cameron, Lady Bovell, Hon. Mrs. Davson, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Jessie Anderson, Miss Austin, Mrs. Bamford, Miss Bamford, Mrs. John Bromley, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Darrach, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Feetum, Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Withers Gill, Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. St. George Gray, Miss Hamilton, Miss Pursell, Miss Levy, Mrs. Messervy, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Miss Hamel Smith, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Wolseley, Mrs. Woodroffe, Miss Wharton.

The ladies present on February 6th were:—

Lady Davson, Lady Bovell, Lady Grey-Wilson, Hon. Mrs. Davson, Miss Jessie Anderson, Mrs. Bamford, Miss Barclay, Mrs. John Bromley, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Daly, Mrs. Feetum, Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Withers Gill, Mrs. St. George Gray, Miss Hamilton, Miss Levy, Mrs. Messervy, Mrs. Napier, Miss Hamel Smith, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Wharton.

On alternate Wednesdays a few ladies meet, by kind permission of Mrs. St. George Gray, at 9, Drayton Gardens, to make garments for the Contingent.

* * *

It has already been announced that the British West Indies Regiment took part in the recent successful operations in Palestine, which resulted in the capture of Jerusalem. We now learn that the Battalions in question were in the trenches for some

weeks before the advance took place, and that they had their share of patrol encounters and a good deal of artillery fire. Thanks, however, to good dug-outs there were few casualties, but many miraculous escapes. On one occasion two men—Ptes 9136 H. Branch and 2548 N. Robinson—were killed and two others—Ptes 1339 M. H. Carter and 3549 C. Peart—wounded by the same shell. After we broke through the Turkish defences, the Battalion moved forward with our Corps and got quite close to Jerusalem, but owing to the rugged nature of the country and the resistance put up by the Turks, it was the Regiment's fate not to participate in the actual taking of the city, which was left to others. The Corps Commander, General Bulfin, whose uncle, Sir George Le Fleming, was at one time a Governor in the West Indies, has shown every consideration to the Battalion, has been more than kind, and takes a personal interest in the Regiment.

HOMeward MAILS.

From letters received by various opportunities it appears that the food position in the West Indies has been causing some anxiety. Food Controllers and Committees are being set up, and every endeavour is being made to obviate any danger of a serious shortage. At the request of the Secretary of State, returns have been furnished to the British Ambassador at Washington as to the cereal requirements of the West Indian Colonies, which the United States Government have undertaken to assist in provisioning. Sir William Allardyce, Governor of the Bahamas, visited Washington in this connection in January last, and a message which he subsequently issued to the House of Assembly is reassuring. Meanwhile it becomes more important than ever that the West Indies should constantly endeavour to make themselves more and more self-supporting in respect of their food supply.

BARBADOS—The Food Situation.

The weather during the first part of the fortnight, states the *Barbados Advocate* of January 23rd, was dry, but has become more favourable for young plants. Excellent rains fell on the 22nd, and the newly-planted food crops will be greatly helped. Reaping operations have been started at several estates where syrup making is in progress. The food situation is becoming serious, the shortage being aggravated by the removal of two steamers from the Canadian route and by the phenomenal weather in the United States, which has held up shipping. Mr. V. Hanschell, Mr. J. R. Bancroft, and Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, with Mr. S. T. Harrison, C.M.G., Comptroller of Customs, have been appointed a Food Control Committee to receive applications for the granting of licences to import food from America. Sir William Chandler has been seconded from his duties as President of the Assistant Court of Appeal in order to enable him to devote greater time to the duties of Chairman of the Vegetable Products Commissioners, who have the control and supervision of the planting of foodstuffs. Walkes' Spring, St. Thomas, has been purchased from Mrs. Fleming by Mr. Farmer, of Oughterson's, for £24,600. It has an acreage of 328 acres and steam works.

BRITISH GUIANA—Ambitious Development Scheme.

The Combined Court, which assembled on November 26th has been considering the Estimates and some interesting debates have taken place. The Sea Defence

question has been well to the fore as usual. The clergy vote was extended for another year pending further discussion on the question of Disendowment—of which the Governor expressed himself in favour—after the War. The obituary includes Mr. William Alfred Douglas, formerly an attorney of S. Davson & Co., which occurred on November 30th, and Mr. W. A. Farrar, brother of the Postmaster-General, who was lost in the *Alpapa*.—From 4 to 6 miles of the new track for the Government's Rupununi cattle ranch have now been completed.—The Colony's Budget for 1918 shows a deficit of \$263,606, which it is proposed to make good by an Excess Profit Tax and a War Stamp Tax.—Locusts have been viewed in some districts, but thanks to prompt action by Professor J. B. Harrison and Mr. G. E. Bodkin, danger of a plague has been nipped in the bud.—Two more Richmonds have appeared in the Hinterland railway field in the persons of Mr. Adolph Massey and Mr. David E. Headley, who are said to represent capitalists interested in a large scheme involving £10,000,000 for the development of timber, diamonds, gold, bauxite, etc., in the Colony. Meanwhile Mr. R. C. Black's scheme as summarised in a recent CIRCULAR, meets with much favour.

NEVIS—The Royal Bank's Enterprise.

MR. F. WILLIAMS writes, December 22nd.—The Royal Bank of Canada has opened a branch business in Charlestown. At the opening ceremony a large and representative gathering assembled at the invitation of the manager, at the beautifully-equipped buildings. The manager, Mr. J. B. Connell, is a Nevisian and a son of Mr. Ernest Y. Connell, chief engineer of the Basseterre, St. Kitts, Sugar Factory, Limited.

ST. KITTS—"Peace and Plenty."

MR. E. J. SIMPSON, JANUARY 12th.—At the Christmas and New Year Holiday Season, there was evidence of peace, good humour and, notwithstanding war prices, plenty. Our storekeepers have no cause for complaint of any dullness. We have reaped good crops and realised good prices for our products.

Those who feel the strain of the times most keenly are the aged, infirm and the "genteel poor." There are also too many human derelicts on our streets whose appearance and presence calls out eloquently for help in the way of Poor House relief—a matter which should be taken in hand as soon as possible by the Government. I regret to report that our outlook for 1918 is not promising. Notwithstanding favourable markets, we have a difficult year to face. The year just passed has been the driest within memory. The estimate for the approaching reaping season is that the Island will make about half a crop. The Basseterre Valley is badly hit, and there is very little cane in evidence until one reaches the Cayon and North Side Estates, which make rather a better show. The St. Paul's Parish again shows itself to be the most favoured and most seasonable part of the Island. With the food situation getting tight all over the world, and a general shortage of supplies, we shall be wonderfully lucky if we get through 1918 without a certain amount of anxiety and discomfort.

A crop shortage meaning loss of revenue, the Government foresight raised the duties on rum and whiskey—which will help to retrieve the situation. Figures show that while there has been a marked decrease in the consumption of whiskey, brandy, etc., since the War, there has been a very considerable increase in the consumption of rum amongst the labouring classes, particularly during last year, showing that the local rum-shop owners have certainly benefited by the increased purchasing capacity of our people. It behoves all classes to move warily and give more attention to both the growing and conserving of food-stuffs that we have been doing—I regret to mention that Mr. S. B. Goodall, of Stonefort Estate, was taken seriously ill on New Year's Day, and he is still in a precarious condition.

ST. LUCIA—The Balance-Sheet.

The largest revenue on record—£78,124—is reported by the auditor in his review of the island's accounts for the year 1916-17. The financial position at the close of the year, despite the falling off in the coaling industry, was

satisfactory. The revenue was £1,845 more than expenditure, although the latter under prevailing War conditions included over £9,000 which would not occur under normal circumstances. The surplus assets inclusive of the amount set aside for public buildings insurance was increased by £2,063 19s. 6d. Investments on account of surplus funds were increased during the year by the purchase of £4,000 6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds and £5,157 17s. 11d. 5 per cent. War Loan stock, the local deposit in the Colonial Bank on account of general service being reduced to £2,400. An advance of £3,000 was obtained from the Crown Agents for purposes of the investments made. The total investment on account of surplus funds stood at the end of the year as £16,459 0s. 8d., being £2,049 10s. 9d. in excess of the Colony's surplus.

TOBAGO—Advantages of the "Shell."

MR. ROBERT S. REID, JANUARY 9th.—The Christmas holidays gave us a final experience of the rainy season, keeping most of us indoors instead of visiting as is usual. However, the earth will benefit by this additional moisture and we all hope it may give a good midsummer cacao crop to make good the loss of the autumn pickings. The trees were laden with ripe and ripening pods from mid-December, but had to wait there until the easy going natives got their holiday. At the end of two weeks planters expected a big turn out, but were disappointed. The late rains gave a spurt to planting potatoes, and our cacao must wait till the "gardens" are looked after, and but for our East Indians, heavy losses would be sustained through rotten cacao. However, the turn of the planters will come in due course, as in these hard times there is a limit to dawdling about in provision gardens. The more the negroes plant the better for all of us and the only regret is that they are so leisurely about it. It is annoying to see them strolling to their "gardens" at 9 o'clock instead of the estates hour of seven, but no doubt they feel the enjoyment of emancipation from the estates' "shell" (or morning "whistle") and war time necessity does not appeal to them as one would like. Time works wondrous changes, however. This is no longer the Tobago of twenty years ago either in work, dress, food or habitation, and no doubt progress will continue although it is so much slower than we eager settlers would wish. I have often thought that the native mind resents the change from sugar to cacao and coco-nuts, and that their vitality is less with imported foodstuffs than when the sweet cane was always at their hand (honestly or otherwise). I never fail to urge them to plant a few canes in their gardens and they all admit the good of it, but mostly prefer to eat those planted by other people.

Mr. Alistair Macgillivray, son of Mr. Duncan Macgillivray, of Franklins (a member of the Committee), has been paying farewell visits before leaving to volunteer for the Army. He resigned a fine appointment as manager of the Maracaibo branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, greatly to the regret of his principals.

TRINIDAD - Relief for Halifax.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes, December 29th.—The Halifax disaster awoke keen sympathy here, where relations with that city have been extensive and cordial for more than a century, and never so close and important as at present. On the initiative of the Canadian Government Commercial Agency, the Chamber of Commerce were good enough to sanction a Relief Fund being opened under the auspices of the Chamber, which quickly resulted in the remittance of a first instalment of \$3,000, and substantial subscriptions are still coming in. The Legislative Council voted £1,000, which has been sent on also, and both the Colonial and Royal Banks of Canada, with Gordon Grant & Co., Ltd., are receiving and forwarding all sums contributed to the funds free of exchange. The West India and Panama Company transmit telegraphic messages in connection with them free of charge.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Woodford Lodge Estates Co., Ltd.

At the Twelfth Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Woodford Lodge Estates Co., Ltd., which was held at 35, Crutched Friars, on December 28th last, the chairman, Mr. Brian Kemp-Welch, after referring to the death of his father, the late chairman, Mr. C. D. Kemp-Welch, who had occupied that position since the formation of the Company, proceeded to give an interesting account of its position and prospects. The payment of 7 per cent. dividend for the years 1915-16 and 1916-17 upon accumulative preference shares, was proposed and carried as also a maiden dividend of 5 per cent. on the deferred shares.

Trinidad Oil and Transport, Ltd.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, held on February 19th, at 48, Cannon Street, Mr. J. S. Smith-Winby presiding, the following resolution moved by the chairman and seconded by Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., was carried unanimously:—"That the draft agreement of sale produced to this meeting and expressed to be made between Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., of the one part and Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., of the other part, be and the same is hereby approved, and the directors are authorised to carry the same into effect, with such modifications, if any, as they may approve." Mr. John Hall then proposed and Mr. Maldwin Drummond seconded the following resolution, which was also carried unanimously—namely, "That the directors be authorised to allocate 3,550 out of the 112,000 shares to be received by this company from Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., by way of additional remuneration to the members of the board and the officers of the company, to include compensation for loss of office—namely, 3,000 shares to the members of the board, 150 to the local director in Trinidad and 400 to the secretary."

DEATHS.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

Garnett.—Killed in action on 3rd December, Major Harold Gwyer Garnett, Croix de Guerre, South Wales Borderers, second surviving son of the late Alexander Garnett, J.P., of Liverpool. Aged 38.

Seale.—On 9th January, at Dormansland, Surrey, the Rev. Howell Hinds Lewis Seale, of Barbados, formerly Curate, St. George's, Dominica; Rector, Tortola, Virgin Islands; Missionary, Franktown, etc., Canada; Rector, Alberni, B.C., etc. Aged 49 years.

WANT.

Sugar-Chemist. (25) seeks re-engagement, thoroughly experienced (last position: Head Chemist to a well-known firm of Sugar Refiners), University trained (Inter. and first stage Final B.Sc.); excellent testimonials; discharged. Reply G. J. J., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

MR. H. E. W. GRANT, C.M.G., who was Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands for 1909 to 1912, and is at present British Agent in the Tonga Islands, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas. Mr. Grant began his career in the Civil Service in Barbados in 1882, and went with Sir William Robinson to Trinidad as Private Secretary in following year. In 1897 he was appointed Resident Justice in Harbour Island.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SERTHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

February 21st, 1918.

BANK RATE remains at 5 per cent. as from the 5th of April, 1915. Five per cent. War Loan is quoted at 93½. Consols stand at 54½.

SUGAR. There is no change in the prices in the Home Market, which remain at 53/9 for cubes and 46/9 for granulated, plantation white sugar, and British West Indian grocery. The New York price remains at \$6.05 for 96° sugars duty paid and landed.

According to Messrs. Willett & Gray, the consumption of sugar in the United States for the year 1917 amounted to 3,954,187 tons, an increase of 295,580 tons or 8.007 per cent. on the previous year. The consumption consisted of 263,894 tons of Louisiana sugar, 839,577 tons of United States beet, 631,478 tons of Hawaiian sugar, 463,658 tons of Porto Rico sugar, 79,086 tons of Philippine sugar, and 11,846 tons of sugars of various descriptions, totalling 2,289,539 tons of domestic sugar. To this has to be added 1,651,761 tons of Cuban sugar, making in all 3,941,300 tons of non-preferential and non-dutiable sugar. In addition, there were 12,887 tons of sugar consumed on which full duty had been paid. The amount of refined sugar and white beet sugar the above represented was 3,790,580 tons; 163,607 tons were consumed in the raw state. The average difference between the price of raw and refined sugar was 1.435 cts. per lb., as against 1.076 cts. the previous year.

The consumption of beet sugar was largely increased as compared with 1916, a large amount of the 1916-17 crop having been left over from the previous year, which was consumed in 1917. In addition, a larger proportion of the 1917-18 crop than usual was consumed in the end of 1917.

The consumption in the United States was 84.35 lbs. per head—a consumption only exceeded in 1913.

The exports of refined sugar from the Atlantic ports amounted to 388,081 tons, of which 179,918 tons went to Great Britain and France.

The weather in Cuba favours harvesting, but scarcity of food is said to be affecting the amount of work done by the labourers.

It is interesting to note that the Cuban planters found themselves unable to accept the first price proposed by the International Sugar Committee of \$4.50 per 100 lbs. (£21 per ton), on the ground of high cost of production.

The shipments of Java sugar of the 1917-18 crop up to the 31st October amounted to 591,596 tons, as compared with 955,518 tons to the corresponding date for the previous year. Of this amount, 147,497 tons went to the United Kingdom, as compared with 421,289 tons; to France, 23,920 tons, as compared with 47,980 tons; to British India, 173,304 tons, as against 224,054 tons.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London from 1st January to 16th February were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Imports | 1,781 | 4,785 | 4,389 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 7,427 | 5,664 | 8,581 .. |
| Stock (Feb. 16th) ... | 5,341 | 7,136 | 6,908 .. |

RUM. The market is very firm, but there is no business to report.

The stocks in London on the 16th February were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 6,212 | 10,292 | 5,887 puns. |
| Demerara | 3,886 | 9,291 | 5,463 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 16,150 | 33,478 | 21,769 .. |

CACAO. Pending the fixing of the maximum price of cacao by the Food Controller, the market is very quiet.

At auction on the 19th, most of the supplies were bought in. Some Grenada sold at 84/6 to 88/-; St. Lucia 79/- to 90/-; St. Vincent 85/- to 89/-.

The Trinidad crop for the year 1917 was 70,144,898 lbs.; the British Guiana crop 7,936 lbs., and the Grenada crop, from January 1st to December 15th, 1917, 11,699,288 lbs.

The stocks in London on the 16th February were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Trinidad | 13,686 | 17,666 | 6,691 bags. |
| Grenada | 11,167 | 13,330 | 11,972 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 206,620 | 227,645 | 103,512 .. |

COFFEE. Supplies were small at auction sales on the 14th, and higher prices were reached. Prime Santos fetched 76/-. Market very firm.

COTTON. No business reported in Sea Island. Nominal price, 43d. for medium fine, with 47d. for extra fine.

The Control Board's Census shows the following results as regards Sea Island cotton:—

Spinners' stocks: In mills, 9,448 bales; in warehouses, 2,719 bales.

Held by dealers at Liverpool, Manchester, and elsewhere on February 2nd: Sold to spinners, 7,072 bales; unsold, 9,807 bales.

Cotton on quay at Liverpool, Glasgow, on February 1st, 1918: 615 bales.

Cotton at sea (L.C.A. weekly circular, February 8th) and imports for week ending February 8th: 6,000 bales.

Total: 35,161 bales. Present weekly consumption (approximate): 1,500 bales.

ARROWROOT. First-hand market bare of supplies, and nothing doing.

COPRA. The position of the market as regards West Indian copra is unchanged, with a maximum official price of £46 c.i.f. London and Liverpool.

In the last Summary the quantity of copra shipped from Trinidad up to the 31st October for last year was given as 67,890,373 tons. Apart from the figures being wrongly given in tons instead of lbs.—which also refers to the British Guiana and St. Lucia exports—the cacao shipments were inadvertently given instead of the copra. The Trinidad shipments should have been 41,102 bags.

COCO-NUT OIL. The official landed price of coconut oil is £70 per ton for crude and £85 for refined.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, firm. Fair sales of ordinary quality to good green, 2/6 to 3/3. Concentrated, quiet. Lime Oil: Distilled, no demand. Shipping cannot be recommended. Nominal value, about 7/6. Handpressed firm, with small sales at 17/6. Citrate quiet.

BALATA. Market steady. Venezuelan block, spot 3/7, forward 3/4 c.i.f. Pauana and Tumaco nominal at 3/-, 3/1 c.i.f. West Indian Sheet, spot 3/11, 4/-; forward delivery 3/8 c.i.f.

RUBBER. Market dull. Plantation kinds: spot crepe, 2/3½; spot sheet, 2/2½. Para hard fine, 2/6.

SPICES. Ginger: Quiet demand at slightly easier rates for common qualities of Jamaica. Pimento: Very slow demand; sellers at 4d. on the spot.

HONEY. No Jamaica offered at last week's auction, but foreign sorts were all 10/- to 15/- dearer. The value of Jamaica is 160/- to 175/-.

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, without delay. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

The development of British Guiana is the subject of an article contributed to the February number of "United Empire" by Mr. R. O. H. Spence. Mr. Spence considers that the proposed Imperial Development Board might help British Guiana to become one of the brightest minor jewels of the British Crown.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams : CANIA, LONDON.

March 7th, 1918

Agriculture in British Honduras.

MR. W. HART-BENNETT, the Governor-elect of British Honduras, will find in that colony abundant scope for his energies. Though British Honduras possesses an area approximate to that of the principality of Wales, its soil has barely been scratched, it is sadly neglected by capitalists, and it vies with British Guiana as a country of promise rather than performance. Both colonies should become valuable assets to the British Empire, and it is a reproach to our powers of colonisation that both should, to a great extent, be side-tracked, owing to shortage of labour, capital, enterprise and energy. We find, however, a ray of hope for the future in the report of the Agricultural Commission, which was presented to the HON. ROBERT WALTER, the Acting-Governor of British Honduras, on October 5th last.

The Commission, of which Mr. J. B. BRINDLEY was Chairman, was appointed in May last to enquire into the existing shortage of foodstuffs in the colony, to recommend remedies, and to consider the desirability or otherwise of the appointment of an Agricultural Board for the fostering of agricultural industries. The Report which is now before us bears abundant evidence of the pains which the Commission took to state their case for agricultural development fairly and with thoroughness. It is made clear that British Honduras has hitherto pursued the policy of which the West Indies re-

pented years ago, that of placing all the eggs in one basket. Mahogany, and nothing but mahogany has mattered. "The whole history of the colony has taught the labouring class to look down on agriculture and glorify wood-cutting," says the Commission. Again, wages paid to the wood-cutter range from 25 to 50 per cent. higher than those earned by the plantation labourer. As a result, the demands of agriculture could only be met by a supply of labour inferior alike in quantity and quality. The cultivation of foodstuffs has further been prejudiced by the difficulties of transportation. It is deplorable that at this period of our history we should have to record that "few roads for vehicular traffic exist." The rivers providing the natural highways of the colony, only small quantities of foodstuffs can be conveyed to town at a time, and the chances are that the sale of produce will no more than cover the cost of carriage. Moreover, very little land is available for agricultural purposes. "Most of the accessible land," says the Commission, "is either owned or leased by companies and individuals. To get at the Government lands would involve the making of roads and an expenditure out of all proportion to the results which would follow, unless there is a rapid growth of the population by immigration." Even planters possessed of their own land, cultivate no more than a small proportion of their holdings. "A bare sufficiency for their own needs is the general principle."

Perhaps, however, the paramount cause for the neglect of agriculture has been the cheapness of imports. Only now, when, owing to the war, imports have ceased to be cheap, has the colony been aroused to a realisation of the position. The facilities regarding imports rendered unremunerative the efforts of those who cultivated foodstuffs. Enough has been grown to meet personal wants, but no more. The war has stimulated activity, but, as the Commission rightly point out, shortage of foodstuffs will continue long after war is over. The Commission having assigned causes, are fertile in the suggestion of remedies. Foremost is the problem of labour. "The time," they say, "has undoubtedly arrived for a well-considered scheme for attracting labourers into the colony. Either indentured or free labourers must be secured if it is desired that the colony should take its right place among food-pro-

ducing countries." British Honduras is not the only colony which is in imperative need of increase of its industrial population. If the problem is to be satisfactorily solved the establishment, after the war, of a Labour Exchange, based on the principle of the institution which has worked so well in Great Britain, but applicable to the Empire as a whole, would seem to be needed. The Commission further advocates the establishment of an Agricultural Board, which should evolve a constant and consistent policy. It is painful reading that "the most primitive tools and implements are in use among planters in the colony," and that at the present stage "the importation of modern tools and machinery would be useless," people being wholly ignorant of their use. Many other useful proposals are made, and the Commission are to be most warmly commended for their production of a Report which demands translation into action. No country can afford to be wholly dependent upon imports, and the Government of British Honduras, if it ignores the lesson of the War, will incur no small responsibility. Happily in the advent of Mr. HART-BENNETT we have an Administrator whose past record justifies the belief that he will embrace so great an opportunity of reclaiming for progress and for prosperity a colony which too long has lingered in the backwaters of the British Empire.

The Department of Overseas Trade.

SIR ARTHUR STEEL MAITLAND defined the objects of the new Overseas Trade Department in the House of Commons on February 28th, when the vote for salaries and expenses for the year ended March 31st was adopted. As already indicated in the CIRCULAR, the new Department is to form a connecting link where commercial affairs are concerned between the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade, which have hitherto travelled in different orbits. The change, so far as the Foreign Office is concerned, will be particularly welcome, for it cannot be said that the handling of business matters by the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office has been very happy, and we have in mind its complete failure to adjust a question which should have been settled months—we might say years—ago. We refer to that of the British produce in enemy steamers which at the outbreak of war took refuge in neutral ports. In course of time these neutral ports became allied ports when their owners entered the War, and our Allies seized not only the steamers, but also the cargo, which remains "in suspense" awaiting the decision as to its ownership. Incidentally it would appear that this matter is one which might with advantage engage the activities of the new Overseas Trade Department. To continue, it is proposed to extend

considerably and to reorganise the whole of the Commercial Attaché Service and to reorganise the Consular Service, which has too long been a by-word with its foreign staff and antiquated methods in many parts of the world. SIR ARTHUR STEEL MAITLAND proceeded to say that in this country before the War everyone was too content to allow the questions relating to the development of our foreign trade and that of our commercial rivals to go unanalysed and competition to go without being properly met. It was necessary under modern conditions that we should have not only information about ordinary subjects, such as about the selling of goods, whether British goods were required in a particular country, whether quotations were made in the proper currency and for the proper weights, and so on; but that what was needed was a careful analysis and report from different foreign countries on the whole methods of banking, finance, transport, and the other great factors which entered into commerce as an organised system. Later in the debate he referred to the Trade Commissioner Service. There would be, he said, Trade Commissioners to do service for the Empire, and Commercial Attaches and Consuls who would serve in foreign countries. The former were being selected by a Selection Committee which included, besides representatives of the Board of Trade, three men of business, namely, SIR ALGERNON FIRTH, SIR HENRY BIRCHENOUGH, and MR. MACHIN, of the London Chamber of Commerce. There would be three grades in this Service, the maximum salary being £1,500, that of the second £1,100, and that of the third £800. With regard to the West Indies, we learn that an officer of the second grade is to be appointed, with a salary rising from £700 to £900 a year and £300 local allowances. The headquarters of this official will be Trinidad, and it is announced that the appointment will shortly be made. In existing conditions, and, indeed, in the conditions which prevailed before the War in regard to steamer communication, it will not be easy for a Trade Commissioner in Trinidad to keep in close touch with Jamaica and the Bahamas, over a thousand miles away; but we hope that in course of time further Commissioners will be appointed, and that meanwhile it will be an instruction to the official in Trinidad to pay periodical visits to each of the British West Indian Colonies. In conclusion, we need hardly say that we shall welcome the appointment of a Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, and can add, without fear of contradiction, that the new official will receive the full support of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

SIR WALTER EGERTON is to lecture on British Guiana before the Royal Society of Arts on April 30th.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THIRTY-THREE members of the West India Committee have now taken up Life Membership.

A 15,000 TON steamer, 635 feet in length, recently negotiated the Panama Canal in the record time of 7 hours and 26 minutes.

THE Head Office of the Colonial Bank was transferred from Bishopsgate to 29, Gracechurch Street, E.C. 3, on Monday, February 25th.

MESSRS. ELDERS & FYFFES, LTD. have invested £100,000 in National War Bonds in connection with the "Tank Week," inaugurated on March 4th.

THE annual service for members of the Order of St. Michael and St. George will not be held as usual this year in St. Paul's Cathedral, owing to the War.

THE late Lord Basil Blackwood, formerly Colonial Secretary of Barbados, whose death in action was recently reported, left estate valued at close upon £7,000.

A PRESIDENTIAL Decree, published in France, authorises exceptionally the renewal for one year of mining licences in French Guiana and certain other French Colonies.

SIR OWEN PHILLIPS, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been appointed Acting Sub-Prior for Wales of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

M. HENRI LEMERY, who represents Martinique in the French Chamber of Deputies, has now (says the "Voice of St. Lucia") entered the Ministry of which M. Clemenceau is the distinguished head.

MR. RANDOLPH RUST raised, at the outbreak of war, an Artillery unit, which has reached a state of great efficiency, and we now learn with pleasure that he has been promoted to be Major. We extend our congratulations to Major Rust.

EARL BRASSEY, whose death at an advanced age has been announced, helped to make the West Indies known to tourists thirty years ago, by reason of the voyage of his famous yacht *Sunbeam*, the account of which was written by the first Lady Brassey.

THE *Board of Trade Journal*, which recently has become a larger and more valuable publication, devotes a column to the details of the scheme prepared by the Director of Public Works, British Guiana, for a railway from Georgetown to the Hinterland.

MR. A. H. KIRBY, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Southern Provinces, Nigeria, is at present in charge of Agriculture in the British occupied

territory of the Cameroons. The Resident is Mr. P. V. Young, brother of Mr. Douglas Young, late Administrator of Dominica.

SIR ERNEST BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT, who is retiring from the Governorship of Fiji, is happily remembered in the Leeward Islands, which he administered from 1906 to 1912, when he was promoted to his present office. Sir Ernest was at one time (1904-6) Governor of British Honduras.

THE Society for Providing Surgical Dressings and Comforts, Kingstown, St. Vincent, of which Mrs. R. A. Turpin is Hon. Secretary, has recently sent to the British Red Cross Society, through the West India Committee, several bales of dressings, etc., which have been gratefully acknowledged.

CAN any reader give us the addresses of the under-mentioned "Combermerians" now on active service?

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Lynch, C. G. | Taylor, John. |
| Ford, W. A. | Phillips, C. M. |
| Gay, Louis D. | and |
| Glanville, H. F. | Newsam, F. A. |

MR. KENNETH J. S. HARRIS, Borough Engineer of Weymouth, has been finally selected by the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown, from amongst numerous applicants, to fill the vacancy of Municipal Engineer and Town Superintendent. Mr. Harris hopes to leave for Demerara, to assume his new duties, by the end of March.

"THE local Press has been conspicuous by its absence, yet one paper, out of the abundance of its wisdom, without taking the trouble to ascertain the trend of the enquiry, has set itself the task of instructing the Commission as to what it should or should not do."—(Extract from the report of the Agricultural Commission of British Honduras.)

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is becoming a popular medium for advertising the sale of West Indian estates. Messrs. Jenkinson, Brinsley & Jenkinson will, we believe, testify to its value in this connection, and in the present issue will be found, besides their well-known announcements, one regarding Morne Lezard Cacao and Lime Estate in St. Lucia, of which Mr. M. C. Shanks Moffat is anxious to dispose.

WE regret to state that Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman of the West India Committee, met with an accident on Thursday last. Whilst on his way to the railway station at Reigate he was struck in the left eye by a marble which a small boy was slinging in a handkerchief. With characteristic pluck he proceeded to London and completed his day's work; but on Saturday he was compelled to enter a nursing home, and though he is now much better it is feared that he will lose the sight of the eye affected. We feel sure that Mr. Rutherford will have the sympathy of all our readers in his misfortune.

MRS. COWIE, who died at 25, Holborn House, Sloane Square, S.W., after a long illness, on 22nd February, was daughter of the late John de la Poer Beresford, of Co. Cavan, who was Colonial Secretary of St. Vincent at the time of emancipation. Mrs. Cowie, who was the widow of David Cowie, an estates' proprietor in the same island, leaves two daughters, Miss Maud and Miss Charlotte Cowie, and one son, Mr. W. H. Cowie.

* * *

THE Bishop of Antigua of that day (some forty years ago) consecrated the first non-Roman Church to be erected in Latin America. This is the Church of the Holy Trinity, Porcey, Porto Rico. Built at the request of the English community, the church was sent over from Great Britain in sections. We are indebted for this fact to that highly interesting publication the *Agwi Steamship News*, a monthly magazine of travel, published by the Atlantic Gulf and West Indies Steamship lines.

* * *

PROFESSOR JOHN CADMAN, who spent some years in Trinidad as Mining Engineer and Inspector of Mines, and who received a C.M.G. in 1916, has been awarded the Cross of Officer of the Legion of Honour "in recognition of valuable services rendered in the cause of the Allies." Prior to becoming Director of the Petroleum Executive, which, with Mr. Walter Long as its head, works directly under the War Cabinet, Mr. Cadman was a member of the Chemical Advisory Committee on gas warfare and technical adviser to the trench warfare department and the Ministry of Munitions.

* * *

AMONG recent books added to the Library of the West India Committee—which, by the way, has quite outgrown the bookshelf accommodation, as we hope benefactors will note—are copies of the "Guide to the Madeiras, West Indies, Mexico, and



THE BATH HOUSE, NEVIS.

Northern and Southern America," by John Osborne, 1853, and "A Practical Treatise on the Cultivation of the Sugar Cane and the Manufacture of Sugar," by Thomas Kerr, Planter, Antigua, 1851. Both books are the gift of Mr. Rutherford. Mr. Osborne was in the Passenger Department of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, whose propaganda occupies the early pages. It is interesting

to note that the first-class fare to Barbados was then £42 as against the pre-war price of £24. Among the advertisement pages is the interesting cut of the Bath House Hotel at Nevis which is reproduced on this page.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Enemy "Peace Offensive."

Count Czernin, the Austrian Chancellor, continues to coo like any sucking dove while Count Hertling, the German Chancellor, does the roaring. Their tactics have succeeded so well in Russia that they hope to succeed in other Allied countries, their aim at present being to divide the Latin nations (France and Italy) from Anglo-Saxondom. But the triumph of his "peace offensive" in the East has been too complete. He has frightened his friends, the pacifists, everywhere. That is why the Internationalists, who recently held a Conference in London, were so moderate in their demands compared with their demands last year. Instead of assuming that they can end the war by "conciliation," off their own bat, as it were, they admit that there may be "alternatives," and generally show an advance towards common sense. Evidently the madness of Russia and the sanity of America, Federated Labour of which stood aloof from the Conference as "a waste of time." With the only elements in the population of Allied countries on which the enemy can play with effect awakened to the danger of his peace overtures, the statesmen in London, Paris, Rome, and Washington speak out plainly. To them the "offers" of Counts Hertling and Czernin are not only disingenuous and insincere, but they lack all substance.

Submarine Warfare and Shipbuilding.

The statements of Ministers with regard to shipbuilding are disappointing. In August last the Premier promised that the rate of production would be at the rate of 2,000,000 tons a year. But in December it began to fall, and in January it was only half what it should have been. In February it was no better, so that, unless prompt measures are taken to increase the output, the situation will be very serious, particularly as American prophecies have been similarly falsified. For the enemy is pursuing his submarine policy relentlessly. It has failed in so far that it has not prevented the United States from entering the War, and has not compelled England to surrender—at any rate, up to the present. But the German High Command have come to the same conclusion as to the future of the war at sea that they have as to the future of the war on land—that it will progress on the lines of attrition. Their argument is that the Allies have been able to hold out so far by requisitioning ships, by taking over neutral vessels, and economising cargo space. But these devices can only have a limited effect. There is but one way to combat the submarine menace successfully, and that is to build ships faster than they are destroyed, which the Allies are not yet doing by a long way. Hence the enemy continues

to destroy merchantmen, under whatever flag, in the belief that a time will come when the world's tonnage will be so depleted that England must starve or surrender. Nevertheless, she has fumbled with the shipbuilding problem since the beginning of the war, and is fumbling with it still.

Japan and the Russian Catastrophe.

The Island Kingdom in the East has been watching the trend of events in Russia for a year, and, as they developed unfavourably to her interests, prepared for the worst, which has now happened with Germany dominant in Russia. For, once in Petrograd, she will be but a month's distance from Vladivostock, and rapidly extending her hold over Siberia, the Trans-Continental Railway, and a vast reservoir of food and raw materials, not to speak of the large supplies of munitions sent by the Allies for the use of the Russian armies, and stored at Vladivostock. The position of Japan as an independent Power is, therefore, now directly threatened. To meet the emergency she is taking counsel with the other Allies, announcing her readiness to undertake military operations in Siberia, either alone or jointly with China. As, since the termination of the Kiao-chau operations, the Japanese Army has not been called upon to take the field, it is a potent instrument ready to carry out the Allied will at the most critical juncture of the war.

The Germans in Russia.

The Bolsheviks tried to avert signing a peace treaty, but were compelled to take a part in the most abject surrender in history. The unspeakable Lenin excuses himself by pleading that "their knees are on our chest, and our position is hopeless." Precisely; but who is responsible but he and his friends? Not only have they given over to the enemy 400,000 square miles of Russian territory, with a population of fifty millions, but have agreed to pay an indemnity of £300,000,000. In the meantime, German armies have "captured" Dvinsk and Reval, and are marching on Petrograd, meeting with little or no resistance, and collecting enormous quantities of loot on the way, while Turkey is re-occupying Armenia and the Caucasus, including the oil region and Kars. The Russian Army of glorious memory is not only dissolved, but outraged.

Even in her madness, however, Russia is serving the Allied cause. In the first place, the Bolsheviks and Maximalists, if they are not a terror to their enemies, are a terror to their own people, so that, if Germany is going to benefit by the peace treaty with Russia, she will require considerable military aid to restore order in that country of vast distances. In the second place, the new friend, Ukraina, needs immediate and substantial military help if she is going to hold her own against the Bolsheviks of the north, the Cossacks of the east, the Maximalists of Odessa, and the Roumanians. There is room to doubt if the enemy has now the power to deal effectively with all these opposing

forces simultaneously with a great offensive in the West.

The Russian Fleet.

The collapse of Russia's naval power is of small importance compared with the collapse of her military power, since, if Germany takes over four new battleships, together with cruisers and other units of the Russian Baltic Fleet, she has not the personnel to man them. When Allied sea power has had accessions of strength in Italy and the United States entering the war, for instance, they took the form of navies as going concerns. Germany merely gets the Russian ships in the Baltic. It would, however, be idle to deny that she gains by the transaction, because they include sixty submarines, with which she can replace old and worn-out units of her own submarine fleet.

On the Western Front.

Here raids have been frequent of late, and show a tendency to increase in scope and importance, many of them constituting small attacks for gaining and holding fresh tactical points. Of such a character were operations carried out by British troops in the southern portion of the Houthulst Forest and Warneton, and by the French in Lorraine. So deep was their thrust that they were carried six miles into the enemy system of trenches. Activity in the air is ceaseless. Some idea of what it accomplishes was given by Major Baird, who introduced the first Air Force Estimates in Parliament on February 21st last. On one day on the Western Front last year, 127 hostile batteries were successfully engaged to destruction under aeroplane observation; in one month 15,837 photographs were taken in the air; in another month 123,000 rounds were expended in attacking troops from the air; we have carried out eleven raids into Germany since December 1st, whereas the enemy has only succeeded in carrying out eight raids into Britain, notwithstanding the fact that London is a much more accessible target than anything that we can operate against in Germany.

The Fall of Jericho.

General Allenby has made another brilliant advance in Palestine, having established railway communication with Egypt. The occupation of Jericho, which is now nothing more than a collection of mud huts, is merely of sentimental interest. But in carrying the series of mountain ridges east of Jerusalem the British have forced the enemy out of the southern section of the Valley of the Jordan, thereby making themselves masters of the bridge across the river and of the four roads converging in it. The Turks will either have to retire rapidly or they will be separated from the main body in the north and routed. As for a direct attack on Jerusalem from the east, they can no longer even attempt it. Our troops, who have advanced over difficult country, by their courage, skill and endurance, have left winter behind and passed into the warm climate of the plain. But where is Falkenhayn?

Another Hospital Ship Sunk.

This was the *Glenart Castle*, the seventh of her kind torpedoed by the enemy during the past twelve months. Being outward bound, she carried no patients, unlike the *Rewa*, which was sunk in the same spot a few weeks ago—off Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel. In the work of rescue an American destroyer and a French steamer took part, landing survivors in an exhausted condition at Swansea. In the meantime patrol boats were searching for eight boats adrift with 150 persons in them. These, it is feared, have been lost. The *Glenart Castle* carried all the distinguishing marks required of her as a hospital ship by law and custom. She was, too, in what the Germans themselves have arbitrarily fixed as the "free zone."

A Successful German Raider.

The Germans are rejoicing over the return of the auxiliary cruiser *Wolf*, after an adventurous career of commerce-destruction in the Pacific and Indian Oceans for fifteen months. During this period she sank many merchantmen of various flags, including ten posted as missing, and stored all that was valuable in their cargoes. Their coal and food she consumed herself to enable her to keep the sea. Her consort, a captured Spanish steamer, the *Igotz Mendi*, stranded on the Skaw, and was wrecked almost in sight of home. She had a German prize crew on board, together with the passengers and crews taken from ships sunk by the *Wolf*. They have all been saved.

Shipping Losses.

For the week ending February 23rd, British shipping losses increased. Of large vessels, 1,600 tons and over, 14 were sunk; of small vessels, 4 were sunk. For the week ended March 2nd the figures are: for the first, 12; for the second, 6.

(To be continued.)

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, *without delay*. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

CACAO BUTTER is coming down in price. In a shop window in Kensington last week we saw a fine display of the butter marked 2/3 per lb. It is anticipated that the demand for this lard-substitute will rapidly expand when prices are fixed, as they will be shortly, at a lower level. "*Corisande*," in the *Evening Standard* gave the following recipe recently for making cacao butter palatable:—

Take 5 lb. cacao butter, 3 quarts water, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. corn-flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. ammonia, $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. salt.

The ammonia should be carbonate. Pound it well before using.

Break the cacao butter up, put in the water, and bring to the boil. Then put in the ammonia. Take some of the liquid and pour on the cornflour, making a custard paste of it, and then pour this into the pot; take it off the fire and put into a larger vessel filled with cold water, so that the contents may cool. Remember, as it cools, to work it with a whisk.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The West India Committee have received the following letter from the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture regarding supplies of Sulphate of Ammonia for the British West Indies:—

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

FOOD PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT,

72, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1.

March 4th, 1918.

Dear Sir,—At an interview which I had with a deputation from the West India Committee on the 16th November last, I said that the Department would be glad to have the assistance of the Committee in connection with future exports of sulphate of ammonia to the West Indies, and to consider any suggestions the Committee might make as to distribution.

As the Department is now considering the distribution of next season's production of sulphate of ammonia, I should be glad if you would be good enough to favour me with any suggestions your Committee wish to make as to the manner in which any sulphate of ammonia which the Department may consider can be spared for export to the West Indies should be distributed.

In making the allocation amongst the various estates, it would be of assistance if the Department were in possession of information as to:—(1) the names of the various sugar estates and of the owners, (2) the firms by whom the owners are represented in the United Kingdom, (3) the areas of the estates, (4) the quantity of sulphate of ammonia required by each estate from the 1st of June next to the 31st of May, 1919, and, (5) the quantity of sulphate of ammonia obtained by each estate from all sources since 1st of June last.

Perhaps, therefore, in communicating the Committee's suggestions, you would be good enough to furnish this information.

I may remind you, however, that the demand for S/A in the United Kingdom is very great and it is desirable to reduce export to a minimum. The Department is informed that nitrate of soda can be utilised for sugar cultivation in place of sulphate of ammonia, at any rate as a temporary expedient, and I hope that your Committee will as far as possible arrange for the shipment of nitrate of soda direct from Chili to the West Indies. The possibility of obtaining sulphate of ammonia from sources other than the United Kingdom should also be considered.

I may add that it was expected that the Department would have been in a position to sanction the export of 7,197 tons of sulphate of ammonia, between the 1st of June and the 31st of December last to the West Indies for sugar production, but in consequence of the large increase in the demand for home agricultural use, it was found necessary to curtail this programme, the quantity actually licensed for export being only 4,957 tons, as follows:—

| | Quantity provisionally allocated. | Quantity actually licensed. |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Tons. | Tons. |
| British Guiana | 4,720 | 3,175 |
| Grenada | 10 | — |
| St. Lucia | 180 | 55 |
| Jamaica | 200 | 165 |
| Barbados | 800 | 725 |
| Trinidad | 1,000 | 643 |
| St. Kitts | 92 | 74 |
| Antigua | 195 | 120 |
| | 7,197 | 4,957 |

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE WEAVER,
Director of Supplies.

The Secretary,
West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the various Agricultural bodies

in the West Indies on March 6th :—

March 6th, 1918.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a copy of a letter which we have received from the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture, dated March 4th, with regard to supplies of sulphate of ammonia for the British West Indies.

2. We are informed that at the moment there is no sulphate of ammonia available for export. On June 1st, however, the new season begins, and we have received an assurance that the needs of the British West Indian Colonies in respect of this fertiliser will receive most careful consideration though it is highly improbable that more than a small proportion of the total requirements will be available.

3. It is important that the Food Production Department should be in possession of the fullest particulars regarding the needs and requirements of the planters in the various Colonies based on their normal applications in the past pre-war years. We have, therefore, been asked by the Department to supply them with the following information :

- (1) The names of the various sugar estates and of their owners.
- (2) The firms by whom they are represented in the United Kingdom.
- (3) The area of the estates and the acreage actually under cane.
- (4) The quantity of sulphate of ammonia required by each estate from June 1st, 1918, to May 31st, 1919, and the months in which delivery is required,
- and (5) The quantity of sulphate of ammonia obtained by each estate from all sources since June 1st, 1917.

4. It is of the utmost importance that accurate information under the above headings should be available at the earliest possible moment and certainly not later than by early in May, and we hope, therefore, that you will kindly take steps to obtain it for us and send it to us by the first opportunity.

5. In view of the uncertainty of mail communication it will be desirable to send your reply in duplicate, and it is probable that information will be asked for by cable as to the total requirements. The replies will not, however, obviate the need for the detailed information asked for above.

Yours obediently,
ALGERNON B. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

It is but rarely that Governors retain association, after retirement, with the Colonies which they have administered. Notable exceptions are the cases of Sir Alexander Swettenham, who continues to reside in Jamaica, and of Sir Gilbert Carter, who has a house in Barbados. In British Guiana, however, it is officially announced that Sir Wilfred Collet has appointed his predecessor in the Governorship, Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., to be an Hon. Member of the Board of Agriculture.

THE Government of St. Lucia announces that it is in possession of reliable information respecting the fraudulent representation of certain persons of Armenian, Chaldean or Assyrian race, claiming to be ministers of the Greek Orthodox or Nestorian Churches, who collect funds for the alleged purpose of erecting orphanages for relieving the distress of Armenian and other sufferers through Turkish atrocities. The public of St. Lucia are therefore warned against being imposed upon by these persons.

VICTUALLING THE WEST INDIES.

Arrangements with the United States.

The arrangements made by the United States Government for victualling the British West Indies, to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR, are outlined in the case of Trinidad in the following paragraphs of the local Food Committee's Report.

- (a) (i.) In respect of foodstuffs it may be generally stated that an amount corresponding to the consumption of the colony in previous years will be obtainable from the U.S.A. by monthly instalments.
- (ii.) Sugar, however, will not be obtainable, and the importation of cereals will be subject to the control of an inter-allied Executive Commission sitting in New York. It is not certain whether this covers Canadian wheat, but having regard to the description of the Commissioners as inter-allied, it probably does.
- (iii.) The exportation from the U.S.A. of bacon, ham, butter and lard is forbidden for the present, but an amount, corresponding to local requirements of beef, pork, lard substitute and oleomargarine will be licensed for export to the Colony. It will be easier to obtain licenses for pickled beef than for pickled pork.
- (iv.) Beans will be licensed more easily for export from the U.S.A. than peas and the latter should be in the proportion of 2 to 1.
- (b) Export licenses from the U.S.A. for one month's supplies are immediately obtainable.

(c) The U.S. Government insist upon the necessity for economy and have asked the Colonial Government to take such measures as are possible to restrict consumption of imported foodstuffs. It also requests that the use of wheat and wheat flour be avoided as far as possible and that every effort be made to substitute cornmeal, oatmeal and rye.

(d) The U.S. Authorities are desirous of disturbing existing trade channels as little as possible and suggest the following methods should be adopted :—

- (i.) A Committee to be appointed to keep imports of foodstuffs from the U.S.A. to the amounts agreed on with the U.S. Authorities.
- (ii.) Orders of local merchants are to be certified by the Committee as being within the agreed amounts and then sent by these merchants to merchants in the U.S.A. who in turn would attach these certified orders to their applications for export licenses.
- (iii.) Applications so supported to be granted by U.S. Authorities, all others to be refused.
- (iv.) This system does not apply to cereals or sugar.

(e) The U.S. Government insist that no foodstuffs imported from that country are to be re-exported. With regard to this stipulation there arises for consideration the subject of the course of trade which has tended to make Trinidad to a certain modified extent the distributing centre for Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, and other West Indian Islands.

STATISTICS show that more American goods were sold to the West Indies in 1916 than to the entire continent of South America. The West Indies, including Porto Rico (says the *Marine Journal*, United States), took \$191,195,791 worth of goods made in the United States during that year, whereas the sum total of American shipments to South America was \$177,628,611. Cuba alone purchased more merchandise than Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Paraguay combined. China is rightly regarded as one of the best fields for commercial effort by American exporters, yet that great Oriental republic, with its 400 million population, purchased only one-seventh of the amount of American goods taken by the West Indies.

SOME CACAO STATISTICS.

Production and Consumption in 1912-1916.

In the CIRCULAR of February 24th, 1914, we published figures showing the production and consumption of Cacao in the principal cacao producing and consuming centres for the years 1908 to 1912. Through the courtesy of Mr. Arthur Dix we are now able to supplement these with the figures for 1912-1916:—

| | Production in Tons. | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| Gold Coast... | 38,600 | 50,500 | 53,000 | 77,000 | 72,000 |
| Lagos ... | 3,400 | 3,600 | 4,950 | 9,100 | 9,000 |
| Trinidad ... | 18,500 | 21,500 | 28,300 | 24,140 | 24,000 |
| Grenada ... | 5,500 | 5,000 | 6,000 | 6,500 | 5,500 |
| Jamaica ... | 3,300 | 2,500 | 3,800 | 3,600 | 3,400 |
| St. Lucia ... | 900 | 700 | 700 | 800 | 700 |
| Dominica ... | 600 | 500 | 450 | 550 | 300 |
| St. Vincent ... | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 75 |
| British Guiana ... | 5 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Ceylon ... | 3,700 | 3,500 | 2,900 | 3,900 | 3,500 |
| Brit. Col Total... | 74,605 | 87,925 | 100,225 | 125,715 | 118,500 |

| Foreign Production in Tons | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Ecuador ... | 38,200 | 41,900 | 47,200 | 37,000 | 42,686 |
| Brazil ... | 30,500 | 29,700 | 40,700 | 45,000 | 43,700 |
| St. Thomé ... | 35,100 | 34,000 | 31,400 | 30,600 | 33,200 |
| Fernando Po ... | 2,200 | 2,800 | 3,100 | 3,900 | 3,800 |
| Venezuela ... | 10,600 | 17,900 | 16,900 | 18,300 | *12,300 |
| San Domingo ... | 20,800 | 19,500 | 20,700 | 20,200 | *21,053 |
| Haiti ... | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,100 | 1,800 | *2,200 |
| Cuba ... | 1,600 | 2,000 | 1,800 | 1,700 | *1,500 |
| Java ... | 2,000 | 2,600 | 1,600 | 1,500 | *1,471 |
| Surinam ... | 1,000 | 1,500 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 2,000 |
| French Colonies ... | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1,800 | *1,900 |
| Belgian Congo ... | 700 | 900 | 500 | 600 | 800 |
| Cameroon ... | 4,800 | 5,300 | *1,100 | *2,300 | *2,800 |
| Sauroa ... | 700 | 900 | *1,033 | *879 | *929 |
| Togo ... | 300 | 300 | *200 | *300 | *100 |
| Other Countries ... | *3,300 | *3,500 | *3,200 | *3,000 | *3,500 |
| Foreign Total ... | 156,200 | 167,500 | 175,233 | 161,979 | 173,919 |
| Total Production | 230,805 | 255,425 | 275,458 | 285,694 | 292,419 |

| Consumption in Tons. | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| America ... | 64,700 | 68,000 | 71,500 | 85,500 | 97,500 |
| Canada ... | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 2,700 | 4,500 |
| United Kingdom ... | 27,600 | 27,200 | 28,600 | 46,500 | 38,200 |
| France ... | 26,900 | 27,600 | 26,000 | 35,300 | 37,100 |
| Spain ... | 5,200 | 6,200 | 7,000 | 6,700 | 7,500 |
| Italy ... | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,300 | 6,500 | 6,800 |
| Holland ... | 25,000 | 30,000 | 32,000 | 41,000 | 20,000 |
| Switzerland ... | 10,300 | 10,300 | 10,100 | 17,300 | *14,705 |
| Sweden ... | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,800 | 2,700 | *2,500 |
| Denmark ... | 1,700 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | *2,800 |
| Norway ... | 1,100 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,751 | *1,946 |
| Russia ... | 4,600 | 5,200 | 4,300 | 5,600 | *4,323 |
| Belgium ... | 7,000 | 6,000 | 3,900 | *88 | — |
| Germany ... | 55,000 | 51,000 | *50,000 | *45,000 | *45,000 |
| Austria ... | 7,324 | 6,600 | 6,000 | 3,000 | *500 |
| Other Countries ... | *5,000 | *5,200 | *5,400 | *5,700 | *6,000 |
| Total ... | 248,424 | 253,600 | 255,500 | 308,339 | 259,374 |

*Estimates

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

THE WEST INDIES FOR EX-SOLDIERS.

Information as to openings sought.

Towards the close of last year Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and the Secretary, were appointed by the Executive of the West India Committee a Sub-Committee to deal with the question of the employment or settlement of ex-soldiers in the West Indies after the War. In this connection the following letter was addressed to the various Agricultural and Commercial bodies in the West Indies on January 18th

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C. 3.
January 18th, 1918.

The Secretary,
Agricultural and Commercial Society,
St. Vincent.

Dear Sir,—I beg to inform you that my Executive has appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the question of the employment of ex-soldiers, both officers and non-commissioned officers and men, in the British West Indies after the War.

2. If such young men can be encouraged to make their career in the British West Indies it will be a means not only of replacing those who will never return but of doing so with a stamp of man, who, by reason of his experience and discipline, would prove of value to the commercial and planting life of the West Indies.

3. As you are no doubt aware, several other bodies have the question of the settlement of ex-soldiers under consideration with reference more particularly to the self-governing Dominions, from the conditions existing in which those prevailing in the West Indies differ in many respects.

4. We take it that generally speaking there are in existing circumstances comparatively few openings for white men without capital in the British West Indies, unless they proceed to take up appointments made before their departure; and it has hitherto been our general practice to warn such men from proceeding overseas on the chance of finding employment.

5. It is possible, however, that some arrangements might be made through the various Chambers of Commerce and Agricultural bodies in co-operation with my Committee for making known to a greater extent than heretofore the openings as overseers, managers of estates and as managers and clerks in stores and business premises generally suitable for officers and men without capital on their retirement from the Army.

6. Steps might also be taken to make more generally known the openings afforded by your Colony for the reception of intending settlers with capital; it being clear that many young officers with money to invest will be unwilling to continue the humdrum life in England after their experiences abroad.

7. Cognate with this question is that of the desirability of inducing young public school men to settle or take up employment in the West Indies.

8. My Committee would be glad if your Society could see its way to appoint a Sub-Committee to go into this matter and to furnish us with a report on the points above indicated, the publication of which would, no doubt, be productive of good to the island. We are forwarding a copy of this letter to H.E. the Governor of _____, whose co-operation might, we venture to suggest, be invoked.

Yours obediently,
(Signed) ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

III.—THE MANUFACTURE OF CANE SUGAR AND BEET SUGAR.

(Continued from page 69.)

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of these articles appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the articles shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and a special feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

Beet Sugar.

The process of manufacturing sugar from the sugar-beet resembles that employed in the case of the sugar-cane, with the exception of the part dealing with the extraction of the sugar from the beet-root in the form of juice. The sugar-beet contains a much lower percentage of fibre than the sugar-cane, and the fibre in itself has not the woody character of the vascular fibre which forms such a prominent feature in the latter. There is also in the sugar-beet nothing comparable to the siliceous hard rind of the sugar-cane, and the sugar-beet thus lends itself to a much milder treatment in extracting the juice.

If a closed vegetable parchment cell containing a solution of sugar were placed in a glass of water, the sugar dissolved in the contents of the cell will gradually diffuse through the walls of the cell, until the sugar solution within the cell is of the same percentage composition as regards sugar as the water surrounding it. Further, if the above cell be placed in successive glasses of water, its sugar content will continue to be reduced, while the collective waters of the glasses will contain the sugar extracted. Thus, if the cell originally contained a quart of water containing in solution a pound of sugar, and if ten glasses each containing a quart of water were used, after removal from the tenth glass the pound of sugar primarily in the cell would be reduced to 1/1024 of a pound, while the ten quarts of water in the glasses would contain the remainder of the pound of sugar originally present in the cell. One advantage of this method of extraction is that certain bodies, albumen and gums, remain in the cell, the sugar thus obtained in the case of the beet being actually purer than the beet juice proper as regards constituents of this character.

It is upon this property of Osmosis that the method of extracting the sugar from the beetroot is based.

As already mentioned, the beets, after being "pulled," are stored either in earth-covered stacks, prepared silos, or protected cellars. They are apt to have much dirt clinging to them, and stones caught in the rootlets. Before anything can be done in the direction of extracting the sugar from them, they have to be cleansed from dirt and freed from stones.

The roots are usually conveyed from the stores to the factory by flumes, in which the water carries the roots by sheer force to their destination.

The flumes are constructed so as to catch any stones that may be detached in the process, while naturally much of the dirt is washed off in the rough-and-tumble transit.

When the roots arrive at the factory, they are further treated in special apparatus for removing the remaining dirt and stones, and to fit them for the slicing knives, which prepare them for the extraction processes.

The roots are fed into the hoppers of the slicing machines, from which they fall into a revolving knife system, which slices the roots into long, narrow strips, about one-twentieth of an inch thick and half an inch wide. The slices are now ready for the extraction process, and are conveyed by carriers to the receivers of the rotating shoot feeding the diffusion battery, in which the principle of diffusion already explained is carried out in practice.

A diffusion battery consists of iron vertical cylinders, twelve to sixteen in number, arranged in a circle, and fed by a revolving shoot placed over the centre of the circle. Each cylinder has a movable top and bottom for the purpose of emptying and filling, with a connection from the base of the one cylinder to the head of the next, passing through a heater, for the purpose of transferring the diffusion juice from one vessel to the next, and heating it in transit.

A battery, while at work, will have one cell discharged and filled, and the remaining cells containing slices in progressive stages of exhaustion of sugar. Thus, if in a sixteen-cell battery No. 10 is being discharged preparatory to filling, No. 9 will be charged with slices undergoing the first exhaustion, No. 8 with slices twice exhausted, No. 7 with slices three times exhausted, and so on up to No. 11, in which the last extraction prior to being discharged at the end of the exhaustion is being carried out with fresh water. The latter naturally can only acquire a small amount of sugar in this cylinder, but is passed on to No. 12, where it meets with slices which, although considerably exhausted, contain juice of a greater saccharine strength than the sugary water with which they come into contact. The diffusion juice is transferred to cylinders 13, 14, and so on, in each instance being increased in sugar content, and meeting always slices in which the juice is still richer in sugar, up to No. 9, when it meets with the fresh slices, and is ready after having done its work in that cylinder, for withdrawal for sugar-making purposes.

It will be thus seen that the water first used proceeds in one direction around the battery, and becomes richer as it proceeds, until it is ready for discharge, while the cylinders are successively charged with fresh slices in the contrary direction. The object of the procedure is to obtain a maximum of extraction with as little water as possible, and the diffusion juice at the end of the operation may only contain about 20 per cent. more water than the natural juice of the beets operated on. The quantity of sugar extracted from the beets in this way is about 96 per cent., the balance being lost on the exhausted chips. As a certain proportion of the cells of the beet slices are laid open in the process of slicing, the operation is not perfect

as regards the exclusion of albuminous impurities and gums, but the presence of these with the extracted sugar is reduced to a minimum.

The sugar extract—diffusion juice—thus obtained is now passed through a mechanical strainer for the purpose of eliminating any pulp or mechanical impurities which may have found their way into it. It is then subjected to a clarification process, and the one generally employed is the double carbonation process described in connection with the clarification of cane juice, but slightly modified as regards temperatures.

The juice, as it comes from the strainer or "depulper," is heavily limed—that is, milk of lime in considerable quantities is added. Carbonic acid is then passed into the limed juice to a point which leaves a slight, but definite, alkalinity. The juice is then heated to about 150 deg. F. and filtered through the filter presses. The clear juice from these is then treated with a small amount of lime, and "carbonated" to neutrality. It is then boiled, and again filtered through presses.

The clear liquid obtained from these is now concentrated in a multiple effect, as with cane sugar, and the succeeding operations with the vacuum pans, crystallisers, and centrifugals are practically the same as with cane sugar.

When raw sugar is made—that is, sugar polarising about 94°, but called 88° sugar on account of the deductions made from the polarisation for glucose and mineral matter, so as to value the sugar for refining purposes, which reduces the 94° to 88°—the process is as for 96° cane sugar.

As in the case of cane sugar, white granulated sugars are sometimes made direct without refining. The raw sugar is washed and steamed in the centrifugals to remove the dark colour and objectionable flavour of the raw beet. The resulting product is a fine grain sugar known as "German granulated" as distinguished from the granulated sugar of the refiners. Cube sugar can also be made in the same manner by allowing the massecuite to solidify in suitable moulds, which are introduced into a specially designed centrifugal and there washed and steamed. The slabs thus obtained are then removed and cut into cubes by mechanical knives. As in the case of white cane sugar made on plantations, these direct white beet sugars do not equal in quality the refiners' products.

The exhausted slices from the diffusion battery are pressed to remove the surplus water, and used as cattle food. There is therefore no product to be used as fuel, as with the cane sugar factory, and a considerable quantity of coal is required to work a beet sugar factory. Economy in steam is, therefore, of great importance, and it is a common practice to conduct the evaporation by quintuple effect, and to have the first vessel of the effect of such a size as to supply vapour by double effect to the heaters and vacuum pans.

The extraction of sugar in a beet factory is about 86 per cent. of the sugar in the beet, as against 82 per cent. in the case of the sugar-cane.

In both modern cane sugar and in beet factories the operation of sugar-making is conducted under scientific supervision. The amount of sugar entering the factory in the form of sugar-cane or sugar-

beet, as the case may be, is compared with the amount of sugar obtained in the form of juice by mills or diffusion plant, and again with the amount leaving the factory in a merchantable form. Each stage of the process is checked by chemical and optical analyses, while the amount of power derived from the fuel used, in the form of steam, is carefully watched. Indeed, the manager of a sugar factory, either cane or beet, is in a position to say, as the result of the work of his scientific staff, how the manufacture is progressing, and should there be loss, at what point it has occurred.

(To be continued.)

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Our Pledge to the Signatories.

The West India Committee have sent the following reply to the letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Brussels Sugar Convention, which was published in the CIRCULAR of February 7th (No. 505), page 55:—

5th March, 1918.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. on the subject of the Brussels Sugar Convention.

2. My Committee note that the question which they raised in their letter of November 5th, 1917, as to the obligations of His Majesty's Government in connection with that International Agreement is under consideration by a Committee; and that, meanwhile, in the opinion of Mr. Secretary Long, it cannot be safely assumed that the Signatory Powers to the Convention, the Additional Act and all subsidiary Protocols, Declarations and Agreements, have recovered full liberty of action as regards each other owing to the War. They further note that Mr. Long has been informed officially that the French Government have informed the Belgian Government of their withdrawal from the Convention.

3. While thanking you for this information, my Committee desire to urge that if any doubt whatever exists as to whether the Convention is at an end or not, His Majesty's Government may immediately give notice to the Belgian Government of their intention to withdraw the pledge which was given on behalf of Great Britain to the Signatories not to give a preference to sugar from her Colonies.

4. Apart from the larger question of Imperial Preference my Committee feel that it is in the highest degree desirable that such action should be taken without delay in view of the assistance it may be advisable to give either by guarantee of interest on capital, grants or otherwise, to the British Sugar industry in order to enable that industry to be developed to such extent as to render the United Kingdom independent of foreign sources of supply of sugar.

I have the honour, &c.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BARBADOS.

An Indictment of the System in Vogue.

A correspondent who adopts the non-de-plume "Ratio" contributes to the "Agricultural Reporter" of Barbados a scathing indictment of the prevailing system of sugar production in that island.

"There is no place on this planet," he writes, "better situated for the production of sugar than Barbados. With ideal soil and climate, adequate rainfall, excellent configuration, the best of roads, an abundance of cheap and good labour, in favourable juxtaposition to the world's markets, and but rarely visited by storms, truly the Creator has showered His blessings on Barbados with a lavish hand. But, in spite of these natural advantages, the state of the sugar industry is by no means as good as it ought to be. The factory system which has been established is in no way as creditable to those concerned as it might have been. Instead of three or four big high-grade factories, midget low-grade factories have been established. These factories have been erected regardless to juxtaposition, and the result is going to be ruinous competition.

"The first and main consideration in erecting a factory is to secure a full supply of canes. This determines the size of the factory and prevents idle machinery. This is what, as a rule, has not been done in Barbados. The custom has been to erect the factory and then trust to luck to get a full supply of canes. The natural result of such a policy is obvious.

Lost 48 per cent.

"I know of a factory that lost 48 per cent. in idle machinery last year. It made 1,400 tons of sugar, and it could easily have made 2,700 tons of sugar with a full supply of canes. The loss by low-grade machinery is also a very serious matter to the factory owner and cane grower. The best factories do not recover more than 84 per cent. of the sugar contents of the cane, and some of them make as low a recovery as 70 per cent. This would have been very fair work fifteen years ago, but the best equipped factories of to-day extract 98 per cent. of the sugar in the cane at the mill, and 97 per cent. of the sugar in the juice, which gives a factory recovery of 95.04 per cent.

"This low recovery is not always due to the very low grade of machinery. In some instances it is caused by the ignorance and meanness of the management, which refuses to pay a decent wage to obtain efficiency. The management of a certain factory is so ignorant that sugar testing 98 degrees is sent away, and nobody says anything about it. They consider the factory is losing nothing. This factory, with machinery indicating 82 per cent. recovery of the sugar content of the cane, makes a recovery of about 71 per cent. Anyone with the fringe of a knowledge of factory work can easily see the following preventable losses, based on the sugar content of the cane:—Loss by bad milling and non-imbibition, 6 per cent.; loss at filter-press, including unfiltered juice fed to mules, 5 per cent.; loss by inversion, 0.5 per cent.; loss by sugar left in molasses, 3 per cent.; loss by sugar overtesting,

1 per cent.; total, 11 per cent. The total preventable loss of this factory last year works out to 216 tons of sugar. But the management is quite satisfied. They still cleared plenty of money, and their motto is, 'What the eye does not see the heart does not grieve over.'

An Average Record.

"The following is about the average work of the Barbados factory with the average cane. Factory recovery of the sugar content of cane, 76 per cent. Sugar content of cane, 14 per cent. This gives 10.64 per cent. of sugar recovered from the cane, or 9.39 tons of cane per ton of sugar. The factory gives the cane vendor 70 per cent. of recovered sugar, which in this case equals 166.8 sugar lbs. per ton of cane, the factory making a gross profit of 71.7-sugar lbs. per cane ton.

"With high-grade factories and with efficient management, the following average results would be obtainable. Factory recovery of the sugar content of the cane, 90 per cent. Sugar content of the cane, 14 per cent. This gives 12.6 per cent. of sugar recovered from the cane, or 7.93 tons of cane per ton of sugar; 70 per cent. of recovered sugar gives the cane vendor 197.7 sugar lbs. for his ton of cane; the factory makes 84.7 sugar lbs. gross profit per ton of canes.

"It will be seen by the above that high-grade factories would benefit the cane growers 30.9 sugar lbs. per cane ton, and would benefit the factories 13 sugar lbs. per cane ton, the total loss being 43.9 sugar lbs. per cane ton. Taking the average crop of the island at 600,000 tons of cane per year, the loss in sugar caused by low-grade factories is 11,760 tons, and with sugar at \$4.00 per 100 lbs., this roughly equals £220,000.

"What is lacking to make things perfect is unity of purpose and action, high-grade factories, organisation, system and efficiency. With these things added to the extremely favourable natural conditions, Barbados would be in the very van of the sugar producing countries of the world."

BRITISH GUIANA SEA DEFENCES.

There appears to be fresh trouble menacing the sea defences on the Demerara East Coast, on account of the threatening conditions along the seafront, extending from Pln. Cummings Lodge to Plaisance, owing to serious erosion having taken place since Mr. Gerald Case's original report in June, 1916; and steps are being taken for the immediate construction of permanent protective works of reinforced concrete on that particular section of the coast, estimated to cost something in the neighbourhood of \$150,000.

Mr. Case, as a result of a recent re-survey, calculates that some five million cubic feet of material has been eroded by the sea during the eighteen months that have elapsed, most of this material having disappeared quite recently, and the foreshore scoured away to a depth of three feet to five feet, resulting in increased height of wave action against the sea dams, breaches in which have been made, or threatened, in several places.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

CORPORAL GEORGE SANDFORD COX, who died suddenly on January 28th at Sutton Verrey Military Hospital was the third son of the late Mr. Nicholas Cox, of Demerara, British Guiana.

CAPTAIN ERIC S. NICOL, M.C., Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed in action on January 19th, age 24, was the only son of the late Mr. M. A. S. Nicol, of Knockpatrick, Jamaica.

LIEUT.-COMMANDER D. R. MASON, R.N.R., who lost his life when Commander of the Mercantile Auxiliary Steamer *Osmatic* was well known in Dominica as Captain of the R.M.S.P. Company's coastal steamer *Yare*.

CAPTAIN PERCY HERBERT DELAMERE, R.A.M.C., late Colonial Medical Service, Demerara, who died on February 23rd at the Military Hospital, Milton, Portsmouth, was eldest son of the late Capt. H. P. Delamere, Royal Scots Fusiliers. He was an L.R.C.S., Ireland, 1882, and an L.R.C.P., Ireland, 1883. His appointment as captain in the R.A.M.C. was dated April 14th, 1916.

LIEUTENANT ALISTAIR GORDON CAMERON, D.S.C., R.N.R., who was killed on active service in the North Sea, in 1916, is now known to have been the hero of several submarine enterprises which will become historic. Twenty-five years of age, he was the only son of Alistair Cameron, Plantation Sunbury, Barbados, and great grandson of Capt. John Cameron, 79th Cameron Highlanders, of Dawnie, Inverness-shire, N.B. Educated at Marlborough College, he entered the merchant service. In October, 1914, he obtained a commission in the Navy, was appointed navigating officer to a submarine of the newest class, and served in it until he met his end in an engagement. All Lieutenant Cameron's service was done in the North Sea war zone. One or two of the achievements of his submarine are permitted to be known. In Kipling's "Fringes of the Fleet" (pp. 29-30) it is recorded how this submarine was caught in a net, was bombed by a Zeppelin, and was attacked by four destroyers. She cleared herself of the net, sunk one, if not two, of the destroyers, and got back to warn our boats of the new trap. Later this submarine torpedoed a large cruiser, protected by destroyers, while in the act of taking in a cargo of mines. Lieutenant Cameron was awarded the D.S.C., having been previously mentioned in despatches. He was a good shot and rider, and excelled at games. Courageous, generous, modest, he was loved by all—by none more than by the officers and men with whom he served and died.

HONOURS.

MAJOR AND BREVET LIEUT.-COLONEL SUTHER, C.M.G., D.S.O. (son-in-law of Mr. Hugh B. Hunter, late of St. Lucia), Royal Artillery, was awarded the D.S.O. in May, 1916, and made temporary Lieut.-Colonel in the following month, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel in the New Year's Honours. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre in December last, and was made an Officer of the Order of Leopold and given the Belgian Croix de Guerre in the same month. He was appointed C.M.G. on July 1st last. This gallant officer has been mentioned four times in despatches.

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.

Daly, Idris W. (Lieutenant Trinidad Artillery Volunteers and Assistant Superintendent of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.), Royal Field Artillery.
de la Pena, Leslie (eldest son of Stanley de la Pena, Solicitor, formerly of Jamaica, now of West Dulwich), Royal Flying Corps.
Gruchy, L. Stanley (eldest son of Major Gruchy, Jamaica Militia), late Gold Coast Volunteer Forces, Lieut. Nigerian Regiment.
Hunter, Capt. Neil Barclay (sixth son of Mr. Hugh B. Hunter, of Netherdale, Gartmore, N.B., and late of St. Lucia), Highland Light Infantry, was dangerously

wounded in Mesopotamia in 1916. After rejoining his Regiment as Adjutant he was in July 1917 seconded to the Egyptian Army.

Malone, Capt. J. E. O. (youngest son of the late W. W. Malone, of St. John's Antigua), 368th United States Infantry.
Manley, Gunner N. W. (Jamaica, Rhodes Scholar), Royal Field Artillery.
Marshall, 2nd Lieut. (son-in-law of the late Mr. James R. Greig of Trinidad), Seaforth Highlanders, is Officer Commanding Canal Motor Boat Police in Egypt.
Menendez, Tremar, M.C. (only son of the Hon. F. M. Menendez, Nassau, Bahamas), Lieut. Royal Flying Corps.
Sorapur, V. R. (late D.M.O., St. Mary, Jamaica), Surgeon, H.M. Hospital Ship.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Miss Farynton: 1 knitted vest.
Miss Goffe: 1 doz. handkerchiefs.
Mrs. Wade: 6 shirts, 4 mufflers, 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. L. M. Hill: 3 prs. socks.
The Imperial Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas, per Mrs. Menendez: 6 mufflers, 2 sweaters, 1 chest protector, 5 prs. socks (for Bahamas men).
Ladies and girls of Grenada, per Lady Haddon Smith: 165 prs. of socks (for Grenada men).
Ladies West India Committee of Trinidad, per Mrs. W. Gordon Gordon: 1 case guava jelly (for Trinidad men).
The Miranda Club (Trinidad) per Miss Barrett: 1 case preserves and hot sauce.
St. Martin's Work Party (per Mrs. Morison, Newmün, Perth): 31 prs. socks, 2 mufflers, 1 pr. mittens (for British Guiana Contingent).
Miss R. P. Austin: 3 mufflers, 4 prs. mittens.
Miss Cowie: 1 pr. socks.

Since the last list was published the following donations have been received:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|------|
| Bahamas (2nd donation to Flag Day Fund) per Mrs. Charles Menendez | ... | 90 | 0 0 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, for December:— | | | |
| Kingston Club | ... | 1 | 3 0 |
| Hon. C. R. F. Richards | ... | 10 | 0 |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | ... | 10 | 0 |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | ... | 10 | 0 |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. (Nov. and Dec.) | ... | 16 | 8 |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | ... | 2 | 0 |
| Jas. H. Hazell | ... | 3 | 0 |
| J. A. Davy | ... | 1 | 0 |
| | | 3 | 15 8 |

Mrs. Katherine G. M. Hart ... 2 2 0
Wesleyan Sunday School (Roseau) ... 2 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 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.

AMONG the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been the following:—

BAHAMAS.—John Burnside, Joseph Johnson. BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Pte. Wilfred Bowen, Pte. C. C. Bynoe, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, Pte. George S. Corbin, Pte. H. T. Cox, Cadet A. L. Evelyn, Gunner J. A. Leslie, Cadet C. R. Murphy, Pte. Bertie T. Seale. BRITISH

GUIANA.—J. Fernandez. DOMINICA.—J. Forbes-Marsden.
 JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. H. H. Kohler (B.W.I. Regt.), Sgt. A. G. Pinto, Lieut. H. E. Reid (B.W.I. Regt.), 2nd Lieut. R. Ripley (B.W.I. Regt.). ST. KITTS.—Pte. Patrick F. Ryan. ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. D. A. Richards. ST. VINCENT.—2nd Lieut. Rupert C. Otway, Cadet Conrad O. Hazell. TRINIDAD.—J. E. Ache, Bernard Agostini, L. Agostini, N. O. C. Blanc, Tpr. Collins, 2nd Lieut. E. Daly, H. A. Date, Pte. Carl de Verteuil, E. Eccles, Pte. G. Edgehill, Tpr. K. V. Galt, Philip Gomez, M. A. Govia, Cpl. R. Hale, Oswald Hamel-Smith, Capt. E. R. C. Hobson, Pte. W. T. King, 2nd Lieut. P. Knox, Sapper H. A. Littlepage, Pte. J. H. Llanos, Capt. Esme MacDonnell, Lieut. C. R. Massey, Sgt. V. A. Plummer, 2nd Lieut. D. Pogson, 2nd A.M.L. G. Porteous, Cadet C. Scholjseth, Tpr. A. Scheult, Cadet P. St. Hill, 2nd Lt. A. A. Scott, 2nd Lieut. S. S. Scott, R.N.V.R., C. W. Spencer, and Petty Officer Spencer James.

* * *

A Jamaica member of the British West Indies Regiment, writing from "Somewhere in Belgium," thus expresses in verse the feelings of his colleagues and himself:—

A DARKIE IN THE SLOUGHS OF BELGIUM.

Around the fire one wintry night
 The darkie soldiers sat,
 Their hearts were lit with pure delight
 Of that one little spot.
 "Just fancy," said one to his friend,
 "What dreadful hours we have to spend,
 Through frost and cold and rain and wind;
 Oh! when will this come to an end?
 Our Sundays when the people sing
 Their "Allelujah" to their King,
 The guns are barking in a ring;
 We'll chase and chase them till we win.
 And when the winter comes around,
 All leaves are fallen to the ground,
 They think of that old sunny ground
 Where sun is shining all year round.
 "Cheer up, old boys," we all must say,
 And do not let your hearts dismay;
 For when this raging war is cease
 We all go home and sit at ease.

IN HOSPITAL.

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, Bournemouth.

BAHAMAS.

Tpr. Bruce S. Bethell, Royal Dragoons, London

BARBADOS.

Lcc./Cpl. McConney, Batham.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Rfn. A. J. Darrell, K.R.R.C., Mitcham.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate.

MONSERRAT.

2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London;
 Cpl. M. V. Hearne, Royal Fusiliers, Edinburgh.

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, Wandswoth; Lieut. Gordon Burke, R. Welsh Fusiliers, Mundesley; Trpr. Sydney Daly, Household Battalion, Cpt. Murray, Household Battalion, Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, Trpr. F. Villarroel, Household Battalion, 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maitot, Royal Fusiliers, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Tank Corps, London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, London; Capt. W. A. Hoban, Wandswoth; Lieut. C. R. Massy, Isle of Wight; Sgt. Pinto (Jamaica), London; Pte. S. Brown (Barbados), Footing.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Fourteen New Members Elected.

At a meeting of the Executive held on February 21st, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--|--|
| Charles Herman de Lemos, I.S.O. (London) | Mr. H. F. Previté. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Lt. Leonard H. MacKay (Jamaica) | Capt. W. S. Mitchell. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| Lt. R. P. Galloway (Jamaica) | Capt. W. S. Mitchell. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| Lt. Saml. McF. F. Binns (Jamaica) | Capt. W. S. Mitchell. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| Mrs. George Bagot (Barbados) | Mr. C. Guy A. Wyatt. Mr. L. M. Hill, M.I.C.E. |
| Mr. Otto Ulrich (Trinidad) | Mr. George R. Alston. Mr. P. S. M. Arbutnot. |
| Mr. Dickson Fraser (Trinidad) | Mr. James Miller. Mr. James Fraser. |
| Mr. Clifford B. Sayles (British Guiana) | Mr. A. C. Boughton. Mr. W. H. Parratt. |
| Lt. Leonard R. Andrews (Jamaica) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| Mr. Brian L. Brandon (Jamaica) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. M. Garnett. |
| Lt. Charles R. Massy (Trinidad) | Miss Moseley. Capt. R. A. Hoban. |
| Mrs. G. V. Hart (Ireland) | Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. M. Garnett. |
| Mr. Stainton Clarke (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. C. A. P. Stewart (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |

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.

MISS JAMES, late headmistress of Queen's College, Barbados, who received an appointment in the Army Pay Department, is now at the London Offices, 19, Tavistock Square, W.C. Now that she is in London again, she hopes to see something of her West Indian friends.

OBITUARY.

SIR HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., which took place at his residence, Myrtle Grove, Youghal, Co. Cork, on February 23rd. Sir Henry was 78 years of age.

Few Governors had administered so many Crown Colonies or possessed a wider or more practical knowledge of the tropical dependencies of Great Britain. His active interest in the well-being of his many spheres of labour by no means ceased with his retirement from office. On the contrary, Sir Henry was ever ready by speech or pen, and in many other ways to co-operate in the advancement of the tropics. As a result he was better known to the British public than many Ex-Governors.

Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., F.R.C.L., F.I.D., D.L., a Knight of Justice of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, was born at Limerick on January 18th, 1840. A son of Mr. Peter Blake, a County Inspector of Irish Constabulary, the future Colonial Governor himself became a Cadet in the Irish Constabulary. Appointed a Resident Magistrate in 1876, his career took a decided turn in 1884 when he was appointed Governor of the Bahamas. Thereafter he was destined to be a Colonial Governor for an unbroken period of twenty-three years—a record probably with few parallels. Leaving the Bahamas in 1887, the next twelve months were spent in Newfoundland. Appointed to Queensland in 1888, Sir Henry Blake (he received the K.C.M.G. in this year) resigned without entering upon the administration, and in 1889 assumed the Governorship of Jamaica, where he was destined to remain for the unusual period of eight years. His popularity was immense, his term of office being twice extended (in 1894 and 1896 respectively) by general request. Thereafter he administered in turn Hong Kong (1897-1903) and Ceylon (1903-7), receiving the G.C.M.G. in 1897. He was a member of the Executive of the West Indian Contingent Committee, and retained his interest in the West Indies to the last.

Sir Henry was twice married; first to Jeannie (who died in 1866) daughter of Andrew Irwin, of Ballymore, Boyle, and secondly (in 1874) to Edith, eldest daughter and co-heir of Ralph Bernal Osborne, M.P., of Newton. Lady Blake's sister Grace married the late Duke of St. Albans (died 1890). The house at which Sir Henry breathed his last—Myrtle Grove, Youghal—possessed important West Indian associations. Once the home of Sir Walter Raleigh, it belonged in more recent days to the late Sir John Pope-Hennessy, whom Barbadians will recall as a former Governor of "Confederation" memory.

One of Sir Henry's last services to his country was represented by his membership of the Irish Convention. Upon his death his fellow-members passed the following resolution:—

"The Convention have learned with the deepest regret of the death of Sir Henry Blake, and desire to express their sincere appreciation of the staunchness of his character and the goodness of his heart. In addition to the many devoted friends he possessed in the Convention, he endeared himself to those who met him there as strangers, by his high standard in politics and by his social charm."

DEATH.

Baynes.—On the 5th December at Harrison, New Jersey, U.S.A., Edgar William Baynes, son of the late Edwin Donald Baynes, C.M.G., Lieut.-Governor and Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, aged 55 years.

WANT.

Planter. West Indies, Englishman, manager in St. Lucia for sixteen years, requires position as Manager.—Apply to George Kennedy, 23, Gwynne Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Savings Bank.

The balance-sheet, just gazetted, of the Savings Bank to June 30th, 1917, shows 1,378 depositors with £40,205 to their credit.

BARBADOS—Food Production.

Sealed tenders were to be received at the Colonial Secretary's office, up to January 18th, for debentures to the amount of £30,000 authorised to be raised under the Loan Act, 1917.—The Governor has prohibited the export from the island of all food-stuffs ordinarily used as food by man; and of oats and pollard.

The Agricultural Society has decided by resolution to petition the Government to increase the salary of the Assistant Director of Agriculture in order to retain the services of Mr. Sydney Dash, the holder of that position, who has had an offer of a post in another colony at a higher salary. In the course of the debate, Professor d'Albuquerque paid high tribute to the value of the work initiated by Professor Harrison and Mr. J. A. Bovell, and still carried on in Barbados in the raising of seedling canes. Although at the present time the Colony was passing through a period of very great prosperity, the future with regard to the sugar industry of the country would depend upon the quality of the seedlings which it produced from time to time. They all appreciated and recognised the fact that Mr. Bovell was the most efficient producer of seedling canes in Barbados, if not in the West Indies, and he suggested that next to Mr. Bovell there was no man in Barbados, or possibly in the West Indies, who had done more personal work in actually producing and looking after cane seedlings than Mr. Dash had done, and he held that it was a matter of vital interest to Barbados that in the work of producing sugar cane seedlings Mr. Bovell at this time of his life should not be alone.

The first fortnight of January was very dry and sultry, but there was a pleasant change on the 13th instant. Showers fell in several districts, and subsequently the weather down to January 26th was very cool, with brisk winds.

DOMINICA—Road Maintenance

This question has attained such importance as to call for the appointment of a Commission which is now sitting.

The Administrator (Mr. Malaffy) in a letter to the Chairman of the Commission (Dr. Nicholls) says: "We have about 300 miles of road to maintain and about £3,000 per annum to do it with. We have already installed on some roads (Imperial and Leubiere-Belleveue) a system of cantoniers which works well but is somewhat expensive. The frequent recurrence of rainstorms and landslides makes some roads more difficult to maintain than others and there will always be such accidents every year which compel expenditure impossible to foresee. No doubt the collective experiences of your Commission will arrive at some solution, but I confess I do not see how with our present limited resources we can hope to solve the problem in a satisfactory manner. It seems to me eminently just that estates which use public roads—e.g., the Bath—almost entirely for their estate traffic, should be specially and specifically taxed for the maintenance of these sections of road. Were this done, such taxation would lessen our general burden to a great extent. Along some such lines do I seem to discern the answer of the question. That is, however, my own personal opinion merely."

An announcement of especial interest in view of the recent article by Capt. Swinton in the CIRCULAR on the possibilities of aerial travel in the West Indies appears in the *Dominica Guardian*. This journal reports the presence in the island of Mr. R. E. Davis, managing director of the West Indian Development Company.

We are to believe the *Guardian*, Mr. Davis has on hand "The West Indian Aero Transport Company," which will be a *fait accompli* after the war. For this (says the *Guardian*), he also has the sanction of the British Government, which has promised support. This Company will give a service by seaplanes among the islands, between Demerara and Florida, when there will be so many skilled

aviators obtainable to successfully carry out the project. Mr. Davis, in conclusion, remarked: "It will be remarkable progress for the West Indies to have a bi-weekly mail and passenger service, as also to be able to travel between Georgetown and Florida in five days."

Mr. Davis would seem to be a very busy man. Accepting his own declarations, we read him as stating: "Since my departure in last July I have opened London Electric Theatres at St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, and St. Kitts, and also started an Electric Lighting Company at Antigua, which lights the city of St. John, and is connected with an ice factory, also just started. At St. Kitts, along with the electric theatre an electric plant will be soon started to light up the town of Basseterre and to operate a biscuit factory, where it is intended to manufacture biscuits from the flours of cassava and potatoes." Mr. Davis (says the *Guardian*) has also obtained the necessary sanction of the British Government for wireless communication between the islands of Montserrat and Antigua. He is now here, in connection with the biggest project which, up to now, he has in hand.

BRITISH GUIANA—Mayoral Election.

The Hon. Nelson Cannon has been re-elected Mayor of Georgetown; Professor Harrison, C.M.G., has been appointed President of the Royal Agricultural Society. The Venezuelans would seem to be causing trouble regarding the shipment of balata. Mr. Francis Harley, writing to the *Daily Express* from Yarakita, mouth Amnentra river, says: "There is some local friction here, as to the rights of the Venezuelan authorities to stop craft coming down the Amacura with balata for the shop at Yarakita mouth when going close to the Venezuelan shore. Boats have been stopped and the balata seized. The corporal in charge of the police station maintains that the Treaty gives free use of the waterway. The Venezuelans apparently say no—not on their side."

BRITISH HONDURAS—Bright prospects ahead.

HON. G. E. GRHAM, JANUARY 24th.—It is some time since I sent you a letter, but the fact is the papers you get publish all the news there is and there seems little or nothing to write about; and, further, one is always busy.

The Rules for the Chamber of Commerce are at last drafted and they are to go before a meeting shortly. There is considerable alarm over food supplies and we are threatened with great curtailment of supplies from the United States. It may do good in the end, especially if it brings home to the people that they must make efforts to start agriculture. I am enclosing a copy of the Agricultural Commission report.

In other respects the prospects of the Colony are very bright for current year, for Government's demand for mahogany will find employment for everybody. Our shipping facilities are going from bad to worse and I do not see any prospects of relief until the War is over. Delivery of mails is most erratic and we have no letters or papers since date of December 21st. We are expecting the new Governor very shortly and hope to find him a man of great energy.

Bishop Dunn is revolutionising church matters, and we have had the right man sent to us, as also with Mrs. Dunn. We have had a record spell of dry weather, practically no rain having fallen since the early part of November, and our water supply is now beginning to get short. An abnormal spell of cold weather did considerable damage to the banana crop, and many thousands of bunches have been lost.

The Guatemalan earthquake was felt here slightly. Government have given a grant of \$5,000 to the Relief Fund, and much private help in money, clothing, etc., has been given by the people of the Colony, all of which has been most gratefully acknowledged by the President. The Acting Governor despatched a Relief Expedition the moment he heard of the calamity. They report the city is practically entirely destroyed. Fortunately the loss of life has not been great. Probably not more than 500 to 600.

The funds of the British Red Cross Society and of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, have been enriched by the splendid sum of £1,300 collected through the joint efforts of Mrs. Walter, wife of the Acting Governor,

and of the Hon. C. Melhado, C.M.G. Mrs. Walter organised in the grounds of Government House a most successful fête, the proceeds of which were enhanced by concerts and other entertainments. This effort of Mrs. Walter, in which she was cordially supported by ladies and gentlemen of the Colony, brought in \$1,755. Many handsome donations were also received, including Messrs. Melhado & Sons \$250, Messrs. Harley & Co. \$250, Messrs. Brodie & Co. \$150, and the Hon. Sidney Cuthbert \$150.

The balance-sheet, just gazetted, of the Colony as at September 30th, 1917, shows a surplus of \$156,798.

ST. LUCIA—"Plant at Once."

Sound advice has been addressed to the peasants and planters of the island by Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, Agricultural Superintendent. Says Mr. Brooks: "Owing to the high prices of imported foods and their general tendency to rise still higher, it is necessary that we should, as far as possible, substitute these foods by growing for ourselves such crops as sweet potatoes, cassava, corn, yams, tannias, peas and beans. This Colony is able to produce all the provisions that are needed for our maintenance. Therefore stop using imported foods and grow your own. Grow more than you require for your own use. Grow all you can, and send your surplus to the Government Granary and Ground Provisions Depot, which has been established near the Government Lime Juice Factory, to guarantee you a ready market at prices which will enable you to dispose of your produce at a profit."

TRINIDAD—Another Splendid Gusher.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JANUARY 21st.—Rice cultivation has made great strides of late, and the crop this year will be an appreciable help to fill the void expected to be caused by shortage of receipt of foodstuffs from Canada. In this connection the Governor may be credited with another strong and wise act. For some extraordinarily short-sighted reason, it had been decided to charge rent for the hitherto worthless swamp lands, as soon as the Indians showed their adaptability to rice cultivation, at 17/- per acre, instead of the 2/- per acre charged to the ordinary croler for Crown lands on which to grow ordinary ground provisions. The excuse was that the coolie was making money. Imagine this at a time when we should be doing our best to retain every available Indian in the Colony! They were naturally mad at the injustice of it. Fortunately one or two of the influential men of their race brought the matter on at the last meeting of the Agricultural Society, when it was pointed out that no one but the Indian would risk his health and life in the swamps, up to his waist in mud and water half the time, and that the industry from which so much was hoped in these times of urgent call for food, would be ruined unless the invidious distinction were removed. His Excellency has now announced that he has decided that rice lands shall pay the same as any other rented by the Crown to the peasantry, and further that the decision shall be retrospective, and the excess refunded to those who have already been charged with the larger sum.

Mourning is coming more and more, though perhaps not to the extent which might have been feared, to many creole homes. Among those stricken most severely is that of Mr. Thornton Warner, Warden of Tacarigua, whose sailor son has now died at the post of duty, as his soldier brother did not so long ago. They were the only boys of parents justly proud of them both. It is a terrible blow to both father and mother, and all of us who have known them so long, and who know also the full measure of their loss, share something of their sorrow. Two finer young men, full of the hope of a bright future never left these shores.

And another sad loss is that of Colin Harragin. He was very popular, and justly so here, and his noble death, refusing to leave his wife on the *Alpapa*, and sinking with her, is what they who knew him well, as I think I may claim to have done, would have expected of him.

We have all been most glad to hear of the splendid gusher at the oilfields of the United British Company, and more so to learn that, this time, provision had been made to save the output, which must have amounted to tens of thousands of pounds value.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

March 7th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1915. Five per cent War Loan, 93½. Consols, 94½.

SUGAR. The United Kingdom quotations remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in May, 1917, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. Crystallised, Crystals and Granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and Syrups and Muscovados suitable for only manufacturing purposes, 39/6.

The New York prices remain at \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed.

Mr. C. H. Liddell and Mr. Tillett, M.P., have recently been appointed as members of the Royal Commission on the Sugar supply, which is now constituted as follows:— Captain Sir Charles Bathurst, M.P. (chairman), Sir Henry Primrose, Sir Robert Park Lyle, Sir George E. May, Sir Joseph White Todd, Mr. C. H. Liddell, and Mr. Tillett, M.P., with Mr. C. S. Rewcastle (secretary). The offices are still at Scotland House, Victoria Embankment, S.W. Mr. Liddell is senior partner in the firm of Henderson and Liddell, wholesale dealers.

The Royal Commission has temporarily, at any rate, ceased its purchases of British West Indian sugar in deference to the wishes of Canada, whose difficulties in obtaining deliveries of sugar have been accentuated by the recent suspension of railway transportation in the United States, and to the effects of the phenomenal weather in January, which resulted in much shipping being held up at Atlantic ports. It appearing that Canada will now want all the West India sugar she can get, it is to be assumed that the Ministers will take early steps to represent to the Shipping Controller the importance of the provision of adequate tonnage to lift it. The West India Committee have already called attention to the matter.

Timely reported under date February 4th that the Cuban crop was progressing favourably and that 189 centrals were grinding as against 176 and 174 at the same dates in the two previous years. Some planters were complaining that labour was scarcer, and wages are naturally much higher than ever before.

The agreement dated December 24th, 1917, for the purchase of Cuban sugar by the International Sugar Committee has now been published. The quantity is 2,500,000 tons of 2,240 lbs. each, to be delivered during the crop season 1917-18. About one-third of that amount is on account of the Royal Commission which was to use its endeavours to ship 30,000 to 50,000 tons not later than January 15th, 1918; 50,000 tons not later than January 30th, and thereafter at the rate of 80,000 to 100,000 tons per month. The agreed price for this one-third is 4.60 c. per lb. f.o.b. Northern ports, or 4.55 c. per lb. f.o.b. South side ports, for 96° sugar. The remaining two-thirds are to be shipped at 4.98½ c. per lb. c.i.f. to New York-Philadelphia.

Of last Mauritius crop, which was closing when our informant wrote at the end of November at 225,000 tons, about 90 per cent. was "Véron" or first quality white sugar. The bulk was sold to the Sugar Commission and the Government allowed the first syrups to be exported to India, a necessary procedure as exchange with that country was operating unfavourably against Mauritius.

The West India Sugar Statistics in London from 1st January to 2nd March, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Imports | 2,274 | 5,726 | 4,892 Tons |
| Deliveries | 9,105 | 7,931 | 10,874 .. |
| Stock (Mar. 2nd) ... | 4,156 | 5,810 | 5,118 .. |

RUM. There is nothing to report.

The stocks in London on March 2nd, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,717 | 9,935 | 6,035 puns. |
| Demerara | 3,443 | 8,860 | 6,252 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 14,946 | 32,245 | 22,681 .. |

CACAO. The decision of the Food Controller as to the regulation of prices is still awaited, and it is generally understood that it will affect not only the raw material but also cocoa, cacao-butter, etc.

Of all exporting colonies Trinidad is the least favourably placed under the import restriction Order, owing to the fact that so small a proportion of her crop was imported into the United Kingdom in 1916, the basis year. Thus, whilst the importable quota from the British cacao producing colonies—Trinidad excepted—averages about 30 per cent of the total crop, that of Trinidad is only about 8 per cent. Representations on this subject have been and are being made to the Colonial Office by the West India Committee. Meanwhile if the demand for cacao butter increases it is quite on the cards that more colonial cacao will be admitted.

The stocks in London on March 2nd, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Trinidad | 13,142 | 17,563 | 4,375 bags. |
| Grenada | 10,863 | 13,017 | 8,210 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 203,586 | 226,752 | 90,587 .. |

COFFEE. In auction, on March 5th, Mysore bold greyish fetched 130/-, 90 bags Costa Rica bold greyish, 132/6 to 133/6.

COTTON. During the nine weeks ended February 28th, 58 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

At the request of a correspondent we give below some figures to show the growth of the British West Indian cotton industry from its revival in 1902 to the last pre-war year.

| | 1901 | | 1913 | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| | Quantity lbs. | Value £ | Quantity lbs. | Value £ |
| Bahamas | 1,005 | 4 | 13,466 | 221 |
| Barbados | — | — | 433,089 | 23,460 |
| Jamaica | — | — | 69,296 | 4,128 |
| Trinidad & Tobago | — | — | 7,046 | 528 |
| Grenada | 252,023 | 4,102 | 400,813 | 10,500 |
| St. Lucia | — | — | 4,000 | 260 |
| St. Vincent | 25,580 | 328 | 484,975 | 36,191 |
| Leeward Islands | — | — | 1,230,357 | 78,294 |
| | 278,608 | 4,434 | 2,643,052 | 153,522 |

Prior to 1905 only Marie Galante cotton was produced in the Colony of Grenada, that variety being raised in Carriacou, where its cultivation had never been abandoned.

ARROWROOT. First hand market bare until samples in *Sargatto* are available. A small business done in second hands at 9d. and 10d., but parcels are difficult to find.

COPRA. The market continues to be under Government control, with a maximum official price of £46 c.i.f. delivered weight London and Liverpool. The value to Marseilles is fully £100 on the same terms.

COCO-NUT OIL. The official maximum price remains £70, packages extra at current market rates.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw: firm, fair sales up to 3/3 for good green; concentrated quiet. Lime Oil: Distilled, no demand; cannot recommend shipping; nominal value, 7/6. Handpressed, unchanged; value about 17/6. Citrate quiet.

BALATA. Market firm. Venezuela block quoted at 3/5½ net, landed terms, 3/4 c.i.f. nominal. Panama and Tumaco block not quoted, supplies scarce. W.I. sheet, 3/10 to 4/- spot; 3/8 to 3/9 c.i.f.

RUBBER. Quiet and easier. Spot crepe 2/4½ after 2/5½; sheet 2/4½ to 2/5; Para hard fine 2/8.

SPICES. Ginger: Jamaica in moderate demand at unchanged rates. Pimento: More demand. A fairly large business has been done at 4d. to 4½d., the market closing firm at the higher figure.

HONEY. No auctions since last mail when Jamaica was quoted 160/- to 175/- per cwt. Anything available to-day would probably command an advance.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, MARCH 21st, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

March 21st, 1918.

The Indiscretion of a Judge.

ELSEWHERE in the present issue we publish a statement alleged to have been made by a Judge of the Leeward Islands at a luncheon in Halifax, Nova Scotia, regarding the future of the British West Indies. We say "alleged" advisedly, because we can hardly believe that a public official could have been guilty of such an indiscretion as that which is ascribed to him. Briefly, the Judge in question, whose experience of the West Indies dates, we find, from 1916, is said to have stated that, failing confederation with Canada, the West India Islands would "turn to the United States, as they had no future in the British Empire outside Canada." The Judge has presumably every right to air his views upon the difficult question of Canadian-West Indian Union; but we are satisfied that public opinion in the West Indies is not ripe for such a proposal, and we know that Canadians have already realised how difficult are the problems involved, especially in reference to the granting of political representation to the West Indies, and to the (at present existing) policy of preventing the free ingress of West Indians to the Dominion. The question requires such serious consideration that it cannot be settled lightly in an after-luncheon speech. When, however, His Honour states that the West Indies would otherwise seek absorption by the United States, he slanders that part of the Empire whose patriotism

and loyalty is, as the Secretary of the West India Committee pointed out in the *Times* of March 14th, proverbial. At a time when thousands of West Indians are serving in every theatre of war, a statement like this seems particularly unfortunate. Indeed, it can only "cheer and comfort" the King's enemies, who will doubtless welcome and make full use of the announcement that the oldest group of British Colonies desire to leave the Empire. As to the future, we prefer to visualise a united West Indies taking its place beside the other great units of the Empire, with whom it surely has a great future. With a combined population of over two million souls, we see no reason why the British West Indies should not carve out their own destiny. Perhaps, after all, the indiscretion of the Judge will be productive of good if it serves to stimulate the interest, which continues increasingly to grow, in bringing these colonies into closer union, and in developing a West Indian nationality.

Montserrat's Lime Industry.

THE position of the lime industry in Montserrat calls for urgent and practical attention. As a result of persistent advertisement over a period of years, the name of the island has come to be regarded in England as the synonym for an excellent brand of lime-juice. In such a connection the name is more than half the battle, and in the presence of many rival claims to public patronage, its establishment is a process by no means rapid. Once favourably impressed upon the popular imagination, however, the repute of a really good article is not easily lost.

We are anxious that Montserrat shall continue to maintain its credit in Great Britain. Unfortunately, some very disturbing facts are contained in the annual report, just issued, of the Agricultural Department of the island. The export of lime juice for 1916—166,289 gallons—while nearly treble those of 1915, are yet considerably below the average of recent years. Says the report: "The figures show the extent to which the lime industry has suffered on account of the decline in the health of the trees. The falling off in exports cannot be explained as the result of short crops due to bad seasons. The area

in limes in regular cultivation is being gradually reduced, owing to diseases, which leave the fields in such an irregular and unthrifty condition that it is not profitable to carry on the regular cultivation routine. Perhaps the most unsatisfactory feature in connection with the industry has been the inability in recent years to establish regular areas of young trees in the place of those that succumb to disease, and it is to be admitted that the future for the industry is less hopeful than ever." It is quite obvious that the matter cannot be allowed to rest here. An expression of regret will not solve the problem. Difficulties exist, we are assured, in order to be overcome, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies has won too many laurels in the battle with plant disease to confess that the lime industry of Montserrat is beyond its healing powers. We cannot but note that the extract just cited seems suggestive of acquiescence in an irremediable state of things. We do not share that belief, and we look to the Administration of the island to see that the market secured in Great Britain, after long years of effort, is not lost through lack of prompt and determined contest with the disease in question.

The island is meanwhile justly pleased with the progress of the cotton industry. The area planted in the season 1916-17 was 1,997 acres, and the amount of lint produced, 313,322 lbs. This represents an average yield for the island of 156 lbs. per acre, which is the fifth best result both in total output and average yield for the past 14 years. The earliest shipments of the 1916-17 crop sold on the English market at 2/11 per lb., while those reaching the market at a later date fetched 2/5 to 2/6 per lb. The Treasury licence record shows that there were 654 applications from small planters to sell cotton, but it cannot be said that this nearly represents the actual number of peasants who were interested in the cultivation, as large quantities are now grown on the half system on estates, in which cases no record is made by the peasant growing the cotton. A valuable opinion regarding the quality of the locally grown cotton has been furnished by Mr. E. LOMAS OLIVER, who pronounced samples sent to him last autumn representing the growing crop, as most excellent cotton. He added: "In many cases where Sea Island cotton has been grown in new territories, the quality after the first year has steadily deteriorated, whereas in the case of Montserrat the quality has steadily and consistently improved." Montserrat is feeling the favourable effects of the world's clamant call for sugar, and the exports have increased considerably. "Chiefly on account of the present boom in cotton," says the report, "further immediate developments in the cultivation of sugar are unlikely." Montserrat, however, will do well to learn from the example of other islands not to specialise too closely.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

Our readers are invited freely to contribute to this column. Items of social interest concerning, and likely to entertain, West Indians at home and abroad will be welcomed. They should be duly authenticated by the name and address of the sender.

MR. FREDERICK C. T. RACKER, whose death is recorded in another column, was the youngest son of the late Mr. E. T. Racker, J.P., of Barbados, proprietor of the *Agricultural Reporter*.

CAPTAIN O. PARKER, Private Secretary to the Governor of British Guiana, has recently visited Surinam as the guest of the Hon. Adolf F. C. Curiel. Captain Parker, who inspected various plantations and rice mills, was entertained at dinner by the Governor of Dutch Guiana.

MR. ECKART'S novel system of mulching with strips of paper described in the CIRCULAR of September 20th last (Vol. XXXII., No. 495, p. 359) is being developed in Hawaii. According to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, plant is to be installed by the Olaa Sugar Company for the manufacture of paper from megass for laying down in the cane fields.

THE acuteness of the food problem is being felt as deeply in Dutch Guiana as in the British West Indian Islands, and a notice in the local Press informs persons who in these times of food scarcity are willing to grow corn, cassava or sweet potatoes in their yards and cannot secure the necessary plants that they can apply in writing to the Director of the Botanic Gardens, who will endeavour to supply them at the cost price.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada, held on January 10th, the balance sheet, said the General Manager, showed a year of remarkable growth. The total assets of the bank are over \$335,000,000, nearly double their amount at the beginning of the War. The increase during the past year was no less than \$82,000,000. Total deposits amount to \$252,987,362.81, the increase for the year being \$52,759,787.23.

In the six months ended September 30th last 6,291,782 lbs. of cacao were imported into Canada, as compared with 4,919,568 lbs. and 1,396,341 lbs. in the same period in 1916 and 1915 respectively. Of the cacao imported in 1917 3,330,194 lbs. came from the West Indies direct and 2,594,700 lbs. were imported from countries not stated, through the United States. The imports of cacao-butter into Canada also show an increase, amounting as they do to 1,672,216 lbs. in the first six months of 1917, against 1,311,310 lbs. and 871,390 lbs. in the same period of 1916 and 1915.

"MEMBERS whose subscriptions are unpaid shall not be entitled to receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR." The above extract from the Rules of the West India Committee is published for the information of those readers who have not yet

paid their subscription for the current year, which became due on January 1st. Subscriptions can be forwarded either direct to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3, or paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank. Stamps, paper and endless trouble will be saved if those members who are in arrears will kindly give this gentle reminder their immediate attention!

An old print of a "Negro Bandsman of the Coldstream Guards" recently fetched £80 10s. at Sotheby's. Underneath the print, which was published at No. 7, St. Albans Street, Pall Mall, is the doggerel:

"Oh had I but more space and leisure
To sing the worth of honest Fraser,
Tho' his complexion's far from mine
Yet both from the same hand Divine.
Respect him therefore as a Brother,
Though black his skin, he has no other.
Staunch to our good King and laws,
Firm to his noble Prince's cause,
In manners gentle and with mind serene,
Sings well and plays his Tambourine.
The likeness strong, the painting neat,
By Mrs. Ross, St. Albans Street."

GERMANY'S world-wide plotting against the British Empire did not omit the West Indies from the sphere of operations. Remarkable confirmation of this fact was disclosed the other day at the trial in San Francisco of men charged with conspiracy against India. Apparently the object was to spread sedition among Indians, not only in their native land, but among those at work on sugar estates in the Caribbean. One letter read at the trial stated: "Dr. Chakranadty (one of the defendants) has agreed to send an agent to the West Indies, where there are 100,000 Indians, and also to British Guiana, Java, and Sumatra." Another letter read: "We are awaiting instructions as to work in Trinidad and Demerara."

The British Ambassador at Washington recently telegraphed to the Governor of the Windward Islands regarding the good position:—

"With reference to my telegram of 8th December, all returns have been received now and tabulated and are under consideration of United States Authorities. Pending conclusion of negotiations, Export Licences will be granted immediately for one month's supplies, all cereals will be subject to control by Interallied Wheat Executive Commission, New York. With regard to remainder, no export of bacon, ham, butter, or lard will be allowed for the present, though corresponding amounts of beef, pork, lard, substitute for, and oleomargarine will be licensed. Licences will be more easily obtained for pickled beef than pickled pork, and for beans rather than peas, ratio of latter should be as two to one. Use of wheat and wheat flour should be discouraged, and every effort must be made to substitute commeal, oatmeal, rye. Sugar will be difficult to obtain, can you make local arrangements to obtain it from Demerara and Jamaica; consumption of it should be limited to 2 lbs. per capita per month."

An Editorial in the British Guiana *Philatelic Journal*, suggests that the ship and motto, which figure in the Colony's badge, may have been suggested by Governor D'Urban, who was the first Governor of the United Colonies when they became British Guiana. There was no ship in either Deme-

rara or Berbice. The seal of Berbice under British rule had a curious emblem, a palm tree rising from the deck of a vessel without masts, with the motto "Sine Pulvere Palma," referring to the conquest without firing a shot; the palm of victory was gained without powder. Demerara and Essequibo had an emblematic female standing behind packages of sugar, cotton and coffee, with the motto "Inter Ripas Fluo," meaning as applied to the current notes of the colony, on which the emblem and motto are found, that the paper money circulated between the banks of the two rivers.

BARBADOS, the Bahamas and Grenada are the West Indian Islands which come within the purview of a new Order in Council applying Section 1 of the Marriage of British Subjects (Facilities) Act, 1915, to certain parts of the British Dominions. The Section provides:—

"(a) Where a marriage is intended to be solemnised or contracted in the United Kingdom between a British subject resident in England, Scotland, or Ireland, and a British subject resident in that part of His Majesty's Dominions, a certificate of notice of marriage issued in accordance with such law shall in England have the same effect as a certificate for marriage issued by a Superintendent Registrar, and in Scotland and Ireland have the same effect as a certificate for marriage issued by a Registrar in Scotland and Ireland respectively; and

"(b) Where a marriage is intended to be solemnised or contracted in that part of His Majesty's Dominions between a British subject resident in that part and a British subject resident in England, Scotland, or Ireland, a certificate of marriage may be issued in England by a Superintendent Registrar, or in Scotland or Ireland by a Registrar, in the like manner as if the marriage was to be solemnised or contracted under circumstances requiring the issue of such a certificate, and as if both such British subjects were resident in England, Scotland, or Ireland, as the case may be."

SUGAR beets grow well in Western Canada and a very successful industry can be built upon their cultivation. In Southern Alberta alone the area suitable to the growth of the best kind of sugar beets exceeds that of any two of the largest producing districts in the United States. It is only because the Alberta farmer has been so pre-eminently successful in the raising of stock and of grain that more has not been heard about the possibilities of the sugar beet—but just as grain of higher quality and in larger yields is produced in Western Canada than in the older districts so sugar beets grown in the West generally contain more sugar and show a greater tonnage per acre than those grown elsewhere. Tests made with beets grown under irrigation from five different kinds of seed at the Dominion Government Experimental Station, Lethbridge, Alta., showed (says the *Coloniser*) a yield of 17½, 16½, 15½, and 9½ tons per acre with a sugar percentage of 15.84, 19.42, 17.85, and 16.25 respectively—in the same district but on unirrigated land from 9½ to 12½ tons per acre were grown from the same seed—and in the eastern and western sections of the Canadian Pacific Irrigation Block, east of Calgary, even better results have been obtained; beets containing 20 per cent. sugar have been grown there for successive years, and the growers believe this higher percentage can be maintained with large crops.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Shipbuilding failure.

In his grave speech on the shipbuilding failure the First Lord blamed both the Employers and Labour. But these have replied jointly in a statement, which shows that the trouble lies in our muddled system of government. As early as November 14th last year they met the Premier in conference, and pointed out that overlapping authority and incompetent State interference were mainly responsible for the decrease in ship construction, and urging a prompt remedy. Ever since negotiations have been proceeding so as to secure some effective machinery towards that end, but it has been devised on wrong lines. This is no reflection on Sir Eric Geddes, the First Lord, but on our executive and administrative methods, which not only place ignorant and presumptuous people in authority over the national industries, but fail to co-ordinate the efforts of State Departments. Ministers admit that we are not building merchantmen as fast as U-boats sink them; Sir John Ellerman, a great shipping authority, says that we are not building enough to make good ordinary losses at sea. Unless therefore, output is speedily doubled and trebled it is merely a question of time when we shall have to surrender, for our tonnage is the beginning of all Allied effort whether on sea or land. To repeat in 1918 the failure to produce sufficient ships in 1917 would be fatal. What does the Government, Parliament, and the country intend to do about it?

Japan and Siberia.

The unity which was to be brought about amongst the Allies by the machinery established at Versailles cost us the services of the greatest strategist we possess, Sir William Robertson, but it has not justified the high hopes of its advocates, who cannot, or will not, see that goodwill and not iron organisation is the cement of Allied unity. A test case is the situation in Siberia, which calls for prompt action. But it is delayed by America, temporarily, of course. We were, however, told that the Supreme War Council in Paris was to prevent just such a lack of co-ordination between the Allies as is actually presenting itself to us. In the meantime Germany is doing while we talk, for Japan, on account of divided opinion at home, will not act without a united mandate of the Grand Alliance. The one bright feature in the situation is the news that Japan may be able to co-operate with Russian patriots in Siberia. Not only is there a Cossack force in the field, but Prince Lvoff, the distinguished Russian statesman, who, as the representative of the Zemtyos, was a member of the Provisional Government formed after the Revolution, is hoping to establish a centre of authority in Siberia, which should be a nucleus of constructive Russian effort, and gain in strength daily with the support of Japanese military forces.

The War in the West.

The great feature of the war on this frontier is the extraordinary activity and brilliant achievement

of Allied aviators. If aircraft are the eyes of modern armies, the German armies must be groping half-blinded behind their lines, since they seem to acquiesce in their aerial inferiority. During the past fortnight British aviators have heavily bombed Stuttgart, Mainz, St. Capelle, and Coblenz. But these are long-distance raids, and are necessarily limited in number. The main business of our airmen, apart from scouting, is to bear as much destruction as possible to the German lines and behind them. An almost incredible number of bombs are being dropped on enemy infantry camps and concentration depots, not only causing great loss of life, but helping to impair the moral of German troops in the West.

The British Government threatened reprisals to begin on a certain day if Germany persisted in imprisoning two British aviators, who, with their machines, were taken prisoners after dropping leaflets. At the eleventh hour she gave way by releasing them.

Fighting is incessant and fierce, especially in Flanders, where, south of the Houthulst Forest, ground has changed hands at least twice. Near Polderhoek, Polygon Wood, and Messines, the British beat off heavy attacks.

The great German offensive still tarries, and so speculation continues as to the form it should take. Some think that the tactics which proved so successful on the Dwina last spring will be adopted in the West. Surprise is to be obtained by keeping the attacking masses a long march in the rear. A day for this "march" will be chosen when the weather prevents air scouting; the "march of approach" when darkness is intensest. As for the attack it is to take place just before dawn, and the preliminary bombardment by artillery and from the trenches is to be regulated so as not to arouse suspicion with regard to its character. But the Russian Army, which was in process of dissolution even a year ago, was a very different foe to deal with from an enemy so potent as the Allied forces. All the same, the enemy may resort to these tactics in an offensive. The British and French hope they will, as it will give them the opportunity the desire.

Russia and Rumania.

The Germans, having taken all they want from Russia and Rumania, are pursuing a vigorous "peace offensive," as they can gain nothing more by the war—this one, at any rate. The shores of the eastern Baltic have ceased to be Russian. Not only have Russia's Baltic provinces been annexed to Germany, but vast areas, including Finland, Poland, and the Ukraine, are under German domination, the Aaland Islands, the gate of Scandinavia and Russia, have been occupied, Helsingfors has followed, and Petrograd is about to share the same fate. In the south, Odessa, the great grain port of the Black Sea, has fallen. As for Constanza, Rumania's outlet to the sea, it is to be controlled by the Central Powers. That is to say, the *Mittel Europa* dream is realised—in the east at any rate Germany has found a way into Asia independent of the Allies, and can menace India through Persia, British Armies barring the Baghdad Railway to her advance. The illimitable innum-

diate and future possibilities of this grandiose scheme are, if acquiesced in, enormous. But it is bound to fail in any case in the long run, because it violates race, nationality, and every other source of inspiration to men, individually and collectively. Rumania's Army, which was reorganised, trained, and equipped to play a distinguished part in the promised Russian offensive last spring is still intact. Gen. Alexieff is preparing the Don Cossacks for resistance, the Grand Duke Nicholas is performing a similar task in the Caucasus, and, for aught we know, Khorniloff, further north. If these elements of power can later co-operate with the military forces of a unified Siberia, the German army before long will have to deal with an awkward situation in the east.

Mr. Balfour, in an admirable speech, lately set forth the principles which should guide the Allies with regard to Russia. They amounted to a declaration that, broken as she is, she has not the power within herself to accomplish full regeneration, but with the sympathy of the Allies she will.

In Palestine.

General Allenby reports, at intervals, continuous advances in Palestine on both sides of the Jerusalem-Shechem road, which runs almost parallel with the Jordan to Jericho. Asur, the loftiest height between the British and the plain of Esdraelon, 35 miles distant, has been taken and held against heavy counter-attacks. The next highest hills guard Shechem, one on the north, the other on the south. The military importance of Shechem (Nablus) is that it has been transformed into the enemy's main base. On the coast, fighting, which temporarily ended last December, has been resumed, positions having been occupied to bring them into line with those recently gained to the east on the Jerusalem-Shechem road. In Mesopotamia the British have occupied Hit without opposition, and forced the Turks to retire 22 miles. It is said that General Liman von Sanders has gone to take part in a conference with Hindenburg in connection with a projected Turco-German offensive in Palestine.

Air Raids.

On 7th-8th March, London, in clear starlight, was visited by enemy raiders, seven or eight in number. The first to arrive flew up the Thames Estuary, but was turned back before reaching London. A third and fourth, which took their course through Essex, crossed the capital from south-west to north-west, dropping bombs as they went. None of the other members of the squadron were allowed to reach London, whose air defences are highly efficient. Several dwelling-houses were wrecked, and two collapsed by the explosion of a bomb in the street. The number of casualties was small—20 killed and 45 injured. On two nights in succession the Yorkshire coast was attacked by Zeppelins. On the first night two raiders dropped bombs, which did some damage in Hull, but the air defences of the town saved it from casualties, of which there was but one—a woman who died of shock. Most of the enemy's bombs fell in open country. On the second night Hartlepool was the sufferer, a single airship, which operated from a high altitude,

having dropped bombs at an hour when the streets were crowded with people on their way home from theatres and places of entertainment. There were few casualties, but the damage to dwelling-houses was considerable as damage goes in these raids.

On the 11th March Paris suffered from an air raid more formidable than any it has yet experienced. Sixty enemy machines dropped bombs, aggregating six tons of explosives, in flying over the city and its suburbs, killing 34 persons and injuring 79. Unfortunately, during a panic at the entrance of a tube station, there was a further loss of life, 66 people having been suffocated. Effective artillery barrages forced a large number of the invaders to turn back. It was these which dropped most of the bombs in the suburbs. The Germans lost three four-seated Gothas, one of them in flames, and a biplane.

Shipping Losses.

Increasing pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government to publish the exact tonnage of the ships lost and the proportion thereof to new construction; also the meaning of "unsuccessful attacks." From the official returns nothing can be gathered as to whether the ships which escape are seriously damaged or not. If the public had been taken into the confidence of the Government earlier with regard to these matters we should be nearer to coping successfully with the submarine menace than we actually are. A great Allen liner, the *Calgarian*, used as an auxiliary cruiser, has been torpedoed and sunk off the Irish coast. Two officers and 46 men, all of whom were in the engine-room and stokehold, lost their lives by the explosion caused by three torpedoes in succession striking the ship. There were 394 survivors, including a score of wounded.

Another hospital ship, the *Guildford Castle*, carrying British wounded home from South Africa and France, was attacked off Lundy Island. The first torpedo was a dud, the second passed astern, the third struck the ship, but failed, by fine seamanship, to reach a vital spot. It did, however, make a hole in her side, and all preparations were made for leaving her. In answer to her "S.O.S." call three destroyers arrived on the scene, and it was found that the *Guildford Castle* was able to make full speed into port, which she did safely.

The Admiralty returns last week showed an increase of three large vessels over the figures of the week ending 2nd March. The figures are, for vessels of 1,600 tons and over, 15; under 1,600 tons, 3. For the following week the figures are, for the first, 8; for the second, 6.

(To be continued.)

DURING a recent air-raid in London Mr. F. I. Seard had a remarkably narrow escape, the house in which he resided being partially wrecked. One of the partition walls of the room in which he was sleeping was shattered and the occupant of the next one was blown out of bed, while every door and window on that floor was broken and the heavy furniture thrown round the rooms. We congratulate him upon his escape.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership figures still mounting.

Thirty new members were admitted this afternoon. This is the largest number elected since Oct. 10th, 1912, and brings the membership of the West India Committee appreciably nearer the 2,000, which should make its next milestone. The names of the new members are given below.

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|---|---|
| Mr. Alfred R. Bell (West Africa) | Mr. F. Evans. |
| Wilson, Holgate & Co., Ltd (London) | Mr. O. B. Whitehead. Mr. H. A. Trotter. |
| Mr. Horace Deighton (Barbados) | Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Mr. Edward S. Bailey (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Herbert C. Sealy (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. J. F. Matthews (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Dr. R. M. Johnson (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. E. E. C. Hosack (Life Member, Jamaica) | Mr. William Gillespie. Mr. H. K. F. Smith. |
| Lieut. J. H. Mills (Country) | Mr. E. R. Davson. Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. G. C. McF. May (West Africa) | Mr. Bernard Bonyun. Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Mr. John L. Punnett (St. Vincent) | Mr. A. M. Punnett. Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Hounsells (Bridport) Ltd. (Country) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Mr. Percy Heywood (Peru) | Mr. F. J. L. Mure. Mr. Howard Marsh. |
| Mr. D. T. McEwing (Peru) | Mr. F. J. L. Mure. Mr. J. Peet. |
| Mr. Augustus F. G. Ellis (Jamaica) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. L. Marshall. |
| Capt. S. C. Thorne (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Hugh Clarke (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. E. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Westmoreland Building Society (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. J. P. Kirkness (Barbados) | Mr. David Morrin. Mr. Thomas Boyd. |
| Mr. Edwin Clarke (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Robert Arthur (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. C. F. P. Renwick (Grenada) | Mr. C. H. G. Short. Mr. C. V. C. Horne. |
| Mr. Frank G. Burslem (Trinidad) | Miss D. H. Austin. Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Mr. Kenneth Reid (Tobago) | Mr. E. L. Marshall. Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Mr. A. S. A. Ormsley, M.I.Mech.E. (London) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. E. L. Marshall. |
| Mrs. Edith Maud Fleus (Country) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. G. S. Byelyn (Barbados) | Hon. W. L. C. Phillips. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Oliver P. Bennett (Trinidad) | Hon. Hugh McLelland. Mr. G. T. Macdougall. |
| Mr. Alfred Laurie (Trinidad) | Hon. Hugh McLelland. Mr. G. T. Macdougall. |
| Mr. Albert V. Port (Country) | Mr. H. A. Trotter. Mr. E. R. Davson. |

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 STORY OF SUGAR.

IV.—THE REFINING OF SUGAR.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of these articles appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the articles shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and a special feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

The refining of sugar is the art of converting sugars that are impure, or not suitable in appearance into products adapted for consumption and pleasing to the eye. The art must not be confounded with the manufacture of grocery sugars, such as white Javas, or yellow Demerara, or German granulated, which are prepared directly from the cane or beet juice as already described previously. Refining proper demands the "melting," or dissolving of the sugar, with subsequent recrystallisation, and, although in "plantation" white sugars some of the second products are sometimes re-dissolved prior to appearing with the direct first products, "refining" must not be confounded with the direct manufacture of grocery sugar.

Little is known of the date of the introduction of refining into this country, but as mentioned in Chapter I., it is supposed to have been in 1659. Refiners were known as sugar boilers, and various bodies were used by them for clarification in the refining process, bullock's blood being particularly associated with the process.

In the process of refining as now understood and practised, animal charcoal, known in the refinery trade as "char," is universally used. It is prepared by carbonising bones, and has the property of occluding oxygen in such a condition that it readily destroys vegetable colouring matters when it comes in contact with them. It has also the property of absorbing organic and mineral impurities from impure sugar solutions.

Before the raw sugar is made into a syrup with water to fit it for treatment with "char," if the grain is suitable, it is lightly washed in a centrifugal machine to remove some of the impurities surrounding the sugar crystal, and thus diminish the amount of work thrown upon the "char." In order to properly effect this preliminary cleaning of the impure raw sugar, it is necessary that all raw sugar should be boiled into a distinct grain or crystal, as it is not practical to wash a soft or mealy sugar without washing away too much of it. But whether this operation is carried out or no, the sugar is dissolved—melted is the technical expression, although, strictly speaking, nothing of the nature of true melting takes place, in an equal quantity of water. This is done in a vessel in which the steam is applied through the agency of

coils, and which is called a "blow-up," with an equal disregard of truth. In these vessels the syrup is sometimes treated with clarifying chemicals, such as preparations of phosphates and kieselguhr or diatomaceous earth, and, after having been thoroughly boiled, the solution thus formed is filtered through what are known as bag filters for the purpose of separating along with the clarifying reagents any mechanical impurities that may be in the syrup, such as dirt, minute fragments of cane, or fibre, from the bags in which the sugar was shipped, and various animalculæ.

These filters consist of long woven cotton cylinders closed at one end, having the other end secured in holes in the flat bottom of a cistern which is filled with the syrup to be thus strained. The cistern and pendant bags are enclosed in a case and the filtered syrup is collected in and drawn off from the bottom; some refiners also employ filter presses for this purpose. The syrup thus strained is next filtered through the "char" which is packed in tall iron cylinders. The syrup is applied at the top and drawn off from the bottom of the cylinder after percolating through the char. In its passage the remaining colour in the syrup becomes destroyed by oxidation, and the syrup emerges in a colourless condition. When exhausted the char is washed through with water, the first or sweet washings being kept for sugar making, and the remainder run away, and the spent char revived by heating to a high temperature in kilns especially designed for the purpose.

Having been thus purified and decolorized the syrup is now boiled to grain in a vacuum pan, and the sugar thus crystallised from it. The method of "boiling" varies according to the kind of sugar to be made, "granulated," "cube," "loaf," or "crystal." Thus, with granulated, cube, and loaf, a fine small grain is arrived at, while with the large grain crystal sugar, the crystallization is carried on in such a manner as to secure this result.

The massecuite, in the case of granulated and crystals, is run into crystallizers as with plantation sugar, subsequently being cured in centrifugals, and the granulated being further dried in a drying machine with hot air. If cube sugar is required the fine-grained massecuite is delivered direct from the vacuum pan into metal moulds, designed to give long flat strips or plates of solid sugar, when the operation is completed. As the massecuite cools in the moulds it solidifies. The moulds and contents are then placed in especially constructed centrifugals, and the surplus syrup driven out of the solid massecuite by the centrifugal force employed, hard strips or slabs of mutually adhering crystals being thus obtained. These are then taken out of the moulds, dried, and cut into regular sections, known as cubes and tablets, by means of mechanical knives.

In the United States and on the Continent of Europe cube sugar is made by compressing granulated sugars by hydraulic power.

The production of loaf sugar is a much longer operation. It is the modern survival of the old process of producing direct consumption sugar on plantations, before refining, in the present sense of the word, was known. In this process the clarified

cane juice, boiled in the open to the necessary consistency, was run into metal cones, with plugs at the apex. These, when inverted and filled, were placed in cooling chambers, and when cooled, and the contents set, the plugs were removed, and the molasses allowed to drain out. Wet clay was then placed on the top of the sugar in the moulds, and kept thoroughly moistened. The water drainings of the clay percolated the sugar, washing off the molasses adhering to the crystals, and ran out of the plug hole. The result was a whitish brown small loaf.

Modern loaf sugar is manufactured on the same principle. The massecuite from the vacuum pan is run into similar, if larger, moulds, and allowed to cool. The plugs are then removed, and the syrup, the molasses of the refiner, drained from the sugar. The centre of the conical mass is soft, and is removed by an iron scraper. Concentrated white syrup is poured into the space thus left, and gradually displaces the brown syrup adhering to the loaf through the plug hole at the bottom of the cone. The pure wet loaf is then taken out of the mould and dried by heat, after which it is ready for the market.

As with plantation whites, the syrups from the first sugar are re-boiled in order to obtain further crystallisation. The products, when cured, form granulated and the "pieces" or yellow sugars of the refiner, the latter being soft, with more or less colour.

The ultimate product of the plantation sugar factory is molasses. In the case of a refinery it is generally called golden syrup. To prepare it for the market it is boiled and filtered, so that it shall be quite bright and clear. In the case of syrup made from cane sugars, there is sufficient uncrystallisable sugar present to prevent the spontaneous crystallisation of the crystallisable sugar. Where beet sugar is worked up, however, there is little or no uncrystallisable sugar present, and some of the crystallisable sugar has to be "inverted," that is, converted into uncrystallisable, by boiling with acids, which are subsequently neutralised with alkali or lime, and removed by filters.

(To be continued.)

OBITUARY.

HON. DUNCAN ALEXANDER MACDONALD.

We regret to state that the Hon. Duncan Alexander Macdonald died at his residence in Kingston, St. Vincent, on January 17th.

Mr. Macdonald, who was senior partner in the firm of Macdonald Bros., was a Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of St. Vincent, in which island he was closely identified with the arrowroot and Sea Island cotton industries. It was he who re-established cotton cultivation in St. Vincent. He was a popular member of the Cotton Conference which met in Lancashire in 1908, and his public spirit may be gauged from the fact that he was the mover of the resolution favouring the gift by St. Vincent of a warship to the nation, which was passed some years before the war. Mr. Macdonald, who succumbed to complications following a severe attack of influenza, which he contracted at Wallilabou, where he resided, was buried at Barouallie in the family grave in St. Patrick's Churchyard.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Letter from the Colonial Office.

The West India Committee has received the following letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Downing Street,
14th March, 1918.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th March, regarding the obligations of His Majesty's Government in connexion with the Brussels Sugar Convention.

2. In reply, I am to inform you that the action suggested in paragraph 3 of your letter is part of the general question which is engaging the attention of the Committee referred to in the letter from this Department of the 5th of February last.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary,
West India Committee.

The following was paragraph three of the West India Committee's letter referred to by Mr. Grindle:—

"My Committee desire to urge that if any doubt whatever exists as to whether the Convention is at an end or not, His Majesty's Government may immediately give notice to the Belgian Government of their intention to withdraw the pledge which was given on behalf of Great Britain to the Signatories not to give a preference to sugar from her Colonies."

Commenting on the reply of the Colonial Office to the earlier letter of the West India Committee, published in the *Circular* of February 7th (No. 505, p. 55), the *International Sugar Journal* for March says:—

"It seems, then, that the Government, having decided some while back to appoint a Committee to go into the question of the validity of pre-war treaties, including the Brussels Convention, have no intention of legislating in advance of the report of this Committee, but will await its decision ere taking any diplomatic or legislative action. They therefore will not say for the moment whether the Convention holds good or not. This is not perhaps surprising. But the Government are not tied down to the validity or otherwise of the Convention. Even if the Committee hold that the measure still exists, it is always open to the Government to terminate their slender connexion with it under the rules provided by the Convention. They are not even asked to cease to remain parties to it; that step was taken before the war arose. All we ask of them is that they relinquish the self-elected undertaking of pledging themselves not to differentiate between British Imperial sugar and foreign sugar, or between cane and beet; they can do this simply by giving six months' notice to the Belgian Government, and the question of the existence or non-existence of the Convention is not thereby impugned. Nor is it by France's action. The latter assumed for diplomatic reasons that the Convention exists, so she has taken the decisive step of giving notice to withdraw from it next September; and we see no reason why we should not in unison give notice too to withdraw our much less substantial connexion with that measure at the same date. We should then be in a position to benefit our Colonies—our own kith and kin—without further unnecessary delay. The Government's answer to the West India Committee really ignores this important alternative; but we must say that the Committee in their letter to the Colonial Office hardly laid sufficient stress

on the desirability of the Government adopting such an alternative in the event of the Convention's existence still being unsettled.* The thing after all is to regain liberty of action for our sugar colonies; we can obtain it either by assuming the Convention has ceased to exist, or else by recognising its validity but giving the six months' statutory notice to the Permanent Committee that we are going to withdraw from our voluntary pledge to observe the spirit of the Convention. Why was the Government not pressed by the West India Committee to take the latter step if they could not assume the former to be a postulate?

"It can, of course, be argued that it is not very urgent at the moment to give the six months' notice, because till the end of the war (and therefore till the end of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply's control is well in sight) no fiscal benefits can accrue from taking such a step. But the sugar industry in the Colonies stands to gain greatly from ample notice being given as to the intents of the home Government towards it; till these intentions are definitely placed on record, it is too much to expect that any elaborate plans will be made for extending the industry by planting greater areas and selecting the necessary machinery to deal with the enlarged crops. And all such preparation takes considerable time, so that everything is to be gained by giving long notice. This is the chief justification for making a pronouncement now which may nominally have effect only after the war."

SUGAR IN BRITISH HONDURAS.

Co-operation and a Central Factory needed.

"Lack of capital and shortage of labour prevent advance being made in producing sugar," says the report of the Agricultural Commission of British Honduras. Very much remains to be done ere the colony can be regarded as in possession of a profitable cane-growing industry. Says the report:—

A number of persons interested in producing sugar in the Colony gave evidence, either personally or in writing. All agreed that land, eminently suitable for growing cane, is to be found in most parts of the Colony. The cost of producing sugar at the factory was said to be about four cents per pound. Below this figure the industry ceased to be profitable. This is nearly 100 per cent. more than the cost of producing sugar in the West Indies.

Whilst the high price of labour is partly responsible for the difference in cost of production here, other causes also must be taken into account. Each planter has his own cane fields, mill and apparatus for making sugar. He must be chemist, mechanic, plantation foreman, etc. Much energy, time and money could be saved by co-operation and a central factory. We do not say that the men interested in sugar do not know about modern machinery and modern methods used in the business—we do say that they are not using the same."

Capable of great Development.

The Commissioners add:—

"We believe this industry is capable of great development, and can be made as profitable to those interested in it here as elsewhere. Lack of capital and shortage of labour prevent advance being made in producing sugar. All, or nearly all, the sugar produced in the Colony is sold locally, and beside locally manufactured sugar a considerable quantity is imported annually. A great opportunity presents itself to re-establish the sugar industry. Some effort ought to be made to attract capital in order that central factories might be established—the day of small planters, each toiling on to make a living with the primitive methods of the past, is over. If the sugar industry is to be a success it must be carried on along modern lines.

* Presumably the writer of this admirable exposé of the situation had not seen the West India Committee's further letter of March 5th now republished above.—ED.

Most of the present cane growers would join an enterprise to develop the industry if some financial help were forthcoming.

"We suggest that the Government make known to the outer world the opportunities and advantages of establishing central factories in British Honduras. We are convinced that these advantages and opportunities only need to be made known to encourage an influx of capital, and with the incoming capital the apparent difficulties of securing labour, etc., would melt away.

"At the present time the Colony is only known as a wood producing country. Whilst not belittling the wood-cutting industry, we are certain that as an agricultural colony its value is greater, and it only requires developing. Without exception every witness has borne testimony to the fruitfulness of the land. We are practically free from hurricanes, and earthquakes are limited to slight tremors, which, hitherto, have caused no material damage to life or property.

"No doubt the proposed Chamber of Commerce will help to make known more widely the openings for trade with the Colony. Still we think that the Government should prepare a plan for advertising the splendid opportunities this Colony offers to capitalists who are desirous of investing in sugar centrals, or any other tropical produce."

GUIANA AND EXCESS PROFITS.

The new British Guiana Tax Ordinance (No. 24 of 1917) imposes an Excess Profits Tax. Section 64 runs:—

64.—(1) In view of the local conditions consequent upon the present 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 ten per cent. on all profits earned in the Colony in excess of ten per cent. on the capital employed in earning such profits, provided that the following businesses shall be exempt from the tax:—

- (a) Businesses the capital employed in which has been throughout the accounting period less than \$5,000.
- (b) Fire and Life Insurance Companies.
- (c) Shipping Companies.
- (d) Cable Companies.
- (e) Building and Benevolent Societies.

In the case of Banking Institutions a fixed tax of fifteen hundred dollars a year shall be levied in lieu of the tax on Business Profits and also where in the opinion of the Board of Assessment a business is carried on in the Colony in such a manner (for instance through an agent) as to make it practically impossible to arrive satisfactorily at the amount (within the purview of this section) of the capital employed and/or the profits earned the tax of two per cent. shall be levied on the amount of the sales, purchases and commissions of such business within the Colony.

(2) 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 manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the said Ordinance.

Copies of the Ordinance, laying down the conditions on which the tax is to be levied or fore-shadowed by subsection (2) of the above section, have not yet been received in London.

Mr. CHARLES FREDERICK WOOD, of the firm of Fruhling & Goschen, has been appointed Chairman of the Colonial Bank in the place of Lord Beaverbrook.

BY CENTRIFUGAL FORCE.

Clever Device to Crack Nuts.

Palm-oil and palm-nut kernels to the value of about £1,400,000 are imported annually by the United States, the bulk of which come from the West Coast of Africa, small quantities from Mexico, and recently it has been discovered that palm-nuts are also to be found in Central America. Prompted by the European War's effect upon shipments from Africa, and the difficulty experienced in developing business in Mexico on account of internal troubles, a company (says the *Scientific American*), with headquarters in Los Angeles, invaded Central America, and is making preparations to develop the industry on a very extensive basis. This company started with about 15 tons of machinery designed especially for the purpose.

What the Machine is like.

The machine is a particularly clever device in that it cracks nuts solely by centrifugal force. It is shaped somewhat like a drum, and measures six feet in diameter. It stands, when the top feed and the bottom discharge have been added, nearly seven feet high, and weighs approximately 6,000 pounds, the main casting alone weighing 3,400 pounds. The nuts are conveyed in a steady stream to the hopper at the top, and from the hopper they drop into a fast-revolving drum-wheel, which throws them with great force against a continuous stationary belt of breaker-blocks lining the inside surface of the main, drum-shaped casting.

A pressure of about 1,800 pounds is required to crack them, as the nuts have an extremely hard shell, about a ½-inch thick. The drum-wheel, turning on a perpendicular-set axle, is speeded to 800 revolutions per minute, and hurls the nuts on a tangent a distance of but two feet. This force is sufficient to break the shells into several pieces and release the kernels. Deflected by the downward sloping surface of the breaker-blocks, the kernels and hulls drop towards the bottom of the machine, where they enter a discharge-pipe and are separated from each other by a system of blowers. The machine has a capacity of about 10 tons of nuts per hour.

The difficulty experienced heretofore in preparing these nuts for the market was the matter of cracking the hard inner shell. In Mexico this work is ordinarily done by hand, and is tedious and slow. The machine solves the problem very advantageously because of its greater capacity, and in that, by cracking the nuts by centrifugal force, the kernels, for the most part, remain whole, and do not lose any of their oil. Preparations are also being made for the removal of the outer hull by machinery designed somewhat on the same principle as the large cracker. The only hand-work will be the gathering, and this is usually done by raking the nuts into piles after they have fallen from the tree, or by cutting the bunches from the trees before they begin to fall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

HONEY FROM THE WEST INDIES.

Scope for Important Industry.

"Jamaica honey has risen to be the most popular and sought-after honey the world produces, so far as this country is concerned."

Thus writes an authoritative correspondent who is anxious to see developed the production of honey on a large scale in the West Indies. He is convinced, from expert knowledge of the question, that the British Empire can produce all the honey required by the United Kingdom, and he is anxious that the British West Indies, which have proved their capacity to export a most excellent article, should be more fully represented in this direction. At present the quantity sent to Great Britain is only, he says, about 100 tons per annum.

This total shows a marked decline from the 500 tons per annum which were exported to the United Kingdom from Jamaica alone some ten or more years ago, under the stimulating direction of the late Sir Alfred Jones. Unfortunately the factory in Kingston was destroyed during the earthquake and was not rebuilt. The seed, however, had been sown, so that prior to the war the imports to Great Britain from Jamaica were greater than from any other honey-producing country of the world.

Reasons for pushing ahead.

Our correspondent proceeds:—

There are a few short extra reasons why we should push on with the honey production in the West Indies, and to cut them short they are as follows:—

- 1.—Our food supplies in 1918-19.
- 2.—Some means of increasing this supply immediately by tapping some neglected source, without in any way interfering with the labour conditions as they are at the present moment arranged.
- 3.—To tap this source of supply as near this country as possible to save time in transit, also some article that is already manufactured and requires very little freight space.
- 4.—That the tapping of such a supply will be to the lasting benefit of the British Empire.

I think you will agree that the above four points are some of the most important that we have to consider at the moment in helping this country, and my suggestion of putting down large quantities of modern bee hives well run in the British West Indies, between the Bahamas and Trinidad, should greatly help in a small way to do what I have suggested, because,—

A.—We should be able to produce some 10,000 tons of honey in the islands mentioned.

B.—The existing labour could attend to the hives without the least interference with their present duties.

C.—To show the great neglect that is taking place in some islands in honey production, you have only to see the production of Jamaica compared with many of the other larger islands.

D.—The British West Indies are the nearest country in the world to the British Isles that could increase their production of this article by 5,000 to 10,000 tons per annum at once.

E.—Freight space required for honey is exceedingly small owing to its dead weight.

F.—The advantage of tapping such a supply would benefit the British Empire by cash going out to the British West Indies and food to the United Kingdom. Also by the fact that the existing crops in the West Indies of all kinds, which are largely food crops for home use and also export to the United Kingdom, would be greatly enhanced in value by the additional pollinisation that would take place by the presence of large quantities of bees.

Another point for consideration.

There is another question to think over, and that is this: After the war we must export every ounce of goods we can, to secure some of the cash back from other countries we have spent with them during the war, and get the money back in the United Kingdom. The whole world will be asking for British jam and marmalade for export, and our manufacturers will, owing to the sugar question, find it very difficult to secure their supplies of sugar for both home and export trade; but if the British West Indies can supply large quantities of honey for the home trade here to take the place of jam, this country will be able to send their cash for same to the British Empire, and the jam manufacturers can export this amount of jam and collect the cash from countries outside the Empire.

So long as we are short of butter, honey will remain at the present very high price. The latest demand for honey is for sale in place of butter and fats for placing on bread, and this is where the large and almost unlimited demand is coming from. The honey is being frozen into slabs like butter and being sold over the country just on the same lines as butter, packed in paper. The public say that a pound of honey sold this way will go twice as far as a pound of jam or marmalade for the same use, and, judging by the demand for honey at the moment, I should say they were right. This opens up quite a new field for honey, and I am of the opinion that it will last.

Honey, even at to-day's prices, is a cheap food, and its uses in the household are just being found out. It has stood the test during the war.

THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN.

A Puisne Judge's Mistaken Vision.

The Times of March 14th published the following letter:—

Sir,—In your issue of to-day's date a Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands is reported to have said at the Halifax Canadian Club that, failing confederation with Canada, the West Indian Islands would turn to the United States. As far as I am able to gauge West Indian sentiment there could be nothing further from the minds of the residents in those colonies, whose devotion to the Mother Country is proverbial.

It is, to say the least of it, regrettable that a public official should have made such a statement whilst thousands of West Indians are serving at the Front for the cause of the British Empire in which he maintains they have "no future."

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL.

Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W. 1, March 12.

The subject of the above letter is contained in the subjoined Reuter message cabled from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on March 11th:—

"Mr. S. O. Rowan-Hamilton, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands, in the course of an address to the Halifax Canadian Club, said that public sentiment in the British West India Islands was strongly in favour of confederation with Canada, and he asked whether Canada was ready to pay the price to receive the Islands. The Judge added that if Canada did not confederate with the West India Islands, the latter would turn to the United States, as they had no future in the British Empire outside Canada."

MAJOR PEEBLES, who was private secretary to the Administrator of Dominica at the outbreak of war, has been three times mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O. Major Peebles comes of an old West Indian family, his ancestors having owned estates in Dominica, while his grandfather assisted in the capture of that island.

IN HOSPITAL.

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, Bournemouth.

BAHAMAS.

Trpr. Bruce S. Bethell, Royal Dragoons, London; Dvt. Neville D. Sands, Canadian Field Artillery, Epsom.

BARBADOS.

Lieut. C. L. W. Hinds, Worcester Regt., London; Lec.-Cpl. McConney, Batham; Pte. C. G. Archer, Civil Service Rifles, Oxford; Pte. E. G. Bayne, Artists' Rifles, Saffron Walden.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Rfn. A. J. Darrell, K.R.R.C., Altham

BRITISH HONDURAS.

2nd Lieut. A. N. Usher, M.C., Highgate.

MONTSERRAT.

2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Hoon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.

2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London; Cpl. M. V. Hearne, Royal Fusiliers, Edinburgh.

ST. KITTS.

Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Dublin.

ST. LUCIA.

Cook Lionel Austin, Gretnach.

TRINIDAD.

2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., Brighton; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwicks, Wandsworth; Lieut. Gordon Burke, R. Welsh Fusiliers, Mumblesley; 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Royal Fusiliers, Bournemouth; Trpr. Sydney Daly, Household Battalion, Cpl. Murray, Household Battalion, Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, Trpr. F. Villarreal, Household Battalion, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Tank Corps, Sgt. V. A. Plummer, London.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT

2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, Arundel; Capt. W. A. Hohan, Fovey; 2nd Lieut. J. A. Haynes, London; 2nd Lieut. B. Thomson, London; Sgt. Pinto (Jamaica), East-borne; Pte. S. Brown (Barbados), Tooting; Pte. Estell, Pte. Douglas (Jamaica), London.

It is particularly requested that those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so will pay their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st, without delay. Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

MR. WALTER LONG has written to the Governor of British Guiana that he cannot approve the holding of an Agricultural Conference of the West Indies during the continuance of the war. Whilst he recognises the value of such a conference, Mr. Long thinks it should be postponed until after the war. When the war is concluded, and British Guiana is desirous of the conference being held there, he will take steps to arrange for it, and will communicate with the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture on the subject.

FOR KING AND EMPIRE.

Many West Indians Decorated.

The West Indies figure more prominently than any other group of Crown Colonies in the latest list of decorations conferred by King George in recognition of service rendered during the war. The decorations are represented by admission to various grades of the newly-created Order of the British Empire.

The list includes the following names:—

KNIGHTS COMMANDERS.

Sir Everard im Thurn, K.C.M.G., C.B., Vice-Chairman, King George and Queen Mary's Club for the Overseas Forces.

Brigadier-General Sir William Henry Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of Jamaica.

COMMANDERS.

Thomas Alexander Vans Best, Esq., C.M.G., administering the Government of the Leeward Islands.

Henry Cowper Gollan, Esq., K.C., Attorney-General and Chairman of the Food Committee of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago.

OFFICERS.

John Humber Allwood, Esq., for services to the Government of Jamaica and to war charities.

Amy Isabel, Lady Bullock, for services in aid of war charities in the Bermuda Islands.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Cran, Commanding the British Honduras Territorial Force.

Anthony de Freitas, Esq., Chief Justice and Acting Administrator of the Island of St. Vincent.

Ada Maud, Lady Egerton, for services to war and other charities in British Guiana.

George Frederick Huggins, Esq., for services in connection with recruiting and in securing employment for discharged soldiers, Trinidad.

Harcourt Malcolm, Esq., K.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Bahama Islands and Chairman of the Bahamas War Relief Committee.

Emily, Lady Probyn, for services to war charities in Barbados.

Joseph Rippon, Esq., Manager of the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and Chairman of the Bermuda Contingent Committee.

Herbert Ashton Laselve Simpson, Elected Member of the Legislative Council and lately Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica.

Stanley Salisbury Spurling, Esq., member of the Executive Council and of the House of Assembly of the Bermudas.

William Wilson, Esq., of Kingston, Jamaica, for services in recruiting and on behalf of sick and wounded soldiers.

MEMBERS.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Bell, Chief Inspector of Police and Commandant of Local Forces, Leeward Islands.

Mrs. Ellen Bowen, for services to war charities in Barbados.

Mrs. Ada Ellen Briscoe, local representative in Jamaica of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild.

John Borlese Cassels, Esq., for Red Cross services in British Guiana.

Frank Appleton Collymore, Esq., for services in connection with the Red Cross Motor Ambulance Fund, Barbados.

Mrs. Judith de Cordova, for services in connection with war charities and recruiting in Jamaica.

Miss Annie Jane Douglas, Matron of the Government Lunatic Asylum, Kingston, Jamaica, for services on behalf of war charities and recruiting.

Captain Percy Louis Alexander Fraser, Superintendent of Prisons, Trinidad.

John Pierce Hand, Esq., Organiser of the "600" Club in aid of returned soldiers, Bermuda Islands.

Mrs. Agnes Nora Johnson, Hon. Secretary of the Bahamas Red Cross Guild.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Lofthouse, for services to war charities in the Bahama Islands.

Miss Mary Moseley, Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Committee in London for the British West Indies Regiment.

Mrs. Ada Mary Tucker, for services to the Bermuda Contingents.

Archibald Rhys Usher, Esq., member of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Honduras, and Chairman of the British Honduras Contingent Society.

THE WEST INDIES.

(From *The Empire Review*.)

While yet the world was young,
Before the world was fair,
God looked down upon a sea
That sparkled everywhere,
And round about it soft winds clung,
Kissing here and there.
But there were lacking in those days
Islands full of little bays,
And golden sand with palm trees hung
The smaller waves to play among.

So God chose out some pearls with care
And set them in a necklace there.

Wings that wearied of long flights
Rested there through silent nights,
And such a wealth of fruit and flowers
Grew up in the golden hours.

And God looked down upon it all
And saw that it was beautiful.

E. G.

AT WESTMINSTER.

Cacao Butter.

Sir Owen Philipps (a member of the Executive of the West India Committee) asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, on February 28th, whether West African and West Indian cacao contains about 50 per cent. of cacao butter, which is a most valuable fat for culinary purposes; if so, why is the import of this cacao restricted whilst the importation of other tropical products with a slightly lower percentage of oil is given every encouragement; (2) whether a duty of 4d. per lb. is imposed on cacao-butter sold retail in this country whilst on the same article of food, if exported, the duty is rebated; and if so, whether he will consider the advisability, in view of the fact that cacao-butter can be made a valuable butter substitute, of encouraging at the present time the import of both West African cacao and West Indian cacao into this country and prohibiting the exportation of cacao-butter.

Mr. Clynes: It is a fact that West African and West Indian cacao contains about 50 per cent. of cacao-butter, on which, sold by retail in the United Kingdom, a duty of 4d. per lb. is imposed. Since, however, there are already comparatively large stocks of cacao beans in the United Kingdom, and since the output of cacao powder and cacao-butter is limited by the capacity of the manufacturing plant in this country, it has been thought advisable to restrict to a certain extent the importation of West African and West Indian cacao. The importation of the other oil seeds alluded to by the hon. Member is essential for the margarine industry, for which purpose cacao-butter is not so suitable. The export of cacao-butter from the United Kingdom is already prohibited.

WORK OF THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

LAST SEASON'S GIFTS.

How the Xmas Parcels were Handled.

The arrangements in connection with the distribution of Christmas gifts to men from the West Indies in the Forces worked far more smoothly last season than they did in 1916-17. The advice of the West Indian Contingent Committee that it would be better to send money for the purchase of gifts rather than gifts themselves was followed in most colonies; but, generally speaking, instructions were received far too late to enable the presents to be purchased and despatched in time for them to reach their destination.

In Trinidad the West Indian Contingent Committee have an active branch in the Ladies' West India Committee, which comprises: President, Lady Chancellor; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. William Gordon Gordon; Mrs. May, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. G. F. Huggins, Mrs. Rapsey, Mrs. J. R. Wilson, Miss Schlier, Mrs. L. Bernard, Mrs. V. Brown, Mrs. Grant, Miss Eckel (Acting Secretary), Mrs. William Gordon Gordon (Treasurer).

This Ladies' Committee sent both money and gifts in kind, but it was not until after Xmas that the latter reached Seething Lane. £170 received was spent in the purchase of cakes of chocolate, brandy balls and shaving blocks, which were sent to the Officers Commanding each battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in which Trinidad men are serving, and these gifts were supplemented by some hundreds of khaki handkerchiefs.

For the Jamaica men, Mrs. Park, wife of the Hon. J. H. W. Park, the Director of Public Works, collected £120, which was cabled to the Contingent Committee in November by Mr. Trefusis. This welcome sum was devoted to the purchase of some thousands of cigarettes and cakes of soap, which were packed and despatched to the battalions in which the Jamaica men are serving, and this means all. The subscribers included:—

Nathan & Co., £10 10s.; A. W. Farquharson, £5 5s.; William Wilson, £5 5s.; W. Baggett Gray, £5 5s.; Edwin Charley, £5 5s.; Walter Farquharson, £5 5s.; A. L. Keeling, £5; James Charley, £3 3s.; Ernest Verley, £3 3s.; Sir John Pringle, £2 2s.; J. H. W. Park, £2 7s. 8d.; Clerks of the Colonial Bank, £2 14s. 6d.; W. C. Farquharson, £2 2s.; Fred. L. Myers & Co., £2 2s.; Mrs. H. Malabre, £2 2s.; J. F. Millholland, £2 2s.; Leonard De Cordova, £2 2s.; Percy Lino, £2 2s.; Lascelles de Mercado & Co., Ltd., £2 2s.; James Henderson, £2 2s.; David Henderson, £2 2s.; B. & J. R. Machado, £2 2s.; Dr. Meikle, £1 1s.; J. H. Phillips, £1 1s.; J. B. Kilburn, £1 1s.; J. B. Stiven, £1 1s.; Mrs. James Henderson, £1 1s.; M. De Cordova, £1 1s.; Dr. Charles Levy, £1 1s.; Kingston Industrial Garage, £1 1s.; Bee Hive Store, £1 1s.; Dr. J. Errington Ker, £1 1s.; Jamaica Tobacco Co., £1 1s.; Vincent Verley, £1 1s.; H. Greaves, £1 1s.; S. Couper, £1 1s.; Dr. Allwood, £1 1s.; Messrs. Cleary, £1 1s.; M. M. Alexander, £1 1s.; C. T. Isaacs, £1 1s.; David M. Sallas, £1 1s.; Williamsou Bros., £1 1s.; Livingston & Alexander, £1 1s.; E. C. McLeod, £1 1s.; Sir Anthony Coll, £1; E. R. Mordecai, £1 1s.; Noel B. Livingston, £1 1s.; Adolph Levy & Bros., £1 1s.; Jamaica Times, Ltd., £1 1s.; P. N. Marshall, £1 1s.; R. S. Gauble, £1 1s.; "One who would like to go," £1 1s.; L. Nunes, £1 1s.; Lewis Ashenheim, £1 1s.; L. J. Stone, £1 1s.; Thomas N. Aguilar, £1 1s.; T. H. Sharp, £1 1s.; J. Macphail, £1 1s.; E. A. Issa & Bros., £1 1s.; A. Friend, £1; R. P. Simmonds, £1; C. M.

DaCosta, £1; E. W. Lucie Smith, £1; Miss Mills, 5s.; Sister Madeline, 5s.; Interest, Colonial Bank, 8s. 10d.—Total, £120.

Sums of £53 and £57, received from the people of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, through the Colonial Secretary and Administrator respectively, were forwarded by drafts to the Officers Commanding as they arrived during the "close season" for the despatch of parcels, etc., overseas, and this applies also to £125 received from the Administrator of Dominica. £16 from the Administrator of Montserrat was spent in the purchase of wrist watches for the men from that island.

"Our Boys' Comforts Fund" of British Guiana, of which Mr. J. Barrington Wood is Hon. Secretary, yielded this year £263, with which the Contingent Committee purchased wrist watches and wallets, the latter inscribed, "With best wishes from our Boys' Xmas Box," which it is hoped will all survive the perils of the deep, as some have already done, to the great delight of the recipients hailing from the Magnificent Province.

£15 15s. from the members of the Bahamas branch of the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire has been spent on cigarettes, which should by now have reached men from the Bahamas in several battalions of the B.W.I. Regiment.

Among the smaller gifts "handled" must be included a sum of money from the Combermere Mutual Improvement Association, which was spent on "housewives" and automatic lighters, from 65 old boys of Combermere School now with the colours or on munition work, and £8 18s. 6d., collected by Mrs. G. M. Knowles for Sangre Grande (Trinidad) men, who will receive very shortly, if they have not already done so, a goodly supply of cigarettes, whilst £50 collected for Grenada men by Mr. H. Astley Berkeley will also go up in smoke.

The West Indian Parcels Fund.

A notable gift despatched by the Contingent Committee consisted of 28,500 cigarettes and 2,010 cakes of soap, which were sent to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment at the request of the "West Indian Parcels Fund." This fund was collected by Miss Jeffers, Mr. J. A. Barbour James, Mr. A. P. Adderley, Mr. C. M. G. Hoyt, Miss Barbour James from West Indians in this country for their "West Indian Soldier Brothers on Active Service."

To the above must be added many hundreds of parcels which reached the West India Committee Rooms "to be forwarded." Many contained dutiable articles, which were admitted free of duty under the arrangement between the West Indian Contingent Committee and the Board of Customs. The total number of parcels despatched by the Committee in a single month at the festive season, including those "to be forwarded" (most of which had to be repacked), was over 1,000.

Five immense cases of gifts from the British Honduras Contingent Society, British Honduras, were greatly delayed in transit, and did not eventually reach the Committee Rooms until Jan. 30. All of the parcels—395—had to be sorted, and repacked in 28 cases of a size to meet the requirements of the military forwarding officer.

Mention has already been made in the CIRCULAR of the West India Contingent Committee's gifts, which, it will be recalled, took the form of metal cigarette cases embossed with the badge of the Regiment for all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, and handy letter wallets for men who came over independently, or with the Trinidad Merchants' and Barbados Citizens' Contingents to "do their bit." These gifts, to the number of many thousands (to give the exact figure would be to disclose the strength of the Contingents), were all packed up and despatched from the Committee Rooms.

If one may judge from the letters of thanks received these presents have given great pleasure to the recipients.

To deal with all these gifts while still carrying on the routine of the office, the work in which is still daily increasing, has been no small task; but the staff, including Miss Moseley (Hon. Sec.), Miss Porteous, Mr. G. P. Osmond, Mr. G. J. Miller, and F. H. Egerton, threw themselves into it with enthusiasm and carried it out in a manner which is deserving of the fullest praise.

The lessons to be learnt from last season's "campaign" are that arrangements in respect of Christmas gifts should be completed not later than September, and that, in view especially of the delays in transit and congestion at the docks, it is in every way preferable to send money for the purchase of gifts—which can then be despatched with specially printed greeting cards—than gifts themselves. Even when packed in apparently hermetically sealed tins, cakes, sweets, etc., do not stand the rigours of the transatlantic voyage, and as often as not arrive in an advanced stage of decomposition.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

PRIVATE H. F. BRANCH, British West Indies Regiment, late of Georgetown, British Guiana, was killed in action on October 31st, 1917.

GORDON RAE (youngest son of the Rev. J. Rae, Scotch Church Minister of St. Saviour's Parish, Berbice, British Guiana) has been killed in action.

MAJOR B. MITCHELL TAYLOR, M.C. (son of the late Mr. H. M. Taylor, of the Immigration Department, British Guiana), was killed in action on November 6th, 1917.

SECOND LIEUTENANT G. L. F. FORSHAW, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment (son of the late Mr. Roney Forshaw, Barrister-at-Law, and grandson of the late Mr. Geo. A. Forshaw, many times Mayor of Georgetown, British Guiana), was killed in action on November 19th, 1917.

GUNNER WM. H. FIELD, R.F.A., younger son of Mr. J. H. Field, of Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Georgetown, British Guiana, was killed in action on January 8th, 1918, aged 20. He had previously served in Gallipoli, where he was seriously wounded, and shortly before his death was nominated for a Commission in the Artillery. Educated at Queen's College, Taunton.

LIEUTENANT C. B. WRONG, M.C., 11th Royal Munster Fusiliers, late of Georgetown, British Guiana, was killed in action in Palestine on December 23rd, 1917, aged 21. He was educated at Queen's College, Demerara, entered as a law student at Gray's Inn, 1914, joined up soon after the outbreak of war as a private in a Scottish regiment, afterwards obtaining a Commission in the Bedfords, and later was transferred to the Royal Munsters, serving at Salonica, where he was awarded the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty."

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment on various fronts:—

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—5073 Collic, W.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

ANTIGUA.—16815 Mannin, H.
 BAHAMAS.—3922 Ash, E.; 14818 Johnson, J.
 BARBADOS.—11425 Marshall, D.; 15204 Waithe, Cpl. S.; 15223 Yard, L.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—16892 Smith, C. J.
 BRITISH HONDURAS.—5031 Bennett, C. H.
 DOMINICA.—11222 Henry, C.
 GRENADA.—760 Andrews, K. B.; 16596 Pascall, J.; 6867 Thomas, V.
 JAMAICA.—7772 Anderson, E.; 7781 Anderson, I.; 7780 Anderson, J.; 11866 Blake, E.; 7511 Campbell, S.; 8815 Coates, O.; 8041 Coke, J.; 14560 Collings, D.; 5759 Cooper, J.; 8388 Dailey, J.; 9907 Dahaney, P.; 15553 Graham, E.; 3776 Grant, A.; 14446 Grant, N.; 12125 Hawkes, C.; 15941 Hawkins, C.; 7646 Johnson, C.; 7395 Lewis, J.; 3249 McKoy, H. A.; 6101 Messam, A.; 7937 Nelson, W.; 10435 Palmer, J.; 15715 Powell, F.; 12487 Rhoden, N.; 14209 Salmon, J.; 14383 Sinclair, F.; 8251 Smith, C.; 5667 Telford, J.; 6505 Ulett, J. (att. from 2nd W. I. Regt.).
 PANAMA.—8778 Harris, J.
 St. VINCENT.—11267 Jack, H.
 TRINIDAD.—11549 Pierre, R.; 16312 Sandy, G.; 10411 Young, S.

WOUNDED.

BARBADOS.—9907 Blackett, J. M.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—6427 Baird, W.
 JAMAICA.—8398 Kellier, S.

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.

Barnside, J. G. (second son of Mr. Nigel B. Barnside, Auditor of Public Accounts, Bahamas), Officers' Cadet Battalion.
 Cameron, Alexander (late Superintendent of the Colonial Steamer Service, British Guiana) has been granted a Commission in the Royal Engineers for service in the Craft Section of the Director-General of Movements and Railways.
 Chapman, Cadet (son of Mr. Joseph Ivelaw Chapman, formerly of Georgetown, British Guiana), has completed his training in the R.F.C., and has obtained his "wings."
 Cole, G. M. (eldest son of Mr. G. M. Cole, M.H.A., Bahamas), late British West Indies Regiment and Somerset Light Infantry, Cadet Royal Flying Corps.
 Farrington, 2nd Lieut. S. C. (of the Bahamas), British West Indies Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps.
 Hale, William (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late 1st King Edward's Horse, 2nd Lieut., Labour Battalion.
 Johnson, Joseph (son of Mr. W. C. B. Johnson, Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, Bahamas), Officer Cadet Battalion R.F.A.
 Knox, 2nd Lieut. P. J. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Flying Corps, has received his "wings."
 Lawson, Cadet (son of Mr. Richard Lawson, of Georgetown, British Guiana), Royal Flying Corps Cadet Unit.
 McDonald, Lieut. Ian D. R. (son of Mr. Donald McDonald, of Antigua), Royal Flying Corps, has been promoted to the rank of Flight Commander.
 Moore, Kingsbury son of Mr. E. L. Moore, of the Bahamas, Cadet Royal Flying Corps, Canada.
 Sears, E. D. (of the Bahamas), Canadian Field Artillery, Canadian Officers' Cadet Corps.
 Sellier, Nama (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late King Edward's Horse and Northumberland Fusiliers, Motor Driver, Royal Flying Corps.
 Sherwood Smith, A. D. (late Private Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas), 2nd Lieut., Intelligence Corps.
 Stone, Lieut. Harry (formerly of the Colonial Bank, Demu-

rara), British West Indies Regiment (Jamaica Contingent).

Stoby, Cadet-Sergt. P. S. (son of Mr. W. S. Stoby, Secretary of the British Guiana Building Society), late Artists' Rifles, is in an Officers' Training Battalion near Plymouth.

CASUALTIES.

CAPT. E. S. MASSIAH, R.A.M.C., a former medical practitioner in Georgetown, British Guiana, serving in Macedonia, has been in hospital seriously ill with dysentery.

LIEUT. FRANK GILCHRIST, 4th South Staffords, son of the late Mr. A. M. Gilchrist, Planter, British Guiana, wounded in France on November 5th, 1917, is now convalescent.

LIEUT. BERNARD KING, 22nd London Regiment (son of Mr. Jos. A. King, Crown Solicitor, British Guiana), wounded in France, is convalescent and rejoined in camp in Wiltshire.

PROMOTION.

LIEUT. RICHARD A. HOBAN, British West Indies Regiment, late Chief Sanitary Inspector of Georgetown, British Guiana, now serving in France, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with grateful thanks the undermentioned gifts:—

Mrs. Hardy: 2 prs. socks, 7 mufflers.
 Miss Morris: 2 sweaters, 1 Xmas-tide.
 The Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 9 mufflers, 2 chest protectors, 2 prs. wristlets, 1 pr. operation stockings.
 Mrs. Haynes: 5 prs. socks, 2 prs. mittens, pr. cuffs.
 Mrs. Wade: 7 shirts.
 Mr. Douglas Fife and Miss Philippa Sealy: 4 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 5 prs. socks.
 Lady Sendall: 5 prs. socks.
 Captain Feilden: 5 prs. socks.
 Mrs. E. C. Jackson: 3 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. Spencer-Churchill: 6 prs. socks for Dominica men.
 Received from Lady Davson's and Mrs. St. George Gray's Working Parties from January 8th to March 6th: 165 prs. socks, 208 housewives, 24 helmets, 18 pyjama suits, 2 cardigans, 2 mufflers, 2 caps, 9 day shirts, 26 comfort bags.

The season for mufflers is now happily drawing to a close, but socks (large size) are in constant demand. Games are also urgently needed. Gifts should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane.

* * *

Among the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been the following:—

ANTIGUA.—Cpl. J. D. Lewis (B.W.I.R.), Flight Commander Ian McDonald (R.F.C.). BAHAMAS.—Major A. Egbert Horner, C.F. (B.W.I.R.). BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. C. Batson, Lieut. T. W. Bradshaw, Pte. C. A. B. Phillips. Pte. Cave, Lieut. Geo. Challenor, Pte. G. H. Clarke, Pte. J. E. A.C. Crawford, Cpl. J. F. Cox, Lieut. C. Lester W. Hinds, 2nd Lieut. E. L. Armstrong, 2nd Lieut. J. Haynes (B.W.I.R.), Lance-Cpl. H. N. McConney, Sgt. M. Murphy, Cadet L. D. Peterkin, Cadet Pelham St. Hill. BRITISH GUIANA.—G. W. Hagley. GRENADA.—Surg.-Capt. W. S. Mitchell, Sgt. C. A. B. Phillips. JAMAICA.—Lieut. A. A. Dunlop, M.C. (B.W.I.R.). Capt. C. A. Grant (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. J. H. Hart (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. F. A. Noah (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. N. E. M. Murphy (B.W.I.R.), Dr. C. M. Ormsby (late R.A.M.C.), Lieut. R. C. L. Ripley (B.W.I.R., att. R.F.C.), 2nd Lieut. B. Thomson (B.W.I.R.), Pte. W. N. Spratt (B.W.I.R.). COLONIA. Irwin Watson (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. C. V. H. Miller (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. R. C. Livingstone (B.W.I.R.). TRINIDAD.—B. Agostini,

2nd Lieut. F. G. Burslem, Trpr. J. A. Campbell, Trpr. H. T. A. Cox, Pte. T. L. Dunn, E. Eccles, Pte. G. C. R. Edghill, Trumpeter H. Gillezeau, Pte. W. H. Gilbert, Philip Gomez, M. A. Govia, Cpl. of Horse R. Hale, Sapper Henry Harris, 2nd Lieut. J. A. Herrera, C. H. Hobson, Pte. Wm. Howard, Pte. W. T. King, 2nd Lieut. C. D. McClean, 2nd Lieut. L. P. Maingot (B.W.I.R.), Pte. C. Maingot, Lieut. C. R. Massy, Lieut. A. H. Mole, Rfn. R. R. Mole, Sgt. Pelham Rodriguez, Cadet A. A. Scott, Trpr. K. Max Smith, Rfn. J. R. Thavenot. ST. VINCENT.—Trpr. F. N. McLeod, G. R. F. Richards.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—Red Cross Effort.

The total contribution to the 1917 "Our Day" Fund on behalf of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John amounts to £2,508. Of this amount £2,000 was forwarded last November, to be expended on the purchase of two more motor ambulances.—The food situation here is receiving earnest and practical attention, as in other islands. The Government has issued an appeal to the people to grow more crops.

BARBADOS—Harrison College.

At the Speech Day at Harrison College on February 7th Dr. Dalton gave a resume of the work of the school, and made suitable reference to the "Old Boys" who were doing their bit. After the distribution of the prize certificates, the Governor made a neat speech, which was followed by the Colonial Secretary proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency for his presence. Three cheers each for His Excellency and Lady Probyn, who was also present, brought the proceedings to a close. The Governor's prize for general efficiency was won by P. W. A. Cheney.

BRITISH GUIANA—Estate Supplies.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, FEBRUARY 20th.—We had a meeting of the Association on the 18th inst., when it was decided to change the title to the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association. It was also decided to ask the Governor to receive a deputation from the Association to discuss the present serious position with respect to obtaining machinery renewals, nitrogenous manures, and other estates supplies, as well as the shortage of fuel. It is understood that we are not likely to get any sulphate of ammonia or other fertilisers during this year. A conference was held on the 14th inst. between the Governor, delegates from the Association, and representatives of the small estates to consider the question of increasing the acreage in the colony under ground provisions. Meetings of the Legislature were held on the 12th and 18th inst., when the Business Profits Tax and the amendment to the Sea Defence Ordinance relating to the requisitioning of labour were dealt with. The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society held its first general meeting for the year on the 4th inst., when Professor Harrison delivered his inaugural address. The Colonial Bank is opening a branch at Saddle. Premises have already been secured, and necessary alterations are being made. The wedding of Mr. A. Gomes, eldest son of Mr. M. Gomes (Pereira & Gomes, Ltd.), and Miss C. S. Pereira, second daughter of Mr. M. A. Pereira, Managing Director of Messrs. J. P. Santos & Co., Ltd., took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Main Street, on the 9th inst.

In an earlier letter, dated February 6th, Mr. McCowan wrote: There have been several changes in sugar estate properties lately. "Everton," Berbice, sold for \$90,000; "Versailles," on West Bank, \$240,000; "Vryheids Lust," East Coast, \$240,000—all to local Syndicates. "La Bonne Intention" and "Success," on the East Coast, are to be amalgamated and formed into one Company.

GRENADA—The Food Supply.

New regulations provide for the establishment of a Food Committee, whose duty it is to see that the amount of foodstuffs permitted by the United States to be exported to this colony is not exceeded. The Committee has power to regulate the importation, and to apportion among the importers the amount of such foodstuff.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, FEBRUARY 14th.—The Governor

has been visiting the out-districts and explaining the proposed Income-tax, Export duties, etc. On February 14th His Excellency was presented with a Resolution at a public meeting by the St. George's District Board. The Carnival passed off quietly. The relatives of the late Lieut. Bertrand were presented by the Governor at a full meeting at the Court House with the Military Cross awarded to that gallant officer. The crop is well in, and after the end of the month there will only be small pickings.

JAMAICA—Sir Sydney Olivier.

The movement in favour of asking the Colonial Office to appoint Sir Sydney Olivier as the next Governor is gathering force. At a recent meeting at the Merchants' Exchange a number of speeches were made by representatives urging the return of the popular ex-Governor, the planters and the teaching profession being particularly in favour of this movement. A committee to further the project was appointed.

NEVIS—Defence of Presidency.

The Acting Governor has assented to an Ordinance entitled "Defence of the Presidency," which renders persons resident in St. Christopher and Nevis liable to trial by court-martial for offences committed in breach of the Ordinance. The new law is designed to prevent persons from communicating with the enemy, secure safety of British forces, ships and harbours, prevent the spread of false reports, and otherwise prevent assistance being given to the enemy. It is provided that where any offence is proved to have been committed with the intent of assisting the enemy, a person convicted by court-martial shall be liable to suffer death.—Another Ordinance connected with the defence of the Presidency provides for the establishment of a Cadet Corps in which youths from 14 to 17 years of age may be enrolled.

ST. LUCIA—Federation Urged.

The local branch of the West Indian Federal League recently held a meeting and passed a resolution in support of the cause of Federation of the West Indies.

ST. VINCENT—Food Queues.

"We have reached as far as the bread queue in Kingstown, and there is every probability of our making the acquaintance of other food queues in the near future," says the *St. Vincent Times*. In the meantime Mr. W. N. Sands, Agricultural Superintendent, acting upon a letter from the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, sounds the alarm to planters to grow as much corn as possible, also peas and beans. "The situation as regards the food supply of these islands," writes Mr. Sands in a letter to the local Press, "is becoming increasingly serious, and this is particularly the case with reference to Barbados. In this colony the position may soon become acute."

MR. W. N. SANDS, JANUARY 22nd.—The weather of the past year was excellent throughout. There were no floods or high winds. The rainfall was below the average and well distributed. At the Botanic Gardens 102.35 inches was measured, but at none of the coast stations did the rainfall exceed 90 inches. I need not say how grateful planters were for it, after experiencing such a run of bad seasons.

As with you, the supply of food materials continues to be the cause of concern, but St. Vincent has a lot to be thankful for in this respect, as I have already described in the CIRCULAR. It is now seen what a wise thing it was for the Government to erect a granary and an oil mill. The provision of stores of cereal food and edible oil to replace to a considerable extent shortages of imported wheat flour and animal fats is most valuable. It is reported that two of the R.M. Canadian steamers have been requisitioned by His Majesty's Government, so that our importations are likely to be still further restricted.

You will learn with deep regret of the death, on the 16th inst., after a short illness, of the Hon. Duncan A. Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald, who at his death was 58 years of age, was for many years a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony. He was an upright, broad-minded, and public-spirited man, as well as a successful planter, as the excellent condition of his large estates in the Leeward District abundantly testify, and his loss will be very much felt in the colony, with which he had been associated all his life. He was buried in the family grave at Barrouallie.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

March 21st, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent as from the 5th April, 1915.
Five per cent. War Loan, 93½. Consols, 54½.

SUGAR. The United Kingdom quotations remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in May, 1917, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. Crystallised, Crystals and Granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and Syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes, 39/6.

The New York prices remain at \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed, and the International Committee continue to pay 4.985 c. c.i.f. for Cubes.

The Food Administration of the U.S.A. publishes the following table of sales of refined sugar last year:—

| | Tons. |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Domestic sales | 3,022,952 |
| Sales for export:— | |
| British Royal Commission | 214,082 |
| United Kingdom (direct) | 2,132 |
| Canada and Newfoundland | 3,788 |
| France | 27,923 |
| Algiers | 687 |
| Italy | 5,482 |
| Russia | 4,984 |
| Denmark | 2,257 |
| Norway | 27,882 |
| Sweden | 10,667 |
| Netherlands | 8,120 |
| Spain | 25,434 |
| Switzerland | 32,297 |
| Greece | 382 |
| Mexico | 15,595 |
| Argentina | 67,551 |
| Brazil | 161 |
| Uruguay | 22,108 |
| All others | 23,465 |
| Total export sales | 494,997 |
| Grand Total | 3,517,949 |

For the purpose of financing the Cuban crops, the banks have arranged for a loan of \$100,000,000 to the planters and shippers.

Mr. Himely reported under date February 25th, a steady improvement in the yield in Cuba. Labour is not plentiful and some Centrals in the western end of the Island are not always able to work full time owing to the short supply of cane, due to the lack of cane-cutters who are being paid in some districts \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 100 arrobas of cane instead of 70 c. to 80 c., which used to be considered high. Mr. Himely adheres to his estimate of 3,620,857 tons for the Cuban crop against Guma-Meyer's estimate of 3,589,429 tons, and Willet & Gray's 3,200,000.

The Java 1917-18 crop is assured at 1,800,000 tons. Mr. Truman C. Palmer, in his admirable loose-leaf ledger services, gives some interesting figures regarding sugar consumption in the United States. From 3,752,398 short tons in 1910, this rose to 4,428,689 short tons in 1917.

The West Indian Sugar Statistics in London from 1st January to 16th March were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-------------------|--------|-------|------------|
| Imports | 3,094 | 6,804 | 5,096 Tons |
| Deliveries | 10,122 | 9,708 | 12,916 .. |
| Stock (Mar. 16th) | 3,959 | 5,111 | 3,285 .. |

RUM. Nothing doing on the spot. Market firm in Jamaica.

The stocks in London on March 16th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,641 | 9,595 | 5,629 puns. |
| Demerara | 3,238 | 8,783 | 7,693 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 14,708 | 30,893 | 23,434 .. |

CACAO. Trinidad 95/-; Accra, 68/- to 70/-.

We have to thank Mr. Dix for the following table of imports and home consumption to supplement the figures given in last CIRCULAR, p. 88:—

| BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—ALL KINDS RAW. | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| | tons | tons | tons | tons | tons |
| Imports | 33,700 | 35,160 | 42,200 | 83,500 | 28,238 |
| Home consumption | 27,600 | 27,150 | 28,600 | 46,500 | 38,187 |
| Export | 6,150* | 6,780* | 12,150 | 27,500 | 24,030 |

* Transit options not included.

| BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.—PREPARED COCOA. | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons |
| Imports | 10,560 | 12,330 | 10,250 | 16,334 | 13,336 |
| Home consumption | 10,670 | 11,820 | 9,660 | 13,900 | 9,909 |
| Export | 260 | 300 | 475 | 2,400 | 1,921 |

| BRITISH COLONIAL.—RAW, EXCLUDING WEST AFRICAN. | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| | tons. | tons. | tons | tons | tons |
| Imports | 8,200 | 9,000 | 11,314 | 14,644 | 12,856 |
| Home consumption | 5,400 | 4,500 | 5,000 | 9,100 | 8,200 |
| Export | 3,300 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,600 | 3,200 |

| RAW CACAO IMPORTS. | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 |
| | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons. | tons |
| Total Foreign | 17,303 | 16,439 | 21,028 | 30,565 | 27,749 |
| British West Africa* | 6,614 | 9,073 | 9,355 | 36,359 | 47,691 |

* Transit options not included.

The stocks in London on March 16th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Trinidad | 11,472 | 17,347 | 9,069 bags. |
| Grenada | 9,193 | 20,507 | 9,609 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 194,234 | 251,981 | 89,142 .. |

COTTON. In the ten weeks ended March 7th, 58 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

The Government has arranged to purchase the Egyptian cotton crop.

COPRA. Fine West Indian, £46 c.i.f. delivered London or Liverpool. The value to Marseilles, £95 to £96 c.i.f. terms.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed, firm value about 17/6. Distilled, no demand; 7/3 nominal; cannot recommend shipments. Lime Juice: Concentrated, quiet; raw, buyers up to 3/3 for good green. Citrate quiet.

RUBBER. Firm; crepe 2/6½; sheet 2/6½. Fine hard Para is also firm—spot 2/8½.

BALATA. Market very firm. Venezuela block nominal at 3/4 c.i.f. buyers. Panama quoted 3/- c.i.f. W.I. sheet dearer; spot 3/11 to 4/1; forward 3/8½ c.i.f.

HONEY. Much dearer at auction for foreign sorts. No Jamaica offered. We think to-day's value on spot would be 185/- to 200/-.

SPICES. Pimento dearer. A large business done lately on the spot, the top price touched being 6½d. per lb. Mace steady at 2/9 to 3/9. Nutmegs firm at 1/10 to 2/4 for sound, 1/7 per lb. for wormy and broken.

DEATHS.

Macdonald.—On January 15th, 1918, aged 56 years, the Hon'ble Duncan Alexander Macdonald, of St. Vincent, West Indies.

Racker.—On the 7th inst., in Bombay, in his thirtieth year, Frederick C. T. Racker, beloved husband of Inez Racker (née Dicksee), and youngest son of the late E. T. Racker, J.P., of the Island of Barbados, British West Indies. (By cable.)

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL.
6642 CENTRAL.
Telegrams : CAMIB, LONDON.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

April 4th, 1918.

The Cocoa Prices Order.

IN the present issue we publish the terms of the new Cocoa Prices Orders, which have been issued under the Defence of the Realm Regulations. As was anticipated, they provide for the regulation of the prices, not only of raw, but also of manufactured cocoa—and to avoid confusion we adopt the spelling used by the Government. It was strongly urged by the representatives of the cocoa-producing colonies on the Food Controller's Advisory Committee that the surest means of ensuring stability of prices would be to admit colonial cocoa to the United Kingdom without restriction; but in view of the shipping position this course was found impracticable, and the Controller decided that prices must be fixed, and fixed they have been. As regards raw cocoa, maximum prices have been settled for the best grade of each variety which may, however, be modified from time to time as occasion requires. The prices for the present are 65/- per cwt. for British West Africa; 85/- per cwt. for Bahia, Cameroons, Congo; St. Thomé, Grenada and West India Islands not otherwise specified; 90/- for Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil and Surinam, and 100/- for Ceylon, Java and Samoa.

The differentiation between the various countries is based on the average of pre-war years, and appears on the whole to be equitable, though perhaps St. Lucia, which falls under "other West Indians," is put rather low. The price for West African, on

the other hand, seems liberal; but it is obvious that if it had been placed at a lower figure West Indian kinds would also have been levelled down, and it must be recognised that West Africa, owing to the enormous increase in production, will control the market to an even greater extent in the future than in the past. That these prices will cause disappointment in the West Indies goes without saying, for in reply to a recent enquiry from the Secretary of State as to what the figure should be, St. Lucia arrived at the conclusion that the f.o.b. price should be 80/-, which would be equivalent to about 93/- London landed terms, whilst Grenada held that it should be based on 96/- London landed terms, which was the price then prevailing in London. We must point out that at that time practically no West India cocoa was available and that 84/6 was the highest price paid at the last auction of any quantity held in London. Planters must, however, rest assured that the best possible fight was put up for them by the representatives of the cocoa-producing colonies, who sat on the Advisory Committee, and must glean comfort from the fact that far lower prices were at first, and from time to time during the protracted negotiations between the various interests, seriously suggested. The above figures are for the highest grades. In respect of cocoa not falling under that category, the precedent of sugar is followed, and a system of grading by Brokers' Committees is adopted. The principle would be an objectionable one in peace time; but no exception can be taken to it whilst we are engaged in a mighty struggle, which has, temporarily—as we must insist, for Government control must not be allowed to continue for a moment more than is absolutely necessary—dislocated the free marketing of commodities on the basis of supply and demand, which has been a notable feature of British trade. Moreover, the constitution of the Brokers' Committees, which are composed of men of admitted integrity whose *bona fides* will be beyond suspicion, is a guarantee that the interests of the planters and merchants will be adequately safeguarded.

Coming now to the manufactured article we find that the prices of cocoa-butter and cocoa-powder have been materially reduced, the highest wholesale prices being now 1/6 per lb. for the former and 2/8 per lb. for the latter, whilst the retail prices for

the same qualities are to be 2/- per lb. and 3/2 per lb. respectively. The reduction in price of cocoa-butter will undoubtedly have marked effect on the demand for that substance, which is already being widely used for cooking, and provided that the output can be increased this may eventually have a far-reaching effect on the entire situation.

It may be mentioned that in fixing two grades of cocoa-powder, A. and B., that the Ministry of Food, no doubt, had in view not only the supply to the public of a cheap and wholesome food, but also the protection of the various proprietary brands; which we understand contain a large proportion of the better grades of West Indian cocoa.

British Honduras Chamber of Commerce.

THE British Honduras Chamber of Commerce has at last become an established fact, and it is gratifying to learn from its founder that our continued advocacy of the formation of such a body, the need for which has been apparent for many years, has contributed towards bringing about this satisfactory result. Various attempts have been made in the past to induce the business men of the colony to co-operate for the common good; but all failed, and it has been left to the HON. GEORGE E. GRAHAM, a comparative new-comer to the colony, to achieve success in this connection. But it is also due to the support of the HON. S. CUTHBERT, CAPTAIN J. J. FRANCO, MR. P. STANLEY WOODS, MR. F. R. DRAGTEN, and the commercial community generally that the Chamber has been brought into existence. The inaugural meeting was held at MR. GRAHAM'S office, in Belize, on February 15th, and if one may judge from reports given in the local Press and in private letters, the proceedings were most successful. Some discussion took place regarding the question of Government support, and the meeting was, we venture to think, well advised in deciding not to seek a grant, the view of the Chairman, which was supported by MR. CUTHBERT, being that, as on future occasions, differences of opinion might arise between the Chamber and the Government, it would be best for the newly-formed organisation to retain its complete independence. At the same time we may be certain that the establishment of the Chamber will be warmly welcomed by the local Government, and by none more emphatically than by the HON. W. HART BENNETT, C.M.G., the Governor-elect of the colony. Later on we shall hope to hear that the Chamber has sought membership of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies. And it would be obviously to the advantage of British Honduras to be represented at the next Congress held by that organisation, especially as such matters as steamer and communication in respect of which the colony lags sadly behind, are sure to be discussed.

That the new Chamber has ample scope for useful work will be recognised by all acquainted with the conditions in British Honduras, which is at present almost *terra incognita* to the capitalist, and we shall, we know, be voicing the wishes of our readers, when we express the hope that it may have a long and prosperous career.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"HARBOUR Improvements at Georgetown, British Guiana," is the subject of an illustrated article published in the March issue of *Dun's International Review*, New York.

IN the report of the War Cabinet for 1917, which has been issued as a Parliamentary White Paper [Cd. 9005], it is stated that sixteen thousand men from the West Indies have been sent across the Atlantic.

THE Hon. Mrs. Gideon Murray, who it will be recalled, raised a special V.A. Detachment in St. Lucia, would be pleased to enrol girls connected with the West Indies, who are marooned in England owing to transport difficulties, in the V.A.D. Her address is 222, West Regent Street, Glasgow.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT O. ROCHS, R.N.A.S., who is the son of Mr. O. Rochs, formerly of the Direct West India Cable Company, and now of the Marconi Co., is recovering from a very serious accident, which he met with whilst flying near the coast, the pilot flying the machine crashing. He was rendered unconscious and was badly knocked about. He is, however, making a good recovery, and is a surprise to all his doctors.

THE whipping of male offenders is provided for in the new Act to suppress praedial larceny, announced by the Acting-Governor at the opening of the Federal Council in Antigua on February 19th. The Act, said His Excellency, provides that, for the duration of the War, the penalties for praedial larceny shall be largely increased and that male offenders may be whipped instead of or in addition to any other punishment.

A FURTHER Trinidad Merchants' Contingent arrived in London on March 25th, and is being looked after by the West India Committee. The names of its members are Mr. A. D. Macgillivray, Mr. L. Hamel Smith, Mr. R. B. D. Campbell, Mr. A. C. Eckstein, Mr. F. Maingot, Mr. A. F. Doyle, Mr. D. D. Dunsire, Mr. V. O. Dacosta, Mr. F. Anderson, Mr. A. H. De Silva, Mr. P. J. Stone, and Mr. C. A. Wainwright. The last named has already joined the Royal Engineers.

MR. P. LECHMERE GUPPY arrived recently in England on a short visit. Now Sub-Receiver of Tobago, he was for some years associated with Mr. Kershaw in the Froghopper investigation in the neighbouring island. The work is now being continued by

Mr. C. B. Williams. This year the froghopper pest is very serious again, especially in the central parts of the island, and at present no suitable parasite, which Mr. Guppy regards as the principal solution of the trouble, has yet been found.

SIR JOHN ANDERSON, Governor of Ceylon, whose death at the age of sixty has just been announced from that island, was well known in West Indian circles. Although he never visited, or held office in, the Caribbean, he was frequently the guest of the West India Committee and West Indian Club at their banquets when Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (1911-1916). He would recount the enormous increase in the work of the Colonial Office which had been experienced during his career. In early days, he would relate, cricket was played not uncommonly in the passages there.

TRADE between Canada and the West Indies will, it is hoped, be encouraged by the allocation in the Canadian Commercial Museum of a section devoted to West Indian raw materials, that may be used in Canadian manufactures. Exhibits are being invited from Dominica and Dr. H. Alford Nicholls, as Chairman of the Permanent Exhibition Committee, announces that the Committee has undertaken to collect and send on samples. The exhibits which will be received are raw lime juice, concentrated lime juice, citrate of lime, otto of limes, essential oil of limes, pickled limes, cacao, bay oil, bay leaves, essential oil of orange (Seville), essential oil of orange (sweet), ginger, vanilla, nutmegs in shell, nutmegs clean, and mace.

THE creation of the Jamaica Imperial Association constitutes a landmark in the public life of the island, and we are glad to note that the record of its establishment has been preserved in permanent form. An interesting reference to the West India Committee is contained in a paper read at the inaugural meeting of the Association by Mr. Frank Cundall. Noting briefly the history of existing societies formed to promote Imperial objects, Mr. Cundall said: "In London the West India Committee only claims that it was founded about 1760, but there is evidence that West India merchants combined for the purpose of pressing West India views long before that date, and the Committee has not infrequently acted the part of agent since the days when agents ceased to exist."

THE Carnival held in Trinidad would seem to jeopardise the good order of the colony. The 1918 festival, held in February, was the subject of a Proclamation by the Governor, so restrictive in its terms as to suggest that in the absence of some such mandate the Carnival would degenerate into an indecent orgy. Meanwhile, we may note that it was intimated:

"Costumes such as those known as 'Diamètre' and 'Pisse-en-lit' will not be permitted nor will men be allowed to walk about the public streets dressed as women or women as men. Persons desiring to appear in Pierrot cos-

tume must first obtain the permission of the Inspector-General of Constabulary. . . .

"In particular, the procession known as the *Cannes Brûlées* will not under any circumstances be allowed to take place."

MR. F. A. COLLYMORE recently forwarded, through the West India Committee, a further sum of £500, collected by him from the people of Barbados for the upkeep of their motor ambulances. In acknowledging this contribution, which brings the sum collected by Mr. Collymore, who, for his work in this connection, has been awarded the M.B.E., Sir Ernest Clarke, Director of the Motor Ambulance Department, wrote:—

"Will you please convey to Mr. Collymore, and through him to the kind subscribers generally, our most grateful thanks for and appreciation of their continued kind and valuable help. Now, when it is so difficult to procure new chassis suitable for ambulance work, it is of the utmost importance that the existing cars should be kept in first-rate order, and this can only be done by having money available for the purchase of a liberal supply of spare parts. We are more than grateful to those who have presented us with ambulances, and who, like the people of Barbados, continue to supply us regularly with maintenance and upkeep money for them."

As we go to press we learn that £500 more has just been received from the People of Barbados for the ambulances.

As we go to press we learn that £500 more has the 18th instant by the Lyceum Club, at which Mrs. Frances Parker, sister of the late Lord Kitchener, presided, the West Indies figured prominently. Sir Charles Lucas, in a way that no one else could have done, proposed the toast of the evening, and in a speech, which both delighted and instructed the company, made several complimentary allusions to the West Indies and the splendid part they had taken in the war. Sir Edward Merewether, Governor of the Leeward Islands, who was formerly connected with the Straits Settlements, Malta, and Sierra Leone, responded, and Major-General Grey made a most entertaining speech about West Africa. The toast, "The Women of the Empire," was proposed by Captain Vincent, who coupled with it the names of Mrs. G. McLaren Brown, of Canada, and Miss Mary Moseley, of the Bahamas, who, he announced, had just been appointed by His Majesty a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Miss Moseley, in acknowledging the kind manner in which her appointment to the Order had been received by her fellow members of the Club, took the opportunity of expressing her deep appreciation and gratitude to the Club for the unceasing hospitality which it had extended to both officers and men from the West Indies and for the invaluable assistance she had received from the members in visiting the wounded in hospital, and in many other ways in connection with her work. Among those present at the dinner connected with the West Indies were Mrs. Yorke Trotter, Mrs. Mann Stuart, Miss Alice James, Mr. Donald McDonald, of Antigua, Second Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Second Lieut. R. E. Quesnel, and Second Lieut. P. J. Knox, of Trinidad, and Second Lieut. C. Forte Cave, of Barbados.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Great Battle in the West.

As was expected, the enemy having determined on a big offensive in the West, has struck his principal blow at the British. In the first place, as a German has put it, "the Fatherland has many opponents, but one enemy—England": in the second place our armies guard the coast; the mining area of France still left to her; and the roads to her Capital. In view of these considerations the Germans have massed against the British at least half of his troops on this front, and the Allies have always held this battle line, unequally divided, the British part being short as compared with the French part. In view of these considerations, too, a new German offensive against the *Entente* forces was bound to be launched in Artois or Flanders. After preparations on a vast scale; long, patient, and systematic training of his armies, heavily reinforced from the East, and a prodigious concentration of metal, he chose a fifty-mile front between Arras on the Scarpe, and La Fere on the Oise. The right flank of the British was, therefore, at their junction with the French, the enemy calculating on its being a weak spot of which he could take advantage. He was to roll back the French between Tergnier and Noyon, when it would have been a comparatively easy matter to envelop the British centre and to disorganise all the troops defending the way to England and the harbours of the Channel.

Ten Days' Progress.

But, as usual, the German High Command failed to take full account of the psychological factors in the situation, particularly the steadfastness, courage and endurance of British troops, who are, however, regarded as so formidable that the numbers hurled at them are never in a proportion of less than three to one, and are sometimes in a proportion of seven to one. The New Armies are being tested by an ordeal as fiery as the ordeal from which the Old Army emerged so triumphantly, and are covering themselves with imperishable glory in the same way. The enemy, after a bombardment of unprecedented severity advanced in dense masses—like ants, one observer relates—as if there was never to be any end of them, delivering attacks, dervish-fashion, or as some describe it, arrow-head fashion. Against the tremendous momentum of this huge force the British were compelled to retire, but in such good order as to inflict enormous losses on the enemy. Moreover, by tenaciously holding important points longer than he anticipated, they delayed his advance so as to upset his time-table, a German offensive on a great scale depending for its success on its momentum and rapidity. Hence Bapaume and Peronne, which should have been taken in one day, took five, and, according to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, the British were driven out of the first only when to three army corps the troops of two other generals were added.

The Line Held.

But though the enemy has overrun the battlefields of the Somme, Scarpe and Ancre, of immortal

memory, and at one point reached a point twelve miles from Amiens, the Allied line, by the skill of our Generals, the leadership of our officers, and the superhuman efforts of our men, still holds. In vain the Germans poured fresh masses of troops to replace their losses and to rest tired formations. The spirit of the British, fighting day and night ceaselessly, rose to every demand made upon them until the French were able to intervene, by taking over part of the line in the south and reserves of men and material could be hurried to the front from this country. Already the enemy's offensive is slackening and he has not succeeded in dividing the Allied armies. Moreover, he is operating in a region which he himself has methodically desolated, and not one adapted to form a powerful system of positions, as he has learned to his cost in the past, whereas the Franco-British Armies occupy the line, which he once believed to be impregnable. Then both British and French are delivering strong counter-attacks. At Noyon, for instance, they drove back the enemy for six miles, and Moreuil, in front of Amiens, has been retaken by the British. The people of these Islands, of the Empire, and of the world is watching with breathless interest the titanic struggle which is being waged in Artois, the while freedom and civilisation themselves are hanging in the balance.

In the Middle East.

Heavy rains are falling both in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Nevertheless, the British, after taking the heights along the Jericho-Nablus road crossed the Jordan, in the course of which they met with strong resistance. Continuing their advance they occupied Es Salt and the mounted troops, which have climbed to a height of 4,000 feet above the river, are approaching Amman on the Hedjaz Railway, the cutting of which will be a severe blow to the Turks, by severing their connection with the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina and a source of supplies.

North-west of Hit, on the Euphrates, the British, by wide out-flanking movements, combined with a well-directed frontal attack on the enemy's main position, have destroyed or captured virtually the entire Turkish forces in this area, and placed themselves astride the road to Aleppo, the objective of both the Mesopotamian and Palestine Armies. They have captured 5,000 prisoners and covered 134 miles in a week.

In the Air.

In the great conflict which began in France a fortnight ago, British aviators are playing a most important part. The enemy has tried to regain the position he lost in the air during the winter, but Allied supremacy was too well established to permit of his efforts being crowned with success. Nevertheless, his aviators are flying low and proving themselves no mean adversaries, especially those who find a place in the "circus" formations, which consist of "star" airmen, who carry out operations under a chosen leader. Allied aviators on their side are ubiquitous, raining down bombs on the dense masses of the enemy, which make excellent targets, and on their transports in the rear.

As for distant raids, they are frequent and deadly.

Mannheim, a big military and manufacturing centre on the Rhine, which suffered twice three months ago, has been attacked again. On March 23rd over a ton of bombs was dropped on the city and, of the enemy formations which engaged our airmen, two machines were brought down out of control. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft gunfire all our machines returned in safety. The following night, in another successful raid, the soda factory, railway, and docks were bombed and subjected to machine-gun fire, causing immense conflagrations. During a fierce fight which ensued, two out of the enemy's 32 aeroplanes engaged were destroyed and five driven down out of control. Two British machines were missing when the formations returned. Metz, Thionville, and other military centres are also attacked. But in the most important of their recent raids in German territory our aviators have been drawing nearer to Cologne, which was attacked on March 25th for the first time. Not only did they cause considerable loss of life and material damage, but great alarm. For if they could wreck the bridge over the Rhine at this place it would cripple the enemy badly.

On the French Front in the week ending March 23rd, 106 enemy machines were damaged and 55 put out of action. British machines missing totalled 33.

The War at Sea.

Last week's return of shipping losses through submarine depredations was on the ascending curve, 16 vessels of 1,600 tons and over having been sunk, and 12 under 1,600 tons. The figures for this week are, for the first, 6; for the second, 7.

At last the Government are taking one of their many belated steps. A return is to be given every three months, showing not only the number of ships lost but their aggregate tonnage. A beginning has been made in an Admiralty memorandum issued by the War Cabinet last week. From it one learns that the United Kingdom, since the outbreak of war, has lost through enemy and marine risks, 7,079,192 tons, the world as a whole, 11,827,572 tons. But shipowners say that these figures should be amplified so as to show the relative value of the ships lost by dividing them into classes. That realities are not yet fully faced in the War Cabinet is clear from this memorandum, since new construction and captured enemy tonnage are included in the same table. As the amount of interned German shipping is a diminishing quantity and the output of British new construction has on the average only reached about half the total promised by optimistic British statesmen, the situation is extremely serious.

Lord Pirrie, an expert of extraordinary practical ability, has been appointed Controller for the building of merchantmen. But unless the War Cabinet formulates a clear policy as to new construction, divides it into two classes, and gives Lord Pirrie a free hand within certain well-defined lines, it is hard to see how he can succeed in his new post, officialism crippling the industry with red-tape and arbitrary interference.

Naval Successes.

Evidently the Germans have tried to combine sea operations with their operations on land. A force of three British and three French destroyers, on

March 21st, sighted and engaged an enemy detachment of torpedo vessels, two of which were sunk. Later the same Franco-British division fought a second action with five big destroyers, which had been bombarding Dunkirk. One of these was lost, and probably two others, whereas the losses of the Allies were confined to some casualties and slight damage to one ship. It is believed that the Zeebrugge flotilla, which has thus suffered so badly, was the one which has several times tried to break the barrier at the Straits, and, on the last occasion but one sunk eight trawlers with a loss of sixty lives. It was, too, the Zeebrugge flotilla that was dealt such a severe blow by the *Swift* and the *Broke* last year.

(To be continued.)

THE NEW COCOA PRICES ORDERS.

The Cocoa Prices Orders foreshadowed in the CIRCULAR for some weeks past, were published by the Ministry of Food on March 20th. As anticipated, they affect not only raw cacao but also cocoa-powder and cocoa-butter. In publishing the official memorandum on the subject below, we adopt the designation of "cocoa" throughout instead of differentiating between the raw product as "cacao" and the manufactured article as "cocoa," which is more strictly correct.

The Raw Cocoa (Prices) Order 1917 made by the Food Controller provides that after April 2nd, 1918, no raw cocoa may be sold at a price exceeding the "fair value" to be ascertained in accordance with the provisions of the Order, and that all contracts for the sale of raw cocoa must be in writing in a form approved by the Food Controller.

For the purpose of ascertaining the "fair value" of raw cocoa the Food Controller has appointed two committees which will sit in London and Liverpool respectively, and will grade the raw cocoa in accordance with general directions issued by the Food Controller. The grading committees will issue a grading certificate specifying the fair value for every parcel of cocoa which forms the subject matter of a contract of sale. The grading certificate or a copy must be attached to the contract of sale before delivery of the raw cocoa, and the price named therein will constitute the maximum price at which the raw cocoa may be sold. Where raw cocoa is outside the United Kingdom at the date of sale it must be graded on arrival, and where raw cocoa is in the United Kingdom at the date of sale, it must be graded before sale. The Food Controller has approved the ordinary forms of contract for the sale of raw cocoa, which are in use in London and Liverpool, respectively.

All persons dealing in raw cocoa must keep such records of their transactions as are necessary, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of the Order are being complied with.

The Order does not apply to dealings in raw cocoa where the cocoa is not intended for consignment to the United Kingdom, or to purchases made by a manufacturer of cocoa from a person residing outside the United Kingdom.

THE PRICES FIXED.

The Food Controller has issued to the brokers' committees the following list of prices which will remain in force until further notice:—

British West Africa, 65/- per cwt. Bahia, Cameroons, Congo, Grenada and other West Indians and St. Thomé 85/-, Demerara, Guayaquil, Trinidad and Surinam 90/-, Ceylon, Java and Samoa 100/-.

These prices are applicable to the finest quality of the different varieties of raw cocoa, and are fixed on London landed terms and Liverpool ex quay terms.

The grading committees will grade other qualities downwards in the customary way.

Any person desiring to sell or buy raw cocoa should

make application to the Chairman, Cocoa Grading Committee at either of the following addresses: 30, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.3, or c/o the Liverpool General Brokers' Association, Limited, 13, Rumpf Street, Liverpool, where copies of the approved forms of contract and grading certificates may be obtained.

COCOA POWDER ORDER.

The Cocoa Powder Order 1918 made by the Food Controller regulates the manufacture and sale of cocoa powder.

Part I. of the Order provides that after April 8th, 1918, no cocoa powder may be manufactured which contains more than 5 per cent. cocoa bean shell, and which contains not less than 22½ per cent. and not more than 30 per cent. of cocoa butter. The cocoa powder is to be invoiced as "Grade B" cocoa powder and must be packed in barrels or casks, unless at the buyer's request the manufacturer packs the cocoa powder in cartons which must bear the words "Grade B Cocoa Powder."

Clause 3 provides that a manufacturer may sell as "Grade A cocoa powder" any powder which contains not more than 2 per cent. of cocoa bean shell provided that not more than 60 per cent. of the cocoa powder sold by him in any month may be so sold, and also provided that he sells the powder packed in cartons, or to a person authorised by the Food Controller to purchase "Grade A cocoa powder" not packed in cartons. Any person other than a manufacturer of cocoa powder who in 1917 purchased from a manufacturer cocoa powder and sold it packed in cartons under a proprietary name or trade mark and who desires to continue this practice, should apply for a licence to purchase "Grade A cocoa powder" not packed in cartons. Applications must be made to the Secretary, Ministry of Food, Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W. 1, marked "Cocoa Section," and must reach the Ministry of Food not later than April 2nd, 1918.

The Order provides that all manufacturers shall make a return within seven days of the end of each month to the Ministry of Food, showing as respects the preceding month:—

- (a) Total amount of cocoa powder manufactured, and
- (b) The total amount of powder sold as Grade B and Grade A, respectively.

Part II. of the Order fixes the wholesale and retail prices of cocoa powder. The wholesale and retail prices of "Grade B" powder is 196/- per cwt., and is fixed on the basis that cocoa powder is to be delivered at the seller's expense to the buyer's railway station; the powder is to be packed free of charge in non-returnable barrels or cases, and payment is to be made within one month of the date of contract, subject to a discount of 14 per cent. If the powder is sold on other than the foregoing terms, a corresponding adjustment is to be made in the price. If the seller at the buyer's request sells the powder in cartons he may charge an extra 37/4 per cwt. The maximum wholesale price of "Grade A" powder is 2/8 per lb., and is fixed on the same basis as in the case of "Grade B" powder except that the powder must always be sold packed in cartons without additional charges.

The maximum retail price of "Grade B" powder is 2/2 per lb., or if sold packed in cartons 2/6 per lb. The maximum retail price of "Grade A" cocoa powder is 3/2 per lb. Where cocoa powder is sold by retail in cartons, a label must be attached stating that the powder is "Grade A" or "Grade B" as the case may be, and as regards the latter that the price must not exceed 2/6 per lb. "Grade A" powder may not be retailed otherwise than in cartons. On and after April 22nd, 1918, no cocoa powder other than "Grade A" powder may be sold by retail at prices exceeding those applicable to "Grade B" powder.

If the buyer requires the retailer to deliver cocoa powder to his premises, he may make an additional charge not exceeding 4d. per lb., or any sum actually paid by him for carriage, but no charge may be made for giving credit or for packages other than the special allowances made for cartons in the case of "Grade B" powder.

Part III. of the Order provides that no cocoa shell or any mixture (other than chocolate) which contains more than

5 per cent. cocoa shell may be sold by retail on and after April 8th, at a price exceeding 6d. per lb.

COCOA BUTTER PRICES LOWERED.

The Cocoa Butter (Provisional Prices) Order 1918 made by the Food Controller fixes for cocoa butter a maximum wholesale price of 1/6 per lb. when the sale is by the manufacturer, of 1/7 per lb. when the sale is by a person other than the manufacturer, and a maximum retail price of 2/- per lb. The wholesale prices come into force on March 25th and the retail price on April 2nd.

The wholesale prices are fixed on the basis that the cocoa butter is to be delivered at the seller's expense to the buyer's railway station; that it is to be packed free of charge in non-returnable bales provided by the seller, and that payment is to be made within one month, subject to a discount of 2½ per cent. If the cocoa butter is sold on other than the foregoing terms, a corresponding adjustment in the price is to be made. If the buyer requires the retailer to deliver cocoa butter to his premises the latter may make an additional charge not exceeding ¼d. per lb., or any sum actually paid by him for carriage, but no charge may be made for packing or packages or for giving credit.

The Order provides that all contracts for the sale of cocoa butter at prices exceeding the maximum price shall be avoided so far as concerned cocoa butter which has not been delivered on March 25th, and that no person shall enter into any fictitious or unreasonable transaction on the sale of cocoa butter.

The Cocoa Grading Committee comprises:—Mr. Arthur H. Dix (E. D. & F. Man), Chairman; Mr. Ernest Woodhouse (C. M. & C. Woodhouse) Deputy-Chairman; Mr. L. A. Lewis (Lewis & Noyes); Mr. A. E. Cope (Wilson, Smithelt & Co.); Mr. Harold Carey (Carey & Brown), and Mr. A. B. Blencowe (Paines & Reid).

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

V.—THE WORLD'S SUGAR.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of these articles appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the articles shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and a special feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

In the sugar year 1913-14, the world's production of sugar was as follows:—

| NORTH AMERICA. | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | CANE SUGAR. | Tons |
| Louisiana | ... | 261,000 |
| Texas | ... | 7,000 |
| BET SUGAR. | | |
| Western States of United States | ... | 655,000 |
| Canada | ... | 10,000 |
| Total | ... | 933,000 |
| CENTRAL AMERICA. | | |
| | CANE SUGAR | Tons |
| Mexico, Guatemala, etc. | ... | 152,000 |
| BET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 152,000 |
| SOUTH AMERICA. | | |
| | CANE SUGAR. | Tons |
| British Guiana | ... | 102,000 |
| Surinam | ... | 14,000 |

| SOUTH AMERICA—continued. | | Tons. |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|
| Venezuela | ... | 3,000 |
| Peru | ... | 177,000 |
| Brazil | ... | 205,000 |
| Argentina | ... | 280,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 781,000 |

WEST INDIA ISLANDS.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|-------------------|-----|-----------|
| Cuba | ... | 2,598,000 |
| San Domingo | ... | 106,000 |
| Porto Rico | ... | 325,000 |
| British Islands | ... | 120,000 |
| French Islands | ... | 78,000 |
| Danish Islands | ... | 6,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 3,233,000 |

EUROPE.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|---------------|-----|-----------|
| Spain | ... | 13,000 |
| BEET SUGAR. | | |
| Germany | ... | 2,720,000 |
| Austria | ... | 1,703,000 |
| Russia | ... | 1,688,000 |
| France | ... | 805,000 |
| Italy | ... | 328,000 |
| Belgium | ... | 231,000 |
| Holland | ... | 230,000 |
| Spain | ... | 152,000 |
| Denmark | ... | 142,000 |
| Sweden | ... | 134,000 |
| Balkan States | ... | 40,000 |
| Total | ... | 8,186,000 |

THE EAST.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|-------------------|-----|-----------|
| British India | ... | 2,291,000 |
| Java | ... | 1,345,000 |
| Formosa and Japan | ... | 204,000 |
| Philippines | ... | 225,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 4,065,000 |

AUSTRALASIA.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|-------------------|-----|---------|
| Australasia | ... | 255,000 |
| Fiji | ... | 100,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 355,000 |

AFRICA.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|-------------------|-----|---------|
| Egypt | ... | 69,000 |
| Mauritius | ... | 250,000 |
| Reunion | ... | 36,000 |
| Natal | ... | 86,000 |
| Mozambique | ... | 34,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 475,000 |

POLYNESIA.

| CANE SUGAR. | | Tons |
|-------------------|-----|---------|
| Hawaii | ... | 551,000 |
| BEET SUGAR (none) | | |
| Total | ... | 551,000 |

TOTAL WORLD'S PRODUCTION.

| | | Tons |
|--------------------|-----|------------|
| North America | ... | 933,000 |
| South America | ... | 781,000 |
| Central America | ... | 152,000 |
| West India Islands | ... | 3,233,000 |
| Europe | ... | 8,186,000 |
| The East | ... | 4,065,000 |
| Australasia | ... | 355,000 |
| Polynesia | ... | 551,000 |
| Africa | ... | 475,000 |
| Total | ... | 18,731,000 |

Of the world's sugar production, therefore, before the War, more than half, to be exact, 52.9 per cent., was from the sugar-cane, the figures being 8,848,000 tons of beet sugar and 9,883,000 tons of cane sugar.

The distribution of these sugars was as follows :

Of the North American sugar, the Louisiana and Texas crops of cane sugar and the beet sugar of the Western of the United States were consumed in the latter country. The Canadian sugar, all beet, was consumed in Canada.

The South American sugars had various destinations. That of British Guiana went for the most part to the Canadian refiners, admitted into Canada under the preferential tariff accorded in Canada to British sugars, the yellow grocery sugar, known as Demerara, being sent to its only market, that of Great Britain. The Surinam sugar found its way in part to the American refiners and the rest to Great Britain in the form of Demerara sugar. The Peruvian sugar exports were distributed to the United States, to the United Kingdom, and to countries on the Pacific Slope of South America. Venezuela consumed her own crop.

In the case of Brazil and the Argentine, the greater portion of the crops were consumed in the countries of origin, the balance in each instance going almost entirely to the United Kingdom. The Central American sugar was consumed mostly in Central America, some Mexican and Guatemalan sugar finding its way to the United Kingdom.

As regards the West India Islands, nearly four-fifths, 2,000,000 tons, in fact, of the Cuban crop went to the United States, being attracted there, not only by the force of geographical position, but also by the preferential treatment, accorded to it in the United States Customs tariff. The balance went in great part to Great Britain and Canada. Porto Rico being a territory of the United States, its sugar went to that country, enjoying the benefit of the high protection there. The San Domingo sugar found its principal market in the United States and Canada. The sugar of the French Islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe went to France, and that of the then Danish island of St. Croix to the United States and Great Britain.

Coming to Europe, out of the 2,720,000 tons produced in Germany, over 1,000,000 tons were exported. Upwards of 90 per cent. of this was dumped in the adjacent open market of the United Kingdom, the balance supplying other small European wants. Austria also exported nearly 1,000,000 tons, of which the United Kingdom received one-third, Mediterranean countries and the Far East taking the rest, India alone absorbing nearly

100,000 tons. The unexported sugar was, of course, consumed in Germany and Austria. Russia only exported 80,000 tons or so of her crop, overland to Eastern countries in touch with her. Of the French output, about 200,000 tons were exported to Algiers and other Mediterranean ports. Belgium consumed about one-third of her crop, the balance going mainly to the United Kingdom. Holland exported about 180,000 tons to the United Kingdom. Italy consumed all but 50,000 tons of her crop, which was exported to various ports in the Mediterranean. The other European producers consumed their own crops, in many instances importing sugar in addition.

In the Far East, not only was the great crop of British India consumed in that country, but three-quarters of a million tons imported in addition. The Java exports were cosmopolitan. From that country sugar went to India, China, the United States, and Canada, in fact, filled up sugar gaps throughout the world.

The Formosa and Japan crop was consumed entirely in Japan, while the Philippine sugar, attracted by the open market for it, went to the United States to some extent, and to various Eastern ports.

As regards Australasia, Australia consumed its own sugar, while the Fiji sugar mainly went to augment the internal sugar supplies of Australia and South Africa.

Hawaii, being territory of the United States, its sugar naturally went there, enjoying the benefit of the high protection tariff of the country.

In Africa, Egypt, once an exporting country, consumed its own crop, while the sugar from the British island of Mauritius went in great part to India, Great Britain and various Eastern countries also receiving a certain amount. The sugar of the French Island of Reunion went to France, the Natal output was consumed in South Africa, and the sugar from the Portuguese Colony of the Mozambique was shipped to the Transvaal, and to Portugal, in both countries receiving special customs privileges.

Such was the position of the world's sugar when War broke out, and the points of particular interest in connection with it are:—

1st.—That Europe, especially Germany and Austria, had been able, by a system of direct and indirect bounties—the latter not entirely scotched by the Brussels Convention—not only to supply its own wants as regards sugar, but also to export considerably over two million tons, taking over the markets of Great Britain and Ireland, to the extent of eighty per cent. of the requirements of those countries.

2nd.—That the United States, by a system of high protection, was rapidly progressing in the direction of building up its domestic and territorial sugar supply, and had fully safeguarded the balance of its consumption while this operation is going on, by giving Cuban sugar substantial preferential treatment in its Customs tariff.

3rd.—That British India, in spite of its large population and power of selection of suitable localities for sugar-cane cultivation, was importing 25 per cent. of its requirements, the protection to sugar in

that country being at the time only 5 per cent *ad valorem*, say, 10/- per ton on the then value of sugar.

4th.—That outside British India, the whole production of sugar in the British Empire, with its many conditions suitable for sugar production, only amounted to 893,000 tons.

The war in the heart of the beet sugar production of Europe has naturally affected the production and distribution of the world's sugar materially. As already mentioned, the 1913-14 production of cane sugar was 52.9 per cent. on a total production of 18,774,000 tons. The world's crop of sugar in 1917 was 16,560,000 tons, of which no less than 10,685,000 tons were cane sugar and 6,875,000 tons beet sugar. The cane sugar has, therefore, risen to 64.5 per cent. of the whole.

As regards the Continental beet, the belligerent countries have suffered most. The crop of Germany has been reduced to 1,600,000 tons from 2,720,000 tons; that of Austria-Hungary to 930,000 tons from 1,703,000 tons; of Russia to 1,350,000 tons from 1,585,000 tons, and of France to 200,000 tons from 805,000 tons.

On the other hand, the great extension of the United States domestic territorial and preferential sugar from 4,532,000 tons to 5,376,000 tons is as much the result of the United States fiscal policy towards sugars, as of the War. No doubt, however, the balance of the increased cane sugar supply may be directly attributed to the stimulus of the War, and the consequent crippling of the Continental beet production.

The shortage of the Continental beet crop with the substitution of imports for the 2,000,000 tons of pre-war exports, has naturally altered considerably the lines of distribution of the world's sugar. Sugar has come from the East and West in far greater quantities to Europe. Notably, the Java and Mauritius crops have come largely to Great Britain, while Cuba, Peru, and the Philippines have been drawn upon by Europe, as never before, for sugar supplies. Russia has imported sugar from Formosa and Japan, and the products of United States refiners have even found their way to Switzerland. Sugar from British Colonies has been imported into France.

The growing consumption of sugar was before the War noticeable in almost every country in the world where sugar was readily obtainable, although it was a far cry from the 129 and 130 lbs. per caput of Australia and New Zealand respectively to 11 lbs. of Italy. In 1913-14 of other countries, the United States had reached 89 lbs. per head of population; Great Britain 93 lbs.; Denmark 95 lbs.; Germany 45 lbs.; Holland 50 lbs.; Belgium 36 lbs.; France 44 lbs.; Switzerland 75 lbs.; and Spain 14 lbs. It is worthy of note that Great Britain had attained her high consumption, on sugar artificially cheapened by the Continental protective system, while the consumption of the United States and Australia had grown with sugar of which the price to the consumers had to be raised by the heavy protective system of those countries. This shows how little values affect the sale of sugar. In January, 1913, the wholesale internal value of refiners granulated in the United States was 2½d. per lb., in

Great Britain 1½d. per lb. The higher price in the United States had not prevented the consumer consuming practically the same amount per annum as in Great Britain. The experience in Great Britain since the War began shows that, with sugar, a considerable increase in price would not have checked the demand had supplies been to hand.

The consideration of the economics of the world's sugar, as it was before the War, brings out two solid facts. The one is that a protective policy towards her own, and preferential policy towards Cuban, sugar had enabled the United States to safeguard her sugar supply. The other is that Austria and Germany, by an indiscriminate use of bounties and cartels did so develop their sugar industries as not only fully to supply their own wants, but also to dominate the unprotected markets of the world by the dumping of their surplus production, a condition of things which the Brussels Convention referred to in the first instalment of this article failed to rectify completely.

The future position of the world's sugar as regards production and distribution depends entirely upon the position of the British Empire in the direction of fostering sugar production, and upon the future attitude of the United States towards its protective policy in that direction.

The re-development of the exporting Continental beet industry is largely dependent upon these two factors.

(To be continued.)

THE IMMATURE SPIRITS ACT.

The following letter has been sent by the West India Committee to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the position of rum under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act:—

25th March, 1918.

Sir,—We wrote you on May 10th, 1917, requesting that the concession to rum under Section C, Clause 2, of the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act, which was continued by Order in Council dated August 18th, 1916, pursuant to powers taken in the Finance (No. 2) Act of that year, might be further extended.

2.—By Order in Council dated June 28th, 1917, it was accordingly provided that rum might be delivered for home consumption after eighteen months' warehousing.

3.—This concession will expire on May 19th, and as there is insufficient rum over three years of age in this country to meet requirements we beg respectfully to request that it may be further extended.

4.—In support of our request we beg to point out that the recent commandeering by the Admiralty of large quantities of rum including many parcels of two year old spirit and the continued prohibition of imports of rum make full compliance with terms of the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act impracticable if the trade is to be continued.

Trusting that in the circumstances you will accede to our request.

We have the honour, etc.,

R. RUTHERFORD,
Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

Further correspondence on this subject is given below:—

The West India Committee to the Food Production Dept.

March 14th, 1918.

Laurence Weaver, Esq., C.B.E.,
Food Production Department,
Board of Agriculture,
72, Victoria Street, S.W.

Dear Sir,—

I beg to thank you for your letter of the 4th inst. on the subject of supplies of Sulphate of Ammonia for the British West Indies and British Guiana.*

2. My Committee much appreciate your offer to consider any suggestions which they may make as to the distribution of any quantity of that fertiliser which may be available for export to those Colonies.

3. Meanwhile they are taking steps to obtain the information which you require as to the requirements of the Colonies in this connection, and I beg to enclose a copy of a letter which they have addressed to the various Agricultural bodies in the West Indies on the subject.*

4. Pending the receipt of replies, which may be delayed owing to uncertainties of mail communication, we assume that you will be willing to accept the figures of the actual imports of Sulphate of Ammonia submitted to you at our interviews last year as the basis of the British West Indies' normal requirements, viz.: British Guiana 7,600 tons and the British West Indian Islands 3,600 tons.

5. This would obviate cabled reference to the Colonies concerned which as you will recollect led to a misunderstanding last year.

6. With reference to the third paragraph in your letter we should be glad if you could assist us in obtaining Nitrate of Soda from Chili. Several of our members have been endeavouring for some months to obtain permission from the Government for this, but without success. It is, moreover, to be feared that even if permission were granted it would be impossible to obtain vessels to convey the fertiliser to the Colonies.

7. We would wish to impress on you that for agricultural purposes in the West Indies it is of paramount importance that the Sulphate should be shipped at the earliest possible moment.

8. In conclusion I venture to suggest that it might be desirable to send a copy of this correspondence to the Colonial Office so that there may be no overlapping.

Yours obediently,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Food Production Dept to the West India Committee.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to say that the Department is prepared to accept the figures quoted by you of imports of Sulphate of Ammonia into British Guiana and the West Indies as representing the normal requirements of those Colonies.

A copy of the Department's letter of the 4th instant has already been sent to the Colonial Office, and it is proposed to send also copies of your letter now under reply and of the enclosure.

I am to add that representations have been made to the Nitrate of Soda Executive, but at present there is no prospect of the Executive being able to allow Nitrate for the West Indies. As soon, however, as a reply to the Department's letter has been received, it is proposed to address a further communication to the Executive.

Yours faithfully,

H. D. VIGOR,

For DIRECTOR OF SUPPLIES.

The Secretary,
The West India Committee.

* See the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of March 7th, No. 507, pp. 86 and 87.

OUR FINE COTTON SUPPLY.

The Empire Cotton Growing Committee, which was appointed last year by the Board of Trade, has issued a report on the Fine Cotton Supply in the immediate future, which will be read with interest in the British West Indies where the finest cotton in the world is produced.

In this report it is pointed out that the effect of the war upon the world's cotton supplies has been, if anything, more pronounced in the finer selections of the trade than in any other, and the tendency towards a restricted supply now threatens to become still more marked during the next year or two. The yield of the Egyptian crop has been falling almost steadily for some years past, and the Sea Island crop is threatened with very serious reduction.

In order that the position may be made clear, it will be found convenient to divide the world's cotton supply into five grades, namely:—

I.—Best Sea Island (certain islands of South Carolina and the West Indies).

II.—Sea Island and Best Egyptian (Florida, Georgia, West Indies, Egypt).

III.—Egyptian (Egypt and Sudan); Staple American (Mississippi Delta, etc., Nyasaland, Uganda, and East and South Africa); Peruvian (Peru).

IV.—American (U.S.A., Mexico, Brazil, Russia, West Africa, Levant, India, China and Corea).

V.—Indian (India, Russia and China).

The finest grade of all, the best Sea Island cotton, is a very small crop but of very high value. It comes only from (1) certain small islands off the coast of South Carolina, near the port of Charleston, and (2) from the West Indies. These types of cotton, which are known in the trade as real "Islands" cotton, amounted before the war to not more than 10,000 bales of 400 lb., and their value went as high as 40d. a lb. for what are known as "crop lots," which again formed only a small proportion of the total "Islands" crop.

The total Sea Island crop from South Carolina and the British West Indies (not all of which is real "Islands" cotton) has during the war shown a marked downward tendency. In 1916 the total was under 7,000 bales, against over 16,000 bales in 1913. As regards the South Carolina crop this is characteristic. The amount of the crop has always been very variable; it is delicate and very susceptible to weather. A hurricane may reduce the crop by 50 per cent. in a day. The speculative character of the yield has in recent years been offset by the very high price which it has commanded; but apparently even the price has not served to prevent the reduction of the crop since the war began. There are, unfortunately, no separate statistics of the area planted under this crop, as Sea Island forms less than one per cent. of the total crop of South Carolina.

The best West Indian Sea Island cotton, which equals the best Carolina "Islands," only represents about 20 per cent. of the West Indian crop. A further 50 per cent. is also of "Islands" quality, though not of the standard called "crop lots." The remainder is of about the same grade as Florida and Georgia Sea Islands, which come under Grade

II. The bulk of the crop from the islands other than British would probably also come under Grade II., except that from Hayti and San Domingo, which is of much lower quality, and is not included in the Sea Island crop at all.

The West Indian Crop.

The British West Indian crop has also suffered very serious diminution since the war began. Thus the acreage in Barbados, which in 1913 supplied one-sixth of the whole crop, was 3,970 acres in 1913, 2,985 in 1914, 2,323 in 1915, and 1,078 in 1916. The reduction has been largely due to the competition of sugar at high war prices, but also partly to climatic and other difficulties. The total West Indian crop in 1916 was only 3,500 bales, and though it is expected that the 1917 crop will be larger, there is no reason to hope for a return to the pre-war figures of 6,000 to 7,000 bales for some years to come. The future prospects of the crop depend largely on the relative prices of sugar and cotton, and, though it is said that the area under cotton could be considerably increased, it would be rash to count upon any material increase in the near future.

Grade II. comes mainly from two sources: (1) the Florida and Georgia Sea Island crops, and (2) the higher qualities of the Egyptian crop. The first approach in grade the real "Islands," and are grown in certain areas near to, but not on, the coast, from original Sea Island seed, which requires to be renewed practically every year. This crop shares to the full the speculative character of the real "Islands" cotton as regards the yield. For example, the yields in 1911 and 1916 were almost the largest on record, while the intervening four years averaged only about 60 per cent. of these two bumper crops. This extreme variation of the yield, coupled with the speculative character of the price, which also varies very markedly, has done much to render the crop unpopular among the planters. There has always been much shifting from the finer staple to the local short staple varieties, which, though lower in value, are much less troublesome to grow and less uncertain in their yield and price. For the year 1916-17 Florida and Georgia produced 110,000 bales (400 lbs.), while they are not expected to yield much more than 90,000 in 1917-18.

The Advance of the Boll Weevil.

But though the speculative nature of the fine cotton crops grown in Florida and Georgia influences their production, the most potent factor of all is the boll weevil. This pest has been steadily advancing of late years from the Gulf States towards the Atlantic. In 1913 it was predicted that it would take the boll weevil about five years longer to reach the Sea Island districts, and that, when once it had arrived, nothing would stop it short of the complete destruction of the crop. This belief was founded upon the history of the long staple districts in the Mississippi Delta, where the conditions were similar. The boll weevil does most of its damage rather late in the season, during the latter half of August and September. It attacks most readily the late maturing bolls which, in the case of long staple varieties, form a considerable

proportion of the crop, because these varieties were late maturing. The climatic conditions of the Mississippi area, namely, late and not very severe frost, with plenty of undergrowth to provide sheltered winter quarters for the boll weevil, are ideal for its propagation from season to season.

All the conditions favourable to the boll weevil and unfavourable to the cotton upon which it preys are reproduced in even more marked degree in the Sea Island districts. There is practically no frost at all during the cotton season, the whole country is rank with undergrowth, and Sea Island is probably the latest maturing of any cotton in America. There is therefore every reason to believe that the disastrous experience of the Mississippi country will be repeated in the Sea Island areas. As soon as the boll weevil began to approach the long staple districts the planters, without waiting for it to do the actual damage, and without making any serious attempt to resist its progress, dropped the long stapled varieties at once. They went on to shorter stapled but earlier maturing varieties, which, though less valuable, offered them a chance of maturing at least a substantial portion of their crops before the boll weevil could get in its disastrous work upon them.

Sea Islands' Crop Declining.

Since 1913, therefore, those who knew the conditions described above have been anxiously watching the advance of the boll weevil. In 1913 it had just touched the edge of the Sea Island district in Florida. In 1914 it penetrated into Georgia. In 1915 it did some damage there, though nothing that was serious; and in 1916 its attack became more noticeable. Last year little attention was paid to it at first, and the earliest reports of the crop (in July and August) were very rosy indeed, a record crop of 125,000 bales being predicted. During August, however, the reports began to make frequent reference to the evidence of damage by boll weevil in Southern Georgia, where a large proportion of the crop is grown, and it soon became apparent that the crop would be much less than was at first expected. In the *Textile World Journal* of 29th September the estimates of the crop were reduced from 125,000 to 85,000 bales, a fall of nearly one-third in three weeks, and the report wound up with the ominous forecast that "planters predict the destruction of the crop in 1918." While it may be hoped that the process will not be quite so rapid as this forecast indicates, it cannot be denied, says the Report, that such an event is quite possible.

There is some doubt how far, and how soon, the destruction by boll weevil will extend into the islands; but it would be rash to count upon even that more or less detached section of the crop being permanently saved. Unfortunately there is not sufficient detachment—some of the so-called "islands" are only separated from the mainland by a river and a bridge—so that it will require very strenuous measures to save any large portion of the islands crop. It must, therefore, be accepted as quite probable that the American supply of both the First and the Second Grades of fine cotton will be seriously reduced in 1918.

It may be argued that the reduction in fine American grown cotton will not seriously affect the British supplies of Sea Island cotton, because for some time past we have drawn very little Sea Island cotton from America. The Americans have, especially since the restrictions on the export of Egyptian cotton to them, been keeping practically the whole of the crop to themselves, and we have been dependent almost entirely on the West Indian crop. This is true, but the world's supply of any particular grade of cotton must be regarded as a whole. If the home supply of fine cotton be seriously reduced, Americans will be compelled to fall back upon Egyptian cotton to supplement the deficiency. They have always made use of these high-grade cottons for aeroplane cloth, motor car tyre fabrics, and other fine purposes, and these urgent requirements must be met at almost any cost. The latest world's estimates of fine cotton (Grade II.) for 1917-18 are: Florida and Georgia 90,000 bales (400 lb.), West Indies 5,000 bales (400 lb.), Egypt 400,000 bales (720 lb. net).

Alternative Sources of Supply.

It becomes necessary, therefore, to consider the possible alternative sources of supply of fine cotton. In America they are comparatively small. The development of long staple early maturing varieties for use in boll weevil country has certainly made considerable progress in the last ten years, but few of these varieties are beyond one and a quarter inch staple, so that they are of little use as a substitute for the one and three-quarter inch staple of Sea Island or the best Egyptian varieties. There is one exception to this statement. In the new irrigated districts of Arizona and California there have recently been brought under cultivation considerable and rapidly increasing areas of land which grow good long staple cotton, and in certain districts new types of Egyptian character have been introduced with some success. Reliable statistics are not available for recent years, but the crop of the present year has been variously stated as from 55,000 to 13,000 bales. Possibly the explanation of the discrepancy is that the former figure represents the total crop of long staple, while the latter represents the crop of the Egyptian varieties alone. In any case, it is evident that the total amount of the crop is not yet sufficient to replace the loss of the Florida and Georgia crops, even if its quality were sufficiently high to enable it to do so.

The one other quarter from which assistance might have been obtained was Egypt, and there, unfortunately, recent tendencies have all been in the wrong direction. The best Egyptian varieties—Jannovitch, Abbassi and the comparatively recent addition Sakellarides (known as Sakel)—are almost, though not quite, equal to all except the best Florida and Georgia Sea Islands, but the quantity of these varieties was until recently comparatively small. Unfortunately, also, the recent marked increase in the quantity of Sakel, which is by far the best when it is good, has consisted to some extent of grades of a lower quality, so that it is now extremely difficult to estimate how much of the Egyptian crop is in any sense comparable to the average run of Florida and Georgia Sea Island.

The total has been estimated at 400,000 bales (of about 720 lb. net), but it must be clearly understood that this is only an estimate. The error, however, has been made on the side of making the crop larger than it should be rather than the reverse, so as not to paint the situation with too dark a brush. The estimate has been based upon the assumption that two-thirds of the Sakel crop is of Grade II. quality.

TRINIDAD'S FOOD SUPPLY.

Trinidad, owing to her nearness to the mainland, is clearly in better condition than other West Indian islands in respect of food supply. Mr. Edgar Tripp writes that the removal of two of the Canadian steamers will, no doubt, in time make a serious difference in the supply of flour, etc., from the North, but up to the present there has been no shortage, and the market is well stocked. The worst that can happen is that bread substitutes may have to be used, and more locally grown provisions consumed. Considerable quantities are already planted out, and all classes are being constantly exhorted to utilise every spare plot for growing more. Trinidad could easily be self-supporting, but the natives have found that it pays them better to cultivate cacao and cane, and buy imported vegetables than to cultivate the latter themselves. Thanks to the proximity of the mainland, where, owing to a few years' freedom from revolution, cattle are literally overrunning the country, there is no fear of a cessation of a cheap meat supply (maximum price now permitted for live weight, 6d. per lb.), and from the same source numberless small craft constantly arrive bringing thousands of plantains and a large quantity of Indian corn—so large, that of late we have actually been transshipping it for sale in New York. Of course, everything is much dearer than before the war, but all things considered our present condition and prospects for the near future, at any rate, are such that we should be, and I think we are as a rule, very thankful for. Potatoes, for instance, of the scarcity of which we hear so much elsewhere, are still fairly cheap and are certainly plentiful and good, and as for poultry, eggs, etc., they are obtainable at a figure which would make the European housewife green with envy. In this connection, too much praise cannot be awarded to the Acting-Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. G. Freeman, who has been lecturing from one end of the country to the other on the necessity of local food production. We are hoping soon to hear that this most excellent and hard-working officer will be given the substantive appointment that his services so well merit.

MR. D. H. ROACH, Mr. H. A. Edwards and Mr. Julian Evelyn inform us that they have resigned their positions as Managing Directors of Messrs. W. L. Johnson & Co., Ltd., and have associated themselves in business as Commission and General Merchants, etc., under the title of Messrs. Evelyn, Roach & Co., with offices in Bridgetown, Barbados.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

CAPTAIN FREDERICK RAYMOND MILHOLLAND, Yorkshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Milholland, of Kingston, Jamaica (F. J. Milholland, Crown Solicitor), died on February 27th, of wounds received the same day, aged twenty-two. He was a nephew of the partners of James Pain and Sons, pyrotechnists, Mitcham, Surrey, and director of James Pain and Sons (Limited), their successors. He was born in Jamaica in 1896, and had resided in England since 1907, being educated at Oundle, where he was captain of the school from 1913 to December, 1914. He was then gazetted to the Yorkshire Regiment from the school Cadet Corps on the nomination of the headmaster. He was elected Domus Exhibitioner at Balliol College, and Rhodes Scholar for Jamaica in 1914. He did not, however, enter into residence, but passed direct into the Army. He was wounded in Mametz Wood, Somme, in 1916 and in 1917 was promoted lieutenant and captain; he served as acting adjutant during part of that year.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment on various fronts:—

KILLED IN ACTION.

STOCKHAUSEN, LIEUT. J. L., attached Royal Flying Corps (previously reported missing).

KILLED BY AEROPLANE ACCIDENT.

WORRELL, CAPTAIN H. L., attached Royal Flying Corps.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—15217 Wright, Actg. Sergt. D. C.
 JAMAICA.—7780 Anderson, J.; 2689 Bailey, C.; 4421 Bigbie, J. T.; 13792 Campbell, E.; 8950 Edwards, B.; 8596 Fowler, H.; 8609 Harrison, R.; 8606 Hart, W.; 6110 Moore, L. H.; 7937 Nelson, W.; 6405 Noble, J.; 10435 Palmer, J.; 8638 Pinnock, G.; 10445 Preston, A.; 15789 Price, J.; 8656 Samuels, B.; 9590 Samuels, J.; 13951 Smith, James; 5669 Telford, J.; 10662 Thompson, H.; 15369 Tomlinson, W.; 8301 Trestarn, A.
 St. LUCIA.—16675 Cole, W.
 TRINIDAD.—6664 Dove, James; 11194 Gordon, P.; 6954 Joseph, E.; 11393 Lett, Francis.

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.

Geofroy, Pte. Peter (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Household Battalion, Coldstream Guards.
 Hale, Sergt. Richard (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Household Battalion, attached Grenadier Guards.
 Hardtman, Pte. Harold Allan (third son of the late Robert Allan Hardtman, of St. Kitts), Canadian Reserve Battalion, Sixth Company.
 Hodge, Pte. G. W. (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Household Battalion, Coldstream Guards.
 Kelly-Lawson, 2nd Lieut. Dermot Owen, son of D. O. Kelly-Lawson of Hampden Estate, Jamaica, passed out of Sandhurst, December, 1917, and has been gazetted to the 3rd Dragoon Guards.
 Warner, Pte. N. O. (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Household Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT. D. S. COUSINS, Royal Engineers (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has received a severe gas shell wound.
 SECOND LIEUT. R. A. CURRY, R.F.C. (of the Bahamas), has been wounded in the arm.
 SECOND LIEUT. JOS. E. KERRAHAN, R.F.C. (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded in the thigh.
 PTE. PETER GEOFROY, Coldstream Guards (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded.
 SECOND LIEUT. C. H. G. SHEPHERD, Machine Gun Corps (of St. Kitts), has been wounded.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE NOTES.

During April the Work Parties at Lady Davson's house will be discontinued and the next meeting will be held on May 8th. Meanwhile applications for wool from ladies willing to make socks can be addressed to the Secretary, West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

Socks (large size) are always in great request and gifts of sweets, games, magazines, etc., are particularly welcome. Hot sauce from the West Indies, too, would fill a long-felt want. Gifts should be sent to the Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, at the above address.

The Anglo-South American Central Depot, who have had on their books the names of men from the Panama District in the British West Indies Regiment, finding it no longer possible to correspond with individuals, have handed over the lists to the West Indian Contingent Committee. In view of the present strength of the West Indian Contingent—and it was stated in the War Cabinet's report that 16,000 men had been brought over from the West Indies—it is equally impossible for the West Indian Contingent Committee to accede to the many requests which are daily received from individuals in the British West Indies Regiment for gifts, such as they might like to do so. The Committee can only continue to meet the requirements of Battalions as a whole for comforts, games, etc., and to act as a distributing centre for gifts generally.

The West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledges, with cordial thanks, the undermentioned gifts:—

Mrs. Brodie (Mt. Edgcombe, Grenada) 23 tins guava and Governor Plum jelly and 14 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Woodroff: 1 muffler.
 Miss Anderson: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. C. W. Ede: 7 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven: 8 prs. socks.
 The following ladies and girls in Antigua have knitted comforts from the wool sent to Mrs. A. St. George Spooner by the West Indian Contingent Committee:—
 Mrs. Auchinlech: 4 prs. mittens and 1 pr. socks.
 Mr. Auchinlech: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. Goodwin: 2 prs. mittens.
 Mrs. Bob. McDonald: 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. Cooke: 2 prs. socks.
 Miss F. Bell: 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. J. Dew: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. W. Hart: 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Stretch: 1 pr. mittens.
 Mrs. Nugent: 1 pr. socks.
 Mrs. J. McDonald: 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. H. Hart: 1 sweater.
 Miss Lilla Johnson: 1 pr. mittens.
 Miss Mamie Branch: 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Lalla Branch: 1 pr. socks.
 Miss Dorothy Branch: 1 helmet.
 Miss B. Harper: 1 belt.
 Miss H. M. H. Currie: 1 pr. mittens.
 Miss Gladys Gomez: comforter.
 Miss Marie Gomez: eye shield.
 Miss Rita Anjo: 1 comforter.
 Miss Mary Joseph: 1 comforter.
 Miss Laura Fortune: 1 cap and comforter.

Among the visitors to the West India Committee

Rooms during the past fortnight have been the following:—

ANTIGUA.—Cpl. J. D. Lewis (B.W.I.R.). BAHAMAS.—Cadet G. M. Cole. BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. E. L. Armstrong, Pte. W. C. Boxhill, Pte. H. L. Carter, 2nd Lieut. C. P. Cave, Lieut. G. Challenor, Pte. E. C. Collymore, Capt. C. G. Deane, Cadet A. L. Evelyn, 2nd Lieut. H. F. K. Greaves, 2nd Lieut. J. Haynes, Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, Pte. C. K. Nichols, 2nd Lieut. Douglas Pile, Lce.-Bdr. H. S. Phillips, Cadet P. St. Hill, Pte. A. Tudor. BERMUDA.—Cadet G. H. St. G. Tucker. BRITISH GUIANA.—Lieut. William G. Abel, Gunner I. Fernandez, Pte. J. Roach. BRITISH HONDURAS.—L/Cpl. Ignacio Salido (B.W.I.R.). JAMAICA.—Drummer P. Cunningham, Lieut. J. F. Hart (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. R. C. Livingstone (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. F. de Mercado (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. C. V. H. Miller (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. N. E. M. Murphy, Pte. W. N. Spratt. ST. VINCENT.—Pte. C. Hazell, Trpr. F. H. McLeod, G. E. P. Richards. TRINIDAD.—F. J. Anderson, Trpr. B. Agostini, V. Da Costa, Sydney Daly, H. A. Date, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Durnty, Cadet H. Eckel, A. S. Eckstein, Lieut. J. H. L. Farfan, M. A. Govia, Oswald Hamel-Smith, Pte. J. A. Fernandez, Rtn. J. H. Llanos, Capt. A. Pantin, 2nd Lieut. R. Quesnel, 2nd Lieut. J. Rochemont, Trpr. K. Nax Smith, A. H. Da Silva, C. W. Spencer, P. O. Spencer James, Percy J. Stone, M. J. Taurel, Major R. B. Todd, Cadet Marc de Vertueil, Cpl. R. Vignali (B.W.I.R.), C. A. Wainwright.

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:—

BARBADOS.—Bowen, Capt. C. P., Volunteer Reserve; Bowen, Lt. E. P. S., M.I.C.E., Supt. of Public Works; Burdon, Maj. K. A., C.M.G.; Cave, Lt. J. R. M., Volunteer Force; Clark, Col. W. E.; Clarke, Maj. Hon. F. J., K.C.M.G.; Martin, A. T. de M.; Armstrong, J.-Sgt. C. R., Volunteer Force; Armstrong, Pte. R. B.; Barnes, No. 109 P.C.; Bradshaw, L.-Cpl. Browne, Pte. E. K.; Chase, Sgt. A. de V.; Chase, Pte. D. E.; Chase, Sergt. E. A., Volunteer Force; Clairmonte, Sgt. F. A. C., Volunteer Force; Cumberbatch, No. 78 P.C.; Dootin, L.-Cpl.; Feuty, Pte. W. C.; Forde, No. 393 P.C.; Gaskin, L.-Cpl.; Gittens, No. 11 P.C.; Goddard, Sgt.; Phillips, No. 161 P.C.; Pilgrim, Sgt.-Maj.; Redman, No. 319 P.C.; Roberts, L.-Cpl.; Rose, L.-Cpl. H. C.; Wheeler, No. 274 P.C.; Worrell, Cpl.

JAMAICA.—Butcher, Col. F. S., R.G.A.; Campbell, Maj. P. H., R.F.; Collins, Maj. R. G., W.I.R.; Cowie, Lt.-Col. E. L., W.I.R.; Dawes, Maj. F. R., A.S.C.; Down, Maj. H. M., A.P.D.; Dunn, Capt. H. T., A.O.D.; Durant, Lt.-Col. R. R., Ir. Rif.; Lucy, Maj. R. S., R.G.A.; McKillop, Capt. A. D., W.I.R.; Nicholson, Maj. T. B., W.I.R., D.A.A., and Q.M.G.; Pilbrow, Sec. Lt. (local Capt.) H. J., Suff. R.; Pryor, Sec. Lt. (local Capt.) C. H., Suff. R.; Rhodes, Lt.-Col. J. H. A., R.A.M.C.; Vince, Capt. A. H., W.I.R.; Adams, No. 7730 Co. Sgt.-Maj. S. A., E. Surr. R.; Bundock, No. 39210 Cpl. (actg. Regt. Qrnr.-Sgt.), R.G.A.; Fernie, No. 795 actg. Staff Sgt.-Maj. P. W., A.P.C.; Frost, No. 2892 Sgt. E., R.G.A.; Harnett, actg. Sgt.-Maj. W., A.O.D.; Higgin, No. 25511 Qrnr.-Sgt. M. H., R.G.A.; Lawson, No. 1079 Staff Sgt. R., A.P.C.; Rowney, No. 15471 Sgt. V. C., R.G.A.; Thompson, No. 2242 Cpl. J., R.A.M.C.; Townley, Sub.-Comdr. C. W., A.O.D.

"Mentions" for services in British Honduras, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad were published in the CIRCULAR of March 8th, 1917 (No. 481, p. 92), and for services in Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Windward Islands in CIRCULAR 492, p. 311.

SIR EVERARD IM THURN has consented to take the chair at the Society of Arts, on April 30th, when Sir Walter Egerton will read his paper on British Guiana.

CONSCRIPTION IN JAMAICA.

An interesting report on the work of registration under the Military Service Law of 1917 in Jamaica, prepared by Mr. J. H. W. Park, the Central Registration Authority under that law has been published in the *Jamaica Gazette*.

In all, 142,042 men were registered and arranged in classes according to the ages of the men, on January 1st, 1917, each class was thereafter broken up into three groups. Broadly—Group "A" contained the unmarried men first liable for service; Group "B" the men living in concubinage; and Group "C" the married men. Group "B" had been designed to avoid so far as possible the calling up of men who though unmarried had women and children living with and dependant upon them. The forms showed clearly many of these men were not really supporting the women and frequently not even the children, and that in many cases a man stated he was living with a woman but had no children to support.

According to the census, says Mr. Park, there should be 131,318 men available for service on January 1st, 1918, but these census figures are liable to very nearly the whole of the net deduction, say, 12,739, so that 118,579 men were to be expected to be available against 122,218 actually registered as available. The excess, 3,639, over the number expected, seems ample evidence that few of those liable have failed to register.

"Our recruiting experience," says Mr. Park, "is that only about one man in five is fit for service abroad."

He adds: "I suggest I be allowed to at once prepare calling up lists to the extent of 13,517. The men to be called to be of the 'A' Group, in which there are 81,028 men and between the ages of 18 and 30 in that group there being 68,388 of such men. There being more men between 18 and 30 than the number required, I propose to fix on those to be called up by ballot. The lists having been prepared it will only be necessary, in the event of the services of the men being needed, to fix a date for publication of the calling up Order and to at the same time publish the lists. The numbers in the lists may, if necessity arises, be reduced before publication, but I do not advocate such a course, as I believe a substantial call will be found to be most economical and most satisfactory.

"This may not be the proper place to suggest the procedure to be followed after a 'call up,' but, briefly, I am of opinion the names of the men called should be put up at the post office they have claimed to use, and that calling up notices should be sent each man there. A Medical Board of two doctors should meet near each post office on a fixed day for the purpose of exempting the men if not suitable, and each man should receive, say, one shilling and sixpence (1/6) for attending before that Board. Forms, on which the men can apply for exemption if they desire it, should be obtainable at the post office by men not exempted by the Medical Boards, and the Exemption Tribunals should meet at places so far as possible convenient to all parties. I would grant no expenses to men appearing before Ex-

emption Tribunals. Thereafter the necessary lists of men who are to report for service can be prepared, and the men given, say, 14 days' notice before they are actually expected to report."

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS Sales of Estates.

MR. J. H. WILKINSON, MARCH 7th.—Several Estates have changed hands recently. Thicket and Portescue, recently the property of Lord Harewood, have been sold to Mr. Howard Smith and Mr. S. Brown for the sum of £33,000, as from January 1st. Lord Harewood reserving all oil rights. Ridge and Rycrofts sold as from the 2nd March for the sum of £47,500 to a syndicate, some of the members of which are shareholders in Seales' Factory.

The *Agricultural Reporter* states that the weather during the fortnight ended March 9th was ideal, with seasonable showers which fell generally, but did not interfere with the reaping which had started elsewhere. The young crop was being established and supplying would soon be completed. The increase in his salary not having been forthcoming, Mr. J. S. Dashi, Assistant to the Superintendent of Agriculture, has accepted the post of Director of Agriculture in Guadeloupe, to the great regret of the planters in Barbados.—Mr. G. F. Warner, Superintendent of Westbury Cemetery, died on February 22nd.

BRITISH GUIANA—A Local Press Association.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN.—The Hon. C. C. Clementi, C.M.G., has left on six months' leave of absence. The Hon. M. Cannon has been re-elected Mayor of Georgetown for 1918. The weather during January was generally favourable, and the month closed with high and bleak winds. The films of the colony have been on exhibition at the Gaiety Picture Palace, and have been much admired. Mr. G. Ball Greene, Assistant Government Secretary; Mr. G. D. Bayley, Commissioner of Lands and Mines; Mr. H. A. Cameron, Chief Commissary, and Mr. M. R. Nascimento have returned from a trip to Kaieteur. The Court of Policy met on February 4th and 5th, when the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance was considered. During Dr. J. J. Nunan's absence in Barbados on a holiday, Mr. L. C. Dalton, Registrar, is acting as Attorney-General. Good showers fell in the first week of February.

It is announced that success is attending the effort to improve the efficiency and physical stamina of the police force. Young men of intelligence are being attracted to the force, and several good conduct badges have been awarded recently.—At a half-yearly meeting of the Guiana Match Factory, a balance of \$1,770 was reported at the credit of the profit and loss account, and a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary share capital was declared.—Local newspaper men have organised themselves into a British Guiana Press Association with a view to protecting the interests of the local press generally.

MARCH 6th.—A severe shock of earthquake was experienced here on the evening of February 24th; but fortunately no damage was done. Good rains have fallen during the past three days, which have been very acceptable. The name of the Planters' Association has been changed to "British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association," its object being to deal solely with sugar estate matters.—The Colonial Bank is opening a branch at Suddie. Premises have already been secured and necessary alterations are being made.—The wedding of Mr. A. Gomes, eldest son of Mr. M. Gomes (Ferreira & Gomes, Ltd.), and Miss C. S. Ferreira, second daughter of Mr. M. A. Ferreira, Managing Director of Messrs. J. P. Santos & Co., Ltd., took place at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Main Street, on February 9th.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Chamber of Commerce

HON. A. R. USHER, FEBRUARY 28th.—A fire occurred in Belize on the 20th inst. on the north side of the town, destroying property valued roughly at about \$80,000 to \$90,000, which is partly covered by insurance. Major Johnson, from the Army, who has seen service in France, arrived here recently as adviser to the Officer Commanding the British Honduras Territorial Force, and has been

busy travelling over the Colony. Foodstuff is getting scarce here, and it has been found necessary to appoint a Food Control Committee. The new Governor, Mr. Hart Bennett, is expected about the end of March, and will be given a good welcome. The Acting Governor, Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., has done good work during his administration, and is deservedly popular among all classes.

HON. GEORGE E. GRAHAM writes under date February 21st: "A few lines to tell you the British Honduras Chamber of Commerce was successfully inaugurated on the 15th inst., and starts with about 70 members. You will get a full report of the meeting, etc., in the local Press, so I need not repeat here. A further meeting is being held to-morrow to elect the Council, etc. I trust the Chamber will prove of great help to the colony and be the success we all hope. I think we have to thank you for the urging you have frequently given to the colony to form a Chamber of Commerce."

JAMAICA - The "Vomiting Sickness."

The Government Bacteriologist (Dr. Harold Scott), reporting on the cases of so-called "Vomiting Sickness," in the parish of Trelawny, says he finds that among the cases denominated Vomiting Sickness there were instances of malaria, of gastritis, of uraemia, of infantile convulsions from dentition troubles, ptomaine poisoning, etc. but apart from such obvious causes in none of the other cases could the use of ackees be excluded, and this fact was confirmed by the very district post-mortem findings and morbid histology. "In conclusion, therefore, I fail to see any adequate reason for retaining the reprehensible term 'Vomiting Sickness'—reprehensible because the labelling of a disease by the name of one symptom, which symptom even may be absent, hinders advancement and leads to carelessness in diagnosis. This state of things would be analogous to diagnosing 'death from headache' when the patient may have suffered from the headache of typhoid fever, or that of cerebral tumour, or that of uraemia, and so forth, and disregarding the origin of the headache. Seeing that the macroscopical and still more the microscopical anatomy of the condition of ackee poisoning is so marked and distinctive, there is no longer any excuse for not separating these cases from the large non-descript group of 'Vomiting Sickness.'"

The annual report of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board says that further experience of the Loan Banks confirms the opinion that they are of great use in their respective districts in the development of Agriculture, and have generally been of great educative value. In spite of adverse conditions, in addition to the grants made through the Board, the Banks had collected to November 30th, 1917, nearly £16,000 on account of a nominal share capital of £35,198. In the future, with a return to normal conditions, it can be confidently expected that these loans will be repaid. When this has been done, it is hoped that these Co-operative Banks, which have been formed under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law, will be in a position to extend their sphere of usefulness, *inter alia* by assisting their shareholders to purchase lands and to erect better dwellings.

ST. VINCENT—Colonial Surgeon's Report.

The annual report of the Colonial Surgeon for the year 1916-17, just gazetted, shows that pulmonary tuberculosis claims its steady toll of victims, 203 cases, with 58 deaths, being recorded, as against 158 cases, with 36 deaths, in the previous year.

TOBAGO—Crop Prospects.

The rumoured withdrawal of the R.M.S. *Belize* was the prevailing topic when Mr. ROBERT S. REID wrote on February 1st. At Roxburgh on January 29th there was a most successful Agricultural Show held by the local branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Agricultural Society. His Excellency the Governor was unable to attend on account of illness, but was represented by Mr. Henry Warner, Vice-President, and Mr. E. Tripp, Secretary of the parent society. Mr. H. H. Hancock, Inspector of Schools, was also present, with other visitors from Trinidad and Tobago districts, including Mr. A. B. Carr, who gave a demonstration on the making of coco-nut butter. The exhibits were very good, more especially the live-stock, but a better show of vegetables and fruit was ex-

pected. Mr. Reid continued: "The season is partly to blame for the scarcity of these, although some good items were on the stand. The progress of Tobago was noticeable in school exhibits, oil paintings, etc., and the needs of the times, in samples of bush ropes, locally grown food, etc. There was a big and orderly crowd of black people at the show, who displayed keen interest in the exhibits. There was not much spare room for 'side shows,' but local merchants succeeded in displaying samples of their wares in the three open stalls in the stable!"

"Showery weather, with squally winds, still continues, with sunny intervals. Cacao pickings exceed the record on account of the crop ripening all at once—in fact, too quickly for the big estates to get it all reaped. In a few weeks the pickings will slacken off considerably, and the next reappings are uncertain. Most of the young crop has been lost, and the change of leaves may clear off the young fruit still on the trees. The depots are filled to overflowing, and on this and last fortnight's trip the *Belize* has been a day late in getting back to Trinidad. Squally weather is partly to blame, but cargo is increasing all the time, and in a year or two hence will be beyond the powers of one steamer a week."

TURKS ISLANDS—Agricultural Exhibition Held.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The second Exhibition of Agricultural and Industrial Exhibits, held under the auspices of the Turks and Caicos Islands Agricultural and Industrial Society, was held at Grand Turk on 24 January. The Courthouse and two large schoolrooms were packed to overflowing with all classes of agricultural produce, fancy work, and industrial exhibits. The whole presented an appearance that surprised everyone. The industrial portion from the Caicos group, which included articles of local make, deserved great praise. Sisal rope of home manufacture was exceptionally good. An exhibition of cotton grown in the Dependency was shown in the various stages of preparation for shipment.

The Exhibition was opened by His Honour the Commissioner at 1 p.m. with a short address, a large assembly being present, representing the whole of the Dependency. The Exhibition was well patronised, as was also the refreshment department, which was taken over by the ladies. The proceeds of this department are to be devoted to the fund in aid of the children who lost their sight in the recent Halifax disaster.

Great praise is due to the Secretary of the Society, Mr. H. H. Hutchings, who worked untiringly to make the Exhibition a success, and to the Committee who assisted him. The roadstead presented a lively appearance with the large fleet of small sailing craft lying at anchor which brought several hundred visitors from the Caicos group.

TRINIDAD Cacao Shipments.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes that the shipments of Trinidad cacao during the month of January were as follows:

| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
|--------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 1,802,205 |
| Total for January | 1,802,205 |
| To same date, 1917 | 6,900,700 |
| " " 1916 | 5,085,123 |
| " " 1915 | 7,406,433 |
| " " 1914 | 8,151,685 |
| " " 1913 | 3,854,745 |
| " " 1912 | 10,787,066 |
| " " 1911 | 5,848,611 |
| " " 1910 | 9,386,702 |
| " " 1909 | 8,451,141 |
| " " 1908 | 7,986,902 |

FEBRUARY 28th.—On Sunday evening last the island was visited with the worst earthquake since 1883. Good people were just settling down in church, and there were many stampedes from the sacred edifices, although in Trinity Cathedral, thanks to the Dean (Holt) continuing the organ calmly, people sat it out without panic. Considerable damage was done, principally to Government House, where some walls were cracked and heavy plaster fell in many directions. Fortunately, the Governor and Lady Chancellor were in Tobago, and there was no accident, fatal or otherwise, there or elsewhere in the town.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Benjal's (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The Directors in their report for the year ended October 31st, 1917, signed by Mr. H. D. Spooner (Chairman), state that as anticipated, the results proved very satisfactory in spite of the increased cost of working due to the War. The total weight of canes purchased by the factory was approximately 19,087 tons, from which were manufactured 2,120 tons 16 cwt. of sugar. The average quality of the canes delivered showed considerable improvement over that of the previous years, and together with a further improvement in the methods of manufacture, resulted in a ton of sugar being made from slightly under 9 tons of cane. The sale price of sugar again ruled at a high level. With a view to shortening the manufacturing season—enabling the work to be done when the canes are ripest and give the best sugar yields—it is intended to introduce day and night work at the factory, in place of day work only as in the past. For the above purpose some necessary additions to the housing accommodation of the staff have been made, and some fresh railway line has been laid down, and certain further capital expenditure will be incurred in this connection.

The additional amount payable to the original cane contractors is £4,780 15s. 9d., equivalent to a supplementary payment of 6/6.4762 per ton of canes. The profit for the year, as shown by the Profit and Loss Account, after allowing for depreciation the sum of £1,060 5s. and subject to Income Tax and Excess Profits Duty (if any) amounts to £6,180 15s. 10d., from which has to be deducted for payment of dividend on the preference shares £1,400, leaving a balance to be dealt with of £4,780 15s. 10d. The directors now recommend the payment of a dividend of 1/- per share on the ordinary shares, free of Income Tax, and that the balance, amounting to £3,780 15s. 10d., subject to payment of Income Tax and Excess Profits Duty (if any), be carried forward. The present season of 1917-18, in consequence of dry weather in the autumn of last year, is likely to result in a reduced supply of cane from the present supplying areas, but it is hoped to supplement this anticipated shortage by deliveries from new sources of supply.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SCETHING LANE,
LONDON E.C.3.

April 4th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent as from the 5th April, 1918. Five per cent. War Loan, 9½. Consols, 53½.

SUGAR. The United Kingdom quotations remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in May, 1917, viz.: Cubes, 53/9; B.W.I. Crystallised, Crystals and Granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. grocery syrups, 44/6; and Syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes, 39/6.

The New York prices remain at \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed.

With markets in the United Kingdom controlled almost all round, little remains to be recorded in a column such as this. In connection with the question of State control of trade it will be of interest to record that a movement has been started in Mincing Lane to combat Government interference, and it is understood that an active campaign is contemplated to ensure that the present control shall not be continued for a moment longer than is absolutely necessary. This question is also the subject of several resolutions to be considered at the forthcoming meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom.

Himely reports (March 4th) ideal weather for reaping in Cuba. The yield there is generally good and complaints as to lack of labour less violent than they were. About 36½ per cent. of the crop had been reaped. In the following week (March 11) the weather was still fine and dry.

The West Indian Sugar Statistics in London on March 30th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Imports | 4,827 | 8,016 | 6,327 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 11,924 | 11,265 | 14,031 .. |
| Stock (Mar. 30th) ... | 3,890 | 4,766 | 3,401 .. |

RUM. As matters stand, no rum will be deliverable for consumption after May 19th next unless it is over three years old. The West India Committee and the Wine and Spirit Trade Association are, however, pressing for a further concession under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act.

The stocks in London on March 30th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,461 | 9,155 | 5,111 puns. |
| Demerara | 2,984 | 8,837 | 8,788 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 13,933 | 29,813 | 24,211 .. |

COCOA. As from April 2nd, prices have been controlled, present prices for finest grades being: Ceylon, Java, and Samoa, 100/-; Demerara, Guayaquil, Trinidad, and Surinam, 90/-; Bahia, Cameroons, Grenada, and other West Indians, 85/-; British West Africa, 65/-.

Committees have been appointed in London and Liverpool to grade cocoa below these qualities, as is done in the case of sugar. The London Committee's address is 30, Mincing Lane, E.C., and the Liverpool, c/o The Liverpool General Brokers' Association. The prices fixed—which are subject to modification from time to time—are regarded as equitable on the whole.

The stocks in London on March 30th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 13,029 | 16,503 | 13,702 bags. |
| Grenada | 14,521 | 20,703 | 14,599 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 193,021 | 265,941 | 106,231 .. |

COFFEE. The West India Committee is still in correspondence with the Government on the subject of the importation of Jamaica coffee. The case of Blue Mountain coffee is somewhat analogous to that of "Demerara" sugar, inasmuch as the market for that variety before the War was almost exclusively that of the United Kingdom.

COTTON. During the week ending March 28th, 400 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom, bringing the number imported in the first 13 weeks of the present year to 458. Judging from the report of the Empire Cotton Committee of the Board of Trade, quoted elsewhere in the CIRCULAR, West Indian Sea Island cotton should have prosperous times ahead, and it would be regrettable if the production were to be allowed to decline still further owing to the attractions of sugar cultivation.

ARROWROOT. No sales in first hands reported. Quotations nominally about 1/- upwards.

COPRA. Fine West Indian, 46 c.i.f., delivered London or Liverpool.

COCO-NUT OIL. The maximum price of crude is fixed by the Controller at £70 per ton.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled, no demand, cannot advise shipments; handpressed, quiet, value about 17/6. Lime Juice: Concentrated, quiet; Raw, sales of ordinary to good from 2/6 to 3/3. Citrate: Quiet.

RUBBER. The market is steady but quiet and not much business is doing. Since our last, owing to the holidays, very little change has been noticed in prices. The closing quotations are: crepe 2/5, sheet 2/4. Mediums are still flat and nothing has been done for a long time. Fine hard Para is firm at 2/10½ per lb.

BALATA. Market unchanged. Venezuela block now at 3/6 and 3/6½ landed terms: 3/4½ c.i.f., nominal Panama and Yumaco scarce, 3/1½ and 3/2 c.i.f. asked for Panama without finding buyers. W.I. sheet firm; spot 4/2, forward 3/11 and 4/-.

HONEY. Last sales at auction were, Chilean 185/- to 193/-, Cuban 192/- to 198/-, Californian 187/6 to 200/-; fine Jamaica is quoted 195/- to 200/-.

WANT.

SUGAR PLANTER, past military age, with experience in British Guiana and Cuba, desires appointment. First-class references. Apply, M. P., c/o Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Scething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.

April 18th, 1918.

Trinidad's Opportunity.

OUR attention has been called to an opportunity for the marketing of Trinidad oil, which appears to be well worth consideration. In pre-war days the South American Republics bought the oil necessary to run their railways and sugar factories in the United Kingdom. It was not that Great Britain herself produced the desired commodity, but our friends in South America found in this country a convenient centre in which to make the necessary purchases. The European War has upset that arrangement. Applications still come here from Spanish America, but the reply made by the Government is to refer the would-be purchasers to the United States for their supplies as inward tonnage to the United Kingdom must be reserved for food and necessities. Unfortunately, this suggestion is unfruitful. Transport difficulties render it impossible to convey the oil—assuming that it is obtainable—from the United States to South America. However, there is still in Brazil a number of German steamers capable of carrying oil either in barrels or in bulk. Why should they not be used for this purpose, and why should they not go to the nearest oilfield—that of Trinidad? We are aware that there are certain restrictions at present on the export of Trinidad oil. It should not, however, be beyond the power of the South American Railways and other industrial concerns to make representations to the British Government and once the necessary permis-

sion were granted, it should be possible to create, out of war-time necessities, a trade which should minister to the prosperity of Trinidad both now and when peace is restored.

Roads in Dominica.

FOLLOWING a debate in the Legislative Council of Dominica, MR. ARTHUR MAHAFFY, the Administrator, appointed a Commission in January last to enquire into all matters concerning the construction and maintenance of roads in that Presidency of the Leeward Islands. The subject is no new one to our readers, many of whom will recall that in May, 1914, a representative deputation of Dominica proprietors, introduced by MR. E. LUXMOORE MARSHALL, on behalf of the West India Committee, waited upon LORD EMMOTT, the then Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and strongly urged the construction of a system of roads in the island and drew attention to the really pressing need for the improvement and maintenance of existing highways. MAJOR J. A. BURDON had already propounded a comprehensive road scheme, which met with general favour, and LORD EMMOTT, who incidentally paid tribute to the energy which that gallant officer, while Acting-Administrator, had devoted to the subject, sent the deputation home comforted by the pledges that a fully-qualified engineer with technical knowledge regarding road construction, would be sent out to Dominica to report on the whole subject. The war, however, supervened before the appointment was made, and the road scheme has practically remained in abeyance, to the great inconvenience and loss to the planters, many of whom still have to rely on the antiquated system of head portage to get their produce to port. While the production of the island has gone ahead by leaps and bounds, the labour supply has remained stationary, with the result that wheeled traffic must replace "heading," and the demand for action is pressing. The present Commission, of which DR. H. A. ALFORD NICHOLLS is Chairman, and comprises the HON. J. C. MACINTYRE, HON. G. W. PENRICE, MR. F. R. GREEN, MR. T. H. SHILLINGFORD, MR. P. NOBLE (Colonial Engineer), MR. J. R. H. BRIDGEWATER, and MR. D. O. RIVIERE, has got to work with commendable promptitude, and has

already collated a mass of useful information which should pave the way to a practical report. Not the least valuable of the papers already received by the Commission are reports from the Governors of Martinique and Guadeloupe concerning road construction and maintenance in those French Islands. From these we gather that the system of maintenance, favoured by the French Government, is that known as the "Cantonier." Under this the roads are divided into "Cantons" or districts, varying from two to three kilometres in length, each of which is under the care of a man known as a Cantonier, who is responsible for the upkeep of his own particular section. This is the system prevailing in France, but its application to the West Indies has proved difficult, owing to lack of efficient labour. Side by side with it has existed the system of maintenance by estate-owners. Mr. G. W. PENRICE, who has been one of the chief sufferers from the lack of means of communication, pointed out in a memorandum, that that arrangement was unsatisfactory, for the proprietor, when short of labour for his estate, was naturally unwilling to put it on the road. Nor did he approve of the cantonnier system, which would require a permanent gang of six labourers for a road twelve miles in length, who would leave the work to be done until the last possible moment. He found from experience that a labourer could easily clean the surface, clear the drains, and fill up small holes on three hundred feet of road for his day's work. He advocated the appointment of supervisors, who might be encouraged by an annual bonus to the one who kept his section in the best condition during the year. As regards labour, he was emphatically of the opinion that this should be found by and paid for by the Government. An interesting contribution to the documents before the Commission is a memorandum by Mr. P. NOBLE, the Colonial Engineer, who has made efforts in the last three years to improve the road system of the island. Mr. NOBLE points out that hitherto roads and road affairs have been a secondary consideration in Dominica, a state of affairs which should certainly be removed without delay. On general principles, he is in agreement with MAJOR BURDON'S road scheme and advocates the formation of an active Road Committee or Road Board, composed of men acquainted with the requirements of the various parts of the island, who could report periodically to the Government. We had hoped that the road question had emerged from the discussion stage and that we were on the eve of the adoption of a definite policy in respect of road construction, which has been the crying need of Dominica for many years. The war, however, upset all calculations. But it has not affected the prosperity of the island, and it is most desirable that everything should be *en train* for pressing a vigorous road scheme to a successful

issue directly circumstances permit. DR. NICHOLLS, in his opening address, referred to the difficulties presented by Dominica owing to the configuration of the island, but experience elsewhere has showed that they are easily surmounted where energy and determination, coupled with the necessary capital, is available.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership increased to 1,710.

For the second time in succession thirty new members have been elected to the West India Committee in one day and the membership is thus brought up to over 1,700, the actual figure being 1,710. The formation of the Jamaica Imperial Association, one of the qualifications for membership of which is membership of the West India Committee, has contributed towards this gratifying increase; but an examination of the statistics justifies the claim that it is attributable also to an increased appreciation of the work that is being done by the West India Committee. At a meeting of the Executive on April 10th the following were elected:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|---|--|
| Dr. James Sholto Douglas, M.B. (Edin.) (B. Guiana) | Mr. H. T. King, [C.B.E.] |
| Mr. Frank Holmes (Bahamas) | Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Hon. W. Hart Bennet, C.M.G. |
| Mr. Jose Juan Franco (British Honduras) | Mr. H. E. M. Jolluson. |
| Mr. John Adolphus Gahne (British Honduras) | Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E. |
| Mr. James Yorlar Dott (London) | Lt.-Col. J. Cran, M.B.E., M.D. |
| Mr. John Stott (Country) | Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E. |
| Mr. David Betson Evans (British Honduras) | Mr. R. Dragten. |
| Mr. Thomas B. Macaulay, F.I.A., etc. (Montreal) | Mr. N. Malcolmson. |
| Mr. Hilton Chambers Shekell (Jamaica) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Edward Morris (Jamaica) | Mr. H. Soper Cox. |
| Mr. David Mills (Jamaica) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| Mr. Leslie Girvan Harrison (Jamaica) | Mr. H. S. Schnarr. |
| Mr. I. J. Morlecai (Jamaica) | Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E. |
| Mr. W. H. Landale (Jamaica) | Mr. J. Brookfield. |
| Mr. E. G. F. Campbell (British Honduras) | Mr. A. L. Bennett. |
| Mr. R. Ehrenstein (Jamaica) | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Messrs. Vere Estates Co., Ltd. (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Mr. A. Hart (Jamaica) | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. A. McF. Mills (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Mr. H. G. Hewett (Jamaica) | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. J. G. M. Robertson (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Mr. A. Hearn (Jamaica) | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. E. B. Melville (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Lt. W. J. Miller (Trinidad) | Mr. L. de Mercado. |
| Mr. R. M. Bwen (Jamaica) | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| | Mr. L. de Mercado. |
| | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| | Mr. L. de Mercado. |
| | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | Mr. H. F. Previté. |
| | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Mr. V. A. Michelin (Jamaica) | 1 | Mr. P. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| 2nd Lt. H. A. Lafitte (St. Lucia) | 1 | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| 2nd Lt. Eric V. Solomon, R.A.F. (Bahamas) | 1 | Mr. William Gillespie. |
| Mr. Thomas Robb (Montreal) | 1 | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Lt. E. Lindsay Armstrong (Barbados) | 1 | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | | Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| | | Mr. H. P. Previte. |
| | | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | | Mr. R. Rutherford. |

The members elected during the year to date reside in the following places:—

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------|----|
| Jamaica | 34 | Canada | 2 |
| Barbados | 14 | Antigua | 1 |
| Trinidad | 10 | Grenada | 1 |
| British Honduras | 4 | St. Lucia | 1 |
| British Guiana | 3 | St. Vincent | 1 |
| Bahamas | 2 | Tobago | 1 |
| West Africa | 2 | London | 12 |
| Peru | 2 | Country | 10 |

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.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. HENRY COWPER GOLLAN, C.B.E., Attorney-General, Trinidad, has been appointed Attorney-General of Ceylon.

THE price of the "Cane Sugar Factory," by Seard, published by the West India Committee, is now 2/6 per copy, post free 2/8.

"THE West Indians are gradually adopting its use," says the Panama Canal Commission, with reference to purchases by the Commission of yellow corn for corn meal.

THE increase in the number of automobiles in Trinidad, in the course of the last year or two, is striking. The number of cars now registered is 870, and that of motor bicycles, 167.

MR. FRANK HOLMES has been appointed Honorary Correspondent to the West India Committee for the Bahamas. Mr. Holmes is a son of the late Hon. Dr. F. A. Holmes, Speaker of the House of Assembly of that Colony.

TIME is money. Both are valuable and will be saved if those members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their dues for the present year will kindly do so without delay. Subscriptions may be sent direct or, better, paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.

WE take the following from *Punch*:—
"A Contention has been sitting, seeking to settle the Home Rule controversy on satisfactory lines, but it has not been successful.—*Daily Gleaner*, Kingston, Jamaica."

WE trust that the Convention (adds *Punch*) will have better luck.

MR. A. J. PAVITT has been appointed H.M. Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, under the arrangement already referred to in the CIRCULAR. Mr. Pavitt, who was formerly a chartered accountant, has been for the last 15 years connected with the import and export trade of the Far East.

IN the CIRCULAR of January 24th it should have been stated that the actual recommendation of the Rubber Committee of the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of tapping was: "That the Basal V be adopted as the standard system of tapping for young trees, to be followed later by a single cut on a quarter of the circumference."

READERS are reminded that on April 30th next, at 4.30 p.m., Sir Walter Egerton will read his paper on British Guiana before the Royal Society of Arts, when Sir Everard im Thurn will take the chair. The paper will be followed by a discussion, in which several gentlemen connected with the Colony have promised to take part. Tickets for the lecture also can be obtained from the Secretary.

THE CIRCULAR'S "Reader" did Mr. Collymore and the Lyceum Club an injustice in last issue by omitting to notice that the paragraphs relating to them were sadly mixed. It gives us the opportunity of stating, however, that the total amount collected by Mr. Collymore from the people of Barbados for the Red Cross Ambulance Fund has now reached no less than £6,500. The successful function held by the Club was a dinner.

THE Colonial Secretary of the colony who is compiler of the Grenada Handbook, Directory and Almanac for the year 1917-18 (London: Wyman & Sons, Ltd.), is to be congratulated upon maintaining the high standard set by Mr. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., who for so many years edited the work. No new features appear to have been introduced, and the "History" ends abruptly with the year 1906. Otherwise the information is in every respect "up to date."

MR. C. E. L. COX, of the Government Secretariat, British Guiana, elder son of Sir Chas. T. Cox, K.C.M.G., was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple at the end of January. Mr. Cox, who was Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery, was invalided out of the Army a few months since, as a result of injuries received in France about eighteen months ago. He is now filling a temporary position under the War Office, on the east coast of Scotland.

THE names of all soldiers or sailors identified with Trinidad, who, during the present war, have

been, or are, on active service, forms a notable feature of the "Trinidad and Tobago Year Book" for 1918. The list, which includes the members of the Merchants' Contingents, men who came over "on their own," and "young women doing war work abroad," is very complete, and reflects great credit upon Mr. C. B. Franklin, who, three years ago, succeeded Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Collens, V.D., as compiler of this invaluable year book.

* * *

THREE years ago one of Scrutton's steamers, the *Savan*, whilst approaching the Trinidad Government Dock, on which (says our Trinidad correspondent) she was to repair, struck on an unknown rock, which had escaped the notice not only of all the fishermen in the district, but also of the Government officials who had surveyed the approaches to the Dock. This rock was well inside a buoy supposed to mark the safety channel. The Government denied liability. Ultimately the matter was brought for trial, and the Chief Justice has decided in favour of the plaintiffs for amount claimed, namely, £12,600, and costs.

* * *

THE following directions for the preparation of meals from bananas, sweet potatoes, yams, tannia, dasheen, etc., have been published by Mr. Joseph De Vertenil, Acting-Director of Agriculture in Trinidad:—

Any kind of banana or plantain is suitable. Cut the bunch when it is about three-quarter full or the fruit will ripen instead of drying. Peel the banana and slice thinly with a nickel or fruit knife, or one made from a thin piece of bamboo. Do not use steel knives. Spread the sliced bananas thinly on wooden trays in the sun to dry. In fine weather they will dry in two or three days. When dry, crush in an ordinary corn-mill or pound in a mortar and sift through fine muslin. Banana meal is the cheapest to produce of those experimented with.

* * *

THE Registrar of McGill University, Montreal, writing recently to the *Montreal Gazette*, says:—"Sir,—In this morning's issue of the *Gazette* your correspondent, Mrs. R. Valentine, makes the statement that in May of last year McGill University announced that negro students were to be barred from attendance. I am asked by the Faculty of Medicine to state that this is entirely incorrect. It is true that some difficulty has emerged in connection with the clinical teaching of obstetrics in one of the hospitals; but the University has taken no action whatever in the way of abridging the rights of negro students to join its classes.

* * *

THE purchase of the Dutch West Indies by the United States is advocated by the *Evening Telegram*, New York, as "another material step towards the safe-guarding of the Panama Canal and the elimination of danger spots from the Western Continent." An agitation in favour of that course is declared to be on foot in Holland, and the Administrator of Surinam is quoted as stating that the Dutch West Indies are in a deplorable economic condition; that the colonies have always been a heavy drain upon the Dutch treasury, and that their sale to the United States would prove a happy solution of a problem difficult not only for Holland but also for the people of the colonies themselves.

MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, C.B., Adviser to the British Delegates at successive International Conferences on the sugar question and Assistant Delegate to the Permanent Commission, set up under the Convention of March 5th, 1902, has, by request of the Royal Society of Arts, prepared a paper entitled "Sugar from several points of view," which will be read at a meeting of members of that Society on May 1st, at 4.30 p.m. Lord Balfour of Burleigh will occupy the chair, and as a large attendance is expected, it is hoped that those members of the West India Committee desirous of being present will make an early application for tickets, a number of which have been placed at their disposal. The paper will be followed by a discussion which, in view of the generally expressed desire that the pledges given by the British Government not to give preference to the Colonies may be withdrawn, is sure to be animated.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Early in March Mr. Bonar Law was publicly sceptical as to the possibility of a great German offensive in the West. The reason was recently given by General Smuts, another member of the War Cabinet. That august body, he said, was beset "by doubts and uncertainties," because (1) it was believed that Germany would be so gorged with her enormous gains in the East as to be ready to take up a "moderate attitude" in the West; (2) that, in the event of the worst happening, America's Army would be in the field. These were miscalculations for which there was no excuse. The collapse of Russia was obvious to every person of ordinary sense last summer, and months ago the Director of National Service, Sir A. Geddes, warned us that 1,600,000 fresh German soldiers were coming West. What was done to provide for the threatened emergency? Nothing at all. Now that the incomparable quality of the British Army has saved this nation, the Empire, and the world from catastrophe, our rulers "see the issue clearly," and are taking the steps, that should have been taken each autumn since the war began, especially last autumn, and were not. In an admirably restrained speech Mr. Lloyd George indicated them to Parliament—the extension of conscription to Ireland; the extension of the age limit to 50; a drastic comb out of the Civil Service and Industry; the re-organisation of tribunals so as to put an end to the exemption scandal.

The Great Battle in the West.

The German plan of an elastic front as distinct from the rigid front at Verdun, for instance, has not succeeded, but the German military mind has tremendous resilience as well as foresight. Hence, now that the momentum of his overwhelming first advance has declined without achieving his main objectives, he is settling down to a more methodical prosecution of his original plan. Unfortunately for him the time required to adapt his vast forces to the change enabled General Foch, on his side, to complete counter-preparations. For, evidently, the German High Command had not calculated on either the French or the Americans taking part in the

battle. The full onslaught was to be borne by the British, who had recently taken over the line from St. Quentin to La Fere, and, for reasons which are to be sifted by an inquiry, were relatively weak in numbers. But when they were forced back, fighting gamely against heavy odds, the French moved to their assistance westwards along the Noyon-Lassigny-Montdidier line by brilliant manœuvring only equalled by their tactics in foiling (1) the German advance on Paris, (2) on Amiens, by containing von Hutier's army at Noyon on the 26th March, and at Montdidier on the 30th March. Nothing finer has been done in the war, and some of the glory is shared by British and Canadian Cavalry. The fighting was so sustained and desperate, however, that it has caused a drain on French reserves.

A Fluctuating Front.

In the meantime the continuation of the Franco-British line has formed a German salient, which is liable to attack on either flank in the event of any weakening in the enemy's onslaughts. But it is estimated that he can continue to make big thrusts for months to come, and may be expected to test the valour and endurance of the Allied Armies even more severely in the later than he has already done in the earlier phase of the battle. But the Franco-British troops are confident that they can maintain the parallel line, which it is the object of the enemy to break. They give ground here and advance there, always inflicting heavy losses, without giving him the tactical opportunity long enough to snatch victory out of it. Foiled by the British in the north, as he was in the south, of the original fifty-mile front by the French, he has renewed his attacks on the extreme left in the Artois sector, between Armentieres and La Bassée, and on the extreme right in the Laonnois. In the one case the British, whose centre was formed by the Portuguese, were, in a mist, forced back from Laventie, and beyond the river Lys; in the other the French were forced to give ground in the Coucy sector and to retire behind the Oise and the Oise-Aisne Canal. The latest development is an offensive in Flanders by an entirely fresh German army, all the historic ground in the vicinity of the Ypres-Comines Canal being involved. Our troops are making a stubborn resistance to strenuous enemy efforts aimed at such points as Wytschaete-Messines, Bailleul, Hollebeke and Ploegsteert, in an attempt to turn our positions, which at the first onset were thinly held, owing to the tremendous pressure for three weeks further south. But though the enemy is as prodigal of troops as he was in the first Battle of Ypres, in places overwhelming our men by sheer force of numbers, he is balked of his main purpose—a definite break in our line through which he can sweep in force. How urgent is the call upon the staying power of the British Army between Ypres and La Bassée may be gathered from an Order of the Day recently issued by Sir Douglas Haig: "We are," he said, "fighting with our backs to the wall."

To meet the emergency General Foch has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies.

One of the features of the battle in the earlier

stage was the part played by Cavalry, mounted and dismounted. They got their chance, and made most brilliant use of it.

America's Year of War.

Though it has been a grievous disappointment to the United States and her Allies that the training of her Armies has taken longer than was anticipated, her record for the past year is stupendous. Not only has her financial aid to the common cause been generous, but her policy, both domestic and foreign, has been an effective factor in husbanding Allied food resources and raw material and organising their economic distribution. Then, if her production of ships has not yet fulfilled expectations, the energy and capacity, which has so rapidly transformed the United States into a maritime nation, will soon bear fruit in an adequate output of shipping. But the great miracle of her war effort is development into a military Power of the first rank. A year ago she had an army of 250,000. Today it numbers 1,500,000, with the means of huge expansion and of transporting it to Europe fully equipped. But it is the spirit behind America's war preparations that is giving the German High Command anxious thought. For that very efficient body never blinks at realities. In grim determination, now that all her illusions are gone, she (the United States) is more akin to Germany than Britain can ever be. So that what the enemy has to face is that, when her strength is waning, the Allies will have the support of a great Power, fresh, vigorous and in deadly earnest. This is the nightmare of the German High Command, and the chief incentive to a mighty effort in the West during the next few months. A sign of America's fine war spirit was her voluntary offer to brigade certain of her troops in France with the Allied forces, help which was most welcome at a critical juncture. Naturally her desire is to include all her own troops in her own army, so that it required some sacrifice on her part to allow any considerable portion of them to lose their identity in the British Army.

The Situation in Russia.

Apparently the intellectuals in Russia are learning kindergarten truths in the school of reality. Trotzky is calling for the creation of a citizen army, and, to their credit, officers are coming forward in great numbers to train it. But, the probabilities are that he regards it less as a national instrument than as a means of furthering his own political ends. Nevertheless, the movement is one which shows that the reign of anarchy in Russia is coming to an end. In the south, apparently the enemy is not having it all his own way, Odessa having been retaken by the Bolsheviks, and Erzerum by the Armenians, an achievement at which nearly all the world rejoices. The background of their military activity is the Caucasus, where the Georgians and other races are bitterly hostile to the Turks and making common cause with the Armenians. The advantage to the Allies of a successful resistance to the enemy in these regions is the re-closing of the road to Persia and India, opened by Russia's collapse. In the north the centre of interest is Finland, in which German troops are co-operating with

the Finns, who are advancing towards the Murman Railway, whose terminus is an ice-free port. The danger to the Allies of Germany acquiring an Arctic Naval base is obvious.

The Long Range Gun.

Ever since Good Friday, when a Paris church was shelled, a German long-range gun has fired upon Paris at intervals, though the damage and loss of life it causes are relatively small. This new expression of enemy frightfulness has been traced to the Gobain Forest, between 60 and 70 miles from Paris as the crow flies. It is established in an underground tunnel, from which it is moved out as required, generally at night, so as to escape the attentions of aircraft. The gun has given rise to expert discussion, in which its future possibilities are prophesied. The great obstacle to its effectiveness is its lack of precision and accuracy in aim.

Zeppelin Raid.

The enemy having no aeroplanes to spare from the Western Front has fallen back upon Zeppelins in raiding the English coast. On the 12th April one penetrated to the Midlands, and another nearly reached the North-west coast. None of them approached a defended area, dropping their bombs in the open country. There were twenty casualties.

The War at Sea.

When the German Army is making such enormous sacrifices, the German Navy is not likely to remain quiescent, and already its light craft is active on the Belgian coast and in mine-laying. If the people, who insist on the absurdity of an enemy invasion of these Islands, were listened to, the Government would not prepare for such a contingency. As things are it is never forgotten in our military plans. The slightest opening would be seized by Germany with all the force at its disposal.

The ship building returns for March are a great improvement on those of January and February. The output amounted to 161,674 tons, though to meet our necessities it should have amounted to 250,000 tons. Owing to the serious falling off in January, when production fell to 58,568 tons, the quarter's return is less by 100,000 tons than the return for the last quarter of 1917. It is to be hoped that Lord Pirrie will speed up our ship-building output quickly.

Two British destroyers were lost during the past fortnight, one in which all the crew were lost, the other in which they were all saved.

Last week's figures for British losses through submarine warfare were even more satisfactory than those of the week before. They are 4 ships of 1,600 tons and over; 2 under 1,600 tons. This week the figures are, for the first 11; for the second 4.

(To be continued.)

We regret to learn as we go to press, of the death of Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, who died in Barbados on April 15th.

FUTURE OF WEST INDIAN SUGAR.

Our contemporary, *The International Sugar Journal*, reproduces the main features of what it describes as "a very weighty article," recently published by the *Agricultural News*, Barbados, on the outlook for the sugar industry in the smaller West Indian Colonies.

The writer in the *News*, it may be recalled, urged a more attractive scale of wages, to meet which the planters, he said, must increase their production and lower its cost in sundry directions. The tonnage of cane must be increased, anything less than 30 tons of plant cane per acre being too low to be profitable. And the process of manufacturing the cane juice into sugar must be brought to a higher state of efficiency, such as has been done in the Antigua and St. Kitts central factories. Better use may ultimately be made of the by-products, and there are possibilities of using the molasses for alcohol manufacture, and obtaining paper from the bagasse, while the extraction of wax from the canes is another feasibility that needs to be investigated. Lastly, if the sugar industry in these small islands is to remain on a firm basis, there must be greater co-operation among all concerned.

Says *The International Sugar Journal* :—

"This is undeniably a sound piece of advice, and there is no doubt that planters and sugar manufacturers in our British sugar colonies will do well to make up their minds that change there must be if they are to hold their own in the world's after-war competition. We have always in the past emphasised the fact that they have been unfairly handicapped by bountied sugar and that species of "free trade" which *nilens volens* they have had to accept at the hands of the Home Government; and it must not be overlooked by their critics that success in Cuba and Porto Rico has been obtained, not by a *laissez faire* policy on the part of the American Government, but by active help by means of fiscal and other expedients.

"But if fiscal help is to come to our colonies in the near future, as we hope it may, it must not be used as a cloak to cover any sins of omission; it must prove an incentive to energetic progress and not take the latter's place. Otherwise, any preference accorded them through Government intervention may be ruled out as indefensible. We are glad, however, to note on the above authority that there are already signs of a progressive attitude of mind and a readiness to try new methods manifest among the British West Indian planters. We are hopeful that these signs may develop, and we believe these colonies are only waiting for definite indications of fair treatment on the part of the Home Government in order to put their house in order."

We learn that Mr. A. J. Pavitt, whose appointment as H.M. Trade Commissioner for the West Indies is recorded elsewhere, will have within his sphere of duties the whole of the British West Indian Islands, as well as the British, French, and Dutch Guianas, and a number of adjacent foreign West Indian Islands (e.g., Martinique and Guadeloupe). His services are placed at the disposal of British firms who are desirous of extending or developing their export trade in the area included within his sphere of operations, and firms who are interested in these overseas markets are invited to avail themselves of the opportunity of having an interview with Mr. Pavitt at this Department prior to his departure for his post.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

VI.—THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND ITS SUGAR WANTS.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

[The first instalment of these articles appeared in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR No. 503, copies of which are still obtainable. It is intended that the articles shall deal with the full story of the great sugar industry, and a special feature is that the technical portion is given in a popular manner.]

In the preceding chapter the world's sugar production and its distribution was outlined as it was immediately before the war. The time has now come to detail the position of the British Empire in this respect of its sugar wants, and how these were supplied in the twelve months of 1913.

The imports during the year, for Great Britain and Ireland, were as follows.

| | Tons. |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| From Russia | 2,940 |
| " Germany | 937,479 |
| " Austria Hungary | 358,911 |
| " Holland | 189,773 |
| " Belgium | 52,230 |
| " France | 27,589 |
| Other European Countries | 36,661 |

1,605,583

| | Tons. |
|--|---------|
| From Java | 98 |
| " United States | 385 |
| " Mauritius | 20,346 |
| " Cuba | 224,227 |
| " Surinam | 4,606 |
| " San Domingo | 9,414 |
| " Mexico | 4,134 |
| " Peru | 27,486 |
| " Brazil | 5,137 |
| " British India | 3,850 |
| " British West India and British Guiana | 47,735 |
| Other Countries not in Europe | 17,235 |

364,653

In all 1,970,236

say 2,500 tons, making the grand total of supply 1,972,736 tons of sugars of all descriptions.

Although the consumption of the United Kingdom reached this big total, it is by a long way short of British India in this respect. The crop of that part of the Empire was, in 1913, 2,291,000 tons, to which has to be added the 806,648 tons of imports. These came, 586,610 tons from Java, 73,957 tons from Austria Hungary, 139,568 tons from Mauritius, 1,414 tons from Germany, and 1,376 tons from other sources. The pre-war wants of British India were, therefore, no less than 3,077,648 tons, of which that country only supplied about 74 per cent.

The requirements of Canada were only one-tenth of those of India. The Dominion only imported 310,000 tons in 1913, which, with the 10,000 tons of home-grown beet sugar, gave a consumption of 320,000 tons. Of the imports, 114,145 tons came from British possessions, and were admitted under the British Preferential Tariff, 111,663 tons being supplied by the British West India Islands and British Guiana. The balance of the imports came from Cuba, the United States, Java, San Domingo, Germany, Guatemala, Peru, Hong Kong, and the Danish West Indies. Australia, in 1913, required 300,000 tons, of which 225,000 tons were self-produced. South Africa imported 26,097 tons, which, with 86,500 tons of Natal production, gives 112,597 tons as its 1913 wants.

As regards the rest of the Empire, the West Indies, Fiji, British Guiana, and Mauritius, met their own consumption, only the exported sugar being recorded. The Straits Settlements required 84,180 tons, and 50,000 tons probably covered the wants of our East and West African Colonies.

The position of the Empire as regards sugar wants in 1913 was therefore as follows:—

| | Tons. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| United Kingdom | 1,970,735 |
| British India | 3,097,648 |
| Canada | 320,000 |
| Australia | 300,000 |
| New Zealand | 61,482 |
| South Africa | 112,597 |
| Other British Colonies | 70,000 |

5,932,462

While, therefore, the wants of the Empire were, in round numbers, 6,000,000 tons, there were only 3,187,000 tons produced within the Empire, leaving nearly 3,000,000 tons as obtained from outside sources.

As has been learnt by painful experience, the United Kingdom has been especially hard hit by the war as regards sugar, and as it is impossible to contemplate a return to the conditions of 1913, when 80 per cent. of her sugar, including 65 per cent. from her present enemies, produced under conditions which enabled it to be sold under the natural price, came from the Continent, the question arises as to how the sugar required to supply the Empire's complete wants, can be produced within the Empire.

No summary of the wants of the British Empire as regards sugar would be complete without consideration being given to the nature of the sugar required. Putting on one side the sugar used by brewers, which is a low grade cane sugar, raw beet

The astounding facts are revealed by these figures, that out of close upon 2,000,000 tons imported by Great Britain in 1913, only 71,931 tons, or 3.6 per cent. came from British possessions, and that no less than 80 per cent. came from European countries, originating from the Continental system of beet sugar development already described. Further, that of the latter, 1,296,401 tons, or 65 per cent. came from Germany and Austria, countries in which the production had been, prior to the Brussels Convention, especially stimulated by the operation of direct and Kartel bounties. The power to form the latter, as already explained, was not completely done away with by the Convention, and these two countries were thus enabled to consolidate and hold the grip upon the markets of the United Kingdom they had obtained in their direct bounty days.

The figures given above show the sugar imported into the United Kingdom. To be added to them, is the product of the Cantley beet factory in Norfolk,

being out of the question on account of its offensive nature, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, a white sugar is wanted, the lower grade of which is suitable for the wants of the sugar-using trade. Unfortunately, the home refiners' capacity in this respect is quite unequal to the occasion. In 1913 these turned out only 715,000 tons, whereas the wants of the country in good white sugar were quite double this quantity. The result has been that Continental white sugars have been taken to make up the deficiency. The raw cane sugars known as Demerara yellow sugar is comparatively small in quantity and has an extremely limited market, and is not likely to be a factor of importance in future supplies. In Canada, Australia and South Africa white sugar also is required. In India the position is different, being affected by tradition and caste prejudices. The Hindoo objects to eat sugar made with the use of animal charcoal, and consequently the white sugars imported are Java and Mauritius white crystals, the appearance of which at once denotes that it has not passed through the refiners' hands.

(To be continued.)

A SUCCESSFUL trial of a machine for splitting coco-nuts (says *The Australian Sugar Journal*, Brisbane) was made recently at the works of Messrs. Buzacott and Co., Cooper Street, Balmain, in the presence of some of the principal persons interested in Sydney. The machine splits the nut into four sections, and in the process, portion of the kernel drops out from the shell. The machine is driven by a crude-oil engine of a simple type, suitable for native attendants, and is expected to save over 50 per cent. of the present cost of labour and time. The design for a copra drier was also exhibited, which is intended to dry copra by means of hot-air and mechanical draft. The design is expected efficiently to dry the copra by means of mechanical draft and hot-air, to such a condition that will prevent all risk of spontaneous combustion.

THE American beet sugar crop, which, in 1916, reached 741,000 long tons, is now reported by the United States Department of Agriculture (says the *Louisiana Planter*) as falling 198,000 tons below the estimate that was made for the total crop of the year just ended, 1917, which has turned out to be 682,000 long tons, 880,000 long tons having been expected, based upon the 741,000 tons of the year 1916. This loss of nearly 200,000 tons of sugar from the estimates that were made for the beet sugar crop of last year, accounts in some degree for some of the shortage of sugar. The beet sugar industry since the advent of the European war, has been actively stimulated by the higher price prevailing for sugar, and those engaged in the manufacture of beet sugar have made every effort to encourage the cultivation of more and more sugar beets. The expected increase in the production of sugar beets was apparently warranted by the results of the crop of 1916, but the great drought prevailing throughout the world apparently seems to have had its injurious effects on the sugar beet crop, as well as upon our corn and wheat crops, lessening the final results.

BRIGHTER OUTLOOK FOR SUGAR.

The Government and the West Indies.

"There can scarcely be any doubt that the English Government will make some determined effort to develop its cane sugar production in the British West Indies."

Thus writes our valued contemporary, the *Louisiana Planter*, in an optimistic article regarding the improved position of and brighter outlook for the cane industry.

"Sugar from their own territories."

Having reviewed the chequered history of cane during the past century our contemporary continues:—

"These crucial epochs in the history of the British West Indian sugar industry will certainly teach the English a serious lesson and that is that it ought to be in their power to secure a reasonable amount of sugar from their own territories. That it is now having this effect upon them is evidenced by the fact that the Government is willing to subsidise, or to encourage the one sugar factory in England, at Cantley, owned by some Dutch or Holland interests, but a factory that has not been very successful thus far, based perhaps upon the smallness of the crop of beets controlled, and of the newness of the industry, and the unwillingness of the public to take any serious interest in it. Such serious interest is now being taken and we may look for a development of the beet sugar industry in England itself, and also in Canada, where beet sugar has been produced to a greater or less extent for the last twenty or thirty years, but seems slow in developing there.

Source of Modern Improvement.

"Much of the modern improvement in the agriculture of the sugar industry had its origin in the discovery of methods for the propagation of sugar cane seedlings by Messrs. Harrison and Bovell in Barbados in 1888. While the success of these seedlings in benefiting the sugar industry may not have been as great as has been the success of producing seedlings for beet sugar propagation, yet it has been of great advantage to the sugar industry and especially here in Louisiana, where a Demerara seedling called D74, which was carefully tested for years by Dr. W. C. Stubbs at the Audubon Park Sugar Experiment station, and finally recommended to the sugar planters of the state, is now largely covering our area in sugar cane, thanks to Dr. Stubbs and his corps of scientists in their determination.

We would also say that the Louisiana seedling known as L511 has shown itself thus far as even a better cane for Louisiana than D74, but it has not yet been as thoroughly tried out, and has not entered into general cultivation as has D74, but promises to develop into larger culture at once. The real benefit to the sugar industry by these investigations has been all along the line of cane culture and sugar manufacture. These scientists are generally men of experience and education and capable of determining the reasons why the sugar cane does well or ill in any given locality, or under

any given conditions. Just as our medical men are lengthening the average life of the human race by their studies, just so are our sugar scientists benefiting the sugar cane industry in every direction and in an earnest, open way reciting to all the world the causes of the success or of the failure of the various experiments they are making.

"Make sure some fair profit."

"In all the British West Indies these studies are now going on and the sugar industry has already developed a number of very large and fine central factories and there is every reason to believe that without considering the war conditions now environing us, these factories would go on to greater and greater success, just as has been done in Cuba. On the other hand, it is manifest that the English Government would hardly be true to its own colonies did it not do all that it could for them in the way of providing scientific control for the sugar industry in all of its phases and also to have such discriminating legislation as would make more sure some fair profit in the industry that would lead to its development.

What Happened in Cuba.

"We here in Louisiana had thought that the reciprocity treaty with Cuba was hardly fair to our domestic sugar industry that has had such a troublous existence during the last fifty years, and yet we see what the 20 per cent. preference in the way of the reciprocity treaty has done for Cuba in carrying its crops from its old maximum of six to seven hundred thousand tons of sugar annually up to over three millions of tons annually, with a possible production of double this last amount within the next ten or fifteen years.

"We are led to believe, however, that prices of sugar everywhere will be higher for some years to come than they have been in the past and that that fact alone will lend encouragement to the British West Indies as well as to our sugar planters of Louisiana and to the capitalists who are investing vast sums of money in Cuba and to the beet sugar people of our own North-west. The present outlook for the sugar industry is better than it has been for many years and is better appreciated than ever it has been hitherto in the history of the world."

The annual statement regarding the Rhodes Scholarships, published by the Trustees, contains the name of a Jamaica scholar among those who have won distinction at the front. This is T. A. Roxburgh (Corpus Christi), who won the Military Cross. Largely as a consequence of the new situation created by the war, the Trustees have decided to postpone for the present all further election to Scholarships. This will not, however, interfere with the holding of the Annual Qualifying Examination in the United States, or in Colonies where qualification is not obtained through affiliation of local Universities with the University of Oxford. The Trust has continued its policy of giving Scholars leave of absence for the duration of the War, with the right to resume or commence their Scholarships when the War is over, or earlier should circumstances make that possible.

AGRICULTURE IN ANTIGUA.

High prices stimulate sugar crop.

The sugar crop of Antigua for the year 1916-17 amounted to 14,929 tons of crystals and 3,613 tons of muscovado. According to the annual report of the local Agricultural Department good weather played its part in securing this result, but high prices influenced a larger increase in the area planted under sugar-cane. This was especially noticeable in the lands worked by peasants. In some instances land of indifferent quality which could not be made to yield paying crops at the prices prevailing for sugar during pre-war days, is now planted.

On the other hand, the news regarding cotton is not so encouraging. A considerable decrease in the area has again to be reported. Only 280 acres have been planted in Antigua, and some 100 acres in Barbuda. The area in Antigua shows a decrease of some 160 acres. This is the smallest area planted in cotton for fourteen years.

The reason for the decrease is primarily due to the high prices obtaining for sugar, which tempted some planters, who in previous years planted cotton, to plant sugar-cane. In addition, during the earlier part of the year there was, on the part of some growers, a feeling of uncertainty as to the future prospects of this crop. These fears were not justified. At the time of writing, however, there is every prospect of a considerable increase next year in the area planted under cotton in Antigua. With reference to the peasant-grown cotton in the island, the formation of the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association has done much towards giving them a sense of security in connection with the immediate future of the industry. Exact figures regarding returns for the period under report are not at the present obtainable, but it seems as if they would be in the neighbourhood of 100 lb. of lint per acre. With the high prices obtaining at the present moment for cotton this yield will in most cases be profitable.

Progress of minor industries.

During the year under report very little new land was placed under this crop; in fact, most of the land suitable for limes is now planted up. The younger plantations have made considerable progress during the period under review, and every hope can be entertained as to their ultimate success. A Lime Growers' Association was formed and decided to confine its activity during the year to shipment of green limes.

Interest in the development of the coco-nut industry is being maintained, and during the past year 30 acres of new land were planted under this crop. On the whole, the coco-nut trees in Antigua are making moderately good growth; in some cases, however, they have been planted on unsuitable land; in such localities little hope can be entertained of their thriving. Coco-nuts from recently established plantations are now appearing on the local market, and if no untoward circumstances occur, the local consumption of nuts will in a very short time be supplied by these. During the past the majority of coco-nuts used in Antigua were received from

Dominica. There exist in Antigua about 450 acres under this crop, and there is a moderately large area of land in the island on which at present nothing of great value grows, which is admirably adapted for the crop in question.

The area under onions in Antigua during the past year amounted to between 80 and 85 acres. It must be remembered that the greater part of the crop is grown as a catch crop on cane lands. When the crop is grown in this manner less than half of the land is occupied by onions, and this fact must be kept in mind when comparison is made between the area, and the yield obtained. During the year under report the number of crates of onions exported from the island amounted to 6,940. Of this amount 5,660 were exported through the Antigua Onion Growers' Association. The number of crates of onions exported during the past season constitutes a record, and in addition, high prices were obtained. On the whole, the season may be regarded as a most successful one.

During the year a definite start was made in connection with the planting of sisal on a commercial scale. The number of plants set out were some 8,000. This number is not particularly large, but arrangements are being made to import from the island of Anguilla large quantities of these plants, so that every hope is entertained of planting somewhat extensive areas under this crop. When this is accomplished, and the crop is sufficiently advanced, it is the intention of the firm who is undertaking the work to import modern machinery for decortication.

It is suggested in a tentative manner, that the erection of a canning factory would materially assist some of the local minor industries. Some years ago a suggestion was made that such a factory would help to place on its legs the almost defunct pineapple industry of Antigua. A factory run on co-operative lines which could handle pine-apples and other fruit would possibly be a paying venture. Apart from the various local fruits which it could use, the report enumerates some of the kinds of produce Antigua grows, and which might be handled by such an undertaking. They are: beets, Lima beans, string beans, peas, pumpkins, and tomatoes. In addition, oysters, shrimps, and lobsters could be utilised. It might be stated that sweet potatoes are regularly canned by some firms in the United States, and placed on the market. It will be seen that ample material could be produced locally for such an undertaking. The benefits which might be expected to accrue if such a factory were established, may be summed up by saying that the grower of perishable produce would be certain of a market for his goods, and this fact would stimulate the local production of fruits, vegetables, etc.

SPEAKING at a luncheon in his honour by the African Society on April 16th, Sir Harry Johnston called attention to the almost limitless possibilities of Africa as a producer of bananas and sugar. We had learned from the Germans, he said, a process of drying, concentrating, and preserving banana pulp, which, properly developed, ought to supply all Western Europe with nourishing and singularly palatable food.

HONEY FROM THE WEST INDIES.

A Misconception Corrected.

The article on Honey, published in the CIRCULAR of March 21st (No. 508), has been the subject of much comment, which will be very helpful if it leads to increased interest being taken in the production of that valuable nectar in the West Indies.

Undoubtedly, the compiler of the article misrepresented the "authoritative correspondent" in one respect. He now writes:—

"What I did mean to convey was this—that *outside of Jamaica* (whose total production per annum is about 600 to 700 tons, and out of the total production about 500 tons per annum is shipped to this country), *the remaining islands* in the British West Indies only produce some 500 tons per year between them.

"Jamaica always has done very well in honey production, and has always sent us some 500 tons (a year) or so during the past ten years—since we improved the packing, grading, and quality; but the remaining islands, Trinidad and so forth, have never produced anything like the quantity of honey between them that Jamaica has, and I wish to wake these islands up.

"Reading the article, you will see that it reads as if only 100 tons were now imported from the whole of the British West Indies, including Jamaica, and that Jamaica had let her production drift down from 500 tons per annum some ten years ago to be less than 100 tons per annum now."

Another correspondent, writing on the same subject, takes leave to doubt if there has been any falling off in the quantity of Jamaica honey shipped to this country since the outbreak of war. On the contrary, he is disposed to think the imports must have increased, because in pre-war times Germany took the greater portion of the crop. Freight difficulties may have caused shipments to be spread over a longer period than usual, and the absence of official statistics renders it difficult to know just what the importations of 1915, 1916 and 1917 amounted to.

Our correspondent also asks for information as to the "factory in Kingston" which "was destroyed during the earthquake," and he points out that since honey is the product of bees, a crowded city like Kingston would hardly be a suitable spot for these apiarian labourers to establish their "factory" on a scale of any importance. As a matter of fact, he tells us, bee-keeping is an increasing industry in Jamaica, and that many scientifically installed apiaries exist in suitable localities.

Our present correspondent, sharing the desires of the other, thinks the latter might usefully suggest the means to be adopted for "tapping some neglected source," and thus increasing "the production of this article by five thousand to ten thousand tons per annum *at once*." Obviously, bee-culture, which he takes to be the only "source of supply," can only be carried out successfully in regions where bee-food, which in the tropics is chiefly derived from flowering shrubs and trees, is plentiful; and in this respect Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and San Domingo are perhaps the most liberally supplied.

Finally, our correspondent suggests that if, after the war, some form of encouragement could be devised for attracting British supplies to the Mother Country, this would form the best incentive for enhanced bee-culture.

ST. LUCIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Peasant Grower the Colony's Chief Asset.

Inspired by the success which attended its efforts in connection with the lime industry, the Government of St. Lucia has embarked upon a far-reaching campaign of economic development. The intention is to ascertain what products, already cultivated or not, may be turned to account for local consumption or export.

Accordingly, a Committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. G. D. Mackie, Colonial Treasurer, "to consider what steps can be taken by the Government further to develop existing resources of economic value and to encourage the cultivation of products which will be of value to agriculture and the revenue of the Colony."

In the course of a letter to Mr. Mackie, the Acting Administrator (Mr. Popham Lobb) says:—

"As the Committee are aware, Government has already taken steps to set the lime industry on a sound basis, and with excellent results. The establishment of a plant for kiln-dried corn and of a Government depot for market produce, both in course of erection, marks a further step in the direction of stimulating cultivation and ensuring to the peasant an immediate and satisfactory cash return for his labour.

"The Agricultural Superintendent has instituted enquiries among planters with a view to receiving adequate support for a scheme for the developing of the cultivation of coco-nuts and the establishment of a central factory on co-operative lines for the extraction of coco-nut oil and the manufacture of the various products obtained from the fruit.

"Limes, corn, and coco-nuts do not exhaust the list of economic products, and I should like the Committee to consider what other products, already cultivated or otherwise, are capable of being developed and turned to account, whether for local consumption or for export, either as raw material or in a manufactured state.

"The peasant grower, even more than the estate owner, is going to be the Colony's chief asset, for the coal trade is a subsidiary industry which cannot be depended on to continue on its former scale. The only sound policy—I need not preach it here, because I think it is already fully recognised—is to attach the peasant to the land by providing the means whereby he can translate the fruit of his labour into money. If it is made worth his while, he will stick to the land. In the contrary event he will drift into the towns or emigrate.

"It is imperative, therefore, that Government should neglect no means of maintaining a full supply of agricultural labour in order to ensure future prosperity, and any recommendations which the Committee may be able to make to that end will receive Government's immediate attention."

The following note from its well-informed Parliamentary Correspondent was published in the *Times* of April 18th:—

"The Government have now decided to publish the final report of Lord Balfour's Committee on after-war trade problems, and it will appear in about ten days' time. It is understood that the Committee have followed up their declaration in an interim report in favour of Imperial preference by recommending the Government to take the necessary fiscal measure for the protection of key and nascent industries. A vigorous anti-dumping policy is also strongly supported by the Committee. A general tariff on manufactured articles was rejected by the majority, but is recommended in a minority report. The main report also deals with many subjects of special concern to the business community, such as our commercial treaties, trade combinations, the future of shipping, and industrial research. The Committee pronounced against the adoption of the metric system in this country."

COCO-NUTS AS A SOURCE OF FAT.

A Statement by Professor Harrison.

Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., in his inaugural address as President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, on February 4th, referring to the food position, called attention to the advantages of coco-nuts as a source of fat. One hundred coco-nuts, he said, of average size contained 38 lbs. of fat, of which, by fairly good methods, about 34 lbs. of oil could be obtained. That meant that an average sized coco-nut would yield nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of oil, while a small one would yield 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The average one also produced 3 ounces of dried oilmeal; the small one, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, which latter, by the aid of the pigs, could be converted into excellent human food. In 1897, when he first filled the position of President of the Society, there were about 3,500 acres under coco-nut in the Colony. At the present time there were about 20,000 acres. As there were, in round figures, 9,700 acres planted from 1911, if the farm had been planted at proper distances and properly tended, there should have been 390,000 bearing trees, producing at least 15 million nuts a year.

If that was the case the community could look with equanimity on the present scarcity of fatty foods, for they would have the equivalent in food value of $5\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds of butter or oleomargarine or of $4\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds of ghee or oil. Their exports had increased from nil in 1896 to in round figures 1,911,000 nuts, 169,000 pounds of copra, and 26,670 gallons of oil in 1917, and those represented the reserved stock of fatty foods upon which they might be compelled to rely. A comparison with their war-time demands should be interesting. Taking the years since the war began, they imported yearly butter and substitutes 550,000 lbs., equivalent in fats and oils to 415,000 lbs., ghee and lard 540,000 lbs., equivalent in fats and oils to 526,000 lbs.; vegetable oils, 278,000 gallons, equivalent in fats and oils to 2,502,000 lbs. in round figures, therefore, under present conditions it would require 14,000,000 coco-nuts to supply the amount of fats consumed in the Colony. As against that, however, they exported last year 1,912,000 coco-nuts; 168,800 lbs. copra, equal to 325,000 nuts; 26,674 gallons coco-nut oil, equal to 960,000 nuts, altogether 3,197,000 nuts, whilst it would require 14,000,000 nuts to replace the possible shortage in butter, ghee, lard and vegetable oil.

The King has made the following appointments to the Order of the British Empire:—

The Right Rev. The Bishop of London, to be Prelate.
General the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Henry Fitzroy Paget, G.C.B., K.C.V.O., to be King of Arms.

Colonel Sir Douglas Frederick Rawdon Dawson, G.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., Registrar and Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, to be Registrar (*ex officio*).

Sir Charles Edward Trapp, K.C.B., Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, to be Secretary (*ex officio*).

Sir Frederick George Kenyon, K.C.B., to be Gentleman Usher of the Purple Rod.

JAMAICA FOOD SITUATION.

The Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture, in a report on the local food situation, as affected by the hurricane of last September, after carefully reviewing the damage in the respective districts, recommends that, with the exception of properties devoting 10 per cent. of their area to the growing of canes, bananas, coco-nuts or cacao, every owner or occupier of land over 100 acres in extent should be compelled by law to devote 4 per cent. of his land to the growing of food crops, failing which a war tax of £2 per annum for each acre lacking the 4 per cent. be exacted.

With regard to flesh foods Mr. Cousins reports that there has been a drop of about one half in the importation of fish and of two-thirds in salt pork. This has been to a certain degree made up by greater

drafts on the native supply of beef. In spite, however, of an increase of 5,000 head in the number of cattle slaughtered, thanks to favourable weather for cattle rearing and increased efficiency of tick control in the past three years, the number of cattle in the island has increased by nearly 8 per cent. Thus, with judicious handling and mutual co-operation, Jamaica should be in a position to face the prospect of the unfavourable state of foreign flesh food supplies with equanimity. Mr. Cousins states that the 4 per cent. rule should be enforced without delay and all the agencies of progress in the community should be focussed on the work of rousing the people to a very greatly increased effort in the production of home-grown foods. It should be noted, when mentioning percentages of area of properties in Jamaica, that in many districts, especially in the mountains, a very small percentage is arable land.

CANADA AND WEST INDIES.

The official Canada Year Book for 1916-17 contains some interesting tables regarding trade between

Canada and the West Indies. The values of exports (domestic and free) to the British and Foreign West Indies by countries during the fiscal years 1914-1916 were as under:—

| Countries. | 1914 | | 1915 | | 1916 | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Domestic. \$ | Foreign. \$ | Domestic. \$ | Foreign. \$ | Domestic. \$ | Foreign. \$ |
| British Guiana | 649,675 | 3,061 | 675,660 | 3,137 | 1,207,134 | 4,770 |
| British West Indies | 4,469,329 | 20,540 | 4,333,095 | 33,697 | 4,115,872 | 19,029 |
| Total British West Indies | 5,119,004 | 23,601 | 5,008,755 | 36,834 | 5,323,006 | 23,799 |
| Cuba | 1,815,414 | 13,107 | 1,482,649 | 39,342 | 1,419,087 | 12,203 |
| Danish West Indies | 15,207 | 173 | 13,536 | 35 | 7,537 | — |
| French West Indies | 20,862 | — | 22,479 | — | 103,895 | — |
| Dutch West Indies | 2,289 | — | 6,715 | — | 7,701 | — |
| Dutch Guiana | 46,749 | — | 40,453 | 495 | 49,574 | 301 |
| French Guiana | — | — | 2,374 | — | 1,234 | — |
| Haiti | 37,783 | — | 4,295 | — | 2,119 | — |
| Porto Rico | 542,962 | 324 | 468,698 | — | 699,460 | 3,256 |
| San Domingo | 59,721 | — | 3,938 | — | 12,919 | — |
| Total Foreign West Indies | 2,540,987 | 13,604 | 2,055,137 | 39,872 | 2,303,526 | 15,770 |
| Total Exports to the British and Foreign West Indies | 7,659,991 | 37,205 | 7,063,892 | 76,706 | 7,626,532 | 39,569 |

The values of total imports (dutiable and free) from the British and Foreign West Indies by countries during the fiscal years 1914-1916 were:—

| Countries. | 1914 | | 1915 | | 1916 | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Dutiable. \$ | Free. \$ | Dutiable. \$ | Free. \$ | Dutiable. \$ | Free. \$ |
| British Guiana | 3,554,353 | 6,547 | 2,909,514 | 13,601 | 5,681,148 | 4,902 |
| British West Indies | 2,369,940 | 2,116,004 | 4,267,015 | 1,772,580 | 4,696,006 | 1,659,779 |
| Total British West Indies | 5,923,293 | 2,122,551 | 7,176,529 | 1,786,181 | 10,377,154 | 1,664,681 |
| Cuba | 3,362,993 | 569,113 | 1,520,619 | 183,585 | 1,149,079 | 244,415 |
| Danish West Indies | 259,214 | — | 117,687 | — | 58,307 | — |
| Dutch West Indies | — | 367 | — | — | — | — |
| Dutch Guiana | 241,267 | — | 203,898 | — | 329,430 | — |
| Haiti | — | 106 | — | — | — | — |
| Porto Rico | 22 | 1,591 | — | — | 3 | — |
| San Domingo | 3,166,144 | — | 3,464,512 | — | 3,288,695 | 124 |
| Total Foreign West Indies | 7,029,640 | 571,177 | 5,306,716 | 183,585 | 4,825,514 | 244,539 |
| Total Imports from the British and Foreign West Indies | 12,952,933 | 2,693,728 | 12,483,245 | 1,969,766 | 15,202,668 | 1,909,220 |

The values of imports and exports from and to British and Foreign West Indies, 1901-1916, were :—

| Fiscal year. | Imports from | | Total. | Exports (domestic and foreign) to | | Total. |
|--------------|---|---|------------|---|---|-----------|
| | British West Indies and British Guiana. | Foreign West Indies and Foreign Guiana. | | British West Indies and British Guiana. | Foreign West Indies and Foreign Guiana. | |
| 1901 | 1,406,480 | 594,768 | 2,001,248 | 2,297,804 | 984,306 | 3,282,110 |
| 1902 | 1,702,293 | 539,697 | 2,241,990 | 2,456,132 | 1,339,408 | 3,795,540 |
| 1903 | 2,415,608 | 596,970 | 3,012,578 | 2,699,167 | 1,471,843 | 4,171,010 |
| 1904 | 7,006,892 | 667,232 | 7,674,124 | 2,662,524 | 1,423,542 | 4,086,066 |
| 1905 | 8,589,656 | 714,339 | 9,303,995 | 2,872,770 | 1,460,801 | 4,333,571 |
| 1906 | 7,521,360 | 657,081 | 8,178,441 | 2,847,391 | 1,831,656 | 4,679,047 |
| 1907* | 5,208,892 | 524,599 | 5,733,491 | 2,188,542 | 1,497,240 | 3,685,782 |
| 1908 | 9,293,804 | 525,026 | 9,818,830 | 3,090,468 | 2,096,502 | 5,186,970 |
| 1909 | 9,088,596 | 605,260 | 9,693,856 | 3,054,073 | 2,006,362 | 5,060,435 |
| 1910 | 9,004,421 | 1,815,110 | 10,819,531 | 3,697,872 | 2,384,296 | 6,082,168 |
| 1911 | 10,262,613 | 2,062,006 | 12,324,619 | 4,736,005 | 2,501,599 | 7,237,604 |
| 1912 | 10,550,491 | 2,891,199 | 13,441,690 | 4,617,961 | 2,925,246 | 7,543,207 |
| 1913 | 9,443,393 | 4,941,127 | 14,384,520 | 4,591,105 | 2,327,508 | 6,918,613 |
| 1914 | 8,045,844 | 7,600,817 | 15,646,661 | 5,142,605 | 2,554,591 | 7,697,196 |
| 1915 | 8,962,710 | 5,490,301 | 14,453,011 | 5,045,589 | 2,095,009 | 7,140,598 |
| 1916 | 12,041,835 | 5,070,054 | 17,111,889 | 5,346,805 | 2,319,296 | 7,666,101 |

*Nine months.

NOTE.—Foreign West Indies include Cuba, Danish, Dutch and French West Indies, Dutch and French Guiana, Hayti, Porto Rico and San Domingo.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

Like the West Indies, Mauritius is in need of sulphate of ammonia for its sugar crop. On January 25th, Mr. Amedée Huguin having addressed them on the subject, the Chamber of Agriculture agreed with the formula "no sulphate of ammonia no crop." Only a few estates on the sea-board could, he said, produce canes without the sulphate, and they represented such a small proportion of the crop as to be negligible. Owing to the want of manures the cane tonnage per acre was appreciably reduced during the past crop.

In a resolution, which was subsequently passed, the Chamber stated that they were informed that every possible endeavour had been made without success to procure sulphate of ammonia from other countries than the United Kingdom.

In this connection Mr. G. Campbell Arnott calls our attention to the following extracts from American Market Reports, which clearly show that it is hopeless to expect to get supplies of sulphate of ammonia from the United States :—

"This product continues out of the category of fertiliser raw materials, and sales have occurred during the interval at the highest point ever recorded. The Government has tightened its hold on the industry. . . . The officials are apparently more concerned with production of the liquor than the sulphate, and from the fertiliser viewpoint there does not appear to be any indication of an increased output of sulphate this year."—February 13th.

"There is practically nothing we can add to our previous reports. A few sales have occurred during the interim at prices that place the product out of the reach of the fertiliser trade, and there is every probability that this form of ammonia will hardly be available to the fertiliser trade during the progress of the war."—March 12th, 1918.

CAPTAIN G. B. MASON, R.A.M.C., obtained the Diploma of Public Health at Cambridge last October.

FOOD VALUE OF SUGAR.

Dr. Murphy's Striking Testimony.

Sugar in its action in the body, writes Dr. Murphy in the *American Sugar Bulletin*, is comparable to the action of coal in a furnace—both are immediately available sources of heat. The extremely high fuel value of sugar is shown by the following official table :—

| One Pound. | Calories. | One Pound. | Calories. |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Sugar | 1,810 | Beef Steak | 1,000 |
| Corn | 1,685 | Cream | 881 |
| Oats | 1,670 | Eggs | 695 |
| Wheat | 1,625 | Cottage Cheese | 495 |
| Rice | 1,620 | Potatoes | 375 |
| Rye | 1,620 | Milk | 315 |
| Navy Beans | 1,560 | Apple | 265 |
| Pork Chop | 1,535 | Onions | 220 |
| Lamb Chop | 1,475 | String Beans | 190 |
| White Bread | 1,180 | | |

A man of sedentary habits requires about 360 calories of protein, and fats and carbo-hydrates of about 2,500 calories per day. The fuel and fat forming units are far in excess of the tissue building. A man doing muscular work requires fuel units and therefore the percentage of carbohydrates in his ration should be increased.

Cane sugar refined is 100 per cent. pure carbohydrate. One pound of sugar gives 1,810 calories or heat units. It is the most easily digested of all foods except levulose and dextrose (invert sugar). When taken into the system it has merely to be inverted by the acids of the stomach and is immediately assimilated. It is taken to the liver and muscles and converted to glycogen which is stored in the body, about one pound being present at all times. It also is fat forming.

By "inverted" is meant a breaking of cane sugar into dextrose and levulose, two other sugars. There is no other food which is capable of being assimilated without digestion in the stomach. Levulose and dextrose are simply diluted by the juices of the stomach and go immediately into the intestines where they are absorbed. The great value of wines

given to exhausted and nauseated patients is in their invert sugar content which gives immediate nutrition.

Dr. Murphy concludes by claiming that sugar is to-day probably the most economical of foods.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Trade of Barbados.

Barbados in 1916-17 enjoyed the combination, unusual in her history, of a large sugar crop and continued high prices. According to the report of Mr. T. E. Fell in the Colony's Blue Book for that year, records were established in revenue and trade, and money was readily subscribed for local loans. Estates have, for the most part, been cleared of debt, and profits are being largely applied by the estate owner to the creation of improved machinery and general estate improvement, in order to insure, in the future, the more effective manufacture of sugar. The difficulty in obtaining material has alone somewhat retarded progress in this direction.

The revenue and expenditure and imports and exports for the last five years were as follows:—

| | Revenue. | Expenditure. | Imports. | Exports. |
|---------|----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 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 | 236,796 | 1,300,073 | 915,099 |
| 1915-16 | 212,483 | 227,008 | 1,270,154 | 1,181,986 |
| 1916-17 | 311,113 | 242,605 | 1,851,054 | 2,207,257 |

The increase in value of imports is attributable mainly to increased value of commodities, the importation of which was rendered practicable by the high price of sugar exported, and a large crop. Money, consequently, was more plentiful, and the disadvantages of higher freight rates and high prices, which had rendered importation of commodities untempting in the two previous years, were overcome.

The increase in value of exports is due to high prices of sugar and a large crop. The quantity of sugar exported exceeded the export of the previous year by 25,588 tons, and the value was estimated at £1,100,995, an increase of £598,494 on 1915. 9,816,015 gallons of molasses were exported, as compared with 6,020,311 in the previous year, with an excess value of £252,971 over 1915. The export of rum showed an increase of 65,705 gallons, the quantity exported amounting to 99,062 gallons. The export of raw cotton shows a decrease of 161,530 lbs., the export amounting to only 143,024 lbs. The high price of sugar resulted in more land being cultivated for that product, to the detriment of cotton.

The following table sets forth the principal "countries of origin" of imports for the past two years:—

| | 1916. | 1915. |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | 596,920 | 441,449 |
| Canada | 320,011 | 191,415 |
| United States | 624,410 | 399,500 |

The following comparative statement gives the value of the principal exports of Colonial produce and manufacture for the past two years:—

| | 1916. | 1915. |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Bread and Crackers | 6,339 | 6,648 |
| Raw Cotton | 9,845 | 17,042 |
| Fresh Vegetables | 7,416 | 8,959 |
| Sugars (all grades) | 1,100,995 | 802,501 |
| Molasses (all grades) | 540,574 | 287,603 |
| Rum | 9,081 | 2,780 |

The Barbados Department of Agriculture reports that for the crop of 1916, the average yield of the seedling cane B.6450 over large areas exceeded that of the White Transparent, the standard cane, on the average of both plants and ratoons, by about five tons of cane per acre, i.e., about half a ton of dark crystal sugar per acre. "As it is estimated that 32,000 acres of canes were grown for the crop of 1916, the increase of the island, if only B.6450 had been grown

would have been equal to about 16,000 tons of dark crystal sugar. At the average price at which dark crystal sugar sold for the past twenty years, viz., £10 14s. 11½d., the monetary gain to the Island from the seedling cane, B.6450, would be not less than £172,000."

The following table gives the comparison of cotton crops by the crop and not by calendar years:—

| | Crop of 1915-16 | Crop of 1914-15 | Decrease |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Acres | 1,078 | 2,323 | 1,245 |
| Quantity lbs. | 132,733 | 303,681 | 170,948 |
| Value £ | 8,889 | 16,841 | 7,952 |

The continued reduction of the area under cotton is due mainly to the fact that the price of sugar and its by-products is so high at the present time, that it pays the planters better to grow sugar-canes than cotton. It is also due, to a lesser extent, to the susceptibility of the imported strains of cotton to the attacks of fungoid diseases and insect pests.

St. Vincent's Record.

The Report on the Blue Book for St. Vincent for 1916-17 indicates no enjoyment of War time prosperity such as is recorded in the case of Barbados. On the contrary, the Island's deficit which stood at £184 on April 1st, 1916, had risen at the end of the financial year—March 31st, 1917—to £359.

The total revenue and expenditure and imports and exports from all sources in the last two years were:—

| | Revenue | Expenditure | Imports* | Exports* |
|---------|---------|-------------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1915-16 | 34,844 | 35,783 | 90,892 | 98,545 |
| 1916-17 | 35,242 | 36,139 | 92,331 | 97,860 |

*For the calendar years 1915-16.

Imports were principally derived in 1916 from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, and in percentages of 39.66, 22.75 and 21.46. The value of imports from all other countries was only 16.13 per cent. of the total.

The destinations of the exports of the produce of the Colony in 1915 and 1916 were as follows:—

| | 1915. | 1916. |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | 63,925 | 46,648 |
| Canada | 3,595 | 10,801 |
| United States of America | 1,203 | 2,831 |
| British West Indies | 23,655 | 27,434 |
| Other Countries | 109 | 3,851 |
| | 92,487 | 91,665 |

The principal products of the Colony exported were:—

| | 1915. | 1916. |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| Arrowroot | 44,689 | 37,619 |
| Cotton— | | |
| Sea Island | 20,604 | 13,893 |
| Marie Galante | 1,521 | 1,368 |
| Cocoa | 7,005 | 5,214 |
| Sugar— | | |
| Crystallised | — | 2,541 |
| Muscovado | 3,253 | 6,979 |
| Syrup and Molasses | 503 | 1,475 |

The quantities and value of exports in the last four years were as follows:—

| Year | Sugar lbs. | Value £ | Syrup and Molasses gals. | Value £ | Total Value £ |
|------|------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1913 | 250 | 2 | 3,252 | 171 | 173 |
| 1914 | 281,990 | 1,586 | 8,904 | 252 | 1,838 |
| 1915 | 505,232 | 3,253 | 10,079 | 503 | 3,756 |
| 1916 | 1,198,314 | 9,520 | 33,771 | 1,475 | 10,995 |

The general dislocation of trade and the shortage of ships due to war conditions continued to have a detrimental effect throughout the year. There were successive increases in the prices of foodstuffs and other imported articles, and there was some difficulty in obtaining ships for exporting the products of the Colony.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE NOTES.

Among gifts recently sent by West Indian Contingent Committee to various Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment have been:—Band instruments, cricket sets, tennis racquets and balls, gramophones, insecticide, and many thousands of cigarettes to men in hospital in France and Italy.

Among other helpers, to whom the West Indian Contingent Committee is indebted, must be included the names of Sir William Trollope; Sir Henry Bovell, formerly Chief Justice of British Guiana; Mrs. Woodroffe, who resided for some years in the same colony, and Miss Gibbs, who have been quite indefatigable in their efforts

The West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge the following gifts with cordial thanks:—

- Mrs. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard: 2 prs. socks.
- Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 7 prs. socks, 2 prs. wristlets, 3 mufflers, 1 sweater.
- Mrs. G. Alleyne: 1 muffler, 1 pr. mittens, 5 prs. socks.
- The W.A.A.C.s, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, per Miss Sidney: 8 prs. socks.
- Miss Bovell: 2 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Craiger and Mrs. Finney: 10 prs. socks.

Among the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been the following:—

- BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. F. S. Armbrister, Cadet Joseph S. Johnson, Driver Neville D. Sands, 2nd Lieut. Eric V. Solomon.
- BARBADOS.—Pte. C. G. Archer, Pte. E. A. Atwell, Gunner Wilfred Bowen, Pte. C. C. Bynoe, Cpl. J. H. Carrington, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, Lieut. H. F. Graves, Lee-Cpl. L. R. Hutchinson, M.M., Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, M.M., Cadet L. D. Peterkin, Pte. C. A. Wood.
- BRITISH GUIANA.—Pte. E. McTurk.
- JAMAICA.—Drummer P. A. Cunningham (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. R. Goldsworthy, A. N. Kilburn, R. J. M. Lewin, R. C. L. Mackenzie Muir, 2nd Lieut. C. J. Miller, 2nd Lieut. A. E. Patterson (B.W.I.R.), Sergt. Pinto (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. R. C. Ripley.
- ST. VINCENT.—Pte. C. O. Hazell, 2nd Lieut. D. A. Richards.
- TRINIDAD.—J. J. Ache, Pte. J. L. Agostini, R. B. D. Campbell, V. Da Costa, 2nd Lieut. D. E. Darwent, (B.W.I.R.), H. A. Date, Sydney Daly, Lieut. H. Dow, Gunner A. H. Doyle, Gunner D. D. Dunshire, A. S. Eckstein, Lieut. R. A. Farfan, R.A.F., Lionel Hamel Smith, M. Govia, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Knox, Capt. G. E. Lange, Gunner A. Lassalle, Pte. C. E. Maingot, F. Maingot, A. Macgillivray, Lieut. C. R. Massy, (B.W.I.R.), Pte. H. R. Murray, 2nd Lieut. D. Pogson, Pte. L. G. Porteous, Pte. P. J. Stone, Prob. Flight Lieut. J. Stopford, Major J. B. Todd, A. J. Wharton.

A list of contributors to the "West Indian Parcels Fund," collected by Miss Jeffers, Mr. J. A. Barbour James, Mr. A. P. Adderley, Mr. C. M. G. Hoyte, and Miss Barbour James, to which reference was made in the CIRCULAR of March 21st (p. 109), is given below:—

- Mr. Jeffers (by cablegram from Trinidad) £15 10s.; Mr. J. Barbour James, £2 2s.; Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., £2; Mrs. Hicks and Friends, £1 6s.; Miss Jeffers, £1 2s. 6d.; Dr. Brown, Dr. Boissierre, Dr. Alcinder, Mr. C. M. G. Hoyte, Mr. Timothy and Friends, and Mr. H. Hosang, £1 each; Mr. Greaves and Friends, 13s.; Mrs. Allen, 12s. 6d.; Mr. Adderley and Dr. Dayer, 10s. 6d. each; Mrs. A. Acham, Mrs. Genert, and Mr. Fredricks, 10s. each; Mr. R. A. S. Hoyte, 8s.; Dr. Metivier and Mr. Roleston, 7s. 6d. each; Mrs. Metiva, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. J. H. Murrell, Mr. Miller, Dr. L. Desbat Phillips, "C. B. B.," Mr. Clarke, Mr. Fernandez, "Anon.," Miss K. Hutchin, Mr.

- Borstoff, Mr. O. L. Wallen, Mr. E. H. Payue, Mr. J. H. Dingwall, Mr. G. McConey, Mr. R. James, Mr. E. Williamson, Mr. M. Nicholas, Mr. V. St. Clair Lucas, Mr. Wm. Plange, Mr. J. A., Mrs. Grace Iles, Mr. Percy Acham, and "Anon.," 5s. each; "Anon." and Mr. Brunying, 3s. each; "Anon.," Mr. De Silva, "Anon.," Miss O. Morton, Miss Sandford, Miss Durham, Mr. Lukam, Mr. Escallier, "G. F. C.," "G. B.," Mr. Ribeirs, Mr. Cruickshank, "Friend," "C. S.," and Mr. Trimmingham, 2s. 6d. each; Mrs. Middlemas, 2s.

The West Indian Contingent Committee acknowledge with thanks the following further contributions:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Anglo South American Central Depot (earmarked for men from Panama) | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Proceeds collection by Sgt. G. A. Roberts at a Recruiting Meeting (Trinidad), per G. F. Huggins, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, for January:— | | | |
| Kingstown Club | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hon. C. E. F. Richards | 10 | 0 | |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 8 | 4 | |
| Jas. H. Hazell, Esq. | 3 | 0 | |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 2 | 0 | |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. | 1 | 0 | |
| | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent, for February:— | | | |
| Kingstown Club | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| Hon. C. E. F. Richards | 10 | 0 | |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 8 | 4 | |
| J. H. Hazell, Esq. | 3 | 0 | |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 2 | 0 | |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. | 1 | 0 | |
| | 3 | 13 | 4 |
| Mrs. F. Richmond | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Miss Edith Peterkin (further donation) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. W. H. Watson | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| F. J. Morris, Esq. (Demerara and Trinidad) | 2 | 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 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 Jamaica Agricultural Society continues to send gifts of comforts for distribution among various charities by the West India Committee. The 55th consignment, which was packed under the superintendence of Mr. J. Barclay, and has just arrived, comprises 1,280 hospital bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien's collection, and 160 garments, etc., for the Belgian Relief Committee from the Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. St. John Branch, Half Way Tree; 794 garments, etc., from the Mandeville Ladies' Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne, Mandeville; 189 from the Spanish Town Branch of the Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. F. E. Taylor (which also sent 14 garments, etc., for the Belgian Relief Committee), and 11 from the St. Ann's Women's Working Association, per Mr. James Dougall, of Laughlands, for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, which also sent 310 hospital bags to Lady Smith-Dorrien's Fund; and 96 garments from the Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mr. J. Briscoe.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

PRIVATE W. RICKFORD, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, youngest son of Mr. Howell Rickford, planter, British Guiana, was killed in action December 30th, 1917, aged 22. He was an engineering student at Glasgow, and joined up at the outbreak of war.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment on various fronts:—

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—15160 Price, C.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—11377 Laurence, J. W.
 COSTA RICA.—14400 Smith, M.
 JAMAICA.—10271 Alexander, L.; 7277 Brown, J.; 7553 Cadenhead, M.; 9861 Campbell, H.; 16675 Cole, W.; 15932 Dixon, J.; 6788 Ellocock, J.; 3476 Gordon, E.; 8787 Harris, C.; 10183 Hunter, J.; 12249 Johnson B. W.; 15773 Reid, N.; 5911 Rennie, R.; 4958 Samuels, S.; 14383 Sinclair, F.; 5948 Sommers, H.; 14179 Woolley, J.,
 ST. VINCENT.—16754 Marks, J.
 TRINIDAD.—16399 Abilstead, P.; 16316 Layne, A.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

7652 Kelly, M.

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.

Agostini, Bernard (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Trooper 1st King Edward's Horse.
 Anderson, F. J. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.
 Da Costa, V. O. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Field Artillery.
 De Silva, A. H. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Field Artillery.
 Doyle, A. F. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Field Artillery.
 Dunsire, D. D. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Field Artillery.
 Fernandez, J. E. (of British Guiana), Royal Field Artillery.
 Gray, Edward Emile Delisle, youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. St. George Gray, and nephew of Emile S. Delisle, Esq., of Basseterre, St. Kitts, is serving as Surgeon-Probationer, R.N.V.R., on H.M.S. *Martin*.
 Hale, Richard (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Household Battalion and Grenadier Guards, Cavalry Officers' Cadet School.
 Milne, G. (of British Guiana), Royal Garrison Artillery.
 Stanley, Robert (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Accountant Army Canteens.
 Stone, Percy (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Army Pay Corps.
 Wainwright, C. A. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Engineers.

WOUNDED.

PTE. GEORGE HODGE, Coldstream Guards (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has lost his right eye as the result of a shrapnel wound.
 PTE. J. McPHERSON (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), has been wounded.
 SECOND LIEUT. E. P. M. WALCOTT, son of the Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., of Trinidad, has been reported wounded and missing.
 PTE. R. O. WATERMAN (of Trinidad) has been wounded.

MISSING.

SECOND LIEUT. A. R. KNOWLES, R.A.F. (of the Bahamas), has been reported missing.

PRISONER OF WAR.

LIEUT. J. P. SCOTT BUSHE, R.F.C., son of Mr. R. J. Scott Bushe, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., Assistant Director of Public

Works, Trinidad, was shot down in Germany, September 30th, 1917, during a night raid, and made a prisoner of war.

HONOURS.

SURGEON-PROBATIONER ST. GEORGE BERNARD DELISLE GRAY, R.N.V.R., eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. St. George Gray, and nephew of Emile S. Delisle, Esq., of Basseterre, St. Kitts, has been awarded the Bronze Medal and certificate of the Royal Humane Society for the rescue of a man from drowning at 3 o'clock a.m. on December 20th, 1917, at Mudros.

IN HOSPITAL.

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, *Bournemouth*.
 BAHAMAS.—Trpr. Bruce S. Bethell, Royal Dragoons, London.
 BARBADOS.—Lieut. C. L. W. Hinds, Worcester Regt., London; Lee-Cpl. McConnery, *Batham*; Pte. C. G. Archer, Civil Service Rifles, *Oxford*; Pte. E. G. Bayue, Artists' Rifles, *Saffron Walden*; Pte. H. H. Leslie, Artists' Rifles, *Brighton*.
 BRITISH HONDURAS.—2nd Lieut. A. N. Usber, M.C., *Highgate*.
 MONTSERRAT.—2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.
 JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London.
 ST. KITT'S.—2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, M.G.C., *Wandsworth*; Pte O. L. Diney, Royal Fusiliers, *Dublin*.
 ST. LUCIA.—Cook Lionel Austin, *Greenwich*.
 TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., *Brighton*; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwicks, *Wandsworth*; Lieut. Gordon Burke, Royal Fusiliers, *Mundesley*; 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Royal Fusiliers, *Bournemouth*; 2nd Lieut. Jos. E. Keruahan, R.F.C., London; Lieut. D. S. Cousins, R.E., London; Trpr. Sydney Daly, Household Battalion, Cpl. Murray, Household Battalion, Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, Trpr. F. Villarroel, Household Battalion, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Tank Corps, Sgt. V. A. Plummer, London.
 BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, *Arundel*; Capt. W. A. Hoban, *Fowey*; 2nd Lieut. J. A. Haynes, London; 2nd Lieut. B. Thomson, London; Pte. S. Brown (Barbados), *Tooling*; Cpl. Orr, Pte. Exell, Pte. Douglas (Jamaica), London.

"M. C. A." recalls in the *Manchester Guardian*, of April 11th, that the late Sir Lauder Brunton, shortly before his death, gave his views on the value of sugar in a letter in the *Times*. He wrote:—

"The nutritive value of sugar is so great that the Germans, some years ago, added it to their soldiers' rations. In addition to this, sugar renders palatable food which might otherwise be insipid, or even distasteful, and it has been shown by the distinguished Russian physiologist, I. P. Pavlov, whose recent death we greatly deplore, that food which pleases the palate is much more digestible than food which is insipid. Sweets have the additional power of supplying a craving which is sometimes felt, even after a full meal, a fact which is usually recognised by their being placed on the table along with dessert after a public dinner. They satisfy also a vague desire which is sometimes felt at other times, and, instead of leading to indulgence in alcohol or tobacco, they supply the place of these stimulants. Over-indulgence in sweets between meals, especially in children, is apt to lead to indigestion, but sweets taken along with, or just after, meals are of advantage."

FALLEN BARBADIANS HONOURED.

Room Endowed at Star and Garter Home.

"This room is endowed by the women of Barbados in memory of those Barbadians who have given their lives for their country."

This inscription has been placed in a room at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, established for wounded soldiers, which room has been endowed by means of subscriptions contributed by the people of Barbados. The organisers of the movement were Mrs. J. Trowbridge Hendy (President), Mrs. W. McLaren (Vice-President), Mrs. G. A. McKinstry (Treasurer), Mrs. D. M. Skinner (Secretary); and Mrs. E. H. Bannister, and Mrs. C. S. Pitcher being the members of the Executive Committee of the Local Star and Garter Fund. In October a cheque for £2,000, to complete the endowment of the room, was forwarded by Mrs. Skinner, as Secretary, through the Secretary of the West India Committee.

The first nomination will be made by Mr. Algernon Aspinall, on behalf of the local Star and Garter Committee, after which the right of nomination will be left completely in the hands of the Star and Garter Committee.

The money was collected in Barbados by the following ladies of the different parishes:—

ST. MICHAEL: Mrs. J. T. Hendy, Mrs. W. M. McLaren, Mrs. G. A. McKinstry, Mrs. D. M. Skinner, Mrs. E. H. Bannister, Mrs. C. S. Pitcher, Mrs. A. Pilgrim, Mrs. A. Berkeley, Mrs. W. L. C. Phillips, Mrs. C. P. Bowen, Mrs. T. S. Browne, Mrs. R. Browne, Mrs. H. W. C. Deighton, Mrs. A. Somers Cocks, Mrs. W. Nowell, Mrs. J. O. Wright, Mrs. Colin Bowen, Miss H. Shilstone, Miss D. Howell, and Miss M. Sanderson. CHRIST CHURCH: Mrs. D. G. Leacock and Mrs. G. S. Evelyn. ST. GEORGE: Mrs. S. S. Robinson and Mrs. G. L. Pile. ST. PHILIP: Mrs. G. P. Skeete and Miss G. Smith. ST. JOHN: Mrs. W. Briggs Clarke and Mrs. Clarke-Hunte. ST. JOSEPH: Mrs. H. Greaves and Mrs. E. T. Cox. ST. PETER: Miss F. Trimbigham and Miss B. Sinckler. ST. LUCY: Mrs. H. B. Skeete and Mrs. J. C. Rowell. ST. ANDREW: Mrs. J. Packer and Mrs. A. Hutson. ST. THOMAS: Mrs. I. Hutson Inniss and Mrs. G. C. Edgehill. ST. JAMES: Mrs. J. K. Greaves and Mrs. J. Culpepper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Montserrat Limes.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—Our attention has been called to an article in your recent issue about the Montserrat lime industry, which is calculated to give a wrong and damaging impression of the actual state of things; and we would ask you to give the same publicity to the following facts:—

It is true that a cycle of dry years has led to a serious increase of blight, and reduced the total export of lime juice from the island. The figures you quote, however, were made up by an estimate of the juice used to make citrate, or concentrated. We have all along been able to ship the usual quantity of raw juice required for that trade from year to year, and we see no reason why we should not continue to do so. It is the citrate of lime and concentrated juice that have fallen off. Happily, the dry cycle now seems to have come to an end. The shield scale fungus that we introduced in 1912 to kill the blight is doing a lot of good work, and we are advised that the trees as a whole have not been so free from blight for a number of years as they are now.

We are, yours truly,

For the Montserrat Co.,

JOSEPH STURGE,

Managing Director.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIQUA—A Regrettable Riot in St. John's.

A Commission comprising Sir Frederic Maxwell, Mr. H. G. Shepherd and Mr. Thomas Fisher, has been sitting to fix the rate of wages for cane cutting this season. They were agreed that the only fair and equitable way of computing wages was by weight, but out of deference to many labourers who were irreconcilably averse from cutting by the ton, they adopted the only other method of calculation, that of cutting by line. Finding it impossible to recommend a sliding scale except by agreement in respect of each particular field, they were obliged to adopt a uniform rate where employers and labourers could not agree, viz:—

(a) For plant canes; either 2d. per line, or (if the labourer is willing to cut by the ton) 1/- per ton.

(b) For first ratoon canes; 1d., per line, or (if the labourer is willing to cut by the ton) 1/1 per ton.

(c) For second ratoon canes; 1d. per line, or (if the labourer is willing to cut by the ton) 1/3 per ton.

Provided that, in the case of burnt canes, the price otherwise payable shall be reduced by one quarter.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, writing on March 19th, reported with regret that during the sitting of the Commission there had been many cases of fires and that on one estate attempts to extinguish the flames had been met with violence. Stone throwing was resorted to and resistance was offered when attempts were made to arrest the rioters. The Defence Force was called out and the offenders were eventually taken to the Police Court, where a Court Martial was sitting.

From a report of the inquest on two young men who were wounded in the riot and subsequently died, published in *The Sun* of March 12th, it would seem that when an attempt was made to arrest two offenders for breaches of a recent Martial Law Proclamation, a hostile crowd would not allow them to be taken, although warrants (which were not really necessary) were produced. The Acting Magistrate, Mr. Solomon, and the Chief Inspector of Police drove down St. John Street and addressed the crowd. Meanwhile the constables had been stoned and the Defence Force was called out and hastened to the spot in motor cars. The Riot Act was then read and the people were advised to disperse. They failed to do so and the Defence Force was badly stoned, the mob having piled stones in the roadways for the purpose. The Bishop who arrived on the scene appealed to the crowd for nearly an hour; but this proved of little avail, and a hearing was refused the Governor, who, accompanied by his private secretary and the Colonial Secretary, came down in the hope of quelling the disturbance. It was now getting dark, and at 6.30 Colonel May was reluctantly compelled to order his men to fire on the mob, which they did with the result that 15 persons were injured, two of whom subsequently died. The jury after a brief deliberation found that the deceased came to their death as the result of bullet wounds lawfully inflicted by the Military Forces of Antigua during riots in which the two dead persons took part after the Riot Act had been read.

The Sun calls attention to the remarkable coincidence that sixty years before within a day—namely on March 10th, 1858—a similar riot occurred in St. John.

BAHAMAS—Mr. Hart-Bennett's "send off."

MR. W. HART-BENNETT, C.M.G., and his sister were given a splendid "send off" on the occasion of their departure to British Honduras. They were entertained at a dinner at Government House when Sir William Allardyce, in a felicitous speech, proposed their health, and were the chief guests at a Garden Party given by Lady Allardyce. Other friends including the Speaker and Mrs. Harcourt Malcolm vied with one another in doing honour to the departing Colonial Secretary. Miss Hart Bennett was entertained at a farewell tea at the residence of Lady Sands by the Victoria Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, of which she has for some time been Regent. The members had previously presented her with an appropriate souvenir in the shape of a handsome turtle-shell comb and a set of buttons. Mr. Hart Bennett takes with

him to British Honduras an illuminated and widely signed address to testify to the esteem in which he is held by all classes of the community whose affection for him and his sister has been strikingly demonstrated.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Rice Order.

Considerable divergence of opinion exists in British Guiana over the policy of the Governor, Sir Wilfred Collet, in prohibiting the export of rice and coconuts from that Colony, except under special licence. The Governor's object is, of course, a most laudable one, namely, to control and conserve the food supply of the people in face of the threatened failure of the ordinary shipments of flour, lard and provisions generally, from the United States and Canada; and also to check undue speculation on the part of buyers and shippers. In the meantime the neighbouring colonies in the West Indies, as well as Surinam, are feeling the shortage in their local markets of the customary rice shipments from Demerara.

It is also feared that the necessary drastic regulations imposed on the free sale and deliveries of paddy from the rice growers throughout the Colony will seriously discourage the future development of the rice industry in British Guiana, which has made such wonderful advances within recent years.

In view of the shortage of food supplies from North America, the people of British Guiana are being urged by the Government to increase the home production of ground provisions and other food supplies, so as to meet local requirements, and ward off any probability of actual scarcity.

It is stated in a recent issue of the Demerara Argosy that a company of capitalists has been formed in London for the purpose of developing the mineral resources of British Guiana, embracing bauxite, oil, gold, diamonds, etc. This company, we are given to understand, is being promoted by the Hon. Adolph Nassy and his partner, Mr. D. E. Headley, both hailing from the neighbouring Dutch colony of Surinam.

In the meantime the bauxite industry is being prosecuted in British Guiana through the activities of local and American capitalists; and considerable developments have already taken place in the Demerara River districts, at Akyma and elsewhere.

In this connection the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has issued a timely warning to colonists generally, to guard against any insidious enemy overtures for the exploitation of the mineral and other natural raw products of the Colony, which they may now try to negotiate through, so-called, neutral countries for execution immediately after the war.

BRITISH HONDURAS—£1,300 for Red Cross.

THE HON. C. MELIADO, C.M.G., is to be congratulated on raising the sum of £1,300 for the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

JAMAICA—The Late Sir Henry Blake.

The Legislative Council, at its meeting on March 12th, adopted the following resolution:—

"This Council begs to tender to Lady Blake its deep sympathy and heartfelt condolence in her bereavement on the death of Sir Henry Arthur Blake, her late husband, whose administration of the affairs of Jamaica for many years improved this colony considerably to the best interests of the people, and that a copy of this resolution be conveyed to her Ladyship through the Government."

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—Flag Day has been celebrated and there is good reason to believe that excellent results have been obtained. Functions to raise funds for the B.W.I.R. Comforts Fund, and the West India Regiment respectively, held at King's House and Up Park Camp were well supported.—The Government state that the Colony's revenue for the first six months of the financial year amounted to £518,756 4s. 5d., as compared with £578,106 15s. 6d. for the same period in 1916. The principal increases were under the heads of Property Tax, Fees, Stamp Duties and Reimbursement of Debts; on the other hand the Customs Receipts showed a deficit of £35,942 4s. 5d. Licenses, etc., £1,408 2s. 11d., and the

Railway £5,704 5s. 11d. The expenditure totalled £531,854 13s. 7d. compared with £519,817 16s. 1d. for the corresponding period of last year.—The half-yearly report of the Kingston Ice Making Co. shows earnings of £2,915 14s. 5d. A dividend of 1/9 on the 17/6 shares and 2/- on the 20/- shares was declared.—The Agricultural Society has received a report in respect to the coco-nut industry, in which it is stated that the estimated loss of bearing trees in the Eastern portions of Portland and St. Thomas as a result of the September, 1917, hurricane amounted to 200,000. The Governor has informed the Society that a further telegram has been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the restrictions upon export of coffee and cocoa from the island, and that certain specific suggestions had been made with a view to alleviating the conditions.—The Governor's Red Cross Fund stands at £14,547 7s. 9d., and other funds continue to receive liberal support.

GRENADA—The Income Tax Ordinance.

The proposal to impose an Income Tax as well as an Export Duty has been the subject of acute controversy. The Agricultural and Commercial Society has passed a resolution urging the revision of the Income Tax Bill and the withdrawal of the Export Tax in favour of the Income Tax. Much exception was taken to the former measure in its present form, which provided for a spertax on absentees. In the course of an interesting speech on December 21st, the Hon. D. S. De Freitas gave the following interesting summary of the various classes of holdings in Grenada and Carriacou:—

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Under two acres | 4,970 |
| Under three acres | 1,212 |
| Under five acres | 1,136 |
| Under ten acres | 682 |
| Under twenty acres | 251 |
| Under 100 acres | 209 |
| 100 acres and over | 137 |
| Holdings total | 8,597 |

These figures related to the year 1911, when the population numbered 66,750. By multiplying the total number of holdings—8,579—by five (the average number of a family), which was an admissible proceeding, it would be found that eight out of every twelve inhabitants were interested in the ownership of land in the colony, and by taking the tenants into account, it would be seen that no fewer than ten out of every twelve owned or used the land. Apart from numbers, the agriculturists were economically and politically the dominant factor in the colony. They were the basis of its prosperity.

The Income Tax Ordinance No. 19, 1917, has since been disallowed.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, MARCH 14th.—St. Andrew's Red Cross Fête was a great success, about £200 being realised. A sheep was bought by auction and given back for sale no less than twenty times, and was eventually sold for £63 6s. 1d. St. Patrick's Red Cross Fête and Concert took place on the 28th February, and realised about £106. St. David's Red Cross Fête brought in £103, in spite of bad weather. St. Mark's Red Cross Fête will be held on the 25th April. A quiet wedding took place at the Scotch Kirk on March 2nd, when Mr. John Barclay, Attorney, of Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co., was married to Miss Gardner, late Matron of the Colony Hospital. They have taken up residence at Mr. Barclay's Estate True Blue. Messrs. D. L. Slinger & Co., Ltd., have extended their business premises by taking over those formerly occupied by Messrs. Feeny Bros. We had rather a prolonged earthquake, which fortunately did no damage here, though Trinidad seems to have suffered. We have now 142 cars in the island. The races at Grenville come off on April 1st and 2nd. The weather is exceptionally favourable for the crops; provided we have no drought in May and June, the prospects are good.

MONTserrat—Price of Cotton.

MR. K. P. PENCHRON, MARCH 10th.—In my opinion if the split among the fine cotton spinners has been the cause, or partly the cause of the tremendous rise in the price of cotton, it is not altogether an unmixed blessing, as the absurd price of 10d. per pound given here for seed

cotton last year (the highest price previously being 4d. per lb.) has upset labour, and all other conditions, and I consider will in all probability seriously affect the future of the cotton industry here. I consider if the fine spinners or any part of them thought it necessary to send anyone here to buy cotton on their behalf, it should have been cotton lint, and not seed cotton, as the small growers have always been fairly dealt with by the buyers of seed cotton here, and those that wished to ship lint were not discouraged. The competition arising from an outsider coming in to buy seed cotton (who was also a buyer of lint) has, I consider, done more harm than good to the future of the industry.

TOBACCO—Sharp Earthquake.

MR. ROBERT REID, FEBRUARY 28th.—On Sunday 24th inst., there was rather a sharp earthquake, the second experience by me in eleven years residence in Tobago.—The big cacao crop is practically at an end and pickings are on quite a small scale and likely to be so for the next few months.—Coco-nut picking and copra making are in active progress, and the handsome price atones for the poor returns of cacao. Sugar making has commenced, but it is on a miserably small scale.—The fine weather is enabling the peasant proprietors to plant vegetables, but unfortunately their idea is to provide abundance for their own consumption and as usual very little will be exported.

TRINIDAD—Proposed Labour Exchanges.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 18th.—At the first of the 1918 Sessions of the Legislative Council on the 8th inst., it was stated that the Revenue for 1917 had been £1,098,103. This total was £50,993 in excess of the estimates, but only exceeded expenditure by £488, owing to unforeseen war expenditure. The surplus balance at 31st December was £124,821. Of that sum £32,325 earmarked for re-votes in connection with work which could not be completed in 1917.—On the whole the year had been prosperous, crops abundant, and prices not unremunerative. But prospects for 1918 caused anxiety. Importation has been restricted and revenue from customs has fallen off in proportion; the loss under this head in January and February being nearly £20,000. The cacao crop did not promise so well, and the ravages of the frog-hopper would materially affect the sugar crop. Increased taxation seemed inevitable. The progress of the oil industry continued satisfactory, and Admiralty contracts had been entered into for the supply of the Navy. The hope of obtaining labour from the East Indies must be abandoned, at any rate for the present, but steps were being taken in conjunction with the Governments of the other Colonies to remove existing obstacles to the free movement of labour from Colonies where population is redundant to those where there is a demand for labour. To assist in this the establishment of Labour Exchanges is contemplated. The opinion of the Council was to be asked regarding the Harbour Scheme, so that preliminary arrangements may be made to put the work in hand as soon as normal conditions are restored.

Sugar reaping operations are now in full swing throughout the Colony. The quality of the juice, on the whole, is considered satisfactory for commencement of crop.

Under the Defence of the Colony Regulations, His Excellency the Governor has fixed the maximum prices in respect of the sale of sugar for consumption in the Colony wholesale or retail, as follows:—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Manufactured in the Colony, and sold by manufacturers: | Per lb. |
| White crystals not more than | 6c. |
| Yellow crystals not more than | 5c. |
| Grey crystals not more than | 4c. |
| Molasses sugar made from Yellow crystals ... | 4c. |
| Molasses sugar made from Grey crystals ... | 3c. |
| Muscovado | 4c. |

The retail prices of these grades are proclaimed not to exceed 1c. per lb. in each case more than those fixed for the wholesale price.

Manufacturers will be required to retain in the Colony a certain proportion of all sugar manufactured; a very necessary regulation seeing that the rate fixed for sales

made locally is about 12 per cent. less than that paid by the Royal Sugar Commission of the United Kingdom, who have concluded a contract with one firm here for 36,000 tons of greys at 21/- f.o.b., per ton. Of this quantity, about 20,000 tons will be supplied from the St. Madeleine Sugar Company, the balance from the estates controlled by the same interests in other islands.

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

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
| To all countries | 5,512,896 |
| Total for February | 5,512,896 |
| Shipped previously | 1,802,205 |
| Total from 1st January | 7,315,101 |
| To same date, 1917 | 13,847,123 |
| “ “ 1916 | 13,898,802 |
| “ “ 1915 | 15,871,414 |
| “ “ 1914 | 16,414,326 |
| “ “ 1913 | 12,580,244 |
| “ “ 1912 | 18,986,873 |
| “ “ 1911 | 10,870,541 |
| “ “ 1910 | 15,764,034 |
| “ “ 1909 | 14,841,342 |
| “ “ 1908 | 16,103,829 |

TURKS ISLAND—Salt Prospects.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—In regard to the salt industry, with the advance in price and the big demand and prospects of ready sale, the small proprietors are getting a fair show. In the near future two air motors for grinding fishery salt are to be erected at Grand Turk. This should tend to help the smaller proprietors, who have been greatly handicapped during the past, by being unable to find a ready sale for their salt, thus barring them from raking their full quota for lack of funds.

BIRTH.

FRYER.—On the 9th April, at Clematis Cottage, Yerbury Street, Trowbridge, Wilts, to Mollie (nee Fenwick), wife of Cadet C. H. B. Fryer, R.G.A., a son.

WANT.

SUGAR PLANTER, past military age, with experience in British Guiana and Cuba, desires appointment. First-class references. Apply, M. P., c/o Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

THERE is a decided shortage in raw supplies for refining purposes at the present time (says the Montreal correspondent of *Facts About Sugar*, New York), brought about in the main by the same causes which have operated against supplies freely reaching the United States market. In the case of Canada, the position has been aggravated, however, by the fact that the Royal Commission on The Sugar Supply some time ago bought up, for shipment to the United Kingdom, a large portion of the West India and Demerara crops, which in previous years have largely come to Canada, and on which the Canadian refiners were relying for a good part of their supplies for the current season.

The situation has been further accentuated by the traffic congestion at New York and the resultant difficulty in getting forward the raw sugar in transit for Canada, which for the Montreal and Ontario refiners must largely come through that port. These conditions have resulted in a scarcity which, added to transport difficulties in the Dominion itself, has amounted almost to a sugar famine in certain districts.

THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION.

Commenting on the correspondence between the West India Committee and the Colonial Office regarding the Brussels Convention and the statement of Mr. Walter Long that the question as to whether the agreement was at an end or not was being considered by a Government Committee, the *International Sugar Journal* says:

"Till this body reports its conclusions, we are then forced to wait for a decision on which hangs very greatly the immediate welfare of the British sugar colonies. We can only hope that the decision will not be long delayed, and that when the verdict is given it will be found that it is tempered with commonsense and that too meticulous a regard is not paid to legal precedents of a pre-war standard. It must however be remembered that there is no lack of eminent jurists who hold that, based on past precedents, the Convention has fallen through. The task of the British investigating body should not therefore be specially difficult."

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE,
Telegrams—"Carib. London" LONDON, E.C.3.

April 18th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1915. Five per cent. War Loan, 94½. Consols, 55½.

SUGAR. The United Kingdom quotations remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in May, 1917, viz.: Cubes, 58/9; B.W.I. Crystallised, Crystals and Granulated, 46/9; Muscovados and W.I. Grocery Syrups, 44/6; and Syrups and Muscovados suitable only for manufacturing purposes, 39/6.

The New York prices remain at \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed.

Prices remain at 4.985 c. and f. for Cubas and 6.005 cts. for Porto Ricos.

Details of the arrangements made for financing the present Cuban sugar crop have now been made public. The Food Administrator and United States Government, having no authority to make advances, asked certain bankers to take the matter up. It is proposed to organise a syndicate to provide funds by means of a revolving credit under which drafts will be drawn and notes issued covering a maximum period expiring December 1st, 1918. The advances to be made by the syndicate are not to exceed \$100,000,000 outstanding at any one time. The notes and bills will be eligible for purchase and discount by the Federal Reserve Banks. Export Corporations are to be formed, to which advances will be made by members of the Syndicate, and these will lend the money so advanced to the owner or holder of the sugar against notes maturing in not more than 90 days and secured by documents evidencing the pledge of raw sugar on the basis of 3 cents per lb. The Cuban Syndicate has opened offices in Havana in this connection. Hincly reports that money has been offered to the planters from London on the security of sugars in store at a rate which would come to not over 6 per cent. to the borrower.

The statistics of West Indian sugar in London on April 13th were as follows:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Imports | 5,617 | 9,389 | 7,280 | Tons |
| Deliveries | 13,638 | 12,105 | 15,546 | .. |
| Stock (Apr. 13th) | 2,966 | 5,299 | 2,839 | .. |

RUM. There is nothing fresh to report. The stocks in London on April 13th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Jamaica | 5,433 | 9,079 | 4,839 | puns |
| Demerara | 3,813 | 7,995 | 10,434 | .. |
| Total of all kinds | 14,638 | 29,279 | 26,408 | .. |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed by the Food Controller, those for the finest grades being: Ceylon, Java, and Samoa, 100/-; Demerara, Guayaquil, Trinidad, and Surinam, 90/-; Bahia, Cameroons, Grenada, and other West Indians, 85/-; British West Africa, 65/-. All cocoa has to be graded before it is sold.

Exports from the British West Indies to various dates include Trinidad (Feb. 28th), 7,315,091 lbs.; Grenada (Feb. 28th), 5,532,592 lbs.; St. Lucia (Mar. 15th), 1,192,912 lbs.; British Guiana (Feb. 21st) 5,610 lbs.

The stocks in London on April 13th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Trinidad | 14,888 | 17,708 | 14,781 | bags. |
| Grenada | 25,191 | 21,000 | 17,165 | .. |
| Total of all kinds | 197,475 | 263,042 | 125,323 | .. |

COTTON. The market is still under Government control.

Imports during the first 15 weeks of the present year amounted to 1,099,583 bales, including 458 of British West Indian, 278 British West African, and 966 British East African.

ARROWROOT. The high prices now ruling—1/3 to 1/6 having been paid—have considerably checked the demand, and may in the long run prove a not unmixing blessing by turning the attention of manufacturers, hitherto large users, to other starches. The Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies has issued a notice which for the moment seems to have stopped business.

COPRA. The position is unchanged. West India, £46 c.i.f., d.w., London or Liverpool; value to Marseilles, £30 to £92.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed quiet, value about 17/6; distilled, no demand, cannot advise consigning. Lime Juice: raw, firm, ordinary to good green, 2/6 to 3/3; concentrated, firmer. Citrate firmer.

Dominica's export of lime products in 1917 were:—Lime juice: raw, 778,133 gallons; concentrated, 149,775 gallons; cordial, 469 gallons. Fresh limes 41,243 barrels. Pickled limes, 350 barrels. Citrate of lime, 1,960 cwt. Lime oil: distilled, 5,159 gallons; ecuelled, 1,143 gallons.

RUBBER. The market has again been very quiet with slightly lower prices. Crepe, spot, 2/4. Para, firm; spot, 3/1.

BALATA. Market unchanged. Venezuela block done at 3/4 c.i.f.; Panama and Tumaco nominal; sellers of Panama at 3/2 c.i.f. without finding buyers. W.I. sheet: spot 4/2; 4/3 sellers. Forward quotations 3/11 to 4/- terms.

HONEY. About steady at auction. Nominal value, Jamaica, 190/- to 200/-; but the tone is quieter.

SPICES. Pimento: Second-hand sellers 5½d., with a quiet demand. Ginger: Firm, but quiet. Jamaica 102/6 to 135/- per cwt.

MR. EDMUND WATERTON FARNALL, C.B., who died on April 14th, had been employed for forty-two years in the General Post Office, where, since 1906, he had been one of the Assistant Secretaries. A brilliant linguist and a man of great personal charm he took a prominent and sympathetic part in arranging the renewal of the R.M.S.P. Co.'s Transatlantic Contract for the carriage of mails to the British West Indies. He was also actively concerned in the negotiations which effected a reduction of cable rates to the West Indies. Mr. Farnall's elder daughter married Mr. F. C. Previte, of the firm of Previte & Co., West India merchants.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, MAY 2nd, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON

May 2nd, 1918.

"Absentees" and the Budget.

WEST INDIANS have no cause for complaint in the Budget which was introduced by Mr. BONAR LAW on April 22nd, and has been very favourably received. The only products in which they are practically interested that are affected are sugar and spirits; but as the importation of rum into the United Kingdom is still prohibited, whilst that of sugar is rigidly controlled, the position is not altered by the increase in the duties on those commodities. In the case of grocery sugars, however, the new prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply will be found to react in favour of producers. The rum surtax or differential duty against British colonial spirit still remains, but the differentiation is now smaller than it was in proportion to the duty-paid price of spirits, for which small mercy we must be thankful. As regards West Indian proprietors resident in this country, that long-suffering class—popularly known as "absentees"—is to be congratulated upon having to bear no extra burdens than those imposed upon the rest of the community of the United Kingdom. There is no increase in the Excess Profits Tax, which remains at 80 per cent.; but the income tax is raised to 6/-, and the super-tax to maximum of 4/6 in the pound. We hope that our readers overseas, where slighting remarks about "absentees" are not unknown, will ponder over these figures and realise what they mean. Without entering into details and technicalities, let them compare the position of a resident proprietor (in those of the colonies where

there is no excess profits' or income tax), clearing from his estate £10,000 a year, as against £3,000 before the war, with that of an absentee securing a similar return. Eliminating altogether local taxation and duties, which both have to pay, he will find that while the resident proprietor can keep the whole of his £10,000, the absentee must pay excess profits tax (80 per cent.), income tax (6/- in the pound), and supertax (1/- to 2/6 in the pound), reducing his net return to £2,960! We do not mention this with the intention of giving rise to invidious comparisons, for we represent the interests of both residents and absentees; but we do feel that on occasion the latter do not always receive the consideration which is their due. Only recently an Ordinance was passed by the Legislature of Grenada, section 5 of which provided for an additional duty of 10 per cent. on the amount of income tax payable by individuals not ordinarily resident in the colony. We are glad to learn, however, that the Ordinance in question has been disallowed, and so no more need be said; but we must record with satisfaction that the agriculturists of Grenada, in a largely signed petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, while favouring an income tax rather than an export duty, claimed that the former should be "free from the narrowness of a punitive additional income tax on persons not ordinarily resident in the colony," and should "not discourage the investment in the colony of ... external capital"—which is precisely what the Ordinance in question would have done.

Sugar After the War.

A CABLEGRAM from Jamaica, recently published in the Press, stated that the Legislature in that island had called upon the Government to denounce the Brussels Sugar Convention. This can hardly be correct, for Great Britain, at the outbreak of hostilities, was no longer a party to that agreement. Misconception regarding our position with regard to the Convention is so widespread that it may be well to recall that following their action in 1907, when they declined to be bound any further by the obligation to prohibit the entry of, or to impose countervailing duties on, bounty fed sugar, the British Government in 1913

withdrew from the Convention altogether. This action on their part, however, proved to be mere camouflage, for they coupled their withdrawal with the quite unnecessary self-denying pledge that they would not give a preference in the duties in the market of the United Kingdom to sugar from British Colonies to cane sugar over beet, without first giving six months' notice to the Signatories of the Convention. It is the denunciation of this pledge which the Legislature of Jamaica, in common with all other British sugar colonies, insists upon. Let us see to whom the pledge was given. In 1913, when Great Britain withdrew, the Convention was renewed for five years—until 1918—and thenceforward from year to year, by the remaining signatories, namely Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Peru, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland. These are the countries to which our pledge not to favour our own colonies was given. But Germany and Austria-Hungary, and also Luxemburg—which has ceased to have an independent existence—may be ruled out. So, too, may our faithful Ally France, which ceases to be a party to the Convention—if it still exists, and we maintain that it was terminated as far as the Belligerent Powers are concerned when war broke out—on September 1st next. Russia, too, must surely be out of the Convention, for in Article 4 of the Protocol of March 17th, 1912, which provided for the extension of the agreement, it was laid down that Russia would be considered as having denounced the Convention, if in the last session before Sept. 1st, 1917, the Permanent Commission had not unanimously agreed as to her sugar régime in the future, and we know that no such agreement was arrived at. Therefore, the only "live" parties to the Convention, again assuming that it is alive itself, are Belgium, Holland, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland. It is to these countries that our Government believes itself to be under a solemn pledge not to give preferential treatment to our own colonies!

Could anything be more preposterous? Yet the Government shilly-shallies and cannot make up its mind whether the Convention still exists or not. The question is a simple one of International Law, which should not be beyond the Law Officers of the Crown to solve, and yet there must be further delay while it is considered by a committee. It has been suggested that the delay is of no consequence, as neither machinery nor capital are forthcoming for the development of the British Sugar Industry under present conditions; but plans for extension of production cannot be matured in a day, and if we are not prepared beforehand we shall be in a poor position to face the competition with countries which have not been subject to the restrictions which are necessarily imposed on British producers during the war, which will be severe.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Mr. E. M. Peterkin, of the Agricultural Department of British Guiana, and Nellie, daughter of Mr. Malon, of Eldridge's, Christ Church, Barbados.

L. A. BRIGGS, of Grenada, is the composer of a patriotic battle march song, entitled "England and Victory," published by P. B. Story, agent in New York. Our musical expert reports favourably upon it.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY—April 23rd—was the anniversary of the birth of James Anthony Froude, the famous historian, and author of a standard work on the Caribbean—"The English in the West Indies"—published thirty years ago.

L. RAYMOND ALSTON, second son of Mr. G. R. Alston, who since the outbreak of war has been a prisoner in Germany, where he was studying languages, has, we are glad to learn, now been transferred to Holland, where he is now interned.

MR. C. SANDRACH PARKER, C.B.E., is to be congratulated upon receiving the Order of St. Stanislas, Second Class, with Star, from the Provisional Russian Government, in recognition of his services in connection with the supply of War Material to Russia.

ANY member of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present no entrance fee. The Secretary (15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3) will gladly send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

PARTICULARS regarding membership of the West India Committee—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee became renewable on January 1st last. Those members who have inadvertently overlooked that fact are requested to pay the amount due without delay into the nearest branch of the Colonial Bank or to forward it direct to the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. With the cost of production of the CIRCULAR now nearly doubled and the increase in postage rates, it is of paramount importance that subscriptions should be paid punctually.

MESSRS. A. BOAKE, ROBERTS & CO., LTD., of Strat-

ford, London, the well-known manufacturers of Chemical Specialities for the Sugar Industry, inform us that they have been appointed selling agents for "Hydros" by Messrs. Brotherton, of Leeds, the largest manufacturers of Hydrosulphite of Soda in England. "Hydros" replaces the German article "Blankit," which, up to the outbreak of the War, was in great demand on sugar estates. We are informed that "Hydros" is a very powerful bleaching agent, and A. Boake, Roberts & Co., Ltd., will be pleased to supply all further information and advice as to its special use.

A TRIBUTE to the British West Indians resident in Canada, and their ability to supply the labour shortage now being left in the Dominion, furnish the theme of a letter recently appearing in the *Montreal Gazette*. Says the writer:

"British West Indian subjects are here in fairly large numbers, and are thought to be very desirable neighbours. They are peaceful and industrious. What makes them most desirable is the fact that they can be used in almost any capacity. They have completed several of the units of reinforcement in the Canadian Army, and are to-day drafted conscripts for the honour of this country. That being so, one cannot conclude otherwise but that the authorities will recompense their loyal subjects with the present labour opportunity. . . . Prompted by selfish pride of autocracy, some are contending, or may contend, that the British West Indian, on account of colour, is not desirable in large numbers. Such a contention is not consistent with the principles of democracy. Therefore, I say it is preposterous and not worthy of consideration."

LIEUTENANT STUART BONHAM CARTER, one of the heroes of the attack on Zeebrugge, was for six years in H.M.S. *Aeolus*, on the West Indies Station just before the War. In the raid he commanded the *Intrepid*, which, "smoking like a volcano and with all her guns blazing," followed the *Thetis* into the harbour. After grounding her on the mud he ordered the crew off and blew her up. Then, having sent away his boats, he was, to quote the *Times* account, "reduced to a Carley float, an apparatus like an exaggerated lifebuoy with a floor or grating. Upon contact with the water it ignited a calcium flare, and he was adrift in the uncanny illumination with a German machine-gun a few hundred yards away giving him its undivided attention. . . . He managed to catch a rope as the motor-launch started, and was towed for a while till he was observed and taken on board."

MRS. M. A. PEREZ, Hon. Treasurer and Secretary of the "Carry On" Fund, Trinidad, has forwarded through the West India Committee drafts for £343 15s. for distribution to the following Hostels in the proportion shown:—St. Dunstan's (Sir Arthur Pearson), £104 3s. 4d.; Recuperative Hostels (*The Daily Graphic*), £125; and the Newington Hostel, Edinburgh, £114 11s. 8d. Mrs. George Liddell has sent a draft for £57 6s. 4d. collected for the "Carry On" Fund for blind and disabled soldiers and sailors, earmarked, at the request of Mrs. Perez, for the Newington Hostel. On April 27th a Fête Champêtre was to be held in Trinidad for the above funds and the British and French Red Cross. The vaudeville "Carry On," as will be gathered from the receipts, proved, like all enter-

tainments organised with Mrs. Perez's magic touch, a conspicuous success, whilst "Burnahland" proved equally profitable, realising \$1,750 net, which was distributed among various War Funds.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Both Lord Jellicoe and Sir William Robertson left the Admiralty and War Office respectively in circumstances which suggested malign political influences. Now comes the resignation of Sir H. Trenchard, Chief of the General Air Staff, and Sir D. Henderson, who more than any other two men have made the British Air Service what it is. Sir H. Trenchard, in particular, is not only the most brilliant air strategist we possess, and a soldier, whose leadership inspires unbounded confidence in the Service as a whole, but a great organiser. Nevertheless he seems to have gone with no more regret in the War Cabinet than Sir W. Robertson. It is difficult to see how the conduct of the War cannot but be affected by the glorification of the amateur political expert at the expense of the soldier and sailor, when they are of exceptional eminence. With the resignation of Lord Rothermere, the lately appointed civilian head of the Air Ministry, owing to ill-health, perhaps the tension of the present situation will be relieved. Sir W. Weir, who succeeds him, is not a politician, but a distinguished engineer and a driving force in affairs. His appointment gives general satisfaction.

What will happen in Ireland no one can foretell. To couple Home Rule and Conscription was bound to create a highly complicated situation. As usual in trying to please everyone the Government has pleased no one. When will a British Government think only of doing the right thing? It might succeed, and could not fail any more disastrously than weak compromises. Canada, with courage, has solved a similar problem, why not England?

The Budget, though it may be criticised in detail, is conceived on safe lines. It is, moreover, a sign of the stability of British credit. For while Germany's finance was first based on the idea that the War would be short, and then on the idea that she would receive compensation for her colossal war expenditure in the shape of indemnities from the Allies, Britain's finance rests on solid foundations, providing for part payment of the cost of the War during its continuance.

The Great Battle.

For fifty miles along the Western front the enemy is bombarding the Allied lines heavily. Evidently a third offensive has been launched in pursuit of the objectives aimed at by the other two in vain. But circumstances are now less favourable to the enemy than they were, for not only are reinforcements and munitions pouring into France from Britain, but the tremendous force of his original attack is recoiling upon himself, because the corner into which he threw his million men is so cramped that he cannot operate freely nor provision them properly. When his drive failed to break the British wall he should have thrown the whole of his reserves at Montdidier, and moved on Paris. Apparently,

Ludendorff repeated the blunder of von Kluck at the Marne, and it became necessary to find an outlet anywhere in the restricted area at whatever cost. Hence the attack towards Concy on the left, which the French checked before any serious progress was made, and by Armentieres on the right, which was more successful, but has finally left the enemy in the marshes or on sterile ground dominated by Allied aviators and guns of a narrow stretch of country. The dense masses of the German armies on the fifty-mile front are confined in the triangle marked by Hazebrouck, Amiens and Noyon, having lost the power to attempt another smashing blow by a strategic surprise. Givenchy, after changing hands twice, is ours. The Aire-Bethune Canal has not been crossed. Hazebrouck is safe. The Forest of Nieppe is not penetrated.

The New Offensive.

The British, in order to straighten out their front retired from the Passchendaele ridge, which was won at such cost last year. But they still hold the historic Ypres salient. The heaviest fighting centres on the high ground between Wytschaete and Bailleul, the enemy by violent and persistent attacks having taken Mont Kemmel, which the French garrison defended to the last man. This is a serious reverse, as the position dominates all the country round and renders our retention of the Ypres salient more difficult. On this front the struggle continues with unabated vigour the great waves of German infantry breaking for the most part in vain against the wall of British resistance. South of the Somme and north of it in the Albert sector a new battle has begun, which is continuing with varying success. The assaults on our positions north-west of Albert were repulsed by heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, but the fresh thrust east of Amiens at first resulted in the loss of Villers-Bretonneux, a village on the main road ten miles from the city, which, with the heights above it, is still occupied by the British. The enemy owed the advance to the mist and a heavy bombardment of gas shell on a narrow front, his aim having been to remove a salient and gain the remainder of the high ground on the road to Amiens. But in an all-night engagement, the glory of which was shared by British and Australians, the village was retaken. Not only was the bayonet freely used by our men, but the Germans, having been surprised, suffered enormous losses. Here, too, the first encounter between British and German tanks took place, honours being easily with ours.

Daring Naval Feat.

A gallant naval exploit, with the Nelson touch in it, took the form of an attack by ships upon fortified harbours, always a hazardous operation. In this instance their approach was masked by "the highly-developed and scientific use of fog or smoke," which, when the bombardment began, also confused the enemy in making a reply, owing to the difficulty he found in detecting the target. Later, his defence was further dispersed by landing-parties of Marines, all of whom volunteered for this desperate service. It was amongst them that the losses were serious. On the British side the risks

were very heavy. Zeebrugge and Ostend, which were attacked simultaneously, are surrounded by shoals. To run their ships, one loaded with five tons of explosives, right into the harbours, as our naval men did, required, therefore, extraordinary skill in navigation, since there was a total absence of beacons and no distinguishing marks of any kind were visible in the darkness. There was, too, the danger of entering unknown mine-fields. The result of the exploit is that the Zeebrugge canal has been blocked by the sinking of two concrete block ships at the entrance, one of the two old submarines employed destroying the piling at the entrance of the Mole. It is also believed that one of the lock-gates was damaged. At Ostend block ships were sunk in the fairway. A German destroyer, which tried to escape, was torpedoed. That German engineers will be able to remove the obstructions and repair the damage in a comparatively short time is fairly certain. But in the meantime the capacity for mischief of these nests of mine-layers and submarines will be considerably curtailed.

Sweep of the Cattegat.

"No German war vessel larger than a destroyer has shown itself 150 miles west of Heligoland from August 1916 to October 1917, when two light cruisers attacked the Scandinavian convoy." Thus the First Lord at the end of last year, and the conditions have continued up to the present. British light craft have, however, challenged the enemy to come out by sweeping through the Cattegat, as they did last November, when a German auxiliary cruiser was sunk as well as ten trawlers. This time the same number of trawlers, of course used as patrol boats, three of recent type, were destroyed. The enemy was evidently surprised, the coolness and rapidity with which our destroyers carried out their work contributing to the success of the venture.

Shipping Losses.

These are issued in a new form. Instead of giving the number of ships lost weekly the return shows their total tonnage, a much more satisfactory method of estimating our actual shipping position, since the figures can be compared with those for our output of new construction. The return is to be published on the Thursday morning following the 21st of each month. In the first, which appeared on April 25th, the following table is given:—

Tonnage Losses.

| 1918 | British | Allied & Neutral | Total |
|----------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| January | 217,270 | 136,187 | 353,457 |
| February | 254,303 | 134,119 | 388,422 |
| March | 216,003 | 165,628 | 381,831 |

Quarter ... 687,576 ... 435,934 ... 1,123,510

Though the figures are considerably smaller than for the last part of 1917 it is evident that German piracy is not mastered yet. But the diversity of "U" boat activity and its relative decline during the past year suggest that the report of a shortage of raw material for the manufacture of torpedoes is true. At places as remote as Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, where there is a wireless station, and Rhodes, off the coast of Asia Minor, bombardments

have been carried out, whose only object could have been to impress the world with the ubiquity of "U" boats. It is, however, not likely that the enemy employs a large number for the unrestricted campaign, probably keeping many at home either as reliefs or for some ulterior purpose.

War in the Air.

The Zeppelin works at Friederichshafen, on Lake Constance, which had been transformed into a factory for turning out Gothas, has been entirely destroyed. At Zurich, in Switzerland, twenty explosions were counted, after each of which flames rose to a height of 500 feet. In addition to the plant, huge quantities of raw material, two Zeppelins and 40 giant aeroplanes were burned to ashes. Whether Allied airmen caused the catastrophe is not certain, but it will be remembered that in one of the first long-distance flights of Allied airmen they raided the original Zeppelin works. Apparently Allied aerial attacks have made a deep impression in Southern Germany, for a unanimous resolution in the Second Chamber of the Bavarian Diet urges the Imperial authorities to try to bring about general agreement for the cessation of aerial raids in places "outside the area of military operations." That is to say the Rhine towns, which manufacture explosive and poisonous gases, and Rhine bridges, with connecting railways, which form such important links in German communications, are to be regarded as outside "the area of military operations," but the Midlands of England and the suburbs of Paris as inside thereof.

Germany's most famous airman, Baron von Richthofen, who formed and led the famous "Circus," has been killed, whether by a British or an Australian bullet is uncertain. He flew with extraordinary skill and daring, but more cautiously than Allied aviators, as he always took care that before attacking, his squadrons were numerically superior to their adversaries. In the last engagement in which he took part, he commanded between 20 and 30 aeroplanes. On several of them endeavouring to bring down two British machines whose consorts went to their assistance, Baron von Richthofen tried to intervene, but was himself brought down in his Fokker inside the British lines, quite dead. He was buried with full military honours.

(To be continued.)

NEW WEST INDIAN GOVERNORS.

It was announced on April 29th that the King had been pleased to approve the following appointments consequent upon the death of Sir John Anderson, Governor of the Colony of Ceylon:—

Brigadier-General Sir William Henry Manning, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., Governor of Jamaica, to be Governor of Ceylon.

Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, to be Governor of Jamaica.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Richard Mackey O'Brien, C.M.G., Governor of Seychelles, to be Governor of Barbados.

Sir Leslie Probyn, who was born in 1862, was

educated at the Charterhouse and called to the Bar in 1884. He was appointed Attorney-General of British Honduras in 1893, and filled the same position in Grenada from 1896 to 1901, when he left to become Government Secretary of Southern Nigeria. He was Governor of Sierra Leone from 1904 to 1910, and has been Governor of Barbados for the last eight years.

Colonel O'Brien, who is aged 58, was educated at Felsted and the Royal Military College. He entered the Army in 1872 as Second Lieutenant, and served in India and the South African War. He then became Deputy Commissioner of Police at Johannesburg, and, after three years as Colonial Secretary for the Colony of Gambia, became Governor of Seychelles in 1912.

BRITISH GUIANA'S DEVELOPMENT.

Sir W. Egerton discusses the Problem.

Sir Walter Egerton's paper on "British Guiana and the Problem of its Development" attracted a large audience at the Royal Society of Arts Lecture Hall on April 30th. Sir Walter attributed the stagnation of the colony, as compared with other tropical possessions, to its form of government, its climate, and the inherent difficulties of its physical formation. The second of these difficulties had been partly overcome, and, given a successful termination of the present war, a little sympathetic help from the Mother Country, coupled with more firmness and more active interest in its peculiar problems, should take away the reproach that undoubtedly could now be levelled at us—that after a century's possession of a country equal in size to Great Britain, only an area less than one-fifth the size of Kent was under cultivation, and most of the remainder was still trackless forest and savannah, unoccupied except by a few nomadic Red Indians.

The chief problems awaiting solution were:—

1. Conservation of the present population and increase of the rate of natural increase by improved sanitation, especially in the towns, where the death-rate habitually considerably exceeds the birth-rate.
2. Provision of good water-supply both in town and country, now for the first time made easily available by the discovery of large reservoirs of pure artesian water.
3. Preservation of infant life.
4. Execution of drainage schemes to increase the area of land in present occupied coast strip suitable for rice and sugar cultivation.
5. Improvement of existing railway by providing it with shipping and storage facilities at Georgetown. It was the oldest railway in South America, and had worse facilities for shipping and landing cargo than when it was built in the middle of the nineteenth century.
6. An immigration scheme to provide, at the Colony's expense in the first instance, immigration of East Indians and Chinese of both sexes in equal numbers.

7. Construction of a railway from Georgetown to Rupununi, Savannah, and the Brazilian frontier, tapping *en route* the entrance to Potaro valley. This would at once make cattle-ranching in the Savannahs, British and Brazilian, profitable, and create a large export trade in frozen meat from Georgetown. By immensely cheapening working in the interior, it would foster mining development in Potaro and Essequibo. Men working in the interior could then take their wives and children with them, and settlement in the interior would commence. An immense amount of land would be available for settlers from outside the Colony, who, not accustomed to the semi-amphibious life of the drained coast lands, might be attracted by the more congenial conditions of the interior.

A great development of the timber industry would result, as the line would pass through two hundred odd miles of forest, much of it containing green-heart timber.

The time required for a trip to the Kaieteur Fall would be decreased by one-half, and the expedition made much cheaper and less arduous. Where one tourist now visited the Colony to see the Fall, a hundred would as soon as the railway is completed. Every visitor was a possible settler and provider of capital for developing the Colony's resources.

The line was essential for the development of the Colony, and could be justified on this ground alone; but if constructed it could hardly be doubted that, either by private enterprise or the Brazilian Government, it would be extended one hundred miles to a point on the Rio Branco navigable by large steamers, and later to Manaus on the Amazon; and in the more distant future it would certainly be linked up with the South American continental railway system, a counterpart of the nearly realised Cape to Cairo line, which twenty years ago looked an equally impossible achievement.

8. The improvement of Georgetown harbour. Personally, he thought the Colony's efforts and resources should at present be concentrated on obtaining the interior railway. To deepen Georgetown bar to admit ships drawing, say, 25 ft., would probably cost more than the railway, and although there was much grumbling now ships big enough for the present tonnage inwards and outwards were easily provided to cross the existing bar. Deep water was only reached seven miles outside the entrance, and erection of moles for that distance would take many years. It should, however, if possible, be included in the railway scheme.

9. And, lastly, such a change in the system of government as might be necessary to ensure a continuous and settled policy incapable of being defeated or obstructed by every passing gust of political agitation.

The present position made healthy development, and the carrying out of large schemes that required certainty of action and careful finance for a long period, quite impossible. At present responsibility rested with the Government, but all power with the elected members of the Legislature, elected by only a small fraction of the community. It was a position one would expect to find in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, but not in a British settlement. The position

was very similar to expecting a Ministry in England to carry on in a considerable minority in the House of Commons. If the community was capable of self-government, then self-government should be given. If it was not, then the rational alternative was to place some other authority in a position to carry out, "without fear or favour, affection or ill-will," such measures as, in consultation with the Colonial Office, might be considered desirable for the healthy development of this valuable and rich province, for the welfare of which the British Crown and people are responsible.

Many of the best men of the Colony were fully alive to the desirability of a change in the constitution of the Colony, but he regarded it unlikely that the Imperial Government would ever face the outcry that would be raised in some quarters in the Colony and here, to any scheme for the introduction of the usual Crown Colony Administration. A middle course would be to transfer the administration of the interior to the Governor and Executive Council, leaving the coast strip to be administered as at present; this, however, would throw a considerable burden on the Imperial Exchequer for a good many years. A third suggestion, put forward recently, was federation with Canada. Undoubtedly, if such federation was ever effected, the Canadian Government would establish a local administration which would have, not only the responsibility for the welfare of the community, but also the power to carry out the measures considered necessary to ensure such welfare and the development of the resources of the rich interior.

TRINIDAD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, on January 12th last, a letter was read from Mr. Edgar Tripp, resigning his position as Secretary. In it he wrote that he had accepted the position at the personal request of the founder, Sir Napier Broome. He wrote:—

"I have performed the duties of the office to the best of my ability and with a great deal of pleasure for many years, due to the belief that my efforts were appreciated by successive Presidents and members. During those years I have had the satisfaction of seeing the Society overcome many difficulties until occupying its present sphere of responsibility and influence.

"But to-day, if I may say so with all respect, conditions are changed. The Society is no longer a body such as it was formerly—one that, although in return for its valuable work it was receiving a grant in aid from the Government, was perfectly independent in the expression of its views and in the proper exercise of its legitimate functions; whilst the Secretary has been reduced from a position of confidence, trust and discretion, to that of a mere machine whose every act must first receive official sanction."

A resolution was at once passed, asking Mr. Tripp to reconsider his resignation, but he was unwilling, and he accordingly retired on March 31st. Mr. Tripp has been the recipient of addresses and testimonials from the many branches of the Society which he formed, and notably District Societies in Blanchisseuse and Savana Grande, from San Fernando and Fyzabad, from Tacarigua, and from the District Society of Tobago, and on March 22nd oppor-

tunity was taken of the opening of the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Port of Spain to present him with an address and purse. Mr. Henry Warner having read the address, which referred to the inestimable value of the services rendered by Mr. Tripp, to whose ability the flourishing condition of the Society was due, Sir John Chancellor, the Governor, made the presentation. It seemed to him, he confessed, marvellous that in a tropical climate Mr. Tripp—a busy man with a merchant's business to supervise in the colony—had been able to devote so much time, interest and zeal in working the affairs of the Society for twenty-five years. That showed that he was altogether an exceptional man. (Applause.) When the next Exhibition was held they would have to get a committee, possibly with Mr. Tripp's assistance, in running it. He would also take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Tripp on the new honour and new responsibility which he was assuming that day—the office of Dean of the Consular Body. (Applause.)

In his reply Mr. Tripp said that the Agricultural Society had proved, he believed, a most successful and very useful body, and more so than ever to-day that it had the enthusiastic and whole-hearted co-operation of so many District Societies. (Applause.) The substantial good it had done was permanently recorded, not only in the seventeen large volumes of its proceedings which it had been his privilege to edit, but in the number of useful Ordinances now on the Statute Book of the Colony, which owed their enactment to its inception. He referred also to the help received from a series of most efficient vice-presidents. For the first ten years they had had Sir George T. Fenwick, who at the meetings of the Society, as at those of the Legislative Council of which he was for so long the distinguished senior unofficial member, brought his wide knowledge and experience to bear upon all subjects that came up for discussion; Mr. James Gaul, who piloted the Society through the most critical period of its existence to a position which may justly be described as one of peace with honour; the Rev. Dr. Morton, that muscular and practical Christian of revered memory, and their present Vice-President, Mr. Henry Warner, the man of good heart and tact, and soft words that turn away wrath. (Applause.) To all of these he owed much gratitude for assistance and support and best advice at all times. Nor should he forget their Deputy Vice-President, Mr. Freeman, the official unbound with red-tape—(applause)—who from the day he landed in the Colony had identified himself with the Society, and had worked for it and promoted its objects to the extent that all of them at any rate in the Society knew.

AMONG those present at Sir Walter Egerton's lecture on British Guiana, on April 29th (see page 153), were: Sir Everard im Thurn, Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. George Hughes, Cadet Wood Davis, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. G. F. Plant (Colonial Office), Mr. D. Baird, Mr. H. Soper Cox, Mr. H. Martin Sells, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Berthan, and Mr. W. Ault.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

VII.—THE POSSIBILITIES OF EMPIRE SUGAR.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

Up to now the United Kingdom has only produced quite a negligible quantity of sugar. As has been already mentioned, the Cantley Factory in Norfolk has been so far the only venture in this country which has been a practical proposition in this respect, and its unfortunate experience, although useful, must not be taken as being an actual criterion as to possibilities, on account of its not being an absolutely British concern, and its working having been mixed up with that of the Dutch factories, to which it was affiliated.

But the experiments which have been carried on for so many years in connection with the sugar beet cultivation show that beet can be grown in many parts of the country quite equal in quality and in extent of yield to that grown in Germany, where the best results are obtained. Given then the suitable beet, there is no question of the manufacture being a success, if properly conducted, as regards extraction of sugar, and its quality. The question of its suitability as an industry in the United Kingdom depends upon other matters—the cost of growing the beets in relation to the price which the factory could afford to pay for them, and the big economic question as to whether such an industry would be to the advantage of the country as regards sugar supply, seeing that so much agricultural produce has to be imported from foreign countries.

In January, 1915, the Board of Agriculture published a report on the East Anglia beet sugar industry. The reporters were Mr. C. S. Orwin, of the Oxford Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics, and Mr. J. C. Orr. These gentlemen visited the farms supplying the Cantley Factory and enquired into the financial results to the farmers of the previous campaign. The farmers received 25/- per ton for beet containing 15 per cent. sugar, and the mean of the instances quoted in the report gave £2 6s. 1d. as the amount cleared per acre in Norfolk, and £3 15s. loss per acre in the case of the Suffolk farmers. The latter result was attributed to the weather experienced during the growing season, which was unfavourable for the Suffolk soils. The reporters, nevertheless, expressed themselves as being sanguine as to the future of the industry.

It may be pointed out that the amount paid for the beets was far higher than that paid in normal times to German farmers, in spite of the high internal price of sugar permitted by the Customs' protection enjoyed in all the Continental countries except Holland.

Later on in the year a further report on the subject of a beet sugar industry in this country by Messrs. Orwin and Orr, was published in the *Journal* of the Board of Agriculture. This dealt with the prospects of beet sugar in Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, Devonshire, and Cornwall. As regards the first three counties, Messrs. Orwin and Orr did

not see any chance of a beet sugar industry being established. There was no difficulty on the score of growing suitable beets in suitable quantity, but economic considerations did not warrant their cultivation in the place of existing crops. In Cornwall, where the economic conditions are different, factories worked on the co-operative system, might, in the opinion of those authorities, be established.

In 1913, the value of the agricultural products, butter, cheese, barley and oats imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries was no less than £69,192,456! That year the value of the sugar imported into the United Kingdom was £31,832,944. Seeing that our Colonies, as will be shown later on, could easily supply all the sugar that the United Kingdom wants, if properly developed, it would seem to be a better policy for Great Britain to obtain our sugar from these sources, than to substitute for existing agricultural industries that of sugar.

In favour of a United Kingdom beet sugar industry is the statement often made that the cultivation of beet improves the land for cereals and other crops. Experiments made by the United States Department of Agriculture recently certainly support this statement, the average gain in these experiments for the seven crops of wheat, corn, oats, barley, potatoes, hay and beans being given as no less than 41.07 per cent! Farmers also would get some compensation for the loss of other root crops grown for stock purposes, in the exhausted slices from the diffusion batteries, which have considerable food value.

Would a beet sugar industry in the United Kingdom do anything to lessen the huge amount paid to foreign countries for butter, cheese, wheat, barley and oats? If not, it would surely be better to take the necessary steps to do so by increasing the present agricultural output of the United Kingdom and by obtaining the sugar from our Colonies.

Until this problem is settled the United Kingdom cannot be regarded as a potential source of Empire sugar.

The case is very different as regards India. That country has an abundant population and plenty of land suitable, both as regards soil and climatic conditions for the growth of the sugar cane. But the output of sugar has not progressed at any rate, and, as already mentioned, very large quantities are imported. The cause of this is to a certain extent obscure, but must be assigned, as regards the area now in cultivation, to a great extent to obsolete methods of cultivation and manufacture. The industry is, to a very large extent, a peasant industry, and the ryot, although by nature a good agriculturist, clings, both as regards cultivation and manufacture, to the methods and implements of generations of forefathers, while the native consumers like the old-fashioned products. The "ghur," which the emissaries of the Emperor Jai-Sing saw manufactured at Behar in the seventh century, is still made, and probably by the same method, and though attempts have been made of recent years to introduce modern methods, material success does not seem to have attended the efforts in this direction. Two tons an acre of sugar is by no means a particularly

big return to obtain, even with modern machinery. The British Indian return is about one ton per acre.

Without extending the area in cultivation, therefore, modern methods should greatly increase the output of India, and certainly render her independent of imports from without.

(To be continued.)

INDIA AS CANE PRODUCER.

The possibility of India producing her own sugar or becoming an exporting country was discussed by Mr. C. A. Barber, Sc.D., Government Sugar-Cane Expert, Madras, in a paper read at a meeting of the Board of Agriculture in India, held at Poona recently.

Says Mr. Barber: "Sugar-making in India must be considered to a large extent as a new industrial enterprise, and the difficulties in the way are much greater here than in any tropical country where the cane is grown. A vital question is the price of sugar after the war. I have formed the opinion that it will take many years before it sinks to pre-war level, if it ever does."

Mr. Barber adds: "The extension of sugar-making in India is handicapped by the extremely poor character of the canes grown, by the unequal competition of *gur* where it has a steady and satisfactory market by the relative cost of initiating *gur* and sugar-making, by the extreme sub-division of the land which renders it impossible to work a factory economically, and by the competition of crops already on the land and which can be easily and profitably grown. We must turn to places where the price of *gur* is low, where the land is not fully settled and where it is possible to introduce a better class of cane varieties."

A Sugar Department Suggested.

Mr. Barber suggests the formation of a small Sugar Department for India, to be placed directly under the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India.

The objects in view are thus summarised:—

(1) The collection into one office of the scattered information recorded regarding the character of the sugar-cane tracts in India, the varieties grown, the methods of cultivation and of making the finished product.

(2) The collection of similar information regarding all previous attempts at founding sugar factories, with the reasons for their discontinuation.

Much of this information (under 1 and 2) is now to be found in the files of various Secretariat and other offices in the Provinces, but it is not available and it is desirable to get it together, collate it, and, doubtless in some cases, to publish it in book form or otherwise to serve as a basis for future work.

(3) A continuation of the work on improving the class of canes growing in different parts of the country.

(4) An organised investigation of the local practices of *gur*-making throughout the country with the object of introducing improvements, according to the local conditions.

(5) A special study of the possibility of starting a sugar-making industry in the various tracts where sugar-cane is grown.

Mr. Barber adds:

For such a Department to be effective I would suggest the attachment of the following experts:—

(1) A factory expert. He should be thoroughly acquainted with the conditions in India as regards factory

work, labour difficulties, general cultivation and the use of by-products. It would be an advantage if he had a working knowledge of the factories and plantations in Java, where the conditions are somewhat similar to those in India.

(2) An engineer, for the study of existing installations and the preparation of new models and combinations for gur and sugar-making.

(3) A chemist for the study of the cane juice and fibre, to conduct ripening tests and manurial experiments, and to assist in the factory work.

(4) An agriculturist, whose main duty would be to study the local conditions of soil and climate as affecting the need of irrigation and drainage, the proper times for planting and reaping, and the relative period of growth in different tracts.

(5) A botanist, for the study of the numerous varieties existing, the transference of varieties from place to place, and the raising of new seedling canes for each tract.

"Such a Department would, at the outset, be largely engaged in collecting material already existing in the country, so as to gain experience as to the proper lines for work. It should therefore be in close touch, consultatively, with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture interested in the crop, and should be prepared to assist and further any work now being carried on by advice or in any other way. Where local effort is considered insufficient it should inaugurate plantations or experiments on its own initiative, but I would specially desire that local efforts should be encouraged, because the officers on the spot will of necessity have the most reliable first-hand information as to the conditions and possibilities of their tract. The work at present being conducted on sugar and the sugar-cane is scattered, and, for the best results to be obtained, I feel sure that it needs to be organised under one hand."

THE SUGAR TAX.

Customs' Scale of Duty.

For purpose of reference we give below the Customs' Scale of Duty on Sugar, as amended on April 22nd—

| | Imported per cwt. | Home-grown per cwt. |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Not exceeding 76 degrees Polarisation | 12/4 | 11/2 |
| Exceeding 76 and not exceeding 77 | 12/8.7 | 11/6.8 |
| " 77 | 13/1.6 | 11/11.3 |
| " 78 | 13/6.6 | 12/3.8 |
| " 79 | 13/11.5 | 12/8.3 |
| " 80 | 14/4.4 | 13/0.8 |
| " 81 | 14/9.4 | 13/5.2 |
| " 82 | 15/2.3 | 14/9.7 |
| " 83 | 15/7.8 | 14/2.8 |
| " 84 | 16/1.4 | 14/7.8 |
| " 85 | 16/6.9 | 15/0.8 |
| " 86 | 17/0.5 | 15/5.9 |
| " 87 | 17/6.6 | 15/11.5 |
| " 88 | 18/0.8 | 16/5.1 |
| " 89 | 18/8.2 | 16/11.8 |
| " 90 | 19/3.6 | 17/6.5 |
| " 91 | 19/11.0 | 18/1.2 |
| " 92 | 20/6.4 | 18/8. |
| " 93 | 21/1.7 | 19/2.7 |
| " 94 | 21/9.1 | 19/9.4 |
| " 95 | 22/4.5 | 20/4.1 |
| " 96 | 22/11.9 | 20/10.8 |
| " 97 | 23/7.3 | 21/5.6 |
| Exceeding 98 | 25/8 | 23/4 |
| Glucose, solid | | 16/3 |
| Glucose, liquid | | 11/8 |
| Molasses and invert sugar and all other sugar and extracts from sugar which cannot be completely tested by the polariscope, and on which duty is not otherwise charged:—If containing 70 per cent. or more of sweetening matter | | 13/6 |
| If containing less than 70 per cent. or more than 50 per cent. of sweetening matter | | 9/8 |
| If containing not more than 50 per cent. of sweetening matter | | 4/9½ |

Saccharin and mixtures containing saccharin, or other substances of a like nature or use ... per oz. 8/3

The new prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply will be found under the heading of the Produce Markets Summary.

GUIANA EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

The British Guiana Tax on Excess Profits Ordinance (No. 2, 1918), which received the Governor's assent on February 28th, lays down the conditions on which the Excess Profits Tax, imposed by the Tax Ordinance (No. 24, 1917), is to be levied.* It provides for the establishment of a Board of Assessment, comprising in the first instance the Chief Commissary and Mr. Stanley Heald, A.C.A. The accounting period is the last twelve months, ending at any time within the year 1917, for which the accounts of the trade or business have been made up; otherwise the twelve months ending December 31st, 1917. Where, however, in lieu of the tax on profits a tax of 2 per cent. is levied on the amount of sales, purchases and commissions, under section 64 of the General Tax Ordinance, the accounting period is the last day of each month in 1918. In an Explanatory Memorandum published in the British Guiana Official Gazette of July 31st, it is stated that—

"By section 23 of the Finance Act, 1917, of the Imperial Parliament, provision is made for granting relief in respect of Colonial Excess Profits Duty to persons or corporations who are also liable to pay Excess Profits in the United Kingdom. On an order of His Majesty in Council being passed after arrangements have been made with the Colony the duty which is higher in amount is taken as the only duty, and is divided between the respective Exchequers in proportion to the amount which otherwise would have been payable in the United Kingdom, and in the Colony respectively."

The West India Committee accordingly sent the following letter to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 17th, 1918:—

Sir,—With reference to our correspondence on the subject of the British Guiana Excess Profits Tax, and to your letter 9503/18 of March 16th last, I am directed to inform you that my Committee have now received copies of the British Guiana Tax Ordinance, 1918 (No. 24 of 1917) and the Tax on Excess Profits Ordinance, 1918 (No. 2 of 1918).

2. They assume from the concluding paragraph of the Explanatory Memorandum published in the Official Gazette of British Guiana, dated January 31st last, that it is proposed to grant relief in respect of the Colonial Excess Profits Duty to those liable to pay Excess Profits Duty in the United Kingdom, as provided for by Section 23 of the Finance Act, 1917, of the Imperial Parliament, and they trust that an Order in Council will be passed with this object in view as soon as possible.

3. They desire further to express the hope that, in order that complications may be avoided, instructions may be issued forthwith to the Govern-

* See the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, March 21st, 1918, No. 508, page 105.

ment of British Guiana to abstain from collecting the tax from those liable to pay Excess Profits Duty in the United Kingdom.

4. In conclusion, they beg to request that you will kindly convey to Mr. Secretary Long their thanks for his courtesy in affording them the opportunity of laying their views on this subject before him.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
Downing St., S.W.1.

An acknowledgment of this letter was received under date April 23rd, promising that the Committee's representations would be considered, and that a further reply would be sent as soon as possible.

THE OVER-SEAS CLUB AND ITS WORK

BY MISS O. I. WARD.

These years of Armageddon have proved the value of ideals. With the established social and political order in the melting-pot, and the scrapping of cherished traditions and habits of thought, the ideal of Empire Unity has not only survived, but has merged even brighter and clearer from the fiery ordeal of war. No organisation in the Empire has done more to foster this ideal during the past eight years than the Over-Seas Club. Founded in August, 1910, its underlying motive is to promote the unity of British subjects. Its four chief objects are:—

1. To help one another;
2. To render individual service to our Empire;
3. To maintain our Empire's supremacy upon the seas and in the air;
4. To draw together in the bond of comradeship, British people the world over.

The Over-Seas Club has recently amalgamated with its sister Society, the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, a Society with much the same ideals, only limited to British subjects residing under foreign flags. The Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League, as the joint society is now called, is not in any sense a War-time organisation though it is estimated that some 14,000 members are at present serving with the colours.

The Personal Touch.

The War record of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League is one which its members may well be proud. Soon after the outbreak of War the Club organised a Tobacco Fund for supplying "smokes" to our fighting men. A postcard addressed to the donor is enclosed in each parcel, so that the recipient can acknowledge its arrival. Many pleasant acquaintanceships have sprung up through the medium of these postcards, and several cases are on record where the grateful recipient has joined the Club on the strength of the cigarettes sent to him by a member. In one case the original shilling expended has brought in no less than eight new mem-

bers, recruited by the soldier who received the package. This illustrates the value of the "personal touch."

Another unique feature of the Over-Seas Tobacco Fund is the provision of "smokes" of their own home manufacture to the Canadian and Australian Forces—an attention which is highly appreciated by the doughty Canucks and Anzacs. The amount raised for the Tobacco Fund up to date is £298,650, representing 5,960,000 packets of "smokes"—truly an imposing total! The joy with which these gifts are hailed at the front is only equalled by that of the fortunate possessors of the Tobacco postcards, which form links of Empire of abiding value.

What may, however, be regarded as the greatest War achievement of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League is the inauguration of the Overseas Aircraft Fund, by means of which 159 aeroplanes and seaplanes, subscribed for by members and friends of the Club all over the world, have been presented to the Government. Each machine is named after the district or organisation presenting it, thus forging a direct personal link between the remotest portions of the Empire and the firing line. The achievements of these machines must needs be wrapped in mystery, but in a lecture recently delivered at the Club by "Boyd Cable," on the work of our aircraft at the front, the veil was lifted just long enough to give the members present a thrill of pride at the part they have been privileged to play in maintaining our supremacy in the air.

£761,000 for War Funds.

Other War Funds organised by the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League include the Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Fund, Red Cross Fund, Belgian Soldiers' Fund, Hamper Fund, and the Royal Flying Corps Hospitals Fund, which maintains two hospitals and a convalescent home for officers of the Air Force. The total amount collected up-to-date by the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League for its various War Funds is over £761,591. The present membership of the Club (including associates) is 175,000; the Branch membership is approximately 20,000, and the subscribing members 20,000.

The Club issue an illustrated monthly magazine, *Overseas*, which circulates in every part of the world. This magazine contains articles of Imperial interest and photographs illustrating every corner of the globe. Its pages are freely at the use of members for requests for exchange of correspondence, information as to local conditions, etc., and this journal forms a connecting link between members of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League wherever they may be situated.

The West Indies are represented on the Central Committee of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League by Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., and it has Hon. Corresponding Secretaries in Antigua, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Trinidad, and St. Thomas.

Seven aeroplanes have been subscribed for by the members of the Over-Seas Club in the West Indies—British West Indies, Jamaica No. 1, Jamaica No. 2, Tobago and Trinidad Aeroplane, Trinidad, "British Residents in the Netherlands East Indies," Nos. 1 and 2.

On Empire Day, 1918, the Club is issuing a special appeal for the Overseas War Memorial, to take the form of a building in the heart of London, dedicated to the memory of members from overseas who have fallen in the War and to the use of British subjects from across the seas, for all time. This building, to be commenced after the War, will combine the advantages of a first-class Club with those of an Imperial Information Bureau. It will accommodate the Headquarters organisation of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League and any other organisations which desire to avail themselves of it. It is hoped that a Lecture Hall will also be provided. The names of contributors towards this Memorial will be inscribed in a "Golden Roll of Honour," to be kept in the Club premises.

The Annual Subscription to the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League for residents overseas is 10/- for the first year (including entrance fee, membership list and the Club magazine), and 7/6 for subsequent years.

THE BUDGET.

Dearer Sugar and Spirits.

Mr. Bonar Law, introducing the Budget on April 22nd, estimated the total expenditure for 1918-19 at £2,972,197,000. The Revenue on the existing basis of taxation would be £774,250,000, or an excess over last year of £67,000,000. The Estimate for next year of the Excess Profits Duty was no less a sum than £300,000,000 sterling. The new taxation which he proposed would, for the coming year it was estimated, amount to £67,800,000. That would make the total Revenue for the year £842,050,000, leaving a balance to be covered by borrowing of £2,130,147,000.

He proposed the following new increased taxes: An increase of the income tax to 6/- in the pound, the farmers' tax to be doubled, supertax to be raised to 4/6 in the pound, increase in the stamp duty and cheques to 2d., increase in the spirit duty from 14/9 to 30/- per gallon, in the beer duty from 25/- to 50/- per standard barrel, and in the tobacco duty from 6/5 to 8/2 per lb., an additional duty of 11/8 on sugar, a tax of 2d. in the shilling or 1/3 of the amount of expenditure on luxuries, increases in the postage rates with a minimum of 1½d. for letters.

Referring to sugar, Mr. Bonar Law said: "I come now to the last of the resources of Revenue which are included in the £114,000,000 I mentioned to the House. I propose an additional tax on sugar of 11/8 per cwt. That will bring in during the current year £12,400,000, and in a full year £13,200,000. I wish, if I can, to justify this on the same grounds as the other taxes can be justified. The price of sugar is fixed. At present it averages 5½d. per lb., and with this addition the cost will be 7d. per lb. I ask the Committee to consider the extent of that burden upon the individual. The ration of sugar is ½ lb. per week; the duty is 1½d. per lb. Therefore, the burden upon each consumer is 1½d. per fortnight. I may point out also that, considering the price of other commodities, sugar will still be sold at a not unreasonable price."

OBITUARY.

THE HON. ARTHUR C. PONSONBY.

We regret to state that the Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby died on April 25th.

Mr. Ponsonby, who had been in failing health for some time, was taken seriously ill on April 21st, and died without regaining consciousness four days later, at the age of 62 years. Mr. Ponsonby was the fourth son of the seventh Earl of Bessborough—who, as Canon Ponsonby, succeeded to the title on the death of his brother—and brother of the present peer. He was educated at Malvern and joined the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Those who travelled to and from the West Indies in the 'seventies still remember the genial young officer who was the life of every ship in which he sailed. Branching out for himself, Mr. Ponsonby sailed his own barque *Cornwallis*. He only forsook the active pursuit of seafaring life to become a shipowner and shipbroker, and was formerly well known to the shipping world in London, Cardiff, and elsewhere. One of his earliest dreams of extending British commerce was the formation of the Liberia Rubber Company, out of which grew the Liberian Development Company, with resulting benefit to British interests in that West African republic. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that had it not been for the persistent zeal with which Mr. Ponsonby, in season and out of season, prodded the British Government to foster relations with Liberia, that country would have become completely Germanised before the present war. Like most pioneers, Mr. Ponsonby obtained little or no reward of a material kind for his years of work in connection with Liberia. With equal zeal and conviction he championed the possibilities of oil in the West Indies, and he may be described also as the pioneer, but without profit, of this branch of development in Barbados. He organised the Barbados Oil Company, and for years devoted time and money to endeavour to prove that oil from that island could be produced in paying quantities. His interests in this direction caused him to take numerous trips to the West Indies, where he won many friends.

By irony of fortune his efforts on behalf of others were almost invariably crowned with the success which was denied to his own ventures. He will always be remembered throughout the West Indies for the energetic action he took, in co-operation with Sir James Hay, in successfully originating the West India Committee's sustentation fund for Codrington College, which saved that invaluable university from being closed. Then, also, as an original member and for many years Vice-President of the West India Club, he worked unceasingly in every plan that might tend to closer co-operation throughout the colony. His geniality and his deep sympathy in everything that concerned his fellow men were real forces in bringing the Club through its lean days and in creating its success. He was a member of the West India Committee, where his constant willingness to help anything connected with the betterment of the West Indies—quite apart from his own interests—rendered him a valuable colleague. The only official position Mr. Ponsonby held was that of Inspector of Coal in South Wales to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. By the death of Arthur Ponsonby the West Indies have lost a staunch champion, and those who knew him well have lost one of the most lovable and loyal of friends. There could be no truer epitaph than that he devoted his life to his friends. He is survived by a widow, two sons (both in the Army), and three daughters.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

A WEST INDIAN contemporary recently transplanted no fewer than 24 paragraphs from our pages of February 7th to his own. While appreciating the compliment, we must point out that this is a breach of the laws of copyright.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Leeward Islands.

A very remarkable increase in the value of the exports is the chief feature of the report on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands for the year 1916-17. The year, in fact, was one of prosperity for all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands (writes Mr. F. H. Watkins, Acting Colonial Secretary). Were it not for the greatly increased cost of living, which presses severely on the middle and labouring classes, it could not be said that the Colony has appreciably suffered by the general disturbance of trade caused by the War. The high prices obtained for all the staple products should enable owners of estates to free themselves from pecuniary obligations, to improve their methods of cultivation and manufacture and thus to prepare them to face, under more favourable conditions than have been experienced for years, future competition in the different markets.

The revenue of the Presidencies in each of the last five years was as follows:—

| Presidency. | 1912-13 | 1913-14 | 1914-15 | 1915-16 | 1916-17 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Antigua ... | 52,292 | 53,490 | 52,216 | 53,517 | 63,930 |
| St. Kitts-Nevis ... | 58,002 | 57,078 | 53,880 | 50,337 | 60,086 |
| Dominica ... | 41,719 | 45,185 | 48,142 | 48,895 | — |
| Montserrat ... | 12,945 | 11,932 | 12,881 | 11,674 | 13,422 |
| Virgin Islands ... | 7,860 | 4,795 | 7,335 | 4,903 | 5,030 |

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies was £190,060, showing an increase of £27,821. The expenditure, exclusive of Imperial grants was £185,095—a decrease of £2,421.

The total value of imports, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £642,249, as against £563,596 in 1915, being an increase of £78,653. The value of the internal trade between the Presidencies amounted to £33,256, as against £32,204, being an increase of £1,052. The total value of exports for the year 1916 was £1,121,553, as against £670,101 in 1915, being an increase of £451,452.

In the case of Antigua the chief export was vacuum pan sugar valued at £262,088 as against £156,526 in 1915. In St. Kitts-Nevis the sugar crop of 1916 produced 16,116 tons, the highest figure since 1902. Of this total, 11,690 tons were produced by the Sugar Factory, being its record up to date. Since 1902, the acreage under cane cultivation has decreased by about 3,000 acres. Improved methods of cultivation, combined with favourable weather, account for the satisfactory output.

In Dominica the price of lime products was well maintained, but it is increasingly clear (says the Report) that the Dominica lime planter will have to face keen and business-like competition in the future, and that from his near neighbours. The advantages of secondary industries have been preached to the planters, and it is to be hoped that they will have foresight enough to establish them in time. Probably the most profitable would be the coco-nut, the price of which, as copra, has increased some 400 per cent. during the last 15 years, while the undried nut has a very large market in America and elsewhere. The lime crop for 1916, calculated in barrels of a capacity of 4.55 cubic feet, amounted to 384,298 barrels, of which concentrated juice contributed 60, raw juice 20, fresh limes 10, and citrate of limes 10 per cent. Although the number of barrels was 6,160 below that of 1915, it is remarkable that such satisfactory results should have been achieved in spite of bad weather conditions.

As regards Montserrat 998 bales of cotton, of the value of £33,080, were exported, as against 932 bales of cotton, of the value of £22,712, in 1915. The cotton crop was above the average in yield, and the 1,997 acres cultivated gave an average yield of 156 lbs. of lint per acre, compared with an average return of 146 lb. during the previous 14 years. The prices obtained on the market were a cause for satisfaction for they averaged 3/3 per lb., as contrasted with 1/6 per lb. in 1915, while it was recorded by the spinners that the quality of Montserrat cotton has steadily and consistently improved of late years.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE NOTES.

The 15th detachment of the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent, which left Trinidad on March 21st, reached the West India Committee Rooms on April 27th. Its members are Wilfred Bushe, W. S. Braham, Lionel Contant, Leslie de Silva, Clive Bynoe, Ernest L. Hatt, Noble Marques, Cecil O'Connor, Ferdinand Sellier, Hugh Spencer, and Roland de Verteuil. The men are in excellent health and spirits, and are eager to join up.

* * *

The work-parties at 20, Ennismore Gardens, will be resumed on Wednesday, the 8th inst. The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:

Mrs. Cunningham Craig: magazines.
Mrs. J. B. Saunders: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. Arthur: 6 prs. socks.
Lady Hayes Sailer: 3 prs. socks.
Miss Anderson: 2 prs. socks.
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 3 prs. socks.
Mrs. Aitkin: magazines.
Mrs. Spencer Churchill: 2 prs. socks.
Miss Peterkin: 2 mufflers.
Mrs. Algemon Aspinall: 2 prs. socks, 3 prs. mittens.

* * *

The members of the fourteenth Trinidad Merchants' Contingent have now all joined up as under:

F. Anderson, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.
R. B. D. Campbell, Royal Field Artillery.
V. O. Da Costa, Royal Field Artillery.
A. H. De Silva, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.
A. F. Doyle, Royal Field Artillery.
D. D. Dunsire, Royal Field Artillery.
F. Maingot, Royal Air Force.
L. Hamel-Smith, Tank Corps.
P. J. Stone, Army Pay Corps.
C. A. Wainwright, Royal Engineers.

A. D. Macgillivray is joining an Officers' Training Corps. A. C. Eckstein having failed in his ambition to join a combatant corps through not passing the eyesight test, has returned to Trinidad.

* * *

Visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have been more numerous than ever. Among those who have registered during the past fortnight have been:—

BAHAMAS.—Sub-Lieut. R. H. Crawford, R.N.R., Flight Sub-Lieut. O. Rocks, R.A.F., Driver N. D. Sands. BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Pte. E. A. Atwell, Pte. E. G. Bayne, 2nd Lieut. G. F. Cave, Pte. J. E. A. Crawford, Cadet B. A. Colpepper, 2nd Lieut. A. L. Evelyn, Cadet C. E. Murphy, Pte. F. H. Terrill, Captain Clifford Thorne, Midshipman J. H. C. Thorne, R.N. BRITISH GUIANA.—2nd Lieut. Edward Lawson. JAMAICA.—R. J. M. Lewin, 2nd Lieut. M. H. Pat-fusion (B.W.I.R.). TONAGO.—E. H. Hatt. TRINIDAD.—Pte. F. J. Anderson, Norris O'C. Blane, W. S. Bradshaw, W. S. Braham, Clive Bynoe, Wilfred H. Bushe, Gnr. R. B. D. Campbell, Lionel E. Contant, Gnr. V. Da Costa, Lieut. E. Evans (B.W.I.R.), Pte. P. Geofroy, Pte. F. C. Gibbon, M. A. Govia, G. W. Huggins, R. F. Huggins, 2nd Lieut. J. E. Kernahau, Pte. W. T. King, F. Maingot, J. Maingot, Noble Marques, Cadet C. M. de Nobrega, Mal-colm N. Noek, Lieut. C. A. Norman, C. B. O'Connor, Lieut. L. Prada, 2nd Lieut. J. Rochemont, 2nd Lieut. V. O. Rooks, Leslie de Silva, Ferdinand Sellier, Garnet Simmons, F. J. S. Scott, 2nd Lieut. Ivan J. Scott, Hugh Spencer, Pte. P. Stone, L. F. Todd, Pierre de Verteuil, Roland J. de Verteuil, R. Vignali.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

TROOPER VICTOR COLLINS, of King Edward's Horse, who has been killed in action, was son of Mr. Frederick Augustus Collins, Deputy Registrar General of Trinidad and Tobago. He was a member of the first Trinidad Merchants' Contingent.

TROOPER ELLIS LEOPOLD MOSSMAN, King Edward's Horse, who has been killed in action, was second son of Mr. H. L. Mossman, Agricultural Instructor of St. Catherine, Jamaica.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SECOND LIEUT. ASHLEY GAY EDGILL, who died on April 15th of wounds received on the preceding day, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Gay C. Edgill, of Applewhaites, Barbados, and grandson of the late Dr. W. Jackson Cummins, of Cork. He was educated at Dover College, and returned from Barbados in January, 1916, and joined the Artists' Rifles. He received his commission in September, 1916, and went to the front in December of the same year. The chaplain of his battalion writes: "Through his death we have lost one of the best and straightest officers we have ever had, and one who was popular with both officers and men in the very best sense of the word. I have rarely, if ever, known a more painstaking and conscientious officer and it is certain his men have never had a better friend. The world has been a better place for his having been in it."

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment on various fronts:—

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BARBADOS.—15141 Norville, B. R.

JAMAICA.—15374 Aflick, C.; 3851 Anderson, E.; 8099 Campbell, J.; 13844 Clark, S.; 7079 Deacon, W.; 8592 Edwards, R.; 14371 Elliston, T.; 2795 Gray, B. B.; 8448 Jackson, T.; 4382 Lawson, D.; 8298 Lecky, N.; 7416 McDonald, C.; 16204 Morgan, Z.; 10461 Parkinson, D.; 9688 Plagrove, J.; 15965 Pottinger, R.; 6514 Reunie, E.; 10742 Williams, A.; 10807 Williams, S.

MONTSERRAT.—11167 Goater, W.

TRINIDAD.—De Boissiere, 2nd Lieut. J. V.

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.

Branch, 2nd Lieut. J. R. A. (son of the Venerable Archdeacon Branch of Antigua) joined the Canadians in February, 1915, and went to the front as Lieut.-Col. in Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, received his Commission in October, 1916, and was gazetted to the Durham Light Infantry. He was wounded in France ten months later.

Thorne, Midshipman J. H. C. (son of Captain S. Clifford Thorne of Barbados), has passed out of Dartmouth.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. ERIC LOUIS McLEOD, Worcestershire Regiment, attached Royal Air Force, who came over with the first Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, has been wounded and has lost his right leg.

MISSING.

TROOPER ALEXANDER RAMSAY DE SOUSA, of King Edward's Horse, came over as a member of the first Trinidad Merchants' Contingent.

ABBREY COLLYMORE, only son of Mr. P. A. C. Collymore, O.B.E., Machine Gun Corps, is officially reported missing since April 16th.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

SECOND LIEUT. EDWARD PARIGI WALLWYN SHEPHEARD, of the King's Royal Rifles, son of Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, M.A., who was first reported missing, is now officially reported to be a prisoner in Germany.

SECOND LIEUT. E. P. M. WALCOTT, Black Watch, who was reported wounded and missing, is now officially stated to be a prisoner of war in the St. Frauzisons Hospital, Inlefeld, Westphalia.

LIEUT. WALTER ANDREW NORRIS, nephew of Mr. Frederick John Morris, late of Demerara and Trinidad is officially reported a prisoner of war in German hands since April 9th.

IN HOSPITAL.

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, Bournemouth.

BAHAMAS.—Trpr. Bruce S. Bethell, Royal Dragoons, London.

BARBADOS.—Pte. C. C. Bynoe, London; Pte. H. H. Leslie, Artists' Rifles, Brighton.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—2nd Lieut. A. N. Usber, M.C., Highgate.

MONTSERRAT.—2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Boon, R.F.A., London.

JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. S. Scudamore, London Regiment, London.

ST. KITTS.—2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, M.G.C., Wandswoth; Pte O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, Dublin.

ST. LUCIA.—Cook Lionel Austin, Greenwich.

TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. A. H. Mole, K.R.R.C., Brighton; 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Royal Warwicks, Wandswoth;

Lieut. Gordon Burke, R. Welsh Fusiliers, Mundesley;

2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Royal Fusiliers, Nettle;

2nd Lieut. Jos. E. Kernahan, R.A.F.; Lieut. D. S. Cousins, R.E.; 2nd Lieut. F. O. Rooks, R.A.F.; 2nd Lieut. R. E. Quesnel, London; 2nd Lieut. Eric Macleod, R.A.F., London; Cpl. Murray, Household

Battalion, Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, Trpr. P. Villarroel, Household Battalion, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Tank Corps, Pte. P. Geoffroy, Coldstream

Guards, London; Pte. N. O. Warner, Coldstream Guards, Carlisle; Pte. J. McPherson, Artists' Rifles, Ipswich; Pte. George Hodge, Coldstream Guards, Chichester.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, Brunel; 2nd Lieut. J. A. Haynes, London; 2nd Lieut. B. Thomson, London; 2nd Lieut. R. A. Brice (Bahamas), London; Pte. S. Brown (Barbados), Tooting;

Cpl. Orr, Pte. Esell, Pte. Douglas (Jamaica), London

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—More Estates Change Hands.

The Barbados Advocate records more sales of estates, namely, Ridge and Rycroft (about 500 acres) to the Searles Co-operative Company for £47,600, and Mount All (159 acres) has been sold to Hon. A. P. Haynes out of Chancery for £1,154. Pilgrim Place, Christ Church (279 acres), was sold to Mr. W. H. Yearwood, of Ball's Plantation, for £23,500.

Mr. Walter Bancroft, formerly manager of Walkes Spring has been appointed manager of Ridge and Rycroft.

The weather has continued favourable for reaping, and yet sufficiently showery to help on the growth of the young cane crops and promote the maturity of the provision crops planted in the fall of last year. As some estates are making syrup at their own mills and selling canes to the nearest factory at the same time, the crop is being cleared off in double quick time. The yield of canes in sugar is good, but the tonnage is not heavy. The price

paid per ton of canes at the factory varies, we understand from around \$7 in St. Michael's to nearly \$10 in St. Lucy's.

Mr. H. W. Lofty has resigned his seat on the Executive Committee.

The *advocate* announces that Mr. J. Sydney Lash, B.S.A., Assistant Superintendent of the local Department of Agriculture, has definitely accepted the offer of Director d'Agronomie made him by a large sugar syndicate of Guadeloupe sugar manufacturers. He leaves Barbados this month to take up his new post.

BRITISH GUIANA—Restricted Imports.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, MARCH 19th.—A special Session of the Combined Court was held on 14th and 15th instant, the matters discussed being the disposal of Crown Colony lands, Water Supply for Plantations "Unity" and "Lancaster," Vacant Solicitor Generalship, Colonial Steamer Service. The sitting of the 15th was marred by a regrettable incident which occurred during an attack by Mr. Brassington on the Government over the Sea Defences. The Governor having asked Mr. Brassington to sit down and the latter continuing to speak from his chair, the Governor adjourned the Court *sine die* and left the hall.

Considerable interest (says the *Chronicle*) has been aroused locally in respect of the effect which the restricted imports recently announced by the United States for this colony will have on the forest industries—balata, charcoal, wood, gold and diamonds, etc. In connection with balata, an enormous amount of beef and pork, of which infinitesimal quantities have been allowed, are consumed by the bleeders every year. In respect of the "Consolidated," the largest balata company operating in the colony, it is understood that some 2,400 men are employed, consuming easily a thousand barrels each of pork and beef annually. Thus it will be seen that on the basis of allowances made by the United States Government this industry will be in a very difficult position indeed, because this colony is only to receive per month $4\frac{1}{2}$ barrels of beef, or 54 barrels per annum, and 35 barrels of pork per month, or 420 barrels per annum; so that the requirements of the "Consolidated" are greatly in excess of what will be allowed for the total consumption of the colony. Happily, as the result of the foresight of the management some time last year, this Company is provided at the present time with full supplies for this year's operations.

DOMINICA—Savings Bank Returns.

The balance-sheet of the Savings Bank shows that on December 31st last there were 636 depositors having £10,384 to their credit.—The Public Debt of the Presidency on December 31st stood at £65,000 and the accumulated Sinking Funds amounted to £27,533.

JAMAICA—Imperial Association.

At a meeting of the Council of the Imperial Association, the Chairman, reviewing the work of the past three months, said the Executive's representations regarding the improvement of the labour situation had been most sympathetically received by the planters of Westmorland. The Association was endeavouring to obtain information respecting industrial and labour conditions all over the island. Elaborate representations had also been made to the Government concerning the health of the island. With reference to local industries, the Executive had appointed special Standing Committees to deal with bananas, pen-keeping, logwood, citrus fruits, coffee, cocoa, coco-nuts, and sugar. Suggestions had also been made for keeping the statistics of each sugar estate at the office of the Association.

An important meeting of banana planters has been held at Headquarter House to exchange information regarding the position relative to the black weevil borer of bananas, with a view to steps being taken by the Government and the planters. The Governor presided over the Conference, which was attended by Sir Francis Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. It is understood that the discussion, which was held in camera, was very interesting and profitable.

The Bishop has consecrated, at the Church of England Mission at Chester Castle at Hanover, a memorial chancel erected by Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Gossett in honour of their son, Lieut. Wm. Beresford Gossett, who fell in Flanders.

ST. VINCENT—Mr. Kernahan now M.L.C.

MR. W. N. SANDS, FEBRUARY 20th.—In contrast with last season, this has so far been very favourable for planting operations as good rains have fallen since the beginning of the year. Considerable attention is necessarily devoted to the planting of crops for food. The sugar crop is now being reaped and is not yielding as well as in the previous year, due it is thought to less rain in the later months of last year than usual and also to some extent to the rains of the present year. There is fortunately a good demand at satisfactory prices for our chief products, namely, arrowroot, cotton, sugar and syrup, corn, peas, cassava starch, pea nuts and ground provisions, and from enquiries made by other Colonies for food supplies it would appear that St. Vincent is particularly well situated in this respect, which is a matter for congratulation as showing the wisdom and foresight exercised by the local Government and planters in recent years.

We have lost lately, by death, two of our old residents, namely Mr. George Robertson the owner of Cauden Park Estate, and Mr. James H. Simmons, who formerly owned a business in Kingstown.

Mr. W. H. Barnard, the owner of the Carib Country Estates, was here recently on business connected with his estates. Since he retired from business in St. Lucia he has resided in Barbados.

Mr. J. B. Kernahan has been appointed to the seat on the Legislative Council rendered vacant by the death of the Hon. D. A. MacDonald.

TOBAGO—"Spring in the Air."

MR. ROBERT S. REID.—We have had nice showers since March 1st, but the sun was beginning to tell on vegetation. Cocoa trees are full of new leaves and the "Spring," which delights the hearts of planters, is certainly "in the air." If we get April showers there ought to be an early cocoa crop. Some small pickings still continue, but the crop is practically at an end. Coco-nuts and copra are now being freely exported and growers are hoping to make use of the shells in future. Certainly there is no need for waste in this valuable product. Every bit of it, from branches, stems, and fruit, can be utilised. The Windward Planters' Association sent a very creditable exhibit to the Port of Spain show, and there were novel features in it which proved that Tobago is awakening and trying to follow the footsteps of its big brother Trinidad.

TRINIDAD—Agricultural Exhibition.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, MARCH 28th.—The Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of the Agricultural Society, in co-operation with the Board of Agriculture, was held on 22nd and 24th instant, and proved an all-round success. The attendance was good, the exhibits were excellent, and the weather all that could be desired. His Excellency the Governor formally opened the show on the afternoon of the 22nd, and, accompanied by Lady Chancellor, made a thorough inspection of everything. The most noticeable feature was the striking improvement in the quality of the fruit and vegetables shown—in fact, in these sections the samples would, I think, have attracted favourable comment anywhere in the world. The exhibits of poultry were also of a very high class, altogether beyond anything seen here a few years ago. There can be little question that the healthy competition excited by these exhibitions has resulted in a most substantial improvement, especially in the products of what are known as the minor industries. The exhibits numbered in all about 2,000. I may mention as a very pleasant fact, constituting at the same time a tribute to the people of the Colony, that although the exhibition was visited by thousands of all classes, from mid-day to midnight, not one single constable was employed within the extensive buildings and grounds, and that there was actually no occasion during the three days in which their services might have been required. There is no more tractable or good humoured crowd anywhere than in Trinidad, if you know how to deal with it, and the decision of the management to dispense with the presence of paid policemen was fully justified by the result.

The Colony is practically unanimous in its regret at the

announced departure of Mr. H. C. Gollan, Attorney General, who has accepted a similar position in Ceylon. Of exceptional ability, perfect courtesy, and with a great capacity for work, of which he never seemed to tire, Mr. Gollan will leave a reputation, far beyond the local Bar, at which his services have been so exceptionally useful and brilliant. He has worthily gained the confidence and respect of the whole community.

Our barter trade with the opposite coast of Venezuela within the Gulf, has for many years been a most valuable one. A large number of small craft, varying from 30 to 90 per week, is engaged in the trade, bringing all kinds of produce and selling it for cash, which is for the most part spent in dry goods, provisions, etc., forming the return cargo. This has largely accounted for the commercial prosperity of Trinidad even at times when the neighbouring Colonies were suffering from extreme depression. Among the cargo brought has been a fair quantity of cocoa, which always finds a ready market with the dealers here. This of course was for transhipment to Europe or America. Recently, however, there has been a greater demand than supply of tonnage, and much cocoa has been held over for shipment for a considerable time, sometimes resulting in depreciation of quality and loss. In these circumstances, local dealers protested against the produce of another country competing for the freight room already insufficient. The situation has been aggravated by the importation lately of considerable quantities of cocoa, not only from our old friends on the opposite coast, but from Carapago, and other Venezuelan ports, where the scarcity of bottoms is even more acute than here. It has also been urged that some of this latter cocoa is not quite free from the taint of German ownership. In any case a genuine grievance existed, which the Government has met by a proclamation prohibiting for the time being the importation of any foreign cocoa. It is sincerely hoped that this will not seriously affect the long established and valuable trade relations with our near-by friends, particularly as many persons here are peculiarly interested in estates and commerce at Guiria, and other places in the Gulf, but under present circumstances there can be no doubt that the prohibition of imports, especially as it is announced to be only temporary, was called for and is justifiable.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The directors of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, recommend the following final dividends and bonus for the year 1917:—6s. per share on the First preference shares; 6s. per share on the Second Preference shares; 6d. per share dividend and 3d. per share bonus on the Ordinary shares (free of income tax).

The Demerara Railway Co.

The accounts for the half-year ended December 31st, 1917, show a gross revenue of £35,648 18s. 2d. (as compared with £33,712 16s. 8d. for the same period of 1916), and a gross expenditure of £30,253 0s. 8d. as against £22,782 8s. 3d., leaving £5,395 17s. 6d. (£10,930 8s. 5d.) less amount due to Government on account of the Parika Extension, £266 10s. 9d. (£180 4s. 8d.) and debenture interest £1,400 (£1,400) leaving net revenue £3,729 6s. 9d. (£9,350 8s. 9d.). After adding the Government subsidy, £8,250, the amount withdrawn for renewal fund £3,343 1s. (£946 11s. 11d.), and the amount carried forward from the previous half-year, £2,711 17s. 2d. (£1,291 5s. 2d.), there remains a balance of £16,034 4s. 11d. (£17,338 0s. 10d.). 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 the 4 per cent. Extension Preference Stock, £8,250, and the directors recommend that the remainder should be dealt with as follows:—

(a) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on 7 per cent. Preference Stock, £4,025; (b) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on Preferred Ordinary Stock, £568 10s.; (c) Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 2 per cent. per

annum on Ordinary Stock (making 3 per cent. for the year), £1,650; (d) Appropriation to Renewal Fund, £1,500 (£3,000); leaving to be carried forward £2,945 14s. 11d. (£3,399 10s. 10d.).

This year there was no appropriation to the Contingency Fund, whereas the amount last year was £600.

The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows:—

| | 1917. | 1916. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Demerara Railway | 159,059 | 166,231 |
| Berbice Railway | 29,529 | 31,111 |
| West Coast Railway | 124,902 | 133,044 |
| | 313,490 | 330,386 |

The tonnage of goods was:—

| | 1917. | 1916. |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Demerara Railway | 40,943 | 42,780 |
| Berbice Railway | 6,209 | 7,520 |
| West Coast Railway | 3,541 | 2,432 |
| | 50,693 | 52,732 |

The gross receipts have been well maintained notwithstanding a decrease in the goods traffic on the Demerara and Berbice sections, owing to unfavourable weather having adversely affected the sugar and rice crops. The continued rise in the cost of labour and materials of every description is reflected in the increase in the expenditure which, however, includes the re-building three bridges and other special items, the cost of which has been withdrawn from the renewal fund. The directors have pleasure in recommending the payment of a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, making, with the interim dividend of 4 per cent. to June 30th last, 2 per cent. for the year. The directors regret to announce the resignation, owing to ill-health, of the secretary, Mr. H. G. McMurdie, who has been in the service of the company for 24 years. The director who retires by rotation is Mr. H. Martin Sells, and the Hon. A. P. Sherlock, of the Demerara Committee, also retires, both gentlemen offering themselves for re-election. The retiring auditor is Mr. E. De Grave Sells, who offers himself for re-election.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central. 15, SRETHING LANE.
Telegrams—"Carib, London." LONDON, E.C.3.

May 2nd, 1918.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1915.
5 per cent. War Loan, 95; Consols, 55½.

SUGAR. Following the increase in the sugar duty by 11 8 per cwt. announced by Mr. Bonar Law in his Budget Statement, sugar prices were raised by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on April 22nd to the following figures:—

| | WHOLESALE. | | RETAIL. | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Old price. | New price. | Old price. | New price. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | per cwt. | per lb. |
| Class 1. Cubes, Lumps, Cut loaf, Chips, Castor, Icing ... | 53 9 | 64 9 | 6½d. | 7½d. |
| Class 2.* Granulated, Crystals, Dry white sugar, W. I. Grocery crystallised, Yellow crystals, White pieces (moist) | 46 9 | 57 9 | 5½d. | 7d. |
| Class 3† W. I. muscovado (moist), Raw brown cane crystals, Pieces other than white W. I. grocery syrups | 44 6 | 55 6 | 5½d. | 6½d. |
| Class 4‡ Jellies, Knots and lumps, W. I. and other British colonial syrups, to be sold only to manufacturers | 39 6 | 50 0 | — | — |

* White pieces—Not inferior to No. 23 D.S. (1916).

† Other pieces—Not inferior to No. 11 D.S. (1916).

W. I. Grocery syrups—Not inferior to the standard at present taken as a basis by the West India Brokers' Committee.

‡ Jellies, etc.—No limit as to quality or colour.

The discount has been reduced from 1½ to 1¼ per cent. A schedule of the new scale of duties is given in another column in the present CIRCULAR.

The Royal Commission has ceased to issue licenses for the importation of syrup sugar unless it has been manufactured in a British Colony.

Syrup for human consumption is fixed at 60/- per cwt. less 3 per cent. discount, for retail at 10d. per lb., and at 80/- less 5 per cent. discount in cases of 2 lb. containers, for retail at 10½d. per lb. Other packages in proportion.

The New York prices remain as fixed by the International Committee at \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed.

The West India Sugar Statistics in London for the week ending April 27th, 1918, were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Imports | 5,982 | 11,857 | 9,522 Tons |
| Deliveries | 14,715 | 14,487 | 16,972 .. |
| Stock (Apr. 27th) ... | 2,254 | 5,385 | 3,655 .. |

RUM. The spirit duties are increased from 14/9 and 15/3 per gallon to 30/.

The rates of duty before and after the Budget are understood to be—

| | Old Duty. | Now. |
|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| 3 years old | 15/1 | 30/4 |
| 2 years old | 16/1 | 31/4 |
| 1½ years old | 16/7 | 31/10 |

An Order in Council has been passed fixing as from May 1st maximum prices for whisky, rum, British gin and British brandy. The new prices per bottle to the consumer will be:—

| | |
|---|------------|
| Highest grade proprietary whisky | 9s. 6d. |
| Other whisky, 30 under proof | 8s. to 9s. |
| Rum, British gin, and British brandy, 30 under proof | 8s. |

The stocks of rum in London on April 27th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,326 | 9,089 | 4,644 puns. |
| Demerara | 3,924 | 8,586 | 10,788 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 14,604 | 29,672 | 27,465 .. |

The Ministry of Munitions has withdrawn as from April 26th the arrangement under which the Explosives Department purchased and covered for insurance shipments of alcohol made in British Guiana or the West Indian Islands. The Department is, however, still prepared to accept upon the price and conditions arranged with the West India Committee any parcel of alcohol which has been made or may be made and placed in Colonial Bond after January 1st, 1918, and before May 31st next, provided shipment is made before June 30th next, or it is proved to the satisfaction of the Department that the alcohol was offered for shipment by a steamer or steamers loading before June 30th, but could not be accepted for want of space.

COCOA. There is no change in the cocoa duty which remains at 42/- per cwt., while that on cocoa butter is 4½d. per lb. Prices are unchanged, viz.:—

| | Price 1918. | Price 1913. |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100s. | 85s |
| Demerara, Guayaquil, Trinidad, and Surinam | 90s | 87s. |
| Bahia, Cameroons, Grenada, and other West Indians | 85s. | 81s. |
| British West Africa | 65s. | 51s. |

Market reports under date March 27th state that the Trinidad crop will be much below the average. From October 1st to that date 96,982 bags had been exported. The inadequacy of tonnage for the conveyance of Trinidad produce has caused the Government to prohibit temporarily the importation of cocoa grown outside the colony. Prior to this decree, liberal quantities were arriving from Venezuela.

The stocks in London on April 27th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 14,584 | 21,288 | 14,630 bags. |
| Grenada | 27,019 | 20,686 | 15,131 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 190,435 | 264,772 | 139,975 .. |

COTTON. Sea Island prices remain as officially fixed, viz.:—Ordinary, 36d. per lb.; good ordinary, 40d., and superfine 45d. to 50d., according to quality. Stains are paid for at the market value on arrival in the United Kingdom. The cotton is graded before sale by the British Cotton Growing Association under arrangement with the Government. No further imports are recorded, the arrivals of British West Indian being 458 bales during the first sixteen weeks of the current year to date.

COPRA. The position continues unchanged for the United Kingdom; £46 c.i.f. delivered London or Liverpool. Marseilles is a little steadier, £90 c.i.f. delivered.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, firm; ordinary to good green, 2/6 to 3/3 per gallon. Concentrated, firm. Lime Oil: Handpressed, quiet, value about 16/6; distilled, no demand, sellers 6/9 nominal. Citrate, firm.

RUBBER. Quiet; crepe, 2/4½; S.P. sheet, 2/3½; hard fice, 2/1½.

BALATA. Market firm but steady. Venezuelan block nominal at 3/4 c.i.f.; second hand spot parcels sold at 3/7½ landed; Tutuaco nominal, no supplies; Panama quoted 3/2 c.i.f. sellers; W.I. sheet, 3/11 c.i.f. buyers forward propositions, spot value 4/2.

HONEY. Market steady but quiet. The demand at the moment is affected by the talking of possible Government control and also by the political situation and recent arrivals.

SPICES. Market firm. Mace, red to good pale 2/9 to 3/6; broken 2/5 to 2/6 per lb. Nutmegs, 68's, 2/4; 75's and 80's, 2/2; 95's, 1/11; 110's, 1/10 to 2/1.

TOBACCO. The duty has been raised from 6/5 to 8/2 per lb.

MARRIAGES

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

DEAN—CORK.—On 27th April, 1918, by Rev. Godfrey Bell, at Christ Church, Streatham Hill, Leo Edwin Hare Dean, Lieut. R.N.V.R. (and of Colonial Bank, Jamaica), the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. W. Dean, of The Haven, 60, Hitherfield Road, Streatham, to Lois Eleanor Chautler, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Cork, Mus.Bac., Cantab., A.R.A.M., of Blundeigh, 105, Sunnyhill Road, Streatham. (Barbados and Jamaica papers please copy.)

BRYANT—PERKINS.—On April 30th, at Christ Church, Westminster, by the Rev. R. J. Campbell, Vicar, Mayard Bryant, Lieut. A.S.C., son of George R. Bryant and Mrs. Bryant, of Boscombe, Hants, to Dorothy, eldest daughter of H. J. Perkins, I.S.O., F.R.G.S., F.G.S., Surveyor-General, British Honduras, and Mrs. Perkins, of Wimbledon Park, and granddaughter of the late Major-General Edward Norman Perkins, Bengal Staff Corps.

WANT.

SUGAR PLANTER, past military age, with experience in British Guiana and Cuba, desires appointment. First-class references. Apply, M. P., c/o Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

ON April 1st all Postal Rates in force between the Leeward Islands and the United States became operative between the Leeward Islands and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, MAY 16th, 1918.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Established circa 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter.

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

AGENDA.

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee, the Audited Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1917, and the Balance Sheet.

2. To elect eleven members to the Executive Committee in the place of the following, who retire by virtue of Article VI of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, but are eligible for re-election:—

W. H. Alty, Esq.; C. Algernon Campbell, Esq.; W. Middleton Campbell, Esq.; E. A. de Pass, Esq.; W. A. Griffin, Esq.; Oliver V. G. Hoare, Esq.; E. L. Marshall, Esq.; A. J. McConnell, Esq.; J. H. Scrutton, Esq.; W. P. B. Shephard, Esq.; and H. D. Spooner, Esq.

By order of the Executive Committee

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,

Secretary.

May 16th, 1918.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON, E.C.3.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone:
6643 CENTRAL.

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

May 16th, 1918.

Imperial Preference.

THE final report of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy, which has just been presented to Parliament, is very encouraging to those who, like ourselves, hope to see a system of Imperial Preference established after the war. It was known from the resolutions which were published in February 1917, that LORD BALFOUR'S Committee had accepted the principles of preference; but in the report now under notice the theme is developed. The Committee now record their views that any tariff designed with a view to reciprocating the preferential treatment accorded by the Dominions to the Mother Country, and as a basis for a scheme of inter-imperial preference, could not be limited to manufactured or semi-manufactured commodities, but would have to be extended to a wide range of foodstuffs. In this connection they recommend that the duties on coffee, cocoa, sugar, tobacco and spirits—among other products—should be utilised for giving a first measure of Colonial preference. It will be recalled that in April, 1917, Mr. LLOYD GEORGE definitely stated that the Cabinet had accepted the principle of Imperial Preference, believing that it could be established without involving the imposition of burdens on food, and it now seems clear that what is contemplated is a reduction in the existing duties in favour of the Dominions and Colonies, which would achieve the end in view, it being certain that very many years must elapse before we shall be able to afford a "free breakfast-table." Incidentally, the Committee direct attention to the expediency of considering other forms of Imperial preference, such as Government contracts for purchasing for a term of years at guaranteed minimum prices part or the whole of the output of materials of great importance—a suggestion which we remember was put forward at the Sugar Conference presided over by Mr. W. M. HUGHES in 1916; but it is generally conceded that this would not be suitable for such products as sugar and cocoa. The views of the Committee on "dumping," which they interpret as "the sale of goods in a particular market

at prices lower than those at which the goods are currently offered in the country of manufacture" are eminently sound. "The view," they state, "is strongly held that the frequent 'dumping' of any particular class of foreign goods produces a feeling of insecurity in the corresponding industry of this country which diminishes the incentive to development." No one knows the truth of this better than our friends in the West Indies, who have seen their sugar industry almost wrecked by the dumping of bounty fed sugar on the markets of the United Kingdom, which should be their birth-right. The Committee further find that there is *prima facie* ground in support of the suggestion that in certain cases "dumping" by foreign combinations has been the expression of a persistent policy aiming at the depression of some British industries and the prevention of the establishment of others. Of the truth of this we are equally convinced. As a remedy the Committee advocate legislation on the lines of the Canadian dumping clause, or, in other words, the imposition of countervailing duties. These are, however, only two of the subjects dealt with in the report, which covers a very wide field. Many will be inclined to think that the recommendations in regard to trade with present enemy countries after the War are not sufficiently drastic, and that those relating to aliens are inadequate; but it is probable that the report will command additional attention from the very moderate nature of its proposals.

A Concession for Cocoa and Coffee.

FROM the letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which we publish in another column, it will be noted that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has succeeded in obtaining a substantial concession in respect of the Import Restrictions Order which will be very welcome to all connected with the cocoa and coffee industries. The COMMITTEE has not wavered from its decision taken deliberately in March, 1917, not to embarrass the Government by protesting against the restriction of imports, the need for which has been emphasised by the figures of our losses of tonnage due to enemy action, and the demands of our Allies for transporting men and munitions. It has, however, consistently and, as we shall now show, successfully advocated the modification of the regulations where it could be effected to the advantage of the colonies and without prejudice to the needs of this country and of our Allies which must remain paramount. As the outcome of several deputations to the Colonial Office and of correspondence which has been proceeding since the end of January, the Board of Trade has agreed to the grant of general authority to the Governors of the West Indian Colonies to allow the shipment of cocoa and coffee in any vacant space in

homeward vessels where the Colony is the last port of call. Preference is to be given to cocoa over coffee—owing, no doubt, to the food value of the former—and, where there is competition between shippers, to cocoa forming part of the ration exportable to the United Kingdom under the existing Order. It is obvious that colonies which are habitually the last port of call of homeward steamers will have an advantage over those less favourably situated; but we should imagine that it will be possible to arrange with the shipping companies for their steamers to distribute their favours in this respect equitably. The significant fact about the decision arrived at is that the embargo which was absolute in the case of coffee and in that of all cocoa over and above 50 per cent. of the exports to this country in 1916 has been modified, and that we shall no longer have to witness those grateful and comforting products being shut out whilst other articles of no food war-value are allowed to be shipped. As far as Jamaica is concerned the COMMITTEE was acting at the instance and with the full co-operation of the Jamaica Imperial Association, and it has been particularly gratifying to them to have been able to assist that newly formed organisation to secure its first success in its activities for the colony.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership now 1,713.

Mr. R. Rutherford presided over the fortnightly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on May 2nd. Those members also present were Mr. H. A. Trotter, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. G. M. Frame, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. T. Greenwood, Mr. N. Malcolmson, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. H. F. Previde, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. W. A. Wolseley, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G. The opportunity was taken to welcome Mr. A. J. Pavitt, H.M. Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, who attended the meeting by invitation.

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

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lieut. A. M. Pawsey (Jamaica) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Capt. J. W. Wilson (Tobago) | Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. |
| Mr. Manley Lopez (Jamaica) | Mr. T. L. M. Orde. |
| Lieut. L. R. Whitard (Guatemala) | Mr. H. R. Hamilton. |
| Mr. Alexander Fraser (Cuba) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. James Morison (Jamaica) | Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. |
| | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | Mr. D. R. Mackenzie. |
| | Mr. W. P. Bull, K.C. |
| | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |

Mr. Pavitt, in a happy speech, said that it gave him great pleasure to attend such a representative meeting of business men connected with the West Indies. The main object of the Trade Commis-

sioner service was to promote trade between the colonies and the Mother country, and also inter-Imperial trade. His headquarters would be at Port of Spain, Trinidad, and he hoped to visit the British and also certain French and Dutch islands, besides the Guianas, as soon after his arrival in the West Indies, as circumstances would permit. His work would not be confined to finding markets for exporters from the United Kingdom; but would aim also at endeavouring to assist in the development of the British West Indian Colonies' export trade in British channels. In this connection, he said that he would not emphasise too strongly that he did not in any way wish or intend to interfere with existing business arrangements between the Colonies and the United Kingdom. He was glad to learn from the Chairman that he would receive the valuable support of so powerful a body as the West India Committee.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE EXECUTIVE OF
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE
for the year 1917.**

To be laid before the Annual General Meeting of
The West India Committee on May 30th, 1918.

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, 1917, and the Balance Sheet.

Membership.

During the year 152 new members were elected, bringing the total membership of the West India Committee to 1654, the highest figure at which it has yet stood. The new members were resident in the following places:—

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|----|---------------|-----|----|
| Trinidad | ... | 35 | St. Kitts | ... | 2 |
| Jamaica | ... | 13 | Nevis | ... | 2 |
| British Guiana | ... | 12 | Montserrat | ... | 1 |
| Barbados | ... | 7 | Turks Islands | ... | 1 |
| Grenada | ... | 7 | Canada | ... | 4 |
| St. Vincent | ... | 7 | London | ... | 23 |
| Dominica | ... | 3 | Country | ... | 22 |
| Antigua | ... | 2 | Various | ... | 11 |

Obituary.

The Committee record with regret the death of the following members:—

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Hon. B. Agostini, K.C. | Mr. Alfred G. Grant. |
| Mr. George B. Allen. | Mr. Henry F. Hart. |
| Miss M. R. Berkeley. | Mr. John T. Haynes. |
| Sir Henry A. Blake, | Mr. R. Henderson. |
| G.C.M.G. | Mr. W. W. Hewitt. |
| Mr. E. G. Braddon (died on Active Service). | Mr. C. T. Isaacs. |
| Dr. T. S. Browne. | Dr. G. L. Latour. |
| Mr. C. G. W. Carew. | Mr. C. P. Lazarns. |
| Mr. W. A. Douglas. | Mr. William A. Pitt. |
| Mr. Lionel Devaux. | The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby. |
| Mr. J. J. Bastick. | Mr. J. W. Russell. |
| Mr. T. Birt Evelyn. | Mr. L. W. Sampson. |
| Mr. W. P. Eversley. | Mr. J. P. Tulloch. |
| | Mr. Samuel Webb. |

Annual Meeting and Offices.

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 10th. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive, pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, Mr. Robert Rutherford was elected Chairman of the West India Committee, and Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter Deputy Chairman. A cordial vote of thanks for his conduct of the Chair was passed to Mr. W. Middleton Campbell, who had expressed his desire not to submit himself for re-election as Chairman.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, M.A., also retired from the Executive and was the recipient of a vote of thanks for his valuable services, especially in connection with the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation in 1904.

Financial Position.

The Income and Expenditure Account* again shows a debit balance which is attributable to a further falling off in revenue from and increased cost of production of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. A contributory cause was the substantial reduction in the annual donations received from the colonies. This the Hon. Treasurers regard as particularly regrettable in view of the extra work and expense thrown on the Committee in connection with the West Indian Contingents.

The Contingent Committee.

The entire secretarial and office work of the West Indian Contingent Committee was conducted by the Secretary and Staff of the West India Committee at 15, Seething Lane. The extent of this is shown by the half-yearly reports of the Contingent Committee which were published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Associated Chambers of Commerce.

The first triennial meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the British West Indies was held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, from February 26th to March 2nd. Mr. E. R. Dayson, who had been nominated to represent the West India Committee on this occasion, was elected President of the new organisation which the Committee believe should prove a useful factor in bringing the various West Indian colonies into closer touch with one another. The Committee were invited and consented to represent the Associated Chambers in London.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

The Committee represented to the Colonial Office Board of Agriculture the urgent need for the shipment of sulphate of ammonia to the British West Indies for the purposes of the sugar industry. As the outcome of several conferences and of much correspondence 4,720 tons of sulphate of ammonia were provisionally allocated to British Guiana, and 2,477 tons to the British West India islands. The quantities actually licensed were 3,175 tons and 1,782 tons respectively.

*See pages 169 and 170.

Alcohol for Munition Purposes.

Following the prohibition against the importation of rum into the United Kingdom, negotiations were entered into with the Ministry of Munitions for the purchase by them of alcohol for munitions purposes. Several conferences were held with the Director of Propellant Supplies and definite offers were communicated to the West Indian colonies concerned by the Committee, who obtained permission from the Shipping Controller for priority to be given to alcohol after the shipment of prescribed goods.

The Immature Spirits Act.

The Committee addressed a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging that a further concession might be granted to rum pursuant to the powers taken in the Finance (No. 2.) Act, 1916, it appearing that there were insufficient supplies of three-year-old rum in the country to permit of full compliance with the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act. An Order in Council was subsequently passed sanctioning the delivery of rum for home consumption if it had been warehoused for a period of eighteen months, instead of twelve months, subject to the payment of the appropriate additional duty.

Calcutta-West Indies Steamer Service.

By deputation and letter the Committee called the attention of the Ministry of Shipping to the importance of maintaining steamship communication between Calcutta and the British West Indies which had been threatened by the requisition of the vessels of Messrs. James Nourse, Ltd., for Government purposes. The representations of the Committee were favourably entertained, a steamer was at once placed on the route, whilst further sailings were also subsequently arranged. The Committee also represented to the Ministry that the vessels on this service should be loaded exclusively from the British West Indies.

Import Restrictions.

In view of the gravity of the position disclosed by the Prime Minister in his statement to Parliament on February 23rd, the Committee unanimously decided to support the Government in their decision to reduce imports and thus to economise tonnage. Throughout the year, however, they watched the position closely and lost no opportunity of urging a relaxation of the Prohibition of Import (No. 14) Proclamation, which was issued on February 23rd, in favour of West Indian produce where it could be legitimately effected without prejudice to the requirements of the United Kingdom and the Allies in respect of foodstuffs and war material.

Cocoa Imports.

Acting on behalf of and at the request of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated), the Committee were successful in obtaining permission for a vessel to load a cargo of cocoa at Trinidad for France, which greatly relieved the situation in the colony. The Committee are aware that some dissatisfaction was felt in Grenada that a similar

concession was not obtained for that island, but wish to point out that no representations were received from any body or individual there on the subject.

Later in the year, however, the Committee were able to render a service to all the cocoa-producing islands by securing for them permission to commence shipments in respect of the new season before February 23rd, 1918, and licenses were accordingly granted for the shipment of cocoa to reach the United Kingdom not before January 1st in that year.

East Indian Immigration.

The full report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Assisted Emigration from India to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Fiji, was published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR (No. 497, October 18th).

Colonial Blue-books.

The Secretary was appointed a member of a Sub-Committee of a Committee sitting at the Colonial Office to consider what steps could be taken to improve the Colonial Blue-books and Blue-book Reports.

Publications.

In spite of the great increase in the cost of publication—which will shortly be aggravated by the new postal rates—THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR was posted to members fortnightly throughout the year. The Committee believe that this publication serves a useful purpose in ventilating West Indian affairs and in disseminating information regarding the British West Indies.

The West India Associations.

The Committee continued to keep in close touch with the West India Associations of Liverpool and Glasgow and the British Empire Producers' Organisation, on whose Council they are represented by Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. Edward R. Davson, and Mr. E. A. de Pass.

Honorary Correspondents.

The Committee desire again to thank their Hon. Correspondents for keeping them so well informed regarding the conditions and requirements of the colonies which they represent.

R. RUTHERFORD,
Chairman.

H. A. TROTTER,
Deputy-Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The West India Committee Rooms,
15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

May 16th, 1918.

[The dates in the above report refer to the year 1917 except where otherwise stated.]

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Established circa 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Dr. INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ended December 31st, 1917. Cr.

| | s. d. | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| To Salaries and Wages | 1,249 15 0 | By Subscriptions received from mem- | | |
| " Allowances to Members of the Staff on Active Service | 110 10 0 | bers, amounts receivable for | | |
| " Rent of Committee Rooms and Offices | 165 0 0 | Advertisements (less com- | | |
| " Printing and Stationery | 1,140 11 9 | mission) and Sales of THE | | |
| " Newspapers and Press Cuttings | 14 4 2 | WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIR- | | |
| " Literary Contributions, Copyrights, etc. | 97 17 10 | CULAR and Books | 2,936 19 4 | |
| " Postages | 254 19 9 | " Interest on Investments and | | |
| " Travelling Expenses | 0 16 1 | Deposits | | 80 19 11 |
| " Rent of Telephone | 20 10 9 | " Contributions from Colonial Gov- | | |
| " Audit Fee | 15 15 0 | ernments for representing the | | |
| " Office Cleaning, Coal and Lighting | 53 10 9 | Permanent Exhibition Com- | | |
| " Sundry Office and General Expenses | 67 13 3 | mittees, Publicity, etc.— | | |
| " Repairs and Renovations | 10 0 0 | Leeward Islands | 25 0 0 | |
| " Depreciation of Office Furniture | 31 3 4 | Jamaica | 10 0 0 | |
| " Interest on Loan | 1 8 11 | British Honduras | 10 10 0 | |
| " Library Bindings | 15 4 8 | St. Lucia | 10 10 0 | |
| " Advertising (1916-17) | 30 12 6 | | | |
| " Bad Debts | 40 8 5 | | 56 0 0 | |
| | | Less Contributions taken credit | | |
| | | for in 1915 and 1916, and not | | |
| | | forthcoming— | | |
| | | British Guiana | 21 0 0 | |
| | | Grenada | 10 0 0 | |
| | | Trinidad | 10 10 0 | |
| | | | 41 10 0 | |
| | | | | 14 10 0 |
| | | .. Balance | | 287 12 11 |
| | <u>£3,320 2 2</u> | | | <u>£3,320 2 2</u> |

Dr. BALANCE SHEET, December 31st, 1917. Cr.

| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
|--|------------|-----------|---|-------------------|---------|
| To Sundry Creditors for Printing and Rent | | 353 15 10 | By Investments at Cost— | | |
| " Sundry Creditors for Advertisements paid in advance | | 67 14 0 | £300 Trinidad 3% Inscribed Stock | 444 17 3 | |
| " Subscriptions received in advance | | 95 6 0 | £200 British Guiana 4% Inscribed Stock | 214 1 0 | |
| " Unexpended Balances of Special Funds | | 75 4 2 | £200 Jamaica 3½% Inscribed Stock | 194 11 0 | |
| " Life Members' Subscriptions Account | | 210 0 0 | £200 Antigua 4% Inscribed Stock | 203 9 8 | |
| " Overdraft at Bank | | 491 4 0 | £300 Barbados 3½% Inscribed Stock | 290 6 0 | |
| " Income and Expenditure Account— | | | £300 Western Australia 4% Registered Stock | 294 16 0 | |
| Balance at 31st December, 1916 | 3,054 16 0 | | £300 Dominion of Canada 4% Registered Stock, 1940-60 | 299 13 6 | |
| Less Balance as per annexed account | 287 12 11 | | £600 5% War Loan, 1929-47 | 571 0 3 | |
| | 2,767 3 1 | | | 2,512 14 8 | |
| | | | (Market Value at Date, £2,021 17s. 6d.) | | |
| | | | " Office Furniture— | | |
| | | | Balance at 31st December, 1916 | 393 15 10 | |
| | | | Additions during year | 9 19 4 | |
| | | | | 403 15 2 | |
| | | | Less Depreciation at 7½% | 31 3 4 | |
| | | | | 372 11 10 | |
| | | | " Library and Pictures as at 31st December, 1916 | 697 8 5 | |
| | | | " Sundry Debtors for Advertisements, etc. | 264 7 0 | |
| | | | " Subscriptions in Arrear since received | 85 15 8 | |
| | | | " Commission on Advertisements paid in advance | 57 11 4 | |
| | | | " Stock of Books and Maps at cost | 23 7 0 | |
| | | | " Cash— | | |
| | | | At Bank—on current account | 44 13 3 | |
| | | | In Hand | 1 17 11 | |
| | | | | 46 11 2 | |
| | | | | <u>£4,060 7 1</u> | |

R. RUTHERFORD }
 CYRIL GURNEY } *Hon. Treasurers*
 W. GILLESPIE }
 ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary*

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MISS DAPHNE SHEPHERD, daughter of Mr. J. R. Shepherd, Superintendent of Agriculture, St. Kitts, is working at the Ministry of Shipping.

MR. JOSEPH GOMES, who lost his life at sea through enemy action, was the brother of Mr. J. Albert Gomes of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

THE Royal Bank of Canada has acquired the Northern Crown Bank of Canada. By this purchase the Royal has strengthened its position in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

FRANK AND ANDRE AGOSTINI, sons of Mr. François Agostini, who have been serving with the French Army since the beginning of the War, have proceeded to Trinidad on leave of absence.

AN Order has been made by the Board of Trade under the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1916, requiring the business of Reinach & Co., 81, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3, rum and tea merchants, to be wound up.

MR. A. F. BLAKE, of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd., has published, at the price of \$1.50, a very useful "Nomon," or chart, from which the "purity" of a sugar solution may be at once found from the Brix and polarisation.

THE engagement is announced of Second Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Durham Light Infantry, second son of Archdeacon and Mrs. Branch, of Antigua, B.W.I., to Bismé, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Burgess, of Bournemouth.

THE Export Association of Canada, Ltd. (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) have made arrangements to send a representative to the British West Indies, with a view to the development of Canadian Trade with these Colonies. The representative, it is understood, will investigate the West Indian markets, and will make arrangements for the sale there, through reliable representatives, of Canadian goods.

PRECISELY what it costs to produce an acre of cane is still a subject (says the *South African Sugar Journal*) on which varying figures can be procured. One of the foremost planters in Natal states that it costs him 9s. 11½d. to produce a ton of cane, which is allowing for all reasonable charges, such as transport to the mill, interest on capital expenditure, and all other reasonable charges. Taking the average price of cane to-day to be about 16s. per ton, and allowing a good average of 25 tons to the acre, this would give a return of £7 10s. per acre, or, say, £1,875 per 250 acres.

THE official memorandum on the Indian sugar crop for 1917-18 says the total area sown with cane

is estimated at 2,796,000 acres, as compared with 2,416,000 acres, the revised final figure of the preceding season, showing an increase of 16 per cent. The total yield of raw sugar is estimated at 3,229,000 tons, as compared with 2,728,000 tons, the revised figure for 1916-17, or an increase of 18 per cent. The present figures for both area and yield are the highest on record. On the basis of the figures given the average yield per acre of the present crop is 2,587 lbs., as compared with an average of 2,529 lbs. in 1916-17.

"The main problem is to attract capital to the sugar industry, and the only practical method of doing this is to make such capital secure and profitable to the investor." This opinion is expressed by Professor T. H. P. Heriot in an interesting paper on "The Sugar Industry after the War," which he read recently before the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow. The Professor, referring to the employment of Indians in the cane-fields, says such labour has given entire satisfaction, and he regards India as representing an immense reservoir of labour now producing only a small fraction of the wealth which it could produce if properly organised and equipped with modern machinery."

MR. A. J. Pavitt, H.M. Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, was entertained at luncheon by the members of the West Indian Club on May Day. The chair was appropriately taken by Mr. E. R. Davson, President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, and the company present included:—

Mr. R. Rutherford, Sir Owen Phillips, K.C.M.G., M.P., Captain G. B. Mason, F.A.M.C., Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., His Honour Chief Justice Collier, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Mr. H. F. Previte, Mr. Wm. Perkins Bull, K.C., B.A., Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. Alex. Elder, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. J. E. Munro, Major E. H. O'Reilly Blackwood, M.C., Captain C. Martin-Sperry, Mr. George Johnson, Mr. P. M. Fraser, Lieut. G. Challenger, Mr. A. T. Hammond, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. A. Seafe, Mr. E. M. Hall, Mr. John C. Brennock, Mr. C. Bagot Gray, Cadet Peterkin, Mr. C. McNeil, Mr. Boswell Tucker, and Sir William Goode, K.B.E.

WEST INDIANS, both in the Caribbean and in England, subscribed liberally to the fund raised for the relief of the sufferers by the Halifax disaster. They will therefore be interested in the statement issued by the Relief Commission that fifteen million dollars is a fair estimate of the loss to Halifax as a result of the great explosion. This amount covers dwelling houses, with their contents destroyed, also damage to schools, churches, charitable and public institutions, business properties, merchandise, municipal and public buildings, manufacturing plants, and also provides several millions of dollars as a compensation for the families who lost their bread winners or who sustained other damages which would entitle them to special assistance from the State. It is gratifying to know that a sufficient sum of money will be forthcoming from the State and from public subscription to assure the payment of all reasonable claims.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Great Battle in the West.

The weather, which favoured the enemy for weeks, especially from the Somme to the Yser, by hampering our Air Service with fog, by remaining dry, by being associated with a wind blowing steadily from between north and east, has changed in our favour somewhat. Not only are the Allies holding their ground in the Flanders hills, but are improving their line by tactical gains. On April 26th the enemy renewed his attacks with determination on the Anglo-French positions from Loere to La Clyette and astride the Ypres-Comines Canal, gaining ground nowhere except in the direction of Loere, where the British front was forced back and the village captured in the course of the fourth violent attempt to take it. Later in the day and through the night the French, in successful counter-attacks, drove the enemy out again. With the ultimate failure of his thrusts here, on the Lys, and in the neighbourhood of Hangard, there was a lull of several days' duration along the whole front, each side making the most of it. In front of Amiens, for instance, the Australians, in a series of surprise night raids, advanced our line west and south-west of Malancourt over half a mile on a considerable front. The fighting in this sector is extremely bitter, the bayonet being freely used by both British and Germans. Hence a gain usually means heavy losses; but this time the Australians seem to have had few casualties, whereas the enemy lost 200 in prisoners alone, besides machine-guns. There has also been an improvement in our position in the Bethune sector due to successful local fighting.

The French, too, have a local success to their credit by the capture of Grisviesnes Park, which commands two ravines, one leading to Hagicourt, the other to Malpart. The attack was such a complete surprise to the Germans that in fifteen minutes the French had achieved their objective, and with few casualties, whereas the Germans lost sixty machine-guns, none of which had been able to fire a round, and 284 prisoners.

Renewal of Strong Attacks in Flanders.

The Germans, who were known to be preparing for another big effort, on May 8th launched an attack between Ypres and Mont Kemmel, the fighting lasting all day, and with especial severity in the centre. But though the enemy entered our front line at several points, he was driven out again next day. His immediate objective seems to have been the Scharpenberg height, five divisions having been detailed for the purpose. But the Allied gunfire was so brilliant that the formations were broken up, so that only a remnant advanced. From this achievement it is evident that the weather has improved sufficiently for our airmen to resume their activity, for, besides playing their part in directing the artillery, they brought down 29 enemy machines, while only seven of ours were reported as missing.

The Italians, who do not forget the prompt assistance rendered by the Anglo-French Armies in

their extremity last November, are sending troops to the Western Front. Italy has also agreed to place her military forces under the command of General Foch, so that, as one writer picturesquely puts it, the Allied line extends from the Arctic to the Adriatic.

On the Italian front our Allies have taken Monte Corno, in the Trentino, a precipitous peak 5,000 feet high, which was used by the Austrians as an observation post. The only connection it had with the main positions was a path along a narrow saddle in the rear. In front was an abyss, and on either side sheer walls of rock. Less than two companies of infantry and storm troops crept along in the dark on the saddle, cutting off the garrison, who made a gallant resistance. The height dominated the Italian positions and communications north-east of snow-covered Basubia.

A New Peace Offensive.

Germany ever regards diplomacy and war as different forms of her aggressive policy in practice, pressing each as varying circumstances seem to demand. For instance, while she hoped for immediate success from her present great offensive in the West, her peace efforts relaxed. As the realisation of her dreams grows remoter, British Ministers have warned us that a new peace movement is afoot. Naturally enough, it has begun in Austria, which is frightened of the result of the Rome Conference, in which the Yugo Slavs (Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes) came to a definite understanding with Italy as to their future. The creation of a Slav Balkan power independent of the Central Powers would effectively bar their way to the East. Hence the frantic efforts of Austria to compose home dissensions while dangling an olive branch before gullible pacifists in Allied countries.

In the East and Far East.

The situation from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean and from Petrograd to Vladivostock is, to say the least of it, humiliating to the Allies. Roumania, by a new partition treaty, has been left little "but her eyes to weep with." The Passes in the Carpathians go to Austria-Hungary, the Dobrudsha to Bulgaria, and the control of the Danube is secured to the Central Powers by territorial and administrative changes at the expense of Roumania; her corn and oil, the chief sources of her wealth, are to be produced in the interests of Germany; no indemnity is to be exacted, but Roumania, broken and ruined, is to feed the army of occupation, for the date of whose departure there is no stipulation in the "treaty." As with Belgium, so with Roumania—all that is left to her is her own unconquerable spirit looking forward to a brighter dawn.

As for Russia, who has brought all these calamities upon Roumania, she continues in the state of chaos she brought upon herself. In the north, enemy domination of Finland threatens the Murman Coast on the western shores of the White Sea. Here, at Ekaterina Harbour, which is ice-free the year round, Germany hopes to create a naval base, a move which the Allies are no doubt prepared to counter. A great naval captain once

described England's position at sea in Europe as an eagle with wings outstretched.

In the south, the Ukraine is feeling the weight of the mailed fist more and more. So far is she from being treated as an ally of the Central Powers that her territories are being over-run as if she were an unruly vassal. One result of the enemy's armed forces along the coast of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, in co-operation with the Turkish Fleet, is the seizure of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. On re-organising it, Germany can influence the naval situation in the Mediterranean in connection with the maintenance of our Expeditionary Forces in Palestine and Salonica. If the traffic in the Suez Canal and Levant is not to be dangerously harassed, the Allied naval forces in the Eastern Mediterranean must be strengthened.

The Ostend Exploit.

The Navy has finished its work at Ostend, partially completed three weeks ago. The *Indictive*, which took a leading part then, ended her glorious career as a victim. Filled with reinforced concrete, she was by night escorted to the Belgian coast and sunk, with consummate seamanship, right up between the Ostend piers. In addition to the darkness, minefields of unknown limits, and an enemy on the alert, there should have been a naval patrol to harass the operation. But apparently the enemy's main attack was directed from the harbour's heavy fortifications. When one remembers that the *Indictive* was 270 ft. long, and the space in which she was sunk 275 ft. across, some idea of the skill of our naval men may be gathered. Another measure of their achievement is the fact that the Japanese made three attempts to close Port Arthur—the mouth of which is wider than that of Ostend Harbour, it is true—and yet failed of complete success.

In Palestine and Mesopotamia.

At the end of March the right wing of General Allenby's army, which had advanced into the hilly country towards the Mecca-Damascus railway, was forced to retire over the Jordan, but because public attention was then absorbed in the great conflict on the Western Front, the news passed almost unnoticed. On May 1st a second advance was undertaken, in the course of which Es Salt was again captured, together with 1,000 prisoners. To prevent the arrival of reinforcements from Shechem, a mounted brigade was sent north of the bridge we have built over the river at El Ghoraniyeh; but the enemy was so superior in numbers that the manœuvre failed, and, as his strength was still further increased, our men were compelled to re-cross the Jordan, though holding the bridge-head. Not only is the country east of the Jordan very difficult, but the Turks have been stiffened by considerable German forces.

Shipyards and the U-Boat Menace.

In April the Admiralty stated that "to produce in the United Kingdom 1,800,000 tons of shipping in 1918 and to make an ultimate output at the rate of 3,000,000 tons per annum is well within the present and prospective capacity of our shipyards and engineering shops." Unfortunately, the total

for April is less by 50,141 tons than for March, which is disappointing, since, for security, an average output of about 170,000 tons a month should be maintained. Lord Pirrie, the new Shipping Controller, gives two reasons for the falling-off, neither of them satisfactory. It may be quite true that repairs to damaged vessels have been largely increased lately. But unless ships under repair are first written off as losses, and then credited as new vessels, they cannot be regarded as replacing tonnage. Moreover, while in the shipyards they probably occupy berths which might otherwise be available for new construction. The two processes must be carried on simultaneously.

The Under-Secretary of the Admiralty states that the number of hostile submarines sunk steadily increases, while the number of merchantmen sunk as steadily falls. This is good news, borne out by the official figures during the past year.

The Admiralty have notified merchantmen of a new danger zone in the North Sea. The barrage which guards the Straits of Dover is repeated at the other end of the North Sea, between Scotland and Norway. Minefields and patrol vessels, combined with seaplanes, prevent the egress of "U"-boats on the surface of the water, and other measures no less effective bar their passage beneath the water. In short, the British Navy is making an area of 200,000 square miles dangerous to enemy submarines—surely an operation without precedent in naval history.

(To be continued.)

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Report of Lord Balfour's Committee.

The final report of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War, which was set up by Mr. Asquith in July, 1916, with Lord Balfour of Burleigh as Chairman, has now been published.

As far as Imperial preference is concerned the views of the Committee were made known in February last by certain resolutions which they had passed favouring the policy, and these are now confirmed.

After dealing with our fiscal policy the Committee points out that it is obvious that any tariff which is to be used to any considerable extent as a means of reciprocating the preferential treatment accorded by the British Self-Governing Dominions to the Mother Country, and as the basis for a scheme of inter-imperial preferences, could not be limited to manufactured or semi-manufactured commodities, but would have to be extended to a wide range of foodstuffs and possibly even raw materials. To illustrate this they show that of the value of the imports into the United Kingdom in the last normal year, 1913, 36 per cent. represented Articles of Food, Drink, and Tobacco; 52 per cent. represented Raw materials and articles mainly manufactured, and only 12 per cent. Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured, and Miscellaneous Goods. As regards the imposition of duties on foodstuffs there are at present such duties levied in the United Kingdom for revenue purposes on tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar,

tobacco, wine and spirits, and the Committee recommend that these should be utilised for the purpose of giving a first measure of Colonial Preference. They also recommend that preferential treatment should be accorded to the British Oversea Dominions in respect of any other Customs Duties which may hereafter be imposed in the United Kingdom.

They also recommend that consideration should be given to the expediency of other forms of Colonial preference, such as Government contracts to purchase for a term of years at guaranteed minimum prices part or the whole of the output of materials of great national importance, or financial assistance from the Home Government towards the development of Imperial resources.

They recommend that legislative action be taken on the lines adopted in Canada to protect producers in this country against "dumping" in their home market.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

VII.—THE POSSIBILITIES OF EMPIRE SUGAR.

(Continued from p. 156).

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

Canada has for some years attempted to develop a beet industry, but in spite of bounties and protection, the output of Canadian beet sugar formed, in 1913, only about 35 per cent. of the consumption. The cause of this probably lies in climatic conditions, the yield per acre being poor. Canada, therefore, cannot be regarded as likely to contribute notably to Empire sugar supplies.

As regards the other possessions of the Empire, great and valuable light has been thrown upon their sugar possibilities by the enquiries recently made by the West India Committee. In October, 1914, this body sent a circular letter to the Governors of His Majesty's Sugar-growing possessions, asking them to what extent the Colonies under their charge could extend the cultivation of the sugar cane, with the view of an Empire sugar supply for the United Kingdom. It also communicated with the Governors of the other tropical Colonies in order to ascertain whether the conditions were favourable to sugar cultivation and, if so, what quantity could be grown by them respectively.

The replies, together with the text of a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister on the subject of the sugar supplies of the United Kingdom, were duly published.

As regards Australia, the report from Queensland stated that the existing area in cultivation was 147,745 acres, but that this could be increased by another 150,000 acres, bringing the output up to 500,000 tons. It was pointed out, however, that as the consumption in Australia had only amounted to 250,000 tons, the balance, if produced, would have to be exported. As the sugar has to be produced by white labour, its cost per ton is high, and it was pointed out that the only way in which this could be produced profitably would be by

(a) Imperial Federation, which would protect sugar grown within the Empire by levying duties against outside countries, and

(b) Payment of an export bonus by the Commonwealth Treasury or by tax upon the Australian consumers of sugar.

The sugar possibilities of Natal, the sugar producing portion of The Union of South Africa, are set forth by the Governor-General as being 332,048 tons. The increase is stated to be dependent on an increase in the labour supply.

As regards Mauritius, it is considered that the present output could be increased to 305,000 tons annually; and of Fiji, to 164,000 tons.

Of the British West Indies, British Guiana is considered by local authorities to be equal to the big output of 2,500,000 tons. It is true that the present output is not much over 100,000 tons, but there are enormous tracts of land available for, and suitable to, sugar purposes in the North-West district, which only need capital and labour to bring up the output to the above high figure.

Of the West Indian Islands proper, the one which lends itself most to sugar development is Jamaica. That magnificent island, which once exported over 80,000 tons of sugar, now only turns out about 15,000. The official reply to the letter of the West India Committee puts the amount that could be economically made, at 35,000 tons only, but a later estimate, and one based on the general view of the planters of the island, puts 200,000 tons as the figure, it being recognised that it would be better under Empire preferential conditions to grow sugar than bananas.

Trinidad only admits of expansion to 80,000 tons, the Windward and Leeward Islands to 67,000 tons, and Barbados 51,000 tons.

Taking now the tropical Colonies where no sugar is grown, the report from British East Africa is highly favourable, and it is stated that the area suitable for cane cultivation is 327,750 acres, calculated to produce 500,000 tons. As regards Northern and Southern Nigeria and Uganda, no figures are given. But it is stated that "the possibilities of Northern Nigeria as a source of supply are well worthy of the most careful enquiry," that in Southern Nigeria there are "many thousands of acres, admirably adapted for sugar growing," and that in Uganda "Sugar could be grown in fairly large quantities."

Summarising the above, leaving out the question of sugar growing in the United Kingdom, and without reference to Nigeria or Uganda, the possibilities of the British Empire as regards sugar are as follows:—

| | Tons. |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| India—at least | 3,000,000 |
| British Guiana and the West Indies | 2,740,000 |
| Mauritius | 305,000 |
| Fiji | 164,000 |
| British East Africa | 500,000 |
| Australia | 500,000 |
| South Africa | 332,000 |
| | 7,541,000 |

Leaving India out of the question, the requirements of the rest of the Empire, based on the pre-war figures, amounted to 2,932,563 tons, say, 3,000,000 tons. The above figures show that the possibilities of the rest of the Empire in sugar are at

least 4,541,000 tons. This is without any allowance being made for a problematic home-grown beet industry, and without taking into consideration the sugar possibilities of the British West African possessions.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH SUGAR INDUSTRY.

SOME LESSONS FROM THE PAST.

Mr. Martineau's Valuable Paper.

General regret was expressed at the Royal Society of Arts on May Day that Mr. George Martineau was not present in person to deliver his lecture on "Sugar from Several Points of View." Owing to advancing years and increased deafness the eminent sugar expert was unable to face the journey from the country and his place was accordingly taken by Mr. E. R. Davson, who read the paper sympathetically, bringing out Mr. Martineau's points with great clearness.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh presided.

Mr. Martineau's paper was written to prove, from the history of sugar during the last sixty years:—

1. That nascent industries can be encouraged, research stimulated, and efficiency created, by a rational, well regulated, but moderate stimulus.
2. That preferential treatment in home markets is the best, perhaps the only, way to give real confidence to capital; and that with that confidence, coupled, of course, with favourable natural conditions, British industries will flourish, and may even become capable of furnishing the whole consumption of the Empire.
3. That the dumping of commodities below cost price is a fatal injury to the consumer.

This it does very effectively. At the outset he traced the history of sugar from Hindu mythology, when a famous hermit, on being desired by an Indian Prince to translate him to heaven in his life-time, refused, but offered him the sweets of paradise on earth in the shape of the sugar-cane.

Passing on to the rise and fall of refining in this country he recalled that in 1856 this industry was in a flourishing state. Practically all the loaf sugar consumed here was produced in the East End of London, where about twenty refineries, each doing a few hundred tons a week, were very busy, giving work and wages to the surrounding neighbourhood, and keeping the London Docks fully occupied with the thousands of hogsheads of West India sugar which were annually imported. That was the sugar which we principally used, helped out with sugar from Mauritius, British India, the foreign West Indies, and the foreign East Indies. The total, in 1856, was 384,000 tons of raw cane sugar, to which must be added 9,000 tons of foreign refined sugar and 4,000 tons of raw beetroot sugar. That gives a total consumption of 397,000 tons. The remarkable point is that of the 384,000 tons of raw cane sugar 285,000 tons, 70 per cent., came from our sugar-producing British Possessions, East and West, but especially West. Those were good days, not only for British sugar-refining but also for the British West Indian Colonies and Mauritius. It will

be interesting, for a moment, to look at the kind of sugar which the world produced in those days, and especially at our largest contributors, the British West Indies.

At that date the world produced about 1,200,000 tons of cane sugar and 250,000 tons of European beetroot sugar—total 1,450,000 tons. The cane-sugar producing countries of those days, mentioned in the order of their importance, were Cuba, Java, Mauritius, the British West Indies (including British Guiana), Brazil, Porto Rico, Manilla (the name in those days for sugar from the Philippine Islands), Reunion, Louisiana, and the French West Indian Islands of Martinique and Guadalupe. The finest raw sugar came from Java, Mauritius, the French West Indies, Reunion, and Louisiana. Cuba made a semi-refined raw sugar called Havana, but the bulk of its production was a muscovado sugar, very inferior to the British variety. Porto Rico, on the contrary, produced a very fine muscovado sugar, quite fit for direct consumption. The sugars from Brazil, Manilla, and British India, were very low brown impure varieties, requiring a great deal of refining. The British refiners were experts with that class of sugar, while the foreign refiners, in France and Holland, preferred the easier work—mere child's play—with a raw material of a much higher grade, in fact, almost pure.

In 1854 the sugar-refiners of Greenock (and Glasgow) imported 50,000 tons of raw sugar. In 1865 they imported 136,000 tons, and the figure went on increasing rapidly until, for the five years, 1877-81, the average yearly importation was 248,429 tons. This figure held till 1887, when a fall, as rapid as the rise, set in. For the five years, 1887-91, the average yearly imports had fallen to 228,733 tons, for the following five years to 170,373 tons, and for the five years, 1897-1900, to 124,874 tons, a lower figure than that from which they started in 1865.

He then compared the position with that prevailing in the last year of the nineteenth century, 1900, which was a record year in the history of sugar. Our consumption had risen from 397,000 tons to 1,624,000 tons—more than four times as much. Out of this enormous quantity of sugar consumed in the United Kingdom only a little scrap, 129,000 tons, was produced from the good old sugar-cane. Even that small quantity would not have come to us had it not been for two facts—first, that our Colony of Demerara produced a very choice kind of yellow crystallised sugar which a few intelligent commissionaires insisted upon having; and, secondly, because two of our sugar-refining firms stuck to cane sugar, hoping to obtain a fancy price for their refined sugar.

But there was one more almost equally incredible fact to be revealed. The world's production (not including the imaginary figure for British India, which now confuses our statistics) had increased from 1,450,000 tons to 8,291,800 tons—nearly six times as much. Now comes the most wonderful fact of all. Of this quantity only 2,880,900 tons was the product of the sugar cane—less than 35 per cent.; in other words, nearly two-thirds of the world's production of sugar came from the beetroot fields of Northern Europe and, to a small extent, from the beetroot fields of the United States.

In 1856 Europe produced about 250,000 tons of beetroot sugar, the production of which was originally encouraged by Napoleon and the King of Prussia. That was doubled in ten years, and in five years more the production exceeded a million tons. Another ten years raised the figure to two millions. This brought cane and beet neck and neck in the race; then beetroot shot ahead to three, four, five, and six million tons.

There are two causes at the bottom of this mystery. Energy, ability, efficiency, and, more than all, persistent research, constituted the first and best cause. But this best cause is not to be had, as a rule, without a stimulus. Capitalists do not care to risk their money unless they can see very clearly that there is some security for their investment. That was exactly what the European beetroot-sugar industry enjoyed; all except France, she had to languish till 1884. France gave the research most liberally, but she lacked the stimulus.

Mr. Martineau then proceeded to explain the indirect sugar bounty systems of Germany and Austria, which, coupled with efficiency, gave beet the supremacy which it held for so many years.

This attack of beet *versus* cane caused the great cane-sugar industries of the world to wake up and adopt some of the new inventions of their formidable rival. The result has been a complete revolution. With the multiple evaporator they have greatly reduced cost of production, and with multiple crushing and maceration they now extract 95 per cent. of the juice in the cane.

The United States of America gave preferential treatment in their own markets to sugar produced in their own states, territories, and dependencies. They also gave a slight preference—rather more than half a farthing a pound—to their *protégé*, Cuba—a preference absolutely inappreciable to the consumer. Cuba, before the Spanish-American War, just succeeded in producing a million tons of sugar per annum in the years 1894 and 1895. After the American occupation in 1898, and when the unfortunate industry had succeeded in recovering from the devastation of the war, the stimulus of the small preference began to tell. In 1903 Cuba got back to the million ton figure. In 1913 it produced 2,500,000 tons, and last year it would have produced 3,500,000 tons, but, unfortunately, when the sugar was badly wanted, an insurrection broke out in the eastern part of the island, and the actual production was reduced to 3,000,000 tons. This enormous increase was the result of the security capitalists found in the small American preference. Large factories were erected, railways connecting them with the shipping ports were constructed, everything was done in the most up-to-date style, and the only trouble was to get the sugar sold and shipped as soon as possible. The United States markets were glutted during the thickest part of the crop time, and prices went down sometimes more than £2 per ton below the European level. The American consumer actually gained by the preference.

In Cuba at the present time there are many factories that turn out from 10,000 to 20,000 tons of sugar per annum. There are about the same number which turn out from 20,000 to 40,000 tons, eight that turn out from 40,000 to 60,000 tons,

three that turn out from 60,000 to 80,000 tons, one that produces between 80,000 and 100,000 tons, and one that produces more than 100,000 tons. This is the "apathy and inefficiency" created by giving a preference!

The United States is now in the happy position of producing enough sugar for its own consumption. Since the preference was granted Louisiana has increased her production from 95,000 to 414,000 tons; domestic beetroot from 1,000 to 779,000 tons; Hawaii (the Sandwich Islands) from 12,000 to 602,000 tons; Porto Rico from 50,000 to 400,000 tons; the Philippine Islands from 92,000 to 300,000 tons; and, finally, Cuba from 1,000,000 to 3,500,000 tons. If America had not created this great increase in production by giving a preference to her own family and friends we should at the present moment be suffering—and so would America—from a real sugar famine.

The Discussion.

In the discussion which followed Lord Balfour of Burleigh, after warmly praising Mr. Martineau's paper, said that he had received a certain amount of elementary education in the subject of sugar from having been Chairman of the Commission that went to the West Indies some nine or ten years ago to arrange the preference between Canada and our West Indian Colonies, which he was glad to say had been successful, and was in operation at the present time. He had had a further education in the matter by having been Chairman of the Committee of Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War. Every one should as far as possible avoid the fiscal controversies which raged some eight or ten years ago. Consideration should be given to the question of whether any particular article was essential to our national well-being, and important, not only as a raw material for industries, but as an article for consumption by the population of this country. Attention should be given, in the second place, to the natural source of its supply; and, thirdly, to the risk of the supply being disturbed. The safety and security of our Empire should be put first, and abstract principles should, to a large extent, take a back seat. In abstract principle he had always been a member of the Free Trade school, but he held that abstract principles, while they were extremely good servants, were very bad masters. Therefore practical and not theoretical conditions should rule the policy of this country. It was perfectly true that the capitalist must have some security for the investment of his money if he was to produce articles for general consumption, and the paper showed how successful the German policy with regard to sugar had been. Due attention should be paid to the statement made by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce that "industries receiving such a stimulus are bound to become apathetic and inefficient"; but he thought that was going too far, although that was a risk. That amount of security ought to be given to the capitalist which would justify him in investing his money, but would not go so far as to give him a premium on idleness and apathy and inefficiency. If the resources of the Empire were to be developed a certain reasonable continuing security must be given for a period long enough to encourage the investor to put his money into the industry. This country must pay greater attention to the interests and possibilities of its fellow-subjects in the Empire than it had ever done in the past.

Sir Edward Rosing differed from the view that protection led to inefficiency because competition was too great.

Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., said that the Empire had to decide whether it was going to grow its own sugar or continue to buy it from foreign countries. Mr. Martineau's paper showed the wonderful results that had been obtained by America in her determination to provide herself with her own sugar supply. During the war foreign countries, especially Cuba, had been able to gain the whole of the enormous price to which sugar had

been driven by the fact that this country had been dependent on enemy countries for its sugar supply, and during the war had been obliged to buy from other countries which were not supplying it before the war. Cuba had utilised its advantage to set its industry in the most magnificent order, and there was hardly an out-of-date factory in Cuba to-day. It was absolutely essential that any preference given to the sugar industry should be adequate to produce the results that were required. The Empire was short of 2,000,000 tons at the present time, and if that supply was to be provided within the Empire adequate inducements must be given to the capitalist and to labour. It was no use starting with a very small preference, which might possibly promote inefficiency. It was very important to the sugar-using industries of this country to have a supply under British control. Before the war they had been relying on artificially stimulated supplies from Germany and other countries, and were afraid that in future they would have to pay a great deal more for their sugar. He therefore wished to point out that the result of an adequate preference would bring about an increase in the production of sugar in the British Empire, and would reduce the cost of sugar to the sugar-using industries of this country. It would also give them a stable supply, well distributed over the Empire, and not liable to the tremendous fluctuations which resulted from being dependent on one particular part of the world. He was sure it would give the greatest pleasure to Mr. Martineau, if, as the result of the report of the Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy after the War, the Government could be induced to adopt the views expressed in that report, and also the views expressed by the Chairman on the present occasion.

Mr. John R. Drake agreed that the policy of the Government with regard to sugar had been absolutely murderous with regard to the sugar-producing efficiency of the Empire. At one time, taking the ordinary price of sugar as being roughly £10 a ton, the Continent was giving between £3 and £4 a ton bounty—that was to say, 30 or 40 per cent.—with the result that the price of sugar coming into this country from the Continent was reduced to £6 a ton. Our colonies naturally could not compete against that. Having been in business in Germany for many years, he believed that the German policy had been adopted by the German producer and the German Government with the deliberate intention of murdering the British industry in sugar, and also as much as possible the sugar industries of other competing countries. Like the Chairman, he was theoretically a Free Trader. By Free Trade he meant that each country should have the right and power to develop itself on its natural lines; but our colonies had been prevented from developing themselves in that way by the deliberate attacks of the German nation and the German sugar industry. Scientists and capitalists could not be expected to do their best against a Government attack such as he had described. A reasonable amount of help given to our industries would not make them apathetic and inefficient; it was the hopeless position they were in which had in some cases perhaps made them rather inefficient. He agreed with the Chairman that the amount of protection given should be such that it would not improperly raise the price of sugar to the working-classes of this country and should not be such as to create inefficiency and idleness. He believed that the protection afforded should be reasonably limited, and he thought that was also the Chairman's view. He did not agree with Mr. Sandbach Parker that it was possible for this country to obtain all its sugar from within the Empire, and surely it was impossible to imagine such a fiscal system being introduced as would prevent there being a certain amount of interchange of articles between ourselves and other countries, and one of the things that, within reasonable limits, we might expect to import would be sugar. Taking into consideration the fact that the sugar industry of the British Empire was to a large extent an infant industry, and therefore deserving of help, he quite agreed that such help should be given to it by the Government as would enable it to fight the preferences given by other countries.

Mr. Louis Souchon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Lyon, Sir Herbert Matthews, and Mr. William Martineau also

took part in the discussion, a full report of which will shortly be published by the Royal Society of Arts.

THE HON. C. GIDEON MURRAY.

Retirement from the Colonial Service.

His many friends in and connected with the West Indies will learn with regret that Mr. Gideon Murray has resigned his post as Administrator of St. Lucia, and that he has retired from the Colonial Civil Service. In this connection we have received the following letter for publication:—

6th May, 1918.

"It may interest you to know that I have resigned my post as Administrator of St. Lucia and retired from the Colonial Service. I shall sever my official connection with that Colony and the West Indies with extreme regret, but later on I hope to enter public life in this country, and I may then have an opportunity of taking a further interest in West Indian affairs and of repaying in some small measure the many kindnesses and courtesies that I have received in the West Indies during my official career there, extending over a busy, happy period of nearly nine years.

"Although, in the West Indies, I have served actually in two colonies only, I have during that time had the privilege of visiting practically every colony in West Indian waters and of becoming acquainted at first hand with many of their administrative problems and affairs.

"Wherever we have gone, my wife and I have been the recipients of much warm and generous hospitality. We would therefore be grateful if you would allow us, through the valuable medium of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, to make some public acknowledgment of this and in bidding an official farewell to the West Indies, to wish them success and prosperity and a bright future in a world no longer dominated by German militarism, in the suppression of which the West Indians will have played such a valiant part.

"I am, etc.,

"(Signed) GIDEON MURRAY."

Mr. Murray first went out to the West Indies in 1909, when he was appointed Administrator of St. Vincent, a position which he filled until 1914, when he was transferred to St. Lucia. Last year Mr. Murray was seconded to take up war work, and he is at present Food Commissioner for the West of Scotland. It will be recalled that in 1911 he delivered an address before the West India Committee on the Federation of the West Indies, which was subsequently published under the title of the "United West Indies."

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

ALL three sons of Mr. R. R. Mole, late of Trinidad, are now in khaki. Howel Mole, the eldest, has enlisted in the C.F.A.

COFFEE AND COCOA SHIPMENTS.

From the following letter from the Secretary for the Colonies regarding the shipment of coffee and cocoa from the West Indies, it will be noted that the representations of the West India Committee in this connection have been favourably received.

Downing Street,
May 3rd, 1918.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Long to inform you that he has been in communication with the Board of Trade on the subject of your letters of the 25th January, 1st February, 20th March and 18th April, regarding the shipment of coffee from Jamaica, and also in connection with your letter of the 26th February, regarding the shipment of cocoa from Trinidad.

2. The Board of Trade has now agreed to the grant of general authority to the Governors of the West Indian Colonies, in cases where the Colony is the last port of call of a steamer proceeding to the United Kingdom, to allow the shipment of cocoa and coffee, preferably cocoa, in any vacant space, provided that no articles on the priority list are available for shipment and that the departure of the steamer will not be delayed thereby.

3. In the case of competition for available space between shippers of cocoa preference will be given to cocoa forming part of the ration.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. J. READ.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE NOTES.

There was a good attendance of ladies at Lady Dayson's Work Party on the 8th instant. The next meeting will be held on the 22nd instant.

Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received towards the West Indian Contingent Fund:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Jamaica Flag Day (2nd donation) | 1,097 | 14 | 11 |
| Per Mrs. Gordon Gordon (earmarked for Trinidad men) | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| Combermere War Fund (earmarked for old Combermerians) | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Royal Comnaught Lodge, No. 3266, B.C. (earmarked for Trinidad men) | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Colonial Bank for March:— | | | |
| Kingstown Club | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Hon. C. B. F. Richards | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Vincent Hatley, Esq. | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| Jas. H. Hazell, Esq. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | 3 | 12 | 4 |
| N. J. A. Bascom, Esq. | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| C. W. Doorley, Esq. (quarterly subscription) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Rev. J. R. Nicholl | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Part proceeds sale of "Songs of an Islander" | 0 | 6 | 3 |

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, Cadet C. A. Farmer, Lieut. J. A. Haynes, Cadet H. O. Ramsey, Cadet

E. D. Redman, Sub-Lieut. J. G. Layne, R.N.V.R., Corpl. C. P. R. Greenidge, W. L. Inniss. BRITISH GUIANA.—Cadet L. S. Davis, Gunner L. N. Lord, Capt. Hoban (B.W.I.R.). DOMINICA.—Cadet H. A. Frampton. JAMAICA.—Pte. P. Cunningham, 2nd Lieut. J. H. L. Dodd, 2nd Lieut. R. L. A. Ripley, M. G. Lynch, W. L. D'Aguiar, Major W. W. Rhodes. ST. LUCIA.—Lionel Austine. ST. VINCENT.—Pte. C. O. Hazell, 2nd Lieut. D. A. Richards. TRINIDAD.—Pte. F. J. Anderson, Gunner R. Campbell, 2nd Lieut. L. O. Child, Lee-Cpl. R. C. Boyle, M.M., Pte. E. L. Cipriani, Lionel Contant, V. de Costa, Cadet C. M. de Nobrega, R. de Verteuil, Trpr. J. O. de Nobrega, A. H. de Silva, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Farfan, A. B. Lyon, R.N.R., Pte. P. Geoffray, M. A. Govia, Gunner J. V. Grantham, Pte. Geo. Hodge, Lieut. J. E. Kernahan, Lieut. P. J. Knox, Pte. C. E. Maingot, F. Maingot, Cadet L. F. Maingot, C. E. O'Connor, 2nd Lieut. D. Pogson, Lt. L. E. Prada, 2nd Lt. J. Rochemont A. Lassalle, J. B. Agard, A. J. Wharton, G. Simmons, Reginald Murray, Lt. E. D. Johnson, M. M. Nock, L. Hamel Smith, J. E. Ache, E. L. Hatt, F. Selier, C. V. Bynoe, Inspector Costelloe, H. Spencer, Trpr. K. Max Smith, Cadet H. Wilson.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUT. L. C. WELLS, Royal Berkshire Regiment (of British Guiana), who recently returned to France after having received a Commission in the same regiment in which he had served in the ranks, has been killed in action.

TROOPER VICTOR SMEDMORE, who was killed in action on January 28th, was the son of Mrs. Smedmore, Kingston, Jamaica. He was wounded in the arm when his Battalion went over the top and captured about 800 yards of ground from the Boche in October last. When in England, Smedmore was a frequent visitor at the West India Committee Rooms and made many friends among Trinidad men, some of whom were in his Battalion.

CAPTAIN EDWARD GRAYTON HERBERT, of the 10th Warwickshire and "C" Coy., 40th Batt., M.G. Corps, was killed in action in France on 9th April. He was the only son of Mrs. Herbert, of Saville House, Dorridge, Warwickshire, and grandson of the late G. A. Forshaw, J.P., solicitor, of Woodbine, Georgetown, Demerara. He was educated at King Edward's High School, where he gained a scholarship, and later joined the Birmingham University O.T.C. When war broke out he at once volunteered for service, first as a trooper in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. In the April following he received a commission in the 10th Warwickshire, and was sent to France attached to the Machine Gun Corps, in which he proved himself such a capable officer that he was gazetted into the Regular Army in January, 1917, promoted Captain in March, 1918, and afterwards Acting Major. He had taken part in nearly every battle in Flanders during the last two years, always escaping unscathed, often being the only officer alive in his company after some desperate struggle. Captain Herbert was a young fellow of splendid ability and great courage, with a fund of humour which gained him the nickname of "Charlie"—after the immortal Charlie Chaplin—in the Regiment. His early death at the age of 23 is much regretted by a wide circle of friends, to whom he had endeared himself by his manliness, generosity, and unselfish disposition. His Colonel writes: "He was a very gallant officer and had distinguished himself greatly both in the previous battle and in that later action, and I had occasion in both cases to bring his name before the notice of higher authority for his bravery and skill. . . His death is a great loss to the country."

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.

Austin, 2nd Lieut. J. Bruce G. (of British Guiana), Q.V.O. Light Cavalry.

Brookes, 2nd Lieut. G. W. (of British Guiana), North Staffordshire Regiment.
 Dodd, Lieut. Geoffrey J. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Engineers.
 Dodd, Lieut. R. W. (of Kingston, Jamaica), Royal Field Artillery.
 Hutson, Donald M. (son of Mr. C. Hutson, of New York, and nephew of Dr. John Hutson, of Barbados), American Engineers.
 Hutson, Eyre (son of Mr. C. Hutson, of New York, and nephew of Dr. John Hutson, of Barbados), American Field Artillery.
 McGillivray, A. D. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Inns of Court O.T.C.
 Meggs, 2nd Lieut. A. Leslie (of St. Kitts), Tank Corps.
 Mole, Howell (eldest son of Mr. R. R. Mole, late of Port of Spain, Trinidad), Canadian Field Artillery.

WOUNDED.

LIEUT. FRANK MITCHELL (son of Mr. Mitchell, of St. Kitts), Canadian Infantry.

HONOURS.

SERGEANT E. R. ROUSE, A.S.C., has been awarded the Military Medal.

CAPTAIN IAN McDONALD, R.A.F. (son of the Hon. Donald McDonald, of Antigua), has been awarded the Military Cross.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—Codrington College.

It is stated that the Rev. J. C. Wippell, formerly Theological Tutor of Codrington College will succeed Dr. Anstey as Principal. Dr. Anstey will be consecrated as Bishop of Trinidad in the Cathedral, Port-of-Spain, in June.

The *Advocate* reports that March was showery on the whole, but the showers had been on the very light side. The young cane crops were healthy, but the potato crops planted in February mostly failed, and there was an ugly outlook for June, unless by that time the imports of rice from India and Demerara, and flour from Canada and America began to come in more freely than they had done during the last six months.

The reaping of the crop proceeded favourably. A fair quantity of syrup was being made, but it was not easy to obtain charters for shipment.

GRENADA—Governor's Address.

In his annual address to the Legislative Council, the Governor mentioned that under the local Loan Act, a loan of £100,000 was placed before the public. Up to date, however, only £59,290 of the amount had been subscribed. Of the amount so subscribed it was estimated that £32,000 will be required for works to be undertaken in the next two years, thus providing employment for a large number of labourers.

ST. LUCIA.—Legislative Council.

Mr. Duncan Ferguson, who has been a member of the Legislative Council for a number of years, has declined re-appointment to that body. Mr. George Barnard, an authority on agricultural matters, has been nominated for the vacant seat.—Mr. A. S. Duff, Manager of the Colonial Bank, has retired on pension. Mr. Duff has spent 42 years in the service of the Bank, 19 of which have been passed in St. Lucia. The *Voice* expresses the deep regret of the community at the retirement of the late Bank Manager, who has rendered valued public service in various capacities, and who is now leaving to settle down in his native island, Jamaica.

TOBAGO—Tragic Deaths.

MR. ROBERT REID writes on April 15th:—Since my last letter Tobago has witnessed two tragic deaths. At the Scarborough Races at Basterfield a jockey was thrown and died from his injuries. Mr. W. G. Hales, of Kilgwyn Bstate, whilst patrolling his estate at night with his manager, was accidentally shot by the latter and died a few minutes thereafter. Sympathy is felt for the relatives of Mr. Hales, as well as his manager, who is

the son of a friend of the deceased.—The Government is practically pledged to establish a limejuice factory to ensure small growers a market for their limes, and in due time planters will no doubt be their own manufacturers in St. Lucia. A demand has arisen for coco-nut shells, of which hundreds of tons are available if labour can be found to dig them out. Good wages can be earned, but the easy-going natives prefer to potter about in their gardens, and it would require conscription of labour to bestir them to take out shells—or almost anything, excepting estates for "home consumption."

The crop of cocoa now closing will be quite 20 per cent. short on account of unsuitable weather. The next crop looks most promising thus far.

TRINIDAD—A Vacant Office.

It is reported that Mr. Aucher Warner, K.C., Solicitor-General, has been recommended for the office of Attorney-General, rendered vacant by the appointment of Mr. Gollan as Chief Justice of Ceylon.

MR. BIGGAR TRIPP, writing on April 15th, corrects a statement made in a previous letter. Referring to the debate on the Harbour Import question in the Legislative Council, he stated that the Director of Public Works' speech was unsupported by a single official. This was not correct. The Collector of Customs, whose calm judgment carries weight, gave statistics in favour of the scheme.—Mr. Robert Henderson, senior partner of Dalton & Co., Bolivar, and of Robert & Jesse Henderson, Port-of-Spain, merchant, has just died suddenly.—An important education ordinance which has passed the second reading provides for one scholarship of the value of £650 to each of two students of colleges or affiliated schools one to be applied to the maintenance of a student at a University and the other towards the maintenance of the student to whom the same is awarded at an agricultural college.

The shipments of Trinidad cocoa during the month of March, were as follows:—

| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
|------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 9,548,101 |
| Total for March | 9,548,101 |
| Shipped previously | 7,315,101 |
| Total from 1st January | 16,863,202 |
| To same date 1917 | 31,512,350 |
| " " 1916 | 20,062,564 |
| " " 1915 | 24,324,943 |
| " " 1914 | 29,745,676 |
| " " 1913 | 20,018,604 |
| " " 1912 | 24,410,396 |
| " " 1911 | 17,364,818 |
| " " 1910 | 21,370,585 |
| " " 1909 | 21,472,378 |
| " " 1908 | 19,969,706 |

OBITUARY.

MR. ROBERT G. DUNCAN.

We regret to state that Mr. Robert G. Duncan, late of British Guiana, died suddenly on May 2nd.

Mr. Robert G. Duncan, who had been on a visit to his brother in Inverquitch Farm, near Alyth, Perthshire, went out for an evening's shooting, and shortly after leaving the house was taken suddenly ill, and immediately expired. His nephew, who went out a little later to accompany him, came upon him lying in a field, life being by that time quite extinct. Death was due to heart failure. Mr. Duncan first went to British Guiana in 1874, in the service of the Colonial Company, and soon became manager of the Pln. Hampton Court, in Essequibo. He rose rapidly to the position of Planting Attorney to the Company, afterwards the New Colonial Company, which he left some years ago in order to supervise the estates of Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co. He took a prominent part in the public life of the Colony and was a member of the Legislature for many years. He retired in 1914 and resided at "The Lindens," Farnborough.

Mr. Duncan (writes a correspondent) was a fine type of Scotsman, and was a prominent figure in the public life of British Guiana, in which he took an active part. He was noted for his ability, courtesy, and tact, and was a skilful debater in the Court of Policy and the Combined Court. He was abundantly provided with what is commonly known as "good, strong common sense." His opponents in the political sphere recognised in him one worthy of their steel, and found him a slashing wielder of the claymore and "a bonnie fechter." His death will be universally regretted throughout the colony.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6642 Central. 15, SEETHING LANE.
Telegrams—"Carib, London" LONDON, E.C.3.

May 16th, 1918.

BANK RATE 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1915. Five per cent. War Loan, 93½; Consols, 56½.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Discount 1½ per cent. The quotations for molasses are:

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| If containing 70 per cent. or more of sweetening matter | 16 | 3 |
| Between 50 and 70 per cent. sweetening matter | 11 | 8 |
| Under 50 per cent. sweetening matter | 5 | 8½ |

With regard to the decision of the Sugar Commission not to issue licences for the importation of syrup sugar other than that manufactured in a British Colony, we learn that an exception has been made in favour of Messrs. R. and J. J. Kirke, who have for many years produced syrup sugar in Dutch Guiana for this market.

The New York sugar prices remain as fixed by the International Committee viz., \$6.05 for 96° sugars, duty paid and landed.

The Director of Sugar Distribution has fixed the amount of sugar to be allotted to private fruit growers for domestic preserving at 6lbs. per head of the household in respect of which the application is made.

Sir Beville Stanier, M.P., chairman of the British Sugar Beet Growers' Society (Limited), announced on May 8th that the Estate Committee of Management appointed by the Board of Agriculture to direct and supervise the farming operations and estate management generally on the Kelham Estate, Newark-on-Trent, is constituted as follows:—Sir Beville Stanier, M.P. (chairman), Mr. B. J. Cheney, C.B., Mr. W. Gavin, Mr. Ernest Jardine, M.P., Mr. G. S. Orwin, and Mr. E. G. Strutt.

The society has appointed a sub-committee to arrange the details of the factory side of the society's scheme, pending the conclusion of war, which is constituted as follows:—Mr. Jardine, M.P. (chairman), Sir B. Stanier, M.P., Major G. L. Courthope, M.P., Mr. S. P. Ridge, Mr. F. F. Kemp, Sir Herbert Matthews, and Mr. L. Souchon.

Mr. Alfred Wood, 14, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, is the secretary to the above committees, and Mr. S. Colyer is the executive officer at the Kelham Estate.

The West India Sugar Statistics in London on May 11th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 6,723 | 15,064 | 12,205 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 15,520 | 17,859 | 9,242 .. |
| Stock (May 11th) | 2,190 | 5,220 | 5,403 .. |

RUM. The Government Secretary of British Guiana has addressed a letter to the local Sugar Planters' Association in the following terms:

"By an Order of the Lords of the Council of the 22nd January, 1916, the exportation of potable spirits of a

strength less than 43 per cent. above proof from the United Kingdom is prohibited to all destinations. In drawing attention to this Order, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intimated that, in accordance with standing instructions, it would be necessary for the Governor similarly to prohibit the export of such spirits to all foreign destinations, but that, if His Excellency is of opinion that such a step might have unfortunate effects on the Colony, the Secretary of State would be glad to be communicated with by His Excellency by telegram and have indicated to him to what destinations it is desirable that exports of such spirits should be allowed freely.

"The Government understands that at the present time there is a very large stock of rum awaiting shipment from the Colony and that the bulk of it is below 43 per cent. over strength, and I am directed to enquire whether this is so. I am also to enquire to what countries of destination it is advisable that the exportation of this rum below 43 per cent. over proof should be allowed.

"It is proposed to issue a warning to distillers that all rum manufactured after a given date must be not less than 43 per cent. above proof to be exported."

It will be noted that the prohibition relates to shipment to foreign destinations and not the United Kingdom.

The stocks in London on May 11th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,293 | 9,221 | 4,327 puns. |
| Demerara | 4,110 | 8,464 | 11,489 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 14,711 | 30,859 | 28,034 .. |

COCOA. Prices are unchanged, viz.:—Ceylon, Java, and Samoa, 100/-; Demerara, Guayaquil, Trinidad, and Surinam, 90/-; Bahia, Cameroons, Grenada, and other West Indians, 85/-; and British West Africa, 65/-.

As announced elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR, the West India Committee has obtained a concession from the Government which should prove of material advantage to the West Indian cocoa industry. Briefly, West Indian Governors have been authorised, where the Colony is the last port of call of a steamer proceeding to the United Kingdom, to allow the shipment of cocoa or coffee, preferably cocoa, in any vacant space when no priority articles are available.

The stocks in London on May 11th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 14,226 | 22,882 | 19,776 bags. |
| Grenada | 25,712 | 21,430 | 13,768 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 183,533 | 261,217 | 164,181 .. |

COFFEE. The concession referred to above should enable some of the coffee awaiting shipment at Jamaica to be lifted.

COTTON. Prices are still controlled and there is nothing fresh to report.

COPRA. There is no change to report for the United Kingdom. The value remains £46 c.i.f., delivered weights, landed Liverpool, and about £90 delivered weights Marseilles.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Raw, firm; ordinary to good green, 2/9 to 3/6; Concentrated, firm, £32. Lime Oil: Handpressed, quiet, value about 16/6; distilled, neglected. Value about 6/6. Citrate: firm.

RUBBER. Dull. Crepe, 2/3; smoked sheet, 2/2½. Para easier, 2/11½ sellers.

BALATA. Venezuela block: Sellers now quote 3/5 c.i.f. for June-August shipments; spot value, 3/7½ terms. Panama block: spot value, 3/3; Tamaco block not quoted, no supplies; W.I. sheet—forward, 3/11 buyers, c.i.f.; spot value 4/2 and 4/3 terms.

DEATH.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

DUNCAN.—At Inverquiech, Alyth, the residence of his brother, suddenly, on 2nd May, R. G. Duncan, retired sugar planter, The Lindens, Farmborough, late of Georgetown, British Guiana.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, MAY 30th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6647 CENTRAL
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

May 30th, 1918.

Two Threatened Industries.

Two West Indian industries are, we regret to state, seriously imperilled by the existing restriction of imports into the United States and the United Kingdom respectively. We refer to those of sponges and green limes. The former, which has been for very many years the staple industry of the Bahamas, will be brought to a standstill with serious results to the Colony unless some concessions are forthcoming. In pre-war years Bahamas sponges were mainly marketed in Europe, though many were sent to the United States for transhipment, the figures for 1913 being, Germany 559,094 lbs, France 154,602 lbs. Holland 145,199 lbs, and Italy 10,658 lbs., or a total to Europe of 869,553, whilst 651,422 lbs. went to the United States, mainly for transhipment to Europe. Now sponges may no longer be shipped from the United States nor from the Bahamas to Europe, with the result that this staple industry is almost completely held up. The matter has been engaging the attention of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, who suggested that the sponges might be compressed into bales packed even more tightly than usual and shipped from Nassau to Cuba by schooner and thence to England by steamers which will this summer be bringing many thousand tons of sugar to this country during the present season. Our readers will all be aware of how small even a large bath sponge will bulk when it is dry, and we have before us a sponge which under hydraulic pressure was flattened out to a thickness of less than quarter of an inch and yet measured when wet 7 by 7 inches, and it is obvious that quite a large number of sponges could be shipped at the expense of very little displacement. The Shipping Controller is,

however, obdurate, and we can certainly appreciate his point of view, which is that every square inch of space must be devoted to foodstuffs for this country or our Allies, or to articles of value for war purposes. It has been further urged that Bahamas sponges might be used by the Navy and Army; but the authorities, unfortunately, show a predilection for the Mediterranean article, which it must be admitted has the advantage of being more accessible. The Colonial Office, on the other hand, would, we believe, welcome the establishment of new, and especially British, markets for Bahamas sponges, which we regret to say are at present under foreign control, notably that of Greek merchants. Even though at the moment the exigencies of tonnage may preclude such a development it is to be hoped that after the War a definite effort may be made to interest the British sponge-using industries and public in Bahamas sponges, and it would certainly appear to be reasonable to assume that if West Indian sponges are so much appreciated in Europe, which has the Mediterranean to draw upon, they might be popularised in Great Britain, which is more remote from the Mediterranean sponge fields. We would suggest that this might be a fruitful subject for investigation and action by MR. PAVITT, the newly-appointed British Trade Commissioner, who, we are glad to learn, proposes to include the Bahamas in his itinerary. Meanwhile, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce may rest assured that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE will lose no opportunity of endeavouring to obtain permission for a moderate shipment of sponges to be made to this country, and in view of LORD JELlicoe's promise that the submarine menace would be at an end by August, and to MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S recent optimistic speech at Edinburgh, it is not unreasonable to hope that conditions will so far improve in the near future as to render some concession possible.

The Green Lime Order is another matter altogether. Efforts in the past to establish a trade in green, or, as we prefer to call them, fresh, limes between Dominica and the United Kingdom, though meeting with a fair measure of success, have not proved completely successful, owing to the lack of suitable shipping facilities and to the abominable English summer climate. In the United States, however, fresh limes are freely marketed in the sweltering summer months, and a trade of considerable dimensions has been built up. This is now threatened by the decision of the United States Government to place an embargo on the importation of the fruit. We understand that the Government of the Leeward Islands is already in communication with the British Ambassador at Washington on the

subject, and we learn that MR. ANDREW GREEN, a wealthy American who settled some years ago in Dominica, where he is now one of the largest and most successful lime producers, has also left for New York to represent the views of those connected with the industry to his Government on the subject. In recent years, on the average about 40,000 barrels of green limes have been imported into the United States from Dominica at an average price of £1 per barrel. This trade, which is now in danger of being closed down, is therefore worth £40,000 per annum, which represents one-third of the total export trade of the Presidency. It might be suggested that the limes could be crushed and their juice concentrated or converted into citrate of lime; but this would result in a loss of fully £30,000 in a year, owing to the fact that the prices for the fresh fruit are far better than those for lime products. Even, however, if this were practicable, there would be very great difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of packages in which to ship these extra products. Apart from that, it is common knowledge that a trade, when once crushed, can only be re-established with extreme difficulty, and in the circumstances it is to be hoped that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE are addressing their representations on the subject, will communicate with Washington with a view to saving the valuable fresh lime industry.

Rice Control in the West Indies.

REFERENCE was made in a recent number of the CIRCULAR to the policy of the GOVERNOR of British Guiana in restricting the export of rice from the Colony to the adjacent West India islands, which were dependent on shipments from Demerara for their supplies of that cereal. The GOVERNOR'S main object was the control and conservation of the rice supplies within his own sphere of administration, in view of the threatened failure of the ordinary shipments of flour from the United States and Canada. In the special circumstances of the case this object would appear to be a very praiseworthy one. It failed, however, to gain the complete approval of the Water Street merchants, export shippers and rice growers of Guiana, whilst in the West Indian Islands the restricted shipments have seriously interfered with the necessary supplies of rice in their local markets. Sometime later, however, the position appears to have entirely changed, SIR WILFRED COLLET, apparently on his own initiative, undertaking to supply Barbados, Trinidad and the two groups of Windward and Leeward Islands with adequate monthly shipments of rice at a maximum price of \$10 per bag of 180 lbs. l.o.b. in Demerara, the GOVERNOR'S avowed object in fixing this maximum being to check undue profiteering through what he deemed to be exorbitant prices charged on recent shipments of rice to French and Dutch Guiana. This new policy of the GOVERNOR, specially designed to meet the pressing wants of neighbouring colonies, whilst generally acceptable to them, has not, apparently, succeeded in restoring confidence among interested parties in Demerara, judging from the tone of a leading article in *The*

Daily Argosy of 7th April. That organ entirely disapproves of the offers made, partly on account of interference with the ordinary rules governing supply and demand in regulating prices, and partly in the absence of safeguards for their own food supplies by not providing for reciprocal arrangements for the shipments of ground provisions and other supplies from the island colonies to British Guiana. PROFESSOR HARRISON, Director of Science and Agriculture, has recently expressed his opinion that British Guiana is destined to be the future granary of the West Indies; and in view of such hopeful anticipations, it would certainly seem a pity to check in any way the development of its rice industry directly or indirectly, by discouraging the growth and free marketing, by export and otherwise, of the rice crops of the Colony. We can conceive that the GOVERNOR'S policy has been actuated by the most laudable intentions, but it is difficult to please everybody; and according to the *Argosy*: "He would persist against competent advice, in formulating elaborate regulations for the control of the industry, which have not only failed to accomplish their purpose, but have served to alienate from the Government the active sympathies of a most important section of the community and to irritate the people of the adjoining islands." We trust, however, that things are not quite so bad as is here depicted, and that the GOVERNOR'S policy will, eventually, work out with satisfactory results to all concerned.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The Membership now 1,726.

At a meeting of the Executive held on May 16th, fifteen new members, whose names are given below, were elected to the West India Committee, bringing the number admitted during the present year to 121 and the total membership to 1,726.

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--|-------------------------|
| Capt. H. Clark, M.C. (Trinidad) | Lieut. A. P. Huggins. |
| Capt. N. Primrose, M.C. (India) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Lieut. Guy E. Ponsonby (Country) | Lieut. A. P. Huggins. |
| Mr. D. A. Majani (France) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Major Douglas J. Fraser, M.C. (Trinidad) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Charles F. Wood (London) | Mr. H. F. Previté. |
| Mr. Horace B. Walcott (Jamaica) | Mr. Wm. Gillespie. |
| Mr. H. A. Dalley (Jamaica) | Mr. H. F. Previté. |
| Mr. Merton V. Townend (Jamaica) | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| Mr. A. R. D. Vaz (Jamaica) | Mr. W. Robertson. |
| Mr. Maurice G. Bauer (London) | Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| Mr. Robert K. Dewar (Jamaica) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. C. G. Muirhead (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Major Duncan Fraser (British Honduras) | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| Mr. Maximie Boullé (Mauritius) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| | Mr. Edward K. Davson. |
| | Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | Mr. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett. |
| | Mr. L. R. Grant, M.L.C. |
| | Cox, McEwen & Co. |
| | Mr. Harold Carey. |

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ACTING C.Q.M.S. G. A. Macdonald, of Belize, British Honduras, who is serving with the British West Indies Regiment in Mesopotamia, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

* * *

If the reader of this note has not already paid his subscription to the West India Committee for the current year he is requested to do so without delay. *Subscriptions can be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank.*

* * *

LIEUT. W. R. DUNLOP, R.N.V.R., late of Barbados, writes from H.M.S. *Thunderer*, "c/o G.P.O."—

"A short time ago ashore at Rosyth, I came across Flight-Sub-Lieut. Ralph Johnson, son of Dr. Mortimer Johnson, of Barbados. Johnson is attached to a light cruiser. On board my own ship the navigating officer, Lieut.-Commander Bowe, R.N., has relations in Trinidad, and has stayed there. The father of another officer, Lieut.-Commander Coppinger, R.N., was in medical practice in Jamaica. At Invergordon, some time ago, I met Eng.-Lieut.-Commander Little, R.N., who was in the *Melbourne* in the West Indies in 1915, and has vivid recollections of the splendid time he was given. He and Commander Carey, R.N.—until recently in charge of M.L.'s at Trinidad—have, I believe, shore jobs at Invergordon.

"One of the first people I met at Whale Island Gunnery School was a Lieut. Thorne, R.N.R., a distant relation of the Barbados Thornes. He it was who brought the famous *Edna*—a prize ship laden with nitrate—into Barbados in 1916. At Whale Island I also came across a "snotty" who turned out to be a son of the Acting Administrator of St. Vincent. I might mention that the Captain of the monitor I was in on the Belgian Coast—Commander Alham, R.N.—told me, if I remember rightly, that his wife had relatives in Trinidad. I know he said he knew Mr. Gordon Gordon."

* * *

Mr. J. A. HUTTON, Mr. J. W. McConnell, and Mr. C. M. Wolstenholme are among the members of the Empire Cotton-Growing Committee appointed by the Board of Trade, and including representatives of the Board, the Government of India, the India Office, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, Australia, and South Africa, and of the various cotton trade interests engaged in manufacture, distribution, and labour.

* * *

THE question of a bureau in connection with the sugar industry is declared by the *Agricultural Journal of India* to have become one of immediate urgency. While the Department is continuing work on the introduction of the new varieties of cane, of better agricultural methods, and of improved manufacturing processes, the need for a central authority to correlate all the accumulated facts for the benefit of future workers has become acute.

* * *

THE Bishop of Honduras is likely to be presented with a motor-boat for use along the coast line and among the islands of his diocese, as a memorial to his late father, who held the See of Quebec. The idea of a motor-boat has been suggested to the two parishes of All Saints', South Acton, and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Clapham (the Vicar of which was another of the late Bishop Dunn's sons), which have the proposed memorial in hand.

"We had a most terrible storm, or rather cloudburst, here. Tons of hail fell for one and a half hours. Many of the stones were as large as walnuts. Every vestige of green crops and fruit has been destroyed. My sister and maids were two hours baling out the water before they could catch sight of the floor." This tale of woe reached us not, as might be supposed, from the West Indies, but from a Barbados proprietor in Buckinghamshire.

MANY Trinidadians will remember M. Harding-Finlayson, who some years ago, having then long left the colony with his family, emigrated to British Columbia. They will be interested to know that, fit and cheery as ever, at the age of 55 he has put in more than two years' service in France as a Captain in the A.S.C., and is still there, with no intention of claiming a home appointment, to which, by reason of his age and long service, he is entitled.

No less than 3/3 out of the minimum subscription to the West India Committee is now absorbed by postage on the CIRCULAR alone. This reduces the payment by members for this publication and towards the general expenses of the Committee to 17/9 only! This sum is quite inadequate to defray the cost of producing the CIRCULAR. In the circumstances the least that members can do is to pay their subscriptions regularly. It is hoped that those members who have not already done so will pay their dues for the current year without delay.

THE Director of Agriculture in Jamaica has settled a point which has occasioned much anxiety to cocoa-growers in that island. For many years reports have been made to the Agricultural Society of the damage done to cocoa-pods on the trees by woodpeckers, and requests have been made that this bird should be withdrawn from the Protected List, so that it might be shot. As a result of recent investigations, however, Mr. Cousins is satisfied that the Government should protect the woodpecker, and that its removal from the schedule of protected birds would be unwarranted.

* * *

"TRUTH," which has not hesitated to describe as "a cock-and-bull story" the statement of D. Gordon Cameron that he represented a group of London and Manchester merchants with £800,000 for investment in a hinterland railway in British Guiana, returns to the subject in its issue of May 10th. It declares that "great harm may be done if the Press and the public—let alone the officials—of a colony give the proposals of a plausible concession-hunter any sort of approval or countenance that can be utilised in the promotion of wild-cat companies, or preliminary syndicates—direct harm to unwary investors in England and indirect harm to the credit of the colony." *Truth* cites the case of a company floated in connection with British Guiana, the shareholders of which it declares have been swindled, and adds: "Every case of this kind must obviously make it more difficult to obtain capital here for honestly managed enterprise in British Guiana."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Battle in the West.

The Germans are preparing for another great offensive with their usual thoroughness, and may launch it any day. Our men expected it weeks ago, since when they have been making the most of their time. Not only has a stream of reinforcements, but of munitions and guns, poured into France, while the fighting-line has been straightened out in several places to our advantage. That a great concentration of the enemy is being made in the Cambresis our High Command knows well enough, but cannot be certain that its weight will be turned westerly through Bapaume so as to threaten Amiens from the north-east. The mass may be directed south for the purpose of forcing a way to Paris between the hilly country of Montdidier and the *massif* of Lassigny. But in any case, the tactics will be those known as the "Riga System," first tried on the Dvina by von Hutier early last year. Concentrations are made so far back as to conceal till the last moment the intentions of the assailant. When the attack is launched after violent artillery preparation, it is on a wide front, but with men massed at the points where penetration is attempted and covered in their advance by the fire of machine-guns. Or, in short, Germany has adapted to modern conditions a principle as old as organised warfare.

The British, on their side, oppose to this idea—which places value on the momentum of the mass following fire preparation—another, which is that the fire of the line will generally break up and destroy this momentum, as we did at Waterloo, for instance, and again last March. But the German High Command believes that, in favourable circumstances, the mass can close with the line more quickly than the line can disintegrate the mass. Hence the weight of men and material will be unprecedented in the coming offensive, and the stakes being so high no losses will be considered too great in the effort to drive a wedge between the Anglo-French armies. These have been strengthening weak places in their lines so as to render the task as difficult as possible in the first onslaught. For instance, the French, in a brilliant little surprise attack, deprived the enemy of several helpful positions west of Kemmel. Again, the Australians, by the capture of Ville-sur-Ancre, took the last bit of high ground in the vicinity of the Ancre Valley which remained in the possession of the Germans, who themselves have spared no effort to get out of marshy sectors such as this one at the expense of the Allies. The previous raids of the Australians had carried their front towards the village of Morlancourt, but Ville-sur-Ancre is just south of Albert, and to take it they had to work round the patches of marsh ground, partially flooded by the irrigation ditches. Moreover, German machine-guns and trench-mortars swept all approaches, and every yard was stubbornly contested. For finally rooting out the enemy the Australians were formally thanked by Sir Douglas Haig. Another successful exploit was the closing up of a re-entrant

in our line to the north-west of Merville by the Surreys, who beat off a violent counter-attack.

In the Near and Far East.

The Turks, who were driven across the Lesser Zab on May 11th, have apparently accepted the position. They have quietly allowed the British to remove all the large quantity of military stores which were captured at Kirkuk. On the Tigris, there is a fresh advance of 60 miles to record. Tekrit, which was occupied last November, and, when everything of military value was taken away, abandoned, has been re-entered, and our advance continued to Fatha, 34 miles further north. Tekrit is connected with Kirkuk by a track which runs across the Jebel Hamrin range, the progress to Mosul thus being pushed by road and river.

In Palestine our aircraft and the Arab forces of the King of the Hedjaz are rendering the desert railway useless to the Turks, whose troops south of the line are reported to be living on dates. It is believed that the main object of the British east of the Jordan has been achieved. It was not to occupy territory, but to draw German and Turkish troops from the Hedjaz, so as to enable the Arabs to destroy the Turkish communications and military depots.

The Turks are losing hope that they will ever recover Palestine and Mesopotamia.

From European Russia comes the news that General Korniloff, who has raised an army, is south of Moscow, and preparing to deliver his country from the chaos into which she has fallen. The Germans, in the meantime, have captured Sebastopol, together with such ships as were not able to escape, and Nikolaieff, where the hulls of some fine ships were completed, besides tightening their grip on the Ukraine. In Asiatic Russia the Cossack Colonel Semenoff has advanced up the Manchurian Railway and occupied Chita, where he proposes to establish a Provisional Government for Transbaikalia, thus dividing the Bolsheviks and Austrian prisoners in Siberia.

The War in the Air.

Of all the air raids on London, that of May 19th was the most ambitious, sustained, and picturesque. Moreover, in none of its predecessors was the sound of firing heard at such a distance—as much as 30 miles away in the Surrey hills. As usual, the invaders arrived in groups at intervals, and, from different directions, made for the Capital. Never before was the extraordinary efficiency of our anti-aircraft measures so marked. The barrage set up, the powerful display of searchlights, and the co-operation of the fixed and mobile defences, both on interior and exterior lines, were all admirable. Six, probably seven, enemy machines were brought down, one by a British aviator in the estuary of the Thames, having burst into flames at a height of 7,000 feet, and others by gunfire in the London area, while two fell burning wrecks into the sea as they were relentlessly pursued on their way home. The damage done in the two counties visited and in the London area was relatively small, and the casualties were 37 killed and 161 injured.

Three nights later Paris was visited by hostile

aeroplanes, which were driven back by violent barrage fire before they could penetrate to the city proper. Several bombs were dropped, but no damage was done. Early in the morning about 30 machines, including many Gothas, made a second attempt, but with little more success. Only one reached the Paris area, where it caused some casualties and damage, but these were greatest in the suburbs.

On the Western Front.

British airmen have brought down or crippled 1,000 enemy machines during the past two months. When to these figures is added the number accounted for by French and American aviators, some idea of the German losses may be gathered, particularly as our losses are small in proportion. Moreover, the Allies, gaining confidence with success, are evolving aerial tactics and strategy with which the slower and heavier German is finding it difficult to cope. Some hint of his embarrassment was given in the Reichstag recently, the Chancellor suggesting that some agreement might be reached with the Powers to prevent attacks on open towns. But it is to be hoped that these overtures will be rejected. The raids on Cologne, Mannheim, Coblenz, and other military and manufacturing centres are bringing home to Germany what in present circumstances could be brought home in no other way. With the extension of our air offensive, no doubt German towns further inland will be subjected to the same terror, which they took so lightly as long as it was remote. The arrogance of this people will not be sapped by scarcity alone; they must learn in their own personal experience something of the horror of war. Hence the importance of frequent long-distance air raids by our aviators on Germany.

In the rear of the German armies the ceaseless activity of our aircraft is having a depressing effect, as nothing is more trying to the nerves of troops than the knowledge that their stores of ammunition, convoys, and lines of communication are being destroyed. When American aeroplanes in France can be counted by hundreds and thousands instead of by tens, the Allies will have such mastery in the air that they can blind the German armies by depriving them of their air scouts and spread demoralisation in the population at home.

In an aerial attack on Zeebrugge a German destroyer was sunk.

Another Hun Crime.

The Germans have committed a fresh outrage on the written and unwritten laws of civilised warfare by attacking a group of British Red Cross hospitals far in the rear of the British lines. Not only that, but the bombs used were not such as are employed in the destruction of property, but in destroying life. One of the officers who took part in this crime against humanity, and was captured, denied all knowledge of the fact that there were British hospitals in that particular sector, but it is hard to believe that German air scouts are so incompetent as such ignorance would imply. His callousness on being told led his captors to infer that the attack was deliberately planned. Thirty machines

were employed in this raid and there were hundreds of casualties, including nurses.

Our British Submarines in the Baltic.

The British submarines in the Baltic have been blown up after a gallant record both before and after the revolution. In all, the flotilla has sunk in this sea one battleship, two cruisers, four destroyers, one aeroplane-carrier, four transports, one collier, and fourteen merchant vessels. During 1917 it constituted the only reconnoitring force in the Baltic Fleet, and was the only force that opposed the entry of the German Fleet into the Gulf of Riga in the most difficult circumstances owing to the withdrawal of the Russian Army.

Shipping Losses and Output.

The monthly figures for the world's mercantile losses show that the curve of reduction continues to fall. The difference to the good as between March and April totals close on 100,000 tons. But Allied and neutral countries, and not Great Britain, have cause to congratulate themselves on that account. Only for an adjustment of figures due to the new method of making up the shipping losses return, the tonnage sunk in April would be nearly the same as the tonnage sunk in March. With regard to new construction, it is believed that the world's production about balances the world's losses. But exact figures are not available for the French and Japanese output. With regard to Britain, her total new construction during the past four months amounts to less than half of the tonnage she has lost by "U"-boat sinkings during the same period. The output for April, instead of showing an increase over the output for March, shows a big drop, which is a very serious matter.

As to the growing potency of the means employed in dealing with the submarine menace, there is ample evidence. In French waters and in the Mediterranean the Allies are mastering this terrible form of piracy, and in the North Sea the new mine barrier and the blockade of the Zeebrugge-Ostend coast are important factors in the same direction. So are the more effective arming of merchantmen and use of the convoy system.

One of our Atlantic escort submarines has, off St. Vincent, sunk a German submarine of the so-called cruiser type. As a heavy sea was running at the time there were no survivors.

Since the above article was written the Germans have renewed their offensive, the regions of attack being between Soissons and Rheims and Loere and Voormezele.

(To be continued.)

THE ingathering of dues has been rendered infinitely more difficult by the absence of regular mail communication, but in spite of this subscriptions came in better in 1917 than ever before. It is hoped to make the current year a record in this respect, and members of the West India Committee who are still in arrears are requested to pay a visit to, or to send to, the local branch of the Colonial Bank, where subscriptions can now be paid. Their kind attention to this notice will save both time and money—both a consideration in these days!

A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF OIL.

In a paper which he read before the Royal Society of Arts recently, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig spoke in an encouraging manner of the prospects of the establishment of an oil industry in Barbados.

The great difficulty, he said, that had beset all attempts to develop the Colony's oil resources had been in obtaining the right to prospect over a large and compact area. The island was all freehold property, divided into a very large number of small estates, all carrying full mineral rights. Thus, to obtain the right to prospect over a large area necessitated negotiations with a large number of separate proprietors, each of whom naturally had his own ideas as to how oil-field development should be conducted. Every private attempt to get a number of proprietors to combine had ended in failure.

Legislation had been resorted to, and various Acts had been passed to favour the development of a petroleum industry; but, in some cases, the Act took away with one hand the rights it conferred with the other; and in spite of careful and lengthy discussion, no Act yet passed had had any practical effect in stimulating development.

There were several ways in which active prospecting could be ensured; but all entailed some form of monopoly and some measure of compulsion on the proprietors of land. It would be possible to grant by legislation to one of the powerful groups of petroleum capitalists the exclusive right to prospect for, win, transport and refine oil in the Colony. This would probably have an immediate effect, and would ensure the most efficient and up-to-date methods of exploitation, but it would put the Colony entirely in the hands of one corporation. There was not the slightest likelihood of such a method being favoured by the Barbadian community.

Another method would be to grant a monopoly of pipe-lining and refining to an oil company or syndicate, and permit each proprietor to make his own arrangements for developing his own land. This might have the desired effect, but still some combination between proprietors would be necessary to make it worth while for any company to drill. If this method had really far-reaching effects, it would probably result in the monopoly of refining and transport controlling everything. No one liked the sound of the word monopoly, and this scheme had little chance of being considered favourably.

Possibly the most hopeful method was that suggested by Sir Leslie Probyn. In this scheme each of the eleven parishes was to be considered as a separate area, and development companies allowed to apply for the exclusive right to prospect a parish. Trustees were to be appointed to safeguard the interests of the proprietors in each parish, and in the event of prospecting with the drill giving successful results, the company would select the particular areas they wished to work, and pay royalty to the proprietors whose land they were developing. This scheme was carefully considered, and even details were settled, but it failed to pass the Legislative Council.

BARBADOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The principal feature of the annual meeting of members of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce held on April 25th was the passing of the following resolution:—

"This Chamber is of opinion that the time has arrived when the question of the Federation of the British West Indian Colonies should be seriously considered and determined, and is in favour of the matter being discussed by an unofficial West Indian Conference, the result of which should be communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

The Council elected for the current year comprises:—

Mr. V. Hanschell (president), Mr. E. I. Baeza (vice-president), Mr. H. J. Jones (hon. treasurer), Mr. J. Baeza, Mr. J. R. Bancroft, Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, M.B.E., Mr. J. Crawford, Mr. J. A. Jones, Mr. H. L. Johnson, Mr. D. G. Leacock, Mr. C. M. Manning, Mr. G. S. Manning, Mr. C. S. Piteher, and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

The report states that the matter of Deferred Cables, to which Barbados is entitled under the contract with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd., and which has been withdrawn by that company without any corresponding advantage to the community, has been the subject of correspondence with the Government. It is regretted that no satisfactory issue to the just representations which were made by the Chamber has so far been attained.

Regret is expressed that the Comptroller of Customs of British Guiana should still refuse to accept certificates of origin for Canadian goods re-exported from Barbados under the islands' Customs certificate, which, consequently, prevents such goods being admitted there under the above tariff with the Dominion of Canada.

"We cannot be sufficiently thankful to the American people who have not hesitated to impose upon themselves privations in order to help the British and other allied nations with foodstuffs; thus at the instance of President Wilson and Mr. Hoover, the food controller, the American people are observing a wheatless Monday and Wednesday in every week and one wheatless meal every day; a meatless Tuesday with one meatless meal every day; a porkless Saturday; a reduction of the use of fats in cooking and on the table; a reduction in the use of sugar to three pounds per month and so on in a number of other ways economising in food and in other measures in order to save the railways and in order to conserve and save up food which the nation had undertaken to supply their allies and which they found they would be short of unless a regular conservation campaign was established and carried out.

"Such self-sacrifice and consideration deserve the admiration and appreciation of us all. The Council have with pleasure co-operated with the Government whenever called upon to do so in bringing about the arrangement now in force with the United States authorities through the British Ambassador in Washington, and it should be a matter for satisfaction and appreciation on the part of the trading community that His Excellency the Governor in the exercise of his prerogative has chosen from the Council three members to form the Committee of food control for importations from the United States. In this connection a tribute is due to His Excellency for the eager care which he has given to all details affecting the interests of the importers in securing attention to their orders and in organising the arrangement with the Ambassador. His Excellency has spared no trouble in the matter, as is evidenced by his lucid cable messages and despatches dealing with all necessary points. It is to be recorded that the system definitely established is working well."

In his recent paper on oil Mr. Cunningham Craig paid a tribute to the pioneer work done by the late Hon. A. C. Ponsonby in Barbados.

A LIME INDUSTRY FOR MAURITIUS.

The Governor of Mauritius, Sir Hesketh Bell—so well remembered in the West Indies—recently addressed the Board of Agriculture of Mauritius on the possibilities of lime cultivation in that island.

The idea of growing limes there, he said, had occurred to him in connection with the demand that must exist, on a very large scale, in India for concentrated lime juice in connection with the printing of cottons. He understood that nearly the whole of the acid that is used in printing cottons in India comes either from the West Indies or from Sicily. It seemed to him that as Mauritius was so near India, they might very favourably compete with the West Indies in concentrated lime juice for the Indian market. It would, of course, be hopeless and unreasonable to suggest that planters should turn good cane-fields into lime orchards, but he was certain that there are many places in Mauritius which are not suitable to the cane, and which would grow limes very well; sheltered hill sides, for instance.

The Agricultural Department proposed to select a suitable piece of land which should be not less than 15 to 20 acres in area, on which to start a lime plantation. It would be of great advantage to have as many small experimental lime plantations in the different parts of the island as possible to test the suitability of various soils.

THE STORY OF SUGAR.

VII.—THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Development of its Sugar Resources.

By F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

In the last two chapters the wants and possibilities of the Empire as regards sugar have been dealt with. The question now is, How can these possibilities be converted into potentialities sufficient to bring about an all-British supply of sugar for the British Empire?

If the records of the world's sugar supply are reviewed, the great feature of the last fifty years which stands out prominently is the development of the Continental and American industries by a combination of protective tariffs and export bounties in the one case, and of protective and preferential tariffs in the other. In the case of the Continental beet industry, as has been pointed out in preceding chapters, the protection reached such a pitch that when the export bounties were abolished by the Brussels Convention and the protective duties which had given rise to *kartel* bounties were reduced to the present figure, the latter was quite sufficient to enable German and Austrian sugars to maintain their hold of the United Kingdom market and of other markets left open to them within a convenient distance of their export ports. At the same time a cheaper cost of production was obtained for their own consumed product than would have been the case if there had been no export trade.

In the West, the United States not only secured the development of its Territorial cane and home-grown beet industries, but also the continuance of

its sub-tropical Louisiana cane industry, by a high protective Customs tariff. At the same time that country brought about an enormous development of the Cuban industry by giving the sugar of that island preferential Customs treatment, in this way ensuring a supply of sugar to supplement the United States' own supply while the latter is in process of development.

In a similar manner, the Canadian tariff, with its British preferential clause—which, however, before the War gave a much lower degree of preference to British sugars than that of the United States gave to Cuban sugar—was the means of providing the British West Indian sugars with a market in which they would not meet with unfair competition—the only market, indeed, left open to them in this respect.

Australia and South Africa have also almost filled their requirements in sugar by adequate Customs protection of their growing sugar industries.

It may be said that, in the case of India, a protective tariff has not developed its sugar industry, and that the export output of Java, which has no preferential market, has been doubled since the coming into force of the Brussels Convention.

It is true that India has had for some years a Customs duty on sugar, with no countervailing Excise, which thus constituted a protective tariff. But the amount of it—5 per cent. *ad valorem* before the War, equivalent to 10/- per ton at the most—was not sufficient to attract capital and develop the industry, especially in view of the hide-bound producing traditions associated with the industry.

It is also true that the export sugar industry of Java has developed in spite of having no preferential treatment in any country, or local bounties. Java is admirably suited as regards soil, climate, and labour conditions for the production of sugar, and its natural advantages have been made the most of by admirable management, coupled with scientific cultivation and manufacture. But a great factor in its successful development is the command of the Eastern markets which it possesses by reason of its geographical position, which places it in a most advantageous position for competition in them with Western sugars.

It will be gathered from what has been already said on the subject of the economics of sugar that the question of the production of an all-British supply of sugar for the British Empire depends on the attitude which the Government takes up towards sugar in the tariffs of the United Kingdom and of India. Sugar can be manufactured at as low a cost in the British Empire as in any part of the world, but a British or any other sugar industry cannot be expected to thrive when its producer has to come into competition with the producer of large consuming countries whose sugar is produced under protective or preferential treatment. It is impossible to expect capitalists to interest themselves in an industry subject to such adverse conditions, which could only expect remunerative times in abnormal circumstances of price.

As already pointed out, the home-grown beet is already protected in this country to the extent of

£2 6s. 8d. per ton for first quality. If there is a future for a home-grown beet industry this should supply the necessary incentive.

Sites for factories and cane-growing are, of course, a matter for the capitalist engaging in the industry. Naturally the Colonies chosen for sugar development would be those where the soil, climatic conditions, and labour were the most satisfactory, but it may be taken for granted that in a few years the possibilities of the British Empire as regards sugar could be exploited to an extent sufficient to provide the 3,000,000 tons necessary to complete the supplies of the British Empire.

It must not be forgotten that the sugar-using trades and the general public have to be largely considered in the matter. Unfortunately, as has been already pointed out, our refineries cannot supply more than half the white sugar required in this country, and until these are extended, or until our Colonies have increased their supply of white crystals, the wants in this connection have to be made good by foreign countries. Consideration must be given to this important point, and a preferential tariff based on militant lines might mean at the outset a considerable and unnecessary hardship to trade and individuals when matters resume their natural course as regards sugar use after the War.

The point cannot be too strongly emphasised that, certainly so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, preference to British-grown sugar in the Customs tariffs will not increase the price to the consumer. Preference or no preference, high sugar duties have come to stay, and consequently there would be no taxing of sugar for the purpose of a preference. Indeed, were a full supply of preferential sugar provided by the development of an Imperial sugar industry, the preferential rate would take the place of the higher general rate. The only preference that the producer would then receive would be the preference in market secured to him. Again, any treatment of the sugar industry which tends to increase the world's supply must necessarily tend to cheapen sugar to the consumer.

But whether the consumer has to pay something towards the attainment of an all-British sugar supply or not, the experience of the War must have demonstrated to him in a most forcible manner that the British Empire must make itself independent of foreign foodstuffs. The money which the Colonies would receive for their sugar would aid their development greatly, and come back to the manufacturing centres in the shape of orders for machinery and manufactured goods. The strength of a country has been shown to be in its ability to support itself independently of outside food supplies, and the same may be said of our Empire as a whole. The British Empire needs sugar: preferential treatment in the tariffs of the large consuming centres would supply it.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will take place at the Anglican Church, St. George's, on June 11th, between John Arthur Branch, of Good Hope Estate, Grenada, and Beatrice Elaine, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Falconer Anton, of Rose Hill, St. Paul's, in the same island.

OBITUARY.

MR. C. KENRICK GIBBONS.

As announced by cable in the CIRCULAR of April 18th, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, of Collynn's, St. Lucy, Barbados, died in that island on the 15th of that month.

Mr. Gibbons, who was the son of the late Lieut.-Colonel John Barton Gibbons, J.P., and a grandson of a Speaker of the House of Assembly, was born at Parley Hill, Barbados, the residence of his uncle, Sir Graham Briggs, on May 9th, 1856. He was educated at the Lodge School and Harrison College, Barbados, and after completing his education at King's College in London, he went through Armstrong's works at Newcastle. From December, 1885, until 1887, he acted as secretary of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Royal Mining, Engineering and Industrial Exhibition, for which he received the thanks of Lord Ravensworth, the president. Of an inventive turn of mind he invented the "slip-link" safety stirrup which bears his name, and a game called Angelo, which is on the lines of Diabolo. He was also the producer of a sugar-cane of merit which became widely known as the "Collynn's Seedling." His interest in plant life was further shown by his re-introducing the Queen of Flowers to Barbados in bringing the Barbadian Sweet Rose to this country. Among scientists he will be best remembered through his having demonstrated that the little fish known locally as "millions" (*girardinus poecilioides*) fed on the larvae of the mosquito, to which fact he attributed the immunity of Barbados from malaria. A demand for this fish sprang up from many parts of the world, in some of which it has now been successfully established.

The funeral, which was attended by many friends, took place on Tuesday evening; his remains being interred in the Briggs family vault at All Saints' Chapel, St. Peter's. The service was conducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Skeete, assisted by the Rev. N. B. Watson, Rector of St. Lucy; the Rev. H. E. Olton, the Rev. C. W. Johnson and Rev. H. G. Piggott.

In token of respectful memory of the deceased, the flags on the leading business houses of the city on that day were flown at half mast.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE NOTES.

As we were compelled to go to press earlier this fortnight, our list of visitors to the West India Committee Rooms is shorter than usual. This does not, however, indicate any falling-off in the number of callers, which continues to increase. Among recent visitors have been:—

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. R. A. Brice (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. Eric Solomon, Cadet John Barnside. BARBADOS.—C. G. Seale, 2nd Lieut. W. H. L. Medford, M.C., 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Farmer, 2nd Lieut. H. O. Ramsey, 2nd Lieut. F. Dowlen, Cadet B. A. Culpeper, Lieut. W. A. Yearwood. BRITISH GUIANA.—Cadet L. S. Davis, Gunner L. N. Lord. JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. R. L. Ripley (B.W.I.R.), M. V. Lockett. ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. L. O. Childs. ST. KITTS.—2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd. TRINIDAD.—Sub-Lieut. J. Stopford, R.A.P., P. Maingot, J. Simmons, C. V. Bynoe, L. Contant, H. P. Spencer, J. E. Ache, H. Patterson, Cecil O'Connor, Pte. G. Hodge, F. Villarroel, P. Geoffroy, 2nd Lieut. J. A. Herrera, 2nd Lieut. F. O. Rooks, 2nd Lieut. E. Johnson, Leslie Hatt, Malcolm Nock, W. T. King, Lieut. J. E. Kernahan, Lieut. R. E. Quesnel.

* * *

Corporal Butcher, of the 1st Bahamas Contingent, British West Indies Regiment, who was recently mentioned in General Allenby's despatches, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in recognition of his prompt action while on

outpost duty during the advance in Palestine. An enemy aeroplane descended at some distance from where the guard was stationed, and before the occupants were able to carry out their object, which was presumably to destroy the water-pipes and railway lines, Butcher wounded one of them, and the aeroplane hastily made off. This is, as far as we know, the first D.C.M. awarded in the British West Indies Regiment.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

CAPTAIN HORACE TOWNSEND CLARE, acting major, R.F.A., who was killed on April 29th, aged 21, was the youngest son of Henry L. Clare, M.D., late Surgeon-General and Chief Medical Officer of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, B.W.I. He was educated at Mowden School, Brighton, and Haileybury College, whence he passed into Woolwich in 1913. On November 17th, 1914, he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and was posted to a Howitzer battery which he accompanied in the 29th Division to Gallipoli in April, 1915. He served there throughout the campaign up to the final evacuation in January, 1916, was mentioned in despatches and promoted lieutenant R.H.A. From Gallipoli he proceeded to Egypt, and thence to France, where he was appointed adjutant of his brigade, and was present at the Somme battle, after which he was invalided for shell-shock. Soon after his return to France in June, 1917, he was wounded at Monchy-le-Preux, but returned to duty in October, 1917, served with his battery R.H.A. and as liaison officer, was promoted captain R.H.A. on November 1st, 1917, and on March 29th he was gazetted acting major R.F.A., which rank he held up to April 29th, when in command of his battery he fell. One of his commanding officers writes:—"During the short time that Major Clare was in my brigade I found him a most attractive, zealous, and capable officer. I was very loth to lose him from the 11th Battery, and had arranged to try to get him back should a vacancy occur amongst my batteries. I feel that the Service, and the gunners in particular, have lost a most promising officer of whom I personally would have liked to have seen a great deal more." Another colonel of a brigade in which he served recently adds:—"I can say this, that the Brigade and Army have lost a good and gallant soldier of the type that we can ill afford to lose."

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ALEXANDER NEVILLE LUBBOCK, R.N., who lost his life in the sinking of the liner *Oronsa* on April 28th last, was the youngest son of the late Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., President of the West India Committee, and the only son of Lady Lubbock, of Ridlands, Limpsfield, Surrey. He was born in 1883 and entered the Navy in 1897 as a Cadet at Dartmouth in the old *Britannia*. As a midshipman he spent three years on the West India and North Atlantic station, afterwards passing the usual courses at Greenwich and Portsmouth, and attaining the rank of Lieutenant in 1896. He was then in the cruiser *Argyll*, which held the world's record for gun-layers' tests, the guns crew under Lieutenant Lubbock's command coming first with a score of 13 hits in 13 rounds in 12 minutes—a record both for speed and accuracy of firing. Before the war he saw service in the East, and gained a medal for operations in Somaliland, and in 1913 he was promoted Lieutenant-Commander. When the war broke out in 1914, Lieutenant-Commander Lubbock had just joined the *Good Hope* and went in her to Halifax, but being employed on detached duty he escaped the disaster at Coronel, where the *Good Hope*, with all her crew, was lost. Subsequently he was appointed to the *Exmouth*, which took the place of the ill-fated *Russell* as flag-ship at Gallipoli, and later at Salonica and Athens. When the *Exmouth* returned home in 1917, Lieutenant-Commander Lubbock was employed on convoy duty. It was as commodore of the convoy that he was on the *Oronsa* when she was torpedoed by a German submarine, and he went down with the ship.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

TROOPER HAMPDEN TREVOR ASHBY COX, King Edward's Horse, who died in hospital on May 9th, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Cox, of Fredericksville, St. Michael, Barbados, and brother of Private A. P. Cox, of the Artists' Rifles, who is now on active service. Trooper Cox came over with the 10th Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent, which left Port of Spain on October 3rd, 1917. Soon after joining his regiment he went into hospital, in which he remained for the greater part of the winter suffering from bronchial trouble. He came to London on leave in March last, but on his return to Ireland he suffered from a relapse, and had the additional misfortune of contracting measles, and a month later he passed away, deeply regretted by his old and many new friends which he had made.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

LIEUT. NORMAN DAMIER DALTON, of the Middlesex Regiment, youngest son of the late Mr. Goring E. Dalton, of Demerara, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

LIEUT. KENNETH REID, Highland Light Infantry, son of Mr. Robert S. Reid, Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee in Tobago, has been wounded a second time, and is a prisoner of war in Germany.

MENTIONS.

CAPTAIN G. R. G. ALSTON, Royal Field Artillery, elder son of Mr. G. R. Alston, of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been mentioned in despatches.

The British West Indies Regiment.

We give below a further list of casualties reported in the British West Indies Regiment on various fronts:—

BARBADOS.—14947 Bowen, O.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Nedd, J. A.

GRENADA.—11443 McBurnie, E.

JAMAICA.—14947 Brown, O.; 13843 Davis, J.; 12114 Gagle, T.; 10086 Grant, C.; 10114 Hinds, J.; 12250 Jones, H.; 13892 Johnson, R.; 10448 Powell, E.; 12537 Sears, J.; 5923 Stewart, T.; 15430 Stevenson, J.; 8665 Thompson, S.; 10807 Williams, J.; 5981 Williams, R.

TRINIDAD.—1309 Rabb, Lee-Cpl. V.; 11251 Hall, C.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—"Day of Gifts."

The many varied efforts made locally on behalf of the Red Cross recently found further expression in a "Day of Gifts." Lady Allardyce, as President of the Bahamian Red Cross Guild, desires to express her warm and grateful thanks of all those who, by donations of money, contributions of various kinds, and by personal service assisted to make "Gift Day" a great success. The total realised was as follows:—Money, £231 2s. 10d., 760 handkerchiefs, 400 comfort bags, 12 pillow cases, 1 cardigan, 6 washers, 8 prs. socks, 4 prs. bed socks, 3 trench helmets, 6 kettle holders, 26 limb pillows, 1 cushion, 2 bandages, 36 jug covers.

BARBADOS—Food Supplies.

The Governor has received from the British Ambassador at Washington a telegram that licences will be granted temporarily for unrestricted quantities of cornmeal and cornflour, and that applications need not be accompanied by local certificate. This news is welcomed by the local Press, which declares that only recently the House of Assembly voted £1,000 to enable the Government to purchase a corn crushing plant for the purpose of grinding into meal corn grown locally or imported, cornmeal and cornflour having been unobtainable from the United States for some time past.—The death is announced of Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, who passed away at his residence, Collyns, St. Lucy, at the age of 62. Grandson of Sir Wm. Gibbons, Bart., Mr. Gibbons was deservedly popular in the island.

BRITISH HONDURAS—New Governor Arrives.

Belize was *en fete* on April 3rd when Mr. W. Hatt Bennett, C.M.G., the new Governor arrived, accompanied by his sister, from the Bahamas, and in the presence of a distinguished assembly took the oath of office. In the course of his first speech the new Governor disclosed that he came to the Colony as a learner. Every colony had its own difficulties and problems, but he trusted with the help of the mutual confidence which should subsist between the Governor and his Councils and advisers, and with the co-operation of the community it may not be found impossible to solve them in time.—An entertainment given by the pupils of the Diocesan High School for girls on the previous evening was made the occasion of a tribute to Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who has been acting Governor, and Mrs. Walter, Bishop Dunn expressing the general appreciation of their services.

DOMINICA—Embargo on Limes.

The embargo which the United States Government has put on the importation of fresh limes, will, no doubt, seriously affect Dominica. The s.s. *Guiana* has taken away the last shipment of limes which will be allowed to be imported into the United States. It is to be hoped (says the *Chronicle*) that Messrs. J. Rose & Co. will soon resume buying fresh limes, so as to bring some relief to our critical situation.

JAMAICA To Prevent Strikes.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., revisited the island recently to consult with the Governor on various matters affecting agricultural questions, and the sugar industry in the colony. Dr. Howard, of the Rockefeller Institute has been another visitor in connection with the campaign for the eradication of Hookworm.

Inspector Charley of the Jamaica Constabulary was drowned under sad circumstances in March. While on a shooting expedition and endeavouring to secure a fallen bird he became entangled in the weed and was drowned before help could reach him.

Mr. W. H. Tittensor, general manager of the West India Electric Co., has resigned his position and will proceed to the United States. He will be succeeded by Mr. Barr, the traffic superintendent.

A statement of revenue and expenditure for the first six months of the fiscal year, recently published, shows a falling off in the revenue of £55,000. The total revenue collected amounted to £641,267. The Customs receipts show a decrease of £40,101 and the railway receipts £7,122.

A law to prevent strikes on the part of those employed in the fire service and health department of any parochial or municipal service has been introduced in the Legislative Council. It is reported that there is likely to be a further curtailment in the number of ships trading between the United States and this Colony. This restriction will not be without its effect on the local food supply. Indeed it is stated that the time is not far distant when no ship will come to the island with foodstuffs from the United States except on special application from the Governor and on license from the Food Controller of the United States.

ST. VINCENT—Cotton Growing.

Mr. T. W. Garraway has been appointed to act as Attorney-General on the departure of Mr. Vincent Prior to take up the office of Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands.

It is announced on the authority of the Roman Catholic Vicar General that the Pope has conferred the Order of Knighthood of St. Sylvester on Dr. Norbert Sydney Durrant, late Medical Officer.

The importance of Sea Island cotton as an asset in the successful prosecution of the War is fully realised by planters (says the "St. Vincent Times") but the question of funds, however, is disturbing the small growers who, on account of the high cost of living have expended most of the money advanced by the Government. It is feared, therefore, that unless the Government distribute the bonus to pay the balance of the proceeds of cotton purchased for the Admiralty, the coming crop may be greatly reduced.

TRINIDAD—Important Privy Council Decision.

MR. TRIPP writes, April 18th.—At the last meeting of the Legislative Council it was announced that a deficit in the revenue estimated for the current year of £125,000 was feared. This was owing to heavy falling off in revenue from the Pitch Lake, and from Customs receipts on goods inwards. Unless something very extraordinary happens, I am inclined to think that this fear is somewhat exaggerated. The recuperative powers of Trinidad have so often been in evidence before that I hesitate to doubt them now. But, if the necessity arises no one here will object to meet it. We have had far more to be thankful for than nine-tenths of the subjects of the King.

Meanwhile an all round rise in railway fares and cargo rates is announced.—Sugar is being harvested rapidly, but cocoa is now coming in more slowly than either producers or dealers like.

According to the "Port of Spain Gazette," the Privy Council has sustained the Local Government in the matter of *de Verteuil v. Knaggs* and another. The action laid against the Colonial Secretary (then Acting Governor and the Protector of Immigrants) was a claim by an estate owner complaining of the Governor's exercise of discretion in removing indentured immigrants from one of his estates under the Immigration Ordinance, and praying that the Government be restrained by injunction from giving effect to such order. Mr. Justice Blackwood Wright, who heard the matter originally, gave judgment against plaintiff with costs. But subsequently His Honour, on his own motion, reviewed his decision, giving judgment against the Government. The Government took the matter to the Full Court, and the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Russell, L.L.B., upset Mr. Justice Blackwood Wright. Mr. de Verteuil removed the cause to the Privy Council and now news has been received that their Lordships have affirmed the judgment of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Russell.

DEATH

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

CLARE.—Killed in action, on the 28th April, Captain Horace Townshend Clare (acting Major), R.F.A., youngest son of Henry L. Clare, M.D., late Surgeon-General of Trinidad, aged 21 years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**The British West Indies and the Empire.**

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to a statement published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to the effect that I stated in a speech at the Halifax Canadian Club, that the West Indies would "Turn to the United States, as they had no future in the British Empire outside Canada."

This statement is incorrect. I never stated or thought that the West Indies desired any form of connection with the United States beyond trade, or that they desired in any way to change their loyal adherence to the British Empire.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

S. O. ROWAN-HAMILTON,
A Puisne Judge of the Supreme
Court of the Leeward Islands.

The Rectory, Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick.

[Our comments were based on a report of Mr. Rowan-Hamilton's speech circulated by Reuter's agency. We are glad to learn that he was misreported. We believed at the time that this must be the case and for that reason referred only to his "alleged" statement. In view, however, of the wide publicity given to the suggestion that the British West Indies were disloyal (for which we now learn that Mr. Rowan-Hamilton was not responsible) we could not do otherwise than endeavour to correct such an impression. We hope that the Judge will now take

the matter up with the news agency which circulated the report of his speech, and with the Halifax newspapers of March 9th which give a similar version of his remarks.—
EDITOR, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.]

British Guiana's Development.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Sir Walter Egerton's paper should attract much attention. He is, rightly, particularly keen on the Hinterland railway, but unfortunately rather luke-warm on harbour improvements, though he admits the latter should, however, if possible be included in the Railway scheme.

I am so certain of the prime necessity of the Harbour improvements, to 30 feet low water spring tides, that I would ask particular attention to the following from the Dominion Royal Commission on Harbours.

"The development of cheap, regular, and efficient transport (and, indeed, of quick transport) depends in the last resort on increase in the size and draught of ocean-going vessels, and consequently on the existence of harbours and waterways of capacity, and particularly of a depth, adequate to receive such vessels."

In another paragraph it says:—

"Producer, manufacturer, and merchant are alike vitally concerned with securing cheap, regular and efficient transport, and consequently with the progressive improvement of the Empire's facilities."

I would like to add that, apart from the producer, manufacturer, and merchant, the Government and the whole population are also tremendously concerned.

It will be a deeply serious matter if British Guiana is side-tracked in future reconstruction schemes owing to lack of harbour facilities.

Going into the point more minutely (on the Gilbert and Sullivan opera suggestion) of responsibility resting on the Government with the power in the hands of the Electives, sent to the Legislature by a small fraction of the community, there is more in this than I had fully realised previously. It would have been fairly possible for the Government to get three Electives to back, with them, any really continuity scheme for the benefit of the bulk of the people, but under present conditions it would appear to be difficult. The position stands thus:—

The Governor (with a casting vote) and seven officials equal nine as against eight Court of Policy Electives and six Financial Electives, fourteen. It would therefore require six, not three, Electives to back the Government. At any rate the experience of Sir Walter Egerton is clear that this is likely to be impossible.

To revert to Crown Colony Government in these days is hardly to be expected. Certainly capital has not proper representation, and this adds to the necessity of some immediate remedy in the position, if development of the Colony is to be secured, but local unity is required before much can be done. Efforts to hasten this should be urgently made.

GUY WYATT.

May 7th, 1918.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

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.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st last, show that to credit of revenue £113,643 14s. 5d., and expenses £69,349 18s. 7d., leaving a balance of £44,300 0s. 10d., to which is added £3,205 18. 11d. from interest on investments, and £2,887 18s. 10d. brought forward from December 31st, 1916, making a total of £50,393 18. 7d. From this sum there has been deducted £8,065 7s. 11d., the cost of extending the date of maturity of the debentures,

leaving a balance of £44,327 13s. 8d. Interim dividends were paid on November 28th, 1917, and there remains an available balance of £30,350 1s. 2d. Of this the directors have placed to general reserve account the sum of £10,000, and they propose to pay the following final dividends for the year 1917: On first preference shares at 6/- per share, on second preference shares at 6/- per share, on ordinary shares a dividend of 6d. per share and a bonus of 3d per share, both free of Income Tax, leaving to be carried forward £5,268 8s. 5d.

The traffic receipts for the year show an increase over those for 1916. The receipts for the current year, so far, show a slight falling off as compared with those for 1917. The directors again regret that it is not possible under present circumstances to set aside a special reserve to meet depreciation on investments in respect of reserve funds.

Royal Dutch West India Mail Service.

The report of the Royal Dutch West India Mail Service for 1917 states that voyages between the Netherlands and the West Indies were reduced to a minimum, with a result that there was a very considerable decline in revenue from the freight business. While the company was able to set nearly the whole of its fleet to work in the traffic between New York and the West Indies, the net result from this business was not very favourable, partly owing to the comparatively low freight rates and partly on account of the unprecedentedly high working expenses in America. After the United States entered the war these costs rapidly increased still further, while the delays in different ports and the difficulties in obtaining adequate cargoes steadily became greater. The Holland-South Pacific Line, which the company works in conjunction with the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, came to a complete standstill as a result of the war. The cargo steamer *Jan van Nassau*, which was requisitioned by the Government to bring grain from North America, was laid up during the second half of the year in a United States port on account of the difficulties in connection with the import of wheat. None of the Company's ships was lost during the year. The construction of the new mail steamers was very considerably delayed, and owing to the prevailing war conditions, the company was obliged to agree to an increase in the original contract prices. The steamers in question are to be named the *Stuyvesant*, *Van Ronsseelaar* and *Cryssen*.

The company has expressed its readiness to participate in the foundation of a plantation bank in Surinam as well as in a banking institution to be established at Curacao.

The accounts show a net profit of 530,156 florins as against 689,078 florins in 1916, and the dividend is 10 per cent. as compared with 12 per cent. for the preceding year.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half year ended December 31st last show a net profit of £35,288 18s. 11d. (as against £33,234 10s. 5d. for the same period last year), making with the balance of £34,082 11s. brought forward (£43,700 14s. 4d. at same date in 1917) a total of £69,371 9s. 11d. (£76,935 4s. 9d.). Out of this the directors recommend the transfer of £25,000 to the Reserve Fund and payment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. less Income Tax for the half-year ended 31st December last, be paid, absorbing £18,000, and leaving £26,371 9s. 11d. to be carried forward. The directors record the loss of the valuable services of Lord Beaverbrook as chairman of the bank, and as a director, he having accepted office in His Majesty's Government, and state that Mr. Charles F. Wood has been elected chairman in his place. The new share issue has been successfully floated, the whole of the 50,000 shares having been allotted. The premium of £2 a share on these shares, amounting to £100,000, will be added to the reserve, and will appear in the next balance sheet. The bank's business in London has now been transferred to its new premises at 29, Gracechurch Street, which are convenient and suitable in every way. New branches have been opened at Savanna-la-Mar (Jamaica), Mahaicouy (British Guiana), Bathurst (Gambia), Wimbah (Gold Coast), Ouitsha, Zaria and Ibadan (Nigeria). The head office, besides controlling the branches, is doing

a continually increasing banking business. In Manchester and Liverpool the branches are now well established, and are proving useful adjuncts to the business of the bank. The number of branches now working in West Africa is twelve, and the directors are pleased with the progress of the business there and with its prospects. Prices for West Indian products are very satisfactory, and the West Indies are prospering. The bank is sharing in this prosperity, and the outlook is very promising.

Presiding at the half-yearly meeting of the bank on May 16th, Mr. Charles Frederick Wood, in moving the adoption of the report, said that Lord Beaverbrook brought to his work at the Colonial Bank all those singular gifts of energy, enterprise, and enthusiasm which had raised him to his present high position in the service of the State, and all wished him in his new sphere of activity the measure of success he deserved. All the 50,000 "B" shares had been taken up by the directors and their friends, and the shareholders and customers of the bank. This was gratifying and showed the confidence felt in the bank by those who knew most about it. The directors' wisest policy at the present time was to keep their powder dry, but they all hoped that the day was not far distant when, with their increased capital, their very friendly working arrangement with Barclay's Bank, and their growing facilities for handling business at the branches in Liverpool and Manchester, as well as abroad, they would be able to take their full share in the expansion of British trade after the war to which they all looked forward. He liked to think of their West African and West Indian branches as two sons of the same father; the former, so to speak, still in the nursery stage, a very healthy and promising youngster, but naturally some time and trouble and money must be expended on his upbringing; his elder brother of the West Indies had long since come to man's estate—he was still growing year by year, and contributed a most generous proportion of the receipts of the family exchequer. In this connection he would like to make special mention of the work done by the West Indian directors, under the chairmanship of his friend Mr. Cyril Gurney, and perhaps he might be allowed to add his personal thanks to him for the help and advice he has so unstintingly given me since he, the speaker, became chairman. In conclusion, he said that it was his great pleasure on that first public appearance as their chairman, to be in the position to recommend that the dividend be increased from 7 to 8 per cent. per annum, or, say, 4 per cent. for the half-year, and I now beg to move the first resolution; and he concluded by moving a resolution to that effect, which was seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney, and adopted.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3

May 30th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1915.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ... | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... | 50 | 0 |

Discount $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Guma-Meyer have reduced their Cuban crop estimate from 3,589,429 to 3,250,000 tons. Willett & Gray adhere to their October estimate of 3,200,000 tons.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on May 25th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 10,275 | 20,284 | 16,857 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 16,082 | 21,417 | 21,020 " |
| Stock (May 25th) ... | 5,180 | 6,882 | 6,942 " |

RUM. It would appear from the letter published in last CIRCULAR under this heading (p. 180), that the Govern-

ment of British Guiana is under a misapprehension in respect of the Spirit Prohibition Orders. It may be well to point out that there are now two Prohibition Orders in force in this country. The first was issued on July 28th, 1916 and prohibited the export of spirits more than 43 per cent. O.P., the intention being to prevent spirits suitable for munitions purposes reaching enemy countries; whilst the second, dated January 2nd, 1918, prohibited the export of spirits less than 43 per cent. O.P., the object being to prevent potable spirits getting into enemy countries. It was presumably to bring British Guiana into line with this country that the suggestion was made that the Order should be issued in British Guiana also. The British Guiana Government would appear to be under the impression that the Prohibition Order of January 22nd last is a substitution of that of July 28th, 1916, whereas in reality it is supplementary to it.

Pending the issue of an Order in Council rum is still being delivered.

The market is quiet, without change.

The stocks in London on May 25th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Jamaica | 5,227 | 8,908 | 4,385 puns |
| Demerara | 3,267 | 9,634 | 12,457 " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 13,789 | 31,789 | 29,385 " |

COCOA. There is good reason to hope that the efforts of the West India Committee to secure shipping facilities for West Indian cocoa will prove successful.

Trinidad exports from January 1st to April 15th amounted to 21,373,684 lbs.

The stocks in London on May 25th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Trinidad | 13,154 | 27,748 | 25,444 bags |
| Grenada | 24,938 | 23,120 | 16,018 " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 174,263 | 280,970 | 191,062 " |

COTTON. Official quotations are unchanged, viz:— Ordinary, 36d. per lb.; good ordinary, 40d., and superfine, 45d. to 50d., according to quality. Stains are paid for at the market value on arrival in the United Kingdom. The cotton is graded before sale by the British Cotton Growing Association under arrangement with the Government. During the twenty weeks ended May 16th, 657 bales of British West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

ARROWROOT. There is rather more inquiry, but no business is reported. Quotations are quite nominal.

COPRA. The markets are unchanged for the United Kingdom; £46 c.i.f. London and Liverpool. Marseilles is dearer; £95 c.i.f. terms.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed quiet, value about 16/6. Distilled no demand, about 6/6 nominal. Lime Juice: Concentrated firm but quiet. Raw dearer; ordinary to good green 3/- to 3/9. Citrate firm.

The Government of the United States has placed an embargo on green (or fresh) limes, lime oil, and citrate of lime. This, if persisted in, will be disastrous to the fresh lime industry, as America is the only country to which the fruit is exported. The exports amount to 40,000 barrels annually, or one-tenth of the total lime crop of the island.

RUBBER. Dull. Crepe 2/2½; sheet 2/1½; Para firm at 3/1.

BALATA. Market quiet. Venezuela Block quoted 3/4½ to 3/5 c.i.f.; spot 3/7½ to 3/8. Tumaco block nominal. Panama block, spot 3/3 landed. W.I. sheet unchanged; forward quotations 3/11 c.i.f.; spot 4/2 to 4/3 sellers.

PETROLEUM. The exports from Trinidad for the first quarter of the current year were: Crude, 9,616,926 gallons; Kerosene, 508,967 gallons; Gasoline, 866,289 gallons; Lubricating Oil, 26,320 gallons.

HONEY. Foreign sorts were easier at last auctions. Buyers show less interest to arrive; but Jamaica on the spot, though quiet, is steady.

SPICES. Pimento quiet; small sales at 5½d. to 5½d. Nutmegs and Mace: firm, unchanged. Ginger: Jamaica very firm at full rates.

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.

June 13th, 1918.

Two Useful West Indian Bodies.

IN the present CIRCULAR we publish reports of the annual meeting of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee. Presiding for the first time over the meeting of the former body, MR. R. RUTHERFORD gave some account of the activities of the Committee, in what has proved, perhaps, the busiest year in its existence. These have covered a very wide field, ranging, as the Chairman pointed out, from such routine matters as obtaining passports for members—which absorb much time and patience—to obtaining valuable concessions for cocoa, for which the Committee has received the thanks of Trinidad and Grenada. A glance at the annual report which we published recently would, we think, sufficiently prove—if proof were necessary—that there is no longer room for the old reproach that the Committee is concerned only with sugar and rum, though those important products receive their fair share of attention. The financial position, whilst perfectly sound, is not quite so favourable as last year, the accounts again showing a debit balance, which is, however, attributable almost entirely to the great increase in the cost of production of the CIRCULAR, though also to some extent to a falling off in the modest contributions which have been made to the funds of the Committee by the Colonial Governments in recent years. The former was to be expected in view of the steady rise in wages and extreme difficulty in obtaining paper at anything approaching a reasonable price. The reduction in the colonial contributions was not, however, looked for, and we agree with the Executive that it is a particularly disappointing feature, in

view especially of the great increase in work thrown on the Committee in connection with the West Indian Contingents; and it is hoped that Barbados, Guiana, Trinidad and St. Vincent, which have suspended their donations, will reconsider the matter in this light and resume payment, as Grenada, which also fell out, has already done. The fact that the Special Fund account for charitable and war funds shows further expansion, and amounted to £6,266, tells its own tale, the administration of that amount having obviously involved much correspondence and work. In view of the catholicity of the operations of the Committee, it is not surprising to note that the membership continues steadily to expand. At the close of the year it had reached the record figure of 1,654, and we are glad to be able to state that it has since then further increased to 1,726, which brings the next milestone of 2,000 appreciably nearer. During the year to date the number of candidates elected has exceeded all previous records, but it cannot yet be said that the membership has reached a figure commensurate with the position of the Committee in the West Indies.

Closely allied to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is its younger brother the West Indian Contingent Committee, whose half-yearly meeting was held at its birthplace, the Colonial Office, on June 6th. The meeting was honoured by the presence of PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE and two officers of the British West Indies Regiment. The administrative work—carried on wholly at 15, Seething Lane—has shown an enormous expansion, and the staff is kept fully employed in welcoming and interviewing men who call at the Committee Rooms, giving advice and assistance, and acting as the friendly and sympathetic medium between the island homes of those who have gone to the front and the men thus gallantly serving the Empire. We emphasize this point, as it may not be fully understood, thousands of miles from the Mother Country, how fully the Committee realises its rôle as foster-father to these sons of the tropics. Both the Chairman and SIR EDWARD WARD, who, as a former Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War, has had wide experience in such matters, emphasized the need of keeping in reserve a considerable sum of money for emergencies which are bound to arise when demobilisation begins. The British West Indies Regiment will presumably be demobilised in the colonies; but it is certain that considerable expense will be involved in providing board and lodging for many of the hundreds of men from the West Indies who are now in the British Army pending their repatriation, in equipping them with

clothing, and in otherwise providing for their well-being. Meanwhile, as an example of the sudden calls to which the Contingent Fund is subject, SIR EVERARD IM THURN instanced the case of three young men whom the Committee undertook to repatriate. These unfortunate patriots were twice torpedoed and once in collision, with the result that weeks elapsed before they ultimately reached their destination. Throughout this period they were looked after by the Committee, which housed them here and in Canada (with the kind help of MR. G. MACG. MITCHELL), fed them, and provided them with clothing more than once. In the circumstances we hope that our readers will continue to contribute liberally to the West Indian Contingent Fund, which cannot be too large for the laudable objects which the Committee is carrying out.

Mauritius Sugar.

It is popularly supposed that the sugar proprietor is reaping a fortune out of the present high prices for his product. We have shown, however, that this is far from being the case, as far, at any rate, as the absentee is concerned, the excess profits duty, taxation, and heavy freight charges and increased cost of production leaving him in some instances in a worse position than he was in before the war. Apart, altogether, from his being unable, owing to the above causes, to lay by for a rainy day, he is precluded from improving his factory owing to difficulties placed in his way of securing new machinery. In this latter respect especially we consider that he deserves better treatment, and we are glad to learn that steps are on foot to persuade the Government to place the manufacture of sugar machinery in a better position as regards priority than it occupies at present. For proprietors in some of our colonies the production of sugar is also not a bed of roses. In Mauritius, for example, we learn that the cost of production has increased so greatly, and the rates paid for planters' canes are so high, owing to competition, that a good many factories will barely make ends meet. To make matters worse, facilities for shipping their produce are being withheld from the planters by the Shipping Controller. Last year the Royal Commission bought the entire sugar crop at £17 l.o.b., and the action of the Government in this respect has had an altogether unlooked-for result. Prior to the war Mauritius sugar went to India, its natural market. When it was artificially diverted to this country Java stepped into the breach and sent her sugar to India. Last year the Government sent some Mauritius sugar to India in order to adjust the balance of exchange, and the results have not been encouraging. To dislodge Java from the Indian market will be no easy task, but it is probable that a solution will be found by granting a preference to Mauritius sugar in India, which stands in much the same relationship to Mauritius as Canada does to the West Indies. This would hurt nobody but Java, and we are not waging the war to give our British markets to the foreigner.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

A LARGE refinery is being erected at Curaçao by the Royal Dutch and Shell group for treating Venezuelan petroleum.

THE rumour that the Dutch West Indies were to be purchased by the United States is denied by the Governor of Curaçao.

THE Overseas Club had a membership of 152,044 on December 31st last, and raised £186,000 during the year for war funds. It has recently been amalgamated with the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas.

MR. T. A. V. BUST, C.M.G., C.B.E., who has been administering the Government of the Leeward Islands since 1915, is great-grand-nephew of Captain Best, of Barbados, who killed Lord Camelford in a duel in 1804, as described in the chapter on English Harbour, Antigua, in "West Indian Tales of Old."

THE Philippine Islands did not enjoy a prosperous sugar year during 1917. The local product did not benefit from the high prices enjoyed by Cuba owing to the remoteness of the Philippines from the great consuming centres. While the exports of sugar approached the general average, production showed a decided falling-off as compared with 1916.

"THE only English-speaking country on the South American Continent" is the point emphasized in an admirable little booklet on British Guiana issued by Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. Containing many excellent illustrations, this latest guide to the colony presents briefly and attractively an outline of the history, extent, and possibilities of British Guiana. It should prove highly useful to intending visitors to Demerara.

A TIMBER Institute for the Empire is advocated by Mr. A. H. Unwin, late of the Nigerian Forest Service, writing in the June number of *United Empire*. Mr. Unwin's idea is a "bureau or institute, subsidiary or allied to the Imperial Institute, charged with the function of enlarging, developing, and finding new markets in Great Britain for West African timbers after they have been technically examined as to their value." But why limit the operations of such an institute to West African timbers? We have as yet but tapped the resources of British Guiana in this connection.

THE Birthday Honours list published on June 3rd contained several names of special interest to West Indians. Sir George Foster and Sir Owen Philipps are both promoted to be G.C.M.G., and Professor John Cadman, "for services in connection with oil-bearing lands in the Colonies," to be K.C.M.G. Mr. Henry Albert Alcazar, K.C., Member of the Executive Council and unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr. Robert Blair Roden, Chief Justice of British Honduras, receive the honour of Knighthood. Mr. Donald Charles Cameron, formerly of the British Guiana Civil Service, and now Central Secretary in Nigeria, and Mr. Thomas Edward Fell, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, are made C.M.G.

SIR FREDERICK TREVES, whose book "The Cradle of the Deep" has become a West Indian classic, has been made a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour, and the appointments to the Imperial Service Order include Mr. Harry Walton Collymore, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, Barbados, and Mr. Thomas Augustus Thompson, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago. The complete lists of military awards has yet to be published, but we are glad to note that Lieut.-Col. Arthur Courtney Boddam-Whetham, A.D.C. and Private Secretary to Sir William Grey-Wilson when Governor of the Bahamas, receives a D.S.O. for his services in the Royal Air Force.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

There has been another meeting of the War Council at Versailles. One of the important decisions arrived at has been announced. It concerns Poland, the historic barrier against the advance of the Teutonic barbarian of the West and Asiatic hordes from the East. To maintain the balance of power in Europe she is to be erected into a free kingdom, whose boundary is to run almost in a straight line from the Carpathians to the Baltic. No doubt, also, other and more immediate measures are to be taken for saving Russia from falling under the domination of Germany—a catastrophe which would neutralise Allied victories in the West, however complete.

Prisoners and Captives.

France and Italy having arrived at an agreement with Germany for the release of their prisoners of war who have been interned for over eighteen months, Britain is about to follow their example. The military objections to the exchange, which were weighty before the Russian debacle, no longer count for so much, and, in any case, the nation is determined that our prisoners in Hun hands shall be rescued from the hell in which they live if they survive.

The *Konigen Regentes*, a Dutch hospital ship, which accompanied the *Sindoro*, conveying the British delegates to the Prisoners of War Conference at the Hague, was sunk on the voyage. It is generally believed by those who witnessed the disaster that the ship was torpedoed.

The Great Battle.

On May 27th, after weeks of preparation, the enemy resumed his offensive on two fronts—in the Locre-Voormezeele sector, where his attacks were repulsed, on a minor scale; and against the French positions on the Aisne in a gigantic effort. Here the situation has been, and still is, serious, since the Allies were taken by surprise, the Germans, with consummate skill, having concentrated vastly superior numbers all unknown to the Entente Higher Command. After a short but extremely powerful artillery preparation they were launched against the Franco-British forces opposed to them on a front of thirty miles between Soissons and Rheims. Fighting stubbornly, the Allies were compelled to give way, and by the end of the day the enemy's mobile units had reached the Aisne. Fresh masses were poured into the gaps made by the desperate nature of the resistance, and he was able to press on, so that by Wednesday he had taken Soissons, forcing us back to a line midway between the Vesle and the Marne. Only on the right did our line hold—about the blackened ruins of Rheims. On Thursday the battle on the left and centre raged without change until the end of the day. Then, north-east of Soissons the French found it necessary to fall back to the line Epagny-Blerancourt. On Friday the Germans advanced on a ten-mile front west of Chateau Thierry, south of the Marne. On Saturday there was a sensible relaxation in the offensive, and a consequent stabilisation of the Franco-British line.

The Enemy Held.

Not only was the enemy held, but General Foch having brought up his reserves, the Allied forces successfully counter-attacked. At many points they have regained ground, notably Mount Choisy, one of the main bastions defending the road to Paris by way of Compiègne. As a result of the first week's fighting the enemy has formed a salient twenty miles deep, in shape similar to those created by his drives before St. Quentin and Armentières. But because the Allies hold the plateau of Viller-Cotterets and the massif of Chateau Thierry, he is straining every nerve to get round them along the valleys of the Oureq and the Marne, and is certain to hurl in fresh masses of troops in the effort to win them. But so far he has thrown fifty divisions into it without gaining his immediate objective. Paris, or either of his two remoter objectives, the separation of the Franco-British forces or a drive to the coast. Such strategical advances as he can claim will, ultimately, benefit him little, because the almost limitless resources of the United States are still to be thrown into the struggle on the side of the Entente Powers. Nevertheless, our losses in men, guns, munitions, and stores are considerable enough to cause anxiety as to their bearing on the progress of the struggle during the summer. It is all very well to talk now of the enemy's interior lines, narrow zone of concentration, the railway system of a continent behind him, and all his other advantages. We knew those when Russia fell out of the war, and did not realise the use he intended to make of them. What we have to do now is to recover our lost initiative.

A New Battle Begun.

The enemy, unable to dislodge the Franco-British from Chateau Thierry and Villers-Cotterets, which prevented the extension of the salient either at its base or apex, is delivering a new thrust between Montdidier and Noyon. It is a more difficult line on which to advance than the Oise-Marne line, because of the natural fortresses in detached masses of rising ground, that lie at the head of the valley of the Oise, through which runs the great railway and road to Paris. The two previous offensives may have been intended to seize both flanks, but these having failed a front attack is launched, the immediate objective being Compiègne, with its sheltering forest and lateral railway communications with Soissons.

The American Effort.

It must be a source of pride and satisfaction to the United States that the Allies confidently rely upon her aid for the recovery of their lost initiative. Like ourselves, she has been disappointed in the preparation of her Armies, but Mr. Baker's promise in April last has been fulfilled. There are 700,000 American troops of Admirable quality in Europe, and those in the fighting-line are holding a larger area of ground than the Belgians. As for the arrangements for their despatch and escort across the Atlantic Ocean, they have been most effective. In France, American troops are showing that they can fight well, that they have learned all that the war can teach them, and that they can

put it into practice. For on May 26th they made a brilliant surprise attack on the enemy at Cantigny, a bridge-head in the Montdidier sector which is of cardinal importance. On a front of a mile and a half they carried enemy positions against a strong resistance as if they were veterans, and consolidated their gains so quickly that all counter-attacks were foiled. Last week, in another part of the line, American troops aided the French to throw back across the river Germans who had bridged the Marne with pontoons near Jaulgonne. Again, north-west of Chateau Thierry, Americans played a fine part in clearing the enemy from Neuilly Wood.

On the Italian Front.

In the Italian theatre our Allies have not awaited the threatened offensive, but have launched one "on their own," inflicting reverses on the right, centre, and left of the Austro-German lines. In the Monte Corno, the Tonale Pass, and the Lower Piave sectors, not only have important positions been taken, and many prisoners and guns, but General Diaz has been able to glean much useful information as to the enemy dispositions. The Tonale gains are particularly valuable, including as they do the Zigolon summit, together with the underlying spur of the Maricche, the lake basin of Presena, the Monticello Pass and the spur to the east of it.

A Greek Success.

The new Greek spirit recently made itself felt on the Balkan front in a fine feat of arms. According to a Bulgarian report, which was not likely to err on the side of exaggeration, several Venizelist divisions, reinforced by a division of the Greek Regular Army, and supported by French artillery, succeeded in carrying the strong enemy positions of Stradi Legen on a front of eight miles and to a depth of over a mile, capturing 1,700 Bulgarian and German prisoners, including 33 officers. The ground thus occupied has been held against counter-attacks. To the Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, the incident must be a source of profound gratification, and a promise of bigger things to come. On this front our airmen are ceaselessly active.

The War at Sea.

The nation has to deplore the loss of a British transport, the *Leasowe Castle* having been torpedoed in the Mediterranean by a German submarine. The loss of life totalled 101.

"U"-boats have appeared on the eastern coast of the United States, and already many schooners and at least one large ship have been sunk. Evidently Germany believes that her submarines, which have so signally failed to prevent the transport of American troops to France, may have some chance of dealing destruction by widening the radius of their operations in an area where the offensive-defensive is not so well organised. Her object is (1) to hamper America's military effort; (2) to induce her to withdraw naval forces from European waters in order to deal with a peril at her own doors. But, as usual in making her cal-

culations on the possible actions of a free people, Germany is at fault.

The output of new construction for May is highly satisfactory, totalling 197,274 tons, an increase over the output for April of nearly 86,000 tons. Evidently the efforts made to reduce the period between the launching and the completion of merchantmen by closer co-operation between shipbuilders and marine engineers are successful.

In the Air.

The Pope, who had nothing to say when the enemy raided our coast on Christmas Day and bombed a great church in Paris full of worshippers on Good Friday, asked the British Government for a "truce" on Corpus Christi Day for the benefit of Cologne, and, without securing any reciprocal concession from the Germans, the request was granted. Now, Cologne guards one of the main links in Germany's communications with the Western Front, and lately has suffered much from Allied aerial activities. A day's respite was, therefore, certain to be used by the German High Command in pushing forward men, munitions, and supplies. On the same day enemy aviators bombed a large British hospital, well in the rear of our lines, and so prominent for position that every German aviator must have known all about it. Not only were there heavy casualties through explosives, but through the fire, which gutted one section. To intensify the horror of the situation, one of the three raiders returned later and deliberately subjected to machine-gun fire the nurses and doctors who were trying to rescue patients from the fire. On the same day, too, heavier shells than ever fell on Paris, fired by the German long-range gun (Big Bertha). What has the Pope to say to these outrages on Corpus Christi Day?

The Admiralty reports successful operations by the R.A.F. against Zeebrugge and Mariakerke on May 23rd to 26th, during which bombs were observed to fall close to the lock gates, and on Zeebrugge and Bruges a few days later, when great damage was done to the engineering works at Bruges. Photographic reconnaissance shows clearly a submarine or other vessel lying on her bilge close to the Mole at Zeebrugge, probably sunk by one of our ships on the night of the naval raid, and a destroyer about 300 yards from the Mole, believed to have been sunk by an aerial bomb on May 20th.

Karlsruhe has again been raided, and, in spite of strong opposition from enemy aircraft, our aviators dropped over a ton of explosives on the station and works.

The war in the air is increasing steadily. Not only has the enemy produced a new machine, but giant aeroplanes of old types with four motors. Moreover, his aviators are showing increased daring and persistence, appearing over the British lines in fairly large numbers on moonlight nights.

(To be continued.)

H.M. TRADE COMMISSIONER for the West Indies will, in his capacity as Commercial Attaché, rank with, but after, First Secretary in the Diplomatic Service. His status in relation to the Colonial service, it would seem, has not yet been defined.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Imperial Preference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

The half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee was held at the Colonial Office, Downing Street, at 4.45 p.m. on Thursday, June 6th. Sir Everard im Thurn presided, and the company present included Her Highness Princess Marie Louise, Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, Sir George Le Hunte, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., Sir Owen Phillips, Sir Sydney Olivier, Sir William Goode, Lady Cameron, Lady Davson, Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Barchard, Major G. V. C. Gane, Mr. H. F. Previte, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Bromley, Mr. A. Fiddian, Mr. C. F. Plant, Miss Hawkes, Miss Moseley, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Sec.

Sir Everard im Thurn's Speech.

In moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts for the half-year ended December 31st, Sir Everard im Thurn said:

Before formally moving the adoption of the half-yearly report of the West Indian Contingent Committee, it is my pleasant duty to welcome, on your behalf, Princess Marie Louise and other of the ladies who, having been good enough to come to the help of the work of the actual Committee, are now kind enough to come and listen to our half-yearly talk. We are especially honoured by the presence of our Patroness.

As regards the Report (which I trust you have all seen), I shall not enter into any details as to figures—but shall leave that, important as it is, to the Treasurers, who will second this motion, and shall confine myself to a very brief statement for the purposes of this Committee.

The Committee was originally formed on 30th August, 1915, at the instance of Mr. Bonar Law—then Secretary of State for the Colonies. The first detachment of West Indian soldiers reached this country a few months later. This was of course well on in the second year of the war: and the explanation of the fact that our West Indian fellow subjects had not come sooner is simply that till then they had to stop at home to protect their own Islands from German raiders.

The object of the Committee was—to put it briefly—to look after the comfort (not the military discipline) of these then few men and to keep alive, as well as might be, the home ties of those who had come, or might come, so far to the help of the Empire. It should be remembered that from the first we undertook to watch not only the interests of the British West Indies Regiment (into which the men who were sent by the various Colonial Governments were embodied), but also (and this has proved a much more difficult task) the interests of the very numerous men who have come over independently of the Colonial Governments and have been scattered and have scattered themselves very widely through the Imperial Forces.

The Nature of the Work Done.

The Committee—or rather those that did the actual work for them—had to find ways to do an infinite number of small and great kindnesses to these strangers from distant places who were thus thrown into an entire set of circumstances quite new to them and but recently experienced by us. We undertook to look after them when in training (in camps at home and abroad); when sent on foreign service to Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Africa, France, and I hardly know where else; when in hospital, at home or abroad; when "on leave"; and under other countless circumstances.

The task thus undertaken was big, and required, at least from those who actually did the detailed work, great and continued effort, great patience, and especially great delicacy of touch.

This is not the opportunity to speak of the great mass of detail work done, and I believe very efficiently done,

by our Hon. Secretary and the staff immediately under him. But outside the office, though in connection with it, there has been much good work done—and, may I say it, there is opportunity for more—in providing comforts for the sick, in visiting the sick, and in many other ways especially calling for the delicacy and kindness of a woman's touch.

That is why we invited the Ladies' Committees, both here and in the West Indies, to come to our help. We thank them most heartily for the great and efficient help which they have already given us—and, like Oliver Twist—we ask for more. I believe that the most useful thing I can do to-day is to ask for more of that help which they alone can properly give.

Do not let anyone discourage you by telling you that all the comforts really needed by our Regiment can be and are most readily and efficiently supplied by my friend the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations. That statement, as far as it goes—and no one knows this better than I do—is true. But even that most beneficent "universal provider" cannot—and would not pretend to—supply the countless West Indians scattered through other regiments with just the things, and in just the way, that makes the soldier feel that he has friends in England. That is one part of our work which we cannot do through the Director; that, and such arduous but pleasant duties as visiting the sick, is the part of the work which we can best do through our ladies' committees.

Only may I suggest that a more complete organisation of the ladies' committees should be attempted, and a more convenient settlement of their relations to the main Committee.

Better Recognition for West Indians.

I have left myself no time to speak of other matters. But I should just like to say that a somewhat delicate and difficult task in which, by the courtesy of the Military Authorities, this main Committee has been allowed to take part is in securing better recognition for and treatment of the West Indian soldier, who though generally a man of colour, is of a very different educational and social status from the West African and some other soldiers from the Crown Colonies. I would also have liked to say something of the fact, deeply impressed on my mind, that, though we seem to have plenty of funds in hand for present purposes, we have not enough for the time of repatriation to which we are all looking forward. That, however, will, I hope, be dealt with by the later speakers.

COLONEL SIR EDWARD WARD, seconding the motion, said that he was in full agreement with what the chairman had said as to the need of economising their fund. The Committee had so far been able to meet all the demands made upon it. But he knew from his experience at the War Office that cases of hardship were apt to arise which no official regulations would cover and that at the end of the war the number of men needing assistance would greatly increase. He acted as a kind of *liaison* officer between the Committee and the War Office and he could state that the value of the services of the British West Indies Regiment were very fully appreciated by the Army Council.

Our Hon. Treasurer's Speech.

MR. PREVITE said that he had been told that later on at the meeting his appointment as a member of the General Committee and as one of the Hon. Treasurers would be submitted for confirmation. It seemed odd, then, that prior to such confirmation he should address them on behalf of the Hon. Treasurers. That was the arrangement and he could not explain it away. However, he was co-opted as an Hon. Treasurer four months ago, and as his engagements allowed of his meeting Mr. Aspinall at an hour convenient to both four times a week, he had during those months become as interested in the work of the Committee and the administration of its funds as those who had been longer associated with it. The accounts over the signatures of the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., did not require explanation. But a few words summarising the four statements of the fund yet issued might be interesting. Since the opening of the fund donations on general account, i.e., at the free disposal of the Committee, had amounted to £6,781.

Donations for special purposes, allocated to particular objects or for the assistance of men from a particular Colony amounted to £2,475. In addition to this, Flag Day receipts—there had only been one Flag Day for the fund and that was not in London but in the West Indies—had amounted, up to December 31st, 1917, to £2,592.

Of the total funds, roughly 25 per cent. of the total had been contributed by Trinidad—a fact of which he was proud as that was the island with which he was connected. In addition to that 25 per cent. the Hon. Secretary had been entrusted with the administration of a special fund collected by Mrs. L. M. Hobson, of San Fernando, particularly for the benefit of Trinidad men, amounting to £785.

It was a feature of the work of this Committee that they had been entrusted with no less a sum than £1,650 of what was called trust funds—money paid in by the men themselves or by relatives on their behalf. These funds were doled out as wisely as possible, and undoubtedly it was a good thing that there was always the helpful friend at 15, Seething Lane to advise men as to spending their money. Let them have a good time by all means when they did get a chance, but as wise a good time as possible.

The Committee had also loaned in all on special cases £450, of which £300 had been repaid, and the rest was regarded with a very proper spirit of hopefulness.

It must be remembered that those loans were in most cases in very small sums and each was considered individually by the Hon. Secretary.

Since the close of the year the meeting would be glad to hear that £1,242 had been received from Jamaica on account of its Flag Day—there the arrangements were under the care of Mrs. Clarence Brown, formerly of Trinidad. Further, £160 had been received from the Bahamas—not a wealthy colony—and much credit was due to the efforts of Lady Allardyce and Mrs. Mendez. The Flag Day to date in all the Colonies had shown a net profit—for even the best managed flag day entailed some expense—of £3,979.

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

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER then rose to move the appointment of Mr. H. P. Preville as Hon. Treasurer and a member of the Committee.

It might, he said, be asked why four treasurers were needed, but he could assure them that the position was no sinecure as each had his particular duties to perform. Sir Edward Ward was a great asset in contributing towards the solvency and efficiency of the Committee, while Mr. Rutherford had devoted much time and work to it, and was constantly in demand for signing cheques. He himself was, he hoped, not an inefficient understudy. But the work was increasing so enormously that it was helpful to have someone like Mr. Preville, who could be in constant touch with the Secretary. He believed that people in the West Indies would be surprised if they realised the volume of good work which was now being transacted. Since they last met, local Committees had been formed in nearly every West Indian colony.

The Jamaica Recruiting Committee.

In conclusion, Sir Sydney said that he was glad to have the opportunity of testifying to the admirable work which was being done in the West Indies in connection with the War Contingent, in the formation of which Jamaica had taken the lead through its local Recruiting Committee, to the value of the services of which body he was glad to testify.

SIR WILLIAM MANNING endorsed what Sir Sydney Olivier had said as to what was being done in the West Indies in support of the Contingents. In Jamaica there were really only two funds which appealed to the public, the Red Cross and the Contingents' Comforts Fund, and he paid a tribute to the willing hand of workers who had made the local Flag Day in aid of the Contingent Fund such a success. With regard to the chairman's remarks as to the need there would be for funds after the war, he was under the impression that the Colonies would do all that was necessary for the wounded after the war.

SIR EVERARD IN THURN then pointed out that his remarks had reference to the men who had come over independently, and as an example of the calls which might

be made on the fund, he instanced the case of three young men whom the Committee had—eventually—repatiated. These men had been twice torpedoed and had once been in collision, which necessitated the provision of several outfits for them besides board and lodging over an extended period.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

LIEUT.-COL. A. E. BARCHARD, commanding a battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, who had just arrived from the Western Front, gave some account of what the Regiment had been doing. He thanked the Committee for helping to provide for the comfort of all ranks. Everything that had been asked for had been supplied, and what was needed more than anything else was gaiters, socks and warm gloves for the winter.

MAJOR V. G. F. GANE, officer in charge of the Records of the British West Indies Regiment, said that these had been kept by a Staff of the Regiment for the past eighteen months, during which period he had been in charge of the section; great improvement had been noticed lately in the way information from the various battalions had been received. The meeting would be glad to hear that the Regiment was doing all it was being called upon to do. The 1st and 2nd Battalions had both received the congratulations of Divisional Generals and I.G.C.'s for the work they had done. The other Battalions and detachments had at various times been spoken very highly of by the Generals and other officers who had had them under their command.

Decorations Won by the B.W.I.R.

The Regiment since its formation had received many decorations, including 3 Military Crosses, 1 Distinguished Conduct Medal, 23 Military Medals, 1 Bar to Military Medal, and 6 Humane Society Medals for saving life, whilst one man had died whilst trying to save a comrade. In all thirty-two commissions have been granted to men in the Regiment, and many men had received personal congratulations from the Commander-in-Chief for having classified "Distinguished" at various courses. Six officers and eight other ranks had been mentioned in Despatches. Taking everything into consideration the Regiment had plenty to be proud of. The following casualties had occurred:—Officers: 2 killed, 1 died of wounds, 6 died of disease, 5 wounded. Other Ranks: 88 killed, 80 died of wounds, 650 died of disease, 509 wounded, 68 gassed.

In sports the Regiment had always more than held its own. One of the Battalions last year played 31 cricket matches, with the following results: 28 wins, 1 draw, 2 matches lost. Only one team managed to score over 100 runs against them, and three of their men were chosen to play in representative matches, and without boasting it is quite safe to say won the matches for the side they were playing for. Private Jordan, of Barbados, in the same Battalion, won 3 silver cups for swimming, two firsts and one second. The two firsts were won at the Naval and Military Swimming Sports at 66 and 133 yards for the Championships of those distances, and the 2nd prize for the 2,000 yards District Championship, open to all comers.

He would like to tell the Committee how very much the men appreciated the presents and gifts which had been forwarded at various times, but he shared the view of the Committee that the practice of making gifts to individual contingents and persons had not a good effect, making a great deal of extra work in tracing the men, while in some cases the gifts were not received till some months after it was intended they should be received. He knew of a man whose gift followed him to three battalions, and one detachment, and did not reach him till seven months after it was received at the Expeditionary Force, and he thought that the Contingent Committee would do well if it informed the various Colonies and Islands that it would be for the betterment of the men if all gifts were pooled, as it was understood that all the boys were doing their bit: facing the same work, hardships, trials and privations with the same good feeling which characterised the cheerful spirit of the British West Indies Soldier.

The proceedings were then brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was moved by Sir Owen Philipps, M.P., seconded by Sir William Grey-Wilson, and carried unanimously.

CONTINGENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We publish below the Report of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended December 31st, 1917, which is signed by Sir Everard im Thurn, Chairman, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Deputy-Chairman, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Hon. Secretary.

The Committee begs to submit to the subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the six months ended December 31st, 1917.

During the period under review donations to the amount of £629 15s. 4d. were received and a sum of £774 6s. was entrusted to the Committee for expenditure in accordance with the specific directions of the donors. On December 31st the balance to the credit of the Contingent Fund was £3,326 14s. 5d.

The half-yearly meeting was held at the Colonial Office on November 15th and was attended by His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., the then Governor of Jamaica, on his return from a visit to the British West Indies Regiment on the Western Front.

The West Indian Flag Day, which was organised by local Committees on behalf of the West Indian Contingent Fund, was held on various dates in the undermentioned Colonies with the results shown:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------|-------|----|----|
| July 2nd—British Guiana | 1,012 | 11 | 7 |
| July 22nd-23rd—Barbados | 525 | 3 | 6 |
| June 30th—Trinidad | 267 | 12 | 8 |
| July 13th—Antigua | 120 | 15 | 7 |
| August 4th—St. Kitts-Nevis | 138 | 8 | 6 |
| July 18th—Montserrat | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| September 7th—Grenada | 229 | 0 | 9 |
| August 18th—St. Lucia | 56 | 13 | 1 |
| August 1st—St. Vincent | 210 | 4 | 4 |

At the close of the year the results from the Bahamas, Jamaica and Dominica were still awaited. The Committee is much indebted to those ladies and gentlemen who so kindly helped to make the Flag Day a success.

The volume of work undertaken by the Committee showed a further marked expansion which is reflected by the increase in the postage and cable accounts, and by the numbers of men calling at the West India Committee Rooms for assistance or advice, which is always ungrudgingly given. The latter forms no small part of the activities of the Hon. Secretary and Staff. In the opinion of the Committee this personal attention to new arrivals, to men in hospitals, to men in any form of trouble or to those who are merely lonely in a strange land is one of the most useful parts of its work.

Some hundreds of parcels of comforts were sent to men at the front and in hospital, and among the articles purchased in addition and distributed besides many hundreds of thousands of cigarettes were:—

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Handkerchiefs | 10,608 |
| Soap (cakes) | 16,160 |
| Badges | 2,105 |
| Articles of Clothing | 1,333 |
| Writing Pads | 708 |
| Safety Razors | 140 |
| Cigarette Lighters | 72 |
| Hampers | 48 |
| Parcels of Fruit | 44 |
| Musical Instruments | 50 |
| Games | 54 |
| Typewriters | 5 |

The number of parcels sent to the Committee to be re-addressed and forwarded to their destination showed a notable increase, and the work of checking the whereabouts of the addressees, repacking the parcels which, unfortunately, is still necessary in most instances, and clearing dutiable gifts under arrangement with the Commissioners of Customs was considerable. It is not unusual for from 2,000 to 3,000 letters and parcels to be dealt with in a single month.

For the purpose of storing men's civilian clothing and

effects and for packing parcels it became necessary to lease a special room.

Board and lodging was provided for 205 men on leave, discharged from hospital or awaiting enlistment at various clubs, including the Union Jack Club, the Y.M.C.A., the Peel House Club, and the Victoria League Club, with which special arrangements have been made.

At Christmas the Committee presented cigarette cases bearing the regimental badge, and also cigarettes to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment, and pocket wallets suitably inscribed to all officers and men who came over from the British West Indies independently, whose addresses could be traced.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise honoured with her presence the annual meeting of the Ladies' Committee held at the residence of Lady Davson on November 27th, the Countess of Stanford presiding. It was reported that over 15,000 garments, etc., had been collected and distributed. The Work Parties which are now organised by Mrs. Bromley were held fortnightly and resulted in the addition of many useful articles to the supply of comforts.

The Committee acceded to all requests for badges, musical instruments, games, insecticides, etc., from the Commanding Officers of the British West Indies Regiment for their respective Battalions, which were also supplied with books and magazines by arrangement with the Camps' Library to whose funds a contribution was made.

In the autumn the Committee was able to place an adequate supply of warm comforts at the disposal of each Battalion of the Regiment in France through the courtesy of the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, to whose fund it contributed one hundred guineas.

The Committee urged that the privilege of Honorary Membership of the Royal Club for Officers from beyond the Seas enjoyed by Officers of Colonial Contingents might be extended to Officers ordinarily domiciled overseas but serving during the War in Imperial Regiments. This concession has been granted. Whilst expressing its indebtedness to the Royal Club, the Committee desires also to thank the West Indian Club and the Junior Naval and Military Club which afforded hospitality to Officers from the British West Indies.

Seven further detachments of the Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent and of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent arrived in England during the period under review. The total strength of these two Contingents is now 229 and 68 men respectively. With most of these the Committee is now in personal touch. In several instances medical attendance was provided for men prior to enlistment.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The Controller of Supplies in a letter to the West India Committee, dated May 7th, in continuation of the correspondence regarding sulphate of ammonia for the British West Indies, states that owing to the restriction placed on the use of gas and coal it must be expected that there will be a considerable decrease in the quantities available for home agriculture and export. In the circumstances the quantity of sulphate of ammonia which will be available for export must necessarily be restricted, but the Department hopes to be able to sanction the export to British Guiana of 3,500 tons, and to the West Indian Islands of 1,750 tons, as follows:

| | During June & August. | During Sept. & November. | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| British Guiana | 1,500 | 2,000 | 3,500 |
| West Indian Islands | 1,750 | | 1,750 |

The quantities actually licensed last year were 3,175 tons for British Guiana and 1,782 tons for the Islands, against the average annual imports of 7,600 tons and 3,600 tons respectively. It is to be regretted that owing to the dislocation of mail com-

munication, due to the War, replies have not yet been received from all the agricultural bodies in the West Indies to the West India Committee letter of March 6th (see CIRCULAR, March 7th), in which various particulars as to the area under cane, etc., were asked for. Those relating to British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, and St. Kitts are to hand, while those from Antigua and St. Lucia are still awaited.

The Barbados Agricultural Society decided that as the planters did not, with one or two exceptions, import their sulphate of ammonia, but bought it from the merchants who import it, it would be best to continue these arrangements, and they accordingly cabled the island requirements together with the importers' names and their London agents, but they omitted to cable the acreage under cane for which the sulphate of ammonia is required, and this has necessitated a reference back to the Society, as it is obvious that without those figures no equitable allocation of supplies among the various islands will be possible.

GOVERNMENT AND CANE SUGAR.

The Prime Minister, in a letter to Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Chairman of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, says he is fully alive to the seriousness of the position of the sugar-growing industry of the British Empire, and that it is proposed shortly to bring before the War Cabinet certain proposals for dealing with one of the vital questions affecting the future of this industry.

Mr. Lloyd George adds that the Colonial Office is prepared at any time to discuss with duly accredited representatives of the cane-sugar industry any scheme they may propound for dealing with technical and scientific research in connection with this industry after the war; that the Department has under consideration a scheme for the erection of central factories in Jamaica after the war, and is always glad to consider proposals for central factories in other Colonies in which they appear to be required; and that the important question of providing facilities for obtaining machinery after the war has not been overlooked.

The colour problem in Canada, as represented by the case of West Indians as medical students, has been revived once more. The *Argosy* (Demerara) reproduces the following extract from a newspaper published at Kingston, Ontario:—

"Owing to the objection of some people to receiving intimate personal services from negro students in the hospital clinics, and the inability of Queen's University to furnish them with adequate clinical instruction so as to graduate them properly, it has been decided that no more negro students will be admitted to the medical college. There are now fourteen negro medical students at Queen's. These will be allowed to complete their fourth year, but will not be able to continue with their fifth, owing to the fact that the greatest amount of clinical work has to be done in this year. In the meantime no more negro medical students will be admitted to the university. There are at present a total of sixteen negro students in the university, and of these fourteen will be affected by the new ruling."

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUT. ALEXANDER FRASER, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, who was posted "missing" on November 30th last, and is now officially reported to have been killed in action on that date, was born at Inverness, and went to British Guiana at the age of 18 as overseer to Blairmont, in Berbice. He was afterwards appointed factory manager at Waterloo, in Trinidad. At the outbreak of war he held the post of cultivation manager of the Cartavio Sugar Estates, Trujillo, Peru, on a five years' contract. After a year he threw up his work to join the Army. On arrival in London he joined Lovat's Scouts as a trooper. He was offered a Commission several times, but preferred to go to the front as a private. He went to France attached to the Cameron Highlanders, and came home early last year to train for a Commission. He went out again in September as a Lieutenant in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and was killed in action on November 30th at the early age of 32 years.

LIEUT. K. J. KNAGGS, who was reported missing on March 16th, is now generally believed to be dead. "Jack" Knaggs, who was a great favourite, was the son of the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, and of Mrs. Knaggs. Born in Trinidad, he was educated at Ridway's (Birmingham), Tonbridge, and Birmingham University, where he was a keen and active member of the O.T.C. At the outbreak of war he was studying petroleum mining, but as soon as he reached military age—which he did during his first session—he joined the Army, obtaining a Commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. After a few months' training he secured a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, and was ultimately selected to join the famous "Ball's Squadron," with which he was flying when Captain Ball was killed. "Jack" Knaggs showed all that daring and indifference to danger which made Ball the airman he was, and he was considered one of the most intrepid and experienced aviators. On March 16th—his fatal day—he had done extraordinarily well in a fight with enemy scouts, and was gallantly attacking a two-seater when his machine, being hit in a vital spot, was seen to crumple up and fall to earth. So ended the career of this dashing young airman, who died as he would have wished—in the service of his country. Major Balcombe Brown, in a letter to Mr. Knaggs, wrote: "When he arrived here for the second time there was only one other pilot who had been in the squadron last year; but all of us soon got to know him and admire him. As an original member . . . he was naturally placed on a pedestal, and then, as soon as we saw his work and realised how good he was at it, and how terribly dashing he was, he went up more than ever in our estimation. To the squadron he was one of the heaviest losses we ever had. . . . He was such a good lad and one of the type that one so seldom gets nowadays." Another brother officer wrote: "It is not often that such a jolly fellow and cheerful companion is posted to a squadron. Although he was only with us a short time, he was loved by everyone."

DIED OF SICKNESS.

LIEUTENANT NEVILLE GRELL, only son of the late Mr. Ellis Grell, of Trinidad, B.W.I., has died after a brief illness at the Station Hospital, Landour, India. Educated at Clifton College, Lieutenant Grell spent several years in Canada, where he held a Commission in the British Columbia Horse. This he resigned on the outbreak of war and enlisted in Strathcona's Horse, arriving in England early in 1915. Having obtained a Commission, he was gazetted to the 10th and then 1st and 2nd Battalions, West Yorkshire Regiment, and was wounded at Ypres. In August, 1917, he joined the Indian Army, and had only been a few months at Jhelum. Lieutenant Grell was 26 years of age.

A further list of names of West Indians serving their King and Country, is unavoidably held over to next CIRCULAR.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The British West Indies Regiment were singled out for special praise in an Order issued by the Italian General in Command of a certain town where they were stationed. Speaking of the cordial relations existing between the British and Italian troops, he referred to the courteous and friendly attitude of the West Indians to the Italian officers and men, which had "greatly enhanced the spirit of co-operation so essential at this time."

The West Indies' part in the world-war is dealt with in the 237th chapter of "The Times History," which was published on June 4th. The article, which is fully illustrated, contains the best—if not the only—account of the formation and work of the British West Indies Regiment that has yet been published. From the historical point of view it is, however, unfortunately marred by several inaccuracies, one of which puts the Bahamas instead of the Bermuda Contingent into the Lincoln Regiment.

The following officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of the British West Indies Regiment were mentioned in Sir Herbert Plumer's despatches.

Allan, T./Capt. A. T.; Gallwey, T./Lt. R. P.; Goldsworthy, T./Sec. Lt. W. R.; Henderson, T./Lt. (A./Capt.) A. M.; Lange, T./Capt. G. E.; Mills, T./Sec. Lt. J. D. Chapman, 11605 Sgt. (A./C.S.M.) J.; Da Costa, 9934 Sgt. H.; Green, 10052 Sgt. B.; Miller, 4675 Sgt. L. N.; Nelson, 4389 Sgt. A. T.

The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:—

Mrs. Donald McDonald: 24 comfort bags.
Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Bahamas: 3 prs. socks, 2 mufflers, 1 chest protector, 1 helmet.
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 2 prs. socks.
Mrs. Hancock: 4 mufflers.
Mrs. Alleyne: 3 prs. socks, 12 handkerchiefs, 12 treasure bags.
Lady Sendall: 5 prs. socks.
Capt. Fielden: 4 prs. socks.
Lully Hayes Saddler: 1 pr. socks.
Bahamian League of the Cross of Geneva: 8 doz. prs. socks for Bahamian men.
Antigua Knitting Class, per Miss M. Hamilton Carrie: Mrs. B. W. McDonald: 1 pr. socks.
Miss E. Bell: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Stretch: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Auchinleck: 2 prs. socks.
Miss Lilla Johnson: 1 pr. socks.
Miss M. Branch: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Lake: 1 pr. socks.
Mrs. Jose Anjo: 1 belt.
Miss Nellie Sutherland: 1 comforter.

The members of the 15th Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent, which arrived on April 25th, have now all joined up with the exception of Clive Bynoe (who originally came over with the first Contingent in 1915, was discharged as unfit, and then came over again), who has been rejected on medical grounds, E. L. Hatt, and F. Sellier (who join up on Monday next).

Their names and units are as follows:—

W. H. Bushe, Royal Air Force.
Cecil B. O'Connor, Royal Air Force.
Roland J. De Verteuil, Royal Air Force.
Leslie J. de Silva, Royal Air Force.
W. S. Braham, Royal Field Artillery.
Lionel Contant, Royal Field Artillery.
Noble Marques, Royal Field Artillery.
Garnet Summa's, Royal Field Artillery.
Hugh Spencer, Royal Field Artillery.

F. Maingot, who arrived on March 23rd, has not, after all, joined the R.A.F., as reported in a recent CIRCULAR, but the Army Service Corps.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut R. G. Brice (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. E. V. Solomon.

BARBADOS.—S. Atwell, H. S. Batson, A. G. W. Browne, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, E. B. Carmichael, H. W. Clarke, Cadet B. A. Culpeper, R. A. Collins, L. A. Davis, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Farmer, Pte. W. L. Hutchinson, H. C. Laurie, L/Bdr. H. S. Phillips, Pte. W. A. Proverbs, 2nd Lieut. H. O. Ramsey, 2nd Lieut. E. D. Redman, 2nd Lieut. H. D. Weatherhead.

BRITISH GUIANA.—2nd Lieut. L. S. Davis (B.W.I.R.), L/Cpl. A. G. Ferreira (B.W.I.R.), L/Cpl. W. Harrison (B.W.I.R.), L/Cpl. N. G. G. Thomas (B.W.I.R.).

DOMINICA.—Pte. H. Frampton, Lieut. F. B. B. Shand. JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. G. D. Burrows (B.W.I.R.), Pte. H. L. Caseley (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. J. A. E. R. Daley, Lieut. L. G. Hairs, Lieut. E. N. Mais, L/Cpl. G. Malabre, 2nd Lieut. J. Kennan, 2nd Lieut. A. Whitson Perry.

ST. KITTS.—2nd Lieut. P. E. Regan. TRINIDAD.—Lieut. F. G. Burslem, Trpr. F. O. Fabey, Lieut. J. H. L. Farfan, Trpr. H. de C. Gillzean, Pte. P. Geoffroy, Lieut. J. E. A. Kernahan, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Lieut. P. O. Rooks, F. Villarroel.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—New Archdeacon.

It is officially announced that the Rev Canon Skeete, rector of St. Peter, has been appointed Archdeacon of Barbados, and the Rev. H. A. Dalton, D.D., a Canon of St. Michael's Cathedral.

The island has made yet another appeal to the philanthropic and patriotic—this time on behalf of King George's Fund for Sailors.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Red Cross Fund.

A Bill has been drafted for the establishment of a new Board of Education.—The *Daily Argosy* announces that it has been served with a writ for libel on behalf of the Mayor of Georgetown (Hon. Nelson Cannon), who claims \$10,000 damages.—A dividend of 6 per cent. was announced at a general meeting of Chapman's, Ltd.—In the course of his address to the Diocesan Synod, the Archbishop of the West Indies (Dr. Parry) mentioned that during the year he had been offered, but had declined, the See of Trinidad. His Grace also alluded to the growing co-operation between clergy and people in the development of the soil and in regard to the new Loan Bills.

The amount subscribed to the British Red Cross Society up to May 1st was \$62,434.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Postmaster's Death.

HON. G. B. GRAHAM, May 6th.—The Colony has been unfortunate lately in losing by death Captain Hulse, Postmaster, and Mr. Eli Shore. Captain Hulse had done many years' splendid service both officially and as a member of the Territorial Force, and also as an active supporter in all Church matters. His untimely death will be keenly felt by many. Mr. Eli Shore came to the Colony about two years ago and was just beginning to make his influence felt as Editor of the *Clarion*. We are having a prolonged dry season, and there is a great deal of trouble and anxiety over the water supply. Our mail service is more irregular than ever; it is three weeks since we have had any letters or papers, and those only gave us news up to March 20th. With a weekly boat running alternately from Mobile and New Orleans there ought to be no difficulty in getting a weekly mail, and most of us think the New Orleans postal authorities and the United Fruit Co. could easily arrange this for us if they took a little trouble to do so. Our wireless news is almost as bad, and for the past three weeks we have had only two or three bulletins, so we only have the faintest idea of what has been happening.

JAMAICA—United States and Bananas.

The island has been disturbed by a report that the United States Government have decided to restrict the importation of bananas into that country. The banana planters have conferred, and it is believed that the matter will be taken up with the Washington Government and an effort made to have the restriction removed.

A new Moravian Church has been consecrated in Kingston by Bishop Westphal.

TRINIDAD—Cocoa Shipments.

The shipments of Trinidad cocoa during the month of April were as follows:—

| Destination. | Weight in lbs |
|------------------------|---------------|
| To all countries | 8,300,808 |
| Total for April | 8,300,808 |
| Shipped previously | 16,863,202 |
| Total from 1st January | 25,164,010 |
| 1917 | 44,024,259 |
| 1916 | 27,960,101 |
| 1915 | 30,704,080 |
| 1914 | 41,844,691 |
| 1913 | 27,503,212 |
| 1912 | 30,702,105 |
| 1911 | 23,689,791 |
| 1910 | 25,498,039 |
| 1909 | 25,101,356 |
| 1908 | 23,558,790 |

TURKS ISLAND—All Industries at a Standstill.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—Owing to the uncertain shipping facilities, every industry in the Dependency is at a standstill. The food situation now seems to be on a firmer basis, and is more satisfactory. The bulk of the imports are now under Government control, and with care all should be well. Mr. Cameron and Mr. C. E. Frith have arrived from New York, the former on his annual visit to Jacksonville, East Caicos, to inspect his sisal plantations there. Mr. Frith returns after having undergone several operations in New York. The alterations and improvements to the (Old Poor House) "Manning Hospital" are progressing favourably, although somewhat retarded by the non-arrival of supplies from the United States. The telephone system is giving satisfaction.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Sugar Bounty Agitation.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I send the percentage curve of average yearly proceeds of two sugar plantations in Barbados during quinquennial periods before and since the operation of the Brussels Convention, 1902. The provisions of that Convention closed the anti-bounty agitation in this country. It reinstated our national sugar industries in possession of their natural advantages for the production of sugar. The percentage curve is the resultant of all causes; but the variation between the bounty period and the period subsequent is attributable to the cessation of the fiscal forces which had for many years impeded the natural advantages possessed by the Barbados and other West India sugar industries. The Convention was abrogated by the state of war; but its object has been gained.

Gross proceeds from two sugar plantations in Barbados for quinquennial periods 1876-1915:—

| PERCENTAGE CURVE TO STANDARD. | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1876-1880 ... | 100 |
| 1881-1885 ... | 66 |
| 1886-1890 ... | 54 |
| 1891-1895 ... | Zero |
| 1896-1900 ... | 36 |
| *1901-1905 ... | 34 |
| 1906-1910 ... | 75 |
| 1911-1915 ... | 76 |

*The provisions by the Sugar Convention Act, 1903 (a E.W. 7 C. 21), to give effect to the decisions of the Permanent Commission established by Article VII. of the Brussels Convention of 1902 were coming into operation towards the close of this period.

Yours, etc.,
W. P. R. S.

June 3rd, 1918.

A Potential Source of Oil.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—In your CIRCULAR of May 30th, under the head "A Potential Source of Oil," Mr. Cunningham Craig has been reported as having stated in his paper read before the Royal Society of Arts that the scheme proposed by Sir Leslie Probyn had "failed to pass the Legislative Council." I do not know whence this information has come, but I feel sure that it is not correct. Up to the time I left Barbados (March 30th), the Bill had not been considered by the Legislature, but a sum of money had been voted to enable a correct and detailed schedule to be prepared of the very many small landowners in each parish. As the whole Bill depends on this schedule, and it would have been practically impossible to have prepared it since the money was voted, I cannot see how Mr. C. Craig could state that the new Bill had been rejected by the Council.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
S. C. THORNE.

Salcombe, South Devon.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The annual report of this Company is shorter than usual, but the noble part played by the mercantile marine in the War is demonstrated by the long list of names of those members of the sea and shore staffs who have given their lives to King and Country which accompanies it. During the greater part of the year those of the Company's vessels not engaged in war service under the Admiralty were, with one or two minor exceptions, requisitioned by the Ministry of Shipping, and were diverted to a great extent from their usual trade routes. In these abnormal circumstances the accounts afford little opportunity for useful comparison with the results of previous years. Since the last report was issued, three of the Company's vessels have been sunk by enemy action. The Company has acquired an interest in the Argentine Navigation Company. The first of the large steamers under construction for the Company's subsidiary line, R.M.S.P. Meat Transports, Ltd., for the conveyance of chilled and frozen meat, has been completed and has taken up her service. The Court of Directors have appointed His Grace the Duke of Abercorn to be a Director of the Company. No mention is made of the West Indian mail service.

In the course of his speech at the annual meeting on June 5th, Sir Owen Philipps said that the Company's West Indian services had been "inevitably curtailed." There were many signs, however, that favourable developments were possible in the commercial outlook of the British West Indian colonies, as the War was bringing home to our people the importance of making the British Empire self-supporting in the matter of sugar production. The fact that the West Indies were situated on the new sea routes brought into being by the opening of the Panama Canal should also tend to stimulate West Indian trade. It was gratifying to know that the British Government was alive to these possibilities, as evidenced by the recent appointment of a Trade Commissioner to the West Indies under the new Foreign Office and Board of Trade Department of Overseas Trade. As soon as circumstances permitted, the Government might possibly consider it advisable to go still further in the direction of recognising the growing importance of the British West Indian colonies by arranging to pay an adequate subsidy for the maintenance of a suitable mail service between this country and the West Indies. The increasing close co-operation between Canada and the British West Indies in business matters had also an important bearing upon the commercial future of the islands. The Company had been able to maintain regular, though somewhat reduced, facilities for mails, passengers, and cargo between Canada and West Indian ports.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

June 13th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from the 5th April, 1918.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Messrs. Willett & Grey report that the International Committee have continued to purchase May shipment Cubas under the Cuban agreement at 4.985c. c. and f. San Domingos have been sold to Canada at 4.749c. c.i.f. New York. Porto Ricos were purchased rather freely on the basis of 6.005c. c.i.f. New York for shipment during May.

Norway is to receive 50,000 tons of sugar under the trade agreement with the United States.

Messrs. William Connal & Co. report that the import of raw sugar into Clyde from January 1st amounts to 120,778 tons, against 94,891 tons in 1917, and 88,785 tons in 1916, and for the present year comprises 10,754 tons British West India, 590 tons Brazil, 67,098 tons Cuba, 31,686 tons Java, 9,050 tons other foreign cane sugar, and 1,600 tons beetroot. The meltings for home consumption in the Clyde during the past five months have been 95,964 tons, against 91,193 tons in 1917, and 87,490 tons in 1916. Those for the three ports of London, Liverpool, and Clyde (according to trade circulars) during the same period have been 372,589 tons, against 328,353 tons in 1917, and 344,220 tons in 1916. The stock of raw sugar in Clyde is now 35,258 tons, against 6,841 tons in 1917, and 6,130 tons in 1916. That in the three ports is 160,490 tons, against 46,245 tons in 1917, and 35,481 tons in 1916.

A message from the *Times* Amsterdam correspondent published on May 30th serves as a reminder that our sugar shortage is not due to lack of supplies, but to difficulties of transportation. "Dutch Indian plantation circles," he wrote, "have lately been greatly depressed owing to the reduced consumption of sugar in Allied countries and to restricted shipping facilities. Reports state that 6,500,000 piculs (1 picul equals 133½ lbs.) of the last crop are still unsold and stored owing to inability to ship. It is not improbable that the banks will reduce advances against the new crop if the estates do not diminish their plantings this year. Sugar prices are now 6½ florins to 7 florins (10/10 to 11/8), which is said to be below cost price, though it reached 14 florins (28/4) two years ago."

Himely believes that the Cuba crop will fall short of the estimates based on the cane in sight last December.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on June 8th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 10,275 | 21,117 | 19,876 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 17,055 | 24,512 | 23,615 .. |
| Stock (June 8th) | 4,207 | 4,620 | 7,366 .. |

RUM. The stocks in London on June 8th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,133 | 8,794 | 4,786 puns. |
| Demerara | 3,184 | 10,397 | 12,977 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 13,328 | 32,041 | 30,368 .. |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz.:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Sainna | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committees.

Exports from Trinidad from January 1st to April 15th were 21,373,684 lbs., and from Grenada from October 1st, 1917, to April 19th 10,080,720 lbs.

Arrangements have been made by the Ministry of Food with the Shipping Controller for 1,000 tons of West Indian cocoa to be shipped in the course of the next few months. Space is also to be found for 15,000 tons of West African cocoa. This apparent preference to West Africa is due to the fact that the Gold Coast has been able to ship far less of its quota this year than the West Indies have.

The stocks in London on June 8th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 12,951 | 29,271 | 25,774 bags. |
| Grenada | 21,304 | 28,743 | 16,255 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 163,768 | 289,175 | 195,676 .. |

COTTON. The Army Council have made an order, under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, providing that "no person shall, without a permit issued by or on behalf of the Director of Raw Materials, purchase, sell, or make or take delivery of or payment for any West Indian Sea Island or Carolina Sea Island cotton, or any article wholly or partly manufactured therefrom." A permit is similarly required by any person who puts into process of manufacture any such cotton.

Applications for permits should be addressed to Chief Executive Officer, War Department Cotton Textiles Office, Danlee Buildings, Spring Gardens, Manchester.

The high price of European cotton goods has given a great impetus to the native weaving industry in West Africa. The result has been that, owing to the local demand for cotton, the British Cotton Growing Association's purchases have fallen off materially. In Northern Nigeria the cultivation of long staple American cotton is reported to be increasing very rapidly.

Imports of West Indian Sea Island into the United Kingdom in the 21 weeks ended May 23rd amounted to 657 bales.

Prices remain at 36d. for ordinary, 40d. for good ordinary, and 45d. to 60d. for superfine St. Vincent, grading being entrusted to Mr. Charles M. Wolstenholme, broker to the British Cotton Growers' Association. The standards are, we understand, made up from the average good quality of two or three previous crops of each island.

COCO-NUTS are being imported in increasing quantities into the United States, it having been found that charcoal made from the nuts is valuable in the manufacture of gas-masks.

The duty on coco-nuts in Trinidad has been raised from 50c. per 1,000 lbs. to 40c. per 100 lbs.

COCO-NUT OIL. Price fixed by the Controller, £70 per ton.

COPRA. The position is unchanged, £46 c.i.f. Liverpool and London; £92 to £93 c.i.f. Marseilles.

The duty on copra in Trinidad has been raised from \$2.40 per 1,000 lbs. to \$1.20 per 100 lbs.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled, no demand; 6/- to 6/3 nominal. Handpressed, quiet; 16/6 about value. Lime Juice: Concentrated, quiet, unchanged. Raw, firm, ordinary to good green, 3/- to 3/9. Citrate: firm.

RUBBER. Steady. Crepe, 2/1½ spot; sheet, 2/0½. Para about nominal, 3/0½ spot value.

BALATA. The market continues firm, but quiet. Venezuela block quoted at 3/4½ to 3/4 c.i.f.; spot, 3/7. Panama block: Some business done on the spot at 3/3 per lb. Tamaco block, nominal. W. India sheet, 3/11 c.i.f.; spot value, 4/2 to 4/3.

HONEY. The importation of honey into Jamaica has been prohibited. At last auction the supplies (mostly Cuban) met little demand and only about 200 packages sold very irregularly, and in some cases at 15/- to 20/- decline. No Jamaica sold. Sales of Jamaica in Liverpool at 185/- to 200/- are fully steady.

SPICES. Pimento: quiet; importers ask 5½d. but only small business results. Jamaica ginger: Very firm at 110/- to 140/-, but demand quiet.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SREYTHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CANIB, LONDON.

June 27th, 1918.

The Federation Issue.

As we expected, the remarks attributed to MR. ROWAN-HAMILTON, a Puisne Judge of the Leeward Islands, regarding the future of the West Indies, to which we referred in a recent CIRCULAR, have provoked considerable discussion. It will be recalled that the Judge was reported to have said that, failing Federation with Canada, the West Indies would turn to the United States, and we were glad to publish a letter from him denying that he ever suggested that our Colonies desired any form of connection with the United States beyond trade. His statement, however, that "public sentiment in the British West India Islands was strongly in favour of Confederation with Canada" remains uncontradicted, though, judging by comments in the West Indian Press, and numerous letters which have reached us, the grounds on which it is based are very slender, to say the least of it. In Canada also the speech has evoked much criticism, and has brought into the arena the HON. W. S. FIELDING, late Minister of Finance for the Dominion, who has contributed an interesting article to the *Journal of Commerce* of Montreal on the subject, for a copy of which we are indebted to the *Canada-West India Magazine*. MR. FIELDING doubts whether any material change in the system of Government of the West Indies could be effected by a Union of the West Indies with either Canada or the United States. With regard to the Judge's description of each Island as a "petty kingdom," he holds the view that the reason is because that kind of Government is best adapted to the situation, though a Union of the Islands under one Government, or even under something like a Federal System, would have much

to recommend it. Venturing along the thorny path of the question of self-government, he believes that if the conditions of the Island admitted of the establishment of such a system of self-government as exists in Canada, the Imperial Government would gladly grant such powers instead of adhering to the Crown Colony system. "It cannot be the desire of the British authorities," he says, "to keep the Islands on leading-strings longer than is necessary." He fears, however, that the Islands are not in that position, and that if they were to become a part of Canada or the United States, it is probable that they would still have to be governed under something like the present system, and he adds that whether the Islanders would find more satisfaction in receiving rulers from Ottawa or Washington than from London may well be doubted, British rule having proved, on the whole, a just and wholesome rule. "The mass of the inhabitants, it must be remembered, are not of the white race. A handful of white men from the Old Country have been remarkably successful in guiding and directing West Indian affairs and in enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of the native races, who are given as large a share in the business of government as circumstances permit. That better men could be sent out from Ottawa or Washington to discharge these duties is doubtful. Pleasing though the idea may seem to many, it is very questionable whether any scheme of union with Canada could be devised that would be regarded by either side as desirable." On the other hand, we are pleased to find that MR. FIELDING is still as staunch a believer in the development of closer trade relations between the West Indies and Canada as he was in 1900, when he received a mission from Trinidad, and the Canadian Government entered into a Trade Agreement with that Island, which was not, however, ratified. Meanwhile, MR. H. J. CROWE, of Toronto, continues to advocate warmly Political Federation between Canada and the West Indies, but we gather that his policy is not widely supported. Even MR. T. B. MACAULAY, the President of the Canada-West India League, who has devoted much attention and close study to the subject, now favours closer commercial ties rather than political union, the difficulties in the way of which—and they are many and obvious—he fully realises. His view is shared by MR. I. C. STEWART, who, at the luncheon at which the Judge's speech was made, said that he did not think that the destiny of the Islands would be confederation with Canada. Indeed, he thought that there was no great desire for this among the people of the Islands so far as his observation went.

A Co-operative Cocoa Movement.

FROM the second report of the COCOA PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION it would appear that progress is being made in the development of the co-operative movement initiated by that body in Trinidad a few years ago. The object of the association is to grade, bulk and sell as a co-operative basis cocoa produced by its members, and by securing uniformity and improvement of quality to "re-establish the reputation of Trinidad cocoa." We are not prepared to admit that the reputation of the "golden bean" produced in the "land of the Humming Bird" needs "re-establishment," for it still stands deservedly high in the markets of the world; but in every community there are selfish folk, who, by carelessness or eagerness to snatch a profit, ship inferior produce to the manifest disadvantage of their country's good name in respect of the commodity in question. It is partly with the idea of checking such abuses that the Association was formed, though the object of securing satisfactory financial results for the planter members was not in the background. The report, which covers the year to June 30, 1917, was delayed owing to the fact that considerable quantities of cocoa delivered during that year had been shipped to New York for sale on commission and remained unsold until recently. This, however, did not operate to the prejudice of members as by the 30th of June last they had been paid for the cocoa delivered at the rate of \$12.50 per "fanega" (110 lbs.), which it is claimed is a sum considerably in excess of the average price secured by planters who are not members of the Association. The Directors state that the average price secured by non-members for the year ending 30th June, 1917, averaged from \$11.50 to \$12.10 per fanega. "Now that all the cocoa unsold on the 30th June last has been disposed of, the price paid to members for the cocoa delivered during the year under review has finally reached the handsome figure of \$13.36.72 per fanega. Besides this, the profits earned by the Association on the other business done during the year enabled the Directors to pay to members the further sum of 6c. per fanega, thus bringing up the total receipts of members to the sum of \$13.42.72 per fanega, a result which is very gratifying and which shows the undoubted benefit of the Co-operative principle on which the Association is based." This result they show has been attained in spite of the exceptional disbursements which had to be made for interest to the Company's Bankers and for insurance in consequence of very large quantities of cocoa remaining in store for months here owing to shipping difficulties and of other exceptional conditions due to the war.

During the year under review the Association handled the produce of 75 estates—three less than in the preceding twelve months—which delivered 26,557 bags of cocoa as against 18,267 bags (besides 2,985 which were sold on commission) in 1915-16. These quantities were dealt with as follows:—

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1916-17 | 1915-16 |
| Shipped to New York ... | 8,433 | 6,666 |
| .. Canada ... | 469 | 20 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| | 1916-17 | 1915-16 |
| Shipped to France ... | 11,819 | 2,424 |
| .. London ... | 1,646 | 6,810 |
| .. Italy ... | 593 | — |
| Sold locally ... | 3,597 | 2,347 |
| | 26,557 | 18,267 |

Since the close of the year the membership of the Association increased from 62 to 92, and at the date of the report the Association was handling the produce of 107 estates, an expansion upon which the HON. SIR H. A. ALCAZAR, K.C., and MR. F. E. GRANSAULL, Chairman and Manager, respectively, and others concerned in the movement are to be congratulated.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

SIR WALTER EGERTON has been awarded the silver medal of the Royal Society of Arts for his recent paper on British Guiana.

SIR HECTOR CLARE CAMERON, Red Cross Commissioner for the Western District of Scotland, who has been awarded the C.B.E., was born in British Guiana in 1843.

MR. DAVSON, President of the Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce, has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the British Imperial Council of Commerce.

THE Estate of Vryheids Lust in Demerara which has belonged to the Ewing family for a period "whereunto the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," has been sold to a local syndicate of which Mr. J. P. Sherlock is chairman.

REFERRING to the appointment of a British Consular Agent at David near Pedregal (Panama), the *Board of Trade Journal* says that two short railway lines have been constructed which have attracted a number of British West Indian settlers.

SIR ALBERT STANLEY announced at a meeting at Manchester on June 15th that the Government had decided to prohibit the import of foreign dyes for ten years, except under license. The success of the British dye industry is thus assured. What will the Government now do for the British sugar industry?

THE gentle reminders published in this column have resulted in subscriptions to the West India Committee being paid more punctually. The Hon. Treasurers hope that those few members who have not yet paid their dues will do so *without delay*. Subscriptions are the life blood of the Committee. They can be paid in to any branch of the Colonial Bank.

SIR RALPH WILLIAMS, who has been round the world and has spent five months in Japan since the war began, is one of the most active speakers for the War Aims Committee. He finds that what appeals most to his audiences is a statement of Germany's war aims, which, as Lord Denbigh—well-known as a British sugar beet champion—so effectively points out, must be countered at all costs.

OUR congratulations are due to Mr. William Mitchell-Thomson, who has been appointed a K.B.E., and to Major Nigel Walker, who received the O.B.E. on the occasion of the King's Birthday. Sir William Mitchell-Thomson, who is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been director of the Restriction of Enemy Supplies Department since 1916. Major Nigel Walker is partner in Messrs. Roddington & Co., West India Merchants.

THE experience of the Porto Rico experiment station regarding cocoa has not been too happy. Of the planting

in the spring of 1909 rather more than one-fourth of the trees produced no crop in 1915. The others averaged nearly 10 pods per tree. In the planting made in 1903 about the same proportion of trees failed to produce, but the average yield from the fruiting trees was 6½ pods per tree. Attempts to propagate cocoa from cuttings have been unsuccessful.

* * *

The Under Secretary for the Colonies, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said the exports of cotton from Colonies not possessing responsible Government and Protectorates during 1917, were as follows (in cwt).

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----|-------|---------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| Leeward Islands:— | Bahamas | ... | ... | 35 | | | |
| Antigua | ... | ... | 299 | Trinidad | ... | ... | 2 |
| St. Kitts | ... | ... | 687 | St. Vincent | ... | ... | 2,732 |
| Nevis | ... | ... | 1,556 | Nvassaland | ... | ... | 9,720 |
| Anguilla | ... | ... | 441 | East Africa Protec- | ... | ... | |
| Montserrat | ... | ... | 2,731 | torate | ... | ... | 430 |
| Barbados | ... | ... | 531 | Uganda | ... | ... | 104,741 |

The Secretary for India, questioned regarding output of the Dependency, said that the production in 1916-17 was 4,502,000 bales of 400 lbs.

The Hon. Gideon Murray, in a letter published in the *Times* of June 14th, commenting on the resolution passed by the Barbados Chamber of Commerce favouring the discussion of the question of federation by an unofficial West Indian conference, wrote:—"The form of responsible government with which Barbados is vested has unfortunately made her hitherto suspicious of entering into negotiations for federation with the neighbouring British Colonies, whose Governments are of the Crown Colony type, as she has fear that she might thereby be deprived of some of that liberty for action in the control of her local affairs which her people value so highly and which they have used so comparatively well. It makes it all the more important, therefore, that Barbados should have taken the lead in the West Indies in passing such a resolution, and it is the best indication that we can have of the steady trend of West Indian public opinion towards that closer political union which becomes every day more essential to the welfare and progress of those fertile and picturesque colonies."

* * *

"SONGS OF AN ISLANDER" is the title of a small book of verse written by Mr. Donald McDonald of Antigua and published by Elliot Stock at the modest price of 1/3. The glories of the Caribbean have rarely awakened the Muse. Scattered verses may have appeared, but the voice of the West Indies has rarely attained poetic volume. Now it is heard through the medium of one of its sons who has happily seized the occasion of the war in order to express the loyalty and patriotism of these distant sons of the Empire. A booklet of less than fifty small pages comprises some score of poems, half of which, entitled "Hands across the Sea," sing the spirit of love and sacrifice evoked in the West Indies by the world tragedy through which the Homeland has been called upon to bear so heavy a burden. Priority of place and of merit is held by "A Song of the West Indies," of which the refrain runs:—

"Here's to our Home across the sea,
Britons still, wherever we be,
Sons of a home we ne'er may see,
Yet sons of that mighty Empire we."

Compliments also is the merit of "A Song of those who Died." Two poems are written in honour of Martinique. One is inspired by the statue of Josephine, wife of Napoleon, who was a native of the island; and the other by the Avenue of Sighs, which borders the Savan at Fort de France. The remaining verses are written in lighter vein, on other topics. The author has kindly consented to devote a portion of the proceeds of the book, which should meet with a ready sale on its merits, to the West Indian Contingent Fund. A foreword has been written by Lady Cameron, wife of Sir Edward J. Cameron, Governor of the Gambia, who is remembered as Administrator in turn of St. Vincent and St. Lucia.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The General Situation.

Both on the Western and on the Italian front the armies of the Central Powers are held. In Austria the economic situation, owing to the scarcity of food, is desperate, with no hope of improvement till the harvest. Equally menacing is the internal political situation as the subject races of the Dual Monarchy, with Allied support, gain confidence in their future independence. Czecho-Slovak regiments are fighting valiantly against Austria on the Italian front, and in Russia a considerable force of Czecho-Slovak prisoners is resisting the Bolsheviks. As for the Ukraine, it has failed to provide food supplies in any considerable quantity. At sea the "U"-boats are ceasing to justify German hopes of starving Britain into surrender or of reducing the world's tonnage to the advantage of the Central Powers. To them, therefore, a decisive victory in the West before the full military strength of the United States is thrown into the balance against them is vital and urgent. Already there are 700,000 American troops in France, who are taking an increasing share in the fighting. That a new and great offensive will be speedily launched against the British-American-French armies is, then, as certain as anything can be certain in war. The enemy will do his utmost to gain a decision favourable to himself during the summer.

In the meantime the country continues to organise its industry on a sound national basis, instead of on the cosmopolitan basis which enriched Germany at our expense before the War; and the Empire continues to achieve unity on elastic British lines. A symbol of it is the ninth session of the Imperial Conference, and the second meeting of the Imperial War Cabinet, which are now progressing in London. Canada is represented by Sir R. Borden, Australia by Mr. Hughes, New Zealand by Mr. Massey, and South Africa by General Smuts, who, unlike his Dominion colleagues, is not head of a Government. He represents General Botha, and is a member of the Imperial War Cabinet as such as well as because he is a member of the British War Cabinet. Thus is the British Empire being welded into an organic whole under the German hammer.

On the Western Front.

By their dash for Montdidier the Germans made a "pocket" in our lines. By the fresh blow struck between Soissons and Rheims they made a second one. The aim of their next was to unite the two in order to make a fairly straight point from Amiens, through Montdidier, Compiègne, Villers-Coterets, and Chateau-Thierry to Rheims. It was foiled by the generalship of General Foch, the Allied Generalissimo, and by the valour and leadership of the British-Franco-American Armies under his command. The "battle of the forests," as it has been called, because one of the chief German objectives was to gain the forests, particularly Compiègne, which screen the main road to Paris, was fought out between nearly half a million of men, and lasted five days. The Germans began the attack with

fourteen picked divisions, which, under the stress of battle, were increased to twenty. Von Hutier calculated on getting into Compiègne in the evening of the day his fresh offensive was launched, so skilfully were his tactics devised to suit the terrain. But the French were more skilful, for while the narrow German thrust in the centre was gathering momentum, they, avoiding the broken ground, which was as disadvantageous to them as it was favourable to the enemy, carried through a wide counter-attack over the more open country on their left, which was brilliantly successful. As on their right, they were able to hold back the German masses, it was in the centre that there was loss of ground. But there was no general retreat, because the enemy was not able to reach the Matz and so cut the great railway to Paris. The French skilfully evacuated those positions on both sides of the Oise, which were threatened with envelopment, while holding on to the Aigue, Compiègne and Villiers-Cotcrets forests. In their previous attempt to gain their objectives the Germans suffered heavy losses, but they are still forty miles from Paris and five miles from Compiègne.

The Rheims Thrusts.

On June 18th the enemy delivered a night attack on Rheims on a twelve mile front, in an effort to complete his envelopment of the city. The main assault in the plain between Ormes and Vrigny, resulted in failure, as his infantry could not even reach our wire. East of Pompelle he scored a temporary success, which was quickly transformed into a defeat by our counter-attack. As for the fighting on the northern and western sides among the outlying houses of the town, which cleverly concealed defensive organisations, it was equally unfavourable to the Germans. This fiasco has caused great satisfaction in France, whose undaunted spirit under her sustained ordeal is the admiration of the world. In the first place it was a proof that the Allied Army is now unlikely to suffer from the surprises, which were so disappointing in the recent German offensives, and that it is equal to meeting the enemy's heaviest blows. The defeat at Rheims is attributed to the remarkable efficiency of the French barrage, which decimated the troops which were advancing to the assault as well as those concentrated in the rear. Probably this offensive was merely a diversion, designed to prevent any help being sent to Italy, and to impress the German people by the capture of a town, which was, and still is, at once a symbol of French fortitude and German savagery.

Though the enemy has been fought to a standstill and there is comparative calm in the West, there is no rest for him anywhere along the line. Neither British nor French miss a chance of scoring a local success by a raid, a form of harassing the Germans which has continued increasingly all through the big fighting since 21st March. For instance, of late the British have improved their line in this way between the Forest of Nieppe and Merris, in the Hazebrouck sector, and near Bethune, while the Australians, who hold the ground round Morlancourt, between Albert and Amiens, have, by several daring raids, rectified the Allied front between the Ancre and the Somme, near their junction. Not

only have they driven the Germans from the high ground in this sector, but advanced 5,000 yards forward from the line to which we fell back in March.

On the Italian Front.

At dawn, on June 16th, the Austrians resumed the offensive against the Italians, foiled in May, 1916, as well as in the minor efforts of last winter, and on a more ambitious scale than ever before, especially in the enormous concentration of artillery. Practically Austria's whole military weight, exclusive of her limited commitments in the East, are being employed. The Italians, who expected the enemy's attack, were prepared, though handicapped by their inferior strategic position both on the Piave and in the mountain zone. So admirably have they reorganised their Armies and defences that, so far, the enemy has reached neither of his main objectives: (1) to break through the hill country between the Astico and the Piave to the plains; (2) to cross the Piave and seize the Monte Belluna-Treviso railway. On the left, which is held by the British, the Austrians penetrated the line to a depth of 1,000 yards, but, in counter-attacks, were driven out again the same night. In the centre no ground was gained from the French in the Grappa sector. On the right between the Brenta and the Piave the Italians who were driven back at two points, later recovered their lost positions. Further east the bulk of the Austrian forces were thrown against the Italians, because there the facilities for massing troops and guns are greatest, crossing the Piave at Nervesa; at Misile, where the railway crosses the river, and at Capo Sile at the north-eastern end of the marshes in continuation of the Venetian lagoons. The most obstinate fighting in this sector rages round and on the Montello, a dominating height near Nervesa captured, like the fords, largely through the use of smoke-producing machines and intense artillery fire. Allied aircraft ably seconded the sturdy resistance of the Italians to the enemy's efforts to cross the river, not only in the first three days of the battle, bringing down 72 hostile aeroplanes, but destroying seven Austrian pontoon bridges. Then the Piave rose and carried away eleven others. Though the Italians later in the week lost some more ground on the Montello, they still hold the crest, forcing the enemy to concentrate his efforts towards the north-eastern salient in that region. Along the whole front, indeed, the Allies soon threw the Austrians on the defensive. Between the Astico and the Brenta they occupied the redoubtable Costalunga positions, carried the Bertoga and Pannar heights, and reduced the salient west of San Dona, where the railway crosses the Fossetta Canal. The fighting was incessant and epic in its character. The Allies in five days captured nearly 11,000 prisoners, besides inflicting enormous losses on the enemy.

The Austrian Rout.

At the end of the week General Diaz had the military situation so well in hand that the Austrians were driven in rout across the Piave, not only from the marsh area covering Venice, but from Nervesa and the Montello, whose capture by the Austrians would have turned the Italian positions and forced

a general retreat. After an enormous expenditure in life and material the enemy is just where he was before he started his offensive on June 16th. A defeat so complete must react unfavourably upon the Dual Monarchy in its present critical position, economic and political, thereby weakening the power of Germany in the West. For if the armies of the Entente Powers are not to advance so seriously to threaten Austria and the solidarity of the Quadruple Alliance, Germany must send forces to the aid of her weaker Ally speedily.

The War at Sea.

It will be remembered that Italian "midge" vessels some time ago raided Pola in the darkness and torpedoed an Austrian battleship of the *Viribus Unitis* class. This feat has been followed by another even more brilliant, two small torpedo boats, with a combined crew of 30 men, having succeeded in sinking another Austrian battleship and putting yet another out of action. Thus, three out of Austria's four "dreadnoughts" have been lost to her, for a time at any rate. As this change in the balance of naval power in the Adriatic coincides with the surrender of the rest of Russia's Black Sea Fleet to Germany, the most ambitious plans of the Central Powers for an Austro-German-Turco naval offensive in the Mediterranean will be temporarily postponed. But it would be idle to pretend that the advance of Germany towards the Murman Coast and her control of the sea at either end of her strategic front in the East is not causing the Allies anxiety. For not only is she on the way to transform Russia's chief ice-free inlet on the Arctic Ocean into a submarine base, but she commands the exits of the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmora, from which the Fleet she has taken from Russia can emerge to threaten the greatest trade route in the world. In short, her communications with the Near East by sea and land are continuous.

Von Lettow's Long Trail.

Ever since von Lettow crossed the Portuguese frontier, months ago, he has been relentlessly pursued by the Allied forces, which have just driven him from his last foothold in Portuguese Nyasaland. Some idea of the grim determination of hunters and hunted may be gathered from the fact that the length of our main line of communications in Portuguese territory exceeds 320 miles of road, the aggregate length of the communications of the columns exceeding 1,000 miles. Von Lettow is now fully 300 miles south of the southern frontier of what was once German East Africa, and, driven out of the difficult hill and bush country about Malema, is moving towards the coast along the Ligoniga River, which enters the Indian Ocean 240 miles north of the Zambesi delta.

Raids into Germany.

Since the beginning of May the following raids into Germany have been recorded:—

| | No. of times raided. |
|--|-------------------------|
| Bensdorf—Station and sidings | 2 |
| Coblenz—Station and barracks | 1 |
| Cologne—Stations, factories, barracks | 1 |
| Courcelles—Station and sidings | 2 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Diedenhofen (Thionville)—Station and sidings | 14 |
| Esch—Station and sidings | 1 |
| Hagendingen—Railways and factories | 1 |
| Karlsruhe—Station and workshops | 1 |
| Karthus—Station and bridges | 3 |
| Kreuzwald—Electric power station | 4 |
| Landau—Barracks, station, sidings, gasworks | 2 |
| Mannheim—Chemical factory | 3 |
| Metz—Station and sidings | 2 |
| Metz-Sablons—Stations, sidings, railway triangle | 15 |
| Saarbrücken—Factories, sidings, station | 2 |
| Spittel—Station | 1 |

(To be continued.)

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on June 13th, Mr. R. Rutherford was re-elected Chairman, Mr. H. A. Trotter Deputy-Chairman, and Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Cyril Gurney, and Mr. William Gillespie, Hon. Treasurers for the current year pursuant to article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation.

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

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|---|---|
| Mrs. A. N. Clark (Barbados) | Mr. John H. Boyce. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| 2nd Lieut. C. F. Cave (Barbados) | Miss Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| William Hale (Trinidad) | Miss Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| Mr. George Sturdy (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. W. H. Farquharson. |
| Mr. G. L. N. Walker (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |
| Mr. H. P. Stephenson (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |
| Mr. A. B. D. Rerrie (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |
| Mr. H. Leighton Piper | Belize Estates & Prod. Co. Mr. H. A. Trotter. |
| Mr. Ernest A. R. Schofield (British Honduras) | Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G. Lt.-Col. J. Cran. |
| Rev. J. B. Brindley (British Honduras) | Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G. Lt.-Col. J. Cran. |
| Mr. A. W. L. Clerk (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |
| Mr. D. A. Knight (Barbados) | Mr. W. Julian Knight. Mr. R. G. Cave. |

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. 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 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 for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free, enjoy the use of the Reading Room and Library, and may have their letters, etc., addressed to the Committee Rooms.

A NOTE of warning for West Indian honey producers is contained in an official report on the industry in Porto Rico. In that island apparently, production has declined and the falling off is due to degenerate stock. This fault, it is declared, can be remedied only by the introduction of fresh stock to be used as a basis for improving the standard of the apiary by constant and intelligent queen-breeding.

GOLD COAST COCOA INDUSTRY.

The cocoa industry has been found so profitable, says Mr. Tudhope, Director of Agriculture for the Gold Coast, in his report for 1916, that it has not been possible to create much interest in any other product. Cocoa cultivation has extended over practically the whole forest country, and production increases yearly. The staple indigenous products—oil-palms, rubber, and kola—receive ever less attention, and even food-crops have been to some extent neglected. Its development has been possible because the local conditions of soil and climate are peculiarly favourable, and because it has been so exceedingly lucrative.

The yearly production of cocoa, judged by the export returns alone, creates generally a false impression of the industry, and in the interests of the Colony as a whole, and of the people themselves in particular, a more rigorous supervision would appear necessary. The natives have always been accustomed to a system of shifting cultivation, and for that very reason they are blind to the necessity of a sustained system of culture such as is necessary for cocoa. They have never, however, in all their past experience possessed a cultivation of such actual value, and he has doubts if they can ever again have another so lucrative should they allow this one to slip through their fingers.

The present crisis intensifies the dangers ahead, for if the people are unable to dispose of their cocoa it is unlikely that they will gather the crops or even give their plantations the minimum of attention they have hitherto received, and in that event the diseases, especially those associated with the fruits, will have a fruitful field for development. But it may not be an unmixed blessing, as it will no doubt—temporarily at least—check further planting of cocoa, and may have the result of aiding development or resuscitation of other products and be the cause of the introduction of a more rational system of farming.

The total export of cocoa for the year was 72,128 tons, or a decrease of 5,250 tons on the record shipment of the previous year. This decrease is due to the restrictions on shipping and dislocation of the trade for which the war is responsible, and not to a smaller production, as it is estimated that the year's crop was infinitely the heaviest ever reaped. Large quantities remained on the hands of shippers at the end of the year, for which there was a difficulty in obtaining sufficient storage accommodation, and in many of the more remote districts the bulk of the main season's production remained with the farmers.

The price was abnormally high early in the year, and continued at a fairly satisfactory level till about the end of November, when, owing to heavy stocks and the difficulties of shipping, the trade gradually collapsed, and came practically to a standstill at the end of the year. Although the quantity exported has been less, the declared value was over £194,000 more than in 1915, or a total of £3,846,090, which sum represents the money left in the Colony from the year's transactions in cocoa. 58.87 per cent. of the shipments were from

Eastern Province ports, 19.52 per cent. from Central Province ports, and 21.61 per cent. from Western Province ports, which follow closely the ratio of previous years.

The shipments from Western Province ports consist chiefly of cocoa produced in Ashanti, where rapid development is taking place; but greatest extension of planting during the year is believed to have taken place in the Western Province, especially in those districts where the lumber industry formerly claimed most attention, and it is anticipated that in a few years Western Province shipments will show an ever-increasing ratio to the whole.

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF COCOA.

It is satisfactory to find that the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago shares the views expressed by the West India Committee that enough attention has not been given to cocoa as a food. When quite lately the Cocoa Committee of the Trinidad Board of Agriculture was consulted as to the fixing of a minimum price for that product in London, stress was laid, states the Proceedings of the Society, on the necessity of impressing the Food Controller that cocoa should no longer be treated as a matter of luxury but as a food, and it is interesting when comparing the analysis of cocoa to that of lean beef, to note the high nutritive value of the former.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.

| | Cocoa. | Lean beef. |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Hydrocarbon Fat... | 50 | 4 |
| Theobromine | 1.5 | — |
| Carbo-hydrates, starch, etc. | 10. | — |
| Nitrogenous Foods | 18 | 19. |
| Gum... | 8 | — |
| Colouring Matter... | 2.5 | — |
| Water | 6. | 72. |
| Ash (Mineral Salts) | 3.5 | 5. |
| Undetermined | 0.5 | — |
| | 100. | 100 |

The value of cocoa to the inhabitants of the more temperate and colder zones, is an important factor which should not be lost sight of and should open for it enormous prospects, not only as a pleasant drink but above all as a body-building and heat-giving food, especially when the small compass into which it condenses a considerable amount of nutriment is borne in mind. It is under the form of tablets of eating chocolate that it becomes such a valuable food for sailors and soldiers and generally for all those who have to undertake long and difficult voyages and remain long hours without eating. It is then surprising that under the present war conditions, the importation of cocoa into the United Kingdom has been curtailed. Another reason why its importation should not be interfered with, is to be found in the reason that bags of cocoa occupy little space on board ships and rather helps in filling gaps when stowing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee for the year 1918 are now overdue.

THE WORLD'S COCOA MART.

The Association of West African Merchants, in a report on the findings of the Balfour Committee, points out that with regard to cocoa, the Colonies in the British Empire are the largest world-producers, and present consumption within the Empire is not sufficient to absorb anything like the quantities produced. Before the war large quantities of West African cocoa were shipped to Hamburg, and this port had become the distributing centre for cocoa for Russia, Scandinavia, Holland and other Continental countries.

It is now felt that while the British Empire is unable to consume all the cocoa which it produces, steps should be taken to see that London and/or Liverpool should take the place which Hamburg occupied previous to the war, and that one or both of these ports should be the centre of distribution for this article to Continental countries instead of Hamburg. To attain this object some preferential treatment for shipments made to the United Kingdom might be necessary.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, the newly appointed Governor of Ceylon and recently Governor of Jamaica, was the guest of the West Indian Club at luncheon yesterday at Whitehall Court. Mr. G. E. A. Grindie, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office, presided, and expressed the appreciation of the West Indies of Sir William's services during his five years as Governor of Jamaica.

In replying, Sir William Manning stated that Jamaica had taken the initiative in sending a military contingent, and that the British West Indies Regiment was now over 14,000 strong. Jamaica had also undertaken to contribute £60,000 per annum for 40 years to the Imperial Government towards the expenses of the war, and, besides many contributions towards the Red Cross and other funds, had made a gift to the Imperial Government of £50,000 worth of sugar.

Among those present were:—

Sir William Trollope, Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir William Goode (hon. secretary), Chief Justice Collier, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard, Mr. F. H. Milholland (Crown Solicitor of Jamaica), Mr. Robert Rutherford (Chairman of the West India Committee), and Mr. A. J. Pavitt (Trade Commissioner to the West Indies), Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. J. Rippon, and Mr. A. E. Messer.

A society has recently been formed in London states the *Westminster Gazette*, of June 24th. with the aim, according to its published constitution, "of discussing problems peculiar to the Antilles, and endeavouring not only to solve such problems, but to do its best in remedying the conditions from which such problems arise: provided, however, that the above-mentioned problems be such as may arise out of the social, economical, political, racial, moral, spiritual, and other needs of the Antilles."

UNITED STATES SUGAR DUTIES.

An excise duty on sugar in the United States is strongly advocated by the Federal Sugar Refining Company. In their sugar market review dated June 5th they state that reports from Washington indicate that in framing the new Revenue Bill, Congress will again give some attention to this question.

Under the present tariff law the position for the year 1917 was:—

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| U.S. CONSUMPTION OF NON-REVENUE PRODUCING SUGAR. | |
| 839,577 tons | Beet Sugar |
| 183,661 tons | Louisiana Plantation Sugar |
| 11,846 tons | Maple and Sundry |
| 80,233 tons | Louisiana Sugar |
| 631,378 tons | Hawaiian Sugar |
| 463,658 tons | Porto Rico Sugar |
| 79,086 tons | Philippine Sugar |

2,289,539 tons consumption of non-revenue producing sugar.

U.S. CONSUMPTION OF REVENUE PRODUCING SUGAR.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 1,681,761 tons | Cuban Raws assessed at 80 per cent. tariff rate. |
| 12,887 tons | Full duty paying raws. |

1,664,648 tons total consumption of Revenue producing sugar.

The United States Government thus secures revenues from only 42 per cent. of the 3,954,187 tons of sugar consumed in the country. On the other hand, so far as the consumer is concerned, the effect of the tariff is to increase the price of all sugar consumed by the amount of the duty.

On Cuban sugar the refiner pays the duty to the Treasury Department and collects its equivalent from the consumer, but on the domestic sugar the equivalent of the duty is collected from the consumer for the sole benefit of the domestic producer.

From this it is quite clear, says the Review, that the present law is a protective rather than a revenue measure.

Those interests who benefit from the protective tariff on sugar oppose the excise tax, because, if its great revenue possibilities are once fully established, they fear it would prevent any further reference to the tariff as a revenue measure. For this reason they endeavour to create prejudice against it by referring to it as a "tax on consumption."

It is a tax on consumption, but not to a greater or less extent than the present tariff tax is a tax on consumption. Any objection on these grounds might be valid enough if there was no tax on sugar, but having accepted the principle that sugar should be taxed as has been done, then the tax should be so levied as to produce the greatest return to the Government at the least expense to the consumer.

Profits being less, owing to changed conditions, it is apparent that at the same tax rate taxes on income and excess profits will not yield the Treasury Department for the year 1918 as much as in 1917. Based on 1917 consumption an excise tax on sugar of—

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1c. per pound would yield | \$90,795,000 |
| 2c. per pound would yield | \$181,590,000 |
| 3c. per pound would yield | \$272,385,000 |
| 4c. per pound would yield | \$363,180,000 |

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

MAJOR JOHN EDOUARD MARSDEN BROMLEY, D.S.O., R.F.A., killed in action on June 7th, was the elder son of Mr. John Bromley, of Manchester Street, W., and stepson of Mrs. Bromley of Shadwell, St. Kitts. He was born in 1883, and educated at Mr. Orlebar's, Hinwick House, Wellingborough, and King's School, Canterbury. Joining the Natal Mounted Police on April 13th, 1901, he saw active service in the Boer War and Natal native rebellion of 1906 under General Dartnell, and held the King's medals for both campaigns. He was an expert in the Zulu and other tongues, and became a Native Commissioner of Northern Rhodesia. On the outbreak of war he obtained leave to proceed home, and was at once granted a commission in the cavalry, from which he transferred later to the R.A. He was wounded on October 26th, and for repeated acts of conspicuous bravery was awarded the D.S.O. on December 6th, 1917; he was mentioned in despatches on April 7th last. The acts of bravery for which he was decorated were thus described in the *London Gazette*:—"He assisted in getting wounded out of a dug-out which had been blown in, under intense shell-fire, and helped them to the dressing station. When an ammunition dump was set on fire he put it out under heavy shell-fire. When a dug-out containing fifteen men was blown in, though himself wounded, he worked for an hour and a half rescuing them under intense shelling. He showed splendid courage and coolness." His Colonel, Lt.-Col. Patterson Barton, wrote:—"I looked upon him as a friend as well as a fine soldier and an extraordinarily gallant man. It happened yesterday about 2 p.m.; he was standing at the foot of the steps leading down to the mess, when a chance shell burst in the entrance. I attended the funeral this afternoon. The General and a number of brother officers were able to be present, as well as a strong contingent from his own battery. For the last month or more we lived within a couple of hundred yards of each other and it is difficult to realise he will not be dropping in again as he did daily, to cheer us up. Please accept my sincere condolences." Major Bromley's death is described by Sir Henry Birch-enough, K.C.M.G., of the British South Africa Company, as "an irreparable loss to the Chartered Company."

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

CAPTAIN HUGH FANSHAWE GLANVILLE, R.A.F., joined the Royal Flying Corps in January, 1913, from the 1st West India Regiment, in which he had served for eight years. He accompanied the British Expeditionary Force to France in August 1914, as a member of the Royal Flying Corps. He had also seen service in Italy with the R.F.C. Captain Glanville, who died on May 24th at Gullane, East Lothian, as the result of an accident while flying on the previous day, was the younger son of the Rev. O. F. Glanville, South Brent, Devon.

SECOND LIEUT. CYRIL PROUDFOOT, R.A.F., of St. Vincent, who met his death as the result of an aeroplane accident in France on the 23rd April, was one of the first young men from the West Indies to join the Colours in 1914. Being in New York at the outbreak of war, he left by the first opportunity for England, working his passage over. He enlisted in the Lancers and afterwards transferred to the South Wales Borderers, serving with that Regiment in Gallipoli, where he was wounded. He subsequently obtained a commission in the Notts Hussars and recently joined the Royal Flying Corps. In April last he left for France, and a few weeks afterwards was killed while trying a new machine.

MISSING.

PRIVATE WILLIAM HOWARD (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Irish Guards (late Household Battalion), who left for France for the second time early in April, has been reported "Missing" since the 12th April.

Private D. G. Ward, Artists' Rifles, who came over with the 8th Barbados Citizens' Contingent, has been missing since March 24th. Up to June 21st no information regarding him had been received at the Record Office.

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.

BRYSON, 2nd Lieut. J. H., only son of Robert Bryson, of Antigua, after service in the Officers' Training Corps at Aldenham School and subsequently in a Cadet Unit, has received a Commission in the Royal Field Artillery.

CHILD, Oliver (of St. Lucia), 2nd Lieut. Army Service Corps.

CORBIN, C. S. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, has been promoted to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

COWPER, Driver E. C. (son of Mr. William Cowper, M.A., Headmaster of Jamaica College, Kingston, Jamaica), West Lancs Field Company, Royal Engineers.

EVELYN, A. L. (of Barbados), East Kent Regiment, has transferred to the British West Indies Regiment.

FARMER, C. A. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles O.T.C., 2nd Lieut. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.

GURLEY, A. L. (2nd Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, Cadet Royal Air Force.

LYALL, Lieut. G. Hudson (son of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados), who has been serving with the Volunteers since the outbreak of war, has received a Commission in the Royal Air Force, and is attached to the South-Western area.

PILGRIM, K. F., M.M. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

RANSAY, H. O. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles O.T.C., 2nd Lieut. Norfolk Regiment.

REDMAN, E. D. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Norfolk Regiment.

SMITH, K. Maxwell (of Trinidad), late Life Guards, Cadet Royal Air Force.

SPEED, Cadet Oscar H. (born in Demerara, son of Mr. William Speed, Secretary of the West India Association of Liverpool), was on active service with the R.A.M.C. (which he joined in 1914) at the Dardanelles, and in Egypt, France and Flanders, transferred in 1916 to the A.S.C.; now at Officers' Cadet School.

HONOURS.

LIEUT. H. G. W. BRINSLEY, R.G.A., of the firm of Jenkinson, Brinsley & Jenkinson, has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross.

CAPTAIN L. M. GREENWOOD, M.C., Durham Light Infantry, brother of Mr. T. Greenwood, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., has been mentioned in despatches.

CAPTAIN IAN McDONALD, M.C., Royal Air Force (son of the Hon. Donald McDonald, of Antigua), has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

SECOND LIEUT. JOSEPH HENRY MAINGOT (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent) British West Indies Regiment, att. R.A.F., has been awarded the Military Cross.

LIEUT. JOHN R. ROCHFORD (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Warwickshire Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross.

CAPT. J. H. SCUDAMORE, R.N.R. (of Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.), has been awarded the D.S.C. and given command of H.M.S. *Caimito*.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

The addresses of the undermentioned who are prisoners of war can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

ARMSTRONG, 1st Air Mechanic R. B. (of Barbados), Royal Air Force.

BOWEN, 2nd Lieut. Edgar W. (of Barbados), East Surrey Regiment.

BRANCH, Capt. Selwyn (of Antigua), West Yorkshire Regiment, now in Holland.

BUSHE, Lieut. J. P. Scott (of Trinidad), Royal Air Force.

DAVENPORT, Trpr. A. (of Dominica), King Edward's Horse.

GOOCH, Gunner Cecil M. (of Trinidad), Tank Corps.

KEMBLE, Lieut. Frederick A. (of Jamaica), Suffolk Regiment.

LYON, Louis J. (of Jamaica), Queen's Own Royal Rifles, Canada.
 NETBERSOLE, Lieut.-Cpl. J. M. Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles, Jamaica Rhodes' Scholar in 1909.
 REID, Lieut. Kenneth (of Tobago), Highland Light Infantry.
 ROBOTHAM, Lieut. J. A. (of St. Kitts), Machine Gun Corps.
 WALCOTT, 2nd Lieut. E. P. M. (of Trinidad), Black Watch.
 WEBSTER, Pte. C. F. (of Barbados), Canadians.
 WILLIAMS, Lieut. G. E. E. (of St. Lucia), North Staffordshire Regiment.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Lt.-Colonel R. E. Willis has obtained a transfer from the British West Indies Regiment to a fighting unit and is now training with the London Regiment.

Mrs. Evelyn S. Parker is very kindly forming a visiting committee to visit upwards of sixty men of the British West Indies Regiment who are at Belmont Road Hospital in Liverpool. Mr. W. Speed is also looking after men on behalf of the Contingent Committee, a branch of which will probably be formed in Liverpool.

Lieut. F. W. Holland, who is now navigating officer in H.M.S. *Boxer*, was formerly sergeant in the 4th British West Indies Regiment, which he joined in Jamaica. He was one of the first men in the Regiment to win the Military Medal.

With Miss Moseley and Mr. George Miller as *ciceroni*, a party of sixteen convalescents of the British West Indies Regiment now in Bethnal Green Hospital, were driven round London in a brake on June 15th as the guests of the West India Contingent Committee, and were shown the sights of London. A photograph of a party was reproduced in the *Daily Sketch* of the following Monday.

A further Barbados Citizens' Contingent arrived at the West India Committee Rooms on June 11th, and the members lost no time in joining up. Their names and titles are given below:—

C. de C. Skeete, Inns of Court O.T.C.
 A. W. G. Browne, Inns of Court O.T.C.
 H. S. Batson, Royal Field Artillery.
 S. Atwell.
 H. C. Laurie.
 E. B. Carmichael, Royal Field Artillery.
 R. A. Collins, Royal Field Artillery.
 H. W. Clarke, Royal Field Artillery.

Among original gifts for the British West Indies Regiment recently dealt with by the West India Committee, have been 1,208 bottles of hot sauce collected by Mrs. Yearwood and her Committee of ladies in Barbados, and eight packages of chewstick sent through the Jamaica Agricultural Society by Mr. E. Hoffman on behalf of the Jamaica Friends Army of Production and Economy, Mrs. E. E. Grossett, Mrs. Lyon Hall, Mrs. F. H. Hawkings, Mr. J. T. Bayliss, Mr. M. Hewitt, and Mr. John Lammit. Chewsticks are, it should be explained, the twigs of a woody climbing plant which are popular in the West Indies as a substitute for the tooth brush!

The fortnightly work party at Lady Davson's was attended last week by the following ladies: Lady Cameron, the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Mrs. John Bromley, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Harley Bacon, Miss Barclay, Mrs. Spencer Churchill, Mrs. Elliot, Miss Petum, Mrs. St. George Gray, Miss Hamilton, Miss Levy, Mrs. Masservy, Mrs. Thurston, Miss Wharton, and Mrs. Vernon.

The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:—

The Hon. Lady Fremantle: games for men in hospital.
 Mrs. Hay Edie: magazines and books.
 Miss Mollie Moseley: books.

Miss Vere Oliver: 3 prs. socks, 2 helmets, 1 muffler, 1 pr. mittens, 1 pr. wristlets.
 Mr. Arthur Johnson: 6 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Thorne and Miss Singleton: socks.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. R. G. Brice (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. E. V. Solomon.

BARBADOS.—Pte. J. A. Nurse, C. de C. Skeete, A. W. G. Browne, S. Atwell, E. B. Carmichael, H. C. Laurie, R. A. Collins, H. S. Batson, H. W. Clarke, L. A. Davies, 2nd Lieut. L. T. Yearwood (B.W.I.R.), Col.-Sergt. E. Chandler (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. W. A. Yearwood, Cadet J. Connell, A. W. G. Browne, Cadet C. E. Murphy.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—Gunner G. Wolfsohn.

GRENADA.—A. Neckles.

JAMAICA.—Corpl. D. M. Speid, Sergt. P. S. Duff, Sergt. A. Robinson (B.W.I.R.), Frank S. St. Hill, Sergt. F. A. Noah (B.W.I.R.).

TRINIDAD.—Pte. F. C. Gibbon, E. L. Hatt, F. C. Sellier, C. V. Bynoe, J. J. Ache, Cadet K. Max Smith, Cadet Leslie de Silva, Cadet E. W. Daly, L. Contant, E. L. Hatt, Cadet E. W. Daly, Cadet E. S. O'Connor, J. F. Worsfold, H. Spencer, F. Villarroel, Sergt. A. M. Cowan (B.W.I.R.), Cadet Marc de Verteuil, Lieut. C. A. Norman, Lieut. L. Prada, Lieut. J. Kernahan, Cadet R. Hale.

The West Indian Contingent Committee is now represented in all the larger West India Colonies. The names of the local Committees and of their members, where known, are given below:—

BARBADOS.—Mrs. Clara L. Yearwood, Mrs. W. L. C. Phillips, Miss Briggs, Mrs. M. White, Miss M. Evelyn, Mrs. George Evelyn, Mrs. C. B. Austin, Mrs. A. G. Bancroft, Mrs. A. Hurson, Mrs. F. Clarke, Mrs. N. Simpson, Mrs. E. Cox, Mrs. A. Williams, Mrs. L. Archer, Mrs. L. Pike, Mrs. E. King, Mrs. J. R. Phillips, Mrs. J. Mahon, Mrs. G. Skeete, Miss Evelyn, Miss M. Greaves, and the Barbados Recruiting Committee, Mr. J. C. Lynch, chairman, the Barbados Recruiting Committee, Mr. J. G. H. Johnson.

BAHAMAS.—Lady Allardyce, Lady Tudor, Mrs. G. H. Johnson, M.B.E., Mrs. Lofthouse, M.B.E., Mrs. C. Menendez, Miss Lobb, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

BRITISH GUIANA.—A local West Indian Contingent Committee in course of formation by Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—The British Honduras Contingent Society.

JAMAICA.—The Contingent Comforts' Committee: Mrs. Blackden (Chairman), Mrs. J. H. Park (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. H. C. Bourne (Hon. Sec.), Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Orpen, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Pidot, Mrs. Van Anglenberg, Mrs. Branch, Mrs. Douet, Mrs. Muirhead, Mrs. Ewen, and Miss Nethersole.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.—The Ladies' West India Committee: Lady Chancellor (President), Mrs. Gordon Gordon (Vice-President), Mrs. John Wilson (Secretary), Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Bernard, Mrs. Vincent Brown, Mrs. Rapsey, Mrs. Geddes Grant, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Huggins, Miss Sellier, Miss May, Miss Eckel.

We should be glad to receive the names of the members of local Committees not given above so that the list may be made complete.

The West Indian Contingent Committee, taking time by the forelock, has issued the following memorandum regarding Christmas gifts for men on active service:—

Instructions with regard to Christmas gifts for Egypt, Mesopotamia, etc., must reach the West India Contingent Committee before September 30th next, and for this country and France not later than October 14th next. Experience has shown that otherwise there will not be a remote chance of such presents reaching their destination in time for the festive season.

GIFTS FOR INDIVIDUALS.

(1) Parcels containing non-dutiable gifts for men whose addresses are known can best be sent direct by Parcel Post.

(2) Parcels for individuals whose addresses are not known, or in doubt, and parcels containing dutiable gifts, can be sent *c/o* The West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3, who will be glad to receive and forward them to their destination provided that the following regulations are strictly carried out:—

(a) Parcels must be very securely packed.

(b) Parcels must in no circumstances exceed 11 lbs. each in weight.

(c) A precise list of the contents, the name and address of the sender, and the name and regiment or ship of the intended recipient must be clearly written on each parcel.

(3) BUT by far the best and simplest 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 with it, pack and despatch any articles that may be desired.

GIFTS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION.

Gifts for general distribution must be securely packed in cases not exceeding 56 lbs. gross in weight, and the contents of the packages, and name and address of the sender must be inscribed clearly on each case. Unless these regulations are rigidly carried out such consignments cannot be delivered.

We have been asked by the Commanding Officers again to urge that gifts for the British West Indies Regiment may be made as general as possible, it being more difficult than ever and in many cases quite impossible to trace men in individual contingents.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Hon. Secretary.*
15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.
June 20th, 1918.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—A Political Crisis.

There has been an acute political crisis in the Colony. The House of Assembly having passed a resolution rescinding an Order made by the Food Control Committee to regulate the sale of flour, asked the Governor to give effect to their wishes. His Excellency, however, disregarded the request, and the Committee subsequently passed an Order amending the previous one in so far as it affected the Out Islands. He then addressed a message to the House, stating his inability to concur in the opinions expressed in their resolution, refuting the arguments adduced in support of it and setting out his views and those of the Food Committee. The Speaker, after reading the message, declared it to be one of the most unusual that had ever been received and he recommended the postponement of other business until so grave a situation had been adjusted. An address was then sent to the Governor regretting that his message was open to misconstruction and that it should have contained debatable and controversial statements and expressing the opinion that it was not conducive to cordial co-operation among the several branches of the Legislature essential to order and good Government. The Governor, in reply, expressed his agreement with the views of the House and disclaimed any intention of departing from recognised principles.

BARBADOS—Sir Leslie Probyn's Departure.

Sir Leslie Probyn has relinquished the Government of the Colony and has left for Jamaica. His farewell message to the Legislature is published in the *Barbados Standard* of May 8, together with the reply of the House of Assembly.

The House of Assembly has voted a salary of £300 per annum, rising by £50 a year after two years to £350, with a travelling allowance of £100 a year, for an Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture. In the course of the debate, several members referred to the excellent work done by the local Department, especially in raising new varieties of seedling canes.

The weather at the end of April showed improvement over that of the earlier part of the month. The rainfall for the month was, however, below the average though better than for April, 1917.

Sir Francis Watts is visiting the Bahamas as well as Jamaica before returning to the Island.

The deaths are announced of Dr. R. A. Starte, Government Veterinary Surgeon, and Mr. H. L. Barrow, Third Clerk of the General Post Office.

Mr. E. H. Scamell, Secretary of the Military Hospital Committee at Ottawa, has written to Mr. Flood, the local Canadian Trade Commissioner, in appreciation of the hos-

pitality extended to Canadian wounded officers, many of whom have visited the island.

BRITISH GUIANA—The Rice Question.

Feeling over the rice question has been further stirred by news of the landing in Trinidad of 40,000 bags of rice from India. The contention is that this import from the East is the result of the Governor's policy of prohibiting the export of rice from British Guiana to the island.—Large quantities of balata have recently reached Georgetown from the interior, the amount entered at the Department of Lands and Mines for a month being 80,284 lbs.—The gold returns are also satisfactory, 3,122 ounces having been entered at the Department of Lands and Mines for a period of nine months.—Mr. W. A. Wolsley's interest in Pln. Lusignan has been acquired by Messrs. H. E. Murray, R. E. Brassington, R. Strang, and Mr. Percy C. Wight. The interest consists of nearly half of the estate's capital, being 19,000 shares out of the 40,000 shares subscribed. The balance of the shares is held by Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co. The remarkable age of 115 had been attained by a Buxton woman, Mrs. Isabella Williams, who has just died.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, writes, May 2nd.—Decision has been given for the plaintiff in the action *Freitas v. The New Success Co., Ltd.*, for wrongful dismissal; \$4,700 damages with costs being awarded.—The Privy Council decision in the *Turf Club* case is in Mr. McCannan's favour, with costs.—In a further letter on May 14th, he states that nothing further has been heard of Mr. Gordon Cameron, and the wonderful scheme of railway development which he put before the Press.—News of the death of Mr. R. G. Duncan, in Scotland, was received with very deep regret.—The deaths of Mr. T. B. Chapman, of Grove East Coast, an old colonist, on the 24th ult. at the age of 75, and of Mr. H. G. Faria, attorney, of Messrs. D'Aguiar Bros., at the age of 60, are also a subject of general regret.—The wedding of Mr. F. A. Mackey, only son of the late Hon. A. P. Mackey, with Miss E. F. Wallace, younger daughter of the Rev. J. B. Wallace, Scots Church Minister, St. Luke's, West Coast, took place on the 25th ult., at St. Luke's.—The Bill for forced labour in connection with the Sea Defences has been withdrawn.

The Very Rev. Dean Sloman is out of hospital and is now convalescent.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Good Harvest.

On the occasion of his first visit to Orange Walk, Mr. Hart-Bennett, the new Governor, was assured in an address of welcome that there had been a ready response to the call for more extensive and varied planting of food crops, as a result of the last harvest had been the largest known.

GRENADA—A Red Cross Concert.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE.—St. Patrick's is once more to be congratulated on the splendid concert held at St. Leonard's, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kent, who bore the entire expense of erecting a handsome stage, which, with the whole grounds was beautifully illuminated with electric light, also due to the energy of Mr. Leonard Kent. The dramatic and musical parts of the programme were managed respectively by Mrs. Leonard Kent and Mrs. Gill, whose combined efforts produced the most happy results.

Mrs. Leonard Kent delighted us in "Hats," a selection from "Our Miss Gibbs," and as the "peach" in a succession of tableaux entitled "A War-time Trifle." Mrs. A. F. Hughes gave an appropriate war recitation. Miss L. Glean, Mr. Gun Munro (comic), Messrs. George Gentle and Leonard Kent rendered solos. Special mention must be made of the final tableaux, a collection of Allies in costume; short appropriate songs were sung, after which Mrs. L. Kent appeared, elevated at the back of the stage, dressed as an angel and carrying a sword, the emblem of our hopes, the final "Victory."

A Fancy Dress Dance was held afterwards at the residence of Mr. Geo. Kent.

A party of planters from St. Patrick's, Messrs. Hall, Alexander, J. D. Copeland, J. B. Copeland, George Kent, and Leonard Kent, recently visited St. Vincent for the purpose of investigating the methods adopted there for

the growing of Sea Island cotton. They were cordially received by Mr. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent, who was most attentive and gave them many hints which were highly appreciated. Orders were given for seed, sufficient to plant about 200 acres.

A trip was made to the Soufrière; it is a long pull, but when the summit is eventually reached the panorama of the crater is well worth the journey.

The cocoa crop is practically finished, being considerably short of last year. Nutmegs are fetching as much as 20c. a lb. locally and as the coming crop looks promising, nutmeg planters ought to do well.

£1,846 has already been paid into the Treasury as part of Grenada's contribution to the Red Cross appeal. £739 has so far been collected by Major Smith in St. George's; it is to be hoped £1,000 will be reached. A meeting has been held with the idea of starting a Building and Loan Association which is much needed.

A portion of Diamond Estate in St. Mark's has been acquired and His Excellency the Governor has a new scheme for the improvement of the Town of Victoria. This is much needed. St. George's is sadly in want of residences, and it is pleasant to see that there is a sign of some buildings in course of erection. What is wanted, also, is a good hotel.

A Race Meeting has been fixed for the 3rd and 4th June at Queen's Park, open to all half-breed creoles born in the Colony. It is a pity money cannot be found to erect a good grand stand; the ancient cricket pavilion is an eyesore. A Fancy Fair will be held at the Fort Rocks, St. Georges, on the 30th May, in aid of the Red Cross, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith.

JAMAICA—United States and Bananas.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The food question continues to receive much attention, and the columns of the Press have been filled with suggestions of varying merit. At last the matter has been taken up in a methodical manner under the auspices of the authorities, the Jamaica Imperial Association and other bodies. Numerous meetings to discuss ways and means have been held all over the island, the Governor has addressed an appeal to the people, and the larger landowners have been circularised, all to the same end. One of the main difficulties to be met lies in the fact that local food crops are highly perishable, and in the absence of dehydrating plants, under existing conditions during certain months local products glut the market at nominal prices, and at other times are not to be had at any price. Sir Francis Watts has been consulted and made several valuable suggestions relative to the installing of suitable machinery and granaries at a meeting of the Agricultural Society. It is probable that some such plan as he suggested will be adopted by the Government. The prospects of the rice industry are also being discussed with Sir Francis Watts, who visited the district where experiments are being carried on in order to gain first hand information. Two meatless days weekly have been enforced in Kingston and St. Andrew, and no slaughtering is now permitted in these parishes on Sundays, Wednesdays or Fridays. The United Fruit Co. have published a recipe providing for the nitration of 30 per cent. of flour made from green bananas as a substitute for an equal quantity of wheat flour, and in order to introduce it in bread making have offered to furnish free a reasonable supply of green bananas to responsible bakers for experimental purposes.

Banana planters have been greatly relieved by the news that no restrictions are to be placed by the United States on the import of bananas provided the tonnage can be economised by other means. The good news is contained in a letter from Mr. Cutter, Vice-Chairman in charge of the tropical business of the United Fruit Co. to the Company's General Manager in Jamaica. The local Press also states that Sir Francis Watts, when in New York recently, made strong representations to Mr. Cutter regarding the need of the Jamaica banana trade occupying a good position in the United States market this year.

NEVIS—Welcome Rainfall.

MR. F. WILLIAMS, May 16th.—After a terrible drought lasting for months, a general downfall of rain has occurred

amounting to 3 to 6 inches, all over the island. Both cotton and cane suffered terribly from the drought. The cotton purchased by the Admiralty still awaits shipment.

TOBAGO—Rain Wanted.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MAY 10th.—The weather continues hot and dry with only occasional and much needed showers. The Leeward districts are approaching the "funder" stages, and all parties are afraid of bush fires. At "Adelphi," the residence of the D.M.O., sparks from a bush fire set the shingle roof ablaze and most of it was consumed, but the rest of the house is said to be intact. The cane fields are pretty well cleared. The local sugar is selling by retail at 5d. per lb., and the old black folks prefer it to V. Pan. Some of the Muscovado will probably find its way to the United Kingdom, provided freight room is available. Cocoa planters did better than expected last month and another small picking is expected between now and June. In all but most favoured districts, the trees are practically bare. Lieut. Hamilton, R.N.R. (Greenhill), has been over on short leave and his friends were pleased to see him again. Mr. G. Humphrey Sworder has just purchased "Cocoawattie" Estate, formerly the property of the late Hon. H. L. Thornton. Mr. Sworder intends to resume the old name of "Alma" and will work the property in conjunction with attorneyships in the same district.

The Red Cross Concert at Delaford, East Coast School, raised over £18 which includes gifts and special donations. At Scarborough, on 9th inst., was held a most successful Red Cross Fair, at which great business was done by lively and pretty "Jappy" and Italian and other "fairies." Justice Blackwood Wright, presiding at the Criminal Sessions, was able to pay the fair a visit along with Commissioner Warden and Mrs. Strange. There is an unusually large number of criminal and civil cases at this Sessions.

TRINIDAD—The Electric Company.

Santa Rosa Estate in the Chandanagore Settlement, Chaguana, has been sold to Mrs. Lucy Emily David for \$20,700.

The financial statement of the Trinidad Electric Co., Ltd., for the year ending December 31st, 1917, reports net earnings for the year amounting to \$72,518 as compared with \$69,529 for the previous year. The directors state that a war tax of \$20,017, imposed on the company by the Government of Trinidad, has again compelled them to stop the payment of dividends. The directors add that they would not have objected to a reasonable tax but a progressive tax (ending at 6/8 in the £ on income over £10,000 on the total receipts of the company, except part of the bond interest) they think very unfair. They are in communication with the Colonial Office on the subject.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, and Wants is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for every additional line.

DEATH.

GRELL.—On June 5th, 1918, at the Hill Station Hospital, Landour, India, Louis George Neville, Lieutenant 27th Punjab, Indian Army, only son of the late Ellis Grell and of Mrs. T. M. Field, B.W.I., aged 26 years.

WANTS.

COMPETENT ACCOUNTANT, not over 40 years of age, wanted by Bankers and Exporters in Trinidad, fully qualified to take charge of books, etc. Knowledge of Spanish not necessary, but an advantage. Married or single; good prospects. Man discharged from army preferred. Write, stating experience and salary required to K.C. 967, c/o Deacon's Advertising Offices, Leadenhall Street, E.C. 3.

WANTED by Discharged Soldier, Imperial Army, left hand disabled, position on Sugar Plantation, British Island, Caribbean Sea, where previous experience unnecessary, smart appearance, good credentials and discharge papers. Send full particulars to Percy Doe, Cameo Cottage, Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey, England.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6512 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

June 27th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. from the 5th April, 1918

TRADE RETURNS for May, issued by the Board of Trade on June 16th show that the value of exports from the United Kingdom in May was £44,967,221, and that of the imports £125,833,581. The total exports for the first five months of this year were £201,806,418 against £207,495,881 and £194,533,318 for the corresponding periods of 1917 and 1916, respectively. The total imports for the five months of this year together as contrasted with the total for the corresponding periods of 1917 and 1916 were: 1918, £550,538,335; 1917, £414,514,425; and 1916, £387,521,347.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W. I. Crystallised ... | 57 | 9 |
| W. I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ... | 55 | 6 |
| W. I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... | 50 | 0 |

In the House of Commons, on June 17, Mr. Prothero said that enough beet seed could be sowed at Kelham to be transplanted in 1919 for the production of seed that would sow 5,000 acres in 1920. Factory plans were being obtained but as the amount of building and machinery was very considerable, the Board could not at present make the necessary demand for priority. The Norfolk beet factory was closed owing mainly to the difficulty of getting seed from Holland, and possibly also in regard to the machinery.

In May, 40,000 tons of shipping was withdrawn from the West Indies-United States sugar carrying trade for transport work and the situation has not been helped by the submarine depredations.

Willet & Gray's estimate for the Cuban crop is 3,246,000 tons.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on June 22nd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports ... | 10,850 | 29,059 | 21,692 | Tons. |
| Deliveries ... | 18,723 | 28,538 | 26,642 | " |
| Stock (June 22nd) ... | 3,114 | 8,536 | 6,155 | " |

RUM. The position is unchanged.

The stocks in London on June 22nd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica ... | 5,029 | 8,619 | 4,935 | puns. |
| Demerara ... | 3,229 | 10,382 | 13,879 | " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 12,997 | 31,701 | 31,993 | " |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd., viz.:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa ... | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guavaquil, and Surinam ... | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons ... | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa ... | 65 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committee. Exports from January 1st to May 15th: Trinidad, 26,763,812 lbs.; St. Lucia, 1,454,096 lbs.

The stocks in London on June 22nd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Trinidad ... | 11,719 | 29,021 | 24,437 | bags. |
| Grenada ... | 18,664 | 30,161 | 15,569 | " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 154,469 | 287,960 | 194,149 | " |

COTTON Prices remain as fixed, viz.:—

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary ... | 8d. |
| Good Ordinary ... | 46d. |
| Superfine St. Vincent ... | 43d.-56d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

ARROWROOT. More inquiry, and with importers more ready to meet the market a fair business has resulted. Quotations 1/- to 1/5.

From January 1st to April 30th, St. Vincent shipped 1,257,331 lbs.

COCO-NUT OIL. Price fixed by the Controller, £70 per ton.

COPRA. Price fixed by the Controller, £46 c.i.f. Liverpool and London. Marseilles irregular and quotations easier £93 to £94 c.i.f. terms.

HONEY. There has been more demand in the London market and prices have recovered somewhat from the late decline. Jamaica honey may be quoted from 175/- to 195/- per cwt., according to quality.

From January 1st to May 15th, St. Lucia shipped 9,600 lbs. as against 80 lbs. only for the same period in 1917.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed quiet, value about 16/6; Distilled, no demand, cannot advise consignments, about 6/- to 6/3. Lime Juice: Raw, firm; ordinary to good green 3/3 to 4/-. Concentrated, quiet. Citrate, firm.

St. Lucia is going ahead as a lime producer. From January 1st to May 15th, 8,467 gallons of concentrated were exported from the island, besides 444 barrels of lime oil.

BALATA. Market unchanged. Venezuela block, 3/4 to 3/4 c.i.f.; spot 3/7; Panama block, 3/3 spot; W.I. sheet firm, 3/11 c.i.f. spot value 4/2 to 4/3.

RUBBER. Steady. Spot crepe, 2/23; sheet 2/13; hard fine 3/14.

PETROLEUM. Exports from Trinidad, January 1st to May 18th:—

| | Gallons. |
|---------------------|------------|
| Crude ... | 11,836,583 |
| Kerosene ... | 514,199 |
| Gasolene ... | 917,452 |
| Lubricating Oil ... | 26,320 |

MAHOGANY. 2,282,574 feet were exported from British Honduras between January 1st and April 30th.

SPICES. Pimento is dearer, and sales are reported at from 5½d. up to 6d. per lb. There is more business passing in Jamaica ginger at steady prices, say from £5 17s. 6d. to £6 10s. per cwt.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA. Arrangements for the equitable distribution of the limited supplies available, viz., 3,500 tons for British Guiana, and 1,750 tons for the islands, for the current season are well advanced. The price quoted is £32 10s. per ton, net cash, in double bags, f.o.b., Liverpool, Glasgow, Tyne, or Tees. Thanks to the very complete figures furnished by the Sugar Planters' Association, there has been no difficulty about the allocation of the supplies for British Guiana; but in the case of several of the islands it has been otherwise, and it is hoped that on future occasions completely uniform action may be taken. The whole question has involved much work by the West India Committee, which is not grudged since it has resulted in a much fairer distribution being effected than was possible last year.

A PORTRAIT of Alexander Hoastoun of Clerkington, Haddingtonshire, Lieut.-Governor of Grenada in 1796-7, by Sir H. Rachburn, R.A., was sold at Christies' on June 7th for 2,400 guineas.

THE Secretary of the West India Committee recently wrote to the *Daily Mail*:

"Last year I endeavoured to find the colours taken at Martinique in 1794 by Sir Charles Grey and Sir John Jervis which were entrusted to the care of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral by order of King George III.

"An inquiry addressed to the present Dean elicited the remarkable reply that he had been informed that 'the flags, or rags, appear to have been destroyed many years ago.' In the circumstances I venture to suggest that some safer resting place than St. Paul's might be found for the *Vindictive's* flag. Why not Greenwich Hospital?"

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, JULY 11th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SERTHING LANE.
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CAMIB, LONDON.
July 11th, 1918.

The Advantages of Cocoa.

THE anonymous author of "An Exact Description of the West Indies," published as far back as 1655, referred to cocoa as "both meat, drink and money." The golden bean was, indeed, held in such high esteem by the Indians, that they used it as money, while their women-folk loved it "extremely," not only because they believed that it made them fair, but also because they were never so well as when they were sucking the "skin or film" of it. As to the merits of chocolate, all writers on the West Indies are enthusiastic, a later author—HICKERINGILL—in his "Jamaica View'd" (1661), confessing that though its virtues were "hyperboliz'd upon every post in London," it was "of excellent nourishment, the Spaniard victualling for a long and wilderness journey with no other Refreshment, than Cakes made of the Kernels of those Cocoa nuts"—(not to be confused with coco-nuts)—"which he dissolves in water for his meat and drink." We believe that the Ministry of Food now fully recognises the great nutritive value of cocoa, and we are not without hope that before many moons are set there will be some further relaxation of the restrictions against the importation of that valuable product. As we must again impress upon our friends in the West Indies, the only considerations which weigh with the Ministry in dealing with this question concern the feeding of the armies and peoples of the Allies. The Ministry of Food is set up to safeguard the supplies of food for this country and her Allies, and not to sustain Colonial industries except in so far as the collapse of those industries might jeopardise further supplies. Similarly the Controller of Shipping is primarily interested in providing tonnage for food supplies,

and transport for the immense armies of the Allies. Further concessions for cocoa can therefore be pressed for with the best chances of success by showing that they are called for in the interests of consumers in the countries of the Allies, and in this connection a strong case can be made out. The Board of Trade returns show that on May 31st the stocks of cocoa in this country were 500,000 cwt. only, as compared with 1,138,000 cwts. on the same date in 1917. In other words they have been reduced by over one-half in a single year. That figure includes not only stocks in bond, but also supplies in manufacturers' hands in bond, which, as everyone connected in the trade knows, must be maintained. 500,000 cwts. is a small enough reserve under present conditions; but we believe that it is even smaller than it appears at first sight, for it includes all kinds, few of which can be used without blending, besides produce owned by neutrals, which cannot be made available for consumption here without much diplomatic negotiation. If then all danger of cocoa shortage is to be averted it is absolutely essential that stocks be built up anew, and this can only be effected by admitting cocoa more freely. Any reduction of consumption is out of the question in view of the fact that cocoa affords a body-building and heat-giving food. As we showed in last CIRCULAR, it contains 50 per cent. of hydrocarbon fat and 18 per cent. of nitrogenous foods, and we are convinced that it would be impossible to hold too big a reserve of this valuable commodity in our stores.

The Lime Industry.

FROM reports which have reached us from New York we fear that there is not a remote chance of the decision of the United States Government to prohibit the importation of green limes being reversed. This will be a heavy blow to Dominica, which looks to the green lime trade for its best profit; but facts have to be faced, and it must be admitted that the transport of troops and foodstuffs to Europe must be the primary consideration in existing circumstances. All that remains is for the lime planters to make the best of a bad job and to take steps to meet the situation as far as possible while determining to revive this profitable trade when conditions permit. Meanwhile the problem of how the lime crop is to be disposed of has been engaging close attention. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE submitted definite proposals to the Colonial Office whereby the green limes could be manufactured into concentrated and tested and stored under Government control, a New York firm making advances against it pending opportunities for shipment. The Colonial Office cabled these sug-

gestions to the Governor of the Leeward Islands who had approved of them, when events took a still more favourable turn. If the lime crop were shipped in the usual manner, that is to say, as green limes, raw juice, concentrated, citrate and essential oils, it would require 8,200 tons' space; but if it were made into concentrated or citrate and shipped in that form with the usual quantity of essential oils it would occupy 1,800 tons space only, and this the Shipping Board has now consented to provide. As, however, they cannot undertake to lift it directly it is ready the crop will be stored pending shipment and the Colonial Bank will make advances against it. In order to protect the smaller proprietors who have no apparatus for concentration a Committee will be formed in the island to ensure that they will get a fair price for their limes from those who have. This arrangement would appear to be the best which could have been made in the circumstances, and the thanks of all interested in the lime industry are due to MR. A. H. GREEN, a prominent Dominica planter, who personally visited Washington and exerted his influence there as an American citizen towards inducing the Shipping Board to provide a limited amount of tonnage, which we assume will be in addition to the 500 tons already sanctioned for West Indian lime products.

BERMUDA.

Written by a visitor en route for the West Indies.

THOU fair and lovely gem set in a sapphire sea,
Whose crystal wavelets softly kiss thy lips,
Of coral and pale golden sand;
I fain would tell of all thy glories rare,
Of groves of Oleanders, the Poet's flower,
And trees of glowing beauty—Hybiscus bold
And stately palm trees—sentinels,
To guard so fair a scene.
And overhead, amid tall trees, the hum of insects,
Loud and shrill, portending rain,
But now rejoicing in the soft and scented air.
Thy crystal cave, so still and cool and wondrous,
Fit home for Neptune's daughter and the fairies,
And yet cathedral-like in all its solemn beauty
Of hanging pendants, ivory and white,
O'erhanging in deep mystery still pools,
Reflecting, mirror-like, a thousand gleaming
And fantastic shapes.
And now, fair Isle, Adieu,
I thank thee for the pleasure thou hast given,
Kindling in my heart new life and joy of living,
And in my soul new thoughts of God,
And all His wondrous works.
Adieu.

October, 1917.

F. B.

ONLY British subjects are eligible for membership of the West India Committee, forms of application for which can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London E.C., or from the Hon. Correspondents. The annual subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. ARNOLD BRANCE, Medical Student of McGill College, Montreal, son of Archdeacon Branch of Antigua, B.W.I., has joined the Royal Navy.

THE early home of William Wilberforce, at Hull—a building which should possess historic interest for West Indians—is undergoing the process of restoration.

MR. EDWARD SHEPHERD, son of Mr. F. R. Shepherd, Superintendent of Agriculture, St. Kitts, has joined the Canadian Tank Corps and is in England for training.

REPORTING on the trade of Para during 1917, the British Consul says that of the total shipments of 4,501 tons of cocoa from the Amazon Basin, 3,413 were shipped to the United Kingdom.

THE sword presented by the City of Liverpool to Lord Collingwood, after the Battle of Trafalgar, and recently sold on behalf of the Red Cross, has been repurchased and placed in the custody of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

POSTAGE and paper are saved when members of the West Indian Committee pay their dues punctually. It is hoped that on perusing this, the reader will at once forward a remittance direct or pay it in to the Colonial Bank, if he has not done so already.

THE so-called "Spanish influenza" has played havoc with our staff, only one member of which has so far proved immune. The Trinidad volunteers, whose arrival is recorded elsewhere, fell victims to it almost to a man; but all are now out and about again.

DR. H. A. TEMPANY is, we learn, winning golden opinions in Mauritius, where he is much occupied in extending the cultivation of food crops. It is to be regretted that the services of such men as he and Mr. F. I. Stockdale, who is equally popular in Ceylon, should be lost to the West Indies.

THE engagement is announced of Violet Kathleen, only daughter of the late Col. G. C. De Rinzy, Commandant of the Local Forces, British Guiana, and Mrs. De Rinzy, of 82, Cromwell Road, S.A.V., to J. W. O. Scott-Russell, Grenadier Guards, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Scott-Russell.

MR. J. P. DE VERTEUIL, son of the Hon. Dr. de Verteuil, Surgeon-General of Trinidad, who was discharged from the Army last year after being seriously wounded, and is now a student at the Royal School of Mines, has recently passed the third year's examination in Oil Technology with 2nd class honours.

THE possibilities of an important cattle industry on the Savannahs have often been adduced as an argument in favour of a railway through British Guiana. Meanwhile the neighbouring Republic, Brazil, is taking up in earnest this question of cattle raising and it is officially announced that the import of as many as 120,000 bulls is contemplated within the next ten years.

MR. JOHN HARDING BROWNE, has retired from the firm of Jonas Browne & Son, with which he was associated for no fewer than 38 years, and his place has been taken by Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, while Mr. H. H. King has also been admitted as partner. Mr. Harding Browne's city address is now c/o Hanel & Horley, Ltd., 35, Crutched Friars, where he will continue his association with certain companies of which he is director.

SURINAM is reported to be in the most desperate straits regarding food. Imminent starvation is said to be feared. The only available article of diet is cornflour. Fish and other foodstuffs gave out long ago. A

Demerian who returned recently from the Dutch Colony stated: "On a grant in the interior the labourers nearly went mad for want of food, and even dogs have a very short existence once they are seen."

"What happened on our West India Cruise" is the title of a happily-written brochure descriptive of a Canadian traveller's trip to the Caribbean. Sympathetic and appreciative, the writer, whose identity is hidden behind the initials "I. C. S.," testifies to the continued tradition of West Indian hospitality. He does not regard a few weeks' holiday among the islands as entitling him to pronounce finally upon the problems which have agitated West Indians for decades. On the contrary, he is careful to keep as far as possible from politics. A passing reference to the confederation issue is evidence of his detached point of view, and may perhaps be typical of the attitude of many Canadians at the moment.

REFERRING to the benefit derived by Barbados, in common with other islands, from the Canadian Preferential Tariff, "I. C. S." writes that this fact might suggest that a good case is being made for political federation with Canada. He adds:—

"The writer's reasons to the contrary are these: First, Barbados' industrial success in normal times is largely dependent on cheap labour. Her wage scale is about 36 cents per day. Consequently it is evident she must have cheap living, and cheap living as we all know, is not among the blessings which a high tariff brings. As a province of Canada she would be expected to carry the present Canadian wall of protection and we find it impossible to see whenever she would receive compensation for the increased cost of living which a Protectionist tariff assumes."

A BOTTLE of Jamaica rum fetched the highest price realised for any individual bottle sold at the recent wine sale which enriched the funds of the Red Cross Society by £56,000. The sale was chiefly remarkable for choice wines from the Royal cellars presented by His Majesty the King. "Some very old curious Jamaica rum"—to quote the catalogue—met with marked appreciation. One bottle, dated 1820, fetched £50. Three others bottled in 1776 and supposed even then to have been 20 years in wood, realised £25. Three dozen more, bottled in 1798, were sold at £17 10s. and £20 a dozen respectively. Three dozen bottles of "Rare old Curacao," also from the King's cellars, were disposed of for £250.

M. GEORGES DUREAU will, we may be sure, have the sympathy of all of our readers who are interested in sugar in his fresh misfortune. For the second time since the War began that well-informed expert has been compelled to suspend the publication of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, of which he is managing director. In a letter dated June 29th he wrote to the Editor of the CIRCULAR from Saint Linnair: "The town of Clermont (Oise), where my printing works are situated, having been bombed by the Germans, the issue of my paper for June 19th which was just going to press, could not appear." That number was to have contained a reprint of our leading article on "Sugar after the War," which M. Dureau now hopes to embody in an article on the sugar question in one of the economic or agricultural reviews.

CAPTAIN ESME MACDONNELL, who is now acting Major in command of the Headquarter Company of the 1/35th Divisional Train, writes: "I note in paragraph 5 of the report in your issue of the 13th June, that although 1,200 newspapers have increased their subscription rates, no change has been made in that for the CIRCULAR, and under these circumstances it seems to me it's up to your members to show their appreciation of the CIRCULAR by doubling their subscription to the W.I.C. So will you please send me an order on my banker to enable me to do so. As a Trinidadian by adoption I need not say how much I look forward to Edgar Tripp's letter giving news of the Island." We trust that Capt. MacDonnell's example of war time spirit will prompt other members of the Committee to follow suit and enable us to continue the CIRCULAR with pre-war efficiency.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Wily Kuhlmann.

A sensation was caused in the House of Commons when it was officially admitted that men are being sent to the front after only three months training. But apparently nothing can teach the British politician that between the appearance of a soldier on paper and in the field there should be an interval of nearly, if not quite, a year. Then Mr. Lloyd George says that when the U.S. came to the help of the Allies in the spring it was on the condition that American troops brigaded with British troops should be withdrawn, not when America's military strength in France was largely augmented, but when the British Army was adequately reinforced. Nevertheless the only source of promising raw material in this country still available remains untapped. Nor is it likely to be until conscription is applied to Ireland. Why not now?

The sensation of the past fortnight was the dramatic appearance at the annual Labour Conference of M. Kerensky, who, by transferring authority from responsible officers to irresponsible regimental committees, destroyed the Russian Army as a fighting force. Otherwise the Conference was remarkable for the marked signs it gave of restiveness at the dominance in the Party's counsels of the pacifists, headed by Mr. Arthur Henderson and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. The bulk of the working classes are united in their desire for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and find a lead in the Seamen's Union, which is determined on a boycott of Germany after the war until she shows practical repentance of her crimes at sea.

As Mr. Gerard, the U.S. Ambassador in Berlin during the first three years of the war, once wrote: "Beware of the wily Kuhlmann." The Chancellor's speech in the Reichstag was designed at once to play on the weaknesses of the Allies, and to make Germany's position clear. He took the view that the break-up of Russia is permanent and that Germany is to be left in possession of all her ill-gotten gains of territory. His admission that the struggle cannot be ended by military means alone has made the Pan-Germans furious. But it should be a source of satisfaction to the Allies, and incentive to use the economic weapon against the Central Empires more rigorously. Herr Von Kuhlmann's suggestion that the war may be a long one was at once a threat to the Allies and a summons to the German people. The enemy is as far from considering peace as ever.

On the Western Front.

Speculation still exercises itself as to why the renewal of the German offensive is so long delayed. None of the reasons given are convincing, except the desire to render the blow when it falls as crushing, as unexpected, and as decisive as thought and labour can compass. In the meantime the Allies are strengthening their front by local tactical gains, confident of their power successfully to resist the enemy's maximum effort. A notable one by the British carried our line forward a mile on a three mile front near Nieppe Forest, where our position

was cramped. For weeks past shell-holes and machine-gun posts have been retaken, but in the recent surprise attack a whole system of linked-up defences was captured, and the demoralized enemy driven into the stream, except at two farms, where the ground in the rear was firm, and here a stout resistance was offered for some hours. The French at the same time drove the enemy from their positions he had fortified north-west of Cutry in a brilliant surprise assault in which infantry, artillery, and tanks co-operated without a hitch. The British on the Lys and the French on the Ourcq have since extended these gains. South of the Somme the Australians have captured Hamel together with the woods to the north of it, and advanced our line east of Ville-sur-Ancre by 500 yards on a front of nearly a mile, capturing 1,000 prisoners, while the French foiled a German attack between Montdidier and the Oise, and themselves swept forward three-quarters of a mile.

The Americans in France.

There are now a million American soldiers in France, an increasing proportion of whom are in the firing line. Between the Ourcq and the Aisne, west of Chateau Thierry, they have cleared out the enemy from the wooded angle formed by the two rivers at that point. After taking Belleau Wood, a neat little operation, they have further improved their position on the Paris road in an action which required good staff work, as well as the efficient co-operation of all arms. The result was the occupation of Vaux village, wood, and neighbouring height. This crowned the American success of the previous week.

The value of the new gains consists in the power it gives the French to command a good view of about two miles over the German lines. As a matter of fact they have recovered the crest line between the Ourcq and the Clignon Rivers.

On the Italian Front.

The Austrians in withdrawing to the left bank of the Piave were so closely pressed by the Italians that many were captured as they were pushing off boats. The number of corpses in the river, whose flooding was one of the chief factors in bringing about the disaster, which fell on the enemy so swiftly, were silent witnesses of his heavy losses in men in addition to the 20,000 taken as prisoners. The amount of booty in guns and material was also large. Naturally the Italians are as high in spirit at their victory as the Austrians are depressed at their defeat. And day by day not only are the Allies engaged in restoring their line at points unaffected by their recent successes to where it was before June 16th, but in pushing it forward. An instance of the first was the occupation of Monte Val Bella, the highest peak of the *massif*, which rises east of Asiago and south-west of the Frenzela Valley, and strategically important for a further advance into enemy territory; an instance of the second the occupation of the Col del Rosso and the Col d'Echele, after a desperate resistance, which the British and French helped to break down. This heavy mountain warfare is extending to Monte Grappa, and, on the Lower Piave, the Italians are

holding their own by letting vast masses of water loose, creating a situation similar to the Nieupoort sector in Flanders. The fighting here is amphibious in its character, and very bitter. The Hungarian Premier has admitted that the losses of the Dual Monarchy during the past few weeks amount to 100,000. The latest news is that the Italians have redeemed thirty miles of Venetian territory between the Lile and the Piave, thus rendering the Austrian positions in the marshland very precarious.

The Russian Mystery.

So far the Allies have united on no intelligible policy with regard to Russia, though with her future the fate of the world is bound up. How readily the situation now lends itself to resolute action may be gathered from the success of the Czecho-Slovak forces, who now control Western Siberia. Another sign of the times is the escape of the Grand Duke Michael, who has joined Generals Kaledin and Korniloff in the south; and yet another, the murder of Count Mirbach, the German Ambassador, in Moscow. He was the real ruler of Russia, the Bolsheviki leaders having been his tools. In the north the Allies will be compelled to take measures for the defence of the Murman Coast, or lose control of the only effective means of communication in Europe with Russia.

The War in the Air.

Both on land and sea during the past fortnight operations in the air were for some days hampered by unfavourable atmospheric conditions, but with fine weather activity became general. On the Western Front about 100 enemy machines were destroyed and 57 driven down out of control, in addition to which two huge night-fliers were brought down within our lines. Our losses amounted to 45 aeroplanes missing or destroyed. In long distance flights our airmen raided enemy centres important in the manufacture of munitions or chemicals, for the concentration of troops and material, or as possessed of aerodromes. Such, for instance, are Lille, Tournai, Mannheim, Saarbrücken, Courtrai, Metz, Treves, and Thionville. Not only were enormous quantities of explosives dropped on these places, but, flying low, our aviators attacked enemy formations and troop trains with machine-gun fire.

The Naval Air Service has continued its routine work by bombing Ostend, Bruges and Mariakerke, destroying enemy mines, and seeking out submarines and attacking them. On June 6th, though one of our large seaplanes was obliged to alight on the Dutch coast, it had already shot down three enemy seaplanes.

The Germans are bewailing the loss of many of their best airmen. Of the pilots who are credited with 20 or more victories 14 are known to have been killed or captured, including Richtofen, with 80 victories, Muller, with 38, and Bulow, with 28.

The War at Sea.

The Admiralty return of shipping losses due to enemy action and marine risks shows an increase for May of 44,238 tons over the figures of the preceding month. As for British shipping it suffered

relatively less than Allied or neutral shipping, surely a feature as unusual as it is satisfactory. For the five months as from January 1 the total losses amounted to 1,807,950 tons. Against this may be put the total output of Britain and the United States, 629,087 tons and 483,000 tons respectively. To this may be added the new construction in Japan, Canada, and neutral countries. Even so there is still a considerable difference on the wrong side between the totals of output and loss, though they may prove to be more nearly equal for June. One doubts it, however, since the figures for new construction in British yards show a decrease of 63,095 tons for June as compared with May. It is in looking at the situation for a whole year that the Allies have ground for hope. This can be seen by a glance as follows:—

| Losses, British, Allied and Neutral. | | |
|--|------------|---------------|
| May, 1918. | May, 1917. | Decrease. |
| 355,694 | 630,336 | 274,642 tons. |
| Output of tonnage in the United Kingdom. | | |
| May, 1918. | May, 1917. | Increase. |
| 197,274 | 69,773 | 127,501 tons. |

Another hospital ship, the *Llandoverly Castle* has been torpedoed by an enemy submarine, and like most recent cases of the kind with no sick or wounded on board. Apparently the Hun is trying to save his face, while destroying tonnage so as to leave no trace, for there is little doubt but that all but one of the boats of the *Llandoverly Castle* were sunk by the wild firing and sweeping to and fro of the enemy submarine, and, but for accident, that one would have shared the same fate. There were only 24 survivors out of a ship's company of 234, including 80 Canadian medical officers and 14 nurses. The vessel was outward bound from Canada. The enemy is trying to make out that she carried troops or munitions. If so, why was she not searched? The Admiralty is seriously considering the advisability of conveying hospital ships as their distinguishing marks have long ceased to confer immunity upon them.

(To be continued.)

OLD BOOTS AS A FERTILISER.

Last year some reference was made in the CIRCULAR to the fact that it was proposed to make a manure out of old Army boots. This fertiliser is now on the market and is called Soluble Leather Meal. It consists of powdered leather finely screened and treated with sulphuric acid. Before granting licenses for the export of the meal to foreign countries the Food Production Department of the Board of Agriculture is anxious that the colonies shall have an opportunity of obtaining it if it proves suitable for colonial industries, and it is understood that the price will be £8 f.o.b. A sample of this meal was recently submitted by the West India Committee to Dr. Bernard Dyer with a view to ascertaining if it would be suitable for sugar cane cultivation, and he reports as follows:—

"I should not consider the fertiliser you refer to as specially suitable for canes. Sulphate of ammonia would be better. If, however, the fertiliser (which is acid-treated leather) were finely ground it would gradually de-

compose in the soil and would no doubt nourish sugar canes as well as any other crop; but it would have to be used in much larger quantities relatively in its nitrogen content in order to get as good as result as sulphate of ammonia would yield in the same season. Superphosphate or basic slag should be used at the same time as the fertiliser referred to supplies only nitrogen. Potash fertilisers might be obtainable from America, but only at a very high price I am afraid."

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

A Successful Year's Work.

A most successful year's working was reported to the shareholders of the British Cotton-growing Association at the thirteenth annual meeting held at the offices of the Association in Manchester on July 2nd.

Despite the difficulties arising out of the war—notably those of transport—the accounts for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1917, show a surplus of £37,916. This surplus remains after making full provision for depreciation, charging the cost of all development against revenue and reserving a further sum of £2,000 to provide for depreciation in shares and investments. The total capital subscribed is £500,000, of which £477,034 has been allotted. The balance of capital still to be raised amounts to £22,966 towards which £13,000 has been promised conditionally on the whole of the capital being subscribed, leaving a net balance of £9,966 only still to be found.

Development Work.

The Committee, representative of various bodies, recommended by the Council of the Association and appointed on the invitation of the Board of Trade to consider the best method of continuing and developing the work of the Association, had now got to work.

The case for development had been drawn up by Mr. J. Arthur Hutton (whose resignation of the chairmanship of the Association had been accepted with profound regret). Evidence had been furnished to the Committee by representatives of the Sudan Government which showed that within a period of, say, twenty-five years about 440,000 bales of 500 lbs. each could be produced annually in the Sudan by the aid of dam and irrigation works, but without any extra storage works. Evidence was also given by Sir Murdoch MacDonald, the head of the Egyptian Irrigation Department, with regard to the possibilities in Egypt, where it is estimated that by drainage and irrigation schemes another 800,000 bales of 500 lbs. each might be added to the Egyptian crop.

The total amount of cotton which has passed through the hands of the Association during recent years is shown in the following statement:—

| Year. | Bales. | Value. |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1912 ... | 40,094 ... | £ 507,122 |
| 1913 ... | 47,466 ... | 661,227 |
| 1914 ... | 38,694 ... | 456,147 |
| 1915 ... | 48,087 ... | 627,763 |
| 1916 ... | 40,730 ... | 788,061 |
| 1917 ... | 39,191 ... | 1,415,644 |

Referring to the increased consumption of cotton in the United States, the report says—

Whereas in 1895, out of an average crop of American cotton amounting to 8,345,000 bales, America herself used 2,607,000 bales, or an average of 31.2 per cent., the United States consumption for the year 1916/17 had increased to 6,940,000 bales out of a total crop of 12,900,000 bales, equal to 54 per cent. of the whole crop. The Southern mills in particular are steadily increasing their consumption, going from 2,307,000 bales in 1910/11 to 4,350,000 bales in 1916/17.

Referring to the requisition of the West Indian Sea

Island crop the report states that 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 is bought, ginned, baled and delivered at the port of shipment, and the planters are accordingly relieved of all difficulties in the provision of tonnage.

The exports from the West Indies for the year ending September 30th, 1917, only amounted to 892,867 lbs., as compared with 1,008,288 lbs. in 1916, and 1,823,956 lbs. in 1915. There were also exported from St. Vincent 19,656 lbs. of Marie Galante seed-cotton, of an estimated value of £204. The estimated production of St. Vincent was 160,168 lbs., but a considerable quantity remained unshipped.

From the Virgin Islands were also shipped 1,170 lbs. native and 460 lbs. of stains, the estimated values of which were £88 and £34 respectively.

Owing to lack of transport shipping facilities from the West Indies, a large quantity of the 1916-17 crop still remained on hand up to September 30th, 1917.

MODERN CANE MILLS.

BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

The practice of the art of mill making has reached such perfection in these days that there is practically universal recognition of the points required in the construction of a satisfactory mill plant.

The essentials for the satisfactory extraction of the sugar from the cane are—

1. That the canes should be delivered in such a physical condition as to be most favourably dealt with by the mills, and
2. That the mills themselves should be in a position to deal with canes in a manner calculated to give a maximum extraction from a maximum feed with a minimum of power used and of wear and tear.

To produce this result the following details of construction are necessary.

Starting with the appliance for the preliminary treatment of the cane, it is important that the crusher or shredder used for this purpose should be of such a construction and so situated as to deliver the canes in a crushed mass of such a depth and consistency as to supply the first mill with a feed of a character suitable for the best grip of the mill. It should also be placed in such a position in relation to the first mill as to secure a regular passage of the crushed cane along the feed plate, without over-feeding, on the one hand, or under-feeding on the other.

To secure these ends, it is customary to employ two rolls with deep grooves, either circumferential, corrugated or otherwise on the surface, the two rolls working reciprocally in this respect. Revolving axles with curved radiating knives are also employed in some instances either for the cutting up of the canes preparatory to the crusher, or as a substitute for the crusher itself. The angle of the feed plate from the crusher to the first mill which secures a maximum of regular feed is generally regarded as being 45 degrees, the rolls of the crusher being so placed that the line joining the centres of the shafts would also form this angle with the vertical.

Another important item in this connection is the

feeding of the crusher. It is essential that the cane carrier should be so speeded as to give a maximum of feed to the crusher. What this maximum may be depends upon the character of the canes, hard fibrous canes necessitating a smaller feed than soft-riind canes. To secure a satisfactory control of the cane carrier therefore, it is advisable that a separate engine be used to drive it, so arranged that its speed can be regulated by the operator superintending the feeding of the mill. It is customary also, in order to obtain a better "cane-mass" to fit heavy springs to the journals of the rolls, which enable the crusher to deal in a more satisfactory manner and with a greater degree of safety, with the irregular masses of cane on the carrier inseparable from the mechanical feeding of the carrier which is practically obligatory with mill plants of modern magnitude. When electricity is used as a motive power in factories to any extent, the engine operating the cane carrier is well replaced by an electric motor.

Proceeding to the mills proper, and starting with the rolls, an essential feature is that these should be constructed of metal of such a quality, that, while possessing the requisite hardness, they have such a gripping power as to reduce "slip" to a minimum, at the same time securing a maximum of feed. The composition of the metal used is, of course, a determining factor in this qualification, as well as the manner in which the cooling of the casting is controlled. Unless the rolls are of good metal nothing will make the mill plant a good one, although the practice of grooving the roll circumferentially may get over to a certain extent the evil of unsuitable metal.

The rolls should possess a coarse granular surface, and the metal should be as hard as is compatible with such a surface.

It is customary with modern mill plants for the top roll, and not the side roll, to be flanged. This does away with the objectionable side block. Another important feature as regards the rolls of a mill is that the journals are of such a diameter in relation to the diameter of the rolls that safety is practically secured against the heavy strains borne by a modern mill. The width of the journals also, is considerable, a large bearing surface being thus provided, giving even wear to the brasses and preventing heaping. The brasses, also, are in many instances hollow, to provide facilities for internal water cooling arrangements. The roll shafts are, of course, of steel.

(To be continued.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee can be paid into the Colonial Bank.

MR. J. SYDNEY DASH has taken up his duties as Director of the Station Agronomique de la Guadeloupe at Pointe-à-Pitre. He is introducing sugar-cane seedlings, principally from Barbados, and proposes to carry out experiments with rotation crops and to raise his own seedlings. His Assistant, who will be responsible for the analytical work of soils, manures, etc., is Mr. C. T. Alder, who served for some years with the Agricultural Department at St. Croix.

DETERIORATION OF SUGAR.

How it can be Avoided.

Dr. C. A. Browne, who has been investigating the question of the deterioration of cane sugar, has made some practical suggestions for counteracting the destruction of sugar by micro-organisms.

In the matter of manufacture it is, he states, necessary (1) to exercise the utmost possible cleanliness and care in order to diminish infection, (2) to control the moisture content of the sugar so that the ratio of non-sucrose to water is within the limits of safety, (3) to cool the sugar thoroughly before bagging to prevent the migration of water and the formation of zones of high moisture content. In the matter of storage it is necessary (1) to keep the sugar perfectly dry in warehouses which are rain-proof, (2) to keep the warehouse tightly closed in wet weather to prevent the sugar absorbing moisture from the air, (3) to construct the warehouse and store the sugar so as to secure in dry weather the maximum ventilation underneath and between the bags.

These precautions can be carried into effect with comparatively little expense and would result in eliminating much of the needless loss which occurs at present between the manufacture and refining of cane sugar.

Inasmuch as there is always danger of raw sugars becoming infected, no matter how extreme the conditions of cleanliness in the factory may be, it is important, says Dr. Browne, for the manufacturer always to make the moisture content of his sugars conform to the rules of safe-keeping.

If we accept the formula $\text{Water} = 0.3 (100 - S)$ as a requirement for safe-keeping, the moisture content of different grades of raw sugars should not exceed the following percentages:

| Sucrose per cent. | Moisture per cent. | Sucrose per cent. | Moisture per cent. | Sucrose per cent. | Moisture per cent. |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 99.9 | 0.03 | 96.0 | 1.20 | 90.0 | 3.00 |
| 99.5 | 0.15 | 95.5 | 1.35 | 89.0 | 3.30 |
| 99.0 | 0.30 | 95.0 | 1.50 | 88.0 | 3.60 |
| 98.5 | 0.45 | 94.5 | 1.65 | 87.0 | 3.90 |
| 98.0 | 0.60 | 94.0 | 1.80 | 86.0 | 4.20 |
| 97.5 | 0.75 | 93.0 | 2.10 | 84.0 | 4.80 |
| 97.0 | 0.90 | 92.0 | 2.40 | 82.0 | 5.40 |
| 96.5 | 1.05 | 91.0 | 2.70 | 80.0 | 6.00 |

Dr. Browne finds that Cuban sugar of 96.00 per cent. sucrose would deteriorate if stored in New York for one year to 95.00, and if stored in Cuba for one year to 94.00 per cent. sucrose.

The average amount of Cuban sugar stored in warehouses at any time in 1916 was 163,000 long tons in the United States and 440,000 long tons in Cuba. The average price of Cuban sugar per pound for 1916 was 5.786 cents in the United States and 4.767 cents in Cuba.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1 per cent. loss on 163,000 long tons at 5.786 cents per lb. | \$211,259 |
| 2 per cent. loss on 440,000 long tons at 4.767 cents per lb. | 939,671 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1,150,929 |

The above calculation does not take into account the loss due to the deterioration of the 3,000,000 tons of Cuban sugars during transportation. Allowing a conservative estimate an average loss of only

0.1 per cent. sucrose during transit, there would be a deficiency of \$320,342 at Cuban prices which would make the total calculated loss from deterioration for the 1916 Cuban sugars nearly \$1,500,000.

Reducing the moisture content of raw sugars would not only prevent the losses from deterioration but would accomplish a considerable saving in the costs of transportation. In the shipment of Cuban sugars for the year 1917 approximately 100,000,000 lbs. of water were carried, which, at the rate of \$0.004 per lb., would make an expenditure of \$400,000 for transportation of a useless ingredient. While the manufacture of moisture-free sugar is practicable only with the very highest grades, the moisture content of the ordinary qualities of raw sugar can be reduced nearly one-half without much extra cost of manufacture.

SUCROSE FROM SUGAR CANE.

The *Louisiana Planter* describes at length a new process patented by Mr. Andrew Adams, of Kahuwa, Hawaii, for extracting sucrose from sugar cane.

The process, says our contemporary, seems to be a combination of standard mill work, preceded by more or less saturation of the bagasse as it comes from the crusher and supplementary shredder, the finely disintegrated cane being used in a modified diffusion apparatus for filtering the cane juice, which is heated up to a temperature of 212 F., or above, lime or other suitable clarifying reagents being then used. It is claimed that in this way the impurities may be fixed in the disintegrated cane with the result of promoting the better extraction of the sucrose from the disintegrated cane and the elimination at least in part, of the filter or mud presses ordinarily employed in such work.

The *Planter* adds:—

"The modus operandi seems comparatively simple and it occurs to us that it will require practical demonstration in industrial work to finally determine what advantage may be gained by this somewhat elaborate process of sucrose extraction, and whether or not the increase in yield in sugar or the improved quality of the sugar produced will compensate for the increased efforts necessary where this patented process is used.

"Such an extraordinary degree of excellence in all the process of sugar manufacture is now being attained in many of the great sugar factories of the cane sugar world that it has seemed very difficult to effect further improvements. The method now under consideration adds to the ordinary processes the use of a shredder for the more thorough comminution of the sugar cane than is effected by the crusher and then after the use of the proper clarifying agents the juice at its high temperature is presumed to coagulate and otherwise retain its impurities within the bagasse, which acts also as a filtering medium. We shall hope to learn of some experimentation along industrial lines demonstrating its final industrial success."

"The miraculous motor car" might fitly furnish the title of a story to hand from Trinidad. Containing a well-known local family, a Buick car fell forty feet, turned a complete somersault, was righted, and proved able to self-start and resume the journey. Our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Tripp, writes: "This is a true story. It happened to be my car in which were my family. How we are alive and practically unhurt is a modern miracle. I cannot explain it."

THE COLLECTION OF SILK COTTON.

It will be recalled that in the CIRCULAR Mr. George Hughes recently drew attention to the high prices which were being realised for silk cotton (the Kapok of the East), and suggested that that product, which is now largely used for life-buoys, sleeping-bags, etc., might be collected in the West Indies.

The West India Committee subsequently sent samples of Java Kapok to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for his report, and have received an interesting reply from Mr. W. Nowell, mycologist of the Department, in the absence of Sir Francis Watts. Mr. Nowell wrote:

"The sample of Java Kapok has come to hand, and is being distributed in accordance with your request to the Agricultural Departments of the Windward and Leeward Island Colonies.

"I should point out, however, that as regards the cotton-growing islands there is good reason for not encouraging the production of this article. The pods of the silk-cotton tree afford one of the main sources of food for the cotton-stainer bug in the period between the cotton seasons, and recent work has shown that the stainer is responsible for the transmission of internal boll disease, which destroys annually a large proportion of the second picking in St. Vincent, Montserrat, and Nevis, and occurs to some extent in all the islands.

"The St. Vincent Government, by a determined effort, cut out in 1916 practically all the silk-cotton trees in that island, and is now doing the same for Bequia. The result, as shown this year in the extension of the picking season, the increased yield, and the great reduction in stained cotton, is exceedingly satisfactory, and will probably lead to similar action being taken generally.

"The islands of Dominica, St. Lucia, and Grenada (apart from Carriacou) have no cotton industry to consider, and it is only in them that any permanent interest in Kapok production can be looked for. References to Kapok have been made in the *Agricultural News* from time to time for many years back, but the prospects of the industry have not proved attractive."

THE MANGO OF PORTO RICO.

The common mango of Porto Rico grows wild in all localities, states a report of the island's Agricultural Experiment Station. Although one of the most important fruits, it is not cultivated. Superior varieties lately imported have proved satisfactory. While the climate throughout the island is suitable for the growth of mango trees, in some localities—notably through the interior and along the northern slopes—rains are sometimes too frequent during the blossoming season to permit the setting of a good crop of fruit.

Large seeds which produce only one plant are most satisfactory for stocks. The East Indian varieties produce larger and more thrifty plants, as a rule, than the native kinds. Both nursery and other mango trees may be transplanted successfully if they are not making a new growth and rainfall is plentiful.

The present confusion in the classification of types of mangoes, as well as the great variation in growth and productiveness of trees, and quality of fruit, necessitates a thorough study of varieties before a mango orchard can be successfully planted in Porto Rico. The trees of the few varieties from Martinique, Trinidad, and South America thus far tested lack vigour, while the fruits are either in-

ferior in quality or too small to be promising for general planting. As regards size, flavour, fibre content, and keeping quality, the wild Porto Rican mangoes are less desirable than many imported kinds.

In harvesting mangoes that have not softened on the tree, a stem longer than the fruit stalk should be left to prevent the juice from the base of the fruit from escaping through the fruit stalk and leaving passages for the entrance of infection. Fruits in orange wrapping paper did not ripen or decay so quickly as those wrapped in oil paper, newspaper, or coco-nut fibre, or those left in the open air. Fruits packed in coco-nut fibre ripened earliest. East Indian varieties showed much better keeping qualities than the native kinds. The mango is one of the most satisfactory ornamental trees for Porto Rico, as variations in habit of growth and colour of foliage make it possible to select from varieties producing fruit of high quality those which best carry out a particular scheme of landscape gardening.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Mr. W. M. Hughes delivered a stirring address at a mass meeting of the British Empire Producers' Organisation at Queen's Hall, on July 10th. Dealing with the question of preparation for trade after the War he said, in the course of a vigorous speech: "The more you look at this terrific problem the more difficult, indeed appalling, it appears. It frightens you. You want to forget all about it, to believe that somehow you can still 'muddle through.' But at the back of your mind you know that this problem is not of that kind. It cannot be side-stepped. It is like death; it has to be faced, and when you do face it fairly and look at it from every point of view—national, imperial, individual, labour, capital—you are forced to the conclusion that there is no way to bear the burdens imposed by the war except by resort to means which will enable each individual to produce very much more. This can be done by organization, but in no other way."

For a detailed report of the speech we must refer our readers to the daily Press of July 11th.

Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, Chairman of the B.E.P.O., presided at the meeting, which was well attended.

THE fuel value of coco-nut shells is emphasised by the *South American Journal*, in view of the present high prices for coal in the United States and other countries. These coco-nut shells, says our contemporary, are now for the most part wasted in coco-nut-producing regions, comparatively few being reserved for any useful purpose, such as mat-making or the provision of fuel for factories. The *South American Journal* adds: "Possibly the shells could be ground into powder and made into briquets for exportation to countries where they could be employed to advantage in economising expensive coal or other fuel. Coco-nut production is now so extensive in most tropical countries that huge quantities of the shells ought to be available, and generally they are to be found within easy access of water transportation."

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Mr. W. F. Lloyd, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, was the guest of the West Indian Club at luncheon.

Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood, M.P., who presided, said Mr. Lloyd was Prime Minister of the oldest British Colony. They welcomed him as representative of the first oversea portion of the Empire actually to contribute to Imperial defence. Many years since, Newfoundland contributed large numbers of selected sailors and fishermen to the Fleet cruising in the Atlantic. In proportion to population, the Colony had contributed a larger number of men to the Naval Service than any other. A special feature in the present day was the great pulping industry established by the enterprise of Lord Northcliffe, without which mill a good many newspapers to-day could not be issued. In a note to Sir William Goode, Lord Northcliffe wrote that he would have been glad to have been present to meet Mr. Lloyd, whom he had met in Newfoundland, but he was away from London endeavouring to get rid of a prolonged attack of bronchitis.

Mr. Lloyd, in reply, said he was especially pleased that the Chairman had referred to the work done on the sea by the seamen and fishermen of the Colony. Service with the Navy was popular in the Colony, but inasmuch as the more urgent problem at the beginning of the war was how to meet the tremendous force of Germany on land, they turned some of their handy men into soldiers, though their military unit was a boys' brigade. To the first thousand sent from Newfoundland that brigade contributed 50 per cent. As an Englishman he could speak of the doings of the Newfoundland people without self-laudation. On the withdrawal from Suvla Bay the Newfoundland Regiment had charge of roads, wharves and boats, and were the last to leave. In the good work done by the Navy the sailors and fishermen of Newfoundland had a share.

Representatives of the Dominions, he continued, had been invited to take part in the consideration of important problems affecting the Empire, were taken into the fullest confidence, and took responsibility in decisions. Coming from outside, they could talk freely, and act without hindrance. The calling together of men from the outer nations of the Empire meant the building up of something which would make for permanent unity and strength, and they were making progress. It was palpable there had been grievous failures. To allow those who were avowedly enemies to this country to gain possession of raw materials we had in our hands was folly. Speaking broadly, the Dominions were what might be called Imperial Preference men, who wanted the resources of the Empire to be developed for the people of the Empire. He appreciated the difficulties. In Newfoundland they were peculiarly a trading people; they practically produced what they did not want, and what they wanted they had to import. But the Empire did not care to take their dried fish. It went mostly to South America, partly to the West Indies, America, Portugal, and the Mediterranean. Mr. Lloyd concluded with an assurance that Newfoundland would do her duty, and "stick it out" to the end of the war. (Cheers.)

IN HOSPITAL.

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, *Bournemouth*.

BARBADOS.—Pte. C. C. Bynoe, *London*; Pte. B. T. Seale, Civil Service Rifles, *Tooting*; Pte. W. C. Boxill, Artists' Rifles, *Reading*.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Pte. E. C. Collier, *Bournemouth*.

JAMAICA.—Pte. Corinaldi, *Camberwell*.

MONTserrat.—2nd Lieut. Geoffrey Hoon, R.F.A., *London*.

St. Kitts.—2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, M.G.C., *Wandswoth*; Pte. O. L. Dinsey, Royal Fusiliers, *Dublin*.

St. Lucia.—Cook Lionel Austin, Stoker Stour, *Greenwich*.

St. Vincent.—Lieut. R. Maurice Hughes, *London*.

TRINIDAD.—Lieut. Gordon Burke, R. Welsh Fusiliers, *Mundesley*; 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Royal Fusiliers, *Nelley*; Lieut. D. S. Cousins, R.E., *Kingston*; Lieut. C. Eckel, R.A.F., *Croydon*; Cpl. Leslie Murray, Household Battalion, *Harrow*; Trpr. R. de Gannes, King Edward's Horse, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Tank Corps, *London*; Pte. J. McPherson, Artists' Rifles, *Ipswich*; Trpr. A. Gonzalez, King Edward's Horse, *London*; Rln. Claude Gibson, *Purfleet*.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, *Arundel*; 2nd Lieut. J. A. Haynes, *London*; 2nd Lieut. L. R. Whittard, *Bristol*; 2nd Lieut. R. L. Ripley, *London*; Cpl. Orr, Pte. Exell, Pte. Douglas, Pte. Miller, Pte. Cameron, Lee-Cpl. Craig, Pte. Hubbert, Pte. Comrie, Pte. McIntosh, Sergt. Keating, Pte. D. Laing, Pte. Lemon, Pte. Douglas (Jamaica), Pte. Ward (Barbados), Pte. Leonard (Dominica), Pte. Abel (Grenada), *Retinal Green*; Pte. Campbell, Pte. Davis, *Roehampton*.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Attention is called to the important notice regarding the despatch of Christmas Gifts, which is published in our advertisement columns.

The following gifts are acknowledged with thanks:—

Mrs. Spooner: 2 prs. socks for Barbados Contingent.
Daughters of the Empire Red Cross Guild, Bahamas: 20½ doz. prs. socks for Bahamas men.
Mrs. De Rinzy: 1 pr. socks.

It is computed that there are now no fewer than 260 West Indians in the Royal Air Force. The doyen among them is undoubtedly Ian McDonald, who, besides having downed twenty Hun planes for certain, has honoured the West Indies in general and Antigua—the island of his birth—in particular by gaining the Distinguished Flying Cross in addition to the Military Cross. He will be sure of a cordial welcome in his native island where he is going with his proud father and mother on leave of absence very shortly.

Corpl. D. M. Speid and Sergt. A. Robinson, B.W.I.R., whom the Contingent Committee was sending to Jamaica at the request of the War Office on compassionate grounds, were in a steamer which was torpedoed on her voyage to Jamaica on June 26th and sunk. It is to be feared that both of these gallant fellows lost their lives since nothing more has been heard of them.

Private James Ballantyne, of the same regiment, and Colour-Sergeant Chandler, of the West India Regiment, who were proceeding to Jamaica en route for Barbados, after twenty-two years' service, were also on the stricken

vessel, which sank in three minutes, and they, too, are believed to have been drowned. Captain Gideon and Drummer Cunningham, who were also aboard, were saved.

The 16th Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent arrived here on June 27th. The names of the men are: E. L. Thomas, C. Rooks, E. A. O'Connor, P. D. Ince, D. Cozier, C. Fernandez, R. M. Anderson, J. L. Ache, G. Ache, J. Rodriguez, J. Wainwright, and Felix Espindula. The men had a splendid send-off, and were present at a Garden Fair given by Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E., and Mrs. Huggins, at "Goldenvale," on May 22nd, which was honoured by the presence of the Governor and Lady Chancellor. Opportunity was taken at the same time to welcome home H. Leotaud, H. Date, S. Daly, C. W. Spencer, O. Hamel Smith, G. Stalley, Leo Maingot, E. Eccles, A. Mathien, R. Sanderson, T. I. Dunn, C. B. Scott and T. Smellie.

Among the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight were:—

ANTIGUA—Captain I. McDonald, D.F.C., M.C. (R.A.F.).
BAHAMAS—Lieut. S. C. Farrington (B.W.I.R. and R.A.F.).

BARBADOS.—H. B. G. Austin, Cadet C. E. Murphy, Captain S. Clifford Thorne, Pte. C. de Skeete, Pte. A. W. G. Browne, 2nd Lieut. L. G. Yearwood, Lieut. E. L. Armstrong, Lieut. E. K. W. Hinkson, Gunner Wilfred Bowen, H. C. Laurie, S. Atwell, 2nd Lieut. H. B. Bannister (B.W.I.R.), Pte. H. S. Bynoe, 2nd Lieut. C. F. Cave, B. A. Culppeper, Pte. H. H. Leslie, Pte. E. G. Bayne, Lieut. H. Greaves.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Lce.-Corpl. N. G. Thomas, Lce.-Corpl. T. B. Waldron (B.W.I.R.), Gunner L. N. Lord.

JAMAICA.—Sergt. F. A. Noah (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. W. H. Watson, Sapper P. F. McLeary, F. St. J. Hill, Capt. H. T. Shelwell (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. F. H. Farquharson (B.W.I.R.), Corpl. V. C. Levv, Corpl. G. Malahre (B.W.I.R.), Staff Sergt. P. S. Duff (B.W.I.R.), Lce.-Corpl. A. E. Patterson (B.W.I.R.).

TRINIDAD.—Cadet R. Hale, Lieut. D. S. Cousins, 2nd Air Mechanic L. G. Porteous, E. L. Thomas, C. Rooks, E. A. O'Connor, P. D. Ince, D. Cozier, C. Fernandez, R. Munioz Anderson, J. L. Ache, G. Ache, Jose Rodriguez, Jack Wainwright, Felix Espindula, Lieut. Eric L. McLeod, Lieut. Frank Rooks, Captain G. E. Lange, Pte. C. J. Maingot, E. L. Hatt, Pte. J. B. Agard, C. A. Waitwright, Carlos Sorzano, E. L. Thomas, F. J. Anderson, Gunner Garnett Simmons, Gunner R. D. Campbell, Lieut. J. E. A. Kernahan, Pte. N. O. Warner, Pte. P. Geofroy, Cadet Rupert Dunn, Gunner V. da Costa, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Beckel, 2nd Lieut. Leo P. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. Ronald J. Maingot.

OBITUARY.

MR. JAMES GILLESPIE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Gillespie, of Pln. Houston, a well-known and popular sugar planter of Demerara.

Mr. Gillespie, who was in his 70th year, was a graduate in civil engineering of Glasgow University. He went to Demerara in the employ of Messrs. James Ewing & Co., towards the end of 1869, when he began his planting career at Pln. Montrose, East Coast, under the management of Mr. Peter McKinnon. A few years later he was appointed manager of Pln. Turkeyan on the same coast, where he remained until the early "eighties." He then succeeded the late Mr. David Carruthers as manager of Pln. Houston, East Bank Demerara River, and had resided there ever since—something like 35 years. Since the death of the Hon. Benj. Howell Jones, Mr. Gillespie has been attorney in charge of the family estates in British Guiana. A short time ago he was thrown from his mule, sustaining a fractured arm, which was a serious accident for a man of his age, and probably eventually led to fatal consequences. He leaves a widow and several sons and daughters. One of his sons is Mr. J. G. Gillespie, consultant engineer, residing on the East Coast.

HOMeward MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Agricultural Outlook.

Mr. A. P. Cowley writes.—A very successful Gymkhana, organised by Mrs. T. Peters, was held in the School Grounds, on behalf of the Red Cross Funds. The engagement of Mr. Ernest Dew to Miss Violet Maginley, daughter of John Maginley, Esq., is announced. Circuit and Special Court has been dealing with some of those concerned in late riots; over 60 of the defendants were sent to gaol for terms of six months to three years. A very serious position has arisen, agricultural tools and hoes being unobtainable. Representations have been made to His Excellency, who has cabled Secretary for the Colonies asking him to expedite shipment. Cultivation for cane crop, 1920, is seriously imperilled; the provision crop also. We understand manufacturers are too busy over other matters, but we also understand that the larger islands get their supply.

BAHAMAS—Trade Returns.

Imports for the three months ended March 31st are given as £92,742, as compared with £105,961 for the corresponding quarter of 1917. Revenue for the quarter totalled £19,220 as against £22,571 and expenditure £37,517 as compared with £29,972. A movement is on foot to secure the earlier closing of business houses. It is suggested that during the months May to November the hour shall be 5 p.m. each day from Monday to Thursday.

A Committee of the House of Assembly is considering a message from the Governor on the subject of industrial education. His Excellency, while recognising the need of higher education for the rising generation, feels that the financial situation would not justify the provision locally of agricultural schools. Correspondence has been opened up with the Government of Jamaica, which has now approved a proposal by the Governor to receive six students in residence from the Bahamas Government at the Hope Farm at the rate of £30 per annum each. The full course extends over a period of three years.

BARBADOS—The Governor's Departure.

The departure of the retiring Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, and Lady Probyn, *en route* for Jamaica, was made the occasion of a demonstration of regard both by the leading members of the community and by the populace. On the occasion of their embarkation the wharves were crowded by a representative gathering anxious to pay final tokens of respect to their Excellencies. Illustrative of Sir Leslie's happy relations with the general masses of the community was a farewell address presented to him by the Progressive Association. Pending the arrival of the new Governor, Mr. T. E. Fell, Colonial Secretary has assumed the acting office, and Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, Colonial Treasurer, becomes Acting Colonial Secretary. The smart fine of £500 (or six months' imprisonment in the Second Division) was imposed upon a man described in the local Press as a speculator, for exporting four bags of flour contrary to the Governor's proclamation. An Income-Tax Bill is under consideration.

BRITISH GUIANA—Road to Brazil.

Progress is being made with the road under construction from Brazil to the big Savannah in the Rupununi District. Mr. Boyd, of Vista Alegre, Rio Branco, Brazil, who is actively concerned with the scheme and who was recently in Georgetown, stated in an interview: "We have explored and nearly completed a natural all-year round route. This route, over which cattle will pass and also motor cars and lorries carrying passengers and produce, stretches from Vista Alegre on the Rio Branco to Fazlada Bra on the Rio Tukuto." Messrs. Sproston have abandoned the steamer service to Berbice as from the end of May. The death is announced of Mr. J. S. Osborne, aged 71, an engineer who had been connected with the Public Works Department for 40 years.

JAMAICA—Price of Beef.

Butchers convinced that there is no shortage of cattle, but the pen-keepers are keeping up the price of beef and have asked the Kingston General Commissioners to

receive a deputation in order to discuss the meat situation. New regulations provide that no ship about to proceed to Cuba, Hayti, or the Cayman Islands shall allow any person on board unless that person shall be in possession of a passport. Moreover, no such ship shall have any communication with the shore save on the return voyage. The City Council decided to present an address of welcome to Sir Leslie Probyn, the new Governor, whose arrival was expected on June 10th. The poor of Kingston were entertained on the King's Birthday (June 3rd), there being a generous contribution of money and of gifts in kind.

ST VINCENT—Demand for Cotton.

It is officially announced that the Government will purchase on behalf of the Admiralty all the Sea Island Cotton produced in the Colony in the 1918-19 season at the same prices as were offered for the 1917-18 crop. The notice adds: "However much the output in 1918-19 may exceed the 1917-18 crop, the whole of it is required and will be purchased."

MR. W. N. SANDS, MAY 22nd.—Good rains have fallen, and planters are pushing ahead with cotton planting where labour and tools are available. Every effort is being made to increase the output of Sea Island cotton which is urgently required by the Admiralty for aeroplanes. The same prices are to be paid for the cotton as last season. The Government is doing all that is possible to encourage increased production. In a notice circulated among the small growers, it is stated that the "cotton is wanted for aeroplanes to fight the Germans, therefore grow it and help to win the War." We are now in the critical months as regards local food supplies, and I am glad to say that there is no scarcity, which is due to the efforts which have been made by the Local Government and planters, in fact, the situation is so reassuring that edible oil, corn and corn meal, ground nuts, sugar, syrup, and molasses, starches, live stock and ground provisions are being exported to neighbouring colonies. It was with much regret that all here heard the news of the resignation from the Colonial Service of the Hon. Gideon Murray.

TOBAGO—Fire Bugs Busy.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, MAY 28th.—Even Windward was very dry when I left Tobago last week, and the bare hills at Leeward looked very tempting to the annual "fire bugs." Goldesborough Estate was set on fire—as usual—and I noticed several other burnings. The police do their best but it is no easy matter to overcome the habits of years. Only a substantial reward and severe punishment will check this devastation of property. A small fine is simply laughed at, but £20 or two months' hard labour will make the veriest "fire bug" sorry. Most of the fines are paid, so our magistrate ought to take note and help out the revenue by punishing rascals severely. Some fine soft showers have helped to keep the land cool, and heavy clouds indicate that the rainy season is close at hand. May, as usual, has been piping hot, and man and beast will be glad when the June rains set in. Sugar making continues in a small and leisurely way, here and there. The tail end of the cocoa crop is being collected and I was glad to hear that some Windward estates have improved on last year's output. The drop in prices to \$11 is very disappointing, as even at the best of times that figure barely makes ends meet. The extra tax on coconuts and copra is rather resented by the growers in Tobago, who are only now beginning to reap the reward of years of waiting, while the big estates in Trinidad have been making big profits for years.

TRINIDAD—Two Brilliant Fetes.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP.—Mrs. Perez's *Fête Champêtre* realised the splendid sum of over \$5,800, which will be distributed among various War Funds, the West Indian Contingent Fund, I trust, included.

Another notable event here has been a wonderful fair given in the beautiful grounds of Mr. G. F. Huggins, at Belmont. For me it had the added attraction that it was given "for our boys" alone. House and grounds were hospitably thrown open from 3 to 11.30 p.m., and a most delightful time was spent by young and old, in numbers that testified to appreciation of the object of the Fair and of those who were responsible for it. The proceeds are not yet announced, but many a Trinidad boy on the strand of his country in Europe will benefit.

The new Income-tax has been passed. Incomes under £500 are exempt. Up to "£100 above this, 4½d., rising to 6/8 on £10,000 and over."

TURKS ISLANDS—More New Industries.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—Owing to the prolonged drought the fibre industry has been dormant for some time, and practically all on hand has now been shipped. The cotton industry during the past year has been opened up somewhat, and at present ten bales have been ginned and are ready for shipment, and it is expected that when all arrives from the Caicos Islands 13 or 14 bales will be available for shipment. This industry has been a great help to the Caicos group, as hardly a boat arrives without bringing a portion of raw cotton. The sponge industry is quiet. Small shipments have been made to the United States during the month.

The tanning of leather on a small scale is making favourable progress, and shoes made from local tanned leather are now being turned out. For local products they look very well, and should say the wearing qualities would compare very favourably with the leather goods at present being imported.

Fish skins also are being tanned locally and used for the uppers of light slippers. Enquiries have been made from parties in the United States for fish skins, and it is likely that the Commissioner will take the matter up on the same basis as the cotton. Although it may only be on a small scale, yet it will be a source of revenue from what it is at the present time, waste material.

The hospital is nearing completion and will be opened at an early date. It was hoped to have started on the new light on Sand Bay, but owing to the difficulty in getting gasoline, the matter is in abeyance for the time being.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

"Yellow Tails" in Trinidad.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Some time ago my advice was asked by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago about the "Yellow-tail" (*Ostinops decumanus*), as it was found that birds of this species were becoming somewhat troublesome through their habit of ripping open the ears of Indian corn (maize) in Tobago. I recommended that wherever they were found doing damage to crops, permission should be given to the person affected to shoot them.

I do not advocate the wholesale destruction of any species of bird just because it occasionally does some damage, and I do not think it a wise policy (as has been done in some parts of Britain) to pay rewards for eggs and young birds; doubtless by so doing some useful species are destroyed.

During the breeding season the parent birds are busy collecting grubs, etc., for their young, and therefore do much more good than harm.

Whenever birds are found to be mischievous, judicious thinning down is recommended, and this can be effected by shooting some of the adults at the proper time, but this should only be resorted to after expert advice has been obtained.

Yours faithfully,
P. LECHMERE GUPPY.

WANTS.

TRINIDADIAN, aged 26, late Cavalry Lieutenant, discharged after active service, seeks immediate appointment abroad as Estates' Manager. Has full experience cocoa, coco-nuts, sugar, rubber, coffee, etc. Apply S. Z., c/o the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

WANTED by Discharged Soldier, Imperial Army, left hand disabled, position on Sugar Plantation, British Island, Caribbean Sea, where previous experience unnecessary, smart appearance, good credentials and discharge papers. Send full particulars to Percy Roe, Cameo Cottage, Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey, England.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON E.C.3.

July 11th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from the 6th April, 1918.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W. I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W. I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W. I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

United States quotations remain at 6.005c. for 96° sugars. Himey reports, under date May 27th, that the weather in Cuba has so far been more favourable for the following crop than it was in 1917, more rain having fallen. Owing to the increased cost of labour and production generally, a higher price than 4.60c. f.o.b. is expected for next crop. Revised estimates place the Porto Rico crop at 450,000 tons only, a decrease of 10 per cent. on the preceding year.

The International Sugar Committee (U.S.A.) has published the following summary of purchases and allotments made by them from January 1st to March 30th, 1918:—

| Kind. | Long tons. | Per cent. |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Cuba | 805,569 | 83.294 |
| Porto Rico | 119,217 | 12.327 |
| San Domingo | 27,850 | 2.880 |
| Peru | 7,813 | .808 |
| Surinam | 2,809 | .290 |
| Venezuela | 2,767 | .286 |
| Honduras | 1,108 | .115 |
| | 967,133 | 100.000 |
| Allotted U.S. Refiners | 920,365 | |
| .. to Canada | 40,170 (Full Duty Sugars) | |
| .. Trade | 1,241 | |
| Not yet allotted | 5,357 | |
| | 967,133 | |

They show that the total amount of sugar passing into consumption in the United States during January, February, and March, 1918, was as follows:—

| | Long tons |
|--|-----------|
| Ninety-three per cent. of Refiners' Meltings | 676,526 |
| From Beet sugar manufacturers | 171,650 |
| Raw and washed sugar consumed without refining | 21,242 |
| Imports of Hawaiian refined and exports of refined are about equal | |
| Total | 869,418 |

which is about 20 lbs. per capita.

Messrs. Willett & Gray report that the German submarines which appeared recently off the American coast sank the steamships *Carolina* and *Texel* with 1,200 tons and 5,000 tons respectively of Porto Rico sugar. The Norwegian steamer *Eidsvold*, which was also sunk, was carrying 11,000 bags of Cuban sugar.

The planters in Mauritius, who last year protested against the Royal Commission buying their crop, are now in despair because that body will not purchase their 1918 output. The Chamber of Agriculture has even gone so far as to declare that if the crop is not disposed of "at remunerative prices" the colony will become "exposed to become bankrupt and estates go out of cultivation"—which is surely rather drawing the long-bow. Only recently the Chamber adopted the maxim, "No sulphate of ammonia, no crop," and it seems a mistake that such a good case should be jeopardised by such exaggeration. The pity is that the local companies have been in the habit of dividing profits up to the hilt in dividends and placing practically nothing to reserve, with the result that they are in a poor position to face such a contingency as has now arisen.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on July 6th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 12,671 | 31,841 | 29,587 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 19,906 | 32,568 | 29,944 |
| Stock (July 6th) | 3,752 | 7,288 | 10,748 |

RUM. As the Order in Council last year provided that rum might be delivered for home consumption after 18 months' warehousing "pending further instructions," the issue of a fresh Order would appear to be unnecessary under existing conditions. The full text of the Order for 1917 was given in the CIRCULAR of June 28th of that year.

The stocks in London on July 6th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 5,131 | 8,468 | 5,548 puns. |
| Demerara | 4,050 | 10,613 | 14,030 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 13,859 | 31,724 | 33,241 |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz.:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 80 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 80 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahla, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committees.

Stocks have been rapidly depleted. On May 31st they were 500,000 cwt. only, as compared with 1,138,000 cwt. on the same date in 1917. Freight space is to be provided for 1,000 tons of West Indian cocoa between now and October, but it is clear that shipments will have to be sanctioned on a far more liberal scale if a shortage is to be averted. Exports from the West Indies from January 1st to May 15th (or 31st) included:—

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Trinidad | 30,222,404 lbs * |
| Grenada | 9,650,120 lbs * |
| St. Lucia | 1,454,096 lbs. |
| St. Vincent | 97,680 lbs. |
| British Guiana | 5,610 lbs. |
| British Honduras | 590 lbs. * |

* May 31st.

Details of shipments of Trinidad Cocoa during May are given below:—

| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| To all Countries | 5,058,404 |
| Total for May | 5,058,404 |
| Shipped previously | 25,164,010 |
| Total from 1st January | 30,222,414 |
| To same date, 1917 | 50,656,992 |
| " " 1916 | 32,997,751 |
| " " 1915 | 34,824,114 |
| " " 1914 | 49,768,480 |
| " " 1913 | 33,535,159 |
| " " 1912 | 33,106,344 |
| " " 1911 | 29,885,529 |
| " " 1910 | 32,507,935 |
| " " 1909 | 29,618,547 |
| " " 1908 | 26,642,915 |

The stocks in London on July 6th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 10,700 | 28,790 | 28,127 bags. |
| Grenada | 16,820 | 27,873 | 16,615 .. |
| Total of all kinds | 138,318 | 284,527 | 205,005 .. |

COTTON Prices remain as fixed, viz.:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 86d. |
| Good Ordinary | 40d. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 45d.-50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. Exports from St. Vincent from January 1st to May 15th were: Sea Island, 144,741 lbs.; Marie Galante, 2,841 lbs.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, JULY 25th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6641 CENTRAL. 15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON

July 25th, 1918.

Imperial Preference at Last.

IT will need no words from us to emphasize the importance of the pronouncement made by MR. WALTER LONG, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of Trade after the War. Speaking at a luncheon given by the West Indian Club in honour of LIEUT.-COLONEL C. R. M. O'BRIEN, the Governor-Elect of Barbados, on July 24th, he said that the Committee of the War Cabinet appointed to consider this question had agreed upon a scheme of Preference within the Empire which had met with the approval of the War Cabinet. The object at which we have aimed would thus at last appear to be within measurable distance of attainment. Presumably there will be a General Election before the close of the War, or in any case immediately after, but with the leaders of each of the old political parties definitely pledged, as members of the Coalition Government, to the principle of Preference, and with public opinion aroused as it has been to the German menace and the importance of making the British Empire self-supporting, the issue will not be in doubt. MR. LONG added that the War Cabinet Committee had produced a clearly worked-out scheme for Preference within the Empire, and we trust that the details will be disclosed without delay. Plans must be made ahead, and great industries cannot be developed in a day. It is therefore of paramount importance that MR. LONG's gratifying announcement should be followed by the publication of particulars as to the nature of the scheme adopted and the extent of the proposed preference. We trust that this will be accompanied by a decision with regard to the self-denying pledge which MR. ASQUITH's Government gave to the signatories to the Sugar Convention, to which reference has frequently been made of late in our columns. It is hardly necessary to add that MR.

LONG's speech was received with enthusiasm, and we can safely say that no Governor has had a more encouraging send-off than COLONEL O'BRIEN, who will go to his island kingdom with the knowledge that its leading product will at last be given favoured treatment in the markets of the Mother Country.

Agriculture in British Guiana.

PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON gives, as usual, an interesting survey of the Agricultural industries of British Guiana in his annual report on the work of the Agricultural Department of that colony, of which he has been Director since 1905. Publication of the report, which covers the year 1916, has been much delayed; but this, no doubt, has been unavoidable, and must, we assume, be attributed to the war. Dealing with sugar, the premier industry of Guiana, he states that manurial experiments with two nitrogenous products—nitrate of soda and nitrolim—and sulphate of ammonia, were carried out with the view to ascertaining whether the unsatisfactory results given by the former in the 'eighties of last century might have been due to weather conditions. The conclusions already arrived at were, however, confirmed, though favourable results were obtained with nitrolim, which made a slightly better showing than sulphate of ammonia. Out of 78,347 acres under cane in the colony, only 7,403 acres were cultivated with the once popular Bourbon variety. Among seedlings D.216 headed the list of returns with 3.00 tons of sugar per acre. During the year the exports of sugar amounted to 101,649 tons, a decrease of 14,579 tons on the figures for the preceding year. The exports of rum were 4,386,854 proof gallons, or 311,376 less than in 1915, while those of Molasscut were 997 tons only, or 1,223 tons less than in the preceding year. The acreage under rice showed an increase of 6,285 acres, amounting to 57,022 acres. As, however, two crops were reaped in Essequibo during the year the total acreage may be given as 61,488 acres. The crop amounted to 1,072,016 bags, or 18.8 bags per acre. The exports of rice during the year amounted to 13,008 tons, and of rice meal to 300. It would appear that this industry has far from reached the limits of its expansion. Coconut cultivation showed a slight increase, the total acreage devoted to it being 20,111 acres, as against 17,920 acres, which compare with 5,140 acres only in 1904. Copra and oil were manufactured in increasing quantities the exports of the former rising to 2,117 tons. Rubber cultivation makes slow headway, the area under this form of cultivation is 4,844 acres, showing an increase of 157 acres over the figures for the previous year. Exports of

rubber, however, increased from 4,590 lbs. to 15,570 lbs., owing to a greater number of trees having come into bearing. A hundred years ago coffee was one of the staples of British Guiana, and although this industry showed some revival, only 4,599 acres are devoted to it, the exports amounting to 4,476 cwt. only. Cocoa remains stagnant, the area under this crop being 2,121 acres only, and this remark applies also to the lime industry, which accounted for 1,014 acres only; 466 cwt. of citrate of lime were exported during the year, together with 8,565 gallons of concentrated lime-juice, and 290 gallons of essential oils. PROFESSOR HARRISON mentions, however, that a very large increase of lime cultivation should take place in the large areas of loose and friable soil. It is disappointing to learn that the area under ground provisions only amounted to 18,428 acres, a falling off of 1,392 acres, as compared with the previous year, but we must remember that the food question had not become acute in 1916, and we have no doubt that the leeway has since been more than made good. In perusing this informative report it is impossible to avoid a feeling of regret that the agricultural industries of British Guiana should be so comparatively trivial in relation to the great area of the colony and should still be confined to the coast lands, but until the population question is solved it is difficult to see how it can be otherwise.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive on July 18th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee;—

| Name. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Mr. S. D. Benabu | { E. D. & F. Man. |
| Evelyn Roach & Co. (Barbados) | { Wilson, Smithett & Co. |
| 2nd Lieut. L. T. Yearwood (Barbados) | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. P. E. Matthews (British Honduras) | { Sir William Trollope, Bart. |
| Mr. L. A. Vilain (Trinidad) | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. A. J. Findlay, M.A., B.Sc. (British Cameroons) | { Sir William Trollope, Bart. |
| Mr. George R. Hutson (Barbados) | { Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G. |
| Mr. Stafford Maxwell (Jamaica) | { Lt.-Col. James Cran, O.B.E. |
| Mr. H. Fred. W. Munn (Jamaica) | { Mr. A. Dament. |
| Grace Brothers, Ltd. | { J. Dalgleish & Co. |
| Mr. Harding Browne | { Mr. J. Evans. |
| James J. Wall & Co. (Montserrat) | { Mr. O. E. Whitehead. |
| Lieut. Cyril Turpin (St. Vincent) | { Mr. Torrance S. Skeete. |
| Mr. H. Gordon Tennant (Jamaica) | { Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. |
| Mr. H. E. Capstick (Jamaica) | { Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Mr. A. G. M. Robinson (Jamaica) | { Mr. W. Bagget Gray. |
| 2nd Lieut. A. Kenneth Taitt (Trinidad) | { Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| Miss Audrey Jeffers (Trinidad) | { Mr. W. Bagget Gray. |
| Mr. George R. Hutchinson (Grenada) | { Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E. |
| | { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| | { James Browne & Son. |
| | { Mr. H. A. Trotter. |
| | { Dr. Alfred L. Wykham. |
| | { Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| | { Miss M. A. Cowie. |
| | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | { Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | { Mr. R. A. de Pass. |
| | { Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | { Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | { Mr. A. W. Farquharson. |
| | { Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | { Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| | { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |

Only British subjects are eligible for membership of the West India Committee, forms of application for which can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3, or from the Hon. Correspondents. The annual subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

The island of Grand Cayman was visited by a cyclone of great severity early in June.

LIEUTENANTS Eric V. Solomon, R.A.F. (of the Bahamas), and Cyril A. Norman (of Trinidad), who have recently been the guests of the 8th B.W.I.R. mess, have expressed their deep appreciation of the kindness and hospitality shown them by Lieut.-Col. de Boissiere and the officers.

Of the 57,097 immigrants arriving in Cuba during 1917, 7,889 were Jamaicans. These figures (says the Havana correspondent of *Facts about Sugar*) show that arrivals from Jamaica are increasing, the Jamaicans coming to Cuba numbering nearly 800 more than in the previous year.

THE REV. WILLIAM BLACKLEY RITCHIE, who died in Edinburgh on July 21st, was for twenty-five years Minister in St. Andrew's Church, Georgetown, Demerara, and often filled the position of Moderator of the Church of Scotland in British Guiana until he retired through ill-health in 1909.

LAST year, out of 1,654 members of the West India Committee, only 29 failed to pay their subscriptions, a record which no other Colonial body can beat! This year, however, we must do better. It is hoped therefore that the conscience of every member in arrears will smite him and that all outstanding subscriptions will be sent in or paid into the Colonial Bank *without delay*. It is a great thing to save paper and stamps in these days.

"We are glad to note that the West India Committee continues to flourish, mainly because it deserves to," writes our contemporary, *Tropical Life*, in mentioning the fact that membership of the Committee now exceeds 1,700. Discussing the production of bananas, *Tropical Life* adds: "If West Africa ever cuts out the West Indies as a producer of bananas on a large scale, the latter islands will surely be to blame unless the hurricane pest become too severe."

We are reminded of Max Adeler's Century plant by Professor Harrison's remarks about the Congo Weed, for whose introduction into the Botanic Gardens of British Guiana he blames a predecessor. This ornamental plant, he states, cannot be kept under control. It has underground roots about 50 ft. long, which, if cut in pieces of an inch long, would produce 500 plants. This destructive plant pest is gradually finding its way to the gardens, and is the worst pest in the tropics.

THE new Governor of Jamaica (Sir Leslie Probyn), who formerly—for six years—administered Sierra Leone, is eulogised in the *Press* of the latter colony in a review of former Governors. Sir Leslie is described as "a born statesman and an able lawyer. He administered the Government of the colony in a satisfactory way without fear or favour, and studied the people and encouraged them in every way for their advancement. To him this colony owed the institution of appointing Africans to important Government posts."

AMONG the sons of Barbados who have made good in a wider field is Capt. H. E. G. Boyle, R.A.M.C., son of Mrs.

Boyle, of Bannatyne Pln. An old Harrisonian, he took up medical study in London, specialising in anaesthetics. His knowledge acquired high value on the outbreak of war, especially in connection with operations on wounded men. In this work Dr. Boyle greatly developed the use of a mixture of nitrous oxide and oxygen as an effective and safe means of producing anaesthesia for major operations. Not one fatality occurred among the 550 cases in which he administered the mixture.

THERE was a time when camels were employed in Barbados for carrying sugar from the estates to Bridgetown. Ligon, in his "True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes" (1657)—for a perfect copy of which the West India Committee is indebted to Mr. William Gillespie—records that Captain Higginbotham kept four or five which "were of excellent use." They did not prosper, however, for "few knew how to diet them." Perhaps some of the Barbadians in the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt might carry back with them the art of caring for camels, and some of these useful beasts themselves.

BARBADOS' further contribution towards the purchase of motor ambulances has been acknowledged by the British Red Cross Society. This latest gift amounts to £500 and brings the total subscribed so far by Barbados to £7,000. As usual, it was collected by Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, M.B.E. Sir Ernest Clarke, Director of the Motor Ambulance Department, in a letter to the West India Committee, conveying his grateful thanks for this further help from Barbados, says: "We have allotted two further ambulances to Mr. Collymore's Fund, and have inscribed them: 'Presented by the people of Barbados.' Both have now been at work in France for some time."

THE St. Vincent Society for providing Surgical Dressings, of which Miss R. A. Turpin is Hon. Secretary, have now sent six bales of surgical dressings through the West India Committee to the British Red Cross Society, by which they have been gratefully acknowledged. In their letter of thanks for this valuable gift, the Society makes some useful suggestions, which may be summarised as follows: Pillow-cases should measure 20 in. by 30 in. when completed, and comfort-bags at least 10 in. by 12 in. up to 12 in. by 14 in. Slippers should have thick and strong soles. The above, with limb pillows and huckaback towels, pyjamas, and bed-jackets are very much needed. Bandages should be securely packed in parcels, sizes kept separate, the packages being clearly marked on the outside with the number and size of the contents.

* * *

MR. EDGAR TRIPP writes from Trinidad under date June 15th:—"Genuine and general approval has greeted the knighthood of Mr. Henry A. Alcazar, K.C., one of the most talented 'sons of the soil.' Perhaps his strongest claim upon Trinidad is his defence of the people of Port-of-Spain before the Commission of Enquiry into the 1903 riot, upon which he was specially complimented by the Commissioners. Our first K.C., he is now senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council. He is also a member of the Executive Council—the only 'unofficial' who has ever been honoured with a seat on this inner Council of Government. Sir Henry is a former Mayor of Port-of-Spain, and in the new body is an alderman. We are notified officially from Washington that the allotment of wheat flour to the colony from the United States will be reduced to 2,462,000 lbs. monthly, say 12,000 barrels. The normal consumption is about 24,000 bags per month. Fortunately we may now rely on Canada to make up the balance, which is now, owing to increased price, not so large as it would otherwise be. Ground provisions, now cultivated more largely than ever, are taking, to some extent, the place of imported food stuffs. A return Boxing Match for the Heavyweight Championship of the West Indies took place on the 4th inst. between Clem Johnson, Deemerara, and Jim Braithwaite, of Barbados. The public attended to the number of about 4,000. After an unfortunate mix-up in the 11th round, Johnson was declared the winner. He has now gone to the Canal Zone

to challenge all comers, and it will take a good man to beat him. We are all sorry to hear the sad news of Neville Grell's death in India, after his apparent recovery from severe wounding. He was such a bright, lovable youth. Sincere sympathy is felt for the mother, Mrs. T. Field, a sister of our new knight, Sir Henry Alcazar.

• THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Battle of the Marne.

Contrary to general expectation, the long-anticipated German offensive was launched against the French on July 15th on a 55-mile front east and west of Rheims, with the great wooded plateau known as the Montagne de Rheims as the objective, through encirclement and not direct attack. Once that was in his possession, the enemy calculated Rheims itself would fall into his hands, as it would no longer be tenable. But General Foch was prepared, so that on the east the German masses were held except at three points. Of these, the most important was Prunay, which was captured. Here the French, under the intrepid General Gouraud, were supported by the Italians, a contingent of whom has been on the Western Front for some time. As Prunay was only half a mile within the Allied line, the enemy's left wing, operating in Champagne to the low hills, shaped like a hand, a few miles west of the Argonne Forest, suffered a complete check.

West of Rheims the progress of the German offensive was very unequal, at one place taking in Leuvrigny, within seven miles of Epernay, at others covering only half or a quarter of the distance, and towards Chateau Thierry appreciably none. North of the Marne, which was crossed in three places, a footing was made in the Courton Forest on the slopes of the Montagne, and several villages to the west of it. South of the Marne, where alone the enemy succeeded in making considerable gains on the second day, he had his back on Paris, and was working towards Epernay. On the extreme right, the Americans, by a vigorous counter-attack, drove back German detachments which had reached the south bank near Fossoy, and captured 1,000 prisoners. The result was that the enemy's effort was so effectively checked after two days as to shatter his whole plan of operations and enable the Allies rapidly to stabilise their front, which, as their defences were so disorganised, they could not do in recent offensives. Again the Germans were forced into a cramped position south of the Marne, their three passages being dominated by heights held by the French. On the third day, then, the third battle of the Marne had declined into a series of disjointed actions.

The French Counter-Stroke.

After resisting with superb valour the heavy blows of the Crown Prince's armies, the Allies have scored a brilliant surprise success on the enemy's right flank between Soissons on the Aisne to Chateau Thierry on the Marne, and in six hours gained as much ground as the Germans further east in three days. The attack was launched with a rolling artillery barrage fire, and in the midst of a storm, which served as a screen for the French advance. At its deepest it penetrated eight miles, and in its

course 20 villages were re-captured. The gains include such valuable strategical positions as the Mont de Paris, which dominates the Soissons-Rheims railway and one of the enemy's main lines of communication in this sector, and Vierzy, north-west of Chateau Thierry. The immediate effect of this striking success was to relieve the pressure of the enemy on the Marne and Vesle. Hence the re-capture of Prunay and ground west of Massiges on the Champagne front. Simultaneously with the French advance on the German right flank, and later the enemy's retreat in the centre, abandoning all the gains of a week's fighting, not only have the Anglo-French-American forces rapidly followed him up, but are back in their old trenches with Chateau Thierry in their hands again. Besides using up a large portion of his valuable reserves the enemy has lost 22,000 prisoners and an enormous amount of war material. If the pursuit can be maintained at its present rate the German retreat may be turned into a rout.

In the first two days of the German offensive the French Air Service played a distinguished part, specially in hampering the enemy's crossings of the Marne. At Dormans, mid-way between Epernay and Chateau Thierry, his bridge collapsed under the rain of projectiles, and the convoys passing over it were engulfed in the river. As German troops debouched on the northern and southern banks at all three passages they were subjected to incessant bombing and machine-gun fire. In the rear French aviators were also active in attacking cantonments, stations, munition depots, and concentration points. In two days 41 German aeroplanes and nine captive balloons were destroyed or disabled. It was in the Flying Service that Lieut. Roosevelt, a son of ex-President Roosevelt, was killed.

On the British Front.

The British have meanwhile continued the process of improving their line by local strategical gains, notably near Ypres, La Bassée, Merris, Meteren, and Amiens. But they have grown suspicious of the ease with which their later raids are crowned with success. Either the line opposite to them has been weakened by the withdrawal of forces to the south, or the enemy desires to create this impression so as to relax British watchfulness to a point when he can successfully launch one of his surprise attacks. But with America's growing strength in the field the numerical inferiority of the Allies is lessening every day. Consequently surprise blows on a great scale from the German side will soon be extremely difficult to deliver.

The Advance in Albania.

Italian initiative is leading to a situation on the flank of the Austro-Bulgarian forces which must be causing Berlin grave anxiety. Between Monastir and the sea, in the mountainous region of Albania, the Allies crossed the river Vojusa, and, having overcome strong enemy resistance, occupied the heights above Fieri. Simultaneously, by a brilliant manœuvre, cavalry squadrons dashed forward between the heights and the coast marshes and took the town by assault, reached the bridges at Metali, on the Semeni, and, after destroying them, spread

panic among the enemy rear lines. In the centre the infantry and Bersaglieri fought their way along the Berat road, capturing the strongly-fortified Cafa Glava by a combined enveloping movement and frontal attack, and, later, Berat itself. On the left the Italians were aided by the French, who, advancing on both sides of the Devoli, cleared the whole mountain region between that river and the Tomorica to their junction, where the enemy has organised his defences. The precipitate retreat of the Austrian forces is marked by abandoned war material and stragglers—wounded or exhausted. Not only have the Allies occupied a large extent of difficult country and two flourishing towns, but have shortened their front by dozens of miles.

In these operations the British Navy materially assisted, monitors shelling enemy coast positions, while the British Air Service played a similar rôle inland.

Hope for Russia.

Events in Russia have begun to move. The Allies, in order to prevent the Germans acquiring a footing on the Arctic Ocean in an ice-free port, have landed on the Murman coast. Here they will at once constitute a rallying-point for moderate Russian opinion, keep open Russia's only means of communication with the West nearer than Vladivostock, and protect the Murman railway.

The Czecho-Slovaks, in the greatest adventure of its kind in history, are rapidly acquiring control of the Trans-Continental Railway. They hold Vladivostock, the capital of Eastern Siberia, and Irkutsk, the capital of Western Siberia, together with the iron road between them and Ekaterinberg, the Baikal sector excepted. As the Bolsheviks have fallen back to the east, the Czecho-Slovaks are working round the lake in pursuit. In European Russia another division of the Czecho-Slovaks has captured Kazan, thereby controlling the rich grain region of the Volga as well as the resources of Siberia. They are proof against Bolshevism, and highly disciplined. A circumstantial report has come through that the ex-Tsar has been shot.

In Palestine.

For the first time since the sharp fighting in March last on the Shechem road, and General Allenby's second advance to, and advance from, the Hedjaz railway, there has been serious fighting in Palestine. The enemy attacked our positions covering the passages of the Jordan towards Ghoraniyeh on the east bank, and on the Abu Tellul ridge, seven miles from Jericho on the west bank. The Tureco-German forces, who were trying to get astride the Jericho-Hedjaz road at Ghoraniyeh were dispersed by Indian cavalry, and on the near side of the river Australian troops, in a counter-stroke, restored the line, which had been penetrated. By nightfall 510 prisoners had been captured, 70 per cent. Germans. This is a serious blow to German prestige.

In the Air.

An official review of the year's work as from July 1st, 1917, to June 30th, 1918, shows that, on the Western Front, the enemy has lost three times as many machines as the British. The figures are 3,856 for him, 1,186 for us. On the Italian front the

figures are more striking still. They are as 13 to 1, and if one reviews the total for all fronts during the year the British brought down very considerably over 4,000, whilst the number missing of ours only slightly exceeded 1,000. As for the German pilot, his quality on the average is deteriorating. Therefore, when American machines and personnel begin to influence the situation the aerial supremacy of the Entente Allies should be a powerful factor in achieving their coming victory on land.

The R.A.F. contingents working with the Navy continue to bomb Ostend Docks; Zeebrugge, the entrance to which is blocked by our sunken ships, as German photographs in the possession of the Admiralty show, and Bruges Docks, successful results being noted. Near Zeebrugge, enemy patrol craft were attacked, and attacking three of our seaplanes and one of our bombing formations, 8 German machines were brought down.

Further afield enemy centres have been bombed and the R.A.F. has raided Constantinople, dropping half-a-ton of explosives. The operations in the air on the Western Front have been hampered by thunderstorms. Nevertheless, during the past fortnight 103 German aeroplanes and 18 balloons have been destroyed or brought down out of control, to 43 missing of ours.

A combined naval and air attack on the Zeppelin sheds at Tondern, on the coast of Schleswig-Holstein, seems to have been a successful little affair. One large double shed, together with three Zeppelins, were set in flames, and another damaged. All our ships returned safely, but four of our machines were reported as missing, three of them having been so injured by pursuing enemy aeroplanes that they were obliged to come down in Danish territory. Two previous air raids on German naval bases took place on December 25th, 1914, on Cuxhaven, and on March 25th, 1916, on Sylt Island.

A British transport, *Barunga*, conveying discharged Australian soldiers home, was sunk by a German submarine. Thanks to their courage and discipline there were no casualties. A naval sloop has been lost with a loss of all the personnel but 12; also the Cunard liner, *Carpathia*, a heavy loss in tonnage.

Shipbuilding for June.

The figures for June show a decrease of 65,095 tons as compared with the figures for May. This is profoundly disappointing. We were told on the highest authority in the autumn of 1917, not only that our monthly output should reach 250,000 tons, but that it could be done. But since October last, new construction has reached a total beyond 150,000 tons only three times. Again, during the past six months we have produced only 700,000 tons, and unless the rate is greatly accelerated we shall, in December, be 1,600,000 tons short of the total which safety requires for the full year. The cause, whatever it is, must be grappled with promptly if Britain is to emerge from the War with her primacy in the carrying trade intact. The U.S., last month, had a larger output of new tonnage than this country, a fact of ominous significance.

(To be continued.)

THE GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS.

Lieut.-Col. C. R. M. O'Brien, C.M.G., Governor-elect of Barbados, attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, at 15, Seething Lane, on Thursday, July 18th.

Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman, who presided, said that—

it had for many years past been the custom of the Executive of the West India Committee to invite newly-appointed Governors to attend a meeting before their departure for the West Indies, and they were glad to welcome Colonel O'Brien, the Governor-elect of Barbados. Colonel O'Brien had had a distinguished career in the Colonial Civil Service, and came of a family of Governors, his father, the late Sir Terence O'Brien, having represented the Crown in Newfoundland. Latterly Colonel O'Brien had been Governor of the Seychelles, and if his administration proved as successful in Barbados as it had done in that eastern colony, there would be no cause for complaint.

It was a special pleasure for him—the Chairman—to preside, his firm having had business associations with the island of Barbados for close on two hundred years, while his own connection with the island extended over a period of similar length to that during which the Governor had been actively engaged in other parts of the Empire.

The West Indian trade was one of the oldest in the City of London, and the West India Committee was created over two centuries ago, and was the oldest institution representing any part of the King's Dominions Overseas, in this country. Its objects, as defined by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, which was granted by King Edward VII. in 1904, were by united action to promote the interests and trade of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and thus to increase the general welfare of those Colonies. The work of the Committee was recorded in the CIRCULAR, the official organ of the association, which was published fortnightly, and was widely read, not only in this country and in the West Indies, but in many other parts of the world.

He wished to refer briefly to the British West Indies Regiment. Some 15,000 men had come from the West Indies to take their part in this titanic War. Barbados had sent her boys, and he was sorry to say the percentage of casualties among them was a high one. The West Indian Contingent Committee was closely allied to the West India Committee, and their efforts on behalf of the British West Indies Regiment had been greatly appreciated and were serving a very useful purpose.

The War contributions from the West Indies had been on a generous scale, and Barbados had done her part liberally, both by voluntary effort and officially. The latter source of contribution had necessitated increased taxation, and to meet this an Income Tax Bill had been introduced. This Bill, he was sorry to say, contained what he must describe as vindictive clauses against absentees. Evidently those responsible had not realised the effect this would have in keeping capital away from the island, and had forgotten, or perhaps did not know, how much the present prosperity of the island was due to the financial support of absentee proprietors in the dark days of the sugar bounties; nor did they seem to remember the history of the £30,000 Grant in Aid made in 1902. This money, which was the capital at the back of the Agricultural Bank, was obtained by the absentees through the instrumentality of the West India Committee. Absentees, too, were already paying a heavy Income Tax, and in some cases Super Tax, as well as an Excess Profits Tax amounting to 80 per cent. to help to provide funds to carry on the War successfully, and the future of the West Indies was wrapped up in the issue of the War. Surely Barbados does not wish them to pay double taxation, let alone an extra 10 per cent.

The new Governor could not, however, be expected to express any views on an Income Tax Bill which he had not seen, nor would he—the Chairman—ask him to do so. In conclusion, in wishing Colonel O'Brien every success in his new sphere of utility, he would assure him, from

personal experience, that he would receive from the warm-hearted and hospitable Barbadians a most kindly welcome.

Lt.-Col. O'Brien's Speech.

Lieut.-Col. O'Brien said that though most of his service had been in the East, he had always coveted the position of Governor of Barbados. Though he had never visited the Island he would not feel a stranger to it and he was connected to it by several ties. In the forties of last century, his grandfather (afterwards General Terence O'Brien, Governor of Ceylon), was Adjutant General there, while his brother Colonel John O'Brien was Quartermaster General and married a Barbadian lady, a Miss Cummings, while her sister married a General Egerton (afterwards Military Secretary). He had the further connection with the West Indies, that his wife's mother was the daughter of the late Alexander Hankey, M.P., for many years the head of the firm of Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co. He had frequently heard his grandmother and his uncles speak of the wonderful fruits and other tropical products of the West Indies and had always most earnestly hoped that it might be his lot to serve there. General Egerton's sons had risen to high positions, one as a Field-Marshal, one as an Admiral, another as a distinguished political officer in India, and another as Postmaster-General in Ireland. He added that he had three old brother officers in his regiment, Captain Carleton Haynes, who joined the same day as he did, Major L. L. Pile, a very dear friend who died in South Africa during the late war, and Brigadier-General Ewen Da Costa, now serving with distinction, who was at one time his subaltern; so he did not feel he would be a stranger in the Island when he arrived.

In conclusion, he thanked the West India Committee and all connected with the West Indies whom he had met for the kindly reception which they had given him since his return home, and added that both he and his wife looked forward to an interesting and happy time in the ancient and beautiful Colony of which he had heard so much.

Mr. H. A. Trotter, Deputy-Chairman, having also welcomed the new Governor, Mr. H. B. G. Austin, a Member of the Barbados House of Assembly, said that as a Barbadian he had great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to Colonel O'Brien, and wished him all and every success during his term of office. Reference had been made to their form of Government. Colonel O'Brien would, he thought, find it different from that existing in those Colonies where he had served the Empire. Barbadians enjoyed ancient established rights and privileges, of which they were very proud, and which they keenly safeguarded; but Colonel O'Brien would find them ready and willing to do all in their power to assist him in the good Government of the Colony. There might arise differences of opinion between them, but he felt sure that none would prove so difficult but that the exercise of tact and goodwill—both of which qualities the Governor's speech showed he possessed in abundance—would overcome them.

Besides those mentioned above, the following members of the Executive and gentlemen specially interested in Barbados were present at the meeting:—Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Mr. G. McG. Frame, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. Norman Malcolmson, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.R.E., Mr. H. F. Previte, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. H. D. Spooner, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Sir William Trollope, Bart., Captain S. C. Thorne, M.C.P., Mr. H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P., Mr. Joseph Rippon, O.B.E., and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee can be paid into the Colonial Bank.

As we go to press we learn that the Hon. R. S. A. Warner, K.C., has been appointed Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Mr. Long's Important Pronouncement.

Mr. Walter Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, was present at a luncheon given by the West Indian Club to Lieut.-Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, on July 25th, Sir Frederic Hodgson presiding.

Mr. Long, supporting the toast of the new Governor, to whose good work in the Seychelles he paid tribute, announced that the Committee appointed by the War Cabinet to consider the question of trade within the Empire after the war had decided upon a scheme adopting Preference within the Empire, which had met with the approval of the War Cabinet, and which he trusted would be approved by the Empire as a whole. The war, he said, had taught us some wonderful lessons. It had brought home to us the fact that had we been prepared we might have been very differently equipped, and we had to take care that we did not neglect those lessons. For his part he did not quarrel with criticism; he welcomed it. He believed there was nothing better for a Government of the day than that it should constantly be urged forward by public men and by newspapers. The Empire was determined to go forward. The Imperial War Conference was surely the most remarkable gathering which had taken place in the history of the world, and the gathering had been possible because the Navy and the Mercantile Marine had made it possible for the members to meet in the centre of the Empire as though no war was going on. (Cheers.) The Imperial War Conference was making real and active preparations for the campaign which must succeed the war to keep the trade in the Empire for the Empire in the first instance. Last year it was decided that there must be a system of Imperial Preference within the Empire for the benefit of the Empire. We sought for no unjust powers for ourselves, but we did ask that we should have the same powers and rights as were enjoyed by practically every other country in the world. He had presided over a Committee to draft schemes by which this could be put into effect, and the Committee had produced a clearly worked-out scheme for the adoption of Preference within the Empire. That scheme had the approval of his Majesty's Government, and he believed it would have the approval of the Empire as a whole. The Committee had dealt with the question of raw materials, to secure them in the first instance for the Empire, and a whole series of reports had been approved by the Imperial War Conference and by the War Cabinet. He could assure his hearers that the Government were losing no time to see to it that when the war was over the victory which we had won should be a real one, because it would not only give peace to the world but it would generally give the lead, which he believed other countries, either enemy or neutral, would be glad to follow—that would enable us to develop our British Empire in friendly alliance with other countries along those lines which he believed alone would lead to prosperity for ourselves and prosperity for those with whom we should be in friendly co-operation. (Loud cheers.)

IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE.

An official *communiqué* cabled to the Dominions states that the seventh meeting of the Imperial War Conference, which is now sitting, was mainly occupied with certain economic and financial questions arising after the war, and resolutions of a confidential nature were passed. It was also resolved that it was desirable to establish an Imperial Bureau of Mycology to investigate fungoid diseases and that contributions to such bureau should be made by Governments of the Empire.

At the eighth meeting, held on July 10th, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement on the question of the double income-tax. He explained the concessions made to the oversea Dominions under the Finance Act, 1916, and subsequent Acts. It was generally agreed that further action was impracticable during the war, but the opinion expressed last year was reiterated that the whole question called for review immediately after its conclusion, and that an amendment of the law should be made to remedy the present unsatisfactory position. The subject of Imperial statistics was also discussed. The Conference approved the proposal for a Dominions Royal Commission and an after-the-war conference to consider the establishment of an Imperial Statistical Bureau. Another resolution dealt with the Imperial news service. The Conference was impressed with the importance of securing an adequate news service available for all parts of the British Empire and the supply of such service through British sources.

At the ninth meeting, held on July 11th, on the question of inter-Imperial communications, the Conference accepted in principle the establishment of an Imperial Investigation Board to deal with ocean freight rates and appointed a Committee to frame a detailed scheme for such Board and consider cognate questions, with special reference to the probable size of vessels and consequent demands upon harbour accommodation, and to the resolution handed in by the Prime Minister of New Zealand. The Conference further held that facilities for inter-Imperial parcels delivery should be improved and coordinated.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates.

The net profit for the year ending December 31st, 1917, amounts to £26,707 18s. 8d., which makes, with the balance of £1,478 6s. 11d. brought in from 1916, a total of £28,186 5s. 7d. available. The Directors recommend the payment (less income tax) of a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum to the Preference Shareholders for the year ending December 31st, 1917 (amounting to £16,558 8s. 7d.), the payment (less income tax) of interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum to the holders of Dividend Funding Warrant Certificates for the year ending December 31st, 1917 (amounting to £1,328 9s. 1d.), and the payment (free of income tax) of a dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum to the Ordinary Shareholders for the year ending December 31st, 1917 (amounting to £2,478 16s. 3d.). The Directors also recommend that the sum of £3,000 be written off Preliminary Expenses, that £3,000 be applied to the redemption of Dividend Funding Warrant Certificates, and that the balance of £1,720 11s. 8d. be carried forward to the year 1918, subject to Excess Profits Duty in British Guiana.

MODERN CANE MILLS.

BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

Next in importance to the roll comes the head-stock, or cheek of the mill. These are of iron or steel, and although what might be called the rectangular form—that is to say, the form in which the holding down bolts and through side bolts are at right angles—is the common form, this form is sometimes modified so as to permit of the holding-down bolts being angled so as to best meet the principal strain of the mill.

The next item of importance is the trash-plate, or "dumb returner." There are many devices as regards this in modern mills. The head-stocks should be designed so as to give the minimum of width, compatible with adequate sized rolls, journals, "Rocker" trash-plates, viz., those in which are pivoted on a pin running below the lower part of the head-stock, and capable of being drawn up towards the front roll by bolts with screwed ends passing through the head-stock, are a common form and admit of the easy adjustment of the trash-plate. It is important also that the space between the trash-plate and the back roll should be sufficiently large to allow of the juice passing freely, with a minimum of megass with it, a difficult point to adjust, depending as it does so much on the character of the cane dealt with. It is claimed that Messchaert grooves—that is to say, deep, narrow circumferential grooves at regular intervals along the shell of the rolls—help largely in this connection, the escape of juice from them materially relieving the situation, and permitting a much smaller trash-plate distance.

It is generally accepted that some sort of safety valve should exist in connection with the mill roll, and this usually takes the form of hydraulic rams acting on the brasses, in connection with accumulators, or as an alternative, powerful toggle springs. Whatever the system may be, it is of the greatest importance that the pressure on the journals, the top one is the one generally operated on, should be capable of independent regulation, necessitating, with hydraulic gear, an accumulator on each ram.

Another important point in connection with the mill is the straining of the juice. Apart from the straining of the juice as it falls from the rolls on the mill-bed strainers, which only remove the coarsest of the "cush-cush," strainers are required before the juice flows to the pump. The size of mills precludes the old manual straining, even if this were efficient, and resort has to be made to mechanical strainers. Various kinds are employed, but it must be confessed that no known strainer is thoroughly efficient in this important detail. The separation of "cush-cush" is a highly necessary and important operation in the manufacture of sugars, especially the high grade varieties.

Lubrication of the mill bearings is another great feature of importance in connection with mills, and too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of a thoroughly good system being adopted.

No mill is complete without an efficient maceration water arrangement. The method of application of the water should be of such a nature as to ensure as complete as possible absorption without escape

of non-utilized water, and the point of application of the water should be as nearly as possible where the megass leaves the grip of the rolls. An appliance said to be of great value has recently been introduced, in which the water is forced into the megass while still under pressure. On release of the pressure the water is completely taken up by the spongy fibre.

A modern 14-roll plant cannot well be driven by one engine, owing to the complication of gearing, which would result. It is advisable, therefore, to devote an engine to drive the crusher together with the first and second mills, and another to drive the third and fourth. This permits, if desired, of a long intermediate carrier between the second and third mills, which can be used for prolonged maceration if desired.

Gearing is now made entirely of steel, and is so contrived as to give a surface speed to the rolls of usually 20 to 22 feet per minute. The cylinders are sized to give a high horse-power to the mills, so that there may be no question of pulling up of the engine for want of steam, and 16 h.p. per ton of canes per hour is by no means an outside quantity to be provided. The gearing wheels and pinions are broad-faced, with engine-turned teeth in the higher class.

Of late, electric driving by means of motors has been applied to mills. In this case each mill has its motor and the gearing has to be arranged accordingly.

CENTRAL FACTORIES FOR JAMAICA.

Views of the Secretary of State.

The question of Central factory development recently came before the Legislative Council of Jamaica, when correspondence explanatory of the present position of the matter was laid over. The correspondence included a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Walter Long), who, writing from Downing Street on July 27th, 1917, said:—

"It is most desirable that any scheme of central factory development should be co-operative, and the closer and more lasting the connection between the planters concerned and the factory, the more likely the scheme is to be successful. I should prefer to see at least a part of the capital required for the factory provided by the planters. The larger their stake in the success of the factory the better. But if it is found impossible for the planters to put up a substantial share of the capital required, it may be necessary for the Government to assume almost the whole of the financial burden. In the last resort I should not propose to veto this arrangement. But if the Government provides practically the whole of the money, or if without actually finding the money the Government guarantees a loan by independent capitalists, I fail to see any convincing reason for limiting its interest in the factory to a term of years and handing it over to the planters at the end of that term.

The Question of Management.

"I agree that the management of the factory should as far as ordinary business transactions are concerned be left to the planters interested, subject to the veto of the Government in important matters, and to general supervision and control by Government directors or representatives. But if the Government provides the money, the Government should retain indefinitely whatever share of the profits and the management may be assigned to it.

This will have the additional advantage of securing that the factory does not, after a period of ownership by the planters, pass into the hands of persons whose interests may not be identical with those of the growers.

"I regard it as most important that there should be due provision for the acceptance of peasants' canes on fair terms, and I trust that full consideration will be given to Sir Francis Watts' remarks on this subject. As the success of the factory is dependent on its being adequately supplied by surrounding estates, care should be taken to ensure that the contracts made with planters shall bind the assignees of their estates in the event of a change of ownership during the prescribed period.

"I await the further and more detailed proposal which you will no doubt submit after consideration of my observations in this despatch."

West Indian Roll of Honour.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SAPPER P. HILL, who died of wounds in hospital at Boulogne on April 28th last, was the third son of Mr. J. I. Hill, Clerk of the Court for St. Ann's, Jamaica, and a Justice of the Peace. He enlisted in January, 1915, and served successively with the Royal Fusiliers, the Machine Gun Corps, and the Royal Engineers. He was thrice wounded, and succumbed to cerebral concussion after receiving gun-shot wounds in the head, besides in the arm and left leg. Sapper Hill, who was born in Jamaica, was 27 years of age. He was a brother of Frank St. J. Hill, who is now in an Officers' Cadet Battalion at Oxford.

HONOURS AND WOUNDED.

LIEUT. J. A. B. DALEY, 4th British West Indies Regiment, attached Royal Air Force, has died as a result of an accident in France. While returning from a patrol his engine gave trouble and he was forced to land in a field of standing wheat. Owing to the bad light he landed too fast, and his machine turned over. He was removed to a casualty station, where, in spite of his fatal injuries, he lived long enough to learn that he had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross—the second won by a West Indian.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. E. P. W. SHEPHEARD (son of Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Sheppard, M.A., of Lincoln's Inn), King's Royal Rifle Corps, previously reported prisoner of war, is now reported wounded and a prisoner in German hands.

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.

CULPEPER, B. A. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut., Leicester Regiment.

BECKE, H. A. (of Trinidad), 2nd Lieut., Machine Gun Corps.

GLISSONEAU, Captain Robert George (son of the late Joseph Glissonneau, of Martinique, and Mrs. Glissonneau, of St. Lucia), has been promoted from Lieutenant and appointed to the Staff of a French Division as Liaison Officer.

MURPHY, 2nd Lieut. C. B. (of the Barbados Merchants' Contingent), the Royal Labour Corps.

STREADWICK, Sapper V. J. (son of Mr. J. E. Streadwick, Superintendent of Roads and Works, Jamaica), enlisted in the London R.F.A. on February 1st, 1915, served in France in 1916, and in Italy in 1917, was transferred to the Royal Engineers, Topographical Section, this year, and is now in France.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

The addresses of the undermentioned prisoners of war can be obtained from the Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

SCOTTICK, Trooper S. C. (of Jamaica), King Edward's Horse.

DE SOUSA, Trooper George, King Edward's Horse (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), who was reported missing on April 9th, is a prisoner of war in Germany.

SOWLEY, Trooper Sydney (of Jamaica), King Edward's Horse.

THE CONTINGENT FUND.

We have been asked by the West Indian Contingent Committee to state that their fund, the calls upon which have recently been very heavy, still remains open, and to express the hope that our readers in this country and in the West Indies will continue to help to increase it. It was stated by Mr. Previt  at the annual meeting that no less than 25 per cent. of the total fund had been subscribed by Trinidad, and the position of that island in relation to other subscribers is further improved by the splendid donations secured by Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Huggins, Mrs. L. M. Hobson, Mrs. Perez, and the Ladies' West India Committee.

Other notable contributions are those from St. Vincent, which have come in regularly month after month since the fund was opened.

The great point to bear in mind is that considerable though the outgoings now are, they will be far greater when the happy day for demobilisation arrives. The West Indian Contingent itself will then be provided for; but experience shows that the expenses in connection with the repatriation of many men who came over independently, or as members of private contingents, will be very great.

Since the last list of donations was published on May 16th, the following have been received, and are now acknowledged with thanks:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|-------|
| Trinidad contributions, per G. F. Huggins Co. (earmarked for Trinidad men)— | | | |
| "Southern War Fund" (Hon. Sec., Mrs. L. M. Hobson) ... | 340 | 0 | 0 |
| Per G. F. Huggins, Esq. ... | 304 | 4 | 8 |
| American Association ... | 85 | 9 | 9 |
| Navv Club (originally Patriotic League) ... | 70 | 5 | 7 |
| | 800 | 0 | 0 |
| "Carry-on Fund," per Mrs. M. A. Perez (for wounded or disabled Trinidad men) ... | 208 | 6 | 8 |
| Trinidad Patriotic Fund, per Edgar Tripp, Esq. ... | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Marionville Plantation, Ltd. (British Guiana) ... | 83 | 6 | 8 |
| J. R. Gaunt & Son, Ltd. (rebate on sale of brooches, 1/7/17—31/3/18) ... | 32 | 6 | 0 |
| "War Fund Entertainment Committee," per Mrs. F. L. Evelyn, Barbados ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Anglo-South American Central Depot ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Part Proceeds of Sale of Antigua Seed Work, per Mrs. M. D. Bonthron ... | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| The Demerara Company, Ltd. (for Liverpool Branch of W.I.C.C.) ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| G. P. Mitchell & Sons, Ltd. (Halifax, N.S.) ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Sandbach Tinne & Co. (for Liverpool Branch of W.I.C.C.) ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| British Guiana Flag Day (further donation) ... | 9 | 15 | 5 |
| Miss Ines Scott's Tobacco Fund (for Trinidad men) ... | 8 | 15 | 0 |
| Leonora, Ltd. (for Liverpool Branch of W.I.C.C.) ... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Vincent contributions, per Colonial Bank— | | | |
| April | | | |
| May | | | |
| Kingstown Club ... | 19 | 0 | 1 2 0 |
| Hon. C. H. P. Richards ... | 10 | 0 | 10 0 |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. ... | 10 | 0 | 10 0 |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. ... | 10 | 0 | 10 0 |
| V. Hadley, Esq. ... | 8 | 4 | 8 4 |
| J. H. Hazell, Esq. ... | 3 | 0 | 3 0 |
| Ryan Hoplex, Esq. ... | | | 2 0 |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. ... | 1 | 0 | 1 0 |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Sir William Trollope, Bart. ... | | | 3 3 0 |
| W. F. Samuels, Esq. ... | | | 2 2 0 |
| G. S. Seton Browne, Esq. ... | | | 1 5 0 |
| Miss J. Samuel ... | | | 1 0 0 |
| Miss K. R. Arthur ... | | | 1 0 0 |
| "Songs of an Islander," part proceeds of sale... | | | 6 3 |

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 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.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Lieut.-Colonel C. Wood-Hill commanding the 1st British West Indies Regiment, which, it will be recalled, participated in the recent operations in Palestine, has, we are glad to learn, received the D.S.O.

Brown paper is urgently needed by the West Indian Contingent Committee for packing parcels. Will readers in this country kindly save all the brown paper they can and send it to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., by whom it will be gratefully acknowledged?

The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks:—

- Mrs. Philip D. Lee : 1 pr. socks.
- Mrs. Singleton and Miss Thorne : 6 prs. socks.
- Mrs. Hore : empty boxes for packing.
- Mrs. Algernon Aspinall : 7 prs. socks.

The St. Lucia Flag Day Committee has consented to continue to represent the West Indian Contingent Committee in St. Lucia. Its members comprise Mrs. G. O'D. Walton (President), Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Degazon, Mrs. W. Peter, Mrs. G. Williams, Mrs. G. Lafitte, Mrs. Harris, and Miss McHugh (Hon. Sec.).

The W.I.C.C. continues to be overwhelmed with requests from individuals for such gifts as fountain-pens, wrist-watches, etc.; but the limit has been reached by one private who has asked for a "book of secrets, wonders, and mysteries, and a lucky stone jewel"! It cannot be too widely known that it would not be possible, even if it were desirable, to accede to requests for gifts from individuals.

R. S. M. Holohan, Leinster Regiment, attached 4th British West Indies Regiment, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for rescuing men from under a burning truck in which ammunition was exploding, and the following N.C.O.'s in the same battalion have been awarded Military Medals: Sergt. D. G. McDonald, Sergt. L. M. Miller, and Lee.-Cpl. C. Cummings (Jamaica), and Corpl. R. B. Evans (Bahamas). These men were decorated for their promptitude in turning out and undertaking a dangerous task when a fire occurred at a certain ammunition dump. The Corps Commander congratulated the battalion upon their excellent state of discipline.

The fortnightly meetings of Lady Davson's work party have been suspended until the autumn. Any ladies requiring wool during the vacation should apply by letter to Mrs. John Bromley, 30, Manchester Street, W.I. The following ladies were present at the meeting on July 18th: Lady Davson, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Bailey, Mrs. John Bromley, The Honble. Mrs. Davson, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Golding, Lady Alice Leslie, Miss Levy, Miss Thompson, Miss Matheson, Miss Hamel Smith, Mrs. Vernon, and Miss Wharton. From March 20th to July 19th the work party made the following articles: 208 prs. socks, 254 pairs pants, 86 housewives, 6 comfort bags, 6 prs. pyjamas, and 3 mufflers.

Among the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight were:—

- ANTIGUA.—Prob.-Surgeon Arnold Branch, R.N.V.R.
- BAHAMAS.—Lieut. S. C. Farrington, R.A.F.

BARBADOS.—Capt. Niblock (B.W.I.R.), Lee./Bdr. H. S. Phillips, Dr. A. C. Kirton (B.W.I.R.), Pte. F. H. Terrill, J. A. Nurse, Pte. E. G. Bayne, Pte. C. C. Bynoe, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Graves, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Murphy, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, Pte. H. H. Leslie, 2nd Lieut. D. E. Chase, Pte. C. de C. Skeete, Surgeon D. A. Knight, 2nd Lieut. D. A. Clarke (B.W.I.R.), B. T. Seale, Pte. C. A. Wood.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Lee./Cpl. N. G. G. Thomas.

GRENADA.—Mr. Geo. R. Hutchinson.

JAMAICA.—Capt. R. Roop, Mr. C. W. M. Saunders, Capt. R. K. Nunes, 2nd Lieut. H. B. Sturridge, 2nd Lieut. C. S. Lindo, 2nd Lieut. S. L. C. Curtin, 2nd Lieut. S. D. Myers, Cpl. L. W. Hutchins, Sergt.-Major W. J. Robinson (B.W.I.R.), Q.-M. Sergt. A. Browne (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. J. R. L. Akin (B.W.I.R.), G. Malabre (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. Chas. A. Bravo (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. J. M. Hall (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. L. de Cordova (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. A. H. Sargood (B.W.I.R.).

TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. J. Herrera, Pte. F. J. Anderson, 2nd Lieut. H. G. Eckel, Lieut. Lewis Farfan, Lieut. Leo Maingot (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Lieut. Eric Macleod, Pte. A. H. de Silva, Clive Bynoe, Charles A. Walker, Pte. H. R. Murray, Tpr. I. de Nobriga, Capt. G. E. Lange, 2nd Lieut. E. B. Connell, Tpr. L. Hamel Smith, Tpr. R. de Gannes, Tpr. A. Gonzalez, Lieut. Frank O. Rooks, Tpr. Sydney Harragin, J. L. Ache, Lieut. S. S. Scott, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Scott, 2nd Lieut. Marc de Verneuil, G. Ache, Tpr. W. McInroy, W. H. Gilbert, Alexander R. de Sousa, Tpr. D. C. Belgrave, Tpr. L. Constant, Tpr. N. Marques, Surg.-Capt. C. G. Deane (B.W.I.R.), Tpr. H. R. Mole, Pte. M. M. Nock, Tpr. L. Hamel Smith, Pte. W. W. Spencer, T. Espindola, W. G. H. Patterson, Tpr. D. C. Belgrave, P. D. Ince.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Bulls in British Guiana.

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—I note on page 218 of your issue of 11th inst., a paragraph referring to the possibilities of the cattle industry for the Savannas of British Guiana, and that in Brazil, it is announced that the import of 120,000 bulls is contemplated within ten years!

In this connection it may be of interest to remember that in the years prior to the War the firm of Carl Hagenbeck, of Hamburg, had a large connection for the importing of Indian bulls into Brazil and the West Indies (for the crossing of the existing herds which, no doubt, were of European and British origin) with their other zoo business. At the end of this War, I understand the Zoological Society of London has in contemplation the formation of a small company to handle the zoological trade of Great Britain and America, including this export of Indian cattle for breeding purposes, to obviate this trade being in the hands of Germany. The British Government at present restrict company formation—but I trust the West India Committee will keep the matter in view. British cattle exporting agencies have heretofore discouraged and neglected this cattle business between India and the West.—Yours,

A. F. C. ELLIS, of Jamaica.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated and accompanied by a remittance, should be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

BIRTH.

PAIRAUDEAU.—To Mr. and Mrs. G. Henry Pairaudeau (late of British Guiana), on the 15th July, at 22, The Park, Baling, W. 8, a son. (Demerara papers please copy.)

DEATH

HOLBOROW.—On July 16th, at Oakdene Nursing Home, Mitcham Lane, Streatham, S.W., Georgina Adelaide Holborow, widow of the late Honble. George Holborow, of Antigua, B.W.I. Aged 78.

OBITUARY.

THE HON. EDGAR E. MEGGS.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of the Hon. Edgar E. Meggs, Crown Attorney of St. Kitts-Nevis, which took place on June 20th.

Mr. Meggs, who succumbed to an attack of blood poisoning, was a son of Mr. E. Meggs, of St. Kitts. He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple, and appointed Acting Magistrate in his native island in 1907 and 1911. After also acting as assistant to the Attorney-General and Deputy Judge of the Summary Jurisdiction Court, he was appointed Acting Crown Attorney in 1915 and Member of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis and of the Federal Council. On the death of the Hon. E. C. Wattleby he was appointed Crown Attorney and a Member of the Executive Council of St. Kitts-Nevis. He was for many years a member of the West India Committee. Both in his profession and socially Mr. Meggs enjoyed well-deserved popularity, and his loss will be much felt by the community. He was laid to rest in the Springfield Cemetery.

THE DEAN OF GEORGETOWN.

We regret to announce the death of the Very Rev. Ernest Sloman, M.A., Dean of St. George's Cathedral, British Guiana, and Archdeacon of Demerara, which occurred recently in the West Indies.

Dean Sloman had been spending a holiday in Barbados, where he was taken ill and had to undergo an operation, which was considered satisfactory at the time, but was apparently without the favourable results anticipated. Dean Sloman was born at Farnham, Surrey, in 1854, and was educated at Epsom College, where he took a prominent place in cricket, football, and rowing, afterwards graduating with honours (classics and theology) from St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford. After a course of special study at Leeds Clergy School, he was ordained at St. Paul's Cathedral in 1878, and for five years was curate of South Hackney. In 1883 he proceeded to British Guiana as curate of Christ Church, Georgetown, and shortly afterwards was appointed Principal of the Belair Training Institute for East Indian Catechists, etc.; in 1899 was made Rector of St. Patrick's Parish and Rural Dean of Berbice; in 1906 Canon, and in 1910 Rector of St. George's Parish and Dean of the Cathedral, later on, following the retirement of Archdeacon Josa, being also appointed Archdeacon of Demerara. He did excellent work towards the completion of the new Cathedral, and his death will be a serious loss, intellectually and otherwise, to the diocese of Guiana. The sympathies of his friends will be extended to his widow and daughter in their affliction.

MR. G. A. SEALY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. G. A. Sealy, of Buckden, Barbados, which took place at "Spion Kop," Christchurch, in that island, on June 19th.

Mr. G. A. Sealy, who was a prominent Barbados planter and attorney, was the eldest son of the late Sir John Sealy. Early in life he embarked on planting, and was recognised as a skilled and successful agriculturist. He introduced the Sealy seedling cane, which enjoyed much popularity, not only in Barbados, but in other sugar-growing countries. In the 'seventies he sat for some years in the House of Assembly, and to the end he took a keen interest in public affairs. He was a Justice of the Peace and for many years a member of the West India Committee. He married a daughter of Sir James Walker, a former Governor of Barbados, who with three sons and two daughters survive him.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS—£1,000 for Sailors' Fund.

The *Advocate* reports that the fortnight ended June 11th was showery with occasional good rains, very suitable to the planting of the much needed corn and potato crops. The crops in the black soil parishes were nearly all finished. The yield was in most cases below that of last year, but only slightly so. This was expected owing to the unequal distribution of the rainfall in 1917, and might also be in part attributed to shortage of manure. Carrington's had been sold to a syndicate including Hon. G. L. Pile, Mr. H. A. Bovell, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Mr. R. Rutherford, for £120,000; Welches, St. Thomas, to Mr. A. Hutson and another for £9,100, and the farm St. Peter, to Heyman's Factory for £4,500.

An Income Tax Bill was being warmly debated in the House of Assembly. Commenting on a clause which seeks to impose a surtax of 10 per cent. on absentees, the *Advocate*, referring to the article in a recent CIRCULAR which showed that where incomes had increased from £3,000 to £10,000 the resident kept the entire £10,000 whilst the absentee, owing to the Excess Profits Tax, etc., netted £2,960 only, says: "That it, [the Surtax clause] should have been inserted with the knowledge of what absentees resident in the United Kingdom have to pay in the shape of an income tax is, at least, surprising." The Rev. A. H. Anstey, Bishop-elect of Trinidad, has been the recipient of very complimentary addresses, including one from the staff and students of the Rawle Training Institution attached to Codrington College.

At a special meeting of the B.M.L.A. Fund on June 14th, a resolution was carried subscribing £1,000 to the King George's Fund for Sailors.

BRITISH GUIANA—Mr. Abraham dead.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, JUNE 12th.—I regret to report the death of Mr. E. A. V. Abraham, at the age of 66. Mr. Abraham was one of the best known solicitors in the Colony. He was also one of the oldest members of the Georgetown Town Council and had filled the office of Mayor.

Forty-five miles of the Rupununi cattle trail are completed. Captain C. Martin-Sperry having resigned his seat as F.R. for Georgetown, Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., has been requisitioned to allow himself to be nominated for the vacancy, and has consented to do so. Mr. W. Brassington has also been nominated, thus causing a contest. Several successful entertainments in aid of the Red Cross and other funds have taken place during the fortnight, and have been largely attended. The Governor held an "At Home," at Government House, on the 5th instant, when donations were given by those attending towards the Empire Fund that is being collected on the occasion of Their Majesties' Silver Wedding. The wedding of Mr. A. G. King, Acting Crown Solicitor, eldest son of Mr. J. A. King, Crown Solicitor, with Miss M. St. A. Stoute, youngest daughter of Mr. J. L. Stoute, manager Pln. "Ogle," took place this afternoon at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Main Street. Mr. W. Mearns, manager of Pln. "Hope," is severing his connection with that estate at the end of the month. Mr. J. M. Fleming has gone to Canada on a short holiday.

GRENADE—Races benefit Red Cross.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, JUNE 15th.—The St. George's Races were held in Queen's Park, on June 3rd and 4th. The takings from the gate and from the Pari Mutual have enabled the promoters to hand over about £20 to the St. George's Red Cross Fund. On the evening of June 4th a grand concert was given by the ladies and gentlemen of St. Patrick's in aid of the Red Cross. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kent are again to be congratulated for their generosity and hard work for the splendid performance and scenery, and especially the electric light from Mr. Kent's plant. I think it is the first time the Old Fort has been honoured with electric light. As a result £20 was sent to the Red Cross Fund. A Fancy Fair, under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Haddon-Smith, was held at Fort Rocks on the afternoon of June 12th, followed by a Band Concert in the evening. Much credit is due to

Mrs. Heidenstam, who worked very hard to ensure its success. A very good game at football was played at Queen's Park on June 13th, St. Andrews and St. Patricks v. St. Georges, resulting in a win for St. Georges by 3 goals to nil. On June 11th, at St. George's Anglican Church, Mr. J. A. Branch ("Buffalo Bill"), son of the late Rev. Mr. Branch, was married to Miss Beatrice Anton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Anton, of Rose Hill, St. George's. A dinner was given by a few friends at the Home Hotel, on the 8th in his honour. Mr. George Paterson, of Hermon, St. Andrew's, late of the Stores (Grenada) Ltd., passed away on June 13th. The Bishop of Barbados confirmed 110 candidates in St. George's on June 3rd. An excellent Gilbert and Sullivan Concert, given at the Court House, resulted in about £50 being given to the Red Cross Fund. Thanks are due to Mrs. McCowan and Major Smith. There are good prospects for the coming crop.

JAMAICA—Fire at Half-Way Tree.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.—The new building for the Royal Bank of Canada, which constitutes a splendid addition to the appearance of King Street, has been completed and occupied.

A disastrous fire, which followed an explosion, occurred at Half-Way-Tree Pen sugar factory, the property of Messrs. Lindo Bros. & Co., recently. The property loss was very heavy, the entire structure being burnt to the ground, and two lives were lost. It is understood that the fire was the result of a man having entered the rum still with a naked light, the electric light plant being temporarily out of order. During the past few months the flour supply has been very short, owing to the bad weather in the United States and Canada having delayed shipments, and from other causes. Now nearly all the back orders have been filled simultaneously and the market is practically glutted. It is said there is something like five months' supply on hand. Among those who returned to the island from the United States this month were Mr. E. W. Reed, manager of the Atlantic Fruit Co., Mr. T. P. Evelyn, Mr. N. C. Henriques, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, and Mr. J. W. Pringle and family.

Mr. S. T. Fielding died on the 29th after a short illness. Mr. M. M. Alexander has left for the United States on a short visit. Capt. E. Eves, Assistant General Staff Officer, Jamaica, has been gazetted temporary Major R.M. Mr. E. B. Sibthorpe, who left Jamaica early in the war to offer his services at the front, has returned to the island having been retired owing to ill health. Mr. J. E. Lyons, prominent in the mercantile community of Kingston, died on the 15th, and on the 18th Mr. William Watson, J.P., of Portland, at one time manager of the United Fruit Co. in Jamaica, passed away.

MONTSERRAT—Cotton booming.

Cotton' cultivation (writes a correspondent) is being developed to the utmost limit. The report on the first shipment to England is being anxiously awaited.

ST. KITTS—More Cotton Planted.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD.—The St. Kitts (Basseterre) sugar factory closed operations on the 30th ult., with 7,314 tons crystals made from 62,354 tons canes. 1917 was the driest year on record for St. Kitts and this short crop is the result of this misfortune. To date 6,054 bags muscovado sugar have been shipped to Canada with probably about another 2,500 bags to follow. It is impossible to get reliable figures as to local sales. The Sandypoint and Basseterre Valley districts particularly are suffering from drought just now, and the young cane crop generally throughout the Island requires rain. There has been a substantial increase in the cotton area planted. It is estimated that 6,000 acres are under cotton in the Presidency for this season. The prospects are promising up to the present, but a great deal depends upon the weather. There was considerable discussion at a meeting of the Agriculture and Commercial Society on the 18th inst. as to the advisability of establishing a close season for cotton, but nothing definite was decided on. Unfortunately, or, perhaps, fortunately, it is impossible to make laws for individuals.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6672 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

July 25th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

TRADE RETURNS. The Board of Trade Returns for June show that the imports into the United Kingdom during that month were valued at £101,616,849 (£86,078,742, June, 1917), and the exports at £45,026,231 (£43,651,663, June, 1917).

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W. I. Crystallised ... | 57 | 9 |
| W. I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ... | 55 | 6 |
| W. I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... | 50 | 0 |

The increased cost of war risk has been followed by an advance in the New York duty-paid price of 5 points; as from June 24th the price is 6.055 c.

The cost of the freight Cuban price remains at the same basis of 4.985 c., but Porto Ricos and St. Croix and 96° Philippine sugars are advanced to 6.055 c. c.i.f. New York. The cost, insurance and freight basis of full duty sugars, San Domingos, Venezuelas, Surinams, etc., is now 4.799 c. against 4.749 c. formerly.

Mr. George A. Zabriskie, of New York, has been appointed Federal Sugar Administrator to control sugar distribution throughout the United States.

The Java crop is at last being moved, 136,000 tons having been shipped in May as compared with 56,533 tons in the same month of 1917.

Retailers in the United States must now limit each sale of sugar for household use to 2 lbs. in town and city, and 5 lbs. in the country. Dealers have been instructed to restrict sales of sugar to hotels, restaurants, etc., to the basis of 3 lbs. per person per month. These rations compare favourably with those in force in the United Kingdom, which are ½ lb. per head per week all round, and nothing more except in the jam making season, when owners of bearing fruit trees receive a small extra allowance.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on July 20th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports ... | 13,222 | 38,661 | 30,892 | |
| Deliveries ... | 21,359 | 38,122 | 33,166 | |
| Stock (July 20th) ... | 2,850 | 8,554 | 8,831 | |

RUM. The Board of Trade in its return still unites "Rum and Imitation Rum," which is manifestly an injustice to the real article. In the six months ended June 30th last 25,073 galls. were exported, against 139,802 galls. and 251,854 galls. for the same periods in 1917 and 1916 respectively.

The stocks in London on July 20th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | puns. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica ... | 5,000 | 8,206 | 6,338 | |
| Demerara ... | 5,271 | 10,692 | 13,904 | |
| Total of all kinds ... | 14,904 | 31,145 | 34,194 | |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa ... | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam ... | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bobia, and Cameroons ... | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa ... | 65 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committees.

Exports from January 1st to May 30th include:—

| | Lbs. |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| British Guiana ... | 5,610 |
| Grenada ... | 10,984,231 |
| St. Lucia ... | 26,768 |
| St. Vincent ... | 100,688 ² |
| Trinidad ... | 30,222,404 |

*Jan. 1st—June 10th.

The British Ministries of Food and Shipping have inti-

mated that freight will be furnished for 1,000 tons of West Indian cocoa as soon as possible, and the impression prevails that the representations of the West India Committee will result in a relaxation of the present embargo, which is called for in the interests of the consumers, stocks here being reduced to 500,000 cwts.

The United States Government has decided to restrict importations of cocoa from July to December to 30,000 tons. All old licences are to be revoked except in the case of cocoa shipped by July 20th. These announcements were followed by a sharp rise in prices in New York.

The stocks in London on July 20th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | bags. |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Trinidad ... | 9,580 | 27,566 | 28,677 | |
| Grenada ... | 15,862 | 27,048 | 17,332 | |
| Total of all kinds ... | 126,626 | 277,021 | 214,798 | |

COFFEE. Supplies have been rather restricted, but coffee is coming forward from Jamaica more freely under the concession secured by the West Indian Committee.

COPRA. No change. Prices still controlled, £46 c.i.f. London and Liverpool. Marseilles firm, £90 c.i.f. terms. Exports of copra from Trinidad, Jan. 1st—June 8th, 16,112 bags against 19,406 bags for the same period in 1917.

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz:—

| | 561. |
|---------------------------|------|
| Ordinary ... | 40d. |
| Good Ordinary ... | 45d. |
| Superfine St. Vincent ... | 50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. Imports of West Indian in the six months ended June 30th, 657 bales.

Exports, Jan. 1st to June 10th include St. Vincent 144,741 lbs.

ARROWROOT. Firm at 1/3 to 1/4 per lb for fair manufacturing.

GINGER. Prices of Jamaica have advanced 30/-, buyers showing interest at the higher level. Quotations, 145/- to 170/- for common to fine.

HONEY. Very little Jamaica has been offered at the two series of auctions since our last. Present values are 182/6 to 195/- for dark liquid to good pale set. San Domingo sold at the same price: Cuban at 172/6 to 197/6, being rather irregular. St. Lucia exports, Jan. 1st to June 15th, 9,600 lbs.; Trinidad, January 1st to June 5th, 1,992 lbs.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed: quiet, value about 16/6; Distilled, neglected, value about 6/- to 6/8. Lime Juice: Raw, firmer; sales of good green at 4/3 per gallon; Concentrated, quiet. Citrate, quiet.

Exports of Raw Lime Juice: Grenada (Jan. 1st—May 30th), 44,085 galls; Trinidad, 9,656 galls. Concentrated: Grenada, 3,000 galls.

BALATA. West Indian sheet, steady at 3/11 buyers c.i.f., 4/3 spot value (234,514 lbs. were exported from British Guiana from January 1st to May 30th); Venezuela block, nominal at 3/4 c.i.f.

SPICES. Pimento is firmer. Business in spot at 61d. Mace: Steady; broken 2/5 to 2/6; red to pale, 2/9 to 3/3 per lb. Nutmegs: Firm; 68's 2/6, 75's 2/5, 80's 2/3, 95's 2/1, 110's 2/-, wormy and broken, 1/7 to 1/8 per lb.

An English business man, retired, with an intimate knowledge of the West Indies, at present in Jamaica, will act there for a British firm in any matter requiring capable and discreet attention.—Apply Suffolk, 6, St. Margaret's Road, St. Leonards, Hastings.

TRINIDADIAN, aged 26, late Cavalry Lieutenant, discharged after active service, seeks immediate appointment abroad as Estates' Manager. Has full experience cocoa, coco-nuts, sugar, rubber, coffee, etc. Apply S. Z., c/o the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

WANTED by Discharged Soldier, Imperial Army, left hand disabled, position on Sugar Plantation, British Island, Caribbean Sea, where previous experience unnecessary, smart appearance, good credentials and discharge papers. Send full particulars to Percy Roe, Cameo Cottage, Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey, England.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 5642 CENTRAL
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON

August 8th, 1918

Our Pact and Imperial Preference.

THE reciprocal trade agreement between Canada and the West Indies entered the sixth year of its existence on June 2nd last, and its success in spite of the disturbing factor of the War has fully justified the hopes of its sponsors. The volume of trade between these two parts of the Empire has shown a notable increase, which would have been carried still farther but for the heavy purchases of West Indian sugar made by the Royal Commission for the United Kingdom in recent years. In 1917 the total imports of sugar into the Dominion were 731,444,247 lbs., as compared with 580,852,583 lbs. in 1913, and of this total 260,179,286 lbs. came from the British West Indian islands, and 168,202,974 lbs. from British Guiana, the corresponding figures for 1913 being 138,429,497 lbs. and 142,165,728 lbs. respectively. The increased consumption of sugar in Canada is encouraging; but whether it will continue to expand in the same ratio in the near future is open to doubt. The consumption of cocoa has also gone ahead, the imports in 1917 amounting to 10,833,547 lbs., against 6,613,083 lbs. in 1913. Towards last year's total the British West Indies contributed 3,705,387 lbs. only, the United Kingdom furnishing 1,708,418 lbs. and foreign countries 5,337,300 lbs. This bears out what we said several years ago—that, duty or no duty, the Canadian manufacturers would continue to purchase foreign cocoa to meet the tastes of their clients. The total imports of cocoa and chocolate were only 15,865,040 lbs. To enjoy the benefits of the preferential tariff in Canada, refined sugar must be manufactured wholly from raw sugar produced in British colonies. With regard to manufactured cocoa and chocolate

there is no corresponding provision. If imported from the United Kingdom or a British colony they receive a preference even if made from Portuguese cocoa, and this, we venture to think, is a matter which calls for attention. The quantity of cocoa concerned is quite negligible, but the principle is not unimportant, and it is very desirable that English manufacturers should be encouraged to purchase British rather than foreign cocoa. The agreement has still six years to run, for the notice to terminate it cannot be given before June 2nd, 1923, and such notice could not take effect before the end of one year from the date on which it is given. It must not be supposed for one moment that there is likely to be any desire to terminate the agreement, but the position could be strengthened if attention were given to such considerations as this. Another anomaly lies in the fact that the colonies named in Schedule D, which were to enjoy the concessions in the Canadian market for three years, after which such concessions might cease and determine—the assumption being that they would do so—if they did not give reciprocal advantages, are still deriving the full benefits of the trade agreement without giving anything in return! That the advantages under the agreement are extended by Canada to the United Kingdom and all British possessions besides the West Indies, can no longer be a cause for complaint, for most of the West Indian colonies similarly admit all British produce to the benefits of their preferential tariffs thus incidentally paving the way for reciprocity with the Mother country, which we devoutly hope and believe will be consummated after the war.

Meanwhile, MR. WALTER LONG'S announcement that the Government had approved of the principle of Imperial Preference has been the subject of a good deal of acrimonious cross talk. Much of this has been quite irrelevant, the most glaring instance of it being the *Westminster Gazette's* suggestion that preference was incompatible with the proposed League of Nations—a red herring which the Secretary of the West India Committee promptly laid by the fin in a letter which was published by our Sea Green contemporary on August 3rd. If, as he pointed out, the contention of the *Gazette* is correct, it is obvious that the United States, which have differential as well as discriminating duties in their tariff and give a preference of about 20 per cent. to their protégé, Cuba, could not be a party to the League of Nations; and such a compact, without America, would be like Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. The position was then complicated by a denial that the Imperial War Conference had had the matter under consideration this year, and this led to the publication of the official explanation that

the decision referred to by MR. LONG was arrived at by the British War Cabinet, and was a decision of internal policy. Last year the Imperial War Conference passed a resolution regarding the necessity of Preference within the Empire. It then remained for the British Government to decide on its domestic policy in relation to that resolution. As to the nature of the scheme for Imperial Preference propounded by the War Cabinet Committee, we are still in the dark. All that we know is that no new duties on foodstuffs are contemplated, but we believe that we are correct in assuming that existing duties on such commodities as sugar, cocoa, tobacco, etc., in which we are particularly interested, will be reduced in favour of British produce.

The West India Committee Library.

THE Library of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE has lately been enriched by many rare and interesting volumes presented to it by MR. WILLIAM GILLESPIE, a life-long student of the literature of the Caribbees and an enthusiastic collector of West Indian books. From the first list, published in the present CIRCULAR, it will be noted that these include many valuable works, the earliest, with the sub-title "A New Survey of the West India's," being dated as far back as 1648, when the settlement of the Mother Colony of the British West Indies less than twenty-five years before was still a comparatively recent event. The next oldest book in the collection is "America; or, An Exact Description of the West Indies," dated 1655, by N. N., who, in a series of chapters devoted to the industries of the islands, anticipated PROFESSOR MAXWELL-LEFROY by over two hundred years in advocating the raising of silk-worms and the production of silk in the West Indies! A perfect copy of the first edition of RICHARD LIGON'S "True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados," published two years later, is also in the collection, with its curious map showing camels being driven through the Windward parishes, and hogs, for the plentiful supply of which the early settlers had to thank the Portuguese, roaming here and there. Another book published in the same century which now passes into the care of the COMMITTEE is CAPTAIN POYNTEZ'S remarkable "Present Prospect" of Tobago (1683); remarkable because the author claims that 120,000 acres of land in the island—the total area of which is only 73,313 acres—had been given to him and his company. The eighteenth century was prolific in West Indian literature, and among the volumes of that period for which the COMMITTEE are now indebted to MR. GILLESPIE are several of exceptional interest, notably GARDINER'S account of the expedition of 1759 against Martinique and the other Leeward Islands, with a French translation, both superbly printed by the famous Baskerville Press. These were the days of handsome quarto volumes splendidly bound in leather, when no expense was spared, and it was said that JOHN BASKERVILLE spent upwards of £600 before he produced a letter to please his fastidious eye. A French edition of "Gardiner"—the only book printed in French by BASKERVILLE—is also in the collection.

Mention must also be made of JOHN ELLIS' treatises on Coffee (1774) and the introduction of the mango-steen and bread-fruit into the West Indian Islands (1775), which was finally brought about by the unfortunate "BREAD-FRUIT" BLIGH, who was sent on his expeditions to the South Seas in quest of plants at the instigation of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE—a subject to which we shall revert at a later date. Numerous books on Tobago—or Tabago, as it was often then called—testify to the value attached in the eighteenth century to that island, which has recently again come into its own. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE is indeed to be congratulated on securing such a windfall for its library through the beneficence of MR. GILLESPIE.

GREAT BRITAIN'S SUGAR POLICY.

As we go to press we learn that the Government have decided to give to the signatories to the Brussels Sugar Convention the requisite six months' notice of their intention to resume complete liberty of action in respect of their policy with regard to sugar.

With reference to the above gratifying announcement it may be recalled that when in 1913 the British Government withdrew from the Brussels Sugar Convention they gave a pledge that they would not give a preference in the duties in the market of the United Kingdom to sugar from the British Colonies, or to cane sugar over beet, without first giving six months' notice to the signatories to the Convention. The West India Committee have constantly and consistently urged that such notice should be given immediately in view of the desirability of the adoption of steps to secure the development of the British sugar industry, and to render the British Empire self-supporting in respect of its sugar supply. The situation was fully explained in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 511, of May 2nd last.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MR. BERNARD BONYUN, who for some time acted as Assistant Secretary of the West Indian Contingent Committee, has been transferred as Supervisor of Customs to the Customs Station at Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

ACCORDING to the half-yearly return issued by Mr. R. P. Stewart, Acting Immigration Agent General in British Guiana, the total immigration population in the Colony on December 31st last was 63,249, including 37,001 males and 26,248 females. Of these 4,818 (3,451 males and 1,367 females) were under indenture. Of the indentured immigrants, 3,218 are from Calcutta and 1,600 from Madras.

THE various gentle reminders to members of the West India Committee whose subscriptions are in arrears, which have been published in this column, have proved so far extremely effective. With the cost of publication of the CIRCULAR still mounting up, punctual payment is more desirable than ever, and it is earnestly hoped that every member still in arrears will pay his dues either direct or through the Colonial Bank without delay.

"At present, if the Governor of one of our West Indian Colonies finds it necessary to send a telegraphic message to the Colonial Office in London, that message has to pass through two foreign countries—Cuba and the United

States. Would it pass at all in certain circumstances?" Mr. Charles Bright, who is a staunch advocate of "all British" cable communication, asks this question in his latest work, "Telegraphy, Aeronautics and War."

SUGAR from grass—sorghum—has been discussed in a lecture delivered recently by M. Leon Ginguard, a former President of the Botanic Society of France. The deficiency in the output of French beet has led to experiments with sorghum, which is stated to contain about 14 per cent. of sweetening properties; is found principally in Asia and Africa; but has been introduced into North America, where it is known as the Chinese sugar cane. So far it has not been found possible to crystallise this sugar, which, consequently has to be used in liquid form.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIC, writing to the Secretary of the War Office, says: "I desire to record my high appreciation of the gallantry and devotion shown by the Bermuda Contingent, and to endorse fully all that the General Officer Commanding the Division says in regard to their distinguished record of service." This contingent has been attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment since June 23rd, 1915, has been repeatedly in action, and has sustained 95 casualties out of a total strength of 124. Five men have been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

MRS. PEREZ'S "Carry-on Fund" for wounded, blind and disabled soldiers, continues to provide help for the objects for which it was established. Her recent Fête Champêtre in aid of the fund realised \$5,830, of which \$3,720 were sent to the West India Committee for sick and wounded—Trinidad men (\$1,000), Newington Hostel (\$2,000), St. Dunstan's Hostel (\$480), and the Recuperative Hostels (\$240). Other funds which benefited from Mrs. Perez's patriotic efforts were the French Red Cross (\$1,200), British Red Cross (\$720), Soldiers' and Sailors' Tobacco Fund (\$100), and the Red Cross Sewing Circle (\$40).

THE effect on the export of Canadian foodstuffs to the West Indies of the shortage of ships and supplies is the subject of an interview published by *The Maritime Merchant*, with Mr. Craydon, the manager of the Halifax branch of the firm of T. Geddes Grant, of Trinidad. The effect, said Mr. Craydon, was serious. "If we could only fill all the orders that are obtainable we should be doing an enormous business these days, for some places are almost entirely dependent on Canada for their food supply." The situation, he added, had grown worse since the U-boat arrived on the Canadian side of the Atlantic. Still he hoped for a fair volume of deliveries.

DR. MONTAGUE RHODES JAMES, the distinguished scholar and writer, who has been Provost of King's College, Cambridge since 1905, and has accepted the appointment of Provost of Rton College, is a Jamaican by descent. Mr. V. L. Oliver reminds us that Dr. James's grandfather, Wm. Rhodes James (fourth generation of that name), inherited the Haughton-James plantations in Jamaica, residing at Haughton Tower, but quitted the island after the Emancipation, and died in London in 1842. The founder of the family was Lieut.-Col. James, of the parish of Hanover, who died in 1759 at the patriarchal age of 103; by tradition the first male child born after the conquest, and whose father presumably came over with the expedition under Penn and Venables.

THE HON. R. S. AUCHER WARNER, K.C., who has been appointed Attorney-General of Trinidad and Tobago, (in which island he was born) in succession to Mr. H. C. Gollan, K.C., C.B.E., who has been promoted to Ceylon, comes of a family connected with the West Indies from the year 1623, when his kinsman, Sir Thomas Warner, founded the English settlement in St. Kitts. Educated at Queen's Royal College in Trinidad, and Oriel, Oxford, he was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1882. Since 1905 he has been Solicitor-General in the Colony of his birth. His wife is a daughter of the late Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad and Tobago from 1885 until 1890. It will be recalled that Mr. Warner captained the first West Indian cricket team to visit this country in 1902.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

"Hold Fast."

"Hold Fast!" was the key note of a stirring message to the nation from Mr. Lloyd George, which, at an appointed hour, on Bank Holiday, was extracted from a sealed envelope and read from the stage of theatres, music halls, cinemas, and other places of entertainment throughout the country. It appears in the newspapers of August 6th, and should be read by all.

"Patriotism" in the Midlands.

The most disturbing event recently has been the strike in Coventry and Birmingham. Following an embargo against more than a certain average number of skilled workmen being employed in each works, the Coventry munition workers came out on strike and were followed by some thousands of Birmingham men. For once in a way the Government acted with great firmness and issued a manifesto stating that all men of military age remaining out after a certain date would have their exemptions withdrawn and be rendered liable for military service. This had the desired effect, and the men, after threatening resistance, returned to work.

The Battle of the Marne.

By his retirement the enemy has admitted defeat in the latest battle of the Marne. It must, however, be admitted that his evacuation of the great salient which he unwisely created is being skillfully effected. At first it was rapid, but on July 29th resistance stiffened, and a series of counter-attacks were launched against the Allies, and notably the Americans, who are fighting with splendid valour. On July 30th the Germans retook the station of Fere-en-Tardenois, which the French had previously captured with the village, but the next day they retired from the southern part of the salient, and the French occupied Bois Meunier and Cierges. It was disclosed on July 30th that in the neighbourhood of Soissons, Highland troops had relieved the Americans, and had stormed and taken Buzancy, which was positively bristling with machine-guns. For a time the enemy made a vigorous stand on the high ground between the Oureq, the Ardre, and the Vesle, but it soon became certain that they would withdraw still farther, for they ruthlessly burned the villages behind the fighting front, and at the end of last week they retired rapidly behind the Aisne and the Vesle. They also began to fall back in the Montdidier region behind the Avre and on the British front behind the Ancre on both sides of all that is left of Albert. From the opening of the new German offensive on July 15th to July 31st 33,400 prisoners were captured by the Allies on the Marne and in Champagne, including 674 officers. The state in which they left Chateau Thierry is said to beggar description. Looting had been carried on systematically, art treasures and valuables having been packed up and carried off, and these filthy Germans—for whom the name Hun is too good—soiled the beds and furniture and committed other bestial acts from pure vindictiveness, as they did when they swept across Belgium.

The War in the Air.

It is believed that two Zeppelins at least were destroyed during an attack on the air sheds at Tondern carried out by a detachment of the Grand Fleet. Another has been definitely accounted for by our Naval airmen, who brought one down and damaged one out of five which attempted a raid on the East Coast on August 5th-6th.

Our intrepid airmen continue to maintain their supremacy over those of the enemy. During July the fighting in the air was scarcely less severe than it was in May and June. No fewer than 1,179 aeroplanes were brought down, of which the Allies claim 844, the British bag being given as 410. The German machines captured or shot down on the Western front numbered 316. Many effective raids were carried out by the Independent Air Force against the Rhine towns and munition centres by day and by night with favourable results, and our Naval airmen continued to bomb Zeebrugge, whose harbour is still blocked. England's recent immunity from air raids is a matter for congratulation, but whether this is attributable to our greatly strengthened defences or to the Huns having their hands too full elsewhere, must remain a matter for conjecture.

The Under-Sea Campaign.

There can be no doubt that a mistake was made when it was decided to discontinue the publication of our losses through submarine attacks every week. These figures, though conveying no idea as to the actual loss of tonnage, brought home to the man in the street the gravity of the submarine menace much more forcibly than the monthly tonnage figures do. In June our losses were 161,062 tons, and those of our Allies and neutrals 114,567 tons. The outstanding fact is that no panacea for submarine attacks has yet been found, and that it is only by the ceaseless vigilance of our Navy and Air Service, and the splendid courage of our mercantile marine, that it is kept within bounds.

Sir E. Geddes, on August 4th, unfolded the wonderful story of our mystery, or "Q" boats, which have decoyed many U-boats to their doom. Disguised as tramps and what not these "Q" boats were cleared for action when the pirates got near and sank quite a number by gun-fire and bombs before the ruse became known.

The White Star liner, *Justicia*, of 32,000 tons (built as the *Statendam* for the Holland-America line), has been sunk after a series of actions with enemy submarines. The attack began at 2 p.m. on a Friday and was continued until 8 a.m. on the following morning. Our guns crews greatly distinguished themselves and more than one torpedo was diverted from its course by gun fire. Unfortunately, *Justicia* was hit in the engine-room. She had therefore to be taken in tow, and her speed was then so slow that her huge mass made an easy target.

The Situation in Russia.

The outlook in Russia is more promising. British troops are now established on the Murman coast, and have occupied Archangel, while Czechoslovak soldiers have occupied about 2,500 miles

of the Siberian railway from Pensa to Irkutsk and the shores of Lake Baikal, and have disarmed the Soviet Governments in Vladivostok, Nikolsk, and elsewhere. Following the murder of Count Mirbach in Moscow, Field-Marshal von Eichhorn, the German Military Dictator in the Ukraine, was assassinated on July 30th—which is all to the good. It is becoming daily more apparent that Germany has embarked upon a thorny path in Russia, and the transfer of troops to the East would not cause surprise.

Best news of all is that an agreement has been arrived at between Japan and the Allies on the subject of intervention in Siberia.

Zeebrugge Awards.

The liberal—but not too liberal—distribution of awards to those who participated in the Zeebrugge and Ostend affairs, demonstrates the importance attached by the Government to the coastal raids which were brilliantly conceived and gloriously carried out and eminently successful. Commander A. F. B. Carpenter, R.N., Lieutenant R. D. Sandford, R.N., Lieutenant P. T. Dean, Captain Edward Bamford, D.S.O., R.M.L.I., Sergeant N. A. Finch, R.M.A., and Able-Seaman A. E. McKenzie, all received the coveted V.C., and among those awarded the D.S.O., West Indians will be glad to notice the name of Lieutenant S. S. Bonham Carter, of H.M.S. *Intrepid*, who spent several years in the West Indies in *Aeolus*. Lieutenant E. Hilton Young, M.P., R.N.V.R., who was recommended for early promotion, is a son of Sir George Young, who was Chairman of the "Des Vœux" Immigration Commission in British Guiana in 1870. Lieutenant E. Lyon Berthon, R.N., of H.M.S. *Sirius*, who has been awarded a bar to his D.S.C., is a son of Mr. Claude T. Berthon, the well-known sugar engineer.

(To be continued.)

"THE Life and Letters of Sir J. D. Hooker," just published by Mr. John Murray, contains numerous references to the West Indies, in the agricultural development of which the "Grand Old Man" of Kew always evinced a keen interest. He regarded it as an anomaly that when slavery was abolished the owners should have been paid whilst the natives got nothing. In a letter to Mr. Fawcett, then Director of Public Gardens in Jamaica, thanking him for a box of cigars, the gift of Mr. Arthur Farquharson, he wrote: "I believe I was the 'Deus ex Machina' through whom the manufacturing of good cigars was introduced into Jamaica"; and he recalled how he had discussed the matter with Sir John Peter Grant when he was appointed Governor of Jamaica. "I reminded him that it was a scandal . . . that with the East and West Indies in our possession we had not a good cigar from either." Sir J. P. Grant carried out his suggestions, and a successful industry was established.

SIR JOSEPH despaired of Jamaica exporting really good oranges, and in a letter to Sir Daniel Morris he wrote: "They [the Jamaicans] want rousing up—a good stinging series of articles in a good Jamaica newspaper or journal—they have had too much pity." He found that "trash" was being exported, the best oranges having 28 seeds. Reference is made in this interesting book to the introduction of cinchona into Jamaica, though the writer, Mr. Leonard Huxley, does not say what a failure it was commercially; nor does he record that in St. Helena the wrong variety altogether was cultivated before the mistake was discovered!

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY.

STATE CONTROL OF TRADE.

Mr. William Gillespie's Generous Gift.

Mr. William Gillespie, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has recently presented to the Library of that body a number of West Indian books. From the list which will be published in the CIRCULAR—the first instalment being given below—it will be noted that many of the volumes are exceedingly rare and valuable.

"The English-American his Travail by Sea and Land: or, a New Survey of the West-India's." By Thomas Gage. London: 1648.

"America: or, An exact Description of the West Indies." Faithfully represented by N. N., Gent. London: 1655.

"A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados. . . ." By Richard Ligon Gent. London: 1657.

"Jamaica Viewed: with all the Ports, Harbours, and their several soundings, Towns, and Settlements thereto belonging." By Edm. Hickeringhill. London: 1661.

"Relation de l'Isle de Tabago ou de la Nouvelle Oualere. . . Par le Sieur de Rochefort." Paris: 1666.

"The Present Prospect of the Famous and Fertile Island of Tabago." By Captain John Poyntz. London: 1683.

"The Laws of Jamaica, Passed by the Assembly and Confirmed by His Majesty in Council. . . The State of Jamaica as it is now. . ." London: 1684.

"A New History of Jamaica, from the Earliest Accounts to the taking of Porto Bello." London: 1740.

"An account of the Expedition to the West Indies against Martinico, with the reduction of Guadelupe, and other the Leeward Islands. . ." By Captain Gardiner. Birmingham: Printed by John Baskerville, 1752.

"Relation de l'Expedition aux Indes Occidentales." By Captain Gardiner. Birmingham: John Baskerville, 1762.

"A Summary Account of the present flourishing state of the Respectable Colony of Tobago." London: 1774.

"An Historical Account of Coffee. . . Sundry Papers relative to its Culture and Use as an Article of Diet and Commerce." By John Ellis, F.R.S. 1774.

"A Description of the Mangostan and the Bread Fruit. . . Directions to Voyagers, for bringing over these and other Vegetable Productions, which would be extremely beneficial to the Inhabitants of our West India Islands." By John Ellis, F.R.S. London: 1775.

"A Narrative of the Official Conduct of Valentine Morris, Esq., late Captain-General, Governor-in-Chief, etc., of the Island of St. Vincent." London: 1787.

"Memoire de M. Roume, Commissaire et Ordonnateur de l'Isle de Tabago." Paris: 1791.

"Representation by the Creditors of the Island of Tobago to the United Committees of Colonies and Commerce." 1791.

"The Proceedings of the Governor and Assembly of Jamaica in regard to the Maroon Negroes." London: 1796.

"The Crisis of the Sugar Colonies. . . Sketches of a plan for settling the Vacant Lands of Trinidad. In four letters to the Right Hon. Henry Addington." London: 1802.

"Inhuman Torture!! Fairburn's Edition of the Trial of Thomas Pieton, late Governor of Trinidad." London: 1806.

"The Coffee Planter." By John Lowndes, Planter of . . . Dominica. London: 1807.

"A Voyage to the Demerary." By Henry Bolingbroke, Esq. London: 1809.

"A Voyage to the West Indies." By John Augustine Waller, R.N. London: 1820.

"A View of the Past and Present State of the Island of Jamaica." By J. Stewart. Edinburgh: 1823.

"Transatlantic Sketches." 2 Vols. By Capt. J. E. Alexander. London: 1833.

"The West India Sketch Book." 2 vols. London: 1834.

"Jamaica as it was, as it is, and as it may be." By a retired Military Officer. London: 1835.

(To be continued.)

To a deputation of heads of manufacturing firms convened by the National Union of Manufacturers on August 1st, Mr. Lloyd George made a reassuring statement as to the intentions of the Government in regard to the control of trade.

No one, he said, ever dreamt of continuing the present system of control after the war. He agreed with his friend, Sir William Pearce, that the strength of this country had been very largely in the ingenuity, the self-reliance, the adaptability, and the resource which came from individual effort. All the same, we must not despise what the Germans had won from combination, and in the future, although he did not in the least deprecate the individuality which had come out of the old British methods, there was a lesson of the war which even the Germans had taught us, in the effect of the assistance of State action, of State help, of State encouragement, of State promotion, and of combined effort amongst those who were engaged in all the industries of the country. Let us learn our lessons wherever they came from, even from the Germans.

But, he repeated, no one would ever dream of continuing the present system of rigid meticulous interference which was essential in a war. War, if it was to be victorious, must be waged by a disciplined nation; and a disciplined nation must mean interference. You took a man out of his business—he might be the only one who was conducting it—and you sent him away at 1s. 7d., or whatever it was, a day, to a trench in France. That was interfering with a man's business. The war was essentially interfering with business at every turn, and you could not avoid it. Magnificently as the business and industrial community of this country had shown its capacity to organise itself for war—and there had been nothing comparable to it in the whole history of the world—he quite agreed that when the war was over all the constant interference which might be absolutely essential now in order to direct and to concentrate the whole strength of the nation upon the war must disappear.

Mr. Bonar Law, who accompanied Mr. Lloyd George, was equally emphatic. He assured the deputation that the Government as a whole was anxious at the earliest possible moment to get rid of the restrictions which the war had made necessary, and to allow individual competition to have the free play which had made our commercial community so great. But it was quite obvious that perfect freedom at the end of the war was impossible. Most of those present knew what a corner was. We would be vitally dependent on raw materials as the first essential of reconstituting our industry, and if free play were allowed there he was greatly mistaken if it would not be found that a corner, organised perhaps by our old enemies, had arisen in almost all the staple raw materials essential to industry. That had to be guarded against. But with that qualification he assured them that the Government wished to get rid of Government control as quickly as possible.

Dealing with the recent decision of the Cabinet in favour of Imperial Preference, he said that, first of

all, they had taken a step—and, remember, it was the result of the war that it had been taken so easily—which was an immense move forward in our whole conception of trade policy, and that was the acknowledgment that, so far as this Government was concerned, the principle that we were one Empire and of Preference within that Empire was established. He believed—indeed, he knew, and he was as sure of it as he could be of anything—that the whole country would endorse that decision of the Government.

THE PORT OF GEORGETOWN.

Since the publication in the pages of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, some months ago,* of Mr. Luke M. Hill's notes on the Port of Georgetown, several letters have been received from persons interested in the subject; and from some of these the following extracts have been made:—

Baron Siccama's Views.

BARON SICCAMA, formerly Government Hydraulic Engineer in British Guiana.—"In *Timchri*, May, 1915, will be found a paper by me on the sea defences of British Guiana, in which I also touched on the Demerara Bar. In my report of 31st December, 1879, to Governor Kortright, C.M.G., I recommended a training dam from the East Best Groyne in a direction N.N.E. over the Bar to the 10 fathom line, at an estimated cost of \$1,700,000: my proposal was for a single dam, not two as stated by Mr. Hill. The object being to catch as much as possible of the tide coming up from the east, and lead the current into the river. A single dam would be sufficient as it would serve to keep the ebb tide from the Essequibo from depositing sand and silt on the bar: this Essequibo sand is one of the causes of the bar shallowing and pushing the deepest soundings over to the east. That this is the case is shown by the continual shifting of the Demerara lightship to the east, for in the oldest trustworthy sea charts of the coast the lightship is shown due north of the Kitty estate, and in 1876 it was already lying due north of Lusignan spit.

"The south pass of the Mississippi is a different case, as there is no appreciable current across this mouth, nor is there a tide. The Mississippi passes are not estuaries, as no regular tides enter them and the water is continuously fresh even at a short distance from the sea: there are no tides in the Gulf of Mexico.

"I am past work now and only live on recollections; but I am glad to have a chance of unburdening my mind on the subject."

A Harbour Master's Opinion.

Baron Siccama's views about the tending of the navigable channel towards the east, is borne out by CAPT. ALEX. DUNCAN, former Harbour Master of Georgetown, who writes:—"I am of opinion that the British Guiana Government have as much on their hands as they can undertake at present with the Sea Defences; and as the channel from the lightship has not lessened in depth for many years past, the river wall and the opening up of the interior of the country might well stand over until it is more definitely determined that the exports will increase sufficiently to warrant the expenditure. The dam would require to be taken nearly as far as the lightship to get a depth of 20 feet L.W.S.T., and to be of solid construction, so the estimated initial cost will probably be exceeded and the annual charge for maintenance will be very large, and capitalised, will mean a big sum. That one expert should consider that the dam ought to be on the windward and the other on the leeward side of the channel is rather extraordinary, tending to neutralise the value of

their advice, and the success of the scheme will much depend on the dam being on the right side. No doubt the channel is tending to the east, which means that the western side is making up; and if this is caused by matter in suspension being deposited from the east, I think the dam should be on the eastern side from the Port seaward: however, I am not an expert, and therefore refrain from any further expression of opinion."

Mr. F. White's Contribution.

MR. FRANK WHITE, formerly manager of Sproston, Ltd., writes:—"I must confess that I see no prospect of these big jobs being undertaken for many generations to come. My idea is to foster these industries that exist at present in the Colony, especially sugar and rice and other agricultural products. There is plenty of rich land within measurable distance of Georgetown which could be made productive if proper systems of irrigation and canals were introduced, without each successive Governor starting new schemes which are impracticable in these uncertain times, and for the next fifty years. Where is the money to come from to pay for them all?"

A Receiver General Concur.

MR. C. B. HAMILTON, C.M.G., late Receiver General of British Guiana, and now Government Director in London of the Demerara Railway Co., whilst concurring in the opinion that the present may be an inopportune time for carrying out all the suggested improvements in the Port of Georgetown, urges that a commencement might be made in the erection of the proposed river wall, by building a section on the selected line at the northern end, to serve as a shipping wharf for the East Coast Demerara Railway; and at the same time construct a comprehensive wharf and storage sheds at Vreed en Hoop, on the other side of the Demerara River, the terminus of the West Coast railway line, thereby providing facilities for ocean-going steamers to load direct, without involving the cost and risk of lighterage across the river to Georgetown.

In his recent lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, SIR WALLER JEGERTON, K.C.M.G., late Governor of British Guiana, emphasised the necessity of providing such railway terminal shipping facilities in the Port of Georgetown.

SEEDLING CANES IN BARBADOS.

Dealing with the seedling cane experiments conducted in Barbados during the year 1916-17, Mr. John R. Boyell, Superintendent of Agriculture for that island, in his annual report, states that there are three seedlings which appear worthy of being tried under ordinary plantation conditions, namely: B.H. 10 (12), Ba. 6032 and Ba. 7924. There are also four new varieties, seedlings of the B. 6450, which have been cultivated for the past two years in comparison with the White Transparent and B. 6450, and which appear to be worthy of extended cultivation. These are:—B.S.F. 12 (15), B.S.F. 12 (34), B.S.F. 12 (27), and B.S.F. 12 (24).

B.H. 10 (12) has given in the same fields on the average for four years from twenty-one plots 2,478 lb. of saccharose per acre more than the B. 6450 and 4,239 lb. more than the White Transparent; Ba. 6032 from forty-nine plots 1,303 lb. of saccharose per acre more than the B. 6450 and 3,222 lb. more than the White Transparent; Ba. 7924 from sixteen plots 1,507 lb. of saccharose per acre more than B. 6450 and 2,788 lb. more than the White Transparent.

Of the four Barbados self-fertilized seedlings obtained from B. 6450, B.S.F. 12 (45) on the average from two plots during the last two seasons has given 1,892 lb. of saccharose per acre more than B. 6450

*The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Nos. 500, p. 459; 503, p. 9; and 505, p. 52.

and 2,875 lb. more than the White Transparent; B.S.F. 12 (34), 2,416 lb. of saccharose per acre more than the B. 6450 and 3,399 lb. more than the White Transparent; B.S.F. 12 (27), 3,506 lb. of saccharose per acre more than the B. 6450 and 4,489 lb. more than the White Transparent; B.S.F. 12 (24), 4,500 lb. of saccharose per acre more than the B. 6450 and 5,483 lb. more than the White Transparent.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN HAWAII.

What can be done by enlightened management, modern methods and favourable climatic conditions is shown by the report of Mr. John T. Moir on the Onouca Sugar Company for 1917, for a copy of which we are indebted to Mr. Robert S. Catton. The area under cultivation was 3,874 acres, comprising 544 under plant canes, 1,223 first ratoons, 982 second ratoons, and 1,125 outside planters' plant and ratoons. The yield of canes was 164,377, and that of sugar 5.44 tons per acre. The principal cane grown was the yellow Caledonia, only 34 acres being under other varieties.

The crop slightly exceeded expectations in tons of sugar; though it was short in tons of cane estimated, the difference being accounted for by higher sucrose in the cane. The new Searly Shredder was used for the first time and, commenting upon it, the manager states: "We are very well satisfied with this machine and its work, and it is there to stay—in fact, we would be almost lost without it."

The average extraction for the season of sucrose in the cane was no less than 98.32 per cent. The mill report shows, under the heading of Extraction: Dilution on normal juice, 43.14 per cent.; fibre in cane, 13.14 per cent.; sucrose in cane, 13.420 per cent.; extraction (sucrose per 100 cane), 13.195 per cent.; extraction (sucrose per 100 sucrose), 93.316 per cent. The sucrose remaining in the megass was only 1.023 per cent.

During the year the company let out 573½ acres under cultivation contracts at prices ranging from 90 cents to \$1.32½ per ton. The contractors take the land after it is planted in cane, and do all the weeding, cultivating and applying of fertilizer; they also attend to one stripping. The company furnishes the fertilizer, delivered on the field.

THE HON. W. M. WIGLEY has been appointed Acting Crown Attorney and a Member of the Executive Council of St. Kitts-Nevis.

MR. T. W. O'NEAL is, we are glad to learn, making a good recovery from an operation for rupture, which he underwent recently at a Military Hospital.

We are indebted to Mr. C. B. Franklin for a bound copy of his "Trinidad and Tobago Year Book" for 1918, the 53rd year of issue. An interesting and useful feature of the Year Book is the list which it contains of Trinidad men who have served or are serving in His Majesty's Forces. This includes the names not only of the public and Merchants' Contingents, but also those of men who left "on their own" to join up. The Roll of Honour is accompanied by portraits of many of those who have made the great sacrifice. Mr. Franklin is proving a worthy successor to Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Collins, V.D., who so capably edited the "Year Book" for many years.

COPRA IN THE EAST.

One of the results of the restriction of trade arising out of the curtailment of shipping between the Far East and Europe is the difficulty of disposing of the copra crops in the Malay Peninsula. This has led to the revival of proposals to extract coco-nut oil on the spot on a larger scale than hitherto, and at a recent meeting of planters, held at Kuala Lumpur, it was stated by Mr. B. J. Eaton, of the Department of Agriculture, that the Federated Malay States Government, with the view of encouraging the establishment of local oil mills, will grant a site for a factory at a nominal rent, and will also grant a loan against mortgage. The Chamber of Commerce Journal states that the Government has already approved of a reduction of 50 per cent. on railway freight on copra and coco-nuts. It is estimated that a minimum of 7,200 tons of copra per year, or 14,000 acres of coco-nuts in bearing, would be required to justify the erection of a co-operative mill. After 8 per cent. had been set aside for interest to shareholders and a fair depreciation allowed on machinery, the profit accruing would be divided amongst the contributing estates according to the quantity of copra delivered.

Cane Juice Extraction.

Messrs. Thomas and Petree, respectively of New South Wales and Queensland, Australia, have recently secured an American patent (says the *Louisiana Planter*) for what they term a new and useful improvement in the process of manufacturing cane sugar.

The intention of the inventors is to improve and cheapen the processes by doing away with filter presses, returning in the line of work such juice as may be advantageously utilised in the succeeding pressures. In this way, by careful work they believe their new process will be superior to any effort thus far. They say that it has been proposed to extract the sugar-charged liquid from the scum and mud by returning the same to the milling circuit at a point therein subsequent to the initial shredding or crushing of the cane, with the object that sugar-charged liquid it contains will be expressed by the subsequent crushings and its solid elements, mud and trash, retained in the bagasse.

In order to bring about satisfactory results, the bagasse in process of crushing is subjected to progressive maceration and for this purpose the sugar contained in the expressible liquids must progressively diminish. The usual method when more than two stages of crushing are employed is to return the thin juice from the first and second mills back to the first mill, utilising the maceration water to whatever extent seems the best. It will be noted that in the return of the juice to the several mills, strainers are utilised in such a way as to promote the general clearing of the juice. The endeavour of the inventors is to provide a means whereby the sugar-charged liquid may be extracted from the defecation mud by distributing the mud on the bagasse in the circuit without the disadvantage of requiring increase in the volume of maceration water, thus reducing the extracted juice in the final bagasse to a negligible quantity and without detriment to the efficiency of the extraction of the sugar from the cane.

In doing this the defecation mud from the rich juice is mixed with the thin juice obtained in the latter or furthest mills in the multiple crushing and submitting the mixture to defecation and settling, thence without increasing the maceration water and in this way obtain a mud less rich in sugar than the macerated bagasse which enters the rolls at the next succeeding mill after the distribution of this mud on the bagasse.

PROFESSOR HARRISON'S WORK.

An American Tribute.

The acceptance by Professor Harrison, C.M.G., of the editorship of the *Journal of the Board of Agriculture*, of British Guiana, is made the occasion of a cordial tribute to the Professor's life work by the *Louisiana Planter*.

"As our readers know (writes the *Planter*) Professor Harrison, with the collaboration of Mr. Bovell, was the first to make the public announcement to the world of actual sugar cane seedlings, they having successfully produced such in Barbados, where Professor Harrison was then located and where Mr. Bovell is still residing and still devoting himself to his favourite industry. Years ago Professor Harrison was called to take charge of similar work in British Guiana and the discovery of the sugar cane seedlings in Barbados have practically revolutionised the cane sugar industry of the world and have made possible cheap supplies of sugar now recognized as one of the cheapest, if not the cheapest, food articles in the civilized world when its effectiveness as food is considered.

"We feel here in Louisiana that we owe much to Messrs. Harrison and Bovell, and especially to Professor Harrison for the two seedling canes as developed in Louisiana from specimens sent by him from Demerara years ago, namely, Demerara, or D-74 and D-75, these two canes having practically revolutionised our industry here and made it possible to carry on our sugar industry under the adverse conditions that have surrounded it for so many years.

"At our own experiment station at Audubon Park, Dr. Dodson, the director of agricultural experiment stations, and his immediate assistant at Audubon Park, Mr. Taggart, have developed a Louisiana 511 cane that gives even greater promise than did D-74 or D-75. This cane, however, has not yet got into sufficiently extensive use to justify us in stating what it will do for us in the end, but all chemical analyses indicate its quality as being superior to any other sugar cane that has ever been tested in Louisiana.

"Professor Harrison, in his new function as editor, will of course continue his personal work, but he has already done enough to immortalise himself, even if he should find a less open field in which to exercise his energy and ability. It would seem that only recently his country has been invaded by locusts, coming over from Venezuela. When we remember the invasions of Kansas by locusts years ago, before the agriculture of Kansas was so carefully adapted to its semi arid conditions, we can have a fair appreciation of the trouble that now confronts our condutors in agricultural work done in British Guiana, and we are quite sure Professor Harrison will have his hands full."

THE WEST INDIAN MOLE CRICKET.

The West Indian mole cricket (or changa), the scene and scope of its operations, form the subject of an interesting Bulletin issued by the Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station.

Although a native of the West Indies and South America, the greatest damage done by the changa is effected in Porto Rico. It is, in fact, the principal insect enemy of general agriculture in the island. The plant is attacked at the crown, just beneath the surface of the soil. The changa also cuts roots that lie along its path. The difficulty of combating the changa is illustrated by the fact that of its many natural enemies it is held in check by none. Furthermore, the only repellents known to be of value—naphthalia and sulphur—are only partially effective.

Sugar cane is protected from the changa by

planting it in a perpendicular or slanting position. Hilling up plants, it is stated, greatly reduces changa injury in gardens. During the fall months the changa flies in large numbers on damp, overcast evenings. The greater proportion of changas attracted to lighted areas are females. Flooding is of value wherever the location of fields makes water easily available. The use of poison baits, together with clean cultivation of the area to be planted, is recommended. A mixture of cheap flour and Paris green is particularly acceptable to the changa.

THE COLLECTION OF SILK COTTON.

With reference to the possibility of exporting silk cotton (the Kapok of the East) from the West Indies, regarding which a report by Mr. Nowell, mycologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Barbados, was published in our issue of July 11th, we have now received from the Department further reports on the subject as affecting Antigua, Montserrat and Grenada.

It will be remembered that Mr. Nowell stated that there were good reasons for not encouraging in cotton-growing islands the production of silk cotton, the pods of the tree affording one of the main sources of food for the cotton-stainer bug, which, in turn, is responsible for the transmission of internal boll disease.

Confirmation of this view is now furnished by Mr. A. E. Collens, Acting-Superintendent of Agriculture, Antigua. Mr. Collens reports very few silk cotton trees in the island, and that owing to the danger of disease "there is very little likelihood of any adequate supply of floss being obtained from the Leeward Islands or Windward groups."

Mr. W. Robson, the Curator at Montserrat, holds out very little hope of a shipment from that island, "Even if the price were remunerative, as the material is eagerly sought for by the people to make pillows, etc. Before the trees bear pods again it is hoped that the Ordinance to compel the destruction of silk cotton trees will be in force."

"Kapok trees in Grenada" (writes Mr. J. C. Moore, Superintendent of Agriculture) "are very tall and difficult to climb. Hence, most of the crop blows away, and I do not anticipate success in any attempt to collect Kapok from them."

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF ST. LUCIA.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Davidson-Houston, C.M.G., has been appointed Administrator of St. Lucia in succession to the Hon. C. Gideon Murray.

Colonel Davidson-Houston joined the Army in 1887 as a Lieutenant in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. After serving with the Chartered Company's police and as an Acting Commissioner in Rhodesia, he joined the Gold Coast Constabulary and saw active service with the West African Frontier Force. He was appointed Commissioner of Montserrat in 1906, but was seconded to take command of a labour force in France. He was Staff Officer to the Colonial Coronation Contingent in 1911 and received the C.M.G. in that year. A son of the Rev. B. C. Davidson-Houston of County Cork and Dublin, he married the only daughter of the late Mr. E. Langley Hunt of County Limerick.

AT WESTMINSTER.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

A Chance for Colonial Fruit.

In the House of Commons on July 15th, Sir A. Stanley said that in consultation with the Ministers of Food and Shipping he had under consideration the desirability of relaxing the restrictions on the importation of fruit from our Dominions and Dependencies in view of the failure of the hard fruit in the United Kingdom.

The Cabinet and Imperial Preference.

In the House of Commons, on July 29th, Mr. Lees-Smith asked the Prime Minister whether the Government had decided upon the adoption of a policy of Imperial Preference after the War?

Mr. Bonar Law replied: The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. Lees-Smith: Will the right hon. gentleman say whether this preference is to be confined solely to the question of transport or whether it is to include preference in regard to tariffs as well?

Mr. Bonar Law: Both; preference in duties as well.

Asked whether a policy of that sort would not be fatal to the policy of a League of Nations, Mr. Bonar Law said that he did not in the least admit that. To a supplementary question by Mr. Snowden he said: "It must be quite obvious to my hon. friend that as long as the War lasts the Government have no opportunity of carrying out such a policy [of Imperial Preference] and it cannot be adopted. All that has happened is that this Government has put itself into line with the other Governments of the Dominions in accepting this principle."

To Mr. Runciman, he said that the discussion of the question was not complete, and it was not proposed to publish the exact terms of the resolutions passed until it was complete. He had every reason to expect that a full report of the proceedings of the Imperial Conference would be published. To Col. Wedgwood, he stated that the resolutions did not involve the taxation of food.

The Government's Sugar Purchases.

In the House of Lords, on July 29th, the Earl of Crawford said that the disbursements of the Royal Commission on Sugar Supplies on account of sugar, freight and other charges, had been £147,000,000 since the establishment of that Commission. These figures included sums owing to the Ministry of Shipping, and excluded sums paid on account of the Allies and not yet refunded. In the case of sugar the whole of the cost of distribution had been met by the margin between the purchase and the selling prices.

Mr. John T. Cargill, presiding at the annual general meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, on June 17th, said that as regarded Trinidad, in which his company was interested, although there was a continuance from time to time of past experience of large and promising strikes of oil in the areas on which drilling had been largely concentrated during the past three years, there had also unfortunately been a continuance of the conditions which caused the wells immediately to close up, and it could not meantime be declared positively whether the latter conditions were due to natural exhaustion in one great gash or to a resealing of the oilsands, partially or wholly, through disturbances of the underground strata arising from a combination of the peculiarly fine loose sand and the very heavy gas pressure which accompanied the penetration of the oilsand. On the latter assumption efforts continued to be made in the direction of overcoming or at least reducing this obstacle to steady production. Some small but encouraging strikes of oil had been secured recently in a new area which they had been testing in Trinidad, but it was too early yet to say whether or not oil would be produced there on a commercial scale. So far, however, the conditions which had been so prejudicial to steady production in the older areas already referred to did not seem to be so pronounced in this new area, and the quality of the oil itself was also better.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

SECOND LIEUT. GORDON BURKE, Royal Fusiliers, died at Mundesley Sanatorium, on July 29th, after a long illness contracted on active service. A son of Mr. Burke of the Railway and Telegraph Department of the Trinidad Government, Mr. Gordon Burke was educated at St. Mary's and Queen's Royal Colleges in Port of Spain. He was in the Public Works Department at the outbreak of war, and came over as a member of the 1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent. He bore his illness with great fortitude and endeared himself to those who looked after him whilst he was in Lady St. Helier's Hospital at Epsom, and latterly at Mundesley. He was laid to rest at Hammersmith Cemetery on August 2nd.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Trooper William McIntroy, of the 1st Merchants' Contingent, Trinidad, has been married to Miss Margaret Bullions at Milton of Rattray, Blairgowrie.

The West Indian Contingent Committee's appeal for brown paper for packing parcels, in last CIRCULAR, brought an immediate response, and thanks are due to Mr. Jarman, Messrs. Blackwood, Bryson & Co., Messrs. Duckworth & Co., Mrs. Leslie, Messrs. Dege & Son, and to the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., who kindly sent in a goodly supply. The need for brown paper is still, however, urgent, and readers in the United Kingdom are requested to send all they can lay their hands on to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3, by whom it will be gratefully acknowledged.

No less acceptable than the 1,208 bottles of hot sauce recently collected by Mrs. Yearwood and her committee in Barbados are 400 lbs. of guava jelly, besides other preserves and some hot sauce, for which the West Indian Contingent Committee is indebted to Mrs. Bourne, of Half-Way-Tree, and the following ladies in Jamaica. The names of the contributors to this welcome gift are: Mrs. H. Cox, Mrs. Bourne, Miss N. Cooke, Miss Muirhead, Mrs. Grosset, Miss F. C. Burke, Mrs. J. R. Williams, Mrs. A. J. Hall, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. Dunet, Mrs. Lyon Hall, Mrs. Finzi, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Roxburgh, Miss E. Sharp, Miss Watt, Mrs. Vosper, Mrs. Vickers, Mrs. W. W. Wynne, Miss Stewart, Mrs. I. A. Isaacs, Mrs. Crum Ewing, Mrs. S. J. Howe, Mrs. Vanonylenburg, Mrs. A. A. Westmoreland, Mrs. T. Alexander, Mrs. Q. R. Noble, Mrs. S. T. Brown, and Mrs. D. A. Navin.

These gifts formed the 57th shipment made by the Jamaica Agricultural Society, whose Secretary, Mr. John Barclay, is deserving of all praise for the manner in which the goods were packed. In the same shipment were five packages of cheststick from the Jamaica Friends' Army of Production and Economy, per M. E. Hoffmann, and five from Mrs. T. Harty, M. Hewitt, Mrs. E. E. Grosset (2), and Mrs. L. J. Speyer. Six cases containing 240 lbs. net of banana figs from Mr. A. H. Rowley, of the West India Mercantile Company, were also included in the consignment.

During the past fortnight the following have been among the callers at the West India Committee Rooms: BAHAMAS.—Lieut. H. Vincent Jellicoe, Cpl. A. H. Lightbourn (B.W.I.R.).

BARBADOS.—Pte. Clement A. Wood, C. C. Bynoe, H. K. F. Greaves, Pte. F. E. Reid, Lieut. C. Forte Cave, E. G. Bayne, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Murphy, B. T. Seale, Gnr. W. L. Seale, Gnr. B. E. Cheesman, Gnr. H. G. Batson, Driver B. E. McL. Jones.

GREENADA.—2nd Lieut. Rupert Otway.

JAMAICA.—Sapper P. F. McLeary, Capt. F. L. Roper, 2nd Lieut. G. E. Lyons, Lieut. G. W. Mendez, Lieut. L. T. Melhado, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Ashman, 2nd Lieut. S. L. C. Curtin, 2nd Lieut. S. B. Myers, Lieut. Sturridge.

ST. KITTS.—Cadet S. E. Moir.

TRINIDAD.—Clive Bynoe, Charles A. Walker, Petty Officer S. James, 2nd Lieut. A. K. Taitt, J. O. de Nobrega, Gunner G. W. Robinson, R. M. Anderson, Trpr. F. Espindula, J. Rodriguez, Lieut. J. Herrera, Pte. R. O. Waterman, W. G. H. Patterson, L. G. Porteous, Cadet Louis Malingot, Pte. P. J. Prada, Gunner D. D. Dunsire, Pte. A. Gonzales, 2nd Lieut. Ivan G. Scott, Sapper J. Wainwright, Driver J. A. Fernandez, C. H. Rooks, Cpl. Geo. Hodge, 2nd Lieut. Marc de Verteuil, Gunner D. D. Dunsire, Lieut. Ivan J. Scott, Cpl. L. M. Murray, Pte. W. T. King.

The numbers tell their own story of the activities of the West Indian Contingent Committee!

In the list of awards to the Royal Air Force, published in the *Gazette* of the 3rd instant, appear the names of three gallant airmen connected with the West Indies upon whom the Distinguished Flying Cross has been conferred. We have already announced that the D.F.C. had been won by Capt. Ian McDonald, M.C., of Antigua, and the late Lieut. J. A. E. R. Daley, of Jamaica. The Bahamas can now lay claim to the third, won by Lieut. John Beverard Gurdon, as this officer, whose mother is a Bahamian, was born in the Bahamas, his father, Mr. John Gurdon, who was private secretary to the late Sir Ambrose Shea, K.C.M.G., having resided there for some years. The services of the three officers are described as follows in the *Gazette*:

Lieut. (temp. Capt.) I. D. R. McDonald, M.C. A dashing fighting pilot. In the past two months he has destroyed five enemy machines and brought down two others out of control. At all times he shows a fine offensive spirit and complete disregard of danger.

T. Lieut. J. A. E. R. Daley (formerly R.W.I.R.).—This officer has destroyed five enemy aeroplanes and two kite balloons, displaying marked skill and daring in these several actions, and also in attacking troops close to the ground.

Lieut. J. E. Gurdon.—This officer is a brilliant fighting pilot who on all occasions shows great determination with entire disregard of personal danger. He has personally destroyed nine enemy machines. On a recent date when on offensive patrol with another Bristol fighter he attacked a formation of seven enemy machines; one of these he shot down in flames. The enemy were then reinforced by two other formations, which brought their number up to 20. Fighting continued for about half an hour when the Bristols broke off the engagement, their ammunition being exhausted. Only seven enemy machines remained, many having been seen to spin away, and one was shot down by this officer.

Sapper R. A. Duncan, of the West Indian coloured section of the Royal Engineers, writes:—

"We are very proud to say we were on the *Leasowe Castle* when she was torpedoed by the Austrian 'tin fish.' The torpedo struck the ship about 12.20 a.m. on May 27th, in the Mediterranean. The danger signal on the ship's siren was immediately sounded, and the greatest calm prevailed. The troops came on deck as if they were doing so on the arrival of a passing convoy. The escort were all having a ding-dong tussle for the lead, when they discovered that the *Leasowe Castle* was gradually receding in the distance. They were signalled to get all they could out of their engines, while two destroyers were left to guard us from 'kultur.' One of these well-maneuvred craft covered our position with a dense smoke-screen, while the other kept watch for the enemy.

"Our allotment of life-saving apparatus amounted to ten rafts only, and we were awaiting the order to lower them when one of H.M. ships came to the rescue. She was brought up right alongside the sinking ship, and the men who were on the bows, scrambled down on her. She had an over-load, and was just about to cast off her moorings, when the doomed vessel broke amidship, her bows rose out of the water to an enormous height, and she went down like a stone, stern first. The gallant Captain and Colonel went down with her, and it was through their calmness and accuracy of judgment that nearly every soul was saved. The watertight compartments proved a success, as the ship was 1½ hours afloat after being torpedoed. We lost only one man, whose only description

we can give is that he is from Barbados, and his name is Agard. There was no panic, and we calmly awaited death on the deck of the doomed vessel for over 1 hour and 40 minutes."

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—The Session Closed.

MR. FRANK HOLMES, JULY 8th—Sir William Allardyce, K.C.M.G., closed the 1918 session of the Bahamas Legislature with an interesting speech on July 4th. During a lengthy Session resolutions were passed conveying a vote of thanks and the Colony's admiration to Bahamians on active service, and another authorising the expenditure up to £1,000 for a special fund from which are to be paid the travelling expenses of individual volunteers who may desire to enlist for service at the Front at recruiting stations in Canada or the United States—a response to a recent message from the Governor inviting the House of Assembly "to consider what other steps could be taken to further assist the Mother Country." A vote of thanks was also sent to His Excellency for his services in connection with his recent visit to the United States in connection with the food supply of the Colony, and contributions were voted to King George's Fund for Sailors, and to the Fund in aid of the sufferers from the Halifax disaster. The financial statement of the Colony again showing a deficit, the Loan Act, 1918, was passed authorising the issue of £30,000 short term debentures (two years) bearing interest at 5½ per cent. per annum, the first £10,000 of which was readily taken up locally. The Proclamation Act, passed shortly after the outbreak of the War, was continued with certain modifications, and amongst other legislation enacted was a much-needed Sial Inspection Act, providing for the inspection, before shipment, of what is now the most important of the colony's exports.

A "Shower" to commemorate the Silver Wedding of Queen Mary, in compliance with Her Majesty's express wish that the anniversary should be celebrated by the provision of gifts for her gallant sailors and soldiers, was held on July 5th under the auspices of the Daughters of the Empire, which enjoyed the patronage of the Governor and Lady Allardyce, which was well attended and which resulted in obtaining £65 in cash, in addition to a variety of gifts serviceable for men at the Front.

BARBADOS—Rice from India.

The fortnight ended June 25 was wet. Most estates had finished crop, but a considerable acreage remained to be reaped in St. Joseph, St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Andrew. Supplies of rice having arrived from India, the Acting Governor called the Governor of British Guiana—which has contracted to supply Barbados with 4,000 bags monthly from October 1st at \$10 per bag—asking if the excess over requirements could be shipped to the French island without affecting the contract. The reply was that if the shipment were made the contract would be cancelled.

The Income Tax Bill has passed its second reading by 14 to 5 votes, and has been referred to a Select Committee comprising Hon. C. P. Clarke, Mr. H. G. Yearwood, Mr. Reece, Mr. Cave, Mr. Loftly, Mr. E. B. Skeete, Mr. Baeza, Mr. Robinson, Dr. Pilgrim, and Dr. Massiah.

The clergy and a number of lay residents in the vicinity of Codrington College presented a roll-top desk, accompanied by an address, to Dr. Anstey on the occasion of his retirement from the College to become Bishop of Trinidad. Cordial tributes were paid by the Archdeacon, Dean Shankland, and Canon Clarke-Hunt to the retiring Principal. A further presentation to Dr. Anstey took the form of an illuminated address and a purse subscribed by the elementary teachers of the Rawle Training Institute. King George's Fund for Sailors now amounts to \$15,765. The death is announced of Captain William Thomas, of the R.M.S.P. Grenada coastal steamer *Teign*. The *Advocate* understands that £120,000 was the price paid by the syndicate that recently acquired Carrington's plantation and factory.

BRITISH GUIANA—Rice Export.

The Governor has issued permission for the exportation of 1,400 bags of rice to French Guiana. A boating disaster involving the loss of two lives has occurred near the Anatak Falls, on the Potaro. The Government Secretary, Mr. C. Clementi, C.M.G., with Mrs. Clementi and family, has returned to the colony after holiday in the islands and the United States. Two young East Indians from Triumph, East Coast, were killed, and three others injured, in a terrible motor accident near Kitty. An important scheme of sanitary improvement for Georgetown is afoot.

BRITISH HONDURAS—A Road Policy Foreshadowed.

At the opening of the Legislative Council on July 1st, the Hon. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Governor, after congratulating Sir R. B. Koden, the Hon. R. Walter, Lieut.-Colonel Cran, and the Hon. A. R. Usher, upon the honours recently conferred upon them, expressed his satisfaction at having been selected to administer a Colony which was helping to prosecute the War by supplying to the Home Government some of its indigenous products besides 500 men. He regretted that the voluntary system had not given for home defence the number of men required. He thanked the Rev. J. B. Brindley, Chairman, and the members of the Agricultural Commission for their valuable report, and he was consulting Sir Francis Hutt as to the appointment of an agricultural adviser. As a result of his tour throughout the Colony, he was convinced as to the need for a progressive scheme of road construction and improvement.

JAMAICA—The Institute.

The report of the Institute for the year ending March 31st shows that, despite the War, it has been possible to make considerable additions to the library, which now contains upwards of 19,234 volumes, 858 having been added during the year.

ST. VINCENT—An ambitious project.

MR. W. N. SANDS, JULY 2nd.—The weather continues favourable for planting operations. Cotton planting is in full swing. The germination of the seed has been excellent throughout and a good stand of young plants has been obtained. The Sea Island cotton crop of 1917-18 showed a striking increase over that of 1916-17. Whereas the output in the 1916-17 season was 444 bales of 360 lbs. each only, the production last season amounted to over 800 bales. The campaign against the cotton stainer was being continued as well as measures against the "bush" bugs, which caused much damage on certain estates last season.

A few days ago the Agricultural Superintendent delivered a lecture, illustrated by a large number of original lantern slides, entitled "Cotton in St. Vincent" at the London Electric Theatre, lent for the purpose by the managing director. The lecture was attended by a number of cotton growers. The extension of cotton planting was advocated in order to meet the great demand for Sea Island cotton for war purposes. It was hoped that every effort would be made to produce a record crop.

The St. Vincent Electric Light Co., Ltd., which has just been floated with a capital of \$400,000, has set out with an ambitious programme. The Company has been formed to carry on the business of the Kingstown Cotton Ginnery, and in addition to produce electricity to light the city (streets and private residences), to instal a cotton seed oil mill, and to manufacture cotton seed and other oils, to instal an ice plant and operate cold storage, "and possibly other things."

TOBAGO—Cocoa Trees Blooming.

MR. ROBERT REID, JUNE 6th.—The natives are busy planting provisions. This year there is certain to be a large surplus for export. In this export Trinidad will gladly share. The cocoa trees are laden with flowers and young fruit. Most estates have finished up with short crops, although there are exceptions.

TRINIDAD—A New Fruit Industry.

The Fruit Committee of the Agricultural Society report that a request for oranges, grape fruit, mangos, coco-nuts, having been received from Bermuda, Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer

undertook the order and made six shipments of oranges and grape fruits comprising altogether 614 crates, and containing 84,296 fruits. The total charges were \$593.41, the receipts \$1,277.36, leaving a gross profit of \$683.95.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**Montserrat Lime Juice.**

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—Our attention has been drawn to the article in your paper of the 21st March with regard to Montserrat's lime industry, and to a letter by the Montserrat Company in a subsequent issue of your paper.

We act as sole consignees to the Montserrat Company, and would like to supplement their letter by stating that we have regularly received ample quantities of lime juice from the Island of Montserrat for resale as Montserrat lime juice and cordials.

We would also like to add that we understand there is an impression abroad in some directions that the lime juice sold by us under the "Montserrat" Brand does not come from the Island of Montserrat. We would take this opportunity of contradicting that impression, and to state that the whole of the lime juice sold by us as "Montserrat" is grown in that island.

Yours faithfully,
EVANS SONS LESCHER & WEBB LTD.

56, Hanover Street, Liverpool.

August 1st, 1918.

"Old Boots" and "Kapok."

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir,—In reference to "Old Boots" as a fertiliser, it is well to remember you would have to pay the freight on about 5 tons of this inferior source of Nitrogen to get the equivalent of one ton of sulphate of ammonia. Many years ago when I was senior in Dr. Voelcker's laboratory, and a contemporary assistant with the present Dr. Bernard Dyer, I remember Dr. Voelcker saying to me, "There is a fortune lying about in England in old boots." I suggested as a means of treatment, burning with lime and passing the ammonia gases obtained through sulphuric acid, and so produce sulphate of ammonia. I have often thought since that old leather might be burnt in gas retorts with the coal and used in the manufacture of gas, and the valuable nitrogenous bi-products would be increased in the gasworks by this means.

In reference to the Kapok. It was not the smaller islands growing cotton, but the larger, Jamaica, Trinidad and the colony of British Guiana, to which I referred, and where silk cotton trees grow in abundance.

Yours faithfully,
GEO. HUGHES.

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING, K.C.M.G., Governor of Leeward Islands from 1895 to 1901, and who is now Chairman of the Kensington Board of Guardians, has been made a Justice of the Peace for the County of London.

THE name of Colonel A. H. Nourse, owner of Astbury Plantation in Barbados, should have been included in the list of those present at the meeting with Lieut.-Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, on July 18th, reported in last CIRCULAR.

THE REV. GEORGE HERBERT BOWN, Principal of St. Stephen's House, Oxford, has accepted nomination as Bishop of the Bahamas. The See becomes vacant at Michaelmas, when Dr. Hornby resigns the episcopal charge. A recent meeting of the diocesan clergy declared unanimously in favour of Mr. Bown, whose election was assured. The new Bishop, who had a distinguished career at the University, was appointed Principal of St. Stephen's House in 1903. The *Church Times* says the diocese of Nassau is to be congratulated upon its selection.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.

15, SEETHING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib. London"

LONDON E.C.3

August 8th 1918.

BANK RATE, 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

CONTROL OF TRADE. Mr. Lloyd George's very definite statement to the effect that Government Control of Trade would not be continued for a moment longer than was necessary after the War, has been received with much satisfaction in the Lane, and, indeed, in business circles generally.

SUGAR. The prices fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar supply as from April 22nd are as follows:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Linnus, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W. I. Crystallised | 57 | 8 |
| W. I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups ... | 55 | 6 |
| W. I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing ... | 50 | 0 |

Sales of Jamaica grocery crystals are reported at 25/6 f.o.b. Kingston for an allied country.

New York duty paid price, 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985c. c. and l. New York.

Himely reports that the labour question is becoming more serious each year in Cuba, an anomaly being that in spite of the high wages offered, the cafes and railroad stations are filled with idlers. "A large part of the cane in Oriente was cut by Haitians in this crop and it is reported that Haiti will take measures to discourage emigration from its soil after this. The lack of labour is the most serious obstacle, in the immediate future, in the way of a steady increase in the production of sugar in Cuba."

In the season 1917-18, 5,625,545 tons of beets were worked in the United States yielding 765,207 tons of refined sugar. In the previous year 692,556 tons of refined sugar were yielded by 5,224,377 tons of canes.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on August 3rd

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 17,980 | 45,239 | 35,938 | |
| Deliveries | 23,280 | 44,070 | 36,477 | |
| Stock (Aug. 3rd) ... | 5,637 | 10,184 | 10,566 | |

RUM. There is no change to report. In Jamaica a serious state of affairs is arising through the congestion of bonded stores, and the outlook is serious unless permission is given to ship some of the 1917 crop. The West India Committee has made representations to the Colonial Office to this effect.

The stocks in London on August 3rd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | puns. |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica | 4,928 | 8,352 | 7,758 | |
| Demerara | 5,558 | 10,680 | 13,456 | |
| Total of all kinds ... | 15,070 | 31,467 | 35,527 | |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Siam | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam ... | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons ... | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 85 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committees.

As already stated the imports into the United States have been restricted to 30,000 tons. That quantity is to be divided as follows:—

| | Tons. |
|------------------------|-------|
| Central America | 400 |
| Brazil | 8,000 |
| West Indies | 7,600 |
| Venezuela | 2,100 |
| Ecuador | 7,200 |
| Haiti | 700 |
| Sauchez | 4,000 |

Exports from January 1st to June 30th include St. Lucia 3,075,520 lbs.

Mr. Edgar Tripp gives the following figures as to shipments of Trinidad cocoa:—

| | Lbs. |
|--|------------|
| Total for June to all countries | 6,649,394 |
| Shipped previously | 30,222,414 |

| | Total from January 1st | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | 1914 | 1913 | 1912 | 1911 | 1910 | 1909 | 1908 |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| To same date | 36,871,808 | 55,070,093 | 37,662,970 | 39,346,826 | 54,323,618 | 37,161,054 | 55,494,269 | 35,100,943 | 39,277,699 | 34,472,394 | 29,725,362 |

The stocks in London on August 3rd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | bags |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Trinidad | 9,186 | 28,206 | 28,917 | |
| Grenada | 14,534 | 25,844 | 16,498 | |
| Total of all kinds ... | 117,633 | 271,795 | 220,707 | |

COFFEE continues to meet with a fair demand at steady prices.

COPRA. Unchanged. Price controlled—£46 c.i.f. London and Liverpool; Marseilles £90 to £92 c.i.f. Shipments from Trinidad for June amounted to 374,236 lbs., making, with the quantity shipped from January 1st, a total of 2,896,372 lbs. for the first six months of 1918, as against 3,362,201 lbs. to the same date last year. British Honduras (January 1st to June 30th, 1918), 48,908 lbs.; British Guiana (January 1st to June 27th, 1918), 150,324 lbs.

COTTON Prices remain as fixed, viz:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 48s.1. |
| Good Ordinary | 40s.1. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 45s. 50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. Imports of West Indian in the six months ended June 30th, 657 bales.

ARROWROOT. A good demand, which in the absence of supplies cannot be met, exists. Good can be quoted nominally 1/6.

GINGER. Quiet; Jamaica common to good common 180/- to 170/-, medium to good 175/- to 185/-.

HONEY. Rather dearer for good quality at last auctions. Jamaica sold at 191/- to 201/- for set amber to pale. Foreign West India at about the same basis for equal quality, with liquid dark at 182/6.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Handpressed 17/- nominal; distilled, 6/- to 6/6 nominal; no business and shipments not recommended. Lime Juice: Concentrated £30 nominal, very quiet. Raw: Good green Jamaica 4/3 to 4/6.

SPICES. Pimento firmer; holders ask 61d. Nutmegs and Mace unchanged.

BALATA. Markets firm, but quiet. Venezuela block quoted at 3/4 c.i.f. nominal. Panama block quoted 3/2½ landed. W.I. sheet 3/10 c.i.f.; spot 4/2 to 4/2½ per lb.

PETROLEUM. Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.'s production in July was 14,350 tons.

RUBBER. The market has been dull since our last report, and prices are a penny lower all round. Imports are coming in slowly, but there is very little trade demand, and stocks do not show much change. Closing prices: Plantation crepe, 2/1 to 2/1½; sheet, 2/0½ to 2/-, fine hard Para, 3/-.

Exports from Trinidad from January 1st to June 30th, 18,422 lbs., as against 8,943 lbs. to the same date last year.

WANT.

AN English business man, retired, with an intimate knowledge of the West Indies, at present in Jamaica, will act there for a British firm in any matter requiring capable and discreet attention. Apply Suffolk, 8, Royal Terrace, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22nd, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone :
6642 CENTRAL

15, SRETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegram :
CARIB, LONDON.

August 22nd, 1918

Imperial Preference.

VERY lively satisfaction will have been caused in the West Indies and our other sugar-producing colonies by the announcement, which we were able to publish in last CIRCULAR, to the effect that the Government had decided to give to the signatories of the Brussels Convention six months' notice of their intention to resume complete liberty of action in respect of their sugar policy. The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have constantly urged for some time past that this step should be taken, if any doubt existed as to whether the Convention had or had not been terminated by the war, and it is gratifying to know that complete success has now attended their efforts. We need not again recall the circumstances under which the pledge was given, beyond reminding our readers that when the then Government gave notice of Great Britain's complete withdrawal from the Convention in 1912, they gave a pledge to the signatories that they would not give a preference to sugar produced within the British Empire on importation into the United Kingdom without giving six months' notice to the Belgian Government. This unfortunate pledge was properly regarded as a millstone round the necks of British sugar-producers. It was originally embodied in a final Protocol to the Convention having been needlessly and voluntarily given, in 1902, by the British delegates, in spite of the protests of their expert advisers, and it was gladly renewed by the Liberal Government, to whom preference was anathema, ten years later. In 1902 Imperial preference was only just reappearing on the horizon, and in the enthusiasm with which the prospect of the abolition of bounties was hailed, this self-denying

pledge was to a great extent overlooked. Following so closely upon MR. WALTER LONG'S announcement that the Cabinet had approved a scheme for preference within the Empire, the decision of the Government in respect of this pledge—to which effect has, we are informed, now been given—can only mean that steps are at last to be taken to encourage and develop the British sugar industry. The intentions of the Government were also made clear by MR. BONAR LAW, who, in the House of Commons elucidating an earlier statement, said: "The question of the special fiscal policy to be adopted either by the United Kingdom or by the Dominions must be settled by each independently, and what I said was that the British Government had put itself in line with the Dominions by deciding to give preference on any duties now existing or to be subsequently imposed." There is, as we all know to our cost, a heavy duty on sugar, and we cannot believe that there can be any people in this country outside the cranks and doctrinaires who would object to its reduction in favour of British Colonial sugar. What we all now want to see disclosed are the details of the scheme for preference, which MR. LONG said had been drafted by the Committee of the War Cabinet, of which he was Chairman, and had been approved by the Government. At a meeting held in the City of London, on August 15th, MR. HUGHES emphasized the vital importance to the Dominions and Colonies of lines of the trade policy of Great Britain being disclosed without delay. The Government had already taken certain steps which were quite incompatible with a return to the *status quo ante* policy. It had formally adopted the recommendations of the Paris Economic Conference, and it had declared in favour of a policy of Imperial Preference. Our friends in the West Indies will agree with MR. HUGHES that "these are great things."

British Guiana and the Long Bow.

IT was generally regarded that PROFESSOR HARRISON'S estimate that 2,500,000 tons of sugar could be produced in British Guiana, was too sanguine. The *Times* Georgetown correspondent has, however, gone one better. In a message, published by our contemporary, on August 17th, after referring to the "denunciation of the Brussels Convention"—an event of 1912, which he and his colleague in Jamaica have obviously confused with the Government's decision to fulfil the pledge given at the time of our withdrawal—he quotes the Director as estimating 2,000,000 acres as the possible area in British Guiana suitable for sugar cultivation,

"which, at a yield per acre of two tons, would give the United Kingdom an assured supply of 4,000,000 tons per annum." As the consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom has never yet reached 2,000,000 tons, this would not leave much room for sugar from our other colonies, and the very thought of such a supply of sweetness stimulates our gastric juices—but we will let that pass! If our other tropical possessions were to increase their production to a corresponding extent we could safely predict that we should never again hear of the high price of sugar! What we don't quite understand is how our contemporary's correspondent proposes to raise the yield per acre to two tons, unless it can be by the wholesale adoption of the "22-roller mills," of which he writes. Joking apart, it is a pity that a good case should be endangered by exaggeration. The *Times* correspondent, however, hits the nail on the head when he says that the labour scarcity is a disquieting feature of the situation. With this statement we are in complete agreement, and it is certain that no material development of the industries of British Guiana can take place until the labour question has been solved. From the report of a special Committee in Trinidad on the recommendations of the Inter-departmental Committee on Immigration, it will be noted that the scheme of assisted East Indian colonisation is regarded there as "practically and financially impossible." (Incidentally they point out that the idea of offering terms of repatriation is entirely incompatible with the theory of colonisation.) We have yet to learn the views of British Guiana regarding it, but it may be noted that the *Times* correspondent also characterises the scheme as unworkable. The correspondence on the subject was published in India in March last, but the Indian Government has as yet expressed no opinion regarding the recommendations made. The upshot of the whole position is that British Guiana and the West Indian Islands, which have been a successful field for East Indian colonisation for the past sixty or seventy years, are virtually closed to East Indians by the action of their own Government. Trinidad hopes to achieve a good deal by stopping the sale of Crown Lands and by the increased use of mechanical cultivation, but neither of these palliatives will contribute towards the development of the colony, and the use of motor tractors and implemental tillage on the coast lands will not be of much avail in securing the establishment of the Grand Trunk Railway through the reputed wealthy hinterland of British Guiana. This question of labour will have to be faced, and we agree with the *Times* correspondent that a comprehensive plan is needed to develop the colony.

MESSRS. S. PEARSON & SON, LTD., authorise the CIRCULAR to deny the report, published in British Guiana that the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., of which Viscount Cowdray is President, has secured a concession of some 2,000 square miles in the North-West District for the purpose of exploring for oil. The firm inform us that the statement to that effect appearing in the local Press was the first they had heard of the matter. They have no intention of prospecting in British Guiana, and have closed operations in Venezuela. At one time they investigated the possibilities of British Guiana, but found them to be too slight to warrant the expenditure of capital.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive held on August 15th, Mr. R. Rutherford presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--|---------------------------|
| Prob.-Surg. A. Branch (Antigua) | Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| Mr. William Dougall (Jamaica) | Sir O. Philipps, G.C.M.G. |
| Mr. N. P. Birch (Tobago) | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| Mr. James Brebner | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. D. B. Callaghan (Jamaica) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Miss L. E. Wilkinson | Mr. H. A. Trotter. |
| Mr. W. G. Hendriks (Jamaica) | Mr. W. W. Craib. |
| Mr. R. E. Davis (Trinidad) | Mr. C. Sandbach Parker. |
| Rev. T. Huckerby (Grenada) | Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| Mr. D. McBride (Trinidad) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. E. F. Hutchinson (Trinidad) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| Mr. Robert de Sousa (Trinidad) | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. A. S. Jardine (Trinidad) | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| Mr. Gilbert C. Skinner (Trinidad) | Sir O. Philipps, G.C.M.G. |
| Mr. R. A. Fonaner (Trinidad) | Hon. C. J. Simmons. |
| Mr. Alexander Rae (Trinidad) | Hon. C. E. F. Richards. |
| Edward Young & Co., Ltd. | Mr. C. V. C. Horne. |
| Mr. F. A. Layne (Barbados) | Hon. P. J. Dean. |
| Mr. H. J. Kernahan (Tobago) | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| Mr. C. O. Hodgkins (Trinidad) | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| Mr. B. F. Aanensen (Trinidad) | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| Mr. E. L. Rovell (Trinidad) | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| Mr. P. A. Taaffe O'Connor (Trinidad) | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| Bahamas Chamber of Commerce (Bahamas) | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc. |
| | Sandbach, Tinne & Co. |
| | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | Hon. W. L. C. Phillipps. |
| | Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| | Mr. Duncan Macgillivray. |
| | Mr. Robert S. Reid. |
| | Mr. E. A. de Pass. |
| | Mr. G. Moody Stuart. |
| | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| | Mr. G. F. Huggins. |
| | Mr. W. Gillespie. |
| | Mr. Edgar Tripp. |
| | Sir G. Fenwick, K.C.M.G. |
| | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| | Mr. R. Rutherford. |

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. 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 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 £18. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). 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.

REPLYING to a question asked by Mr. Houston, M.P., on July 30th, Mr. Macpherson said that every endeavour had been and was being made to utilise coloured men for service. He was informed that the number employed by the British Government was far greater than that employed by the French, and it was hoped that this number might be still further increased. The men were employed in the front fighting line as well as in Labour Battalions behind the line.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

It is understood that the Rev. J. C. Wipple, a professor on the staff of Codrington College, will succeed Dr. Austey as Principal.

MR. SYDNEY COUPER, who has been director of the Jamaica Government Railway since 1913, has been appointed General Manager of the Uganda Railway.

In the August issue of *Overseas*, the monthly journal of the Overseas Club, Mr. R. W. A. Salter writes of the great possibilities of British Honduras which, he points out, suffers at present from lack of capital and cheap labour.

OBSERVATEUR BENJAMIN CUPPENS, Z. 172, S.R.A., Belgian Army in Field, who is a philatelist, writes to say that he would like to get into correspondence with some West Indians on the various fronts.

CAPTAIN CHARLES BIRCHALL SAVER, of the Rifle Brigade, who was wounded in France in 1916, has been appointed A.D.C. and private secretary to the Hon. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Honduras.

MR. CHARLES W. DOORLY, Government Emigration Agent for Madras, has been "mentioned" by the Government of India for valuable services in connection with the War. Mr. Doorly was for some years in the Jamaica Immigration Department.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged and will shortly take place between Percy J. Scott, 2nd Lieut Machine Gun Corps, son of Mr. F. E. Scott, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and Grace, eldest daughter of the late James Spiers and of Mrs. Spiers, of Southsea.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to say that when staying with friends in the country recently she was offered a bottle of West Indian guava jelly which she had presented to her hostess thirty years before. It was in excellent condition, and this she attributed to the wonderful qualities of cane sugar.

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON has sent to Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O., Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands, a letter of cordial thanks for 120/- forwarded through the West India Committee as a result of a special collection taken in the Anglican Church on behalf of St. Dunston's Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel.

THE prosperity of Trinidad at the present time is strikingly indicated in an interview with the Government Secretary of British Guiana, Mr. Clementi, on his return from holiday. While in Trinidad, Mr. Clementi learned that upwards of twenty persons in the island paid tax upon incomes of £10,000 per annum and more.

THE latest pictures to be exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery include a small portrait group in oil representing General Sir Ralph Abercromby in conversation with a younger man. The picture was evidently painted about 1797, when Abercromby had returned from his successful operations in the West Indies.

A COLOURED soldier from Jamaica attracted the attention of the King and Queen when their Majesties and Princess Mary went to Queen Mary's Hospital for Artificial Limbs at Roshampton, on July 30. The patients displayed remarkable agility with the aid of artificial hands, legs and feet, and the inmate from Jamaica who had lost both feet from frost-bite, was able to walk rapidly without the aid of crutches.

THE June issue of the *Wide World Magazine* contains an article entitled "Wonders of British Guiana," written by Mr. E. C. Stenbridge, a London journalist, formerly connected with the *Daily Chronicle*, Georgetown, and

illustrated by photos lent by the West India Committee. The August number of the same magazine contains the first of a series of articles by an American traveller, Mr. A. Hyatt Verrill, who relates his experiences in the far interior.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are the life blood of the West India Committee. Without them it would not be possible to carry on the good work which the oldest but not the least active of the colonial bodies in this country is conducting. In the circumstances it is of paramount importance that subscriptions should be paid punctually. At present too many for 1918 are still in arrears, and it is hoped that those to whom this applies will forward the amount due either direct or to any branch of the Colonial Bank without delay.

"BRITISH GUIANA and Trinidad can be made into rural Utopias for East India immigrants, now that we know how to treat both yellow fever and dysentery" (writes a correspondent of the *Saturday Review*). The same correspondent mentions that the 74th (Assaye) Regiment, and the 76th (Hindustani) Regiment, which greatly distinguished themselves in the Indian campaigns a century ago, were both stationed in the West Indies in 1839—the 74th in Trinidad and the 76th in British Guiana, where they were badly attacked by yellow fever and dysentery.

MEMORIES of a prominent planter and philanthropist are recalled by news of the death in London of Mrs. Quintin Hogg, widow of the founder of the Polytechnic. Mr. Quintin Hogg, who was a partner in the firm of Hogg, Curtis, Campbell & Co., and Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, was long identified with planting interests in British Guiana, and there are many interesting references to the colony in the "Life" of Mr. Hogg, written some years ago by his daughter. His son, Mr. Douglas Hogg, who in 1893 was an overseer on Golden Pleece, in Essequibo, is a well-known King's Counsel.

ACCORDING to the Toronto correspondent of the *Times*, the Imperial War Conference has decided that the Dominions, including India, shall enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population by means of restrictions on immigration. Commenting on the agreement, the *Toronto Globe* says: "Agreement by consent with India will remove a source of friction which embarrassed the councils of the Empire for years. Other Asiatic immigration is already under control. Canada must remain a white man's country, and it is reassuring to know that a leading Asiatic nation concedes this point."

A CORRESPONDENT, commenting on the extracts from the life and letters of Sir J. D. Hooker, given in last CIRCULAR, says that Sir J. P. Grant did not do much for tobacco in Jamaica, though he certainly encouraged agriculture generally. The revolution in Cuba caused many Cubans to take refuge in Jamaica, and it was they who really started the industry. The Department of Public Gardens cultivated tobacco experimentally, cured it, and had a tobacco school for training planters in the whole subject. Before this, it was only Cubans who could grow and cure it. The gardens also produced Sumatra wrapper worth 10/- per lb., an exceedingly thin leaf used for the outside wrapper of the best cigars. This tobacco was pronounced by an expert to be far superior to Sumatra leaf. Of course, it was the encouragement from Sir J. Hooker that made me persevere with our experiments from the difficult first steps.

"As to cinchona," our correspondent continues, "the Government plantations, founded by Sir J. P. Grant, were a commercial success, but it was not until Sir D. Morris was appointed first director of the newly constituted Department of Public Gardens that planters were encouraged to start plantations. Unfortunately, before these new plantations produced bark, the price had fallen to such a figure that the plantations were given up. With regard to oranges, Froude, in 'The English in the West Indies,' as well as Sir J. Hooker, referred to the poor quality of the oranges exported; but all this was altered, and the Jamaica oranges exported of late years were second to none, and the grape-fruit were superior to any."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The German Failure.

To the failure of Moltke in 1914, of Falkenhayn in 1916, and of Hindenburg in 1917, must now be added the failure of Ludendorff in 1918. For he, it is fairly certain, was the leading spirit in the offensive which began on March 21st, and, for a time, went so well for German arms. Apparently he calculated on the dissolution of Russia, which released heavy German reinforcements for the Western Front; the exhaustion of France; the partial collapse of Italy; the neglect of the British Cabinet to provide adequate drafts for the B.E.F. in France; and the fact that America's military aid could not be effective till the summer. But again Germany's plans have been brought to naught (1), by her lack of psychological insight; (2) by her arrogance. For the spirit of France still burns high, as she showed in the brilliant counter-stroke on the enemy's flank; Italy has so far recovered from the military disasters of last year that the Allied forces were able to hurl back the Austrians in their second attempt to reach the Venetian plain; the British Government took vigorous steps to retrieve mistakes; and American troops landed in France in unexpected numbers, besides surprising the Great General Staff by their quality. But even more fatal to the German plan was the extraordinary assumption by Ludendorff that time was on the side of Germany. Otherwise, why were not the successful initial thrusts of her Armies in the spring—especially before Amiens—followed up? Because she was saving her manpower, and thought that she could do it. There are yet three months of the 1918 campaign to run. What will they bring forth? Surely not victory for her, when the moral of her troops has been subjected to such a long and severe strain. Nevertheless, she is formidable still, and the Allies will do well to remember it in devising their plans. They will also do well to note that Count von Roon, in the Prussian Upper House, said that Germany would demand from Britain an indemnity of £9,000,000,000. The answer to this has just been announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The subscription to National War Bonds has just passed the one thousand million mark.

The Progress of the Great Battle.

General Berthelot has paid a splendid tribute to the British and Imperial troops, whose fighting qualities enabled the Allied forces to make a sweep forward on August 2nd, when Soissons, the hinge of the German defences in this sector, and the line Hartennes, Fère-en-Tardenois, and Ville-en-Tardenois, were re-occupied. The following day the advance was continued to the Aisne and the Vesle all the way between Soissons and Rheims. By this brilliant victory against a stout German resistance 50 French villages were liberated, and though all the bridges were blown up by the enemy in his retreat the Franco-British forces so quickly followed on his heels that they were trickling across the rivers in his immediate rear. On the Sunday the feature of the fighting was the capture of Fismes at the junction of the Vesle and the Ardre by the Ameri-

cans. As was expected, the Germans made a strong stand on the Vesle, fighting fierce delaying actions to cover their orderly retreat. But nothing could stay the progress of the Allied Army, which forced them to fall steadily back on the Aisne. As it was, the pressure of General Mangin's Franco-British forces on the flank which contributed to these successes, these again reacted on other sectors, forcing the enemy to retire to the east bank of the Aisne and south of Amiens on the Moreuil-Montdidier line, where there was a similar abandonment of ground. The net result of the recent fighting between Soissons and Rheims is that a German salient has been wiped out, and the Allies are in possession of the Grand Rozoy Ridge.

New Fighting Zone.

The possibilities of the Soissons-Rheims sector having been temporarily exhausted, the Allies delivered a fresh counter-stroke in front of Amiens, one of the most dangerous points of the Franco-British front. To the north of Montdidier progress was made to the Avre, which was reached between Braches and Morisel, an enemy attack to the south-east of Montdidier completely breaking down, and the Allied Armies pushing forward their line so as to envelope Montdidier, which is again in French hands. Without a pause progress was resumed, a whole series of gains in every direction not only ending in the capture of the Lassigny massif, the key position of the Amiens front, but of strategical points on the road to Roye and Noyon. The French report that their booty in prisoners and guns amount to 71,000 for the one and 1,700 for the other since July 18th. General Mangin has eulogised the British and Imperial troops who co-operated with the French in these successes.

General Haig's Victory.

General Haig, who had under his command the Fourth Army under General Rawlinson, and the French First Army, under General Debeney, now took his turn in the great game. Attacking on a front of 20 miles, with three minutes of artillery preparation, they moved forward with irresistible dash, in the first day capturing over 20 villages, and attaining their greatest depth of progress at that vital sector between Villers-Bretonneux and Framerville. In this telling blow all arms shared the glory, cavalry not excluded, and the new tanks (whippets) performed prodigies of mobility. They appear to be able to do anything from uprooting roots and negotiating shell-holes to harassing the enemy with machine-gun fire. The next day Haig pushed on with comparatively light casualties, while making a great haul in guns and prisoners, and with the co-operation of the Third French Army the advance was maintained till the Monday, when the British front was stabilised. They have recovered such memorable positions as Beaumont Hamel, Serre, and Bucquoy, and now threaten Bapaume and Cambrai again.

Russia.

The situation in Russia is beginning to unfold, but its mystery remains. On the north the Bolsheviks are retiring before the Allied forces, com-

mitting atrocities and devastating the country as they go. In Siberia British, Japanese and Americans are co-operating in joint intervention, which is speedily materialising, and not before it is time, since the Czecho-Slovaks' splendid adventure, by which they have formed a nucleus for Russian effort and seized the Empire's main lines of communication and granaries beyond the Ukraine, must soon receive support, before its valuable achievements are lost. The one fact which clearly emerges from the general welter is the decline of the Lenin-Trotsky Government, which is regarded with almost universal expectation, and that Germany is trying to use the occasion for making an advance on Petrograd and the Murman Coast. But with her commitments in the West she will probably find Russia as difficult to turn to her purpose as Napoleon once did.

British Force at Baku.

Britain's sea-power is the enabling factor of all Allied effort. She provides munitions, coal, money and a thousand other services to her partners in the war. She has by far the largest Army in the field of any of them. She has troops in Italy, Salonika, the Murman, and at Vladivostock, in Egypt, India and East Africa, besides, practically, running the Palestine and Mesopotamian Campaigns. Yet so great is her energy and vitality that she has given the enemy a new surprise by despatching a military force from Bagdad to Baku by the Caspian. Every obstacle due to scarcity of supplies and the difficulties of rough mountain roads have been overcome, and a new source of strength has been lent to the Georgians and Armenians fighting under a Russian General in Trans-Caucasia, besides upsetting grandiose German schemes for exploiting Persia.

Britain and New Construction.

The figures for new ship construction just issued are not very comforting to this country. For, whereas the great increase in replacing lost tonnage is largely due to activity in neutral and Allied yards, the number of ships sunk is still preponderantly British. The following table suggests the urgency of tackling this problem without delay:—

New Merchant Ship Construction.

| Period | United Kingdom | Allied & Neutral | World. | tons. |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1915 | 850,919 | 551,081 | 1,202,000 | .. |
| 1916 | 541,552 | 1,146,448 | 1,688,000 | .. |
| 1917 | 1,163,474 | 1,774,312 | 2,937,786 | .. |
| 1918 1st quarter | 320,280 | 550,037 | 870,317 | .. |
| 2nd quarter | 442,966 | 800,308 | 1,243,274 | .. |

A very good reason given for the inability of Britain to maintain her Mercantile Marine, on which her power ultimately rests, is the tremendous effort she is forced to make in reinforcing the Navy to a strength unprecedented. But surely Allied policy should be so directed that the partners more equally divide the construction of warships and merchantmen.

The War at Sea.

In circumstances of great brutality the ambulance transport *Harilda* was torpedoed and sunk on a dark night midway between the French and English coasts on August 3rd. She had 600 wounded on board, mostly cot cases, nearly all of whom were

saved, a tribute alike to the skill of the escort and the discipline of the survivors. The missing—totaling 123—nearly all lost their lives by the inrush of water.

There was a lively encounter off the Frisian coast on August 11th, when British light forces, accompanied by an R.A.F. contingent, were heavily attacked by German aircraft. The British concentrated their fire on a Zeppelin, which was, finally, brought down in flames and smoke. Early in the fight an enemy aeroplane was also put out of action, and as the engagement proceeded several more were damaged. The enemy, on his side, dropped explosives on our motor-boats, three of which were sunk and three disabled, one reaching the shore. Of their crews all were saved by Dutch coasting craft.

The Navy has to deplore the loss of several destroyers, with serious loss of life. The French, too, have suffered disaster at sea in the sinking of two liners in the Mediterranean. Of those on board at the time 442 are missing. An R.A.F. patrol records the sinking of an enemy destroyer off Zeebrugge, due to one of our mines.

In the Air.

During July no fewer than 100 long distance flights were carried out by the R.A.F. (Independent Force), 96 of them in Germany itself. Both as regards the number undertaken and the weight of bombs dropped the month constitutes a record. The list of objectives included stations, aerodromes, barracks, factories, workshops, junctions and railway sidings, and such important enemy centres as Baden Coblenz, Mannheim, and Thionville. Besides these operations the German coast bases at Ostend, Zeebrugge, and Bruges have been frequently raided. On the Western Front bridges and railway communications have been ceaselessly attacked since the beginning of the Allied offensive, our airmen directly aiding the operations of cavalry, infantry, artillery and tanks. All this activity is supplemented by the splendid services of French airmen.

During the past fortnight 199 enemy machines have been brought down, and 91 put out of control, besides 12 balloons set on fire. Of ours, 90 have been returned as missing.

R.A.F. officers have just flown from England to Egypt, with only one or two halts for supplies, covering a distance, as the crow flies, of 2,000 miles. It was accomplished, not as a sensational development, but as a piece of routine work, a sign of the sustained vigour of British aviation.

A long-distance flight to Vienna, which aroused great enthusiasm in Italy, has been carried out by the novelist, D'Annunzio, and fellow aviators. They did no damage in Austria, but all along the 600-mile course they dropped manifestos, explaining the war from the Allied point of view. An enormous number was scattered over Vienna. These plucky aviators returned safely.

(To be continued.)

THE Governor of Jamaica has, it is stated, appointed a Conciliation Board to inquire into each case in which an employer and labourers or workmen are unable to settle their differences.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

The West India Committee were informed by the Food Production Department on August 12th that, as Mauritius would not after all require 1,500 tons of the 2,000 tons allotted to that island for September-November shipment, that Department had agreed to this quantity being exported to British Guiana and the British West India Islands in addition to the amount already allocated to those destinations.

The Colonial Office and Food Production Departments having asked for suggestions as to how this additional 1,500 tons should be allotted, the Committee recommended that 1,500 tons might be allocated among the various colonies, estates and firms *pro rata*, and on the same basis as that on which the original allotment was made.

The allotment for the current as compared with last season will thus be—

| | 1917-18. Tons. | 1918-19. Tons. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| British Guiana | 3,175 | 4,500 |
| West India Islands | 1,782 | 2,250 |
| Mauritius | 3,400 | 500 |

The shipments to British Guiana and the West Indies in 1918 will be—

| | June-Aug. Tons. | Sept.-Nov. Tons. |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| British Guiana | 1,500 | 3,000 |
| West India Islands | 1,750 | 500 |

The quantities actually licensed for the various islands are—

| | 1917. | 1918. |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Barbados | 725 | 993 |
| Jamaica | 165 | 253 |
| Trinidad | 643 | 722 |
| St. Lucia | 55 | 85 |
| St. Vincent | — | 2 |
| Antigua | 120 | 61 |
| St. Kitts | 74 | 134 |
| | 1,782 | 2,250 |

RICE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The *Louisiana Planter* reproduces, with acknowledgment from the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of May 30th, a leading article on Rice Cultivation in British Guiana, and adds:—

"British Guiana, in its so-called savannah lands, would seem to present a fine field for rice production, the whole country being sometimes spoken of as a great mud flat, produced by the alluvium brought down by the Orinoco river and carried off to the east by the equatorial currents that prevail. The similarity of the lands to the delta of the Rhine led the Dutch to occupy these Guiana lands, and that portion of it known as Dutch Guiana, with its capital, Paramaribo, is to-day a Dutch colony, as is also the island of Curacao. From the casual inquiry of a free Hindu there would seem to be a possibility that British Guiana would become a great rice-producing country in the future, but the population there is too sparse for any very rapid development."

THE patriotism of Barbados has found further expression in a gift of £20,000 to the British Government to assist in prosecuting the War to a victorious conclusion. The total of the sums contributed by the colony for this purpose now stands at £100,000. His Majesty's Government have requested the Governor to convey their grateful thanks to the Legislature and people of Barbados.

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

A Committee was appointed in Trinidad in November last to consider the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on immigration, in its bearing on that colony. The Hon. F. C. Marriott, Acting-Protector of Immigrants, was chairman, the other members were Mr. John Moodie, Mr. J. J. A. Carlee, Mr. Paul de Verteuil, Mr. C. de Verteuil, Mr. Hugh McLelland, Hon. Sir Norman Lamont, Hon. William G. Kay, and Mr. C. Forbes-Todd.

In their Report, which has now been published, they state:—

We are of opinion that—

- During the last few years there has been a sufficient supply of labour in the Colony, owing partly to the closure of the sale of Crown Lands, and partly to the increase in the price of foodstuffs caused by the War. The closure of the sale of Crown Lands has removed the principal incentive to the dispersal of time-expired immigrants from the estates; while the increase in the price of foodstuffs has notably reduced the number of lost days by inculcating on labourers of all classes the desirability of steady work throughout the week.
- A further supply of agricultural labour will be desirable if not essential when these conditions cease to exist.
- The estimated cost of the new scheme proposed by the Inter-departmental Conference for the introduction of East Indians into the Colony is prohibitive, both in respect of their introduction and their subsequent maintenance. For instance, in the case of an immigrant who brings with him a wife and two children, or a wife and a dependent, the estimated cost of his introduction to the Colony and repatriation after three years' service, would work out at about \$720.00, which, assuming that he worked five days every week for three years, would mean an expenditure of over 92 cents per task for introduction and repatriation only, to which must be added his wages and the cost of maintenance of his family.
- The cumulative effect of the conditions laid down, together with the right of transfer after the first six months and after every subsequent month, with entire freedom after three years' service, when half the cost of return passage can be claimed, renders the scheme practically and financially impossible.

The idea of offering terms of repatriation, such as are now proposed under the new scheme, would appear to us to be entirely incompatible with the theory of colonisation which the scheme is proposed to substitute for immigration under indenture.

In thus expressing an opinion adverse to the adoption of the proposals put forward by the Inter-departmental Conference, the Committee feel that it is due to the Government and to the Colony, that they should say, how, in their judgment, it will be possible to maintain the agricultural industries of the Colony without the introduction of indentured labour.

In the first place the transition would be gradual. Under existing conditions the number of immigrants under indenture will fall gradually from 3,096 on December 31st, 1918, to 2,167 on December 31st, 1920, and will cease altogether in 1921.

During this probationary period, much may be done, both by the Government and by the planters, to render the transition easy, and to adapt our industries to the new conditions.

- We have already emphasised our opinion that the prime condition of success is the continuance of a very conservative policy as regards the opening up of Crown Lands.
- Scarcely less important is the speedy passage into law of a stringent Vagrancy Act.
- Coupled with this should be the establishment of a Labour Exchange on the wharf in Port-of-Spain.

- possibly with subsidiary exchanges in populous country districts.
- (d) The £5 deposit demanded of labourers by the Shipping Companies should be abolished.
- (c) The more general introduction of implemental cultivation will, it is reasonable to hope, generally enable sugar estates to effect a considerable reduction in the number of labourers they require, more especially the introduction of the motor-tractor, which seems likely, at least on flat lands, to revolutionise farming in England, and may well have the same effect here.
- (f) The Government should lose no time in initiating enquiries as to the possibility of attracting agricultural labour from other sources than India. One large estate already imports annually numbers of labourers for the crop season from Carriacou. Barbados and possibly other islands might also be useful in providing a seasonal supply.

Accompanying the report is a letter to the Chairman from Mr. J. J. A. Carlée, who states that he is of opinion that as far as the estates under his own management are concerned, he has sufficiency of labour, due to the introduction of mechanical tillage, even when present conditions cease to exist.

He adds that—

"If the new scheme be however regarded from the broader view as to whether the colony as a whole would benefit from the importation of more people, I would feel strongly inclined to recommend it, if possible. As I said at the meeting, I would not only not wish to state that a further supply of labour is undesirable, but would go as far as supporting applications made by other planters for obtaining more labour. Considering that there is in this Colony yet hundreds of thousands of acres of arable land uncultivated, one cannot but feel that there is still room for large numbers of people who, if engaged in the development of our resources, would add much wealth to this island, and any feasible scheme offered to introduce labour should find sympathetic support from everyone interested in the welfare of the Colony."

COCOA FROM WEST AFRICA.

Deputation to the Colonial Office.

The *Monthly Journal* of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for July contains a report of a deputation of the London, Liverpool and Manchester Chambers and the Association of West African Merchants, recently received by Mr. Hewins, Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

A memorandum laid before Mr. Hewins stated that, according to a cable received from the Accra Chamber of Commerce by the Liverpool Chamber, the Governor of the Gold Coast had allotted to four native chiefs, who had not previously shipped cocoa and who were believed to have no stocks of it, a licence for some 3,400 tons to be shipped as part of the quantity of 12,500 tons for which freight space had during the next four months been allotted; that this arrangement would be very unfair and detrimental to the merchants, both British and native, who are regular shippers and who have at present stocks of cocoa waiting shipment amounting to 40,000 or 50,000 tons; and that it was believed that instructions were to be given that the cocoa of these native chiefs was to receive some priority in shipment; that, the cocoa season being over, it was not likely that these chiefs could obtain the quantity authorised, and that in consequence they would be likely to sell this space locally to persons who would pay them a profit and allow the produce to be shipped in the names of the chiefs. The Chambers and the Association asked that the Colonial Office should interfere with this arrangement so as to provide that equal facilities might be given to all *bona fide* cocoa shippers to clear a portion of their stocks.

In reply, Mr. Hewins stated that the memorandum contained statements concerning which his Department was

entirely ignorant; that they were not aware that any arrangement had been made to provide for the shipment of 15,000 tons of cocoa from the Colonies, nor that 12,500 tons had been allotted to the Gold Coast. Therefore they wished to inquire from the Ministry of Shipping whether this were so or not. He said further that some time ago the Governor of the Gold Coast had written to the Department asking that some special consideration should be given to shipment of cocoa from that colony by native growers who were endeavouring to form a Co-operative Growers' Association and to ship the produce of their farms direct to Great Britain, without the intermediary services of the merchants, who, he was informed, were offering only such prices to the growers as made their labours quite unremunerative. The Department had replied that they did not care to interfere in the matter. Later they had heard from the Governor that he believed that it would be well to transfer to the paramount native chiefs of the Accra district the licences held by enemy firms so as to enable them to collect from some of the more distant farms and to ship, on behalf of the growers, such cocoa as was still held by them, which would not be remunerative to send to the centres where the merchants were buying, owing to the low prices offered. He had received a cable from Sir Hugh Clifford in reply to one sent to him upon receipt of the telegram from the Liverpool Chamber, and Sir Hugh's reply was practically a confirmation of this policy, but stated emphatically that there should be no priority in shipment. Mr. Hewins pressed rather strongly for a statement of the ratio between the price fixed as the control price and the price paid to the native grower, making full allowance for loss in weight and deterioration and loss on cocoa which might not eventually be shipped at all. He had been informed that there was a profit to the importer of something like £10 per ton. He was assured that no priority in shipment would be given to anyone, whether paramount chiefs or otherwise.

TRINIDAD COCOA.

The Present System of Licences.

It will be recalled that when it was decided that licences to import cocoa should be issued to exporters and not importers, the West India Committee asked the Secretary of State to communicate with the Governors concerned, with a view to securing that the 50 per cent. of the 1916 shipment—the quota allowed to each Colony—might be distributed equitably.

At a recent meeting of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. E. A. Robinson moved a resolution to the effect that the growers were deriving no benefit under the concession, and urging that all cocoa intended for shipment to Great Britain should be delivered to the Cocoa Planters' Association and disposed of by them under regulations to be drawn up by a Committee of cocoa growers to be appointed by the Governor. This proposal naturally did not commend itself to the merchants, and a spirited debate ensued.

For a full report of the debate we must refer readers to the *Port of Spain Gazette*. The Governor, to show the independence of the planters and merchants, referred to the well known fable of the belly and its members. His first inclination had been to give export licences to the planters; planters, however, must number thousands, and it was not only the 4,000 bag men who would have been entitled to permits, but every small peasant also.

They had had an object lesson of the danger of that in the neighbouring colony of Demerara, where the Governor

began dealing with rice-growers in that way. He did not know if any of them around that table knew the evil that arose under that procedure in Demerara, but it was very unsatisfactory. The result was that the small planters sold all their permits by hawking them about, until rice went to \$4 a bag in Demerara at one time. On consulting the Chamber of Commerce, the latter put forward an alternative scheme, and after some correspondence there (there was not much time, he admitted), it was agreed that the system the Government was adopting at that time was preferable to the one the Chamber had put up in place of it. The Chamber made another suggestion, which he was not able to accept, which was that permits should be issued to a small committee of the Chamber of Commerce. He did not feel justified in delegating that power to the committee of the Chamber, and no doubt the planters would endorse that view. The difficulties were very great, but—let the planters be under no misapprehension—the result of any scheme whatever would not produce the consequence which he thought they were inclined to infer after reading Mr. Robinson's speech. If Mr. Robinson were allowed to export cocoa himself, he would only be allowed to export 200 bags, and he had already told them he had exported more than that last year. So that Mr. Robinson individually had lost nothing by last year's arrangement. He was ready to accept advice and information from any quarter. The Collector of Customs and himself, as at present advised, thought it would be a fair system for next year, that permits should be granted to exporters in proportion to their exports for the year 1918, irrespective of the destination of such exports. That would make the grant to merchants fairer than the stereotyped system they had gone on for the last two years. He could not sanction the cocoa being handled by the Cocoa Planters' Association.

Mr. Robinson's resolution was eventually amended and adopted in the following form:—

"Whereas the experience gained during the time which has elapsed since the Secretary of State for the Colonies granted permission for the shipment to Great Britain of a certain proportion of cocoa grown in this island has shown that no benefit whatever has accrued to the growers from the sale of their cocoa under the permission thus granted,

"Be it resolved—That the Agricultural Society appoint a Committee to go into the whole question of the shipments of cocoa to England under the permits from the Home Government, so that the interests of all classes of cocoa growers may receive equal consideration."

The following Committee was then appointed:—Messrs. Henry Warner (Chairman), E. A. Robinson, G. F. Huggins, A. H. Cipriani, A. B. Carr, D. Radcliffe Clarke, Edgar Tripp, and A. V. Stollmeyer.

The consecration and enthronement of the Rt. Rev. A. H. Anstey, D.D., late Principal of Codrington College, as Bishop of Trinidad, took place in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port-of-Spain, on July 8th.

The imposing ceremony (writes our correspondent, Mr. Edgar Tripp) was conducted by the Archbishop of the West Indies (Dr. Parry, Bishop of Guiana), the Bishop of Barbados, the Bishop of Antigua, the Archdeacon Hombersley, and the clergy. Every seat in the building was occupied. The Governor, with Lady Chancellor, the official and unofficial members of Council, heads of Departments, etc., were among the congregation. The absence of practically all the leading merchants, other than those also members of Council, has been commented on. This was probably due to the fact that no special invitation was issued to the Chamber of Commerce, or provision made for their reception. The consecration derived further interest from the fact of being the first that had taken place in Trinidad.

MOSQUITOS AND CYPRINODONTS.

It will be recalled that some years ago the late Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons addressed a letter to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, attributing the absence of malaria from Barbados to the activities of the little fishes known as "millions" (*Girardinus pauciloides*), which fed voraciously on the larva of mosquitos. A great demand subsequently arose for these fishes, specimens of which were successfully established in other parts of the world.

From an article contributed by Dr. G. A. Boulenger to *Country Life* of August 10th, it would appear that there is no need to send "millions" to tropical Africa, as small fish of the same family and of similar habits are well represented by native species belonging to the genera *Fundulus* and *Haplochilus*. The unfortunate thing, however, is that, while the "millions" have no fish enemies in Barbados, their African analogues have to contend with the predatory habits of other larger fish, owing to which their numbers are kept down, and with this their utility as mosquito destroyers is minimised.

Dr. Boulenger strongly advocates stocking the waters resorted to by mosquitos with African cyprinodonts, of which as many as sixty-eight species are known. At Yabe, near Lagos, Dr. W. M. Graham, Director of the Lagos Medical Research Institution, has noted the complete absence of mosquito larva in small pools most favourable for their development, but which are well stocked with the little cyprinodont *Haplochilus Grahami*.

Experiments made by Dr. Graham have shown him that a dozen of these fish placed in a vessel containing 100 mosquito larva suffice to dispose of the latter in an hour's time. Dr. Graham* regards it as established that the presence in the swamp-pools of these fish effectually prevents the breeding of mosquitos.

A very successful experiment was made in 1905, when Dr. Alvin Seale was commissioned by the Hawaiian Government to secure and transport to these islands a shipment of fish that would live in areas infested by mosquitos and feed on the larva and eggs of these pests. The choice fell on the Texan "topminnow," *Gambusia affinis*, of which about 400 specimens were transported and landed at Honolulu in September, 1905. When the fish were liberated in the small ponds full of mosquito larva they made a vigorous attack on these enemies of mankind, and two years later Dr. D. L. Van Diene, Entomologist to the Hawaiian Government, wrote the following report on the success of the experiment: "They have multiplied rapidly, and from the few hundred introduced, several hundred thousand have been bred and distributed. Where they occur they effectively clear the water of mosquito larva, feeding likewise on the egg-masses of *Culex pipiens* on the surface." At the time Dr. Seale wrote there were millions of these fish in the Hawaiian Islands, where two men of the Health Department were kept busy distributing them to various parts of the islands, and they have now also been introduced in the Philippine Islands.†

In the rice-fields of Madagascar experiments have also been made with the same object, and M. J. Legendre has recently published an interesting account of his attempts at "rizipisciculture," as he calls them.‡ His choice fell on the well-known goldfish, *Cyprinus auratus*, which has done extremely well and promises to render signal service in the great island, the population of which is decimated by malaria. To give an example of his success in rizipisciculture, M. Legendre reports that 1,300 goldfish, weighing together about 13lb., introduced in some rice-fields at the end of January, had increased, five months later, after the rice had been gathered, to 18,000, weighing 250lb.

*"Bull. Entomol. Research," II., 1911, page 137.

†"Philippine Journal of Science," 1917, page 177.

‡"Comptes-Rendus Acad. Sci. Paris," CLXIII. 1916, page 377.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

In continuation of the list of books generously presented to the West India Committee by Mr. William Gillespie, the following are added:—

"A Voyage to Guinea, Brazil, and the West Indies; In his Majesty's Ships the *Swallow* and *Weymouth* . . ." By John Atkins, Gent. London: 1737.

"The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica in three parts. . . illustrated with fifty copper plates." By Patrick Browne, M.D. London: 1756.

"The Conduct of the Dutch, relating to their breach of treaties with England. Particularly their Breach of the Articles of Capitulation, for the surrender of Surinam in 1667. . ." London: 1760.

"Histoire Naturelle de la Hollande Equinoxiale: on Description des animaux, plantes, fruits. . . Dans la Colonie de Surinam. . ." Par Philippe Fermin. Amsterdam: 1765.

"An Historical and Political View of the Present and Ancient State of the Colony of Surinam in South America with the Settlements of Demerary and Issequibo." By Philip Fermin. London: 1781.

"The History of the Island of Dominica." By Thomas Atwood. London: 1791.

"An Account of the Campaign in the West Indies, in the year 1794, under the Command of their Excellencies Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Grey, K.B., and Vice-Admiral Sir John Jervis, K.B., Commanders-in-Chief in the West Indies. . ." By Rev. Cooper Williams, A.M. London: 1796.

"An Historical Survey of the French Colony in the Island of St. Domingo: . . ." By Bryan Edwards, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., &c. London: 1797.

"The History, Civil and Commercial of the British Colonies in the West Indies." By Bryan Edwards, Esq., F.R.S., S.A. In three volumes. Third Edition. London: 1801.

"An Historical Survey of the Island of Saint Domingo, together with an account of the Maroon Negroes in the Island of Jamaica; and a history of the War in the West Indies in 1793 and 1794. By Bryan Edwards, Esq. Also a Tour through the several islands of Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua, Tobago and Grenada, in the years 1791 and 1792. By Sir William Young, Bart. Illustrated. London: 1801.

"Hortus Jamaicensis; or a Botanical Description, according to the Linnean System, of the Indigenous Plants, also of the most useful Exotics." By John Lunan. 2 vols. Jamaica: Printed at the office of the *St. Jago de la Vega Gazette*: 1814.

"The Traveller's Guide to Madeira and the West Indies. . . A Hieroglyphic Representation . . . and a short account of the most interesting of the West-India Islands . . ." By a Young Traveller. Haddington: 1815.

"Observations on the Present Condition of the Island of Trinidad." By William Hardin Burnley. London: 1842.

"Notes on the Mineralogy, Government and Condition of the British West India Islands." By Admiral the Earl of Dundonald, G.C.B. London: 1851.

"Hints to Young Barbados Planters." By Robert Reece. Barbados: 1857.

"The West Indies and the Spanish Main." By Anthony Trollope. (Fifth Edition.) London: 1862.

"Our Artist in Cuba. Fifty drawings on wood. Leaves from the Sketch-Book of a Traveler, During the Winter of 1864-5." By Geo. W. Carleton. New York: MDCLXV.

"A History of Tobago." By Henry Iles Woodcock, Chief Justice. Ayr: 1867.

"Under the Sun." By George Augustus Sala. London: 1887.

"The New Jamaica." By E. M. Bacon and E. M. Aaron, Ph.D. New York: 1890.

"Central American and West Indian Archaeology." By Thomas A. Joyce, M.A. London: 1916.

(To be continued.)

KILLED IN ACTION.

PRIVATE EDWIN O. MOSELEY, Australian Imperial Force, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Moseley, of Cottesloe, Western Australia (formerly of Nassau, Bahamas), was killed in action on the 8th inst.

LIEUT. PETER R. ACKERLEY, of the East Surrey Regiment, who was killed in action on August 7th, was the elder son of Mr. A. Roger Ackerley, Director of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., and Mrs. Ackerley, of Grafton House, Richmond. Born on October 6th, 1895, he was educated at Rossal, and shortly before the outbreak of war he was studying languages in Germany with a view to entering the European fruit business. He volunteered for service in September, 1914, but was rejected on medical grounds. Undeterred, he made a second attempt to join up in the same year, and on this occasion he was successful; and he was eventually gazetted to a battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. Strenuous camp life having aggravated the complaint on account of which he was originally rejected, he was unable to accompany his battalion overseas, and had to undergo a serious operation. After recovering, he secured a transfer to the battalion of the East Surrey Regiment in which his brother "Joe" (now a prisoner in Switzerland) was serving. He went out to France in September, 1916, and was wounded in the following February. Though he had the chance of remaining in England in a "cushy" job, he elected to go overseas again after his recovery, and returned to France in April last. He had led a successful attack, for which he was highly spoken of by his Commanding Officer, but his career was cut short on August 7th, when he was killed by a shell whilst holding a position with his men with gallantry against great odds.

WOUNDED.

PRIVATE C. I. PROVERBS (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Canadians, has been slightly wounded.

The British West Indies Regiment.

The following casualties have been reported in the British West Indies Regiment.

KILLED IN ACTION.

JAMAICA.—7044 Brim, A.

KILLED ACCIDENTALLY.

TRINIDAD.—662 Lang, Acting Sergt. S. E.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

BRITISH GUYANA.—16905 Pile, T.

JAMAICA.—12417 Ramson, R.; 3437 Thomas, S. E.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

BAHAMAS.—14130 Moss, O.

BARBADOS.—5420 Boxill, H.; 13661 Greaves, S. (at sea); 14027 Price, Acting Sergt. J.

BRITISH GUYANA.—11709 Thomas, A.

JAMAICA.—7520 Arwin, T.; 7046 Barille, N.; 13581 Bernard, J.; 13569 Bowen, J.; 6225 Brown, G. (at sea); 13620 Colleymore, M.; 15934 Dixon, J.; 14571 Fairclough, J.; 11851 Fisher, R.; 14386 Fletcher, E.; 7329 Foster, D.; 15606 Gallimore, H.; 10040 Grant, C.; 16410 Holder, A.; 6949 Jack, A.; 16011 Jones, E.; 10199 Jones, H.; 8467 Lawson, N.; 11355 Lowe, E.; 12377 McLean, J.; 15646 Mattes, J.; 5583 Moore, M. (at sea); 15263 Nicholas, P.; 8462 Parks, J.; 7947 Patterson, S.; 15967 Roy, H.; 10799 Walker, Acting-Corpl. J.; 7988 Williams, A.; 9535 Williams, G.; 10819 Williams, P. (at sea); 8540 Williams, S.; 5989 Williams, T.; 7242 Wines, S.; 14280 Wynter, W.

ST. KITTS.—12415 Newton, W.

ST. VINCENT.—11427 Nanton, N.

TRINIDAD.—1639 Eddy, C.; 9011 Taylor, A.

WOUNDED.

BARBADOS.—15139 Niblett, F.

JAMAICA.—11849 Bailey, E. H.; 11068 Bailey, H.; 9934 Da Costa, Sergt. H. R.; 10219 Johnson, E.; 16124 Scarlett, J.; 19723 Walker, N.

The West Indies and the War.

HONOURS.

CAPTAIN W. H. OWES, R.N.R., Marine Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, who returned to England early in the War for service with the Royal Navy, was awarded the D.S.O. on the occasion of the King's Birthday. His son, Major Wyriott Owen, was awarded the Military Cross, and father and son received their decorations on the same day—July 25th—at the hands of His Majesty.

SECOND LIEUTENANT GUY DE PASS, Dragoon Guards, has been awarded the D.S.O. "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on many occasions during lengthy operations, notably carrying out difficult and valuable reconnaissance and when in command of an advancing troop establishing posts in a position abandoned earlier by our troops, rallying stragglers, and with them and his own men, engaging the advancing enemy, thus enabling a counter-attack to develop, being subject the whole time to severe artillery and machine-gun fire. His one desire has been to engage the enemy and by his skill and courage he has invariably been able to do so with success." **Second Liéut. de Pass** is a nephew and godson of Mr. E. A. de Pass, and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. de Pass, was born in Jamaica. He left Eton two years ago to join the Army, and is still under 20 years of age, and has already been promoted to be Lieutenant.

SURGEON (acting Staff Surgeon) R. J. ATKINSON, R.N. (son of Mr. R. L. Atkinson, late of the Colonial Bank), who recently received the D.S.O., was awarded it in recognition of his services as Senior Medical Officer of the R.M.A. Howitzer Brigade since May 26th, 1916. The official record states: "He has carried out his duties with the greatest zeal and energy, and has shown an excellent example of his fearlessness and devotion to duty. He has been twice wounded and would have been relieved but for his strong desire to remain at his post."

PROMOTIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

BOWEN, Bombardier Wilfrid (son of Mr. E. F. S. Bowen, M.I.C.E., Superintendent of Public Works in Barbados) has been promoted to be Bombardier in the Royal Field Artillery.

NOCK, Malcolm M. (of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), who first joined as a Cadet in the R.A.F., has been posted to the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.

PRISONER OF WAR.

VAN SERTIMA, Corporal Sydney J. (of British Guiana), 9th Manchester Regiment, was taken prisoner on March 29th.

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.

ATWELL, S. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Royal Field Artillery.

BRANCH, Prob.-Surgeon A. (of Antigua), has been posted to H.M.S. *Nepean*, c/o G.P.O.

COOPER, E. (of St. Lucia), Sapper, Royal Engineers.

DE VERTEUIL, MARC (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), 2nd Liéut. Royal Air Force.

DRIVER, ERNEST W. (son of Mr. Fred Driver, formerly of Montserrat), has joined the Royal Air Force.

FISHER, F. C. (of Jamaica), late British West Indies Regiment, 2nd Liéut. South Wales Borderers.

LAURIE, H. C., (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Artists' Rifles.

LAWSON, D. (of Barbados), Sapper, Royal Engineers.

MALCOLM, O. C. (eldest son of the late Sir Osmond Malcolm, Chief Justice of the Bahamas), Sapper, Royal Engineers.

MARR, C. B. S. (son of Mr. W. J. S. Marr of Central Canavanas, Porto Rico), after completing a course of electrical engineering in the States, joined the Canadians last year, and is now on active service in France.

MOORE, R. KINGSMURY (son of Mr. E. L. Moore, Nassau, Bahamas), 2nd Liéut. Royal Air Force.

PETERKIN, L. D. (of Harrison College, Barbados), 2nd Liéut. Highland Light Infantry.

RECKLEY, Charles (of the Bahamas), Sapper, Royal Engineers.

RECKLEY, Enoch (of the Bahamas), Sapper, Royal Engineers.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Lady Hodgson: 19 prs. socks.
Lady Hayes Sadler: 6 prs. socks, 1 muffler.
Mrs. Rutherford: 3 prs. socks.
Miss Wilkinson: Games.

It would be a good idea for the post offices in the West Indies to display prominently instructions as to addressing letters to men in the B.W.I. Regiment overseas. The West Indian Contingent Committee forwards many thousands of letters and parcels to their destination, but are stumped by such addresses as the following: "The ———, Lab. Catt. 10 Batt. Ret. D.W.I. No. ———, B.R. France Italian."—and no wonder!

The Montserrat Women's War Committee have kindly undertaken to represent the West Indian Contingent Committee in the West Indian "Emerald Isle" and have marked the inception of their new responsibilities by voting £30 to the Contingent Fund. The Committee comprises: Mrs. Dyett, president; Mrs. Martin, treasurer; Miss Haines, secretary; and Miss Bary, Miss De Freitas, Miss Furlonge, Miss Gunn, Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Studley and Mrs. Wall.

All the men of the 16th Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent, which arrived on June 27th, have now joined up with the exception of P. D. Ince, who has been ill, and J. Rodriguez, who has applied for a commission in the Royal Air Force. Their names and units are given below:—

E. L. Thomas, Cadet, Royal Air Force.
C. Rooks, Inns of Court O.T.C.
E. A. O'Connor, Cadet, Royal Air Force.
D. Cozier, Prince of Wales' Civil Service Rifles.
Cyril B. Fernandez, 2nd Northampton Regiment.
R. M. Anderson, Royal Field Artillery.
J. L. Ache, Wireless Telegraphist, R.N.V.R.
G. Ache, Wireless Telegraphist, R.N.V.R.
J. Wainwright, Royal Engineers.
Felix Espindola, King Edward's Horse.

It would be deplorable if we could not do for our boys what the Dominions are doing for their sons, and it is hoped, therefore, that our readers will continue liberally to support the West Indian Contingent Fund, the demands on which have been unusually heavy of late. The expenses in connection with the repatriation of men who came over independently are certain to be very great and it is essential that the Fund should be placed in a position to meet all contingencies. Thanks to Mr. George P. Huggins, Mrs. Hobson, and Mrs. Perez and their friends, the Trinidad men are well provided for, and we hope that ladies in other colonies will kindly organise concerts and entertainments, etc., in aid of our fund. Since last list was published, the following contributions have been received:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Ladies' Committee, Montserrat (per Miss Haines) | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Geo. P. Huggins, Esq. (for Trinidad men) | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| George G. Browne, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Collected in Turks Islands (per Hon. Benjamin Frith) | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (June):— | | | |
| | | s. | d. |
| Kingstown Club | 18 | 0 | |
| Hon. C. E. F. Richards | 10 | 0 | |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq. | 10 | 0 | |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 8 | 4 | |
| J. H. Hazell, Esq. | 3 | 0 | |
| Évan Hopley, Esq. | 2 | 0 | |
| J. A. Davy, Esq. | 1 | 0 | |
| | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| G. S. Seton-Browne, Esq. (further donation) ... | 1 | 5 | 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 West Indian Contingents, as well as of hundreds who have already come over independently, and of others who may come over to fight for 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 callers at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have included:—

Major J. V. Kirkland (B.W.I.R.), Sir Robert Johnstone, Gunner J. V. Peart, Pte. A. Francis (B.W.I.R.).

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. R. K. Moore, Cadet Joseph S. Johnson, Gunner N. D. Sands, Sapper O. C. Malcolm.

BARBADOS.—Pte. C. G. Archer, F. H. K. Greaves, 2nd Lieut. T. W. O'Neal, C. C. Bynoe, Pte. C. R. Honychurch, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Murphy, Gunner S. Atwell, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Farmer, 2nd Lieut. H. D. Weatherhead, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, 2nd Lieut. L. D. Peterkin, 2nd Lieut. J. A. Haynes (B.W.I.R.).

JAMAICA.—F. M. Henriques, Pte. J. Richards (B.W.I.R.), Sergt. Frank Rae (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. F. C. Fisher, Sapper Aubrey Burrows, 2nd Lieut. H. da Costa, 2nd Lieut. J. C. Leith Aker.

ST. LUCIA.—Lieut. G. E. Williams.

ST. VINCENT.—2nd Lieut. R. M. Hughes.

TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. John R. Rochford, M.C., R. M. Anderson, Pte. E. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. Percy Huggins, 2nd Lieut. L. S. de Castro, J. O. de Nobrega, P. D. Ince, J. Rodriguez, Lieut. Jos. E. Kernahan, Cadet F. H. Wilson, Trpr. A. Gonzales, 2nd Lieut. J. Rochemont, Clive V. Bynoe, Trpr. Geoffrey Bourne, Rfn. F. C. Gibbon, Cadet C. M. de Nobrega, Lieut. L. Prada, Pte. C. H. Rooks, L. Forbes Todd, M. A. Govia, 2nd Lieut. R. Q. Wade, Staff-Sergt. Arthur M. Rodriguez, Sergt. W. G. Spencer, Pte. W. T. King, 2nd Lieut. J. Stopford, 2nd Lieut. A. K. Taitt.

HOMeward MAILS.

GRENADE—The Late Mr. G. Paterson.

The local Press pays cordial tributes to the worth of Mr. G. Paterson, for many years identified with The Stores (Grenada), Ltd., who has died at the age of 83. A keen sportsman and popular in social life, he will be much missed. The Governor and leading residents were present at the funeral at St. Andrew's Church, where the Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands delivered an address. The Anglicans of St. George's propose to build, at a cost of £3,000, a Hall which will serve many purposes, including a boys' day school, concert and entertainment hall, and young men's institute. The *West Indian* draws attention to the economic effects which may be felt locally from the increasing emigration of young men and women in search of wider opportunities provided by the United States.

JAMAICA—Archbishop Nuttall Memorial.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—A Committee has been formed to raise £8,000 for the memorial to the late Archbishop Nuttall, each parish to contribute a proportional share. The form of the memorial has not been definitely decided, but an industrial home for children seems to be most favoured. June 30th was kept as a day of general intercession in the churches for an Allied Victory, and massed services will be continued on July 1st. A service in the park at which His Excellency Sir Leslie Probyn and General Blackden were present, was well attended by members of all denominations. A partial eclipse of the sun was visible here on the 8th.

Sir Leslie Probyn arrived on June 12th from Barbados via New York. His Excellency was met on the dock by heads of the various departments and escorted by a guard of honour from the West India Regiment, proceeding immediately after arrival to Headquarters House, where he was sworn in. On the following afternoon His Excellency was presented with an address of welcome from the people of Kingston by the Mayor at the Ward Theatre. The theatre was crowded and His Excellency received a

popular ovation. On this occasion the guard of honour was composed of members of the Jamaica Reserve Regiment and B.P. Boy Scouts.

The Rev. D. B. Bentley, M.A., Warden of St. Peter's College, has been made a Canon-Missioner of the diocese. Bishop Collins has returned to the island. While in the United States His Lordship has been actively engaged in raising funds for various requirements of the Roman Catholic Church in Jamaica. Dr. M. E. Connor, of the Rockefeller Foundation International Health Board, has arrived from America. He is initiating the campaign against hook-worm, and for this purpose, acting in conjunction with the local medical service, under Dr. Ker, he is making a preliminary survey of the island and delivering popular lectures regarding the parasite. The marriage has taken place at Montego Bay between Miss Ethel St. Aubyn, daughter of His Honour Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, and Mr. Vincent George, son of Mr. Arthur George of Kingston. Lieut.-Col. Gruchy, late vice-president of the Mico College, died on the 12th after a short illness.

TRINIDAD The Pier Scheme.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JULY 19th.—A Select Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has presented to the Chamber the argument of that body for opposing the deep water pier scheme of the authorities. The report was adopted by the Chamber, with one dissentient, and will be forwarded to the Governor for the information of the Imperial Development Committee. Trade with Venezuela is valuable, especially the barter trade with the opposite coast of the Gulf carried on by feluchas, etc., but a high stone pier is not required. Not less than a million and a half of money would provide equal facilities with those at present employed, if stone piers are substituted. These would not attract one single extra ton of shipping or pound sterling of trade more than at present enjoyed. This is not a terminal port, nor has it a hinterland. Every spare dollar should be expended in developing the unexploited resources of the land, and in extending roads and railroads. All the trade likely to result can safely and well be handled, at present moderate rates, by our system of lighters which is equal to that of any part of the world.

Writing on July 23rd, Mr. Tripp says: I record with much regret the resignation, owing to failing health, by Mr. W. Gordon Gordon of the Presidency of the Chamber of Commerce. He first occupied the position for four years, 1888-92, again in 1896 and 1900, and finally from 1902 to 1918 without a break. He has made an ideal President, at all times giving the benefit of his vast experience, calm judgment and clear foresight for the Chamber's benefit. He has shown the strictest impartiality, and set an example of tact and good temper that has largely conduced to bringing the Chamber to the prominence amongst similar bodies in the West Indies, and of influence with the Local Government and the Colonial Office in London, which it has long exercised.

TURKS ISLAND—Sisal and Cotton.

DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—The sisal plantations are now starting up again, those at Grand Turk, looking remarkably well. Fibre is being extracted for early shipment. A quantity of hand-cleaned fibre is being brought up from the Caicos Islands. It is likely in the near future that a great deal of this will be made into rope locally. Cotton is still coming in to be ginned, and it is expected that the season's crop will all be ready for shipment about the middle of June. The sponge industry is quiet, the merchants report there is no sale for this commodity just at present, although consignments have arrived at Grand Turk for shipment to the United States as soon as there is available space on passing steamers. The tanning of leather is making some headway. At present all that is tanned is finding a ready sale locally. The Government have made arrangements to collect shark and other fish skins on the same lines as they are handling the cotton. So far none have been brought in. Fishermen report they have not seen shark or nurse around the fishing grounds for the past few weeks. Mr. H. H. Hutelings, who has returned from his Caicos trip, reports great strides in the cultivation of the land in this group. It is hoped with the rain during the middle of the month a fair crop may be obtained.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

August 22nd, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 5 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Messrs. William Connal & Co. report that the import of raw sugar into Clyde from January 1st amounted to 139,309 tons, against 130,127 tons in 1917, and 129,494 tons in 1916, and for the present year comprise 21,756 tons British West India, 590 tons Brazil, 74,847 tons Cuba, 31,686 tons Java, 9,330 tons other foreign cane sugar, and 1,600 tons beetroot.

New York duty paid price, 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985. c. and f. New York.

A Conference met on July 11th at the Food Administration Department in New York, at which proposals for the purchase of the Cuban 1918-19 crop were discussed. The meeting was adjourned for ten days to enable the Cuban Commissioners to prepare and submit a statement showing the increase in the cost of production of the 1918-19 crop as compared with that for 1917-18. According to latest advices the Conference has again been adjourned. The Jamaica Imperial Association have called the attention of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to the fact that the cost of production in the British West Indies has also risen, and the Commission has informed them, through the West India Committee, that the price of British West Indian sugar for the 1918-19 crop will be governed by the price of Cuban sugar, which has not yet been determined.

A Sugar Equalisation Board has been formed by the Food Administration in the United States, with Mr. Hoover as chairman, and headquarters at Washington, to equalise the cost of various sugars and to secure better distribution. It will probably acquire the production of some beet factories which cannot be sold at a reasonable figure in consequence of the present high price of beets. The Board will start operations with a capital of \$5,000,000. A higher retail price is looked for towards the end of the year.

Messrs. Willet & Gray estimate the United States beet crop at 655,000 tons from an acreage of 655,000.

Porto Rico's sugar crop for 1918 is estimated by the local Sugar Producers' Association at 450,000 tons, or 10 per cent. less than last year. The plantings of cane in Java for the next crop will also, it is reported, show a decline of 25 to 35 per cent.

The Banking Syndicate formed in February last to finance the Cuban crop has been disbanded. Under the \$100,000,000 revolving credit arranged for, drafts amounted to \$16,000,000 only.

The new Java crop is estimated at 1,700,000 tons, and as 500,000 tons of the last crop still remains to be shipped, the prospects of its disposal are not good.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on August 17th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 20,640 | 48,012 | 38,050 | Tons. |
| Deliveries | 24,786 | 47,859 | 38,892 | " |
| Stock (Aug. 17th) ... | 6,841 | 8,168 | 10,263 | " |

RUM. The market for Jamaica remains very firm; but buyers are showing caution, and there is less disposition to buy for holding in the island.

The stocks in London on August 17th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica | 4,886 | 8,336 | 8,762 | puns. |
| Demerara | 6,943 | 10,452 | 13,263 | " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 11,829 | 18,788 | 22,025 | " |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 85 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above are for finest qualities. Below these prices are graded by the London and Liverpool Grading Committees.

The order preventing retailers from selling chocolate unless 25 per cent. of their turnover was confectionery has been rescinded. This should stimulate consumption.

West Indian exports include—

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Grenada (January 1st to June 30th) ... | 11,999,833 lbs. |
| British Guiana (January 1st to July 11th) ... | 5,610 lbs. |
| St. Lucia (January 1st to July 15th) ... | 3,101,840 lbs. |
| St. Vincent (January 1st to June 30th) ... | 109,830 lbs. |
| Trinidad (January 1st to July 15th) ... | 38,140,678 lbs. |

The stocks in London on August 17th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 9,673 | 28,649 | 29,648 bags. |
| Grenada | 13,745 | 29,924 | 16,840 |
| Total of all kinds ... | 110,858 | 276,346 | 238,359 |

COFFEE. Some arrivals of Blue Mountain (Jamaica) are reported, and have realised high prices at auction.

COPRA. Controlled price £46 c.i.f. London or Liverpool.

Trinidad shipments from January 1st to June 30th were 2,896,372 lbs., as compared with 3,362,201 lbs. and 1,607,091 lbs. for the same periods in 1917 and 1916 respectively.

COTTON Prices remain as fixed, viz:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 86d. |
| Good Ordinary | 40s. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 45d. 50s. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. Imports of West Indian in the thirty-three weeks ended August 15th, 2,816 bales.

West Indian exports from January 1st:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Barbados (May 31st) | 170,625 lbs. |
| Grenada—Marie Galante (June 30th) ... | 221,424 lbs. |
| Montserrat (June 30th) | 33,244 lbs. |
| St. Vincent (June 30th) | 319,706 lbs. |

COCO-NUTS. Trinidad shipments from January 1st to June 30th were 10,798,312 nuts, as against 7,382,637 nuts and 7,601,775 nuts for the same period in 1917 and 1916 respectively. British Guiana, January 1st to July 11th, 646,292 nuts; St. Lucia, 58,562 nuts.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice? Concentrated unchanged; Raw easier. Up to 5/- was paid for fine green, but since sellers 4/6. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected, value about 6/- to 6/3; Handpressed quiet, value about 16/6. Citrate quiet.

Exports:—

| | Lime Juice galls. | Concentrated galls. |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Montserrat (June 30th) | 2,376 | 550 |
| St. Lucia (July 15th) | ... | 8,467 |
| Trinidad | 9,656 | — |

SPICES. Pimento has been an excited market, and 9d. has been paid on the spot. There has since been a reaction by at least 1d.

RUBBER. Steady at the lower prices. Spot crepe, 2/1½; sheet, 2/0½; hard fine, 3/0½.

PETROLEUM. Exports from Trinidad from January 1st to July 15th:—

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Crude | 21,221,650 galls. |
| Kerosene | 1,012,132 galls. |
| Gasolene | 1,605,558 galls. |
| Lubricating Oil | 42,218 galls. |

BIRTHS.

GLADWIN.—On the 6th instant at St. Faith's Nursing Home, Baling, the wife of E. Powis Gladwin, a daughter.

KING FRETZ.—On July 4th, at Serendib House, St. Kitts, B.W.I., the wife of H. F. King Fretz, F.R.C.S., of a son.

WANT.

WANTED.—Copies of CIRCULAR, Nos. 503, January 10th, and 508, March 21st. Sixpence per copy will be paid.—The Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SERING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CAMB, LONDON.
September 5th, 1918.

Trinidad's Oil Industry.

MR. PERCIVAL STEVENS, Inspector of Mines in Trinidad, is in the fortunate position of being able to record a gratifying expansion in the petroleum industry of that island in his report for 1917. It can now be definitely stated that the winning of petroleum in Trinidad has emerged from the experimental stage; and, without being unduly optimistic, we can confidently predict a steady increase in the production, which will add materially to the wealth of the island as years go by. In 1917 the quantity of oil won was 56,080,914 imperial gallons, or an increase of 72 per cent. over the output of 1916, which amounted to 32,475,695 imperial gallons. Its value was £236,534, but pending the adjustment of the Excess Profits percentage standard no oil company operating in the island has yet declared a dividend. Of the output last year, 37,307,980 imperial gallons were from Crown lands and 18,772,934 from private lands. This satisfactory increase was secured in spite of the fact that the number of feet drilled last year was 6,343 feet less than in 1916, when 58,390 feet were bored. At the close of the year under review eleven companies were engaged in winning oil. The Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., whose shares have come in for a good deal of attention on the Stock Exchange lately, and now stand at 45/- continued drilling on the Crown lands leased by them in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve, and an active drilling programme resulted in a largely increased production. A considerable amount of work was done on the shipping depot at Pointe-à-Pitre, and their refinery was completed and in operation for the greater part of the year. This Company and the Trinidad Oil &

Transport Company manufactured oil fuel to Admiralty specifications and exported it for the use of the Navy. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company devoted its energies mainly to existing wells, and suffered with the Petroleum Development Company through its inability to obtain tank steamers in which to export the crude oil to the United States. The United British Oilfields continued to work near Guapo, and disposed of its production to the United British Refineries. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate has so far not succeeded in obtaining oil in paying quantities, while the Trinidad Central was still operating under a prospecting licence. The drilling programme of the latter Company was, however, increased, and Mr. STEVENS regards its prospects of increased production as favourable. This Company has completed the laying of a pipe-line from Tabaquite to their storage depot at Claxton's Bay, on the Gulf, and it owns a refinery producing petrol, kerosene, lubricating and fuel oils, which all find a ready market. This brief résumé of the work of some of the leading oil companies in the island should suffice to show what a "live" industry Trinidad has in the production and sale of oil. Though the industry is still only in its infancy, it is already contributing materially to the trade turnover, and not insensibly to the revenue of the colony. Its contribution to the latter is not great; but it is at least significant that the royalty in 1917 should have been double that earned in the preceding year, the actual figures being £14,616 and £7,765 respectively, to which must be added £3,638 and £371 in those two years for way-leaves payable in respect of pipe-lines. The conclusions one draws from Mr. STEVENS' illuminating report are that the larger companies did well in 1917 in spite of their being handicapped by the scarcity and greatly increased cost of materials, and in some cases by the lack of shipping facilities. Regular shipments of crude oil, fuel and distillates were made, and there would appear to be good reasons for believing that these will continue for some time to come. The bunkering trade has also progressed satisfactorily side by side with the development of the local and West Indian markets. The war has apparently at last brought home to the Government the vital importance of petroleum and its products not only for carrying on hostilities, but also for the maintenance of our industries; and that the oil industry in Trinidad will prove one of the most valuable assets of the colony would now seem to be a foregone conclusion. Notwithstanding almost insurmountable difficulties in securing material, personnel and transport, the exports for the past six months again show a remarkable increase, and when conditions

become normal the petroleum industry of Trinidad, if given a reasonable preference—which it is surely entitled to claim—is certain to expand to a tremendous extent.

The Resources of British Guiana.

WE note from recent Demerara newspapers that considerable activity is being displayed in the colony in the prospection for certain valuable minerals which are urgently required in the manufacture of munitions of war. Bauxite, the basis of aluminium, is already being produced in large quantities, and several shipments of this material have been made to the United States under special permission of the Colonial Government. Now the local Government, acting on behalf of the Ministry of Munitions, has issued an appeal for the co-operation of miners, prospectors, lessors, and other occupants of lands in the interior of British Guiana, in the search for certain classes of the following types of non-ferrous ores and minerals: mica, tungsten, chromium, vanadium, manganese, graphite, and steatite (French chalk or soapstone); and with the object of aiding in the search as far as possible, the GOVERNOR has instructed PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, the local Director of Science and Agriculture, to give every assistance in his power to persons desiring advice and direction regarding the occurrence of these minerals, as well as the mineralogical examination of such samples as may be collected from time to time. Steps are also being taken by the Department of Lands and Mines for the framing of the necessary regulations for the protection of prospectors, the granting of mining rights, and insuring the security of land tenure, so as to encourage the prosecution of the industry in the Crown lands of the colony. Meanwhile Mr. ADOLPH NASSY, a well-known Dutch capitalist, has interested himself in the matter, and a syndicate has been registered at Somerset House with a capital of £5,000, made up of 4,995 £1 shares and 100 A shares (which will receive half the profits), to adopt an agreement and to prospect work and develop bauxite and other minerals. Renewed attention is also being directed to the colony's possible oil resources, more particularly in the North-West District, bordering on the Venezuelan frontier. Mr. D. E. HEADLEY, an oil prospector from the neighbouring Dutch colony of Surinam, has been amongst the most active in introducing the possibilities of oil to the notice of leading oil companies; but in this connection it will be recalled that MESSRS. S. PEARSON & SON, who were alleged to have secured a concession of 2,000 square miles, when denying the statement, said that they regarded the possibilities of oil in British Guiana as too slight to warrant the expenditure of capital—which is not encouraging. In the development of the mineral resources of the colony, care must be taken to guard against their exploitation by alien enemies and the rehabilitation of German mineral and chemical raw material industries through the open door afforded by the vastness of the trade and cosmopolitan connections of the United States, constituting a possible sort of "commercial camou-

flage" under the guise of American ownership. With this object in view, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce some months ago issued a timely warning in this direction; and we are glad to see that the GOVERNOR of British Guiana, very properly, indicates a disposition to keep a necessary control in the matter.

OBITUARY.

MR. GEORGE R. ALSTON.

We regret to state that Mr. George R. Alston died at his residence "Rosemount," Chislehurst, on Friday, August 23rd.

Mr. George R. Alston was taken suddenly ill whilst on a visit to Leamington Spa in June last, and as soon as he could travel he was brought home to Chislehurst, where he passed peacefully away in his sleep. Mr. Alston, who was born in Trinidad on January 30th, 1855, of Scotch parents, came home as a boy and was educated in Scotland. As soon as he had completed his education, he entered a firm of merchants in Glasgow. After remaining there for a few years he returned to Trinidad, where he founded and successfully built up the firm of George R. Alston & Co., shipping and produce merchants, of which he remained senior partner. In 1892 he came over to reside in England, and at the time of his death he was partner in the firm of Alston, Arbutnot & Co., of 35, Crutched Friars, East and West India merchants, and London agents for his Trinidad house. He was elected a member of the West India Committee in 1909, and evinced until the last a close interest in the activities of that body, the last meeting of which he attended on May 2nd last. Of a kindly disposition, he enjoyed well-deserved popularity, not only in this country, but also in the island of his birth, which he frequently visited. Mr. Alston was married in 1884 to a daughter of Dr. Robert S. Knaggs and sister of the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, who, with three daughters and two sons, survives him. His two sons were undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge respectively when war broke out. The elder, now Captain Robert Alston, at once enlisted, and is a Captain in the Royal Artillery. The younger son, Raymond, who was spending the long vacation in Germany for the purpose of learning the language, was interned at Ruhleben, and has recently been transferred to Holland, where he now is, and it is one of the tragedies of the war that neither could be with their father at the end. The last sad ceremony took place at St. Nicholas Churchyard, Chislehurst, following a service in the Parish Church, which was taken by the Rev. J. A. Lightfoot, Vicar of Christ Church, that at the graveside being read by the Rev. F. Johnson. Among many beautiful wreaths was one sent as "a token of Esteem and Regard by his fellow-members of the Executive of the West India Committee."

ONLY British subjects are eligible for membership of the West India Committee (Incorporated by Royal Charter). The subscription of candidates elected during the last three months of the current year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1920. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is at present *no entrance fee*. Forms of application for membership—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals 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 Secretary will send specimen copies of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR to any friends of members on application.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE *Panama Canal Record* states that the occupants of the canal quarters on May 30th last comprised 11,354 West Indians, 7,237 Americans, and 339 Europeans.

THE Brazil cocoa crop is, it is said, likely to be affected very seriously by thrips. This pest, which attacked the plantations two years ago, has now reappeared.

A COMMITTEE of the Board of Agriculture of Ceylon has been appointed to consider the prospects and possibilities of sugar-cane cultivation and of the manufacture of sugar in the colony.

THE REV. DR. MOULE, the famous missionary to China, whose death in England has attracted widespread attention from the Press, married a daughter of the Rev. J. H. Bernau, who was for twenty years a missionary in British Guiana.

"STAFF-SERGEANTS find a difficulty in pronouncing the name of a famous actor-manager, now in the Army: they call him 'Demerara.' And very suitable, for how many impressionable damsels have declared that Mr. Du Maurier was 'simply too sweet'?"—*London Opinion*.

THE United Fruit Co. is said to be making a special bread in the tropical regions in which it is interested, which is said to be fully as palatable as the usual white bread, but which represents a proportion of one pound of mashed bananas to three pounds of flour dough.

CAPTAIN C. J. P. CAVE, who, according to the annual report of the Meteorological Committee, has been placed in charge of a home unit of the Meteorological Section of the Royal Engineers, is the owner of St. Nicholas Abbey, in Barbados—the only house in the island with fire-places.

DR. ORMSBY, formerly Bishop of Honduras, is being congratulated upon the distinction just conferred by the French Government upon his son, Major J. F. Ormsby, M.C., R.F., who has been awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm. Bishop Ormsby is now Vicar of Eggingham, Northumberland.

MR. ALEXANDER DUCKHAM, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, who is closely interested in the Trinidad oil industry, has been made an Officer of the Legion of Honour. Mr. Duckham is at present Controller of American Assembly and of National Aircraft Factories.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR CHARLES FERGUSSON, who was specially mentioned in the Headquarters communique of September 3rd as commanding the 17th Corps, which gallantly stormed the junction of the Hindenburg and Switch Defences, is the son of the late Sir James Fergusson, who lost his life in the Jamaica Earthquake of 1907.

THE special surtax of 30 per cent. leviable by Venezuela on imports from the British West Indies is now applicable to imports proceeding from the Guianas as well. This extension is provided for in a Venezuelan law dated June 10th, 1918, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Board of Trade by the British Minister at Caracas.

THE United States War Trade Board, it is officially announced, have decided that no licence will be issued after July 29th for the importation of bananas or plantains except upon condition that they be brought forward on a vessel approved for the purpose by the Caribbean Committee of the Shipping Control Committee of the United States Shipping Board.

AMONG the amateur discoverers of the new star in Aquila was Mr. Harold W. B. Moore, of British Guiana, who, in a letter to the *Argosy*, dated June 12th, stated that he first noticed it two or three weeks previously. It

is noteworthy that news of the discovery of Nova Aquila had not been published in Demerara when Mr. Moore recorded his observation.

REAR-ADMIRAL FRANCIS HENRY LISTER, who died suddenly at Queenstown on August 20th, was in the *Blake*, flagship of the North America and West Indies station, under Vice-Admiral Sir John Hopkins, from 1892 to 1894, and he returned to the West Indies for six months in 1917 as Engineer-Captain on the staff of Vice-Admiral Sir Montague Browning, Commander-in-Chief on the station.

LIEUT. J. R. A. BRANCH, Durham Light Infantry, second son of Archdeacon S. E. Branch, of Antigua, was married on August 27th, at St. Augustin's, Bournemouth, to Esme, elder daughter of Mr. H. A. Burgess, of Chatsworth, Capstone Road, in that town. The Rev. R. C. Lynch-Blosse officiated. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Probationary-Surgeon A. Branch, R.N.V.R., as best man.

SIR WILLIAM TROLLOPE has presented to the West India Committee a framed mezzotint by Richard Earlom after Sir Joshua Reynolds' painting of "The Honourable Samuel Barrington, Admiral of the Blue and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships at the Reduction of St. Lucia." This handsome mezzotint was published by R. Sayer and J. Bennett, of Fleet Street, on February 12th, 1780.

IT may be recalled that when war broke out with France in 1778, Rodney impressed upon the Government the desirability of taking St. Lucia, which he regarded as an ideal naval base. Troops were accordingly despatched under the command of Brigadier-Generals Meadows and Prescott, and were landed at Grand Cul-de-Sac Bay. Admiral Barrington anchored his transports at the head of the bay and moored his ships at the entrance, flanked by two batteries on each side. Here he was vigorously attacked by Count d'Estaing, who was driven back in confusion.

LIEUT.-COLONEL C. R. M. O'BRIEN has left for Barbados to assume the Government of that Colony. He has selected as his A.D.C. Captain W. Wigham Richardson, of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, who was wounded whilst serving on the Western Front. Captain Richardson is the son of Colonel P. Wigham Richardson, Commandant of the N.R.A. School of Musketry, Bisley, the well-known rifle shot, and Captain of the English Eight.

THE African Association, Ltd., during last year, in conjunction with London friends trading on the Gold Coast, purchased an interest in an old-established chocolate factory in Norfolk. Their object was, said Mr. Cotterell, the Chairman, at the annual meeting on August 29th, to secure an outlet for their large imports of cocoa, and so place themselves in a position of dealing in this produce from themselves, as importers, to the public as consumers.

A SYSTEM of State-aided immigration for the benefit of sugar-planters in Cuba is being proposed. A Bill introduced into the Cuban Senate provides that \$2,000,000 shall be appropriated annually for a period of five years to pay the ocean passage of foreign labourers proceeding to Cuba to seek employment. Prominent sugar men (says the *Cuba Review*) declare that at least 50,000 labourers will be needed. During the past five years 214,000 immigrants have arrived in Cuba.

SIX Simple Simons on the West Bank, Demerara, are thirsting for the blood of a Pi-man. There appears to be a tradition that persons exist who can so charm any coin that when it is handed to a shop-keeper it will invariably be given back with the change. On the strength of this, six East Indians were induced to part with ten shillings each to an Obeah man who enjoyed a reputation as a coin-charmer. They received one charmed coin in return, and this was tendered in payment for goods at a grocery store known to have a good supply of cash in the till. Great was the indignation of the Simons at receiving only the correct change and losing their charmed coin. Meanwhile the Pi-man (or his equivalent) had decamped.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

One of the prices this nation pays for its encouragement of politicians who made no study of war, either on its military or economic side, is that the War is, and has been, conducted without any general plan. Hence the crises in men, munitions, ships, food, and now coal, which have followed one another since August, 1914. Instead of getting last spring the 400,000 men available for the Army in Ireland, the Government still further bled the mining, ship-building, and agricultural industries in England. The ensuing shortage, particularly in tonnage and coal, may have serious consequences on the conduct of the War, besides subjecting our own people to great privations and industrial loss.

As usual when Germany is losing, she poses as a virtuous nation in misfortune because of envious rivals. But Dr. Solf, her new spokesman, is not likely to succeed where his predecessors failed. The trick is too stale, and the fangs of the German wolf dripping with the blood of too many nationalities for any one to be deceived by Dr. Solf's sophistries, unless, indeed there is an existing pro-German bias. Even in the United States, the latest of our Allies, it is thoroughly understood that German treachery is what it was in 1914, a wheedling tone notwithstanding.

Spain, which has patiently endured the sinking of 94 ships and the drowning of 100 seamen, not to speak of the loss of food and raw material involved, has taken a step beyond the sending of protests—all of them ineffectual. Stimulated by the Allied successes in France, she has threatened to take one of the 90 enemy ships interned in her harbours for every one torpedoed. As she is the greatest neutral power remaining, Berlin has new cause for anxiety.

On the Western Front.

During the past fortnight the war of movement has continued on the part of the Allies with unabated vigour. It began with the British surprise attack on the Outterstene spur, which accelerated the pace of the German retreat across the plain of the Lys. Here newly-established depots, munition dumps, railheads, and bridges, which were constructed under constant bombardment and at heavy sacrifice in order to make possible another drive on Hazebrouck and Calais, have had to be stripped, and a strong line north of the Ancre abandoned, the enemy falling back on Armentieres. Ten days later Kemmel Hill again became ours, almost without firing a shot. The fighting since has been most dramatic on the Scarpe, Somme and Oise. Not only have the Allies maintained their initiative in this enormous sector, but the Germans, though they make heavy, if ineffectual counter-attacks, have, so far, not even attempted to resume the offensive, whose opening stages promised them so much. A mere list of the names of the places re-occupied would fill columns of space in this journal. But a good idea of the rapid advances made by the British may be gathered from the fact that in four days they covered the ground—of tragic memories for both sides—which

in the Somme battle of 1916 was won only after six months of ceaseless and desperate fighting. Again the capture of vital positions in the war as it is being waged now implies the occupation of a considerable area and many villages. For instance, when General Byng made his thrust north of the Ancre on a fifteen-mile front, there was a general advance, which included the capture of Albert, thereby threatening the enemy's possession of the Thiépval ridge. In the south, General Maugin's forces between the Oise and the Aisne were equally successful in straightening out a salient in the French line, besides harassing the Germans in their retreat to the Chemin des Dames. Sweeping along the banks of the Oise, our Allies first encircled Lassigny, and on its fall advanced to the envelopment of Noyon, whose outer bastions were gained one by one, when that great road-centre was rendered untenable and entered by General Humbert's Third Army, while General Maugin crossed the Oise and captured Morlincourt.

The Hindenburg Line Reached.

South of the Somme the outstanding successes of the French have been the capture of Roye and Chaulnes, from which they are working towards the Somme Canal to Nesle and to Peronne—both highly important as great railway centres. The British immediately south of the Somme and to the north of it have had a series of swift successes, including the capture of Bray, by which they, too, threaten Peronne on the west and north, as the French threaten it on the south. Further north again, General Byng, who in November last broke the Hindenburg line between the Scarpe and St. Quentin, has been striking heavy blows in the direction of Bapaume, carrying the line forward until it reached Achiét-le-Petit, on the Arras-Albert road and railway, when the defences of Bapaume were quickly won, and also the town itself, which is astride of the road to Cambrai. Farther north and south-east of Arras a salient is being formed in the German line, as the British have taken Monchy, Croiselles, Cherisy, Moeuil, and other places on the road to Cambrai from the west and north-west. As the pressure on the Hindenburg line increases, the enemy's fighting resistance stiffens.

The Dawn of Victory for the Allies.

Even the weather, which has so often favoured the enemy, is now on the winning side, enabling the Allies to make surprise attacks under cover of friendly mist. The tables have, indeed, been completely turned in favour of the Entente Powers. In the first place, the Supreme Command makes no attempt to break through, thus defeating the German object, which is to draw our troops on through thinly-held front lines to waste their strength against massed concentrations in a particular sector. What they do now is to carry the enemy's positions which are lightly manned, and, when they find strongly organised resistance, they pause at that point, and take the offensive in a more favourable quarter. In this way they gain the maximum of results with the minimum of losses, employing their own reserves to the best advantage, and putting a tremendous strain on the enemy's reserves. Then the German

wire and machine-guns, which so badly hampered our advances in 1915, 1916, and 1917 are no longer a terror. The tank tears up the wire "as if it were cotton, and stamps upon the machine-gun nest." The result is that the long, expensive, and warning bombardment, which was such a feature in the old attacks, is, if employed, of brief duration. Another great advantage possessed by the Allies is their supremacy in the air.

The latest news is that the Australians, by attacking Mont St. Quentin at night, from a quarter unexpected by the Germans, seized it as well as the adjoining village. The position commands the angle of the Somme and Peronne, of which it is a key.

The American Factor.

An attempt is being made in some quarters to prove that the improved position of the Allies on the Western Front is due to unity of command. But that is only a minor cause. The decisive factor in the masterly strategy by which the enemy is losing both moral and ground in France is the American Army with its enormous reserves. Without them the defection of Russia would strain the resources of man-power in Britain and France to the breaking-point, and enable Germany better to pursue her plans east and west. But with the big battalions on our side, both must come to nought. Already the Allies have driven the Boche farther towards the Rhine all along the line from Rheims to Ypres than it is at present, but the Americans are the living symbol that the movement now will be ever forward—to Berlin, if need be—and never backward, even temporarily.

Submarines and Shipbuilding.

A little while ago Mr. Lloyd George said that 150 U-boats had been sunk by us. This statement has led to calculations by experts, which confirm the correctness of the estimate. From facts revealed by Admiral von Capelle and other responsible German naval authorities, it is fairly certain that Germany has never had more than 360 boats in all. Of these we have sunk 150—half of them last year. Taking new construction into account, she has now at least 200, of which not more than 100 can be available for the active campaign.

The latest U-boat returns show a loss to Britain of 176,479 tons of shipping, as against 165,514 tons for June, but the sinking of the great liner *Justicia* practically accounts for the difference, so that the steady decline in submarine depredations is continuous. For our losses in July, 1917, amounted to 383,430 tons, and up to June last, only once during the intervening period did the figures fall below 200,000—in November. With regard to new construction, the output is still far below our requirements, but great efforts are being made to meet the situation, not only in adding to our berths in old yards, but in creating new yards. One on the East Coast has arisen since November last covering sixteen acres of ground, and entirely run by electricity. Then the first of the ferro-concrete ships of 1,000 tons ordered by the Admiralty has just been launched, and is to be followed by successors

at frequent intervals. The frame only is of steel, which gives the vessel tensile strength, which would be lacking in concrete alone. The advantages of this type are economy in steel and time in construction. Then the materials for making concrete are available in most localities, and skilled shipwrights are not required. Another type of vessel which saves steel, labour, and time in its construction, is the rivetless ship, the parts being welded together with electricity. The first has recently been launched.

In the Air.

Since June 17th official despatches have referred at short intervals to the activities of the "Independent Air Force," which undertakes long-distance raids on the enemy's coast bases and on his military and semi-military towns in Germany and Belgium. This body was formed through the development of the long-range heavy bomber and of the output in aircraft, which necessitated a division in the Air Service, one branch working with the Army in close co-operation, the other working as an independent arm. Its operations bear less relation to the immediate fighting than to the large conceptions of the Supreme Command. During the past fortnight, besides the duties performed by the Independent Air Force at sea, it has continued its attacks on Zeebrugge, Bruges, and Ostend; in Belgium in the rear of the German armies; and in the Rhine Provinces, threatening even Berlin itself. In these raids, it may be noted, the losses on our side are remarkably small, while the moral and material damage done to the enemy must be considerable, one sign of which is the nature of orders found on prisoners, the burden being the necessity for taking measures to avoid destruction by British airmen. If Germany is anxious about the Allied supremacy in the air on the Western Front, she is equally anxious about the protection of her immensely long air frontier.

In the battle zone, during the past fortnight the enemy has lost 120 aeroplanes and 23 balloons, besides 45 machines put out of control and burned in aerodromes bombed by British aviators, to 52 missing of ours.

(To be continued.)

The wife of Mr. W. J. Locke, the well-known novelist, who was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, has just received a decoration from the King of the Belgians. Soon after the War started Mr. and Mrs. Locke opened a convalescent hospital at their home in Hemel Hempstead, and many Belgian soldiers have been patients there.

Mr. A. J. PAVITT, H.M. Trade Commissioner for the West Indies, has left London for Trinidad, but as he proposes to visit New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, besides Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa *en route*, he is unlikely to arrive there before the end of October. His departure has been saddened by the death of his brother, who died in a nursing home. Mr. Pavitt has two brothers still serving, one in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry—a regiment which you reknown during the "La Grange" affair in Dominica in 1805—and the other in the Royal Field Artillery. He has also two sisters nursing in France, whilst his wife is working at the Broudesbury Park Military Hospital.

MR. W. HART BENNETT, C.M.G.

We regret to state that Mr. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, died at Belize on September 4th.

It had been reported on August 23rd that he had met with a serious accident, and the announcement was not therefore altogether unexpected.

It appears that whilst a building was on fire a flagstaff fell and struck him on the head. The injury sustained by His Excellency was so grave that it became necessary to resort to trepanning, an operation which was successfully performed. For several days Mr. Hart Bennett's condition was critical. A cablegram on August 24th reported that he was improving, but he suffered a relapse and the end came at 7.30 a.m. on Wednesday last.

Mr. Hart Bennett, who had for twelve years been Colonial Secretary of the Bahamas, where he enjoyed well-merited popularity, was appointed Governor of British Honduras on December 31st last, and proceeded to Belize in March. Within a very short time of his arrival there he made a series of visits to outlying parts of the colony, whose problems he showed a determination to master without delay. The remainder of his service was passed in Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, but it is for his connection with the Bahamas that he will be chiefly remembered. When he left that colony it was agreed that no official had ever before been given such a cordial "send off." He was presented with addresses from all classes of the community to which he had endeared himself by his lovable nature, and the enthusiasm which he showed in all matters concerning the welfare of the colony. Whilst in England in 1916, Mr. Hart Bennett volunteered his services to the West India Contingent Committee, for which he did much useful work in his characteristically unassuming manner.

It will be recalled, Mrs. Hart Bennett, who was a daughter of the late Mr. Charles Tuck, of Norwich, also died a tragic death, having lost her life in the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland* in 1914.

FRANCE'S SUGAR POLICY.

M. Georges Dureau, writing from Saint Lunaire, where he is now residing, on August 23rd congratulated the West India Committee upon having gained their point with regard to the fulfilment of Great Britain's pledge in connection with the Sugar Convention.

"In France," he writes, "the attitude of the sugar manufacturers tends distinctly towards protection. The increase in the surtax fixed by the Convention (2.50 fcs. per 100 kilos) was decided upon in view of the possibility of the Brussels Convention coming to an end, and this increase took effect automatically from the date on which France recovered her liberty of action. But this step does not adjust the position of the sugar factories destroyed or brought to a standstill owing to the War. The owners of these factories will not consent to rebuild them or to resume work unless, apart from the indemnities for damage through the War to which they are entitled, favoured treatment is accorded them for a certain number of years as compared with those factories whose operations have not been interrupted.

"The French sugar manufacturers will without doubt consider it quite natural that their British confrères should themselves claim and receive preferential treatment for their produce."

SUGAR PRICES FOR 1919 CROP.

As recorded in last CIRCULAR, a Conference between the International Sugar Committee and a Cuban Commission met in New York on July 11th to discuss proposals for the purchase of the next Cuban sugar crop. The meeting was adjourned to enable the Cuban Commissioners to prepare and submit a statement, showing the increase looked for in the cost of production of the next sugar crop, as compared with that of 1918. This statement, which is signed by Senor Carlos de Cespedes, Mr. R. B. Hawley, and Mr. M. Rianda, is reproduced below:

In coming together again for the purpose of discussing and determining the price of Cuban sugar for the ensuing year, we think it important to state, on behalf of Cuba, whom we have the honour to represent, that the spirit of the Government in undertaking these negotiations is to co-operate with the United States and the Allied Powers, of which Cuba is a signal and integral part, in such manner that the fullest quota of sugar it is possible for Cuba to supply shall be produced and on a basis that shall be fair to producer and consumer alike; and to this necessary end, Cuba engages to put forth her utmost strength. That an understanding may be easily and promptly concluded, we submit for information the following statement of facts concerning the prosecution of the sugar industry throughout Cuba—its advantages, its difficulties, and its cost of production.

With its semi-tropical climate and fertile soil, Cuba is without a rival in the ultimate quantity of sugar it may produce. The investment of its production is on a scale of four million tons, and its capital value one thousand million dollars. These are the elements, which nature and enterprise have brought together. It is a single island, in area the size of New York State, but strike its development from the list of contributors, and the loss would be irreparable to the American consumer, and under existing conditions unthinkable—to the world at large.

An industrial interest of this character cannot proceed without difficulties, and naturally with this vast acreage under cultivation and great need of increased output, the problems of organisation, the assembly of labour in ordinary times a great task—seem now well-nigh insurmountable. What we shall do to meet our obligations to the United States and to those countries with whom we are associated in the greatest of enterprises, must rest on a thorough appreciation and co-ordination of every interest concerned.

Among other obstacles that beset us in our active operation, we suffer the disadvantage of having to import (naturally from the United States) all material, all supplies that enter into the growth of cane and manufacture of sugar. In all these essential importations there is not an article—with scarcely an exception—whose primary cost is not three or four times the normal price; coal sold for \$20.00 per ton as against \$5.50 per ton formerly; bags as high as 65c. against 15c. formerly; and the ocean freight on practically every article in use quadrupled.

As in most industries, the largest item entering into its cost is labour. For every stalk of cane now planted, cultivated and harvested, the total expenditure is three times the price paid under normal conditions. How we are to reconcile the outlay for labour and for material with a compensating price for sugar, is a matter for mutual consideration.

In the advices we have received covering total costs of production for the season just ended, we append those at hand—they are probably on a scale with the average in all the Western part of Cuba. The figures here given,* let us remind you, constitute the actual price for the year in many important items that were bought beforehand—before the advance of to-day—and neither the material nor labour represent prices for the same items that are being charged now.

Briefly, however, it may be truly said, that scarcely an

* Not reproduced.

item that enters into the cost of sugar is not distinctly higher to-day than was paid in the season now ending. Even so, with whatever advantages the planter had in the past year with 4.60c. as the basic price of his product, a large majority of them enter the new year with less cash than in the beginning of the year just closing.

We accompany this report with statements of such plantations, mainly in the Western Provinces, that have liquidated their year's business to date*. In the aggregate, as you will note, these estates show an average increased cost of production and a relative output of one year with the other.

| Cost. | | Output. | |
|-------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 1917 | ... 3 3550c. per lb. | 1917 | ... 5,822,440 bags. |
| 1918 | ... 3,800c. ,, | 1918 | ... 6,383,500 ,, |

Increase cost .5250c. per lb.

Other statements as may be desired will be furnished as fast as received.

In presenting these figures as representing the need of the industry, we deem it unnecessary to remind you that whether considering any other article of food or of raiment, or steel or wood, and chiefly labour that figures so largely in every production, of all these essentials sugar will be found the cheapest in the list, and apart from flour is distinctly the most important product in providing a well-balanced ration.

One of the notable influences now affecting the value of sugar arises from the loss of two and one-half million tons heretofore provided for export of which the world is deprived, besides other countries that have heretofore produced their own requirements must draw on exporting countries for needed supplies.

In the present emergency Cuba is the main and sometimes the sole dependence for shipments to Western Europe, as well as to England and the United States. If these are to be considered as they must be, and the movement of sugar were free, the price of to-day would probably be doubled, and this would result in an unsatisfactory condition for the consumer and in a feverish, unhealthy state for the industry. For these reasons we welcome the control exacted by the Government of Cuba and the restrictions imposed by the Government of the United States. The representative subscribers herewith enter upon the relations established willingly and with confidence that the true economy of the situation will be preserved.

On the rightful determination of this question will depend the quantity of Cuba's output for the coming year, and especially for the year 1920. The question is, shall we pursue our course so that the enthusiastic conduct of the producer shall be won—that he may proceed full tilt, and with the energetic application called for, supply in full this great necessity—or shall it be curtailed? A quarter or a half cent, or even a cent would not be so much considered by the consumer as the possibility of a deprivation of his wants. The question of price will at once establish the difference between a scarcity and an abundance of supplies. If this question needs to be argued as to whether we will have sufficient supplies on a basis of fair remuneration to the producer, or whether we shall be without, then we are obliged to remind you that the buying power of the great majority of consumers to-day is distinctively more than when the market for this product, and all other products, was at its lowest ebb. It has not been many years since the United States had eighteen, nineteen, twenty dollars per capita in current trade; to-day, with a largely increased population, they have over fifty dollars per capita for conducting business, an increase of 250 per cent. This great increase in quantitative money would in itself advance the price of the products of the world approximating to-day's level; wholly independent of the war, and without regard to the great scarcity of supplies. Shall we fill this need with all its wants, or deny it with all its deprivations?

The question therefore is again presented—what shall be done to sustain and to stimulate the production of sugar? As far as we know, Cuba alone of all the exporting countries is capable of largely increasing her output. The island's present production cannot be maintained—nor could it be considered—on the basis of 4.60c. There

* Not reproduced.

are hosts of farmers asking for figures that the Cuban Government in keeping with its purpose would not entertain; there are many others who insist upon 6 cents as the minimum, to all of which the Government suggests some modification.

In reviewing the figures which we have herein set out and the present state of labour and cost of material—in our deliberate and concurring judgments, we offer as our conclusion the price which we feel will meet the requirements of the owners and operators of plantation sugar houses and estates—that of 5.60c. f.o.b. North Ports of Cuba and 5.55c. f.o.b. South Ports. The figures are based on the prices current for material and labour employed in our recent campaign, while every assurance is offered that both will be higher, and in the instance of labour much higher in the coming year. While sugar, the cheapest product in general use to-day, is being discussed, it ought to be stated and publicly understood that its advance to the consumer is only a moiety of the advances that are witnessed in a hundred articles, most of which sugar producers are obliged to buy, as they constitute their daily life; flour, corn, meats of all kinds, cotton products, containers, and fuel, while staple necessities, are only a few elemental articles of the vast store that enter into the production of sugar.

With the foregoing brief resume of the cardinal points of this business, we submit to you what should be done to sustain and promote it.

No agreement having been arrived at, the question was referred to the Governments of the United States and Cuba, and, as we go to press, we understand that a price of 5.40 f.o.b. has been agreed upon. It will be recalled, from the Produce Markets Summary in last CIRCULAR, that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has informed the Jamaica Imperial Association, through the West India Committee, that they have no doubt that the price of British West Indian sugar will be governed by that fixed for Cuban sugar.

PASSPORTS FOR THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee received many applications for assistance towards obtaining recommendations for passports for ladies to enable them to return to the West Indies, and as much disappointment is experienced when these prove unsuccessful, it may be well to state the reasons why it is considered essential during the War to restrict severely the travelling of women and children overseas.

The grounds as set out by the Admiralty are as follows:—

(a) The presence of women and children on board ship at the present time adds very considerably to the responsibility and anxiety of the master, and seriously hampers his freedom of action in attacking an enemy vessel if met with.

(b) Should a vessel carrying women and children be torpedoed, the necessity of saving the women and children very materially reduces the chance of saving any military or naval ranks on board, and leads to the loss of merchant seamen who might otherwise have been saved, and makes a demand upon the self-sacrifice and chivalry of the men which ought not to be imposed upon them.

(c) It is considered essential that vessels carrying women and children through the danger zone should be protected whenever possible. Unless the numbers to be carried be severely restricted, sufficient protection could only be given by withdrawing protection from vessels carrying troops or essential supplies on which the country depends.

(d) The presence of women and children on board ship has recently necessitated a complete convoy being taken

into port in order that the women, whose nerves had been seriously affected by the sinking of ships in company, might be sent home overland.

(c) The risk of drowning to the women and children themselves, which is obviously greater than for men.

Cases where the refusal to issue a passport might involve great hardship are referred to an Inter-departmental Committee, of which a representative of the Admiralty is Chairman, and passports for women and children are issued by the Foreign Office upon the Committee's recommendation only.

THE TRINIDAD OIL INDUSTRY.

Mr. P. Stevens, Inspector of Mines in Trinidad, in his valuable report for 1917, which forms the subject of a leading article in the present issue, gives the following list of oil companies operating during the year.

| NAME. | SITUATED AT | ADDRESSES. |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.... | Tabaquite | 2, Broad Street Place, London, E.C. |
| Trinidad Oil & Transport Co., Ltd. ... | Barrackpore | 48, Cannon Street, London E.C. |
| Trinidad United Oilfields, Ltd. ... | Palo Seco | Finsbury Court, London, E.C. |
| Perseverance Estate | Guapo | C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain. |
| United R. West Indies Petroleum Synd. Ltd. | San Fernando, Siparia & Moruga | P.O. Box 162, Port-of-Spain. |
| United Brit. Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. | Point Fortin | 32, Bishopsgate, London, E.C. |
| Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. | Forest Reserve near Fyzabad ... | 1, London Wall Bldgs., London, E.C. |
| Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. | Pointe-a-Pierre | 1, London Wall Bldgs., London, E.C. |
| Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. ... | Brighton | Brighton (La Brea). |
| Trinidad Lake Petroleum Co., Ltd. ... | Brighton | Brighton (La Brea). |
| T. O. P., Ltd. | Pointe Ligoure | T.O.P., 18, Chacon St., Port-of-Spain. |
| Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Ltd. ... | Guayaguayare | 62, London Wall. |

The results for the year as compared with 1916 were as follows:—

| | Year ended Dec. 31, 1917. | | Year ended Dec. 31, 1916 | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Fl. drilled. | Oil won. Imp. galls. | Fl. drilled. | Oil won. Imp. galls. |
| Crown Lands ... | 42,480 | 37,307,980 | 30,835 | 16,758,467 |
| Private Lands ... | 9,557 | 18,772,934 | 27,555 | 15,717,228 |
| Total ... | 52,037 | 56,080,914 | 58,390 | 32,475,695 |

The daily average number of persons employed and quantity and value of minerals obtained from mines, oilfields and quarries, during the year ended 31st December, 1917, were:—

| Minerals. | Persons employed. | Quantity. | Approx. Value. £. |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Oil | 1,857 | 56,080,914 Imp. galls. | 236,534 |
| Asphalt | 542 | 131,483 tons | 87,769 |
| Manjak | 24 | 434 " | 1,808 |
| Private Quarries | 223 | 90,040 " | 4,392 |
| Government Quarries | 430 | 66,771 " | 10,541 |

LABOUR IN TRINIDAD.

In last CIRCULAR an extract from Mr. J. J. A. Carlee's letter to the Chairman of the Committee appointed to report on the findings of the Inter-departmental Committee on Immigration was published. Some further extracts are now given below. Mr. Carlee points out that, owing to the high cost of living, labour has been forced to exert itself, with the result that many desultory workers have been turned into steady labourers. This, however, is not the reason why the estates under his management do not require indentured labour. The reason is rather the aid to cane-farming of the use of agri-

cultural implements and the more efficient employment of the labour now available.

"The operation of the Waterloo Estates has up to recently depended very largely on indentured labour. No sugar estates in this colony had fewer settlements than we had four years ago, and some of the most experienced planters in the colony were of opinion that the production of these estates was not open to any great increase because of the apparent scarcity of free labour. Yet in this space of time the sugar production has advanced from 3,500 tons to 9,500 tons, and plans are now being made to raise this output to 15,000 tons within two years. Three thousand acres have recently been planted in coco-nuts, and large areas of our cocoa estates have been converted into and are now being worked as young rubber, coco-nut, and lime cultivations. The increase in sugar production is almost entirely due to the encouragement given to cane-farming, which, instead of depleting the number of labourers on the estates, has filled our barracks with people, and has resulted in the growth of four large settlements composed of hundreds of small dwellings, all owned by farmers. Most of these people lived near the estates and existed as settlers, artisans, small cocoa proprietors, etc. The latent knowledge of crude agriculture

which they possess has been utilised in the production of sugar cane. Cane-farming, if not a means whereby labour can be saved, is one whereby production can be increased. It is based on the psychological fact that a man will do for himself what he hates to do for others. We are yet unable to foretell the limits to which the cane-farming industry can be developed in this district, as there seem at present as many people willing to take in lands as there were four years ago. Nor has cane-farming disclosed any disadvantages compared to the system of growing estate's canes with one exception, i.e., cane-farmers are a more rowdy element than estate's labourers—perhaps because they earn more and are more independent. The lack of police supervision in our new settlements (especially the New Waterloo village and Barrancon) accentuates this condition.

"During the past five months implemental tillage has been introduced on the Waterloo Estates. The results thus far obtained from mechanically tilling an area of about one hundred acres have demonstrated the practicability and have convinced us of the desirability to work the whole of the estates' cultivations under this system, which saves money, time, and labour."

Mr. Carlee submitted figures to show that the cost of planting has been reduced to about one-third of that previously faced. "Field 41 of Exchange Estate, consisting of 5½ acres, costs \$15.35 by implements, as against \$55 if the field were worked by hand—a reduction in cost down to one-third of the original, a saving per acre of \$6.94. Field No. 20, consisting of 9½ acres, costs \$27.50 by implements, compared to \$79.56, being the cost by hand-labour—a saving of \$5.48 per acre. Field No. 41 was completed in seven days with implements, and with hand-labour it would have taken eleven days and a half. Field No. 20 took thirteen days, whereas with hand-labour it would have required eighteen days. But finally there is the saving of labour. Field No. 41 could be attended by 51 units for seven days to complete it, whereas the same field worked by hand would have taken 180 units for eleven days and a half. As to the quality of the work, the hand-labour at present is neater in appearance, but it is intrinsically not a superior tillage as compared to the implements, and with animals as well as operators be-

coming more acquainted with the tools, the chances are all in favour of a far superior soil texture to be obtained with mechanical tillage.

"Further, I am of opinion that there is a lack of scientific economy in the utilisation of labour, altogether apart from the need of the use of agricultural implements. The amount of labour utilised for almost every kind of work is greater than that employed in countries where labour is really scarce, such as Cuba and Louisiana. Our methods of planting cane, repairing roads, caring for stock, etc.; the large number of idling assistants who may be seen helping masons and carpenters; the almost total absence of such a simple device as a wheel-barrow, all indicate that there prevails a considerable waste of labour, which we are endeavouring to correct, if for no other reason than that its continuance represents inefficiency."

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Lieut. D. P. Pogson, of Trinidad, has run Ian McDonald (Antigua), the late J. A. E. R. Daley (Jamaica), and J. E. Gordon (Bahamas) close in the Distinguished Flying Cross stakes, having just been awarded that decoration for work in France. He has our hearty congratulations.

* * *

We again adjure the Post Office authorities in the West Indies to explain to the people more clearly how letters for soldiers overseas should be addressed. The blind-letter department of the West Indian Contingent Committee is being taxed to the utmost by having to decipher such addresses as the following: "No. --- Fo Mister --- Medeteraians See Egypt Expeditionary Force—if Jerusalem send it." Meanwhile the G.P.O. is not free from guile. It is said that a Barbados mail was recently sent by mistake to South Africa. There is a war out!

* * *

Sir Everard im Thurn, Chairman, represented the West Indian Contingent Committee at the funeral of Major H. F. Wilkinson, C.B.E., Controller of the Union Jack Club, who died on August 17th. Major Wilkinson was a genuine friend to West India—indeed to all—soldiers, and we were glad to notice among the congregation at the sad ceremony, which took place at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Wednesday last, four non-commissioned officers of the British West Indies Regiment—Sergt. Noah, Cpl Johnson, L/Cpl. Patterson, and L/Cpl. Thomas.

* * *

The number of callers at the West India Committee Rooms continues to increase. Among the visitors during the past fortnight were:—

ANTIGUA.—Lieut.-Col. C. D. Arnold (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. R. Shand, M.C., Lieut. J. R. A. Branch, Pte. O. Duke, M.M.

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. John Burnside, Pte. Pinder, Pte. W. V. Albury.

BARBADOS.—Gnr. G. S. Atwell, Gnr. H. S. Batson, Capt. A. S. Gardiner, Sgt. Lloyd Ryer, Lieut. W. H. L. Medford, M.C., Pte. W. C. Boxill, H. F. K. Greaves, Pte. C. de C. Skeete, Lieut. C. R. Murphy, Cadet J. R. A. Crawford, Lieut. B. C. Archer, R.N.R.

BRITISH GUIANA.—L. H. Quick, Capt. R. A. Hoban, II. C. Bamford, Jr., Cadet E. McTurk.

DOMINICA.—Pte. H. A. Frampton.

GRENADA.—Pte. S. L. Pouchong.

JAMAICA.—Sgt. W. H. Johnson (B.W.I.R.), Pte. R. Altman, 2nd Lieut. R. N. Richards, Lieut. L. C. Levy, Lieut. E. J. Gordon, Pte. S. Gray, L. L. Smith, Cecil Stewart Rose, Sgt. C. H. Colman, P. McLeary, C.S.M., A. W. A. Baxter (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. H. B. Edwards (B.W.I.R.), R. L. Ripley, Canon Ripley, Capt. Rev. J. L. Ramson, C.F., 2nd Lieut. G. D. Burrows (B.W.I.R.), Cadet St. J. Hill, Pte. Hill, Pte. L. L. Smith.

ST. KITTS.—Pte. B. McKoy, Pte. R. J. Lawes, 2nd Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, M.C.

ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Laftie.

TRINIDAD.—Cadet C. de Nobrega, J. O. de Nobrega, F. F. Murray, Pte. J. M. Anderson, P. D. Juce, J. Rodriguez, R. M. Anderson, Tpr. A. Gonzalez, Gnr. V. O. Da Costa, Cadet Rupert Dunn, Clive Bynoe, A. Gonzales, Pte. A. H. Da Silva, L. Hamel Smith, Capt. P. S. Maingot, 2nd Lieut. John R. Rochford, M.C., Tpr. L. M. Murray, Leslie L.

Smith, Gnr. G. W. Robinson, 2nd Lieut. H. P. Marryat, Cadet E. S. O'Connor, 2nd Lieut. Andre Lange, Pte. P. J. Stone, Numa Sellier, Pte. C. B. Fernandez, P. A. Taale O'Connor, Conor O'Connor, 2nd Lieut. R. Lazzari.

UPLAND RICE IN JAMAICA.

Very successful results with upland rice in the Liguana Plains, Jamaica, have led the *Journal* of the Agricultural Society to reply at length to enquiries on the subject.

It appears that this rice is grown very much like corn or guinea corn, but it can stand more water in the soil than corn, so long as the land is not sour.

In preparing the land for planting (says the *Journal*), the ordinary methods as used for corn can be adopted, i.e., first plough or fork the land if first-class cultivation can be given; or track fork which means rows, the breadth of the fork the soil between being left as it is, or forked, holes two feet apart—chop holes with a hoe should not be tried unless the soil is already soft and fine. On hill-sides or slopes where the water runs off quickly, it will be wise to make furrows across the hill and plant on the lower side of the furrow so as to conserve the rainwater.

Rice can stand a good deal of moisture, and will be the better for it. The rows for planting should be made 2ft 6ins. or 3ft. apart, the former for the less fertile soils and the latter for good soils. In most districts that are ploughable the seed may be dropped with a corn-planter. About 35lbs. to 40lbs. of seeds are required per acre; five or six seeds may be planted in the hole—even up to 10. The wider the planting, the more seed can be used in the hole, and all that needs to be done thereafter is to give hoeings whenever weeds appear.

The weeding is exactly as for corn, only it should be done earlier than is the case with corn, as the young rice plants are more tender than young corn plants. If it is desirable to plant from a nursery, or one is to be kept in reserve, prepared beds 20ft. long and 6ft. wide will supply plants enough for a quarter of an acre. Make the seed beds fine, sow the seeds and rake in carefully; if there is not plenty of rain, watering should be done at short intervals, or otherwise the plant will get stunted. When the young plants are 6ins. high, they are ready for transplanting in the field. They can be planted in bunches of five or six plants.

When the field of rice is bearing, the heads, hanging heavy with grain, form a fine sight. The rice must not be left until it is too ripe, or there is a great waste in grain dropping. The cutting should begin whenever the field is dry—i.e., should not be cut when the dew is on it or wet with rain. The East Indians always thrash by hand, but on a large scale machines of various sizes can be got to deal with this. A crop from ordinary land with only fair cultivation will yield 20 to 25 bushels, moderately successful from 30 to 40 bushels to 60lbs. per bushel of paddy rice—that is, rice in the husk—can be produced, and with the present price of rice makes it a very profitable crop indeed. Clean rice is selling at 35/- to 38/- per bag of 160lbs.

The Cayman Islands.

The revenue of this Dependency of Jamaica for the financial year ended September 30th, 1917, amounted to £3,220, and the expenditure to £3,553. The average revenue for the last five years is £3,579. The amount received from Import Duty and the sale of stamps, especially the War Stamps recently issued, was most satisfactory. It was hoped that the financial year would come to a close without the occurrence of any unfortunate disaster, but, says Mr. A. C. Robinson, the then Commissioner, in his report on the Blue-book, hurricanes would appear to have become almost an annual event in the Cayman Islands. On Monday, September 24th, Grand Cayman was struck by a severe hurricane, the third visitation within four years in these Islands—the wind blowing with great force and intensity from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE LIBRARY.

A further list of books generously presented to the West India Committee Library, is given below :

"*Traité Nouveaux & curieux du Café, due The' et du Chocolate.* . . . Par Philippe Sylvestre Dufour. La Haye : 1685.

"*A Short History of Barbados, from its First Discovery and Settlement to the end of the year 1767.*" London : 1768.

"*Observations on the Diseases which appeared in the Army on St. Lucia in 1778 and 1779.* . . ." By John Rollo. London : 1781.

"*Observations on the Means of Preserving and Restoring Health in the West Indies.*" By John Rollo. London : 1783.

"*Reise nach Guiana und Cayenne—aus dem Franzosischen.*" Hamburg : 1799.

"*Directions to Young Planters for their Care and Management of a Sugar Plantation in Barbadoes.*" London : 1800.

"*The Travellers' Guide to Madeira and the West Indies.* . . ." By a Young Traveller. Haddington : 1815.

"*A Voyage to the West Indies, containing various observations made during a residence in Barbados and several of the Leeward Islands.* . . ." By John Augustine Waller, Surgeon R.N. London : 1820.

"*A Statistical, Commercial, and Political Description of Venezuela, Trinidad, Margarita, and Tobago.*" (From the French of M. Lavasse, by B. Blaquiere.) London : 1820.

"*The West Indies as they are; or, A Real Picture of Slavery : but more particularly as it exists in the Island of Jamaica.*" By the Rev. R. Bickell. London : 1825.

"*An Historical Account of the Island of St. Vincent.*" By Charles Shephard. London : 1831.

"*Domestic Manners and Social Condition of the White, Coloured, and Negro Population in the West Indies.*" In 2 vols. By Mrs. Carmichael. London : 1834. (Second edition.)

"*Journal of a West Indian Proprietor, kept during a residence in the Island of Jamaica.*" By the late Matthew Gregory Lewis, Esq., M.P. London : 1834.

"*The West Indies in 1837; being the Journal of a visit to Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, and Jamaica.* . . ." By Joseph Sturge and Thomas Harvey. Second Edition. London : 1838.

"*A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical : exhibiting its resources and capabilities.* . . ." By Robert H. Schomburgk, Esq. London : 1840.

"*Missionary Labours in British Guiana.* . . ." By the Rev. J. H. Bernau. London : 1847.

"*The History of Barbados.* . . ." By Sir Robert Schomburgk, Ph.D. London : 1848.

"*The Birds of Jamaica.*" By Philip Henry Gosse, assisted by Richard Hill, Esq., of Spanish-Town. London : 1848.

"*The Nature and Properties of the Sugar Cane.* . . ." By George Richardson Potter. London : 1849.

"*The Rum Distillers' Manual for the use of Sugar Planters.*" By C. J. Hering, of Surinam. Philadelphia : 1855.

"*The History of Sugar and Sugar Yielding Plants.*" By William Reed. London : 1860.

"*A History of British Guiana, compiled from various Authorities.*" By George W. Bennett. Georgetown : 1875.

"*Reports on the Physical, Descriptive, and Economic Geology of British Guiana.*" By Charles B. Brown, F.G.S., and J. G. Sawkins, F.G.S. London : 1875.

"*Canoe and Camp Life in British Guiana.*" By C. Barrington Brown, Assoc. R.S.M. London : 1876.

"*The English in the West Indies.*" By J. A. Froude. London : 1888.

"*Fraudacity. West Indian Fables* by James Anthony Froude explained." By J. J. Thomas. London : 1889.

"*History of Trinidad.*" From 1781 to 1813 and from 1814 to 1839; 2 vols. By Lionel Mordaunt Fraser. Trinidad : 1886.

"*The Geology and Physical Geography of Jamaica: Study of a type of Antillean Development.*" By Robert T. Hill. Cambridge, Mass. : 1899.

"*Legends and Myths of the Aboriginal Indians of British Guiana.*" London : no date

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

Research work organised by the manager of the Cambrian combine, Mr. Hedley Clark, at the by-product works of the Glamorgan collieries at Llwynypia, has, says the *Daily Chronicle*, resulted in a discovery of immense value to the nation. This is the manufacture on a big scale of sulphate of ammonia from nitre cake, a waste from munition works which amounted to nearly 20,000 tons a week.

Since the War the import of iron ore for the extraction of sulphur for the ultimate manufacture of sulphate of ammonia has been greatly restricted, and it became imperative to utilise some substitute.

Mr. Clark was asked by the Government to conduct experiments, and it is due to the painstaking experiments carried out by Mr. M. Bowen, coke works manager and chemist, that the country is indebted for the first practical demonstration of the commercial use of nitre cake in the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia. The plant has been utilised for this purpose for some months.

HOMEWARD MAILS.

BARBADOS—Rum Manufacture.

During 1917 the rum manufacture totalled 341,705 gallons, reports the Comptroller of Customs. This amount represents a considerable advance as compared with 1916, and an even more striking increase on the output of 1915, which was 185,952 gallons. The quantity exported, however, shows a slight decrease. The report on the Post Office for 1917 shows that the number of parcels received from abroad during the year was 19,546, of a declared value of £22,290. There was a large decrease in the consignments from the United Kingdom, but a larger increase of nearly 2,000 parcels from the United States. The considerable number of articles now prohibited from importation into Great Britain caused a decline in the number of parcels despatched abroad. Money orders issued on the United States increased by 200. The loyalty to their native island on the part of Barbadians working in Canada and the United States is strikingly illustrated by the number of money orders cashed in Barbados. During 1917 these orders increased in number by 5,263, and in amount by £17,969. The orders sent from North America represented savings by Barbadians, who sent the money for the assistance of relatives or for investments in small properties, or for deposit in the Savings Bank.

BRITISH GUIANA—New Financial Representative.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN, JULY 15th.—A Financial Representative for N.W. Essequibo has been elected in the person of Mr. Sousa, solicitor, who received 93 votes over the other candidate, Mr. J. Cunningham, editor and manager of the *Argosy*. There were several other nominations, but these were withdrawn before polling day.

A Special Session of the Combined Court was held on the 8th inst., when Supplementary Estimates were passed.

"The Passing Show," in aid of the Red Cross Fund, given at the Assembly Rooms on the 4th inst., was a very successful performance. Races were held at the Belair Park on the 10th and 11th inst. Owing to the weather the attendance was smaller than usual.

"The unprecedented increase in the cost of living," as they describe it, has induced the employees of the Demerara Railway Co. to request an increase of salary. The Directors of Sproston, Ltd., in their report to the annual meeting of that Company on July 22nd, record that, after payment of interest on debentures amounting to \$21,957, \$54,410 remains at the credit of profit and loss. At the same time it is stated that the Company has felt the disastrous effects of the war more keenly than ever, and the

Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend until existing conditions show some prospect of improvement. Bishop Galton, the respected head of the Roman Catholic community, has had a narrow escape from drowning. Accompanied by Father Cary-Elwes, he was in a boat on the Ireng river when, running one of the falls, the boat upset. The Bishop and Father Cary-Elwes succeeded in reaching the shore, but the boat with its contents was lost.

The suppression of Obeah practices has been taken up energetically by the Government, which has introduced into the Legislature a Bill with this object in view. It is proposed to substitute flogging and six months' imprisonment for the present maximum penalty of a fine of \$50 or three months for a first offence. A boating disaster at Mora Falls, Mazaram river, resulted in the loss of sixteen lives. At the 75th meeting of the British Guiana Mutual Fire Insurance Co. it was reported that during the half-year insurances amounted to \$1,436,261, yielding annual premiums of \$15,652, which are greater than the premiums contributed by any two previous half-years.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Building Society.

The report of the Directors of the Belize Permanent Benefit Building Society shows 418 members holding 2,108 shares. A net profit of \$1,359 has been earned. The balance at the bank stands at \$4,818. A dividend of 3½ per cent. is recommended.

DOMINICA—The Late Mr. Rawle.

The death is announced of Mr. William Alexander Romley Rawle, who for 35 years was in charge of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. He was a native of Trinidad, and was 55 years of age.

The happy relations uniting Great Britain and France found local expression recently when some of the leading residents of this island proceeded by invitation to Martinique to participate in a *Fête Nationale*. A party of 60 Dominicans, accompanied by the Administrator, Mr. Mahaffy, crossed over to the French colony, where a most cordial welcome awaited them. Mr. Mahaffy was the guest of the Governor, and receptions in honour of the visitors were given at Government House, the Mayorality, the Chamber of Commerce, and elsewhere. There was also a trip to Lamentin, where a mayoral reception was accorded the British visitors.

Great activity is reported in the lime industry. Seven hundred barrels of ripe limes are being brought daily to the depot of Messrs. L. Rose & Co. The quality of the fruit has also improved, but the price has gone down to 4/-.

JAMAICA—Railway Report.

The Director of the Jamaica Railway, in his report for the financial year ended March 31st, records a further falling-off in receipts due to hurricane effects. Hurricanes have caused damage to railway property during the past three years amounting to £29,698, and a loss in freight on bananas of £64,300. Net revenue for the year under notice amounted to £6,511. Tonnage carried (123,130) shows a decline of 2 per cent. Owing to increased expenditure, the profit per train-mile has decreased from 6.79d. to 4.93d. The railway, however, will benefit from an arrangement with the United Fruit Co. whereby the railway will convey to Kingston bananas formerly shipped from Port Henderson. The products of the central factories alongside the line will also be carried by rail.

ST. LUCIA—Progress of the Colony.

The Acting Administrator of St. Lucia (Mr. R. Popham Lobb), addressing the Legislative Council recently, noted several directions in which progress may be reported in the economic and educational spheres. Expressing the hope that the report of the Commission on Education would lead to the whole system of education being placed on a sound basis, Mr. Lobb declared that one step in advance had been made by the establishment of an Island Scholarship tenable for three years at a University. "My only regret," he added, "is that there is not a West Indian University available for the purpose." Having mentioned that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had sanctioned the raising of a further loan of £10,000 for road improvement, the Acting Administrator proceeded to declare that a prosperous body of independent peasant proprietors is the only solid foundation for a

community so largely dependent on agriculture as St. Lucia. He added: "In this connection it is satisfactory to note the increasing usefulness of the Government Lime Juice Factory. In 1909 the total area under limes was 1,200 acres, and the value of lime products exported £328. In 1917 the area had risen to 3,500 acres and the value of the exported products to £7,100. The profitable and quick returns obtained by the growers have had a most beneficial effect not only upon the peasants, but also in giving them confidence in the ability and goodwill of Government to promote their interests. Very great credit is due to the Agricultural Superintendent for these results, and to the Advisory Committee of the Factory."

The annual report of the Treasurer on Excise for the year 1917 shows that the quantity of rum made during the year was 53,755 proof gallons. The greater part of this output was consumed locally, only 588 gallons being exported.

TOBAGO—A Good Hotel Needed.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 3rd.—Heavy rains have brought sugar-making to a close. The young cocoa crop is setting well, and reaping ought to be in full swing by November. Coco-nut pickings were being delayed by the weather, which in this instance was fortunate, as deliveries will now benefit in the improved prices for Copra. The *Belize*, on her Tobago trips, carries a full complement of passengers both ways, amongst which are a number of Trinidad tourists, who are now realising the benefit of this delightful holiday. Mrs. Pouchette's boarding-house is being well patronised, but we want a good hotel near Scarborough, which may materialise after the War.

TRINIDAD—£100,000 for the War.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, JULY 9th.—The War Tax on incomes is fixed as follows:—Up to £1,000, 4½d. in the £ (with exemption of £500 in all cases); £1,000 to £2,000, 8d. in the £ additional; £2,000 to £5,000, 1.6 in the £ additional; £5,000 to £8,000, 2/3 in the £ additional; £8,000 to £10,000, 3.8 in the £ additional; for every additional £1 above 10,000, 5.0.

The Legislative Council on the 5th inst. discussed a report of a Select Committee on the question of raising, by means of a loan, a contribution to be presented to His Majesty towards the expenses of the War. It was recommended that £100,000 be raised by the issue of Debentures and Scrip Certificates, the Debentures to be for either £100 or £20 each, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and the Scrip to be for either 15/- or some multiple thereof, not exceeding £15 in the case of any one applicant, and redeemable at the end of five years by the payment of £1 sterling for each 15/-, with provision for payment at yearly periods in the interval at a lower scale of increment. It was also proposed that the patriotic citizens and corporations who in 1915 subscribed £70,000 to the 4 per cent. loan for necessary public works in the colony (not carried out, by the way) should be given priority of application for the new loan, and should receive interest instead at 6 per cent. on such of their Debentures as may be equal in value to the Debentures which they take in the new issue. This proposal was opposed, notably by Sir Norman Lamont, and was lost by ten votes to six.

The Girls' Talent Club, under the leadership of the Misses Rapsey, which is doing good work in sewing and knitting for our men at the Front, recently gave a performance at the Royal Victoria Institute, under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Chancellor. It was named "The Merry Makers."

WANTS.

WANTED by discharged soldier, Imperial Army, position on Sugar Plantation, British Island, Caribbean Sea, where previous experience unnecessary. Smart appearance, fair business education, good credentials and discharge papers. Send full particulars to PERCY ROE, Cameo Cottage, Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey.

SITUATION wanted on Sugar Estate; 19 years' experience—14 in Demerara and 5 in East Africa (8 years as manager); also had experience in the planting of Rubber, Coco-nuts, and Fibre. Splendid testimonials.—Apply to "B," c/o the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6612 Central.

15, SERPTHING LANE.

Telegrams—"Carib. London."

LONDON, E.C.3.

September 5th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices in the United Kingdom remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply as from April 22nd, viz.:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 35 | 8 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 30 | 0 |

New York duty paid price, 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985c. c. and f. New York.

In order to bring the prices of all classes of sugar into as close conformity as possible, the Royal Commission have decided that draft of 1 lb. per bag shall not be deducted in the case of West Indian sugar. This ruling came into force on August 26th.

As regards the question of sales "ex quay" and "ex store," the Commission is of opinion that the prices fixed from time to time for the different qualities of sugar should, as from September 2nd, be understood to be those applicable to sales "ex store" as in London, and that in the event of buyers arranging to take delivery "ex quay" an allowance of 3d. per cwt. should be deducted from the invoice as a separate item.

The Cuban Sugar Commission, comprising Senor Carlos de Cespedes, Mr. Robert B. Hawley, and Mr. Manoel Rionda, have met the International Committee, and the former claimed that the cost of production would amount to over 10c. per lb. next season. This the Committee considered would mean an increase to the consumer of a full 1c. per lb. based on the existing Cuban contract. There being a divergence of views between the Committee and the Commission (whose "Brief" is published elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR), it was decided to refer the matter to the Governments of the United States and Cuba. As we go to press we understand that a price of \$5 40 f.o.b. Cuba has been agreed to.

The Mauritius sugar crop for 1918 is officially estimated at 224,000 tons (metric).

The Argentine Government has decided to permit the duty-free importation, within a period of six months from August 11th, of 125,000 metric tons of refined sugar, and 75,000 metric tons of unrefined sugar.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on August 31st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 25,944 | 60,028 | 41,935 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 26,595 | 52,709 | 41,551 |
| Stock (Aug. 31st) ... | 10,264 | 15,334 | 11,489 .. |

RUM. We have nothing fresh to report in this market. ... 274 The Ministry of Munitions have informed the West India Committee that they are willing to resume the acceptance of parcels of alcohol from the West Indies on the terms of their schedule of January 5th.

The stocks in London on August 31st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 4,848 | 9,344 | 8,684 puns. |
| Demerara | 7,562 | 10,598 | 13,845 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 16,923 | 31,958 | 37,353 .. |

COCOA. The "Direct" Line have now been authorised by the Ministry of Shipping to bring 900 tons of cocoa from the West Indies a month in addition to the special quantity of 1,000 tons already arranged for.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad cocoa during July were as follows:—

| Destination | Weight in lbs. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 4,941,586 |
| Total for July | 4,941,586 |
| Shipped previously | 36,871,808 |
| Total from 1st January | 41,813,394 |
| To same date, 1917 | 63,759,928 |
| " " 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 | 32,933,086 |

The West African section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce have written to the Colonial Office, asking that pressure may be brought to bear upon the United States to induce them to grant licenses for the importation of West African Cocoa, which is at present completely shut out.

The stocks in London on August 31st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 7,537 | 28,439 | 27,341 bags. |
| Grenada | 11,818 | 30,125 | 17,521 |
| Total of all kinds ... | 97,447 | 275,401 | 233,987 |

BANANAS. The arrival of a cargo of 1,250 tons has created quite a stir. The bulk is changing hands at 3/- per dozen, and is being retailed at 4d. a banana. British Honduras exported 356,761 bunches between January 1st and July 31st.

COPRA. The position is unchanged for the United Kingdom at £46 c.i.f. delivered weights net cash. The value to Marseilles is £90 to £92 c.i.f. terms.

COTTON Prices remain as fixed, viz.:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 361. |
| Good Ordinary | 401. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 45d.-50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

Imports of West Indian to August 30th, 2,916 bales. Exports from West Indies from January 1st to July 15th include St. Vincent, 319,706 lbs.

ARROWROOT. St. Vincent exports from January 1st to July 15th were 1,448,959 lbs.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected, value about 6/- to 6/3. Handpressed quiet; value about 16/6. Lime Juice: Concentrated quiet; Raw quiet; sellers fine quality 4/6 per gallon. Citrate quiet.

SPICES. Pimento has fluctuated, and is a good deal lower than a fortnight ago. Quotations 7d. per lb. on the spot; 6½d. landed terms September-October delivery.

HONEY. Market firm. Only small lots of Jamaica offered at last auctions, good quality bringing 20½/- per cwt. Foreign sorts firm to rather dearer.

RUBBER. Plantation quiet but steady. To-day's spot prices: Crepe, 2/1¼; sheet, 2/0½. Para very firm on small supplies, and buyers at 3/7.

BALATA. Market steady, but quiet. Venezuela block quoted 3/4½ c.i.f., and Panama 3/2 c.i.f. West Indian sheet nominal at 3/11 c.i.f.

MAHOGANY. 3,098,755 ft. were exported from British Honduras from January 1st to July 31st.

PETROLEUM. United British Oilfields production for fortnight ended August 14th was 2,788 tons.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1918.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SRETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.
September 19th, 1918.

The Jamaica Railway.

THE far-reaching effects of hurricanes are demonstrated by MR SYDNEY COUPER'S report on the Jamaica Railway for 1917-18. For the third year in succession Jamaica was visited by one of these disturbances in September, 1917, and the damage to the staple crop of the island is reflected by the results of the line. The railway suffered a loss in freight on bananas in the last three years estimated at no less than £64,300, which, coupled with damage to railway property of £29,698, helped to fill with bitterness the cup of MR. COUPER, who will probably prefer the lions of Uganda—to which Protectorate he has been promoted—to the hurricanes of the West Indies. The Jamaica Railway, the first line of which was opened as far back as 1845, was cradled in misfortune, owing to circumstances which need not now be retold. Suffice it to say that it changed hands several times between private companies and the Government. Neither owner succeeded in making it a financial success. Now, soon after the completion of what many hoped would prove the first of a series of extensions, it has had, as MR. COUPER shows, a set-back which it was ill-prepared to face. Owing to causes beyond his control, the percentage of ordinary working expenses (excluding hurricane damage repairs) to gross receipts is unpleasantly high. In 1913-14 it was 52.9; in 1914-15, 55.6; in 1915-16, 67.8; in 1916-17, 81.2; and in 1917-18, 93.2. To make matters worse he fears that it will remain high for many years to come. With regard, however, to the future there are some grounds for optimism. To begin with it may be noted that arrangements have now

been made with the United Fruit Co., whereby they will give the railway for haulage into Kingston all their bananas which were formerly shipped from Port Henderson and never came on to the railway at all. The extra revenue from this source should be very considerable. Then again it is satisfactory to learn that Central Sugar Factories are being erected alongside the railway and connected with it by sidings, and that agreements have been made whereby all the products of these factories will have to be given the railway for carriage. One such factory near Grange Lane Station was in operation during 1917, and a 10,000 ton factory between Grange Lane and Spanish Town is in course of erection and should be ready for the 1920 crop. In connection with these factories, the carriage of sugar cane will give the railway a considerable increase in tonnage although not much in revenue, the rate offered being 1½d. per ton mile, a figure which compares most favourably from the public's point of view with the 5d. to 6d. prevailing we understand in Demerara. This rate, is, however, only quoted to factories which give to the railway the carriage of all their products. It should, moreover, be added that in Jamaica it has been decided that the Central Factories must provide their own trucks, though a rebate of 10 per cent. on all earnings made by these cars will be allowed. But the factories can hardly be expected to provide locomotives, and it is a deplorable fact that while twelve years ago the railway had 30 engines it now has only 26 fit for service, and of these one is 29 years old! The capital charges of the railway stand at £2,669,371, on which £85,649 is due for interest, £35,937 for sinking fund, and £369 for charges, making a total of £121,955. Towards this sum the railway contributes £6,511 (or 0.24 per cent. only on the capital), leaving a balance of £115,444 to be met from General Revenue. That this state of affairs is far from satisfactory will, we think, be generally agreed, and we can only hope that King Sugar will bring about an improvement.

The West India Committee.

IT is significant as showing the increased appreciation of the work of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, the effective results of which have recently been manifested in a variety of ways, that the membership of that ancient but very live body should be expanding so rapidly. To such an extent, indeed, has it increased, that the question of finding larger and more suitable premises will become one calling for immediate settlement after the war, and in this connection we are glad to be able to state that the matter is already engaging the atten-

tion of a sub-committee of the Executive. What are greatly needed besides improved accommodation for the clerical staff are a members' reading and writing room and a library for the COMMITTEE'S collection of West Indian books which, thanks to the benefactions of LADY LUBBOCK, MR. WILLIAM GILLESPIE, and others, is now becoming a large and representative one. During the last nine months 176 new members have been elected to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. Except by comparison with the number of recruits enlisted in former years this figure is not a large one; but it should be remembered that it approximates the total membership of twenty years ago, when it was a reproach that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE was a close corporation dealing almost exclusively with the staple industry of British West Indies. Moreover, it is worthy of note that the candidates already elected this year form no less than ten per cent. of the total membership of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, which is now 1,750, and includes individuals and firms interested in cocoa, cotton, petroleum—and, in fact, all the industries of the West Indies, besides the banks, merchants and shipping and other companies trading in or with the West Indies. A curious feature of the war has been the number of patriotic and trade associations which have sprung up—many with the object of carrying out precisely the same work as that of such older bodies as the Royal Colonial Institute and the Chambers of Commerce, which, however, show no intention of being side-tracked, and it is gratifying to find that the latter continue to receive the full measure of support which they deserve, after bearing the heat and burden of the day, in the campaign for the better recognition of Imperial interests in this country. This leads us to remind our readers that the present is a favourable opportunity for introducing eligible candidates for admission to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. By virtue of Article III. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation the subscription of those elected during the last three months of the current year will, when paid, not be renewable until January, 1920, and we hope that members will bring this fact before the notice of those of their friends who have not yet joined the ranks of the oldest colonial body in the world.

FROM the speech of Mr. W. J. Noble at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Cairn Line, it would appear that there is an "absolute understanding" among the various steamship companies that at the close of the War their own particular trades shall be reserved for the lines which had them prior to the War.

BOYLE HOUSE will be the name of a mansion at Hove which Lady Boyle has presented to the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute as a memorial of her late husband Sir Cavendish Boyle's work in and love for the Overseas Empire. In 1914 Sir Cavendish lent the house, which is in Third Avenue, to the Red Cross Society as a hospital, for which purpose it will continue to be used until the end of the War, when it will become the headquarters of the Sussex Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute which Major J. R. Boose, the Travelling Commissioner, has been vigorously organising. Sir Cavendish Boyle is affectionately remembered in British Guiana where he was a most efficient and popular Colonial Secretary, and the people there will be glad to learn that his memory is thus to be perpetuated at home.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

LAST autumn an experimental shipment of 100,000 bushels of wheat was made from Vancouver through the Panama Canal to Liverpool.

MISS ELSIE BEATRICE NOSWORTHY was married at Hampstead Parish Church on September 3rd to Captain Mark Blakiston Baines, M.C., M.D., of the R.A.M.C. The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nosworthy, of Kingston, Jamaica.

THE prohibition by the United States Government of the import of raw cocoa from British West Africa to the U.S.A. was reported at the recent meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to be engaging the attention of the British Government.

"HYDROS" is the name of a sugar bleaching agent, which is now offered by Messrs. A. Boake, Roberts & Co., Ltd., in substitution for the German "Blankit." This British "Hydros" or Hydrosulphite of Soda is, we learn, being now sent in large quantities all over the world, and it is claimed for it that it is being used with highly satisfactory results.

IN the opinion of the *Maritime Merchant* (Halifax) Canadians will have enough sugar provided it is used economically. At the same time the sugar position is more difficult than had been anticipated. One cause (says our contemporary) is that some of the accessible sugar-producing areas have provided less sugar for Canada than was expected, notably certain West Indian islands.

A DRASTIC Ordinance has been passed by the Legislature of Trinidad, with the object of stamping out the mongoose. By virtue of its provisions no one may import or keep a live mongoose. Powers are given to certain officers of the Department of Agriculture to search buildings, etc., and the individual harbouring the pest will be fined 1/- for every mongoose destroyed upon his premises.

A CURIOUS method of catching fish and lobsters prevails in Barbuda. Brushwood is piled in heaps in selected spots in the lagoon to the west of Codrington village. Periodically these heaps, to which fish and crustaceans resort for shelter, are surrounded by nets. Men dive into the lagoon and remove the brushwood and the nets are then hauled into a boat with usually a goodly catch.

THE pink boll-worm is rapidly gaining ground in Brazil cotton fields and very little (says the British Vice-Consul at Ilheus) is being done to arrest the evil. The worm is said to have been introduced unintentionally by the Federal Government Agencies, who brought in, some years ago, large quantities of Egyptian cotton seed with a view to lengthening the staple of the Brazilian.

THERE are still far too many subscriptions to the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR for the present year in arrears. The delinquents cause endless trouble to the Hon. Treasurers and staff, and it is hoped that they will kindly remit the amounts due or pay them into the Colonial Bank without delay. Owing to the war the cost of production of the CIRCULAR is still mounting up and it is more necessary than ever that subscriptions should be paid punctually.

MEMBERSHIP of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. 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 of the West India Committee—for which ladies as well as gentlemen are qualified—can be obtained from the Hon. Correspondents, or from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum. The compounding subscription for life membership for individuals 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 official organ of the West India Committee, published in London (says the *Maritime Merchant*, Halifax), recently reviewed the report of the speech made at Halifax by Mr. Justice Rowan-Hamilton, advocating Canadian-West Indian Union. Its comment is that public opinion in the West Indies is not ripe for such a proposal. The writer of the article prefers to visualise a united West Indies taking its place beside the other great units of the Empire, with whom it surely has a future. With a combined population of over two million souls, he sees no reason why the British West Indies should not be quite capable of carving out its own destiny.

* * *

JAMAICA has taken up early and successfully the question of the technical training of her disabled soldiers. The work was taken in hand by the Central Recruiting Committee in January, 1917, with the aid of funds collected for sufferers from the Halifax disaster, in which many men belonging to one of the Island's Contingents, suffered from frost-bite. Of disabled men who belong to the British West Indies Regiment, 94 were admitted to the training courses during the period January, 1917—March, 1918. Forty-eight of the men have been instructed in shoemaking and the remainder in tailoring, carpentry and metal-working. During the eight months, August, 1917, to March, 1918, the shoemaking department earned £1,489, the net profit on the trading amounting to £628.

MR. F. C. MARRIOTT, Acting Protector of Immigrants in Trinidad, states that on December 31st, 1917, there were 127,420 East Indians in the Colony. During the year 91,044 acres were cultivated by East Indians. The nature of the cultivation is shown below:—

| Nature of Cultivation. | Acres. | Nature of Cultivation. | Acres. |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Cocoa | 48,238 | Coco-nuts | 2,720 |
| Canes | 11,115 | Fruits | 625 |
| Rice | 8,736 | Peas | 3,816 |
| Corn | 4,723 | Limes | 47 |
| Provisions | 9,758 | Mixed Cultivation | 856 |
| Coffee | 410 | | |
| Total | | | 91,044 acres. |

* * *

GUNNER J. PESCHIER, of Trinidad, sends us a good fishing story from the banks of the Euphrates. He had witnessed the capture of a monster salmon (*Tigris salmon*). It weighed 197 lbs., was 6 ft. 5 ins. long, and was caught with a rod and line. "It seems a big catch; but I will tell you how these giants are caught. There is a nut sold in most bazaars here with which anglers are very familiar. The kernel is extracted and pounded up and made into a paste, which is mixed with a small percentage of bread. The fishermen then proceed along the winding river bank early in the morning or late in the afternoon, and throw pieces of the dough into the water at intervals of about twenty yards, for a distance of about two miles. Having selected the pitch, which is usually a bay, they then launch their line, baited with the same bait. Presently a big fish, or sometimes a small one, comes down stream, already rolling about in a helpless condition, or sometimes it may take the hook. After playing the fish for about five minutes, native boys jump into the water and push the catch towards the bank, and as soon as it is landed, no time is lost in cleaning it, etc. You will readily understand that this kernel has some mysterious poison which stupefies the fish. Not long ago two other fish were caught, which weighed 127 and 167 lbs. respectively. Fishes daily weighing ten to thirty pounds are quite common, so if you are interested in angling this is the place in which 'to go a fishing.'"

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The Prime Minister made a long speech at Manchester, in which, curiously enough, nothing was said of the Army and Navy. It was a highly-coloured forecast of what is to happen after the War, presumably with their aid. But after all, what matters is the present, with a view to the conduct of the War to a victorious finish, without which there will be no future worth talking about for any self-respecting nation on this planet. France and the United States are taking resolute measures to play their part. Britain expects her War Cabinet to enable her to follow suit, as it has not enabled her to lead—so far at any rate. Last year disaster followed on the lack of preparation and bad strategy, which, in spite of all warnings, Ministers mistook for statesmanship until German successes in the field frightened them into belated action. Now is the time to secure reinforcements for our Armies in France for the spring offensive; reinforcements, which our war-worn troops, will by then badly need. During the interval they can be properly trained. The miscalculation of four years in succession with regard to raising new levies in the autumn must not be repeated in the fifth year.

On the Western Front.

The Allies are continuing the war of movement, but the pace is slower, the enemy fighting stubborn rear-guard actions as the Hindenburg Line is approached. The British, by the persistent fighting methods, local in execution but unified in direction, which have upset the military apple-cart of the German High Command, have proved that the famous "Switch" line from Drocourt to Quéant is vulnerable. It was a great feat, seeing that the line was supposed to be as strong, if not stronger than the Hindenburg Line, which it supplanted. The enemy put up a fierce fight to retain a system of defences, which he once believed were impregnable. But the British between the Scarpe and the Somme made a gap in it of six miles, following up their achievement by advancing towards the Canal du Nord, the enemy fighting desperately to retain the subterranean part of the waterway, which was known to be vulnerable to tanks. But the British, who had shattered the fabulously strong "Switch," forced a crossing of the Canal, as did the French further south, Mœuvres falling into our hands as Quéant had done. Following hard on the retiring enemy Havrincourt Wood was occupied, and in spite of all his efforts to turn the tide, the Allied armies pressed on, not only in this sector, but in the north in the Lys sector and in the south in the Vesle-Ailette region, where the French and Germans are engaged in a race for the possession of the Chemin-des-Dames, the heights above the Aisne. So far, fortune has been with General Mangin, in his turning movement against them. The most striking captures this past week have been Chauny, Ham, and the Crozal Canal. That is to say, the French are approaching St. Quentin, La Fere and Anzy, all strong positions in the Hindenburg Line, and two of them directly connected with that complicated system of defences, the Gobain Forest, itself a mighty bastion of Laon. The British, on their side,

are drawing nearer to Douai and Cambrai, as well as to St. Quentin on the north. In four weeks they have captured 75,000 prisoners and 750 guns. It is expected that as the Allies advance to the Hindenburg Line resistance will stiffen, as it consists, not of lines, but of zones of fortifications. In France it is not believed that the German reserves are used up but that Allied tactics and strategy have caused a crisis in the German General Staff.

The American Army Strikes.

The Americans, under General Pershing, have launched their first offensive against the enemy, organised and carried out in the main by themselves. Their object was St. Mihiel, the salient which looks so menacing for the Allies on the map, and was so at a critical stage of the defence of Verdun—when its line of communications through the Argonne was cut, while it was already cut off from the Commercy-Nancy line by the Germans, who commanded St. Mihiel. Therefore, until French energy and skill retrieved the situation, Verdun had to depend for its supplies on the narrow-gauge line through Bar-le-Duc. But, during the interval, the French in vain tried with the undeveloped war material of that time to break down the trench defences at Les Esparges on the north and of Apremont on the south. The Americans, with the war experience, devices, and weight of metal, which are now helping the Allies to victory, are avenging the heroic dead by carrying on their task. Attacking St. Mihiel on three sides, after a preliminary bombardment, the Americans advanced, shattering the enemy's resistance, at some points to a depth of five miles. One of the positions that fell was Thiaucourt, which figured so largely in military communiques in 1915; 20,000 prisoners were captured. The terrain is difficult, as the heights of the Meuse and the hills, which drop into the valley of the Moselle, together with the marshy region between, have to be penetrated. Besides occupying Thiaucourt, the Americans took Combres on the other side of the triangle, of which St. Mihiel was the apex. Metz is now threatened.

The War at Sea.

From Scandinavia comes the news that the British Convoy system is so effective that the traffic across the North Sea is rendered safe from "U" boat depredations. It is now certain, too, that Zeebrugge and Ostend are no longer available as bases, except for small ships, and, for these, a passage has been cut through the wall. The *Vindictive* and other vessels are, though sunk, staunchly fulfilling their duty. Moreover, these ports are incessantly bombarded from the air with steadily increasing effect, both by sea and land. Therefore, as they have ceased to offer an advantage to long distance submarines, which go north or slip down the Channel, they have ceased to serve Germany's strategic end in holding them. Over a year ago the "U" boats hunted their prey far out at sea, inflicting heavy losses on Allied tonnage, but as our methods of dealing with this form of warfare improved the pirates drew closer in, when they themselves suffered heavy losses, most of them within ten miles of the coast. Now the general tendency is to go far out again. But the

Allied patrols and convoys in the Atlantic and Mediterranean are, after a lively time, beginning to cope with the situation as successfully as has been done in the North Sea.

Whether or not there will be an effort to outflank the Germans by the nearest road, the sea, is one of the problems that only the future can answer. The operation would, of course, be hazardous, but it might be worth while. If Zeebrugge and Ostend have been effectively raided, why not Heligoland? ask many close students of war. A feature of naval activity in the North Sea are raids carried out by naval and aerial forces combined. What may be undertaken in the near future is an offensive on a large scale, in which all the Services co-operate. In connection with this subject, a book has recently been published by Mr. Charles Bright. It is called *Telegraphy, Acronautics and the War*. The writer is one of the best-known and soundest experts in his profession, has a popular style and shows judgment in the selection of his matter. He, therefore, illuminates an aspect of the war which all educated people should understand.

Shipbuilding in the United Kingdom.

The shipbuilding returns for August are again disappointing. Whereas the figures for May reached the high-water mark of 197,274, those for August fell to 124,675, a decrease of 72,599 tons, and even compared with July's output they show a falling off of 17,273 tons. For the twelve months ending August 31st, however, as compared with the previous twelve months there is an increase of 584,170, about a third of what it should be.

The truth is, the British Government, which for two years regarded our carrying trade with indifference, has never squarely faced the question, and does not now. The shipowners blame the Admiralty, the Admiralty the employers, the employers, labour. With divided counsels at the top, and the Nemesis of class hatred and distrust, sown by politicians before the War, pursuing us it is remarkable what we have achieved. The great thing is to inspire our workers as a whole with enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility, which are producing such wonderful results in the U.S. This can only be done by a clear lead from the top, which, so far, is lacking. How great the need is may be gathered from the fact that between May 21st and August 6th in one yard 185,375½ hours were lost by bad time-keeping, which is equal to 3,497 men having lost a full week of 53 hours in eight weeks. As this waste of energy goes on in other yards, especially Government yards, the situation is one which calls for vigorous action promptly, or it will be too late. That the War Cabinet is awakening to the danger is clear from the statement of the Shipping Controller, who tells us that by an arrangement with other Allies, Great Britain will soon be able to transfer labour from naval construction to civilian construction. But why was not this done when the U.S. began to get into her stride as a factor in the War?

In the Air.

The figures for August on all fronts are eloquent of the ceaseless activity and effectiveness of the Allies' Air Service on all fronts, from the Channel

to Mesopotamia. In all, 1,309 of the enemy's machines were brought down, while of ours he was able to account only for 248. These figures established a record, the highest previously having been 1,248, of German machines destroyed. That was in May last. Meanwhile splendid work is being done by the Independent Air Force, which bombs Rhineland military and manufacturing centres. It is becoming increasingly clear that aircraft are expected to play a more important part than ever during the autumn and winter. For, owing to the nature of the ground in large sectors, from November to March, and to the fact that in front of the Hindenburg line enormous trenches have been dug and flooded, the tanks will, temporarily, be unable to render their accustomed aid to Allied infantry. Aeroplanes are now so constructed as to carry such a weight of explosives and are turned out in such numbers, both in England and the United States, that, with their co-operation, the British-Franco-American do not intend to allow the stagnation of previous winters to prevail on the Western Front. Of this stagnation the enemy has always taken advantage to prepare for a fresh offensive.

For the first time since July 2nd Paris was raided on the night of September 15th-16th, on an ideal moonlight night. The Germans claim to have dropped 22 tons of bombs on the City, but they lost two Gothas in the effort.

In Portuguese East Africa.

Von Lettow continues his remarkable career in eluding our columns in the wilds of East Africa. His plan is to raid Portuguese stations for food and other supplies, and take up the long trail again before he can be attacked. But the British are circumventing these tactics, and have lately inflicted severe defeats upon his forces, following them up closely and forcing him to attack a British station, on which British columns were converging in different directions. On retreating south they were engaged, suffering casualties and losing much baggage, which Von Lettow can ill-spare. A few days later these manoeuvres were crowned with a similar success.

Liveliness in the Balkans.

A Franco-Serbian offensive was begun on September 15th, east of Monastir. A breach was effected in the Bulgarian mountain line, which has been widened to 15 miles, and an advance of 5 miles has been made through most difficult country. Over 4,000 prisoners have been taken besides 30 guns and much other booty.

(To be continued.)

MEMBERSHIP of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. 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.

COCOA IN AMERICA.

The increased attention which is being paid to the advantages of cocoa in the United States is reflected in an illustrated article in *Dunn's Review* for August. Cocoa, says the writer, has long been regarded as one of the foremost staples of international commerce, and at present is held in higher regard throughout the civilised world than ever before. Scientists called this plant the "Food of the Gods," and several commercially important countries and colonies derive most of their prosperity from its cultivation. At present—to quote from a recent report of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on this subject—when the world's attention is being concentrated on food supplies as never before, and the food value of articles is being carefully weighed, cocoa and its products will receive special attention because of their admittedly high nutritive qualities. Chocolate for a long time has been recognised as possessing these qualities in concentrated form, and it is a staple part of the contents of the pack of mountain climbers and polar explorers. For soldiers and sailors it is a welcome addition to the regular rations, especially as it is easily preserved. Every "comfort kit" made up for American fighting forces contains a cake of sweet chocolate, which supplies nourishment and the necessary element of sweets in the diet of the man in the trenches or on ship-board, and at the same time gives him the satisfaction of having one of the luxuries available to him in peace times. The importance of chocolate and cocoa for army and navy purposes has been recognised by the War Trade Board in laying out its policy with respect to the restriction of imports.

The changes in the import trade in cocoa into the United States since the War are shown in the following table for the fiscal years 1914 and 1917:—

IMPORTS OF COCOA INTO THE UNITED STATES IN 1914 AND 1917.

| Imports from | Fiscal year | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1914. | 1917. |
| | lbs. | lbs. |
| Europe | 39,227,120 | 28,218,341 |
| Costa Rica | 73,916 | 1,959,411 |
| Panama | 121,547 | 1,020,800 |
| Jamaica | 962,292 | 2,799,170 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 39,672,729 | 51,089,312 |
| Other British West Indies | 3,427,405 | 6,257,436 |
| Cuba | 2,818,188 | 1,181,762 |
| Dominican Republic | 26,782,966 | 61,443,869 |
| Haiti | 2,245,943 | 3,357,836 |
| Brazil | 25,870,186 | 51,461,624 |
| Ecuador | 28,319,735 | 67,227,698 |
| Dutch Guiana | 4,051,868 | 4,100,961 |
| Venezuela | 4,003,464 | 16,493,654 |
| British West Africa | 7,895 | 40,424,917 |
| All other countries | 682,992 | 3,223,077 |
| Total | 176,267,646 | 339,658,876 |

The enormous expansion in the imports into the United States indicated in the foregoing table was, of course, primarily due to the fact that the great trade with Hamburg that existed prior to the War has ceased entirely, these exports now finding their way for the most part to New York. The Netherlands was also a heavy importer prior to the War, but that trade has been much restricted, and at present (1918) is almost negligible. Shipments to

France and England are also on a reduced scale, hence the United States has become the main reliance of the exporting countries of the Caribbean region, Central and South America. But for the greatly increased American importations, many of these countries would now be facing severe financial difficulties, instead of which they are in general quite prosperous with their leading staple selling freely at fairly high prices. In the current year exports from Venezuela are likely to show a marked falling-off, but otherwise the movements indicated in the table will probably be continued.

Several of the shifts in this trade indicated by the table are of more than passing interest. The Dominican Republic, for example, increased its sales in this market by more than 100 per cent. in the period under review, while Brazil increased her shipments by almost precisely 100 per cent. Ecuador also more than doubled her trade with the United States, most of the crop of that country having gone to Europe—chiefly to Hamburg—prior to the War. The fourfold increase in the trade of Venezuela, as stated, is not likely to be maintained under existing conditions. The most remarkable change of all, from a statistical viewpoint, is the increase in direct importations from British West Africa from 7,895 pounds in 1914 to 40,424,917 pounds last year. These importations no doubt included large quantities from Portuguese West Africa shipped *via* the British possessions.

CO-OPERATION IN MAURITIUS.

The co-operative movement is making headway in Mauritius, and though the number of Societies operating in 1917 was the same as that in the preceding year—namely 23—other indications are not wanting of the popularity of co-operation in the island.

The work of the Societies is closely supervised by an Inspector, who combines his duties in this connection with those of Agricultural Inspector, thus engendering a spirit of confidence among the small planters, which is so essential in a movement of this kind. The Inspector sets aside one morning a week on which he attends at the office of the Agricultural Department and tenders advice to those needing it—a system which has been found to be productive of good results.

The principal loans were issued for purposes of cultivation, while in special cases loans have been also issued for such objects as weddings and funerals. Some cases of advances for the purchase of land have to be recorded, but in view of the high values for cane land at present in Mauritius every effort has been made to discourage advances for such purposes, except when the purchase price proposed to be paid is such as to allow of the land being profitably worked under more normal conditions.

The necessity for prompt repayment of loans has been emphasised to all societies, and the Inspector is able to record that, although the total of loans is very considerably larger than on any previous occasion, the outstanding debts show an appreciable decrease over the total recorded in 1916.

In some few instances it has been observed that members of the managing committees of Societies are in arrears with the repayment of loans which they have received. Such a state of affairs constitutes a very bad example for the bulk of the members of the Societies, and the question is under consideration of making additional provision in the bye-laws of the Societies to the effect that any member of a managing committee who is in arrear with the repayment of loans should *ipso facto* cease to be a member of the committee, unless good and sufficient reason for the non-operation of this provision can be shown to exist to the satisfaction of the Registrar in any particular case.

The tendency is also witnessed in some cases to grant disproportionately large loans to members of managing committees. While it is of course essential that the committee should endeavour to ensure issues of loans to persons who will employ the money to the best advantage and are fully capable of repayment, too great a tendency in this direction is to be deprecated, as it may involve an unfair distribution, in the shape of loans, of available funds, for it should be a guiding principle of such undertakings that so far as possible equal facilities should be afforded to all members to take advantage of the financial assistance which their Society is in a position to offer.

The capital of the Societies is made up of (1) Share capital, (2) Loans and Deposits from members, (3) Loans and Deposits from non-members, (4) Loans from Government, (5) Money standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund. The present position is shown below:—

| Year. | No. of Societies. | Share | Deposits of | Deposits of | Govt. | Reserve |
|-------|-------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| | | Capital. | Members. | Non-members. | ment. | Fund. |
| | | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Loan Rs. | Rs. |
| 1914 | 15 | 52,721 | 6,067 | 23,302 | 37,550 | 2,312 |
| 1915 | 20 | 87,028 | 37,220 | 22,662 | 35,550 | 6,898 |
| 1916 | 23 | 106,143 | 41,707 | 20,814 | 41,180 | 15,037 |
| 1917 | 23 | 116,307 | 33,440 | 41,202 | 40,675 | 27,948 |

While there have been no additions to the number of Societies operating and the number of members is approximately the same as in 1916, the increase in share capital points to steadily increasing popularity and appreciation of the movement. The total number of members was on June 30th, 1917, 2,823, this being 14 less than on the same date of the previous year, while the total share capital on June 30th, 1917, was Rs. 116,307, an increase of over Rs. 10,000 on the previous year.

The total amount of Government loans due by the Societies to Government was on June 30th, 1917, Rs. 40,675. During the year a number of Societies have commenced the repayment of the loans which they received from the Government at the time of their inauguration, on the terms agreed. In this way Rs. 3,505 have been repaid during the year under review; during the same time interest on Government loans has been repaid amounting to Rs. 1,185. Two Societies received a loan of Rs. 1,500 each from Government during the year.

An outstanding feature of the year's work lies in the marked increase in the deposits of non-members carrying interest which have been placed with the Societies. The amount of outside capital which Societies are able to attract to themselves in this way can be regarded, says Inspector Wilberforce

in his report, as an almost unfailling indication of their condition, and of the confidence which they hold in public regard. When it is borne in mind that during the year specially favourable inducements have been held out for the embarkation of surplus capital in other directions, the results must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory. The majority of the Societies are desirous of attracting further additional capital from outside sources, and it has been carefully explained to them that their capacity for so doing depends very largely on the manner in which they are operated. The financing of loans to Co-operative Credit Societies is now undertaken as a regular line of business by banks and mercantile concerns in India, and the progress made by the Societies in Mauritius warrants the belief that with the lapse of time their credit may become sufficiently established to enable them to attract capital in similar fashion.

In accordance with the terms of the previous report, no dividends will be declared by any Society until the expiration of five years from their inauguration, and all profits earned have been credited to the reserve funds accordingly. The principle adopted in relation to the reserve funds is to treat these as fluid resources and to utilise them as part of the working capital of the Societies. It will be seen that the sum of money to the credit of the reserve funds is steadily increasing, and the adoption of the policy in question will, by the time the allotted period is fulfilled, provide an adequate guarantee against the effects of unforeseen or unavoidable losses which may occur in the future.

GREAT BRITAIN AND DISEASE.

Dr. Sambon's Indictment of our Apathy.

Dr. Louis W. Sambon, Lecturer to the London School of Tropical Medicine, who, it will be recalled, visited the West Indies in 1913 to investigate pellagra, has contributed to our enterprising contemporary, *West Africa*, a valuable article on tropical diseases.

He compares the present state of West Africa with that which prevailed a century or more ago, when the mortality from what was then known as "malaria," was fearful. Malaria was, he says, a comfortable word which cloaked much ignorance and neglect. By degrees, owing chiefly to the admirable researches of French army and navy surgeons, the complex nature of "West African fever" was apprehended, and out of the tangle were extricated subtertian fever, yellow fever, blackwater fever, enteric fever, and other diseases which had been confounded with typical ague, as we knew it, in this country, in the days of Cromwell. Yet, even now, notwithstanding all our progress in tropical medicine, these diseases are either confounded, or their individual nature not fully understood, by the majority of physicians. The severe malaria of West Africa is none other than the subtertian fever of Hippocrates, still widely prevalent in the Mediterranean region; so that we must look to other diseases, and foremost to yellow fever, to explain the fearful, swift, cobra-like deadliness of the West

African hydra. Next to this, one of the most striking diseases was blackwater, while more deadly than either was sleeping-sickness.

Dealing with pests, Dr. Sambon mentions that the chigoe, jigger, or sand-flea, is an importation from the West Indies. Text-books attribute its importation to a vessel named the *Thomas Mitchell*, which sailed from a West Indian port to West Africa in 1872, but he believes that it was introduced at an earlier date.

Dealing with the West Indies, Dr. Sambon writes that in Barbados he was invited at Government House to hear a lecture on ankylostomiasis given by Mr. Wickliffe Ross, Administrative Secretary of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission. This gentleman had come to ask that the American Commission might be allowed to sweep ankylostomiasis out of the island, at their own expense, because immigrants from the highly infected districts of Barbados and other West Indian islands were frustrating the efforts made in Porto Rico, Cuba, and the United States of America to stamp out this fell disease, which for centuries had been sapping the life of the people. His admiration for the practical, clear-minded, far-seeing people the speaker represented, made all the more intense the shame he felt for our own unpardonable neglect, and for the supineness with which we were now accepting the offer that others should come and cleanse our Augean stables. Might we never be in the position of the Spanish physician who, in 1905, before the Royal Academy of Medicine of Madrid, deplored, not the loss of Cuba and Porto Rico, but that, in less than two years, the Americans should have been able to vanquish both yellow fever and ankylostomiasis, whilst the Spaniards had done nothing for the health of these islands during their long domination, since the days of Columbus!

In the West Indies there were certain diseases, such as filariasis, with its attendant horror elephantiasis, and, occasionally, yellow-fever outbreaks, which were a crying shame to Government, administrators, and physicians. In his rapid excursions through these beautiful and wonderful islands, which might well be "The Isles of the Blest," he had the opportunity of taking about a hundred photographs of lusty youths and otherwise comely maids hideously deformed by elephantoid growths. The lives of these young people had been cruelly wrecked by an incurable disease that could and should have been very easily prevented. Indeed, forty years had passed since Sir Patrick Manson proved, in the plainest and most admirable way, that filariasis was propagated by the agency of mosquitos, which fostered the worm during its early stages of development. Whilst he (Dr. Sambon) was in Trinidad, travelling and working with Mr. Ulrich, a charming and learned entomologist of the Fabre type, yellow fever broke out and attacked the men working on the pitch lake at La Brea. Yet eighteen years ago Carroll, Reed, Lazear, and Agramonte had proved by experiment, and at the cost of Lazear's life, that yellow fever, like malaria, like filariasis, like dengue, was also transmitted by a mosquito—a silver-galloon, day-biting mosquito—that lived and bred in one's own compound, in rain-tub, flower-pot, and empty lobster-tin. That these and other diseases could be stamped out was proved by the facts that they were unequally distributed in the various islands and districts, and that some of them had disappeared of their own accord, whilst others had never been known to occur in certain islands adjoining heavily infected ones. Thus Barbados had neither malaria nor yaws, both of which diseases are rife in almost every other island of the Caribbean group. Malarial fevers were absent, because of the absence of particular kinds of mosquitos necessary to the existence and dissemination of their respective germs (as Dr. Low proved in 1901, after the malaria experiments and studies he carried out with him in the Roman Campagna). Yaws was very prevalent about the middle of the eighteenth century, as we learn from the Rev. Griffith Hughes, in his "Natural History of Barbados," and from other old writers; but now it had disappeared, and the reason why was not clear, because we knew neither the natural history of the yaws germ (*Treponema pertenue*), nor the conditions which determined its peculiar distribution. All we knew was that the disease had greatly diminished in Martinique, and that,

according to Dr. Daniels, it had almost entirely disappeared from British Guiana, without the least endeavour on the part of man to get rid of it. But if Barbados had neither malaria nor yaws, and was, on the whole, a very healthy island, it was none the less cursed with three terrible afflictions: elephantiasis, pellagra, and leprosy, all of which could be very easily removed in two or three years' time, at a trifling cost. Pellagra, which he (Dr. Sambon) particularly went out to study, was contracted only in places which were the scattered and restricted habitats of blood-sucking midges of the family *Chironomida*, and leprosy might also be an insect-borne disease, as was already believed in the time of Linnæus, and probably long before. With regard to the etiology of pellagra, the majority of physicians still clung to the belief that it was a food-disease, due either to unsound food or food of deficient quality, but they might just as fatuously continue to hold that scabies was a food-disease, a belief which was indulged in until the middle of the nineteenth century, notwithstanding that the itch mite (*Sarcoptes scabiei*) had been described by Aristotle 350 years B.C.; and for consistency' sake they should also continue to uphold the old belief that the ingestion of armuts or earthnuts (*Bunium flexuosum*) generated lice in the head! If the supporters of the various and multitudinous food-theories of pellagra had studied the disease in the field, as he had done, for years and in all its known endemic centres throughout the world, and had seriously undertaken its elucidation, without preconceived ideas, but with a little more knowledge of natural history, epidemiology, and tropical medicine, he was certain they would now hold, with him, that pellagra was, like malaria, yellow fever, sleeping-sickness, phlebotomus fever, and other endemic maladies, an insect-borne germ-disease.

"Modern nations that undertake colonisation should copy the greatest colonists of the classic period, whose success in planting large, prosperous colonies was due to the fact that they invariably began by banishing disease by means of the most thorough and wonderful sanitation. The coins of Selinus, Caulonia, and Metapontum tell us in beautiful allegory and exquisite art how the Hellenes vanquished malaria, and we know that in Asia Minor, the Greeks, like the Assyrians, fought the plague by pitting the rat-eating snake against the plague-carrying rat. Wherever the Roman legions tramped they brought with them sanitation, education, and prosperity. Throughout the ancient world, from Seleucia, Bereñice, and Gades to the *Vallum Antonini*, between the Clyde and the Forth, along the well-paved Roman roads, we find the ruins of villas and farmhouses, great public baths, and remarkable sewers and aqueducts; we dig up surgical instruments, fly-proof infant feeding-bottles, safety-pins and stamps, for compressed medicines in tablet form. About the walls of the old buildings still cling some of the useful imported plants, and, together with mosaic pavement and Samian ware, we find the strainers that were used to aerate boiled drinking-water and the shells of the edible snail, a veritable "land oyster" brought all the way from Reate and fattened on bran and must. Go now to the South of Italy, stop at Cortone, once famous for the number of its athletes, the beauty of its women, and the ability of its physicians, and you will find that the wicked malarial Circe has transformed its inhabitants into the shapes of monsters and creeping things. Go to Praestum and you will find it deserted and buried in swamp and jungle; the three Poseidonian temples are still standing, silhouetted against the blood-red of a sunset sky, yet only to shelter the three malaria demons: Tertian, Quartan, and Subtertian Ague.

"As occurred in Magna Græcia, so in Panama, should the sanitary work be discontinued the old conditions would inevitably return, and disease once more would reign supreme. Sanitation, like the punishment of the Danaïdes, is a never-ending task. Everywhere and in all times man has had to struggle for existence—to keep up an incessant fight against all kinds of foes which give him no respite. He has exterminated the giant monsters of former days, overcome the dangerous carnivora and disarmed the venomous snakes, but is still battling with the countless hosts of the infinitely small—true elfs and goblins—the life-histories of which make wonder-tales more extraordinary than any ever told in the nurseries of Athens, Jedo, Bagdad, and Trondjem."

EAST INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

Some Statistics from Trinidad.

Accompanying the report of the Trinidad Committee on the findings of the Inter-departmental Committee on Immigration, from which extracts were published in the CIRCULAR of August 22nd, were some interesting statistics. To show the estimated cost of East Indian immigration after the war, as compared with that prevailing before the war, the following tables were given:—

Cost of Immigration at Pre-war Rates.

| | Per head |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| | £ s. d. |
| Collecting in India | 7 15 0 |
| Passage to Trinidad | 11 3 9 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 2 13 3 |
| Repatriation, share of cost of | 3 8 0 |
| | £25 0 0 |

Cost of Immigration at estimated Post War Rates.

| | Per head. |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | £ s. d. |
| Collecting in India | 8 10 6 |
| Passage to Trinidad | 28 10 6 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 2 18 6 |
| Repatriation | 10 0 6 |
| | £50 0 0 |

N. B.—It is difficult to estimate what post-war rates will be. Cost of collecting and Miscellaneous have been raised 10%

The above figures are exclusive of personal emoluments for the staff of the Immigration Department.

The Committee pointed out that as regards passage rates, it was unlikely that on the expiration of the present contract in 1918, the existing rate could have been obtained again. Assuming that it would have been raised to somewhere between £14 and £15 per head, had there been no war, the estimate of a post-war rate was 100 per cent. up on that. Cost of repatriation was raised accordingly.

A further table gives the number of arrivals of East Indian immigrants at and from Trinidad from 1845 until last year, when such immigration ceased:

| Years. | Arrivals. | Departures |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1845-1879 | 58,460 | 5,842 |
| 1879-1889 | 26,686 | 5,086 |
| 1890-1899 | 24,362 | 7,310 |
| 1900-1909 | 24,621 | 7,559 |
| 1910-1913 | 10,075 | 2,604 |
| 1914 | 422 | — |
| 1915 | 623 | 526 |
| 1916 | 1,923 | 744 |
| 1917 | 707 | — |
| | 147,879 | 29,671 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1845-1917 Excess of arrivals over departures ... | 118,208 |
| Average arrivals per annum 1879-1917 ... | 2,353 |
| Average departures per annum 1879-1917 ... | 627 |
| Average annual excess of arrivals over departures 1879-1917 ... | 1,726 |
| 1845-1899, 16 per cent. were repatriated. | |
| 1900-1917, 29 per cent. were repatriated. | |

From the following table it will be noted that almost exactly one-third of the population of Trinidad is now East Indian:—

Population of Trinidad.

| | | |
|--|-----|---------|
| Total Population December 31st, 1916:— | | |
| East Indian ... | ... | 124,782 |
| Other races ... | ... | 247,094 |
| | | 371,876 |

East Indian Population, 1879-1917.

| Total | Unindentured. | Indentured. |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1879 52,621 | 46,493 | 6,128 |
| 1889 68,703 | 59,343 | 9,360 |
| 1899 84,145 | 78,840 | 7,305 |
| 1909 104,789 | 95,316 | 9,453 |
| 1912 113,202 | 102,450 | 10,752 |
| 1916 124,752 | 118,047 | 6,735 |

Without allowing for repatriation, commutation or deaths, the number of immigrants under indenture in the colony until 1921, when all will be released, will be as follows:—

| December 31st, | 1912 | 10,752 | December 31st, | 1917 | 4,567 |
|----------------|------|--------|----------------|------|-------|
| .. | 1913 | 10,700 | .. | 1918 | 3,096 |
| .. | 1914 | 8,664 | .. | 1919 | 2,721 |
| .. | 1915 | 8,312 | .. | 1920 | 2,167 |
| .. | 1916 | 6,735 | .. | 1921 | Nil. |

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT BRYAN BRANDON, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, attached to Cheshire Regiment, was killed in action on the 4th instant in France. The deceased officer was a brother of Mr. K. M. Brandon, of Kingston, Jamaica, and came over with the British West Indies Regiment, from which he transferred to the Shropshires.

We regret to announce that PRIVATE W. LAWRENCE HUTCHINSON (Artists' Rifles), was killed in action on the 27th August. He was a son of the Rev. W. G. Hutchinson of St. Joseph's Rectory, Barbados, and came over in September, 1917, with a Barbados Citizens' Contingent. He joined the Artists' Rifles O.T.C., but went to France in June, when men were wanted for their battalion in the line, before going up for his Commission, and wrote cheerfully of his new experiences a few days before his death. He was killed instantaneously by a machine gun bullet. Private Hutchinson, who was only eighteen years of age, was a very promising young man.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

We regret to learn of the death of LIEUT. ROBERT HENRY SAWYER, Royal Air Force, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Sawyer, and grandson of the late Hon. R. H. Sawyer, C.M.G., of Nassau, Bahamas. For several years the deceased, who was twenty-seven years of age, had carried on in Nassau the business of the old established firm of R. H. Sawyer & Co., founded by his grandfather, and in 1916, when the firm went out of existence, he proceeded to Canada and enlisted in an O.T.C. He subsequently came to England and obtained a Commission in the Royal Flying Corps, doing splendid work as a night pilot for many months before he went to France. Last month he came over on his first leave and unhappily contracted influenza which resulted in pneumonia, to which he succumbed in a few days. He leaves a wife and two children in Canada.

The following deaths have been reported in the British West Indies Regiment:—

DIED OF WOUNDS.

JAMAICA.—9964, Da Costa, H.; 7221, Sterling, D.

KILLED ACCIDENTALLY.

BARBADOS.—921, Mapp.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

ANTIGUA.—13771, Kennington, Brooks.

BARBADOS.—1418, Headley, Ashley.

GRENADA.—6640, Calliste, Emanuel; 11530, Philbert, C.; 959, Rapier, Gilbert Alan; 11651, Scales, J. A.

JAMAICA.—5707, Anderson, S. A.; 13528, Ashley, A. L.; 281, Brown, H.; 3337, Barton, E.; 7020, Banting, A.; 10966, Clayton, M.; 7074, Cole, E.; 13625, Card, T.; 9872, Clarke, S. (drowned); 4591, Cross, E.; 7080, Dixon, Joseph; 12925, Davies, M. M.; 13925, Davis, Theophilus; 12065, Edwards, Noel; 16401, Francis, J.; 13804, Foster, E.; 10009, Ferguson, J.; 3354, Green, N. W.; 8155, Garnes, E.; 15516, Gilpin, Hazel; 15753, Gordon, Perceval; 16101, Hawthorne, F. (died of injuries); 10105, Higgins, Samuel; 8190, Henry, E.; 14391, Henry, Zacariah; 16146, Jarrett, S.; 8726, Johnson, C.; 16427, Lezina; 6319, Morgan, J.; 12336, McCalla, Elisha; 12341, Mitchell, J.; 14105, McDonald, L.; 10324, Morrison, S.; 7690, Mullett, John; 7435, Ming; 12461, Price, Samuel; 7191, Robinson, A. (believed drowned); 15892, Robinson, N.; 12522, Stone, N.; 12559, Swaby, C.; 70643, Sinclair, G.; 7161, Speed, D. (believed drowned); 10643, Sinclair, G.; 3437, Thomas, S. E.; 7252, Vassal, L.; 12089, Williams, E.; 7990, Wilson, J.
 ST. LUCIA.—9264, Florins, J.
 ST. VINCENT.—14269, Cato, T.
 TRINIDAD.—16401, Francis, J.; 6949, Jack, A.; 490, Smith, Emanuel; 11772, Went, V.

WOUNDED.

SECOND LIEUT. H. A. ARTHUR (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Rifle Brigade, has been gassed.

RIFLEMAN F. CLAUDE GIBSON (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), London Regiment, has been wounded in the leg.

LIEUT. L. R. HUTCHINSON, M.M. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Civil Service Rifles, has been wounded in the leg.

PRV. C. EMERY MALNGOT (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Kensington's, has been wounded.

SERGE. K. E. PILGRIM, M.M. (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Civil Service Rifles, has been wounded in the knee.

PRV. C. I. PROVERBS (Barbados Citizens' Contingent), Canadians, has been gassed.

TRPR. LOUIS SELLIER (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Life Guards Battalion Machine Gun Guards, has been wounded, and his left leg has been amputated.

PRV. C. S. THOMPSON (of the Bahamas), Canadian Infantry, has been wounded.

The following casualties have been reported in the British West Indies Regiment.

WOUNDED.

BARBADOS.—15026, Forde, C.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—16869, Mapp, J.
 ST. KITTS.—10984, Carter, P.; 12415, Newton, D.
 JAMAICA.—Captain A. M. Sherlock; 14932, Bascomb, A.; 16021, Black, J.; 7040, Booth, A. T.; 3374, Broadley, S.; 2685, Butler Benjamin; 2883, Brown, B.; 7833, Chambers, J.; 8431, Harris, C.; 3179, Hinds, L. R.; 2906, Hunter, E.; 6419, Harvey; 6171, Lawrence, R.; 16085, Legg, E.; 2911, Lennon, Gustavus; 3003, Matthews, E. A.; 7493, McKenzie, E.; 4174, Morgan, L.; 5574, McGee, A. (McGhie); 8639, Moore, J.; 5880, Myric, J.; 16869, Mobb, J.; 12415, Newton, D.; 2919, Neisbeth, Leslie; 4122, Norton, J.; 4234, Pearce, S.; 4013, Phillips, A. F.; 15421, Searlett, T.; 3016, Salmon, P. J.; 2926, Samuels, A. B.; 11663, Simmons, J.; 7210, Shippey, T.; 7560, Sewell, W.; 7202, Stamp, A. C.; 7217, Stephen, E.; 2939, Wallace, J.
 TRINIDAD.—6745, Squires, A.; 6763, Wallace, J.

INJURED.

JAMAICA.—9802, Austin, W.; 7830, Carr, N.; 10821, Williamson, J.

LANCE-CORPORAL A. P. FERREIRA (of British Guiana), British West Indies Regiment, was married on the 2nd instant to Miss Jessie Stenner, of Walthamstow.

It will be noted from our advertisement columns that the Symonds Estate, which produces both sugar and cotton, in Nevis, is in the market. It comprises about 362 acres, of which a fair acreage has up to the present been devoted to sugar. It is understood that the reason for sale is the sub-division of family interests in the property.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The following gifts are acknowledged by the West Indian Contingent Committee with many thanks—

Mrs. Singleton and Miss Thorne : 9 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Thurston : 5 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Algernon Aspinall : 3 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Arthur Johnson : 12 lbs. wool.
 Miss Bovell : 3 prs. socks.
 Lady Llewelyn : 2 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Elliot : 10 prs. socks.
 Lady Cox : 4 prs. socks.
 Mrs. Rutherford : 6 prs. socks.

Socks are in constant demand. The Committee has now distributed many hundreds of pairs and as many more are still urgently needed. Gloves also are in great demand. They may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C., by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight :—

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. John Burnside, J. H. Knowles.
 BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. H. O. Ramsey, 2nd Lieut. E. D. Redman, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Farmer, Lieut. C. E. Murphy, 2nd Lieut. C. Forte Cave, Surgeon D. A. Knight, R.N., Lieut. A. B. Knight, 2nd Lieut. N. Greenhalgh, Midshipman J. H. C. C. Thorne, Pte. H. C. Laurie, Pte. C. de C. Skeete, Pte. W. C. Boxill, Lieut.-Cpl. James Howard (B.W.I.R.), H. F. K. Greaves.
 JAMAICA.—2nd Lieut. C. D. de Pass (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. J. E. R. Braham (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. V. K. Melhado (B.W.I.R.), Pte. J. N. Brown (B.W.I.R.), Pte. J. Williams (B.W.I.R.), H. B. Sturridge, Pte. H. Lockett, Pte. James Roberts, C.Q.M.S. A. G. Pinto (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. O. Berry, Lieut.-Cpl. D. Russell (B.W.I.R.), Sgt.-Drummer McCormack.
 ST. KITTS.—Major Edmund C. Branch, R.A.M.C.
 ST. LUCIA.—Pte. J. H. MacPhail.
 ST. VINCENT.—Lieut. R. Maurice Hughes.
 TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. C. McDonald de Nobrega, 2nd Lieut. Ronald Maingot, Gunner B. L. Govia, Gunner S. Radcliffe Clarke, Gunner R. B. D. Campbell, Cadet M. A. K. Smith, P. D. Ince, Pte. P. J. Stone, G. W. Hodge, Lieut. E. K. Bynoe (B.W.I.R.), Lieut.-Cpl. E. Billonin, Pte. H. Glynn-Kellman, J. A. Herrera, Pte. Donald Lede (B.W.I.R.).

HOMEWARD MAILS.

The British Honduras Fire.

Reference was made in last CIRCULAR to the calamity which had befallen British Honduras through the untimely death of Mr. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., the Governor. The circumstances of the disaster through which it resulted are now recounted by the Hon. G. E. Grabham, our Hon. Correspondent in the colony.

Mr. Grabham writes under date August 21st :—
 " You will be sorry to hear of the terrible calamity which has befallen the Colony. On Saturday, the 17th, about 7 p.m., a fire broke out either in the Post Office or the District Commissioner's Court, which forms part of the same building, and before it could be got under control the following buildings were destroyed : The Government Offices, the Supreme Court, the Surveyor-General's Office, the Post Office, the District Commissioner's Court, the Government Printing Press, F. R. Dragten's, Price and Phillip's Office, Price's and Krug's dwelling-house and Harley's Store. Many of the records have been saved, but lots have been lost, among them being the Colony's Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the Post Office Savings

Bank accounts, all the Parcel Post that had been accumulating for three months, including a large number of Red Cross packages, the result of the work of the ladies of the Colony, under Miss Hart-Bennett's organisation. The total monetary loss must be between \$250,000 and \$300,000, and as all the Government buildings and property are uninsured, the loss on the Colony will be at the very least \$150,000.

The worst calamity, however, is a terrible injury to Mr. Hart-Bennett, who was standing in the street, watching the fire, when some senseless person detached a small flag-staff from the top of a house, nowhere near the fire, and threw it down without a word of warning ; it caught His Excellency on the top of his head, crushing the skull. He was taken immediately to the hospital and operated on. He lies in a most critical condition at the time of writing. The greatest grief is felt, for both he and Miss Hart-Bennett have endeared themselves to all classes. He is one of the ablest men the Colony has had to administer its affairs. He had endless schemes in view for improvements, and we all felt that, under his guidance, the Colony's development would be rapid. I know he is very interested in the West India Committee."

As announced in last CIRCULAR, Mr. Hart-Bennett succumbed to his injuries, and we shall, we know, be voicing the feeling of all our readers when we express the deepest sympathy with the people of British Honduras in their misfortunes.

ANTIGUA—A Ban on Allen Preachers.

An Ordinance which recently received the assent of the Acting-Governor, provides that no alien shall engage in religious or educational work without the permission of the Governor. Another Ordinance empowers the Governor to prohibit the importation of goods. Holders of retail liquor licences are restricted to the hours, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. They may not on any one day dispose of, to any one person, more than one bottle of whisky, brandy or gin, respectively, or two pints (one bottle) of rum, without authority.

BAHAMAS—Labourers for War Work.

Representatives of the U.S. Government Labour Department and the Mason and Hangar Contracting Co., are now in Nassau for the purpose of recruiting, if possible, 3,000 labourers for emergency war work, such as constructing docks, warehouses, barracks and hospitals in the port of Charleston, South Carolina, which bids fair to rival in a short time the other great American shipping centres. Within a few weeks over 1,400 men have been shipped from Nassau and a large influx from the out islands was expected. The pay offered is 13/7 per working day of 10 hours and living accommodation is provided free of charge. It has been estimated that about 25 per cent. of the spurious population have enrolled, but in view of prevailing conditions this should not adversely affect the industry. At least 30 or 40 per cent. of the men's wages will probably go back to the Colony.

BARBADOS—Nitrate of Soda arrives.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, August 1st.—On July 27th the long-expected steamer, with the cargo of nitrate of soda, arrived.—A few showers fell during the month, which was sufficient to keep the young crops green ; August has opened well, for the rain is now falling and we must have had at least one inch in Bridgetown ; from appearance the rain has been fairly general throughout the island.

Yesterday, Mr. H. Haskell, of Harrison College, was married to Miss Robinson, daughter of Mr. S. S. Robinson, of Constant ; the happy couple have gone down to Batsheba for the honeymoon.

AUGUST 8th.—On the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war a very successful public meeting was held on the Garrison Savannah, at which the usual resolution was passed. The speeches were most interesting.

BRITISH GUIANA—Chinese labour desired.

Mr. J. C. McCOWAN, August 7th.—The British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association thank the West India Committee for their efforts towards getting the Colony reliable supplies of sulphate of ammonia, which will be distributed far more equitably than they were in the previous year. At a meeting of the Association on July 29th, Mr. Robert Straug was elected Chairman for the current year. Messrs. T. Y. Delafons, A. E. Bratt, P. Cressall, F. C. S. Bascom, and M. B. G. Austin were elected members of the Council. Mr. Chillowan was re-appointed Secretary and Treasurer.

There have been two disasters with boats returning from Grants in the interior, and capsizing in one of the Falls on the way down, resulting in a good many fatalities. These occurrences, which at one time were very frequent, have been rare in recent years. Bishop Galton, who was involved in one of these accidents, has returned to town from a visit to the Rupununi District.

There was a meeting of the Council yesterday afternoon, when the question was raised as to the possibility of obtaining after the War any of the Chinese Military labourers, now employed on the Western Front, for labour on the estates here. The urgent need of additional labour in the Colony is becoming more apparent every day, as with increased wages on the estates the individual output has been considerably lessened. Mr. C. Farrar has also been elected a member of our Council.

JAMAICA—The Financial Outlook.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, in notifying his approval of the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Colony, says that the situation revealed—an anticipated surplus of £74—requires careful attention, and that if expenditure cannot be reduced fresh taxation appears to be desirable. There has been gazetted the Regulation of the United States Trade Board, restricting the importation of cocoa to an amount not exceeding 30,000 tons, during the remainder of the year. Cocoa stocks already on hand in the United States will suffice, it is stated, together with the 30,000 tons of permitted imports until June, 1919. The Registrar-General reports that on December 31st, 1917, the net population of the Colony was 893,884. No East Indian immigrants arrived in the island during the year. Nearly 3,000 marriages were registered during the year, being at the rate of 3.3 per thousand of the population. Births numbered 30,557 (34.1 per thousand), and deaths 24,167 (26.9 per thousand).

The annual report of the Governors of the Institute of Jamaica for the year ended March 31st last shows that 594 works were added to the library. To the Jamaica History Gallery have been added the portraits of Henry Bentinck, Duke of Portland (Governor of Jamaica, 1722-28), Sir Henry Blake (Governor, 1869-98), Simon Bolivar and Mr. Thomas Capper (Superintending Inspector of Schools, 1880-1909). During the year progress has been made in the direction of historical research, and a large amount of valuable information received regarding the Spanish occupation of Jamaica.

MONTserrat—Gloomy Cotton Outlook.

Mr. K. P. PENCHOEN, AUGUST 8th.—We are having one of the driest years ever experienced, and the outlook for a cotton crop is at present very gloomy.—A cricket match and fete on August 5th, in aid of the Red Cross, cleared £18.—Planters are disappointed at the price realised for our first shipload of cotton taken over by the Government, viz., 3/- to 3/4 per lb.—as 3/6 was being paid here for the same article.

ST. LUCIA—Position of Savings Bank.

The report of the Treasurer on the Savings Bank for 1917 shows that the amount to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was £21,239, or £1,153 less than at the beginning of the year. This decline, it is stated, may be due to the business done by the Colonial Bank, which pays the same rate of interest as the Government, and may also be attributed to the higher cost of living and the consequent reduction in the saving ability of the depositors, who numbered on December 31st, 1,322, or 24 less than on January 1st.

ST. VINCENT—Red Cross Effort.

The cause of the sick and wounded of British and Allied forces has always received warm and practical support in this island, and arrangements are already afoot to rally to the call to observe "Our Day," fixed by the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, for October 24th. A committee of ladies, under the chairmanship of Mrs. C. E. F. Richards, formed to raise contributions for Red Cross work, has decided to hold an afternoon fete in the grounds of the Court House, at Kingston, on October 2nd. A dramatic entertainment is also to be given at the Court House on "Our Day."

A comparative statement of revenue for the year 1917-18 shows an income of £37,534; expenditure working out at £34,555.

Mr. W. N. SANDS, AUGUST 7th.—The ginning of the 1917-18 Sea Island cotton crop was recently completed, and the output was 914 bales of 360 lbs each, as against 444 bales in the previous year; this is an increase of 470 bales, or nearly 106 per cent. in one season. The cotton cultivations are making good progress so far, and a much larger acreage than last season has been planted in view of the arrangements made for the purchase of the cotton on the spot, and the measures adopted and advised by the Agricultural Department for the control of certain notorious pests, such as cotton stainer and hush bug.

Some of our so-called minor industries continue to make progress, and the following export figures for 1917 may be of interest:—Sugar: 1,264,201 lbs.; and syrup and molasses 81,114 gals; Corn (maize): 2,835 bushels to the United Kingdom and neighbouring colonies, besides that used for domestic consumption soon after it was reaped. 2,346 bushels were kiln-dried at the Government Ginny and stored for use in the earlier part of 1918. 14,244 bushels of Pea-nuts, valued at £6,380, were sent to neighbouring colonies. Peas: 4,551 bushels.

Public meetings were held throughout the Colony on the evening of the 3rd instant, the fourth anniversary of the commencement of the Great War, when addresses of loyalty to His Majesty the King and resolutions expressing the determination of the inhabitants of this colony to do all that is possible to assist the Imperial Government in bringing the war to a victorious end, were adopted.

An atmospheric disturbance passed the island on the 1st inst., the barometer falling to 29.800 inches. Heavy rains and high winds, more particularly in the Carib Country, were experienced. Little damage was done to crops, but Mr. W. H. Barnard's sloop *Lady Murray*, was driven ashore off Georgetown and wrecked. Messrs. Hazell's sloop, the *May Queen*, just managed to get away in time from the same locality by putting to sea, eventually arriving at St. Lucia. The disturbance has since been recorded from Jamaica, where some damage has been caused by it.

Mr. V. P. Drayton, eldest son of the late Colonial Secretary of Grenada, and Chief Clerk in the Government Office and Clerk of Councils, has been transferred to St. Lucia, to occupy a similar but more lucrative post there.

TRINIDAD—The Right of Search.

The Governor has awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decoration to Major G. B. Austin, Trinidad Light Horse.—A new regulation empowers any British naval, military, or police officer to stop, if need be by force, any vessel or boat within the harbour or territorial waters of the colony, and if he has any reason to suspect that such boat is being used for any purpose prejudicial to the public safety or defence of the colony, he may search it and seize any thing which he has reason to believe is being used, or may be used, for the unlawful purpose in question.

The Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire has been conferred upon Dr. J. P. Mahaffy, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, and father of Mr. Arthur William Mahaffy, Administrator of Dominica. Dr. Mahaffy is one of the most eminent, as he is also one of the most cultured, of living Irishmen, and holds the unusual distinction of being a Doctor of Divinity, of Music and of Civil Law.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.

15, SEETHING LANE,

Telegrams—"Carib, London."

LONDON, E.C.3.

September 19th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.**SUGAR.** Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lump, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

Supplies continue to meet with an active demand.

New York duty paid price for the current season remains at 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985 c. and f. New York.

The agreement regarding the price for next season's Cuban crop, to which we referred in last summary, appears to have given satisfaction to the producers, who now contemplate a further increase in production. The increase in the f.o.b. price to \$5.40 should go far towards compensating the producers for the increased cost of labour and materials, which are always on the up grade. Since the outbreak of war the Cuban crop has increased by 752,000, and while recent negotiations were proceeding the Czarnikow-Rionda Company expressed the belief that Cuba could "doubtless continue producing still more if the price is made remunerative to the planter." Among British colonies the most notable increase has been that in British Guiana, whose output has risen 16,226 tons from 103,774 tons to 120,000 tons. Trinidad's production has increased in the same period by 20,893 tons and Jamaica's by 14,417 tons. In Cuba, as elsewhere, the question has become one of labour for harvesting the cane. If this can be provided the possibilities of development are still great, not only in Cuba but also in British Guiana, and it is noteworthy that the Sugar Planters' Association in the latter country are urging a revival of Chinese immigration.

The United States Government has made arrangements with the Dutch to ship a large part of the 1918 Java crop to the American market in Dutch steamers now lying in East India ports. This will, it is believed, involve the movement of 100,000 tons of sugar, for which 40 or more vessels will be used.

Messrs. William Coumal & Co. report, under date August 31st, that 188,763 tons of sugar, including 26,212 British West India, 590 Brazil, 119,076 Cuba and 31,686 Java were imported into Clyde from July 1st. The stocks in Clyde are now 46,479 tons, against 26,179 in 1917 and 7,273 in 1916.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on September 14th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 26,377 | 61,632 | 43,514 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 27,684 | 57,325 | 44,717 .. |
| Stock (Sept 14th) ... | 9,680 | 12,322 | 9,902 .. |

RUM. The Government has again declined to sanction the importation of rum, and the congestion in the bonds and warehouses in British Guiana and Jamaica has become a serious matter. The resumption of the acceptance of alcohol for munitions purposes, for which freight will be provided, may ease matters provided that some agreement as to the price can be arrived at.

The stocks in London on September 14th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Jamaica | 4,762 | 9,244 | 8,860 puns. |
| Demerara | 8,028 | 10,426 | 13,555 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 17,800 | 31,276 | 37,774 .. |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading in London and Liverpool. The general position remains unchanged, but we still hold the view that further importations will become necessary as the value of cocoa is increasingly recognised. Chocolate forms, it is said, part of the ration of the United States soldiers, and it should be more freely used for the British "Tommy" in view especially of its recognised nutritive qualities. Exports from Trinidad to August 3rd were 43,358,900 lbs., as against 63,184,400 lbs. for the same period in 1917.

[The stocks in London on September 14th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 4,365 | 26,849 | 24,400 bags. |
| Grenada | 3,691 | 28,453 | 16,280 .. |
| Total of all kinds ... | 132,628 | 272,125 | 229,144 .. |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz.: ordinary 38d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d., subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. West Indian imports from January 1st to September 12th were 2,941 bales. The fine spinners in Lancashire have been out on strike, but prospects of a settlement are favourable.

COPRA. The market continues unchanged. The value to U.K. is £46 c.i.f. del. weight terms, while to Marseilles we quote £90 same terms nominally.

Controlled price, £46 c.i.f. landed in Liverpool.

ARROWROOT. No change, awaiting expected near arrivals. Fair demand. No supplies in first hands. Buyers up to 1/6.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected, value about 6/- to 6/3. Handpressed quiet, value 15/- to 16/6. Lime Juice: Concentrated, quiet but steady. Raw quiet. Sellers fine quality 4/6. Citrate quiet.

SPICES. Pimento: Some business has been done at 6d. c.i.f. for parcels afloat, but the enquiry is less active and buyers are now holding off.

HONEY. About 10/- to 12/6 dearer. Chilean sold in Liverpool at 193/6 to 210/- landed terms. Jamaica afloat at 200/- c.i.f.; Haytian 197/6 to 195/-; Cuban 192/6 to 195/- c.i.f.

RUBBER. Steady but quiet. Crepe 2/2½, S.R. Sheet 2/1¼. Para weak at 3/7 sellers, after 3/8 buyers.

BALATA. Market steady. Venezuela block quoted 3/4½ to 3/4¼ c.i.f. in the absence of sellers prices must be taken as nominal. Panama block, small sales made at 3/- c.i.f. Tumaco block quoted 3/2 c.i.f. West Indian sheet. Business done in forward positions at 3/10½ c.i.f. Spot quoted 4/2.

PETROLEUM. Trinidad's exports from January 1st to August 3rd were 22,677,854 galls., as against 18,558,499 galls. for the same period in 1917. The Leaseholds, Ltd., produced 18,000 tons in August.

WANTS.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated and accompanied by a remittance, should be sent to the Manager, the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

ENGLISHMAN (41), with 15 years' all-round practical and scientific experience in Cane and the management of Cane-Sugar Properties in Demerara, Hawaii, Argentine and Cuba, desires appointment. At present Assistant Manager, 35,000 ton factory in Cuba. Expert agriculturist. Competent administrator and very successful with labour. Keen, hard worker. Perfect Spanish. Best credentials. Address "Hawlej" c/o WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

TROPICAL FRUIT.—Gentleman (ineligible), over twenty years' experience in U.S.A. and South Africa growing Marketing Citrus Fruit, seeks position.—"C.F." c/o WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 1918.

Subscription £1. 7s. per Ann. Post Free.
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The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 15, SREETHING LANE,
66½ CENTRAL. LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.

October 3rd, 1918.

West Indians in Palestine.

WEST INDIANS in every part of the world will have experienced a thrill of pride, as we did, on learning from GENERAL ALLENBY'S official report, published on September 24th, that their fellow-countrymen were participating in the victorious operations against the Turks in Palestine. The GENERAL reported: "East of the Jordan the enemy is withdrawing towards Amman, on the Hedjaz Railway, pursued by Australian, New Zealand, West Indian and Jewish troops, which have reached Es Salt, capturing guns and prisoners." As this is, we believe, the first occasion on which the West Indian Contingent has been mentioned in one of the daily communiqués, we need make no apology for having quoted the GENERAL'S *ipsissima verba*, and we need hardly say that particulars of the part which the British West Indies Regiment took in the signal victory which the Allied troops have won over the Turks will be awaited with deep interest. Meanwhile, it would appear from the accounts of the fighting given by the war correspondents, that the West Indians greatly distinguished themselves in a charge. Thus MR. W. T. MASSEY, in a report from Palestine Headquarters, dated September 27th, and published in the *Times* on the 28th, wrote: "The Anzac Mounted Division east of the Jordan, assisted by some infantry, including a battalion of British West Indians, whose gallant bayonet charge on the banks of the Jordan won the admiration of the Colonial veterans, knew the country, having made two dashing raids and inflicted damage on the Hedjaz Railway. They droye the Turks and Germans out of Amman, though the presence there of Germans indicated what deep importance the enemy

set upon this section of the line." It would appear that the British West Indies Regiment was brigaded with Australians, a very happy arrangement, in view of the fact that the West Indians in every theatre of war, and even when on leave in this country, have made closer friends with the men from "down under" than with those from any other of the Dominions and the English Tommies. It is noteworthy that the battalions of our Regiment serving in Palestine and Egypt are the most cosmopolitan of any—and we limit the adjective to our little West Indian world—including as they do men from every one of our colonies in the Caribbean Sea, besides British Guiana and British Honduras. These same men, it will be recalled, partook in the capture of Gaza, and the news of their fresh success will, we may be sure, be received with acclamation throughout the West Indies.

Agriculture in St. Lucia.

THE report of MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS on the Agricultural Department of St. Lucia for the year ending March 31st last, covers much interesting ground. The output of staple products in the island showed some falling off during the year, but this was not due to any slackening of effort on the part of the Agricultural Department, but to extraneous causes. Thus sugar was severely handicapped by the inability to obtain Sulphate of Ammonia, while cocoa suffered from shipping difficulties, though it is noted that the increased consumption of native cocoa locally contributed towards the reduction in exports by 2,859 cwt. The lime trade also experienced a set back, the exports expressed in barrels of fruit falling from 22,489 to 18,180 barrels, owing to lack of shipping opportunities. The coco-nut industry on the other hand showed further gratifying expansion, the total number of nuts shipped amounting to 139,096, or more than double that of 1915—a small enough figure, it is true, but it is added that continued attention has been paid to the planting of larger areas in coco-nuts, and further expansion of this industry would therefore appear to be assured. MR. BROOKS is also able to report further progress in connection with the production of honey. Now that lime planting has become general, increased attention is being paid to bee keeping by lime growers, as the value of bees in fertilizing the flowers, thus producing larger crops of fruit, is becoming more generally recognised. The gratifying result is that the exports of honey show an increase of 17,389 lbs. during the last two years, the exports in 1917 reaching 46,724 lbs. Another flourishing minor industry in the island is that of tanning, the progress of which is reflected

by a decrease of 6,570 in the exports of hides since 1915. Several pages of the report are devoted to the visit of the entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who investigated the black weevil banana borer and various other insect and fungus pests, against which MR. BROOKS has declared war. Agricultural education also receives attention, and one of the most important parts of the report deals with the formation and work of the Economic Products Committee, which was formed with the HON. G. D. MACKIE as chairman, to encourage agriculture and to consider what products were capable of profitable development, with a view of keeping present proprietors on the land and of preventing them from drifting into the towns or emigrating. It is recognised that the peasant grower, even more than the estate owner, is going to be the Colony's chief asset, the coal trade being a subsidiary industry which cannot be depended upon to continue on its former scale, and MR. BROOKS acknowledges the assistance which this Committee has given him in dealing with the numerous complex questions which constantly arise. To meet the threatened food crisis a Government granary was erected near the lime-juice factory, and active steps were taken to encourage the raising of ground provisions. Following the success of the Government lime-juice factory, which has now been accepted as a model for many factories elsewhere, enquiries having been received from such far away Colonies as Ceylon and Fiji regarding it, steps were taken to establish a coco-nut oil factory, where various products obtained from coco-nuts could be manufactured, and a definite scheme was drawn up for the consideration of the Economic Products Committee. We gather from the report that the Agricultural Credit System is making headway in the island in spite of persistent efforts made in some quarters to prevent peasants from becoming members, and of attempts being made in some instances to induce them to resign their membership. During the year four new societies were registered at Vieux Fort, Gros Islet, Anse-la-Raye and Castries, whose members brought the total of those of all registered societies in the island to 374. Reporting upon their work MR. A. R. A. BEAUBRUN says that usury is still rampant in the island. The class of man who usuriously exacts interest from the peasants of the Colony being still very active. As we anticipated, the withdrawal of the troops from St. Lucia in 1905, which was at the time regarded as a grave misfortune, has proved after all to be a blessing in disguise, inasmuch as it has awakened people in the island to the matters of developing the agricultural industries of the island.

APPARENTLY restrictions are to be imposed on travel from the West Indies to the United States. It is announced in the Trinidad Press that the American Consul in that Colony will refuse to *visé* passports in connection with travel to the Republic unless reasons for the journey can be shown.

THE engagement is announced of Miss Audrey Beeton, second daughter of Mr. Mayson M. Beeton, formerly Secretary of the Anti-Bounty League, and Mrs. Beeton, of St. James' Court, London, S.W., and Fleet-Surgeon G. Murray Levick, R.N., son of Mr. George Levick and the late Mrs. Levick, of Buxted, Sussex.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"NEVER throw 'way your stick till you get a top of hill."

THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY has suspended its operations with shredded cane.

IN the five years, 1913-1917, 214,431 immigrants of all nationalities reached Cuba.

THE Rev. Alfred Brown, who worked for twenty-five years in Jamaica, has just been appointed Vicar of St. Matthew's, Duddleston.

A NEW Jute Prices Order controls the price of goods made from jute. Incidentally this should prevent speculation in sugar- and cocoa-bags.

MEANWHILE it may be noted that the 1918 jute crop is estimated at 6,945,631 bales, as against 8,904,364 bales last year.

THE Board of Referees has fixed the statutory percentage, under the Excess Profits Duty provisions of the Finance Acts, for companies engaged in oil production in Trinidad at 14 per cent.

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. C. ANDERSON is relinquishing his appointment as Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Trinidad, as, owing to the state of his health, his doctors will not allow him to return to the island.

THE Bishop of Islington is to preside at a meeting at the Church House, Westminster, on October 10th, at 3.30 p.m., at which the Bishop of Jamaica, Canon Ripley, and others will speak on behalf of the Jamaica Church Association.

NOTICE is given in the *London Gazette* that the Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., the London and West Indies Trading Co., Ltd., and the Jamaica Laundry Co., Ltd., are to be struck off the register unless cause is shown to the contrary.

COMMENTING on the decision of the British Government to resume full liberty of action with respect to its sugar policy the official *Board of Trade Journal* says: "H.M. Government have now approved the principle of giving preference to Empire sugar, although in so doing they will have careful regard to the interests of their Allies and particularly to the necessity of aiding those who have suffered special economic injury from the ravages of war."

UNITED STATES' imports of balata during the year ended June 13, 1917 (according to a return published in the current issue of the *India Rubber World*), included 45,371 lbs. from the West Indies, valued at \$27,824. This total is exclusive of the 235,598 lbs., valued at \$150,102, sent by British Guiana. These imports, however, are quite overshadowed by the quantity despatched by Dutch Guiana—588,468 lbs., valued at \$398,670.

IN Martinique the cane crop for 1918 is also below the average. Here the cause is represented by the ravages of the root borer, which have increased in virulence and extent. Rum, which has experienced enhanced prosperity elsewhere, has been brought to a standstill, the distilleries being closed. This unhappy situation is stated by the American Consul to be due to the stoppage of licenses of vessels for France which usually takes the entire output.

IN view of the bright hopes excited in connection with the bauxite industry in British Guiana, there will be general regret that lack of shipping facilities, due to the War, has caused the operations of the Demerara Bauxite Co. to be suspended. The company, the local branch of the American Aluminium Co., have sent down from the Demerara River the majority of their employees, and

practically the entire staff has been allowed to return to the United States. When conditions are more favourable, operations will be resumed.

The United States' custodian of naval property is reported to have seized a complete naval base at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, standing in the name of the Hamburg-America Line. The company made fruitless efforts to transfer the property to a Danish lawyer practising in the islands. St. Thomas used to be the West Indian headquarters of the Hamburg-America Line, whose vessels made over 200 entries every year at Charlotte Amalia. It is alleged that an 8 feet concrete emplacement suitable for a heavy gun was found on their property.

West Indians will be interested in the latest returns of the sugar and rum industries conducted by their French neighbours in Guadeloupe and Martinique. In Guadeloupe, last year, rum displaced sugar as the principal article of export. War has greatly stimulated the production of rum, the quantity sent away from the island in 1917 being 3,342,690 gallons as against 3,278,442 in the previous year. Sugar, on the other hand, has declined from 37,592 tons in 1916 to 34,028 tons. The American Consul attributes the decline partly to the fillip given to rum manufacture.

The Postmaster-General announces that the under-mentioned mails have been lost at sea through enemy action:—

| Destination. | Approx. dates of posting Letters, etc. | Approx. dates of posting Parcels. |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| British Guiana ... | Sept. 12-16 ... | No parcels. |
| Trinidad and Tobago ... | Sept. 12-16 ... | Aug. 30-Sept. 16. |
| St. Vincent ... | Sept. 12-16 ... | Aug. 30-Sept. 16. |
| Barbados ... | Aug. 30-Sept. 16 | Aug. 30-Sept. 16. |
| Grenada ... | Aug. 30-Sept. 16 | No parcels. |

It is satisfactory to learn that the oil-producing possibilities of British Guiana are likely before long to be put definitely to the test. It will be recalled that we were authorised to contradict a statement that a company, of which Lord Condray was chairman, had secured a 2,000 square miles' concession, and it now appears that it is with Mr. T. Elliott Alves that negotiations, which it is understood are nearing completion, have been proceeding. Mr. Alves is chairman of the Bolivar Concessions (1917) Ltd., and of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions Ltd., a company in which the Shell group is interested.

The Bolivar Concessions has a capital of £200,000, of which £143,880 has been issued. On April 25th last the shareholders approved an agreement for the sale of the assets to Sperling & Co. for £800,000, which was to be satisfied by the allotment of \$4,000,000 convertible 7 per cent. non-cumulative preferred stock of the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., a Company formed in Canada with a capital of \$12,500,000.

The Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., which owns an oil concession of over 3,000 square miles in Maracaibo and Bolivar, subject to a royalty of 10d. per ton on the gross production, has an authorised capital of £500,000, of which £355,000 has been issued. An arrangement has been arrived at with the Shell Transport and Trading Co., Ltd., by which that Company advances to the Concessions Co. £50,000, the Shell receiving three shares for £2 and the right to subscribe for 205,000 additional Ordinary Shares on the same terms. Within one year of peace or the complete removal of Treasury control a Company is to be formed with a capital of £3,000,000 to acquire the whole concession, including asphalt rights.

The sugar industry in Barbados is the subject of a lengthy article published by the *Louisiana Planter*, and suggested by the report of the Barbados Department of Agriculture covering the years 1916 and 1917. "It is very pleasant," adds the *Planter*, "to read Professor Bovell's excellent report and to note how Barbados or 'Little Britain,' the sugar bowl of the British West Indies that lagged behind during the last hundred years, is now coming to the front again.

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The epidemic of strikes, which has shamed us in the face of our Allies, culminated in the railway strike, for which the men had no case, and there was a strong one against them. Apparently the Government, which has encouraged the disease by giving way to these profiteers, for that is what they are, took a firm stand. Last week the leaders of the cotton strike in Manchester were informed that it was illegal to issue strike pay, and the railwaymen found that the War Cabinet has been intimidated for the last time. Many measures can be taken to deal with the situation, as the strikers very well know, and as soon as they understand that neither the nation nor the Government mean to be trifled with, the whole miserable business fizzled out, their own leader, after appealing in vain to their patriotism, having resigned. In the meantime the conduct of the War was being hampered in the interest of the enemy.

On the Western Front.

The advance of the British has been so marked towards crumbling the Hindenburg line that they have recovered all that they lost in the spring, including Passchendaele and Wyttschaete and have gained the "switch" line. The only set-back our troops received was at Mœuvres, where nine Highlanders held their ground for two days, confident that their comrades would quickly return, which they did two days later. Between Holnon and Gonzeaucourt, on a front of sixteen miles, the Third and Fourth Armies swept irresistibly forward in a heavy storm, taking by assault the outer works of the Hindenburg system in this sector, and capturing 6,000 prisoners, a highly successful action in which the French co-operated. Next day a further inroad was made, while beating off fierce enemy counter-attacks, one of the most important positions occupied having been Pontrust. In these operations, in which the fighting was stubborn, 10,000 prisoners were taken. To the south, in conjunction with the French, the enveloping movement in Vermand to the north-west of St. Quentin, has progressed by the occupation of Selency. This advance is being continued by further nibbling at line, resulting in gains of strongly defended positions, including an intricate system of trenches, woods, and villages. In the district where Epehy points a finger at Le Catalet, a railway junction and buttress of the Hindenburg line, the battle was continued, not directly towards St. Quentin, but towards Cambrai, the 46th Division covering itself with glory by crossing the Escaut Canal, where the fortress of Bellenglise is considered the strongest defence on the Western Front, and drove right through the Hindenburg labyrinth far beyond to Joincourt. But all along the sixteen mile front splendid progress was made, the gains including Bourlon and Bourlon Wood, Marcoing and Flesquieres, Masnieres and Rumilly. So rapid has the advance been, indeed, that the Anglo-American forces are close to Cambrai and closing in on that important railway centre.

In the north the Anglo-Belgian forces are en-

circling the Houthoult Forest and threatening Roulers and Menin. In co-operation with the Navy the Allies on this front advanced four miles, capturing Dixmude, the scene of fierce fighting for three years, and took more ground in one day than was won in this sector in three months, from June to November last year.

A Blow on the New Front.

During the past fortnight the French have continued to advance towards the Chemin des Dames, between the Oise and the Aisne, nibbling here and there in the enemy's line as opportunity offered. But further east preparation was being made for a new offensive, French and Americans co-operating. On the 16th of September General Gouraud, by a feint, drew the Germans into an immense trap, which, when they expected a victory, nearly involved them in disaster. For he and General Pershing suddenly launched an attack on a front of forty miles between Rheims and Verdun, that is to say on both sides of the Argonne Forest. The movement on the Chemin des Dames from the west has declined with the stiffening of the enemy's resistance. The battle is progressing favourably, the Americans having penetrated the enemy's lines to an average depth of seven miles, and captured 8,000 prisoners, besides such important positions as Montfaucou, the best observatory on the left bank of the Meuse, Vanquois, which was so bitterly contested in the battle of Verdun, and the outworks of other main positions. The French, on their side, carrying the whole system of first line positions from the Snippe to the Argonne, including the Buttes Tahure and Mesnil, besides the villages of Tahure, Somme-Py, and other shrines of immortal memory in this war. The gains also include the heights of Fontaine and Pinon Forest, besides 10,000 prisoners.

West Indians in Palestine.

In Palestine General Allenby has trapped the flower of the Turkish forces in Palestine. By brilliant strategy he distracted the enemy's attention on his extreme right to Jordan and beyond, the Arabs, under Colonel Lawrence, defeating the Turks to the south of the Dead Sea, and away in the north cut the Hedjaz railway some sixty miles south of Damascus, West Indian troops distinguishing themselves in this operation. By a swift advance up the low road and hill tracks from Jericho, he seized a point which severed the communications linking the main Ottoman Army with the smaller force east of the Jordan. The most decisive stroke was, however, delivered further west. Between Rafat and the Mediterranean, the Navy clearing the coast roads with gunfire, the British burst through all the lines of the Turkish defensive system on a sixteen mile front. By noon the infantry had marched twelve miles, thereby outflanking the mass of the retreating enemy at Lul Keram railway junction. Then came the turn of the cavalry, British, Dominion, and Indian operating on two routes, one making for Samaria in the rear of Nablus, a great road centre and the Turks' local base, the other by a still wider turning movement, sweeping on to El Afuleh, another railway junction, and the Nazareth ridge. Though in places the enemy fought stoutly,

he was so completely out-manceuvred that two of his armies have practically ceased to exist, and the third, which is east of the Jordan, can retreat neither north, south, nor west—the east is the desert. The prisoners number 40,000, the guns captured amount to 260, which means that not a gun has been got away and very few rifles. Moreover, Haifah, the best port on the coast, together with Acre, are ours. The achievement is one of the most remarkable in the War.

Victory in the Balkans.

In this theatre events are moving rapidly in favour of the Allies. Evidently the Franco-Italian operations in July last were undertaken to straighten the line so as to prevent the Austrians from helping the enemy in rear of the present offensive, which was then being organised. It began on the left, with the object of outflanking the Babuna Pass and the equally impregnable position in the centre, against which the British broke their heads in vain two years ago. The Serbians went straight at the formidable peaks themselves, considered by experts as impossible to negotiate, and carried them by assault, when the seven-mile front widened still further to the left, the Jugo-Slavs storming another series of natural fortresses. With these keys to the corridor of the Cerna valley in the hands of the Allies, the cavalry pushed forward, rapidly followed by the infantry with astonishing mobility, considering the nature of the country. Then the Greco-British forces on the right launched a series of attacks in the Struma sector, and the Bulgarian retreat became a rout, since in a mountainous country once a connected line is abandoned another can only be formed in the far rear. But in the meantime the Allies advanced so quickly that the open country was soon reached. The Franco-Serbians captured Prilep, Veles and Ishtip, cutting the railway between it and Gradsko at the junction of the Cerna and Vardar, as well as the main line to Monastir, and moved swiftly up the left bank of the Vardar, while the British progressed, though more slowly, on the right bank. The strategic centre of Serbia, Uskub, was in sight. Then the Bulgarians divided and, relentlessly pursued, surrendered on Allied terms. Bulgaria has been at war continuously for five years, and dare not face an invasion by deeply-wronged Serbia, with elemental ideas of justice. With the linch-pin out of the Quadruple-Alliance in the east events are likely to follow in quick succession.

The Russian Situation.

Both in Siberia and Russia proper the Allies are following the Czechoslovak lead, though their policy is still hesitating. In Siberia, having captured Khabarovsk, the port of the branch railway line running through the Amur Valley, they are engaged in clearing the Ussuri Province; in the south the Cossacks, under General Semenov, are advancing, with Chinese aid from the Manchurian border; while the Czechoslovak, General Gaida, has emerged from the difficult Baikal sector. The Bolsheviks, beaten and harassed, are thus between two fires. General Gaida, who is only 28, while the Allies were thinking about it, settled the question of

the transcontinental railway, which he controls from Samara to Vladivostok, by proclaiming martial law along its entire length, between those two points. In Europe the Czecho-Slovaks are hard pressed on the Middle Volga, the Germans assisting the Bolsheviks to prevent a junction between the Czecho-Slovaks and the Cossacks of the Donetz region. In the north the Allies are slowly working down the Dwina from Archangel to Vologda. According to the latest news they have sunk two enemy ships in the river and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, evidently a successful amphibious operation.

Evacuation of Baku.

A small British Expeditionary Force, which overcame all physical obstacles between Bagdad and Baku in order to help the Russians in holding the route to Central Asia and the eastern shore of the Black Sea has been obliged to withdraw. Fortunately, the Russian Fleet ensured its transport across the Caspian, but not before it had, in a sixteen hours' fight, suffered heavy losses. This gallant adventure, had it been better supported locally, would have check-mated the German designs on the oil region and northern Persia.

The War at Sea.

The official figures for the British shipping losses in August are again satisfactory, showing a decrease over those for July of 6,123 tons and of 222,687, as compared with the figures in the corresponding month of last year. There is an increase of nearly 11,000 tons over the totals for June, the losses in that month having been the lowest since the introduction of unrestricted submarine warfare, but that is partly due to ordinary marine losses, which were unusually heavy in August. It is not until one realises the vital share taken by our Navy and mercantile marine in giving us victory in France, the Balkans, and Palestine, besides maintaining the expeditions in Mesopotamia and on the Arctic coast, and in meeting the tremendous demands upon our resources of the Allies, that one can see the decline of the submarine danger in true proportion. For while the national tonnage lost has been about halved the demands upon it have doubled and trebled, "U"-boats at the same time doing their worst.

An armed boarding-steamer (a type of vessel employed in conveying officers to search merchant vessels in the conduct of the blockade) has been sunk by an enemy submarine, with a loss of 83 lives. A monitor has been sunk in harbour, owing to an internal explosion. At least 77 were lost, not to speak of casualties from the effect of burns. The *Galway Castle*, one of the Union Castle liners, has been sunk by a "U"-boat without warning. Fortunately, the loss of life was not great, thanks to the good rescue work of British destroyers. Those who took to the boats suffered badly from exposure.

In the Air.

Air fighting for the week ending 21st September established a record. The Independent Force dropped more bombs over Germany in five days than at any previous time in a fortnight. In a single

air fight over the German coastal defences in Belgium British airmen destroyed or drove down out of control 18 enemy machines, or nine for each of the two British machines reported missing. In twelve hours British airmen took more aerial photographs of German positions behind the Hindenburg Line than any previously recorded day's total. In the Mihiel salient, on the Belgian coast, and back to the Rhineland as well as in the British fighting zone in France and Flanders, the enemy's military operations are hampered by the ceaseless activity of Allied airmen, not only in delaying the movement of troops and destroying men, but in wrecking transport, aerodromes, factories, and ammunition dumps. During the past fortnight, on the British front in the West, our aviators have destroyed 204 machines and put 87 out of control, besides bringing down at least a dozen night bombers and 20 balloons. Of ours, 118 were reported missing.

(To be continued.)

Events are moving so rapidly that it should be noted that the above article deals only with the situation down to four or five days ago.—Ed.

BISHOP MITCHINSON.

By T. HERBERT BINDLEY, D.D.

The glow of a sudden sunset fell on the eager and indefatigable career of the Right Reverend John Mitchinson, D.D., D.C.L., F.G.S., on September 25th, two days after his 85th birthday. A fine scholar, and not less skilled in the Natural Sciences of geology, botany, and conchology, he was also an archaeologist, a musician, an expert photographer, and, not least, a born schoolmaster and disciplinarian. A Durham man by birth and early education, he passed to Pembroke College, Oxford, a foundation at which he won his academic laurels and to which he was devoted as Fellow, as Honorary Fellow, and as Master for the greater part of his life. He became Headmaster's Assistant at Merchant Taylors at the age of 25, then a year later Head Master of King's School, Canterbury, a post which he held till his elevation to the episcopate in 1873. It is natural for a journal such as this to dwell more upon his work in the West Indies as Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands than upon his earlier and later achievements in England. His oversight of the two dioceses was marked by great vigour, and he threw himself heart and soul into everything to which he put his hand. He was fearless and outspoken, disdaining euphemistic phrases, being characteristically more inclined to the *fortiter in re* than to the *suaviter in modo*. He did not mind treading on people's corns; perhaps he even took a little delight in so doing. But those whose sensibilities he ruffled were generally the first to acknowledge his transparent sincerity and absolute devotion to justice and truth; while many can testify to his real kindness of heart and generosity in giving help where it was needed, both in money and in good offices. On occasion he undertook duties in his own house (Bishop's Court), at Codrington, at Harrisons, and in neighbouring dioceses

out of sheer love of work and the desire to give assistance to those to whom it was of importance. He was a fluent, facile, and felicitous speaker: sometimes (it must be confessed and he himself admitted it) he suffered from *copia fandi*. In point of fact he was impatient of anything and anybody who was not as real and earnest as himself.

If his scheme, as Bishop, for a Cathedral with its Chapter in Barbados fell through, he at least, as Chairman of a Government Commission, remodelled the whole plan of the education of the island with extraordinary success. He was instrumental, too, in the affiliation of Codrington to the University of Durham—in his own phrase “presiding as Juno Lucina over the union” of the older Colonial Foundation with the more modern English University of the north. His sermons were excellent examples of direct personal appeal, not seldom spiced with Attic salt.

After his return to England he took the college benefice of Sibstone, and became assistant Bishop in the Peterborough diocese, rendering constant help also in other dioceses as occasion arose. Finally he filled, for eighteen years, the position of Master of his College and Canon of Gloucester, devoting himself with all his characteristic energy to the duties which those positions involve, and also to a fresh hobby—the collection of views of practically the whole of the monastic remains in England and Wales. Very touching, so long as she was spared to him, was his filial devotion to his mother, who was equally attached to and proud of her son. Nor ought we to leave unmentioned the mutual affection which existed between the Bishop and his coloured personal servant, who as a youth had shared in a dangerous incident with his master in the Caribbean during an episcopal tour amongst the islands. It was always a surprise, and a delightful one, to a West Indian caller to find the door at Sibstone Rectory or at the Master's Lodge at Pembroke opened by a coloured butler, whose undoubted welcome was tempered by anxiety that the Rector or Master should not be unnecessarily disturbed. Dr. Mitchinson was a man of many parts and gifts, who used his talents to the full, and those who knew him best will miss him most.

SIR HENRY BERKELEY.

We regret to state that Sir Henry Spencer Berkeley died at Bures, Suffolk, on Monday, September 30th.

Sir Henry Berkeley, who was successively Solicitor-General of the Leeward Islands, Attorney-General and Chief Justice of Fiji, 1885 to 1892, and Attorney-General from 1902 to 1906 of Hong-kong, was born in 1851, the third son of Mr. T. B. H. Berkeley, of St. Kitts, West Indies. He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1873, and was created a knight in 1896, while Chief Justice of Fiji, where he administered the government and acted as High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on several occasions. He had been a member of the West Sussex County Council since 1913. He leaves a widow, two sons, and three daughters.

MR. W. PETER, Mr. George S. Hudson, and Mr. William Degazan have been reappointed unofficial members of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The membership of the West India Committee continues to expand. It now exceeds 1,800, and we hope to see it at least 2,000 before very long. At a meeting of the Executive, held this afternoon, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--|---|
| 2nd Lieut. W. H. L. Medford, M.C. (Barbados) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Ronald M. J. Gordon (Peru) | Mr. F. J. L. Mure. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Charles A. Smith (Peru) | Mr. F. J. L. Mure. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Maurice Knee (Peru) | Mr. F. J. L. Mure. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Lionel J. Lee (Nigeria) | Mr. F. Evans. Mr. O. E. Whitehead. |
| 2nd Lieut. D. P. Pogson, D.F.C. (Trinidad) | Mr. H. P. Previté. Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| Sergt. Lloyd C. Byer (Barbados) | Mr. R. Rutherford. Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| Rev. John L. Ramson, M.A. (Jamaica) | Dr. A. S. A. Ormsby. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. |
| Mr. William T. E. Richards (Barbados) | Mr. John H. Boyce. Mr. A. S. Bryden. |
| Miss Mary E. H. Jordan (Barbados) | Mr. John H. Boyce. Mr. A. S. Bryden. |
| Mr. E. Martin Haynes (Barbados) | Mr. John H. Boyce. Mr. A. S. Bryden. |
| Mr. John C. Hutson, B.A., Ph.D. (Barbados) | Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. Mr. John Hutson, M.B. |
| Mr. Robert A. Lightbourne (Jamaica) | Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. W. Wilson, O.B.E. |
| Messrs. Leyden & Co., Ltd. (Jamaica) | Mr. A. W. Farquharson. Mr. L. de Mercado. |
| Mr. William J. Norton (Jamaica) | Mr. W. Wilson, O.B.E. Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| Mr. Albert E. Harrison (Jamaica) | Mr. W. Wilson, O.B.E. Mr. W. Baggett Gray. |
| 2nd Lieut. Percy J. Scott (Trinidad) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Christopher W. Vernon (British Honduras) | Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E. Mr. D. B. Evans. |
| Mr. Alexander Nash | Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| Mr. A. T. Cason | Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. Cyril Gurney. |
| 2nd Lieut. J. A. Hadley (Barbados) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Wm. H. Bushell | Mr. R. Rutherford. Mr. G. Moody Stuart. |
| Mr. G. H. Salmon | Mr. C. F. Worters. Mr. Charles Hales. |
| Mr. Robert Nicol (Cameroons) | Mr. F. Evans. Mr. C. G. Sanilford Elvey. |
| Mr. W. K. A. J. C. Hunter (Cameroons) | Mr. F. Evans. Mr. O. E. Whitehead. |

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1914, confined to British subjects. The subscriptions of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. 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. The minimum subscription is £1 ls. or \$5 per annum, and the corresponding subscription for life membership for individuals 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.

MR. J. M. FLEMING, of British Guiana, who had the misfortune to catch measles after his arrival in England in July, is returning very shortly to the colony.

THE BRITISH HONDURAS FIRE.

The Governor's Fatal Accident.

The *Clarion* (Belize), describing the great fire which, on August 17th, destroyed the chief public buildings and several stores, says, news of the outbreak reached a gathering assembled at Government House in aid of the Red Cross:—

"It appears that the Governor, always wishful to get information at first hand, had come out to investigate. He paused for a while in front of Messrs. John Harley & Co.'s store, and was conversing with Mr. A. R. Beattie. Suddenly someone in the crowd said 'Look out Mr. Beattie!' and Mr. Beattie at once stepped back from the building and looked up and saw a falling flag-staff and called out 'Look out, Sir!' The Governor stepped backwards between the two buildings and before any help could be given, received a crushing blow on his bare head from the end of the pole. But for the fact that the pole in its descent was somewhat deflected by the net work of wires at the spot he must have been instantly killed. As it was his skull was battered and he bled profusely. Medical aid was promptly at hand. Dr. Heusner at once rendered assistance and ordered him to be taken to the hospital.

"Assisted by Mr. Grant and the Rev. J. B. Brindley, the Governor was supported to Albert Street, where Col. Cran's car was brought, and the party at once drove off to the hospital. Up to the time the Governor was got in the car, though he must have suffered terribly, he retained consciousness and was able to speak, but on the car starting he fainted. Later it was learned that he had undergone an operation and that the wound in the skull was extensive, and, while life was not despaired of, the case was most serious and might prove fatal. Needless to say everything that medical skill and care could do has and will be done to save a life so important to the destinies of this unfortunate Colony.

"It appears that the author of this appalling accident—by accident it undoubtedly was—was a simple youth named Frazer or King, an employee of the firm, who had been sent up to take down the flag flying on the staff and losing his head dislodged the staff, which, being weighty, slipped from his hands and fell—he being too frightened at its sudden descent to utter a sound."

Origin of the Outbreak.

The *Clarion* is satisfied that the fire originated in the District Commissioner's Court Room. Our contemporary continues:—

"Owing to the coming into force of the Conscription Ordinance, and the Registration Order made thereunder, this office has of late been kept open late every night to enable men to register. It was so kept open on Saturday last, and the clerk in charge left the office about 6.15 and noticed nothing unusual. He had occasion to return to the office some three quarters of an hour later and on opening the door discovered that the place was on fire under the steps leading to the gallery at the back of the Court Room, situate in the part of the building used by the Post Office. He at once gave the alarm to the police, who told him to ring the bell himself. According to those living near the fire the alarm was sounded at 7.10 but it was not till some time after that the men of the Brigade turned out in any force. One of the engines was in the station up to a short time before the floor fell in, two men were endeavouring to get it out and called upon another man for assistance, who said, 'No, not for hell!' Time was again consumed in getting the engine to work and further delay was caused by lack of fresh water for the boiler so that steam went down. By the time water was flowing through the pipes the fire had made such headway that it was impossible to save the public buildings."

The *Clarion* calls for re-organisation both of the Fire Brigade and Police Force.

THE EFFECT OF PREFERENCE.

Cautious Comment regarding British Guiana.

The *International Sugar Journal*, while welcoming the news that the British Government has decided to resume full liberty of action in respect of their policy in regard to sugar, refuses to endorse exaggerated estimates of the effects of the policy on the fortunes of British Guiana.

It says, in the course of an interesting article:—

The present area of 78,000 acres is obviously capable of considerable augmentation, but it is certainly premature to lay so much stress on the outside figure of 2,000,000 acres which the Department of Agriculture in the colony are inclined to fix as the maximum possible area. Independent experts who know the sugar industry in general and are not unacquainted with that carried on in British Guiana are dubious as to any such vast extension being possible. It is indeed considerably higher than the figure suggested by the West India Committee in 1916, in a Memorandum regarding the possible development of British sugar, forwarded to the Prime Minister, when 2½ million tons of sugar (as compared with four million tons which we note is claimed to be the possible output from the two million acres) was put forward as British Guiana's achievable quota. Even the latter more moderate estimate is on the high side.

"It is a big jump from the 100,000 tons per annum, the average of past decades, to 2½ million tons, and it has yet to be shown that even a tariff preference will be sufficient to overcome so completely the obstacles that have severally tended to keep that colony's sugar production down to its present modest dimensions. Other estimates which have been put forward just lately confine themselves to suggesting what might be done in the existing sugar districts. It is claimed that even with the present labour supply the area now under cultivation could yield 128,000 tons of sugar per annum, while with an ample supply of labour an average annual output of 320,000 tons could be secured from established areas. But everything seems to depend on the labour question which remains perhaps the most disquieting feature of the situation. Unless this is satisfactorily solved, it will not be possible to entertain any prospects of vast extension.

More Caution Desirable.

"We have no intention of belittling the undoubted power of expansion which the British Guiana sugar industry possesses and will be able to develop once the scheme of preference is in full swing. We are anxious to see this colony a very appreciable contributor to the supply of sugar needed in the United Kingdom in future years. But we think that when reckoning up possibilities more caution might be maintained, and a much less extensive increase be allowed for till it is known by definite statistics how expansion is actually developing. For otherwise if preliminary estimates of an ambitious nature are not fulfilled, it may lead to a reaction at home, which may have injurious political effects as far as the sugar industry is concerned. The apostles of cheap sugar at any price (of whom a good few will always exist) will be quick to seize on any alleged evidence that Imperial Preference is not producing the benefits which were anticipated by its keenest advocates, and thereupon will seek to deprive the latter of their preferential advantages.

"One must not forget how persistently it was advocated by this school of thought that the Brussels Convention had been of no benefit to our sugar colonies—mainly because the degree of benefit which was obtained was much less than was alleged to have been expected. The fact was, the Convention saved our Colonies from ruin, which was some achievement, but it was not (as far as the British interpretation of it was concerned) calculated to encourage any real expansion, and till the political horizon was more settled one way or the other, capital, that indispensable factor, withheld its assistance. Now, we have little doubt, capital will enter the arena; but unfortunately the democratic character of the world war has raised a fresh and

unprecedented industrial labour problem and this may have such far-reaching effects that the sugar industry everywhere will have to readjust its idea of costs of production, and, whatever happens, it may be assumed that the old day of cheap and coloured labour will not return."

PAPER-MAKING FROM MEGASS.

Mr. Eckart, manager of Olaa Plantation, Hawaii, whose novel system of mulching by spreading strips of paper—impenetrable to weeds—over the cane rows was described in the CIRCULAR* last year, has been investigating the paper-making situation. On his return, and after consultation, the directors of Olaa voted to set aside an appropriation sufficient to construct a megass-paper mill at Olaa, capable of manufacturing 16½ tons of paper a day. Its purpose primarily will be to produce the heavy mulching paper experimentally adopted on Olaa last year as a means of preventing the growth of weeds in the early stages of the sugar cane crop. It is said, however, that the mill can be made to manufacture other papers of many grades, ranging from the ordinary brown wrapping paper and cardboard, to supercalendered stock such as that used by magazines.

Mr. Eckart says that the amount of bagasse required for the output of 16½ tons a day will take only about 10 per cent. of all bagasse created in the Olaa mills, and that this first plant will be so built that additions may be made later, until the entire bagasse out-turn may be utilised if that is found advisable and desirable. If, says *Sugar*, megass-paper proves all that Mr. Eckart predicts for it, Olaa eventually should be producing something like 165 tons of paper a day. Just what this means can be gained from the manager's statement that the largest book-paper manufactory in the world, which he inspected at Portland, Maine, has an out-turn capacity of 275 tons a day. If the project proves thoroughly successful in every way, and is taken up by the other plantations of the islands, it will develop a new industry in Hawaii, second in importance only to that of sugar production.

However, the Olaa mill probably will not be ready for operation within a year. The machinery is being ordered now, but because of war conditions in the eastern factories and in the arteries of transportation, no one can tell when the equipment will be delivered.

Those members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their dues for the current year are requested to do so without delay. Several reminders have been sent to all in arrears—so there is no real excuse for their backwardness in coming forward!

The delays in cable communication with the West Indies is engaging the attention of the West India Committee, who have received complaints that the War communiqués are not infrequently published in the West Indies as much as two days after their publication in London. The Halifax-Bermuda cable has unfortunately been interrupted since February, owing, it is understood, to the refusal of the Admiralty to release a steamer for its repair, and this, of course, does not help matters.

* THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, No. 495, September 20th, 1917, page 359.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

LIEUT. DAVID CYRIL DUNCAN, London Regiment, who has been killed in action, was the second son of the late Hon. Robert C. Duncan, formerly of British Guiana. Educated at Aberdeen Grammar School, Lieut. Duncan distinguished himself in athletics, being football captain in 1908, and cricket secretary in 1909. He was subsequently engaged in sugar planting in British Guiana.

CAPTAIN PERCY VERE BINNS, M.C., who was killed in action in France on August 26th, was the second son of Mr. Ellis P. Binns, who was formerly connected with the United Fruit Company. Born at Port Antonio, Jamaica, on February 8th, 1893, Percy Binns was educated at Woodstock College, Ontario and at Toronto University, where he successfully took his degree in 1914. He then embarked on the profession of civil engineering, but in November, 1915, he obtained a Commission in the Canadian Engineers with the 1st Brigade of which he went over to France. He was wounded on September 8th, 1916, and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry on New Year's Day, 1917. In September of the same year he was made Acting Adjutant, and on May 31st last he was appointed Staff Captain to his Brigade. He was laid to rest with full military honours at Dainville.

CAPTAIN CHARLES THOMAS ANDERSON POLLOCK, who was first reported "missing" and is now known to have been killed in action on March 31st last, was with the firm of Thomson, Hankey & Co., when the War began. He was the only son of Sir Ernest Pollock, K.B.E., K.C., M.P., and Lady Pollock of 40, Thurloe Square, and Northlaw, Hants. He held his Commission in the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, but was attached to the East Yorkshire Regiment when he was killed.

HONOURS.

MAJOR W. K. CHANDLER (son of Sir William K. Chandler, C.M.G., of Barbados), Cameron Highlanders, Canadians, has been awarded the D.S.O. and Croix de Guerre.

SECOND LIEUT. J. R. ROCHFORD, of the Trinidad Merchants' contingent, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who received the Military Cross for gallantry, is thus referred to in the *Gazette*:—"Directing the fire of his company with the greatest coolness when the troops on both flanks had been withdrawn, his splendid example inspired his men to hold on until the last possible moment, and in the final withdrawal he was again conspicuous in handling his men to provide the necessary covering fire."

SECOND LIEUT. C. H. E. SHEPHERD, of St. Kitts, Machine Gun Corps, was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry which is thus described in the *Gazette*:—"Though surrounded on three sides by the enemy and wounded early in the day, he kept his battery in action and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. His total disregard for personal safety inspired all ranks, and the fine stand made by his battery was of great service."

CAPTAIN CHAS. G. LAMBIE, M.D., R.A.M.C., has been awarded the Military Cross, "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in tending wounded under intense hostile barrage, constantly going out into the open and bringing wounded in. On a later occasion he went from battery to battery under heavy shell fire, dressing the wounded and getting them away to the nearest ambulance. He was several times hit by shell splinters." Capt. Lambie was born at Port of Spain, and is the only son of Lieut.-Col. George Lambie, V.D., late of the Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers, now 4, Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh.

The services for which Lieut. (now Capt.) I. D. R. McDonald, R.A.P., won the Military Cross are thus described in the *Gazette* of September 16th:—"With seven scouts he attacked eighteen enemy machines, of which three were destroyed and one driven down completely out of control. When driven down to within 200 feet of the ground by two enemy machines owing to a choked engine, he turned on them and drove one down. He has in all destroyed eleven enemy aircraft and carried out valuable

work in attacking enemy troops on the ground." It will be recalled that Captain McDonald has also received the D.F.C.

The fifth Distinguished Flying Cross to be won for the West Indies has fallen to Tobago, the recipient being Lieut. and Temp. Capt. P. H. Cummings (Seaforth Highlanders), who before the war was manager of his brother-in-law Mr. Stanley Savill's estate in that island. The *Gazette* gives the following account of his gallant deeds: "This officer has carried out over 100 night bombing raids, often under most adverse weather conditions and in face of heavy hostile fire. On three consecutive nights he bombed two enemy aerodromes, obtaining direct hits at 1,000 feet altitude. On another raid, owing to engine trouble he was unable to climb over 2,000 feet; he nevertheless reached his objective. On all occasions this officer displays marked determination and courage."

The acts of gallantry for which 2nd Lieut. D. P. Pogson, of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross are thus described in the *Gazette*: "In a recent long-distance bombing raid his petrol tank received a shot immediately after crossing the line, but he continued on his journey and bombed the distant objective. On the return journey very fierce fighting occurred, during which both leaders and deputy-leaders of our formations were shot down, and the remaining machines lost touch with each other. At this critical moment 2nd Lieut. Pogson ordered his observer to tie his handkerchief to the gun-mounting to indicate that his was the leader's machine. He then circled over the area three times and picked up five of our machines, and in face of very hostile opposition got them into formation and brought them all safely home. The prompt action of this officer was highly meritorious, and undoubtedly saved the remaining machines, which could not have coped with the greatly superior formations of the enemy."

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.

BINNS, CAPTAIN RAY ELLERTON (eldest son of Mr. Ellis P. Binns, of Port Antonio, Jamaica) was in Mexico mining when the War broke out. Enlisted as a private in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was granted a Commission and transferred to the Royal Engineers, in which he is now Captain. Has been twice wounded and once gassed.

BINNS, CAPTAIN RALPH SPENCER (youngest son of Mr. Ellis P. Binns, of Port Antonio, Jamaica) had his Commission in the Canadian Forces temporarily suspended as he was under age. Being unwilling to wait he went to the United States and became an American citizen, and obtained a Commission in the United States Army in which he is now a Lieutenant.

DE NOBRIGA, C. McDONALD (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), 2nd Lieut. (observer) Royal Air Force.

DUNN, RUPERT (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), 2nd Lieut. (observer) Royal Air Force.

EVERINGTON, Major F. E. (of Dominica), joined up in 1915 and was Gazetted Major in August last. He was mentioned for War Services in March.

GREENHALGH, N. (of Barbados) 2nd Lieut. Royal Engineers.

HENZELL, Cadet Charles Richard (son of Mr. L. I. Henzell, of Antigua), Royal Air Force.

HENZELL, Cadet Leonard Sedgwick (son of Mr. L. I. Henzell, of Antigua), Royal Air Force.

HENZELL, Cadet Owen Maxwell, R.N. (son of Mr. L. I. Henzell, of Antigua), Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

JOHNSON, Joseph (son of Mr. W. C. B. Johnson, Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, Bahamas), 2nd Lieut. Royal Field Artillery.

A FURTHER session of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies is to be held early in the New Year, when it is probable that the question of Federation will be discussed.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The Military Cross awarded to Lieut. A. G. Edghill, Lancashire Fusiliers, attached Trench Mortar Battery, a member of the Barbados Citizens' Contingent, who, we regret to say, died before receiving it, has been forwarded to the Governor of Barbados for presentation to Mr. G. C. Edghill, the deceased officer's father.

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Mrs. Leslie: 1 muffler.

Miss Morris: 3 prs. socks.

Mrs. Eide: 3 prs. socks.

Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 4 prs. socks.

Mrs. Rutherford: 2 prs. socks.

Visitors to the West India Committee Rooms are now so numerous that it is not possible to record all the names. Among those "registered" during the fortnight were the following:—

BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. Joseph S. Johnson.

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. F. D. Redman, 2nd Lieut. H. O. Ramsay, Bmdr. W. Bowen, Capt. J. E. Baeza, Pte. Evans G. Bayne, 2nd Lieut. C. A. Farmer, Sapper K. M. Perkins, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Culpeper, Lieut. C. E. Murphy, Gur. Elliot Williams, 2nd Lieut. W. H. Wright (B.W.I.R.).

BRITISH GUIANA.—Michael McTurk, Rfn. A. J. Darrell, Capt. R. A. Hoban (B.W.I.R.), Pte. O. Spooner, Pte. Jas. Williams, Cpl. J. L. Brown, Pte. L. Haydock Wilson.

JAMAICA.—Capt. A. H. Spyer (B.W.I.R.), Capt. A. M. Sherlock (B.W.I.R.), J. R. S. Cox, Cpl. J. S. Howard, Drummer A. G. Edwards, Capt. L. H. Mackay, Capt. Grant (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. V. F. Hyllton.

ST. KITT'S.—Pte. Lionel Kelly.

ST. LUCIA.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Laffitte, Sapper W. Buttress.

ST. VINCENT.—2nd Lieut. J. A. Hadley.

TRINIDAD.—1st Air Mechanic S. O. Seon, Rfn. L. Hamel Smith, H. F. K. Greaves, J. O. de Nobrega, Joe Herrera, Lieut. E. V. Bynoe, C. V. Bynoe, Numa Sellier, Pierre de Verteuil, 2nd Lieut. C. de Nobrega, Pte. L. F. Maingot, Cadet F. A. O'Connor, Cadet E. S. O'Connor, Gunner Andre Stone, 2nd Lieut. Wm. Hale, 2nd Lieut. A. A. Scott, G. W. Hodge, Gunner E. L. Gavia, Gunner S. Radcliffe Clarke, Gunner G. W. Robinson, Capt. P. A. Rostant, Pte. C. O. Duff, Pte. H. R. Murray, Guido Ache, J. I. Ache, Pte. P. Stone, Pte. Thos. L. Dunn, 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Trpr. H. G. B. Owen, 1st Air Mechanic L. G. Porteous, Pte. J. Grantham, Cadet F. Sorzano, Lieut. Jos. E. Kernahan, Sapper C. A. Wainwright, Pte. M. M. Nock, Pte. P. D. Ince, Pte. D. Ledee (B.W.I.R.), Pte. R. M. Anderson.

Bauxite in British Guiana.

A Company entitled British Guiana Bauxite, Limited, was registered as a private company by Messrs. Mayo, Elder & Co., of 10, Drapers' Gardens, E.C., on August 18th. Capital £5,000, of which £4,995 is in ordinary shares, and £5 in 100 "A" shares of 1/- each. The former receive half of any profits distributed, and the "A" shares the remaining half. The objects are to adopt an agreement and to prospect for, work and develop gold, platinum, lead, tin, wolfram, silver, copper, coal, iron, bauxite, and other mines, mineral oil and other rights, and to carry on and conduct the business of raising, crushing, washing, smelting, reducing and amalgamating, and metallurgically treating minerals, ores and metals, and to render the same merchantable and fit for use; and also to acquire and work resources of concessions, lands, etc., as the Syndicate may think fit.

MR. J. B. RORER, M.A., Mycologist to the Board of Agriculture, Trinidad, has accepted an appointment in Ecuador to take charge of the Cocoa Experiment Station conducted by the Agricultural Association of Ecuador.

HOMeward MAILS.

BAHAMAS—A Political Crisis.

The accuracy of the note published in the CIRCULAR of June 27th under the above heading having been called into question, it should be stated that it was based on the messages which passed between the Governor and the House which appeared in the *Nassau Guardian*. The inference that the crisis was "acute" was drawn from the Speaker's remarks and from the fact that business was temporarily suspended.

BARBADOS—The New House of Assembly.

August opened with heavy rain, but the fortnight ended August 20th was very dry and hot and rain was much needed. The elections for the House of Assembly took place on August 12th and there were no contests. The members of the new House are:—

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Bridgetown | { H. W. Lofty. |
| | { H. J. Jones. |
| St. Michael | { R. G. Cave. |
| | { G. C. Williams. |
| Christ Church | { Sir E. J. Clarke (Speaker) |
| | { G. S. Evelyn. |
| St. Philip | { Dr. C. F. Gooding. |
| | { E. B. Skeete. |
| St. John | { G. E. Sealy. |
| | { G. A. Yearwood. |
| St. Joseph | { H. G. Yearwood. |
| | { H. A. Williams. |
| St. Andrew | { E. I. Baeza. |
| | { E. L. Skeete. |
| St. Lucy | { H. W. Reece. |
| | { Dr. Massiah. |
| St. Peter | { C. P. Clarke. |
| | { John D. Chaudler. |
| St. James | { Dr. E. G. Pilgrim. |
| | { C. B. Austin. |
| St. Thomas | { S. C. Thorne. |
| | { D. G. Leacock. |
| St. George | { S. S. Robinson. |
| | { Dr. Boxill. |

Locust Hall Plantation (340 acres), St. George, has been sold by Mr. Ernest A. Huskisson to a syndicate for £50,000. Mr. Harold Noel Haskell, Assistant Master at Harrison College, was married on July 31st to the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Robinson, of Constant.

BRITISH GUIANA—Bishop Galton.

Bishop Galton, Roman Catholic Vicar Apostolic, who narrowly escaped death by drowning while on a recent visit to the interior, and who lost his mitre and canonicals through the overturning of his boat, has been presented by his flock with a cheque for \$2,676 to assist him to make a trip abroad in order to recoup his health, and as far as possible the loss which he suffered through the accident. The Government Secretary has received a telegram announcing the death in Edinburgh of Byron Lewis, the last Guiana Scholar.

It is reported that Messrs. J. A. da Cambra and T. A. Chung have been granted a big concession in a affluent of the Demerara River for the mining of red ochre. These gentlemen have also located areas containing deposits of mica. The samples brought to Georgetown have proved to be of excellent quality.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on August 17th, said that the weather had been dry and that showers would do good. The first shipments of sulphate of ammonia had arrived.

Subscriptions to the Red Cross Society to date amount to \$68,000, of which \$62,952 have been remitted to the Society. The British Consul at Para has sent a letter warning residents in this Colony from proceeding to Para in order to work as balata-bleeders. As a matter of fact there is no balata there worth gathering, and the Consul has been induced to send this letter in view of the plight of a number of persons from Guiana who journeyed to Para and are now entirely destitute.—A beginning has been made with a wood-paving experiment in a section of Water Street, the wood employed being greenheart, mora and wallaba.—Mr. Curtis A. Charles has obtained permission to occupy and explore for a period of two

years an area of about 9,600 acres of Crown lands on the right bank of the Cuyuni river. The *Chronicle* states that Bagle's, one of the oldest balata dealing firms in the Colony, have sold their balata concessions to an English firm for about half a million dollars.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Red Cross Effort.

The local fund on behalf of the Red Cross has been brought up to \$9,101. A play acted recently in aid of the fund brought in \$300. In addition, the lady workers for the Red Cross have completed 1,000 more comfort bags for wounded soldiers. The Belize Permanent Benefit Building Society has declared its usual dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half-year.

DOMINICA—The Road Question.

The Hon. A. G. Bell, Director of Public Works, Trinidad, has been spending a month in the island, at the request of the Administrator, in order to report on the roads.

GRENADE—Saving Child Life

Infant mortality has attained the high figure of 42.9 per cent. of the total number of deaths recorded, being those of children under two years of age. At a recent meeting of the Board of Health it was announced that the Colonial Surgeon favoured the supply of milk to infants and young children of labourers, the establishment of a crèche, and the inspection of illegitimate children. The Board decided to ask the Legislative Council to vote £250 to be employed by the District Boards for these purposes.

JAMAICA—Encouraging Customs Receipts.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—Generally speaking the conditions as regards produce have been much brighter this year than last and much better than had been expected, and provided the elements are kind this should do much to help out the long-suffering planters. A dehydrating plant for produce has arrived from the United States and is being erected near Spanish Town. This is in line with the suggestions made by Sir Francis Watts.

The Customs receipts for the first quarter of the financial year, ended June 30th, are decidedly encouraging, totalling as they do £116,297 as compared with £110,557 for the corresponding period last year. The estimates only called for £104,000. Ruin duties brought in £28,400 as compared with £24,048 for the first quarter in 1917-18, the latter being £3,000 in excess of the estimates. Mr. H. H. Hutchings, the Assistant Commissioner of Turks Island, is likely to be appointed Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, as Mr. Mellish, who is at present Acting as Commissioner, is anxious to return to Jamaica.

It has been noted with pleasure by the community that since Mr. E. A. Haggart returned to the Colony His Excellency the Governor has appointed him a Justice of the Peace for the Parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. It will be recalled that prior to his resignation Mr. Haggart represented St. Andrew in the Legislative Council.

Mr. J. F. Brennan, A.M.L.C.E., the Inspecting Engineer of the Public Works Department, has gone on leave and will retire on his pension when his leave expires. The death occurred on board ship, while returning to Jamaica from his visit to the United States this month, of Mr. R. B. Nunes, the Collector of Customs. Mr. Nunes has been in the Public Service for over forty years. It has not yet been decided who shall succeed Mr. Nunes, but it is likely that Mr. R. de S. Bell, Surveyor of Customs, who has been acting as Collector of Customs for some time, will do so.

The new Governor has shown prompt sympathy with the proposal to establish a central factory in the parish of St. Thomas. At a recent public meeting the Director of Agriculture announced that His Excellency was in "dead earnest." The support of the United Fruit Co. was also assured. Mr. Cousins stated that the Government must own the land on which the factory is established. A resolution was adopted asking the Government to aid the planters financially in growing the necessary cane.

ST. KITTS—A Road Question.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, AUGUST 26th.—You will be sorry to hear that the island is suffering from a very severe and protracted drought, and the outlook for 1919 from a sugar standpoint is a gloomy one. The appearance of

the estates in the neighbourhood of Basseterre and the Basseterre Valley is most distressing; there is no growth, and the young sprouts are being burnt up by the hot sun and want of moisture. The other districts of the island are suffering almost to the same extent. With barely another five months for the growth of canes before the reaping season commences, there is little prospect of any crop to reap worth the name, unless there is a speedy change in the weather and some downpours of several inches during the next few weeks—of this there is no sign. There is a good deal of fever and influenza about—our towns and villages need a good wash out. Dr. Burton, the head of a newly constituted Department of Health, has arrived to take up his duties, from Anguilla; there is plenty of work for him to do, particularly in the congested areas of Basseterre and some of our villages. Our roads are in a deplorable condition; motor car and carriage owners have fresh cause for complaint; the Government will not spend money on upkeep and repairs. When they finally degenerate into watercourses, a wise Executive will probably again hand them back to the estates. Economy in many instances does not pay in the long run.

ST. VINCENT—Arrowroot Situation.

The local Press describes the outlook for the arrowroot crop as most disquieting. Anxiety centres around the question of tonnage. It is declared that unless a market can be secured many small planters will be ruined. Mr. V. Drayton, Chief Clerk in the Government Office, has accepted a like position in St. Lucia.

TOBAGO Death of a Former Slave.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, AUGUST 15th.—We are having thoroughly seasonable weather and crop reports are favourable all round thus far. Cocoa may be a little erratic in early deliveries, but good supplies ought to be available by November. The extra heavy plantings of ground provisions are coming on well, and there need be no scarcity of food. The Government Food Depot is doing excellent work in Port of Spain as a selling and distributing agency. Fruit is now to be included in its operations and one may safely predict a surprising extension of this industry when a market is assured. In the past, the speculators absolutely cornered the growers and it is well known that fruit, vegetables and fish were destroyed rather than reduce the prices. Thus consumers and growers had to suffer at the hands of the ever flourishing middleman and profiteer. We have to welcome almost a regular stream of Trinidad visitors by the *Belize* on her fortnightly Tobago route. As a rule every cabin is occupied, and at times an overflow of passengers on deck-chairs and settees. Besides Government officials by this week's steamer, Mr. J. D. Sellier, solicitor, with two friends, came over on their first visit to Tobago, bringing guns for pigeon shooting. If the bags were not overwhelming, the tramps over hill and valley and the fine sea breezes, will help them to carry away pleasant recollections of our little island.

The Press records the death, at the age of 95, of a man named Henry Byron, who was a slave of fifteen years of age when slavery was abolished in the West Indies.

TRINIDAD—War Loan Enthusiasm.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, AUGUST 6th.—Another good lady has entered the arena of good work for war funds in the person of Mrs. William Greig, the wife of the well-known proprietor of the St. Marie Estate, Cedros, and has scored a considerable initial success. The effort was somewhat ambitious, but Mrs. Greig and her talented company of amateurs proved fully equal to it. The entertainment was styled "In a Persian Garden," and the tableaux and music provided were of a higher class than that which has proved so delightful in its way at recent performances more of the variety class. Trinidad appreciates good music, good dancing, and artistic tableaux, and each of these were singularly good. We are grateful accordingly to Mrs. Greig, who, it should be added, enjoyed the very capable and enthusiastic assistance of Mr. Justice Russell, himself an accomplished musician, and of other most able and willing supporters. An overcrowded house was present at the first performance, which will be repeated to-morrow night.

The Administration Report of the Forest Officer for 1917, has been issued as Council Paper, No. 78. It is well worth the careful perusal of all those who have the future of our Colony at heart. For many years Mr. C. S. Rogers has been working quietly, but none the less well, in the depths of our high woods, seeing all sorts of hardships and taking them smilingly, but he has the work in order to-day, with much to look back upon with satisfaction and forward to with pride. Forest Reserves have been established in all suitable and available localities, and an enormous number of trees which must prove of inestimable value to future generations planted. The systematic robbery of crown timber which largely obtained in former times has been curbed off, if not stopped altogether, and all areas and products thereon systematically mapped and recorded. Beyond all, the happy fact is to be noted that previous deficits, which existed up to 1910, have been turned into a surplus to the good of the Department, which showed in 1917 a revenue of £7,784 against expenditure £4,924. This is something of what we have to congratulate and thank Mr. Rogers for. It is rumoured that his services may shortly be transferred elsewhere. It is to be hoped that the authorities here will not part with him if there is any way of retaining his most efficient service.

With a view to obtaining first-hand information which may be of service in their own city, a deputation from the Town Council of Georgetown, Demerara, recently arrived here in order to inspect the system of waterworks and sewerage installation in Port of Spain.

The proposal to present £100,000 to the British Government in aid of the War has been taken up with enthusiasm. The action of the Legislature in passing an Ordinance to that effect was ratified at a public meeting held on August 13th, when those present resolved to support the movement by purchasing Scrip certificates. Dr. Laurence presided over the gathering, which was addressed by the Bishop of Trinidad, Sir Henry Alcazar, Messrs. R. G. Bushe, Adam Smith, A. D. O'Connor, and others. In this connection the Trinidad Fire Insurance Co. has applied for £3,000 worth of bonds.

BIRTH.

MCARTHUR.—On the 20th September, at Edinburgh, to Hilda (daughter of his Grace the late Archbishop Swaby), wife of A. McArthur, M.C. (with bar), Northumberland Fusiliers, of Whins, Callender, Perthshire, a son.

WANT.

ENGLISHMAN (41), with 15 years' all-round practical and scientific experience in Cane and the management of Cane-Sugar Properties in Demerara, Hawaii, Argentine and Cuba, desires appointment. At present Assistant Manager, 50,000-ton factory in Cuba. Expert agriculturist. Competent administrator and very successful with labour. Keen, hard worker. Perfect Spanish. Best credentials. Address "Hawlej," c/o WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

THE *Louisiana Planter*, discussing an article written for our contemporary by Dr. W. L. Owen, a distinguished American bacteriologist, on "The Deterioration of Cane Sugars in Storage," says:—"A somewhat novel idea is brought out by Dr. Owen in the statement that while the chief safeguard to sugar to prevent deterioration is that it shall contain a minimum of moisture, at the same time a film of molasses when the sugars have a fair degree of dryness aids also in protecting the crystals from the invading microbes. Therefore, a very high grade of sugar, entirely free from any molasses, might be attacked by microbes if sufficient moisture were present. Fortunately, in the manufacture of white sugars at the present time it is customary to have them as dry as is practicable, with the mechanism under control. Based on Dr. Owen's previous investigations, we have for some years been urging upon our readers the necessity of turning out sugars artificially dried or dried in granulators, in order to prevent deterioration, which has hitherto seemed inevitable."

THE BRITISH EMPIRE ORDER.

As we go to press we learn that the following appointments have been made to the British Empire Order for services in connection with the War:—

OFFICERS.

BERKELEY, John Henry Astley, Esq., for services in connection with the Red Cross and Recruiting in Grenada.
PARK, James Harvey Williamson, Esq., Director of Public Works and Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, Jamaica.
PHILLIPS, William Lambert Collyer, Esq., Colonial Treasurer and Chief Censor, Island of Barbados.

MEMBERS.

BLACKDEN, Mrs. Mary Helen Bennett, for assistance to War Charities in Jamaica.
BRANCH, Mrs. Irene, for work in organising and furnishing a Red Cross Depot at Kingston, Jamaica.
CARGIL, John Henry, Esq., for services in connection with the Red Cross and Aeroplane Funds, Jamaica.
CLINKETT, Robert James, Esq., Official Assignee and Public Trustee, Barbados.
DA COSTA, Altamont, Esq., Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, for services in connection with the Red Cross and Recruiting.
HUTSON, Surgeon-Major John, M.B., Public Health Inspector, Barbados, and Principal Medical Officer to the Barbados Defence Force.
KERR, Walter Coke, Esq., Custos of St James, Jamaica, for services in connection with local Defence Forces, Recruiting and War Charities.
KERR, Mrs. Maud Coke, for services in Jamaica in connection with the Blue Cross and other War Charities.
MATTHEWS, Captain Philip Edwin, Adjutant, British Honduras Territorial Force, for services in organising and training the British Honduras Contingents.

It is noteworthy that of the above, whom we warmly congratulate, no fewer than seven are members of the West India Committee.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.
 Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
 LONDON, E.C.3

October 3rd, 1918.

BANK RATE. 6 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

Supplies continue to meet with an active demand.

The delay in the distribution of British West Indian sugar, and especially muscovado, is causing much inconvenience, and representations on the subject have been made to the Royal Commission by the West India Committee.

New York duty paid price for the current season remains at 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985 c. and f. New York.

The agreement as to the price for the next Cuban crop is even more favourable than was first anticipated, the figure being 5.50 f.o.b.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on September 28th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 28,608 | 65,846 | 44,719 | Tons. |
| Deliveries | 28,680 | 61,091 | 47,997 | " |
| Stock (Sept. 28th) ... | 10,915 | 12,770 | 7,827 | " |

RUM. There is nothing fresh to report.

The stocks in London on September 28th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica | 4,680 | 9,015 | 9,195 | puns. |
| Demerara | 8,025 | 9,537 | 13,280 | " |
| Total of all kinds ... | 18,176 | 29,472 | 37,636 | " |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons ... | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

Cocoa is now allocated in this country by a Distributing Committee which has held its first meeting.

The British Consul at Bahia has forwarded to the Board of Trade the following table of the exports of cocoa from Bahia in bags of 60 kilos each, in the period January to June, 1918:—

| | New York. | Europe. | S. America. | Total. |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------|
| January | 42,000 | 1,600 | 22,861 | 66,461 |
| February | 47,726 | — | 6,400 | 54,126 |
| March | 46,563 | — | 17,055 | 63,618 |
| April | 16,585 | — | 4,200 | 20,785 |
| May | 88,854 | — | 1,875 | 90,729 |
| June | — | 4,650 | 9,375 | 14,025 |
| | 241,728 | 6,250 | 61,766 | 309,744 |

The United States has allowed 12,000 tons of West African cocoa to be imported, as steamers for that quantity had already been booked. Otherwise the American policy is to draw supplies only from nearer producing countries in order to save tonnage. It is believed that a statement will soon be made as to the quantities of cocoa to be imported in 1918.

The stocks in London on September 28th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Trinidad | 8,141 | 26,479 | 22,364 |
| Grenada | 10,031 | 27,267 | 15,349 |
| Total of all kinds ... | 149,302 | 266,066 | 221,618 |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 86d. |
| Good Ordinary | 40d. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 48d. 50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

In the 39 weeks ended September 20th, 3,019 bales of West Indian were imported into the United Kingdom.

The Boll weevil continues to cause trouble in the United States, with the result of a further reduction in the acreage under Sea Island cotton in Georgia and Florida, the details being as under:—

| State. | Acreage in 1918 | Acreage in 1917 | Estimated production (Running bales) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| | | | 1918 | 1917 |
| Sea Island. | | | | |
| Georgia | 129,000 | 156,000 | 34,000 | 48,000 |
| Florida | 125,000 | 139,000 | 23,000 | 37,000 |
| South Carolina | 22,000 | 21,000 | 8,000 | 7,000 |

COPRA. The market is unchanged. Price £46 c.i.f. London or Liverpool; about £90 to £92 c.i.f. Marseilles.

ARROWROOT. Small available supplies sold readily up to 1/8 for fine.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected; value about 6/-. Handpressed quiet, 15/- to 16/-. Lime Juice: Raw firmly held; good to fine, 4/6 to 5/-. Concentrated quiet but firm. Citrate quiet hot firm.

SPICES. Pimento has been firm and dealer on prohibition of imports. Large business done at 7½d. to 7½d., closing sellers at the latter figure.

HONEY. Dearer. Chilean sold at auction at 211/- to 229/- for liquid dark to palish set. Value Jamaica, if on spot, 220/- to 225/-.

RUBBER. Owing to the good news from the Front, the market has been more cheerful, and prices show an appreciable advance. Crepe, 2/3 spot; sheet 2/2 spot. Fine Para dull at about 3/2.

BALATA. Venezuela block firm at 3/4½ to 3/4 c.i.f. Panama block easy at 3/- c.i.f. Tobacco block steady at 3/1 to 3/2 c.i.f. West Indian sheet quiet; 3/10 c.i.f. buyers; spot value 4/2 to 4/2½.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1918.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. 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. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the corresponding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON

October 17th, 1918

A Cuban-American Menace.

ELSEWHERE in the present CIRCULAR we publish some extracts from the market report of the CZARNIKOW-RIONDA COMPANY of New York, from which it would appear that proposals are being canvassed relative to the disposal of the Cuban sugar crop after the war. It is pointed out that the United States now controls about 5,500,000 tons of sugar, or more than 1,700,000 tons over and above her present requirements, and that the capacity of American refiners is nearly 1,500,000 tons greater than the present demand for their product. This being so the Company advocates Cuba making permanent arrangements to retain after the war the European trade she now has, adding that this "can be done only by means of some agreement, preferably with the American refiners, and they, in turn, with the European countries, under the terms of which the former will bind themselves to buy cane sugars for a certain number of years after the cessation of the war, and supply the European Allies with the refined product derived therefrom." In other words they recommend the formation of a "cartel" in Cuba, and the United States and her possessions, to control the European markets. It

is not surprising to learn that the British refiners are already up in arms against this proposal, which they consider savours strongly of "dumping," a policy of which they have had more than enough. If the scheme propounded by the CZARNIKOW-RIONDA COMPANY were carried out it would virtually mean the death-knell of the British sugar refining industry. With regard to the West Indies the advocates of this novel proposal, anticipating criticism, say that it is not intended to recommend anything which would be detrimental to the British sugar producing possessions, though "from present indications it seems doubtful if development of the cane lands in these colonies could be fully completed within five years after ending of the war." Reading between the lines it would appear from this last utterance that the propounders of the scheme do realise that this new "cartel" would not be altogether beneficial to British colonial producers, but that that will not matter as the industry will not be fully developed for at least five years after the war. The question is, Could the British sugar industry be developed at all in the face of competition with the Cuban-American cartel? In view of the bitter experience of the British West Indies in regard to cartels in the past, it is, we imagine, improbable that the CZARNIKOW-RIONDA COMPANY's suggestions will meet with enthusiasm in those colonies, and we trust that the British Government will keep a watchful eye on this new movement.

Public Health in St. Kitts.

WE are glad to learn that steps are to be taken to improve the conditions under which the poor live in St. Kitts. To this end a Public Health Department has just been established in that Presidency of the Leeward Islands with the approval of the Colonial Office, and in accordance with suggestions made by Major THE HON. J. A. BURDON, the Administrator, to the Executive Council earlier in the present year. This should and will we hope go a long way towards silencing the agitators in the island, who, not altogether without justification, have complained of the conditions of life of the lower classes. It was felt that as the Presidency had a surplus of over £12,000, and as the financial outlook was distinctly favourable there was no need to wait until the end of the war before taking in hand the improvement of sanitation which was rightly regarded as a vital necessity, and we are informed that DR WILLIAM ELLIOTT BURTON, a graduate of McGill University, who was recently medical officer of Anguilla, has been appointed Inspector of Public Health and entrusted with the

work of conducting the Public Health Department of St. Kitts. This medical officer, whose work in Anguilla has been so eminently successful that that small island might be regarded as a health resort, may be relied upon to carry out with all the energy and enthusiasm of his countrymen MAJOR BURDON'S scheme, with the aims of which we are in full and complete sympathy. The Inspector will form a sympathetic connecting link between the Government and the poorer classes, whose lot it is sought to ameliorate. Hitherto the care of public health in Basseterre has been entrusted to an engineer, the Superintendent of Public Works, an official primarily appointed for the upkeep and construction of public works, on whose time the construction and maintenance of public works had prior claims, and incidentally, we may now hope, that that official, relieved of his health duties, will be able to devote himself to the maintenance of public roads, which we understand from our correspondent call for prompt Government attention. The sanitation of Basseterre alone demands the whole care and thought of a special officer who can give himself up entirely to the task of stamping out nuisances. For example, if a plague of mosquitos appears there must be someone who must do nothing else until he has ferreted out its source and coped with it. Again, the care of health in the country districts was until lately dealt with by no fewer than nine separate boards, composed of gentlemen every one of whom had other work and business of their own. It is not surprising then that in the circumstances sanitation in the country should have been dealt with somewhat perfunctorily, if not in some cases neglected altogether. It was to remedy this state of affairs that MAJOR BURDON'S scheme was propounded, and we trust that the new Department of Public Health will meet with the success and support which it deserves. The question of support is all important, and DR. BURTON'S efforts will be of little avail unless all classes of the community, rich and poor alike, in whose interests he will be working, assist him ungrudgingly in every way in their power.

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

The Executive of the West India Committee have received from Mr. Walter Long a letter of acknowledgment and thanks for the following resolution, which was adopted by them at a recent meeting:—

"That the Executive of the West India Committee hereby record the sincere satisfaction with which they have learnt from the announcement made by the Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, at a luncheon of the West Indian Club, on July 24th, that His Majesty's Government has approved a scheme for the adoption of preference within the Empire.

"They desire to express the hope that such effect will be given to this decision as will assure the prosperity of the British West Indian Colonies which suffered so severely in the past from subsidised foreign competition.

"They desire further to urge that, in view of the extreme importance of the plans for the development of the industries of the British West Indies being matured immediately, details of the scheme foreshadowed by Mr. Walter Long may be made public with the least possible delay."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN you trow rockatone at pig-stye, de pig you yerry cry 'Quee, quee' is de one you hit."

THE Central "Delicias" in Cuba made a crop of 96,000 tons this year, or more than double the total crop of Barbados. This constitutes the world's record for a single factory.

IN CIRCULAR 519 of August 22nd the name of Mr. R. A. Torrance, who was elected a member of the West India Committee on August 15th, was spelt incorrectly. It should read as now given.

THE Attorney-General of Grenada reports (in the *Government Gazette*) that during 1917 there was an increase of 43 in the number of cases of praedial larceny. The increase, he says, is probably largely due to the increased cost of foodstuffs caused by the War.

THE Raleigh tercentenary has inspired Professor Swift MacNeill, M.P., to write to the *Times*, calling to mind that Raleigh's home in Ireland, Myrtle Grove, Youghal, Co. Cork., has since been the residence in turn of two West Indian Governors, Sir John Pope Hennessy and Sir Henry Blake.

EVERY member of the West India Committee who has not already done so is earnestly requested to "do his bit" and pay his subscription for 1918 *without delay*. To him it may seem a small matter: to the Committee it is all-important. Subscriptions can be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank.

THE Empire Cotton Growing Committee, at a recent meeting at the Board of Trade, discussed a scheme for the development and expansion of the Committee's work. It is proposed to set up sub-committees dealing respectively with finance, commerce development, education and the collection and dissemination of information as to cotton-growing.

MR. R. L. FORBES, one of the General Managers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, having retired from the Company's service owing to continued ill-health, Mr P. G. M. Mitchell, Head of the Freight Department, has been appointed Acting Assistant Manager of the Company. His many friends will wish Mr. Forbes a speedy recovery from his illness.

LIKE the late Mr. Alfred Williams, who died in July last, Mr. Forbes entered the service of the R.M.S.P. Company at the time of the reorganisation in 1902. Mr. Williams, who was highly esteemed by a large circle of business and private friends for his many sterling qualities, was deputy chairman of the company at the time of his death.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made between the College of Hawaii and the Sugar Planters' Experiment Station for the institution of a four years' course in Sugar Technology. It will include general science as applied to agriculture, the agriculture of the sugar cane under Hawaiian conditions, the chemistry of sugar, and the chemistry and engineering of sugar manufacture.

IN its September issue, *Tropical Life* urges with great force the necessity of intensive cultivation in order to produce West Indian cane sugar as cheaply as possible. That cheapness of production, says our contemporary, is essential in view of "the days that are not far ahead when Germany, once again, will be wanting to flood the world with sugar at a giving-away price.

"KEENLY as we shall vote to keep such sugar out of the Empire at all costs, it will be remembered that very few of the public know or care about the political and economic intricacies of sugar production, and so you may dam back their willingness to buy German beet as firmly

as you will, but unless you can put British-grown sugar on the market at what the public (not the planters) think a fair price as compared with the German beet, it will only be a matter of time and of a rise in the impatience of the public to break down the dam, before the German sugar will come in again with a greater rush than ever."

THE Colonial Office have issued instructions to the Governors of the various West Indian Colonies to admit British goods freely, even though they fall within the categories of "non-essential" articles (such as chinaware, glassware, jewellery, perfumery, musical instruments, etc.), which have been listed as prohibited. The restrictions will, however, remain in force for goods going from the United States of America to the West Indies.

DISCUSSING the seedling cane experiments in Trinidad, the *Louisiana Planter* says: "It is to be hoped that the experiments will turn out satisfactorily. The differences in the soil of one island or locality frequently affects the value of the final result and actual experimentation carried on scientifically is absolutely necessary if it be desired to secure results that can be depended upon, and that the Trinidad Department of Agriculture would be willing to send out to the world as with its official approval."

MR HARRY J. CROWE continues to advocate the Confederation of the West Indies and Canada in the October *United Empire*. This would, he thinks, benefit the Mother Country, because the Canadian tariff would be established in the British West Indies and "Great Britain's producers would then have a preference over foreign countries which is not granted to them by the present Governments of the West Indies." This latter statement is not quite correct for, with few exceptions, the British West Indies do give a preference to Great Britain. "Judging from what has been said by representative men of these countries, and the interest expressed in the Canadian and West Indian Press," Mr. Crowe believes that "we may safely infer that the subject of this union would receive the serious consideration of the Canadian and West Indian people."

AS to the question of citizenship, Mr. Crowe believes that differences in colour and race should not make it so very much harder for Canada to govern under his suggested terms of union than it is for England now. But in this connection it is impossible to overlook the fact that while difficulties are placed in the way of gentlemen of colour entering Canada, they are, and rightly, perfectly free in normal times to visit England when and as they please. In the Dominion's attitude towards the coloured races lies an elementary obstacle in the way of the adoption of Mr. Crowe's proposal. Meanwhile we can see nothing to prevent Canadians taking a hand in the development of the industries and resources of the West Indies, and any proposals for closer trade between the Dominion and the West Indies would, no doubt, meet with very general approval.

REFERRING to the memoir of the late Sir Henry Berkeley in last CIRCULAR a correspondent writes, "Perhaps a few lines of appreciation may be allowed from an old friend who knew Sir Henry Berkeley. He enjoyed most deservedly great respect and affection. His vigorous, forceful character, generous and public spirited views and actions, carried the more weight in that he brought a cheerful helpfulness to bear on all troubles. His intimate friends used to speak of him as 'The Knight.' His was a personality of great charm. The old traditions of chivalry, courtesy to women, gracious kindness and consideration for others, that make 'the perfect, gentle knight,' lived in him and found him a welcome let him go where he would. He will be mourned, regretted, and spoken of with love and honour far and wide, as he is by the inhabitants of the little Suffolk village where he spent his last years, who hold him and his in an esteem and regard that the East Anglian gives rarely and never without good cause."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The End in Sight?

A few weeks ago, when the Austro-Hungarian Government appealed to President Wilson on the question of peace, he referred them to the already sufficiently clear definition of Allied terms. Now Germany, through the mouth of the new Chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, is seeking an armistice. France has practically said, "No," and President Wilson has put the German Government in a corner by asking them, whether the basis of negotiations is to be (1) his "Fourteen Points," as set forth in his message to Congress of January last; (2) the evacuation of occupied territories; (3) the creation of a new national authority in Germany. In short, the Allies demand unconditional surrender.

Germany has answered President Wilson's Note by accepting his terms. But all the world doubts her sincerity. The guarantees that she is playing fair must, therefore, be naval and military. That is to say her submarines must be placed at the disposal of the Allies, and places of vital strategical importance occupied by Allied garrisons. Her habitual treachery and the fact that an armistice would just enable her to extricate her armies from a perilous position into one of comparative safety are the factors in the situation, which are present in the mind of all her enemies. In the meantime the war continues.

The Enemy's Dilemma.

An armistice which could be broken when it ceased to serve its turn, is an urgent necessity to Germany if she is to withdraw her armies without disaster to the Meuse. Her plan of concentrating her military efforts in a big Western offensive has failed, and she has not even been able to hold a strong defensive line in occupied territory. Her object now is to stem the rapidly advancing tide of war, so as to continue to preserve German soil immune by organising afresh "a fight for the Fatherland" front of hill and river, well in the rear of the shattered Hindenburg line, but also well within the Franco-Belgian frontier. To effect such a radical change of plan successfully she must have time. Hence her cry for an armistice. The Allies, however, know her now, and are sweeping on in the centre and on both flanks, confident in the certainty that large reserves in the shape of American troops are pouring into France. Having been driven from the connected system, known as the Hindenburg line, the enemy's desperate resistance centres round detached positions, which would require the feverish activity of the winter to link up in strength, and the opener the country becomes the more difficult and dangerous will he find it to retreat in good order. This the Allied Supreme War Council understand, and are increasing, instead of decreasing, the momentum of the pursuit, as one position after another is gained.

The Succession of Victories in the West.

There is no parallel in history for the brilliant victories won by the British Army in France since August 8th, and during the past fortnight the culmination of their splendid record has been reached. As in the south, so in the north, Allied strategy

aims at outflanking fortresses and series of fortresses, which have been rendered formidable by years of labour and science. In the masterly operations by which St. Quentin was regained the French shared honours. But for the smashing blows dealt the enemy further north British and Dominion Armies have the main credit. The mere mention of their exploits would fill pages. The outstanding features of the past fortnight were, however, the capture of Lens and La Basée, followed by the occupation of the Aubers Ridge, which seals the fate of Lille, vital to the enemy's possession of the coast and the safety of his right flank; of Le Catalet, a great railway road and river centre; of Cambrai, between which and St. Quentin a new offensive was launched in the early morning of October 8th; and of Le Cateau, where the Old Army made its memorable stand in the Great Retreat of 1914. To retain Cambrai, the enemy employed 23 divisions on a twenty-mile front. With the loss of Le Cateau his centre has been hammered in to such an extent that all his positions from the Oise to the Argonne are threatened. On his left flank the Franco-Anglo-Belgian forces, gathering much booty as they go, are advancing on Menin. Already Ypres, Dixmude and Roulers have been liberated, as well as Armentières. Thus the Flanders Ridge, which cost us so many lives in months of fighting last year is ours in fewer weeks. Last week figures were published showing that since July 15th the Allies in France and Belgium have captured 254,012 prisoners, 3,669 guns, and 23,000 machine guns. In all fields they have captured 347,512 prisoners.

Franco-American Successes.

St. Quentin, on which the Franco-British forces have been closing for weeks past, was entered by the French on October 2nd. Farther south they have steadily pressed the Germans out of the plateau between the Aisne and Rheims, in outflanking movements on Laon and the Gobain Forest, and, in co-operation with the Americans, clearing the area between Rheims, which was recovered by the French a heap of ruins, and the Argonne. As a result of the hard fighting here the Germans were compelled to fall back on the Snippe, thereby shortening his thirty-mile front to twenty. But General Gouraud's troops crossed the river on a front of two miles, and stormed the triply strong defences in this sector, occupying Berry-au-Bac on the Aisne Canal and other places on a twenty-mile front. Farther east the efforts of the Franco-American troops are directed towards Machault, thereby turning the positions on the Snippe, to which the Germans are fiercely clinging; to outflanking the Grand-pré ravine, that divides the Argonne Forest into two unequal parts, when the enemy operating in the southern and major part will be cut off. The Americans, under General Pershing, are in the difficult Heights of the Meuse area endeavouring to reach the railway communications between Metz and the enemy's northern armies, a deep thrust, which he is trying to prevent at all costs.

By October 1st, 1,766,160 American troops had landed on this side of the Atlantic. British shipping carried more than half, while the British Navy convoyed fully 70 per cent.

The latest news informs us that both the Argonne Forest and Gobain Forest are in French hands, and that Laon has been evacuated. Preparations are in progress for the enemy's withdrawal from the coast ports, and from Lille to Verdun the enemy is being hard pressed, the Allied Armies following him close on every retirement. The British are on the outskirts of Douai, and, with the French and Belgians, are closing in on Menin and Lille.

As they fall back, the Germans, true to themselves, are turning the country into a desert, and the towns and villages into ruins.

Events in the East.

General Allenby's triumphant march continues. The three Turkish Armies in Palestine having been destroyed effective resistance is not likely to be encountered for many a day yet, and the Ottoman Empire is crumbling to pieces. Damascus, on the edge of the desert, has been entered amidst the enthusiastic plaudits of its population, and in clearing up the country round about another 11,500 prisoners were taken, in addition to the 76,000 already captured. Beirut, the chief port of Syria, and the third city in the Empire, has also fallen. A few more stages and the British will be in Aleppo, close to which is Muslimie, at the junction of the Baghdad railway, the line to Constantinople, and to Palestine. On the coast, immediately to the east is Alexandretta, which, though strongly fortified, will be untenable with the territory in its rear occupied. A sign of the times is the action of Rahmi, the capable Governor of the Smyrna Vilayet, the richest and best ruled of any of the Sultan's dominions. He is taking steps to treat with the Entente Powers, with which he has always been in sympathy. In the Oriental Empire the tendency of the parts to break away is always a feature when disaster overtakes it.

In the Middle East.

Here, with Bulgaria out of the war and the abdication of King Ferdinand in favour of his son, Boris, the situation has entirely changed, to the disadvantage of the Central Powers. Turkey is isolated, except by way of Odessa, and this only by the favour of the tottering Bolshevik power in Russia. Then the navigation of the Danube from Orsova to the Black Sea, which has been such a useful alternative route to the Balkan main line of railway, is cut off. As for the menace to Austria-Hungary's flank it is very real and very near. Otherwise Mackensen would not have removed his headquarters from Rumania to Transylvania, or the Central Powers their troops from Bulgaria and concentrated them in northern Serbia, if the worst were not feared in Berlin. The Pan-German dream of an empire stretching from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf is dissolving before our eyes. Turkey, one of the main arches of the edifice, would collapse to-morrow only for the fact that her fleet, what remains of it, reinforced by what remains of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, presents a serious obstacle. Just as the German ships, which should never have been allowed to reach the Dardanelles, brought Turkey into the war, so they now prevent her from making peace, so potent is even a fragment of sea-power. But

even in Constantinople events are moving, that sinister figure, Enver Pasha has disappeared, together with his most mischievous confederate Talaat Pasha, and Ahmed Tewfik Pasha, once the Ottoman Ambassador in London, is the new Premier. It is easy to predict what his role will be.

The War at Sea.

Allied naval forces, passing mine fields and eluding attack under heavy fire, approached close to the harbour of Durazzo, and shelled the port as a whole, thereby defeating the Austrian plan of using Durazzo as a base in the retreat of the Austro-Hungarian forces in Albania. The military traffic between it and Cattaro has been considerable since the armies of the Central Powers overran the Balkans, and was only hampered by the raids of Allied warships. Now this traffic is at an end.

The shipbuilding output of the United Kingdom for September shows an increase over that of August but it is still far below our national requirements. From the Allied point of view however, the situation is one for satisfaction, for the first eight months of 1918 the losses at sea show a decrease of 51 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding period in 1917, whereas new construction in Allied countries now more than equals losses, the output for August in the United States alone representing the tonnage lost in the same month by enemy action.

The Japanese liner *Hirano Maru* has been torpedoed off the Irish coast. Of the 320 persons on board only 28 were saved. The British steamer *Burutu* has been sunk in a collision with a loss of nearly 200 lives. A torpedo-boat has been similarly sunk, and all her ship's company, 53, were drowned.

In the Air.

A vivid account has been given of the combined naval and aerial operations, to which the Anglo-Belgian movement outflanking the Houthoult Forest owed so much of its success. Big guns planted among the willows and poplars of the wet, green flats of the coast joining the base of the triangle Ostend-Bruges-Thourout, and monitors, hidden by their smoke-screens, out at sea, steadily shelled the enemy's communications, especially at points of junction far inland, while trains and moving transport columns were bombed by the R.A.F. squadrons from the air. A novel feature of these combined operations was the successful organisation of a supply service by aeroplane. The Belgian forces had advanced so far in a sector whose roads were impassable, that food threatened to give out. The aircraft solved the problem by themselves conveying 1,000 army rations, ingeniously packed and weighted so as to fall within reach of the hungry divisions.

The I.A.F. continues to spread terror in Rhineland centres of population. To the railway station at Frankfort so much damage has been done that it cannot be used. On the coast aerial activity is ceaseless. During the past fortnight 93 enemy machines have been destroyed and 33 brought down out of control on the British Front, not to speak of 16 balloons burnt to ashes. Of ours 47 were reported missing.

(To be continued.)

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

As it is probable that the question of West Indian mail communication will shortly receive renewed consideration, it may be useful to place on record in an accessible form a few facts regarding its history, together with particulars of the subsidies paid. With regard to the future, it may now be regarded as an absolute certainty that aerial transport by flying boat or seaplane will supplement the carriage of mails by steamer, and in this connection it will be recalled that a scheme for such communication was propounded in the Circulars 498 and 499 of November, 1917.

Early History of Mail Communication.

Without going back to the anxious, though prosperous, days when the merchant-men joined the convoys in the Downs and waited for a favourable wind to take them to the West Indies, or to the time when the wealthy proprietors exchanged correspondence, exquisitely written in the best copper-plate handwriting, with their managers and attorneys by Government sailing packets, it may be of interest to give briefly the history of mail communication with the West Indies from the advent of steam.

The application of steam propulsion to vessels had barely emerged from the experimental stage when the possibility of establishing steamer communication with the West Indies was canvassed. For a time a mail service by steamers was conducted by the Government, but it gave little satisfaction, and Mr. James McQueen, who propounded a general plan for a mail communication by steam between Great Britain and the Eastern and Western parts of the world, has given a graphic description of the state of the mail service in 1838. Then it was performed by the small steamers *Flamer*, *Carron*, *Echo* and *Albyn*, which earned as bad a reputation as did the famous *Petrel*, *Wave*, and *Foam*, so dreaded by cross channel passengers in later years. Mr. McQueen wrote* :—

"Without actual experience it is impossible to place before the public, in a correct point of view, the whole appearance and state of steamers employed in the West Indian mail service, as seen last year—when the whole extent of their voyages was travelled over in more than one of them: imagine a small ill-contrived boat, an old 10-gun brig, as the *Carron* is, for example, of 100 horsepower, and thirty to forty tons of coals on her deck; with a cabin about thirteen feet by ten, and an after cabin still smaller, both without any means of ventilation, except what two ill-planned, narrow and miserable hatches, when open, afford. Imagine a vessel like this starting from Jamaica, with ten or fifteen passengers, and a crew of thirty-seven people, still more miserably provided with room and quarters, to stem the currents, the trade winds—(not to speak of storms)—which blow, and the heavy seas which roll, between that island and St. Thomas, especially in the channel between the former and St. Domingo, and indeed in all the West Indies: having the boiler immediately adjoining the cabin and sleeping berths, and without any place to stow the luggage belonging to the passengers—and with the numerous mail bags crammed into the small sleeping berths, or under the table,—and the public will have a faint idea of a

* "A General Plan for a Mail Communication by Steam between Great Britain and the Eastern and Western Parts of the World." By James McQueen, Esq. London: B. Fellowes 1838.

Government steamboat; wherein, under a tropical sun and a tropical rain, the passengers and crews are, with the hatches closed, reduced to the choice, while choked with coal-dust, of being broiled or suffocated. No human constitution can long stand this. Without meaning any offence, truth must declare that such a state of things is a disgrace to England."

At a meeting of the West India Committee, held at the West India Dock House on December 12th, 1837, Mr. Andrew Colville, who presided, "stated to the meeting the imperfect manner in which the Packet service was at present performed, and necessity of some amendment in the arrangements, and stated that he had drawn up a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, which he thought might produce the desired effect by calling the attention of the Government to the subject, and to the consideration of a plan suggested by Mr. James McQueen, an abstract of which was attached." The memorial, which complained of the irregularity and uncertainty of West Indian correspondence, the great risk and occasional loss incurred by the planters from the uncertainty of the advices of shipments and orders for insurance reaching this country in due time, and the defective state of intercolonial communication, contained various suggestions for the improvement of the service, and advocated the adoption of Mr. McQueen's proposals. On the same day it was duly forwarded to Mr. Francis T. Baring, Secretary to the Treasury.

A deputation subsequently waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who stated that the Government was considering a plan to improve the Packet service. He complained, however, of the want of money for the purpose at that time, and added that he was awaiting the result of the experiment of the *Great Western*, which, it is interesting to recall, successfully crossed the Atlantic from Bristol to New York in 15 days, between April 8th and 23rd, 1838.

The Birth of the R.M.S.P. Company.

What the then Secretary described in the Minutes as a "numerous meeting" of the Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr. George Hibbert on August 9th, 1838, for the further consideration of the mail question. Correspondence with the Post Office and the Admiralty was reported, and a plan for improving the mail service was submitted and approved. On September 26th in the following year, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was, as the outcome, incorporated by Royal Charter.

The petitioners to the Queen for a Charter included the more prominent members of the West India Committee, namely, John Irving, Andrew Colville, James Cavan, George Hibbert, John Irving the younger, and Patrick Maxwell Stewart, besides Thomas Baring, George Brown, Robert Cotesworth, Henry Davidson, Russell Ellice, Skianer Marshall, Thomas Masterman and Abraham J. Robarts. It is worthy of note that many of these gentlemen were among those who had signed the petition, a few years before, for a grant of a Charter of incorporation for the Colonial Bank. Incidentally the West India Committee can thus take to itself some share of the credit for the inception of both these important companies connected with the West Indies.

It may not, perhaps, be generally known that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, whose flag is now familiar in every part of the world, was originally incorporated for the express purpose of the conveyance of the West India mails to and from Great Britain.

"It is expedient" runs the Royal Charter, granted to the subscribers, on September 26th, 1839,

"that the transmission of the mails for the conveyance of letters from Great Britain to the West Indies and elsewhere should be conducted through the medium of a regular succession of steam or other vessels to be specially employed for that purpose. . . . It is considered that it will be for the advantage and convenience of the public service that such steam and other vessels should be furnished through the medium of merchants and other persons of capital. . . . We do declare that the said corporation shall be established for the purpose of providing vessels, to be impelled by steam or any other power, together with all engines, machinery, articles, matters and things, necessary for the same, and of employing the same upon such stations as may, from time to time, be contracted for by the proper authorities on that behalf for the transmission of the mails to and from Great Britain, the West Indies, North and South America, and such other foreign parts as the public service may require."

(To be continued.)

THE CUBAN SUGAR CROP.

A Cuban-American Cartel Advocated.

The Czarnikow-Rionda Company in their market reports have been dealing recently with the question of the disposal of the Cuban sugar crop after the war. On August 30th they published a table, showing the yearly sugar production of Cuba since 1890, and commented on it as follows:—

It will be observed that the production of 1896 was merely 225,000 tons against 1,004,000 tons the preceding year. That enormous decrease of 779,000 tons resulted from the War of Independence in the Island, and, for many years thereafter, the slow development of the industry there was due to the large production of European beet sugar that was artificially fostered by government bounties and cartels, which permitted the sale of these beet sugars in the World's markets at prices well known to be below production costs. To the abolition of European bounties by the Brussels Convention in 1903, and to the Reciprocity Treaty enacted between the United States and Cuba the same year, the latter country owes her extensive development, as she was thereby given free rein to test her real powers of rehabilitation. From 1900 when the crop was 283,000 tons the output increased to 1,521,000 tons in 1909. Thereafter the greatest increase occurred in 1913 when 2,428,000 tons were made against 1,895,000 tons the year before, although very low prices prevailed during 1913. Since then the annual production has gone steadily forward, until this campaign's expected total of 3,350,000 tons shows an increase of almost 1,000,000 over that of 1913.

As a result of the Spanish-American War in 1898 the Philippines and Porto Rico became American possessions, and the sugar from these Islands subsequently entered the United States free of duty. Cuba was granted a reduction of 20 per cent. from the regular tariff rates on foreign sugars, so that, as in the previous case of Hawaii, the Islands already named were stimulated to increased production.

When the World War came in 1914, and the Allies' usual sources of supplies were cut off, it became apparent that the U.S. policy of encouragement had brought about the desired results, and that she would consequently be able to provide the needs of the Allies for sugar, as can be seen by the fact that production within the United States and Cuba amounts to 5,435,000 tons against requirements of, say 3,800,000 tons, leaving a surplus of about 1,635,000 tons available for export.

This policy of encouragement adopted by the United States is in decided contrast to England's attitude toward her sugar-producing colonies, which had not been protected against bounty-fed sugar.

Dumping Policy Outlined.

In the following week they wrote :—

As already pointed out in our previous article on this subject, Cuba, as well as other cane sugar producing countries, had a very hard struggle during the existence of heavy European bounties and Cartels, which were finally abolished by the Brussels Convention in 1903. On the 9th day of last month Great Britain, as was her privilege by giving six months' notice, declared her intention to withdraw as a party to the Brussels Convention. This step now taken by Great Britain is probably due to a desire to confine her future consumption to cane sugars, and thereby encourage production in the British West Indies and other Colonies.

From the statement accompanying our report of last week, it will have been seen that in the thirteen years from 1905 to 1918 Cuba has more than trebled her annual rate of sugar production attained prior to the aforementioned abolition of bounties. While at present a source of gratification from the viewpoint of achievement, this enormous increase in production, however, may ultimately prove prejudicial to the Island, if there should be a return to bounties on European beet sugar, and Cuba be thereby restricted to United States markets after the restoration of peace. In these circumstances it, therefore, behoves Cuba to take immediate advantage of the present situation by making permanent arrangements to retain after the war the European trade she now has. This can be done only by means of some agreement, preferably with American refiners, and they, in turn, with the European countries, under the terms of which the former will bind themselves to buy cane sugars for a certain number of years after cessation of the war, and supply the European Allies with the refined product derived therefrom. If this great opportunity is not availed of by Cuba now, when England and other European countries are buying her sugars as a matter of convenience, it will surely be more difficult to do so later on.

In our report of a week ago attention was directed to the fact that, in conjunction with Cuba's output, the United States with its domestic and insular production, controls about 5,500,000 tons of sugar—almost 1,700,000 tons over her present requirements—and, in addition to that, the aggregate capacity of the American refineries is nearly 1,500,000 tons greater than present national demand for their product. It would therefore appear to be of mutual advantage for all concerned to enter into some arrangement whereby, as above stated, American refiners could be supplied with Cuban raw sugars in sufficient quantity to permit of their working to the utmost of their capacity, but in order to bring that about it is necessary to have the European Allies agree not to buy any beet sugars for some years after peace.

Unless Cuba succeeds in making some such arrangement, she will be running the grave risk of some day finding herself with a surplus of, say 1,500,000 tons of sugar for which a market will be difficult to find; a circumstance which, naturally, would precipitate a sharp decline in prices, especially if Great Britain resumes her former practice of seeking the cheapest source of supply, regardless of whether it be cane or beet sugar. Another great advantage to be expected from the operation of a programme such as is herein outlined, would be a lower price to the American consumer owing to the decreased average expense of refining resulting from the larger quantity of sugar then refined in the United States.

In conclusion it may be added that in pointing out the foregoing dangers and remedies it is not intended to advocate anything that would be detrimental to the British sugar producing possessions, but from present indications it seems doubtful if development of the cane lands in these colonies could be completed within five years after ending of the war. Nor is it meant to displace Java sugars. The sincere and earnest intention is to endeavour to keep for cane sugar producers the markets of the Allied countries in order to prevent a recurrence of the system of bounties and cartels with their decidedly evil consequences to the cane sugar industry.

WEST INDIAN FEDERATION.

The Trinidad Chamber Moves.

At a meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce held on August 30th at the Public Library, Port of Spain, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Edgar Tripp, seconded by the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., and carried unanimously :—

"That having special regard to the recent vote of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce that 'the time has arrived when the question of the Federation of the British West Indian Colonies should be seriously considered and determined,' this Chamber confirms its previous resolutions in favour of the Federation, and is of opinion that with a view to the due participation of these Colonies in the benefits of improved inter-Empire trade after the War, the question is one of greater urgency and importance than at any previous period. This Chamber is further of opinion that the matter is one which may fitly be considered and dealt with by the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies as the body most fully representative of the interests and industries of all the Islands and British Guiana, and respectfully recommends it to the early consideration of that body."

In moving the resolution, Mr. Tripp attached great importance to the view of the Chamber of that very important Colony, Barbados, whose people were very earnest and had opinions of their own. It would be impossible to do anything without their co-operation, and it was a matter for satisfaction that they had changed their mind on the question of federation. Circumstances had arisen in late years which made it incumbent for the West Indies to speak with one voice and with one which would be heard. He eulogised Mr. Gideon Murray for bringing this question forward and instanced the Quarantine Conference as an example of what could be done by unity in the West Indies. After paying credit to Mr. George Hudson, of St. Lucia, as prime mover in forming the West Indian Federal League, he quoted Sir George Foster, who, in a letter to him (the speaker) had said, "I have long thought that some form of federation adapted to the peculiar geographical and economic conditions of the West Indies would be helpful in promoting unity of feeling and common interest and in strengthening the islands by concerted action along general lines of policy and progress. It would seem to me at first, at least, that federation should be upon these general lines rather than along lines of political union."

"Labuntur anni"

The Barbados Chamber of Commerce, following a meeting on September 5th, have now expressed some doubt as to "whether it would be expedient or advisable to have a full discussion of the subject at such an early date" as the Press failed to give publicity to the matter or to further in any way the object which the Chamber had in view in passing its resolution. "Nor," they add, "has any public body referred to it."

MR. RAYMOND WARNER informs us that, as the outcome of the leading article in the CIRCULAR of July 26th, 1917, on Electricity and Agriculture, Mr. Freeman, the Acting Director of Agriculture of Trinidad, sent him recently a variety of tropical seeds, which have now been treated electrically by the Hart Manufacturing Company, and returned to the island for experimental purposes.

AMONG those present at Bishop Mitchinson's funeral was his servant, Stephen Lewis, a Carib from Georgetown, St. Vincent, to whom Dr. Bindley referred in the memoir in last CIRCULAR, and also Mr. Andrew Low, a former master of Harrison College, who was with the Bishop and Lewis on board a sloop when she was dismantled off Carriacou. Harrison College, Barbados, was represented by Lieut. Colonel Eccles, D.S.O., 16th Lancers, and Captain G. B. Mason, R.A.M.C.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

The WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. Edgar Tripp for the return of statistics relating to cane-farming in Trinidad for 1918 and the

twenty preceding years, which is published below. The outstanding feature of these figures is the reduction in the weight of canes ground and of sugar made which is attributed mainly to the ravages of the frog-hopper pest:—

| ESTATE. | Total Sugar made Tons. | Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes. | Tons of Estates Canes Ground. | Tons of Canes Purchased. | Amount paid for Canes. | No. of FARMERS. | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | East Indian. | West Indian. |
| Brechin Castle | 2,820 | 2,252 | 25,680 | 7,156 | \$20,660 | 429 | 207 |
| Bronte | 2,032 | 964 | 12,018 | 13,614 | 41,184 | 474 | 182 |
| Caroni | 4,848 | \$ 2,168 | \$ 26,000 | 32,168 | 88,844 | 1,174 | 541 |
| Cedar Grove | 18 | 18 | — | — | — | 390 | 226 |
| Craignish | 725 | 230 | 2,940 | 6,557 | 19,668 | 297 | 245 |
| Esperanza | 1,060 | 662 | 8,201 | 6,869 | 23,757 | 211 | 173 |
| Forres Park | 1,660 | \$ 1,000 | 11,675 | 8,416 | 28,240 | 464 | 151 |
| Golden Grove | 435 | 62 | 1,100 | 6,595 | 25,500 | \$ 100 | \$ 150 |
| Hindustan | 726 | 166 | 1,953 | 6,570 | 19,710 | 281 | 409 |
| La Florissante | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mon Desir | 151 | \$ 66 | 1,113 | 1,416 | 4,248 | \$ 10 | \$ 15 |
| Malgretrouie | *** | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Reform | 680 | \$ 217 | 2,575 | 8,053 | 24,147 | \$ 500 | \$ 400 |
| Tacarigua Factory | 2,736 | 889 | 10,681 | 21,670 | \$ 72,811 | 859 | 932 |
| Tennants' Southern Group | 2,962 | 1,856 | 19,224 | 11,551 | 38,785 | 404 | 371 |
| Usine St. Madeleine | 16,643 | 9,089 | 95,442 | 80,388 | 213,238 | 4,712 | 2,322 |
| Waterloo | 5,505 | 1,570 | 17,199 | 43,145 | 151,007 | 1,212 | 1,555 |
| Woodford Lodge | 2,242 | 1,327 | 16,982 | 11,976 | 40,348 | 641 | 355 |
| | 45,243 | 22,536 | 252,783 | 266,144 | 812,247 | 12,158 | 8,244 |
| Return for 1917 | 70,891 | 36,102 | 378,999 | 384,650 | \$1,093,770 | 12,055 | 8,984 |
| .. 1916 | 64,231 | 35,653 | 426,106 | 363,775 | 1,008,665 | 11,014 | 8,212 |
| .. 1915 | 58,882 | 34,376 | 426,262 | 325,071 | 869,790 | 9,202 | 7,078 |
| .. 1914 | 55,488 | 35,690 | 407,797 | 201,799 | 486,630 | 7,450 | 5,253 |
| .. 1913 | 42,331 | 31,095 | 346,912 | 136,724 | 330,364 | 6,942 | 5,513 |
| .. 1912 | 40,936 | 27,856 | 315,762 | 151,697 | 358,428 | 6,983 | 6,042 |
| .. 1911 | 46,718 | 32,539 | 386,599 | 165,720 | 357,560 | 6,621 | 6,391 |
| .. 1910 | 51,950 | 37,446 | 454,530 | 176,447 | 412,658 | 6,443 | 5,820 |
| .. 1909 | 52,972 | 39,553 | 451,801 | 154,663 | 337,817 | 6,077 | 5,324 |
| .. 1908 | 48,933 | 36,340 | 380,334 | 139,422 | 303,631 | 5,922 | 5,619 |
| .. 1907 | 50,564 | 35,597 | 373,577 | 169,709 | 340,527 | 6,557 | 5,777 |
| .. 1906 | 62,975 | 39,735 | 397,912 | 237,844 | 469,122 | 6,127 | 5,446 |
| .. 1905 | 38,240 | — | 244,418 | 144,868 | 482,053 | 5,424 | 5,462 |
| .. 1904 | 50,744 | 1,669 | 385,015 | 171,947 | 360,046 | 4,646 | 4,685 |
| .. 1903 | 47,778 | 1,783 | 337,632 | 166,590 | 348,445 | 4,443 | 4,440 |
| .. 1902 | 57,334 | 4,379 | 337,911 | 184,867 | 327,183 | 4,506 | 4,850 |
| .. 1901 | 60,880 | 3,652 | 334,003 | 169,918 | 369,482 | 3,819 | 4,737 |
| .. 1900 | 46,277 | 1,286 | 364,355 | 105,996 | 227,865 | 2,826 | 3,591 |
| .. 1899 | 58,837 | 1,571 | 428,306 | 106,741 | 219,011 | 2,826 | 3,870 |
| .. 1898 | 58,109 | — | — | 105,753 | 202,901 | 2,326 | 3,824 |

† From Collens' Year Book. * Canes ground at the Caroni Factory. ** Farmers' Canes sold to Usine Sainte Madeleine and La Fortunée. § Estimate. *** Included in Usine Sainte Madeleine returns.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Dr. W. H. Fretz, in his report on the sanitary condition of the Presidency of St. Kitts for 1917, refers again to the prevalence of infantile mortality. This amounted to 264, 204 and 120 per 1,000 births in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla respectively during the year. He rightly holds that a high infantile mortality is a prodigious waste of natural resources. Statistics are against the assumption that poverty is the main cause of the "massacre of the innocents," ignorance and neglect are far more important. Congenital conditions, too, in a great measure account for this annual sacrifice, though the main cause lies not in hereditary weakness.

"Nature intends all to have a fair start," but, says Dr. Fretz, "the fair start is destroyed in the

first few months of existence by (a) bad or insufficient feeding and (b) neglect. Indications point to these as the main factors of the evil; (a) improper feeding by substituting farinaceous for milk food, (b) neglect caused, may be, by industrial conditions. Mothers do not realise the importance of milk as food. The only remedy for this condition of things is to overcome the ignorant tradition of centuries by educating the rising generation to fulfil the profession of motherhood, to help in removing the preventable causes of our waste of child life; and it is only by school instruction of the rising generation that any headway can be made. Education is the most important. We must first educate the teachers, for however simple the instruction given may be, it is essential that those who impart such instruction shall be well grounded in the elements

of the subject, and thus may we hope to see a reduction in this particular factor in the death-rate. We must realise the fact that the wastage of infant life is enormous, and that the causes of those deaths, of the wastage, are so plain, so apparent, that there is an urgent call for the adoption of a complete systematic scheme against Infantile Mortality.

EAST INDIAN LABOUR IN FIJI.

The labour problem, which has become a source of some anxiety in the West Indies, is especially acute in the South Pacific Islands, including Fiji. No commercial enterprise of any magnitude, it has been declared, can be carried on in the South Pacific without labour from outside. Fiji, in common with British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica, therefore, views with misgiving the abolition of the indentured immigration system, which has brought to that Colony some 53,000 Indians.

Witnesses before the Inter-State Commission of Australia (says the *Board of Trade Journal*), in their advocacy for Asiatic labour, desired that Indians and Chinese should be sought. For that purpose an undoubted preference was shown for Indian coolie labour, not so much for the coolie's superior efficiency as for the fact that he represented the more desirable class, and constituted the better type of settler. This is no doubt due to racial distinctions and habits of life. One witness asserted that the planter usually preferred the native labourer, since he was cheaper. That may be the case, say the Commissioners, but that source of supply can only be drawn upon in certain limited localities. The wages of the Indian coolie in Fiji averaged, without keep, in 1912, 13.32d. per day for ordinary unskilled labour under indenture. Rations are supplied to immigrants for six months, and to their children for twelve months after arrival. The retail cost of a week's full ration in Fiji for an Indian ranges from 9/- to 3/6. Free labourers (Indian) in Fiji earn about 1/6 daily on work requiring no special skill, and if a little skill and experience are required, 2/- will be paid. The average wage paid to a native labourer is 10/- per month and keep, which is a little less than one-half of the net wages paid to an indentured coolie, and less than one-third of that of the free coolie labourer. Whilst no precise evidence was tendered as to the relative efficiency of the different classes of labour, it may be concluded that the Indian is capable of more sustained effort, and it is probable that the difference in wages on the average is recouped by the better service rendered. The Indians have already settled in large numbers in Fiji. They appear to be orderly and contented.

Mr. George R. Alston.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee held on Thursday, October 3rd, Mr. R. Rutherford moved the following resolution:—

"That the Executive of the West India Committee desire to place on record the deep regret with which they have learnt of the death of Mr. George R. Alston, for many years one of their colleagues, and to convey to Mrs. Alston and the family their expression of sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the loss which they have sustained."

Mr. G. M. Frame, in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously, said that as the oldest friend of George Alston present it was his privilege to second the resolution. Mr. Alston was his partner for twelve years, a very close and happy association, during which he, the speaker, got to know and admire those many qualities of heart and mind of their late colleague, of which all present had seen so many evidences.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

It will greatly facilitate the work of the West Indian Contingent Committee if soldiers will kindly include their full address on every letter which they may send to them.

The Ladies' Work Parties will be resumed at Lady Davson's residence, 20, Ennismore Gardens, on October 3rd, at 2.30 p.m., when it is hoped that there will be a good attendance of workers.

Instructions regarding Christmas presents are literally pouring in to the Contingent Committee, which proposes also to send a small souvenir to every man from the West Indies in H.M. Forces.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has for some time past been in communication with the War Office on the subject of "Blighty leave" for N.C.O.'s and men of the B.W.I.R., and it is understood that parties of thirty men at a time from each of the battalions in turn will visit England before long. Arrangements for their entertainment are being made by the W.I.C.C.

During the past month N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regiment have been arriving in "Blighty" on leave in increasing numbers. During their stay these men are entertained by the West Indian Contingent Committee, which provides them with board at the Union Jack Club and elsewhere, besides tickets for various entertainments. That this is appreciated is shown by the letters of thanks received. One N.C.O., for example, writes that he has returned, and is giving the Committee a "very good name," and another says that his first visit to London made a great impression on him and had enlarged his ideas of England a bit.

MAJOR RANDOLPH RUST, with characteristic energy, has for some months past been collecting and sending over Trinidad newspapers for the troops. It having been found, however, that owing to the inevitable delays at the docks and the congestion on the railways both here and in France and Italy weeks necessarily elapsed before they reached their destination, by which time they were very much out of date, it has been suggested that fewer papers posted to the Battalions direct on the day of publication would be more acceptable, besides economising space which is all important. Meanwhile Major Rust's kindly thoughts and efforts for the Trinidad boys at the Front are much valued.

During the fortnight the visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have included:—

- ANTIGUA.—Sgt. S. W. Jennings.
 BAHAMAS.—Pte. A. H. Fountain (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. R. Kingsbury Moore, Pte. R. S. Nottage, F. R. Rae.
 BARBADOS.—Pte. F. B. Armstrong, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Pte. E. G. Bayne, Clement C. Bynoe, Rfm. L. H. Branch, Lieut. W. Bowring, Gunner E. B. Carmichael, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, H. E. Collymore, Gnr. H. W. Clarke, Pte. H. S. Edghill, 2nd Lieut. S. I. Foster, L. Cpl. James S. Howard, Lieut. D. L. Johnson, Pte. S. A. Kirton, Pte. A. A. Moore, H. H. Ross, Lieut. Harold Wright (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. L. A. Walcott (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. W. A. Yearwood.
 BRITISH GUIANA.—M. McTurk, Pte. L. Haydock Wilson.
 JAMAICA.—Lieut. G. D. Burrows, Capt. C. E. Cunningham, Pte. L. Corinaldi, Sgt. A. J. Francis, Pte. H. Levy, L. Cpl. W. L. Mitchell.
 ST. VINCENT.—Lieut. R. M. Hughes, 2nd Lieut. I. A. Hadley.
 ST. KITTS.—Pte. H. Mason.
 TRINIDAD.—Trpr. B. Agostini, Numa Sellier, Flight-Cadet E. S. O'Connor, Cadet E. A. O'Connor, Pte. R. M. Anderson, 1st A/m. S. O. Leon, Rfm. J. F. Crichton, Rfm. A. C. Llanos, Pte. H. R. Murray, 2nd Lieut. C. K. Smith (B.W.I.R.), Pte. P. J. Stone, Pte. J. Macpherson, Pte. P. Geofroy, R. F. de Gannes, Sgt. Richard Hale, Joe Herrera, Cadet Edric Daly, J. O. de Nobrega, 2nd Lieut. A. M. Hale, Capt. J. C. McLelland (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. W. G. Eckel, Rfm. G. Donawa, C. R. Lyon, 2nd Lieut. L. Cornish Trestrail, Sgt. F. McArtney (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Gnr. Maurice de Verteuil.

HOMeward MAILS.

ANTIGUA—The Strickland Trophy.

The severe drought showed signs of a break on September 8th, when welcome showers began to fall. They continued for three days, culminating in a general rainfall. The *Sun* reports that at 1.30 on September 8th the megass house at Gunthorpe's Factory was burned out.

The Strickland Shooting Trophy has been won by Antigua, which scored 520 points against 510 registered by St. Kitts-Nevis. Montserrat scored 529, but was disqualified for failing to observe the conditions in one of the practices. Dominica failed to enter.

BARBADOS—385 Acres for £33,100.

MR. J. H. WILKINSON, SEPTEMBER 9th.—On August 22nd we had a little blow, the wind for a few minutes—possibly not more than five—blowing at the rate of 64 miles an hour. During this short time considerable damage was done; quite a number of labourers' houses was blown over and damaged by falling trees. A grant of £2,500 has been made by the Government to assist the sufferers. The weather since has been intensely hot, with heavy partial showers. This morning, however, we have had a good rain, which appears to have been general. The crops are looking very healthy, and there is every promise of a good tonnage of canes next year.

There seems to be great delay in the transmission of telegrams from London. The war bulletins are frequently 48 hours later than London. In these times you can understand how anxious we are all here to hear the latest news, and it is most annoying to see this continued delay. [The West India Committee are taking this matter up.]

Mount Gay Estate was sold last Friday at auction for the sum of £33,100 as from September 1st, the buyer being Mr. F. A. Ward, of Fairfield. [Mount Gay, in St. Lucy, was the property of Sir A. J. Compton Thornhill. It comprises 385 acres and a windmill.]

BRITISH GUIANA—Amatuk to Kaieteur by Car.

The coco-nut industry is booming, the poorer classes having taken up the sale actively. The price rose recently to \$24 per thousand. The deputation from the Town Council of Georgetown which visited Trinidad in order to study the sewerage conditions of the island, have returned impressed with what they saw. The result of the working of the Building Society during the past half-year are regarded by the directors as exceedingly satisfactory. The Reserve Fund has been increased by \$720, and \$6,148 is carried to the Bonus Fund. The payment on shares matured during the twelve months to June 30th is \$7 per share. A party which recently visited the Kaieteur Fall record that a survey is being made to ascertain the possibility of constructing a motor road from Amatuk to the top of Kaieteur.

The report of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., for the year ended December 31st, shows net profits amounting to £26,707, the ordinary shareholders receiving the satisfactory dividend of 25 per cent. Captain John M. Reid, Comptroller of Customs, has returned to the Colony after serving for three years with the Army in France. In view of the heavy demand, and consequent high price of castor-oil, there are hopes of establishing a remunerative industry in this Colony where the plant grows very readily. The death is announced as having taken place in Grenada (where he was taken ill) of Mr. John Litt, Passenger Superintendent of the Demerara Railway Company. Mr. Litt had spent some twenty-three years in the Colony, coming out originally as stationmaster in Georgetown. The report of Mr. Pope, the principal, on the work of Queen's College during 1917 shows a total of 106 pupils. In the Cambridge Local Examination 32 passed, 11 obtained honours, and 2 secured distinctions.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Late Governor.

The receipts of the Stann Creek Railway during the five months ended August 31st, totalled £14,878.

The local Press pays high tribute to the qualities of the late Governor, Mr. W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., whose tragic death is deplored by every resident in the Colony. The funeral took place on September 4th, in Lord's Ridge, in the presence of leading members of the community and

an enormous assemblage of the general public. After lying in state at Government House the body was removed to the Cathedral, escorted by a firing party, gun team and band of the Territorial Force. Senior captains of the Force acting as pall bearers.

After a choral service, the cortege proceeded to the cemetery in the following order:—Firing Party, Band, Choirs of St. John's and St. Mary's Churches, Ministers of Religion; Gun Carriage and Pall Bearers; Chief Mourner, Miss Hart-Bennett with the Acting Governor, Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., Mrs. R. Walter and suite. The Chief Justice, Sir Robert Roden; the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. W. L. McKinstry, Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils; Mr. H. E. Phillips, the Clerk of Councils; Heads of the various Government Departments; Members of the Civil Service, Consuls and Vice-Consuls of Foreign Powers; Justices of the Peace; Members of the Belize Town Board; Officers of Friendly Societies, the Belize Fire Brigade, the Boy Scouts, the Wesleyan Boys' Brigade, the Students of St. John's College, the Territorial Force and the general public.

GRENADA—Work of the Post Office.

The revenue of the Post Office during 1917 (reports the Colonial Postmaster in the *Government Gazette*) was slightly less than that in 1916. Arrangements for a system of telegraph money orders between the United Kingdom and the Colony had been concluded. One remittance had been received by this service. Articles received from abroad, exclusive of parcels, numbered 214,110 and the number forwarded 106,834.

MR. C. V. C. HORNE, SEPTEMBER 21st, 1918.—An appeal has been made for a general contribution throughout the Colony in aid of the "Popular Subscription Fund" to provide comforts, etc., for the Grenada Contingents. With the aid and assistance of the Editor and staff of the West Indian Newspaper in providing the stationery and printing and distribution of circulars free of charge, over £100 has been contributed to date.

To meet a deficit in the Revenue of the Colony, increased duties have been imposed on "drinks and smokes" and also an increase in certain licenses.

Another Grenada soldier has been honoured, Sergeant Terence Comissiong, with the Meritorious Service Medal; he is stationed at Dar-es-Salaam, East Africa. The first instalment of work to the British Red Cross Society in London has been despatched by the ladies of the island with Lady Haddon Smith at their head, who have been working hard for some time past.

The result of the Ladies' Tennis Tournament in aid of the Red Cross, played at Dauguldston, the residence of the Hon. D. S. De Prietas, realised £39. The organisers are much to be congratulated. Mrs. Burgess was at her best—the other ladies played very keenly also. His Excellency the Governor, Lady Haddon Smith, the Chief Justice and visitors from every parish were present. Two new Government motor rollers for road improvement have arrived and it is to be hoped we shall soon see good results in the roads.

A cricket match played between "Ladies and Gentlemen" at Queen's Park in aid of the Red Cross was keenly contested, the honours falling to the ladies. Miss Anton topped the bowling average and Mrs. N. J. Paterson the batting.

JAMAICA—Governor visits St. Thomas.

St. Thomas was *en fête* on the occasion of a visit by the Governor and Lady Probyn. The streets were decorated and outside the Court House was suspended a banner bearing the inscription, "Give us central factories." Replying to addresses, the Governor said the central factory would be run in a way that would be successful for rich and poor alike. It was essential, however, that proportionate amounts should be set aside to keep the factory efficient. The Government would be responsible for the fair treatment of small landowners and labourers.

ST. LUCIA—Postmaster's Report.

The War was responsible for a decline of £143 in the receipts from the sale of postage stamps during the financial year 1917-18, reports the Colonial Postmaster in the *Gazette*. The receipts from commission on money orders and postal orders also declined. The remarkable

increase of 72,808 is announced in the number of letters handled (273,459). This increase is attributed to the fact of steamer passengers making St. Lucia a port of call rather than to any increase in correspondence despatched by residents in the Colony. Parcels received from Canada and the United States show an increase, and those from the United Kingdom a decline. As in the previous year money orders (which show a marked decline in value) were issued to the amount of £7,205, the United States taking first place followed by the United Kingdom, Barbados and Canada. Decrease in business by means of the Cash on Delivery Service becomes more marked as the War proceeds.

TOBAGO—A Baby Clinic Opened.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, SEPT. 4th.—August was a record month of heat and drought. My rain gauge registered only 2.46 inches while the average is 10 inches. Our cocoa crop is suffering and the peasant proprietors are getting alarmed about their corn and ground provisions. Rain is much needed. The air is still and broiling hot. Light breezes from the W. and S.W. don't improve matters and the few dark clouds disappear with only slight and generally unrecordable showers. I trust that my next may advise a welcome change in the weather. Little lots of cocoa still go forward, but the exports are chiefly confined to copra. Price has advanced to \$7.95 per 100 lbs, which is very satisfactory to producers. A serious feature of the exceptional weather is sickness of man and beast. The natives suffer from a low fever from which many succumb, and with our rather too stagnant population, they can be ill spared. Lady Chancellor has inaugurated a Baby Clinic which ought to be of great benefit to the community when sufficient nurses are trained to distribute all over the island. The lack of competent nurses and midwives is a serious matter in country villages, and infant mortality is far too great. Fortunately the problem is being tackled and those who wish the community to prosper look forward to a happy solution of it in due time.

Tobago welcomes with pleasure His Excellency, Lady Chancellor and Miss Chancellor at Government House, Scarborough. Other Trinidad visitors now in the island are Mr. Hancock, inspector of schools, and Mrs. Hancock; Archdeacon Tomberley and Miss Carr. The latter is an enthusiastic war worker (from the Emerald Isle) who is taking a much-needed rest. Their chief enjoyment is sea fishing and they have had most successful catches of red fish, grouper, etc., etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Captain and Mrs. Short and family have returned from their holiday at Barbados and are full of praise of the pleasant time they had in the land of the "flying fish." Barbados as a holiday resort has evidently scored in these war days and will benefit further now that the U.S.A. has vetoed travelling for pleasure.

TRINIDAD—Prosperous East Indians.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, SEPTEMBER 7th.—The success of the efforts so heartily supported by your Committee to relieve the cocoa situation here is very welcome. It is a great relief, as may be imagined, to know that the large stocks depreciating in store will now have a chance of finding a remunerative market. Already some has found freight-room, and further opportunities will shortly offer.

The long-delayed Federation of the West Indies is likely to be again a prominent question within a short time. Trinidad has followed the example of Barbados in favour of the movement, and has heartily adopted, by resolution of the Chamber of Commerce, a suggestion that the matter should be submitted to the next Conference of the Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies, expected to be held at Barbados early next year. Other of the Colonies are approving. It is satisfactory to know that there is every reason to hope that Mr. Dawson, the able President of the Associated Chamber, will be present at Barbados, and will preside at the meetings there.

The £100,000 War Loan initiated by the Hon. Adam Smith has been much more than subscribed, and the amount will be duly transmitted as a further contribution from the Colony to aid in the prosecution of the War. It is certainly only a drop in the ocean, but every little helps—and it goes with the Colony's best wishes and a

good heart. The total applied for was £158,800 in Debenture Bonds, and £5,820 in Scrip, the latter being principally in small amounts, as anything down to 15/- was accepted.

SEPTEMBER 13th.—All in Trinidad were deeply shocked and sincerely sorry to receive the news of the, to us, unexpected death of George R. Alston. He was not only well known as an active member of the West India Committee, and in West Indian circles at home, but as the founder and head of one of the leading and most highly-respected firms in this Colony. Although not often of late among us, he bore the best of names, and his loss will be widely regretted. Personally, I had known him since he came out as a boy fresh from school in the seventies. He was one of those whom prosperity did not spoil, and when I last saw him it seemed to me that all the changes of many years had left him much the same in sterling character and kind disposition as in those early times. Flaws in honour of his memory flew half-mast from all the leading commercial houses as soon as the sad tidings were made known.

Indian immigration is coming to an end, and I trust the faddists and agitators will be satisfied; but after all, who benefits? Certainly not the planter, who will suffer—not for the want of cheap, but of reliable labour; and, more certainly not still, the coolie, to whom Trinidad was a golden paradise in comparison with what he left in the Far East. That there were faults on both sides, no impartial observer will question. A few hard-headed, more or less ignorant managers, who had no idea of managing these people, were responsible for much of the trouble rightly laid at their doors, but as a general rule there was no legitimate cause for complaint. On the other hand, how many undreamt-of blessings have fallen into the lap of the immigrant! Let him who doubts ride through the prosperous villages and countryside of Trinidad and see the numberless Indian peasants and traders as free, happy, and contented as their fellows in any part of the world. I was led to these remarks by a casual glance at the last published Probate List. There were fifteen estates under the Ordinance on which duty had been calculated. Of these, fourteen of different nationalities ranged in value from £10 to £1,000. The fifteenth was that of a former Indian indentured immigrant, and the amount was £10,507! But this is nothing unusual.

TURKS ISLANDS—2,500,000 Bushels of Salt.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—Roughly speaking, there were two and a half million bushels of salt ready for shipment in the Dependency at the end of August, much of which had already been engaged, and as soon as vessels could be procured would start to move. News is to hand that the United States Shipping Board have agreed to allot sufficient tonnage to remove the whole of the salt. The Government are handling a good proportion of the salt of the smaller proprietors on the same basis as they are handling the cotton.

LADY HAYES SADLER.

We much regret to state that Lady Hayes Sadler died at Machynlleth, North Wales, on Sept. 18th.

Lady Hayes Sadler, who died of heart failure after a short illness, will be affectionately remembered in the Windward Islands as the wife of Lieut.-Colonel Sir James Hayes Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of that Colony from 1909 to 1914. Daughter of Colonel Wemyss Smith, of the Indian Army, she was married to Sir James in 1875, and had three sons, of whom two were killed within a few days of each other in the present War. In the Windward Islands, Lady Hayes Sadler was associated with many good movements, for instance, the Home Industry Association, of which she was the founder, and shortly after the outbreak of War she started the Eastern League, a society of English and Indian ladies for providing comforts for Indian troops. She was indeed working for that organisation up to the day before she was taken ill. Lady Sadler was also a member of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which is indebted to her for many acceptable gifts of comforts. The deepest sympathy will be felt for Sir James Hayes Sadler in his bereavement.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6812 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib. London."

15, SEething LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

October 17th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.

NATIONAL WAR BONDS. All are urged to "Feed the Guss" by buying National War Bonds. It cannot be too widely known in the West Indies that interest on these is paid *without deduction of income tax.*

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee. Supplies continue to meet with an active demand.

The West India Committee have called the attention of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to the delay which is taking place in the distribution of muscovado and other West India sugars, and have received a sympathetic reply from Sir Charles Bathurst, whom we have to congratulate on his elevation to the Peerage.

Meanwhile the public is apparently complaining that they are being supplied with too much brown sugar, and a statement has been issued to the effect that this is unavoidable under existing conditions, and it would appear that further publicity should be given to the merits of West India crystallised and muscovado sugar.

British West Indian exports from January 1st to various dates have been as under:—

| | Tons. |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| British Guiana (to Sept. 15) | 60,177 |
| British Honduras (to Aug. 31) | 1,382 |
| St. Lucia (to Aug. 31) | 2,649 |
| Trinidad (to Sept. 15) | 33,989 |

New York duty paid price for the current season remains at 6.055c. basis 96° as against 6.52c. a year ago. Cubas 4.985 c. and f. New York. The contract price for next Cuban crop is \$5.50 per 100 lbs. f.o.b. The crop has been purchased by the Sugar Equalisation Board on behalf of the American, British, French and Italian Governments. The crop will begin in December.

The latest figure for the 1917-18 Cuban crop is 3,350,000 tons and that for the Porto Rico crop 413,231 tons. Attracted by higher wages, Porto Rican unskilled labourers are emigrating in great numbers to the United States and it is said that thousands are now awaiting transportation facilities. The Philippine crop amounted to 108,811 tons.

The suggestions for forming a "cartel" in America and Cuba with the object of controlling European markets on which it is proposed to dump the surplus production of the United States and Cuba, to which reference is made elsewhere in the CIRCULAR, has been the subject of much comment, and it is understood that the British refiners are already taking action in the matter.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on October 12th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Imports | 29,236 | 69,642 | 49,057 |
| Deliveries | 30,256 | 65,013 | 50,209 |
| Stock (Oct. 12th) | 9,967 | 12,644 | 9,953 |

RUM. The position is unchanged. The stocks in London on October 12th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Jamaica | 4,573 | 8,810 | 9,970 |
| Demerara | 8,698 | 9,024 | 12,649 |
| Total of all kinds | 18,982 | 27,954 | 36,748 |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

These prices are subject to grading in London and Liverpool. Cocoa is now allocated in this country by a Distributing Committee.

Shipments of Trinidad Cocoa during the month of August, were as under:—

| Destination | Weight in lbs. |
|------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 2,559,627 |
| Total for August | 2,559,627 |
| Shipped previously | 41,813,394 |
| Total from 1st January | 44,373,021 |

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| To same date 1917 | 65,009,986 |
| " " 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 |

From January 1st to August 31st the exports from St. Lucia were 5,201,632 lbs.

The stocks in London on October 12th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Trinidad | 7,079 | 26,155 | 21,422 |
| Grenada | 8,648 | 26,007 | 13,877 |
| Total of all kinds | 149,140 | 264,822 | 205,635 |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz:—

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary | 36d. |
| Good Ordinary | 40d. |
| Superfine St. Vincent | 45d.-50d. |

Subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

In the 40 weeks ended September 26th, 3,025 bales of West Indian were imported into the United Kingdom.

St. Vincent exports January 1st to August 31st: 321,609 lbs. white, and 7,851 lbs. stained.

ARROWROOT. Quotations unchanged.

COPRA. Prices as fixed by the Government remain £46 c.i.f. London or Liverpool. Shipments to Marseilles command about £90 c.i.f.

COCO-NUTS. Exports from January 1st to various dates:—

| | Nuts. |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| British Guiana (Sept. 5) | 738,640 |
| British Honduras (Sept. 15) | 2,900,500 |
| Trinidad (Sept. 15) | 14,674,855 |

HONEY. Exports from January 1st include: St. Lucia (to August 31) 35,160, as against 5,396 only to the same date in 1917; Trinidad (to Sept. 15) 25,356 lbs. Prices are steady and unchanged.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled Neglected. Value 6/-. Handpressed Very quiet, 15/- to 16/-. Lime Juice: Raw Good to fine, 4/- to 4/6. Concentrated Firm but quiet. Citrate firm.

RICE. The industry in British Guiana is still under Government control, with the result that the export from January 1st to September 5th fell from 28,320,653 lbs. in 1917 to 17,839,878 lbs. to the same date this year.

SPICES. Nutmegs. Market firm. Prices unchanged. Mace. Market dealer. To-day's value of pale 3/9; red-dish 3/3 to 3/6; broken 3/.

RUBBER. British Guiana exported from January 1st to September 5th 15,867 lbs. as against 8,714 lbs for the same period in 1917. To-day's value sheet 2/3.

ASPHALT. The exports from Trinidad from January 1st to September 15th were 37,705 tons.

PETROLEUM. Progress in the exports of Trinidad Oil continues to be eminently satisfactory. In August 5,888,542 gallons were shipped against 1,972,705 gallons in the same month last year. For the year to August 31st 28,566,276 gallons were shipped as compared with 20,531,204 gallons in the same period of 1917. The production of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., in September was 13,925 tons.

The West India Committee Circular

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. The Secretary will gladly send copies of THE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 6642 CENTRAL. 15, SERRING LANE, LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON. October 31st, 1918.

The Raleigh Centenary.

DURING the past week England has been celebrating the tercentenary of the death of SIR WALTER RALEGH. We do not doubt that the celebrations have been closely followed in British Guiana and Trinidad, with which colonies the memory of the great sea-captain and explorer will ever be indissolubly associated. It will be recalled that on his memorable voyage of 1595 SIR WALTER RALEGH visited Trinidad on his way to explore the banks of the Orinoco and to search for the fabled riches of Guiana. On March 22nd, 1595, he entered the Gulf of Paria by the Boca del Sierpe or Serpent's mouth. With the keen eye of the explorer he was the first to recognise the existence of asphalt in the Island at the place "called by the naturals Piche," and "by the Spaniards Tierra de Brea," and was the first to put the substance to practical use by caulking the seams of his vessels with it. In his *History of the Discoverie of Guiana* he wrote, "At this point . . . there is that abundance of stone pitch that all the ships of the world may be therewith laden from thence, and we made trial of it in trimming our

shippes to be most excellent good, and melteth not with the Sunne as the pitch of Norway, and, therefore for shippes trading the south parts very profitable." The truth of his prophecy is now amply demonstrated by the successful asphalt industry which has contributed so greatly to the prosperity of Trinidad. Passing along the coast from La Brea RALEGH landed at the place "which the Spaniards called Puerto de Los Espannoles and the inhabitants Conquerabia," now Port-of-Spain, and marching inland destroyed the Spanish settlement of San Josef de Oruna, taking the Governor DON ANTONIO DE BERREO prisoner. It was his boast that in a few days he gained more information respecting the Island, its produce and its inhabitants than BERREO had gained in eleven years. From BERREO, who had been one of the greatest and most determined explorers of Guiana, he learnt much about "Manoa the Imperial city of Guiana, which the Spaniards call Eldorado," the search for which proved his undoing. Who shall say that when an enlightened Government deals intelligently with the labour problem in British Guiana RALEGH's anticipations regarding the wealth of that great country may not prove as well and fully justified as those which he expressed regarding the asphalt of Trinidad? By his humane treatment of the native Indians RALEGH set up a standard of administration which has been the key-note of successful English colonisation. No doubt SIR SIDNEY LEE will emphasize these points in the lecture which he is to read on December 10th before the Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute on "Raleigh's Discovery of Guiana," at a meeting over which SIR WALTER EGERTON, the late Governor of the Colony, will preside. His discoveries in the West Indies represent but one feature of his many activities. His exploration extended much farther afield as the history of Virginia proves. Time has but served to bring out into stronger relief the services rendered by this great man to his nation, services which have strengthened the foundations of our far-flung Empire.

A Cuban-American Menace.

THE Cuban-American sugar plot, the main features of which were disclosed in last issue, thickens. We are now given to understand that the proposal that Cuban sugar should be refined in the United States and dumped in Europe after the War did not originate with the CZARNIKOW-RIONDA Co., but that the Market Report of that firm, in dealing with the subject, was only bringing to light representations made to the late Ambassador of the

United States by the Cuban Minister more than a year ago, and which are still the subject of correspondence between the Cuban Minister and the United States' Secretary of State. We do not consider, however, that we owe an apology to MESSRS. CZARNIKOW-RIONDA for attributing the proposals to them, for there was nothing whatever in their report to indicate that they were not the authors of them, and at any rate they gave to them a fatherly blessing. It will be remembered that the suggestion was that inasmuch as the United States controlled 1,750,000 tons of sugar over and above its present requirements, and that as the capacity of the American refineries was greater than the demand for their products in the United States by 1,500,000 tons, Cuban sugar should be refined in America and sold under a ten years' agreement to European countries. As European countries under normal conditions themselves produce enough—if not more than enough—sugar for their own requirements, it is clear that it is to the market of the United Kingdom that the advocates of the Cuban-American combine look with longing eyes, and we cannot view without grave apprehension the possibility of 1,500,000 tons of American refined sugar being dumped in the United Kingdom annually. From 1,500,000 it is but a short step for a country like Cuba to 2,000,000 tons, the total consumption of the United Kingdom, and then what room would there be for British raw sugars? What chances would then remain of the development of a British sugar industry, which is so much to be desired? In the pre-War year of 1913 the imports of sugar into the United Kingdom were approximately 2,000,000 tons, of which one-half was raw and one-half refined. It is clear then that the position of the British refining industry would be seriously prejudiced if 1,500,000 tons of Cuban-American refined sugar were to be dumped here. The proposals for extending the British refining industry, which are now under consideration, would be nipped in the bud completely. We are very glad to learn that the Sugar Section of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which represents sugar producers in every part of the world, has taken this matter up, and it will be noted from their resolutions which we publish elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR, that they regard the action of Cuba and America in this matter as emphasising the need for the adoption of a policy of Imperial Preference with a view to check-mating once and for all any such attempt to control our supplies and trade, and to securing the development of the British sugar industry. They point out that the adoption of the proposals referred to above would place this country once more in a state of dependency on the caprice of foreign countries for one of the chief necessities of life, a policy which has been shown to be most prejudicial to producers and consumers alike.

A MEMBER, till recently in arrears with his subscription to the West India Committee, in forwarding the amount due, wrote: "I quite appreciate the extra cost and trouble of running the CIRCULAR, and I am sure you realise that everybody in the West Indies values the Committee's good work, and we should not, therefore, give you extra trouble." That is the proper spirit and we hope that members still in arrears will hasten to "make good."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"COTTON-TREE never so big but little axe cut him."

THE Government of Jamaica is preparing a scheme for the welfare of the returning Jamaica contingents now at the Front. It will include settlement on the land and training in trades. Considerable expenditure will be involved.

MR. EDMUND ROBERT SPEARMAN, C.M.G., Vice-Consul at Chantilly, who died in France on October 6th, at the advanced age of 81, was successively Assistant Secretary (1860-80) and Secretary (1880-85) of the Public Works Loan Board and West Indian Islands Relief Board.

THE West India Committee, who have only one member of their pre-war staff with them at present, have now temporarily lost George J. Miller, who joined the staff since the War began. On reaching military age he volunteered for the R.A.F., in which he is now a Cadet.

SIR PHILIP GREGORY, who died at his London residence on October 28th, was the youngest son of the late Mr. John Gregory, Governor of the Bahamas. Born in 1851, Sir Philip had a brilliant career at the Bar, becoming a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn and one of the Conveyancing Counsel to the Supreme Court.

INTEREST in the problems and resources of the Empire, which has been stimulated by the War, is reflected in a valuable course of lectures on Imperial Studies arranged for the session 1918-19 in connection with the University of London. The Crown Colonies are included in the field to be covered, and there is mention of British Guiana in association with lectures which will treat of Roman-Dutch law.

IN that enlightened country America the repayment of fees for cables originating in the United States which are stopped by the censorship before leaving, is not absolutely prohibited. Requests from cable users for refunds are, we are informed, considered individually and on their merit, and the cable companies are allowed to make refunds when evidence of non-delivery is presented and when no military objection exists. A refund is rarely refused when requested by loyal firms.

HIS friends in the Leeward Islands will be interested to hear of the good work accomplished by their former Governor, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, in Fiji. "His six years' administration," says the *Colonial Journal* for October, "has been marked by sound and careful work, though, of course, the War has interfered with the accomplishment of his schemes, in which education and road-making loomed large." Sir Bickham has recently retired from the Governorship of Fiji.

THE appointment of Mr. Claude Ferlong Condell, Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands, to be Commissioner of Montserrat, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Davidson-Houston, is officially announced. Mr. Condell, who was born in 1865, was educated at Edinburgh Academy, Stonyhurst College, and the University of Paris. He has already served in the West Indies, having been Inspector of Schools in St. Lucia from 1904 to 1914. As a delegate to the Agricultural Conference he was in Kingston during the earthquake of 1907.

THE Royal Bank of Canada has kindly consented to receive at its Head Office at Montreal and at its branches in Quebec, St. John, London (England), and throughout the West Indies, subscriptions to the West India Committee for transmission to headquarters. The Bank has branches in Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Tobago, Trinidad, British Honduras, and British Guiana, and there will be less excuse than ever for members who allow their payments to fall into arrears.

The African Progress Union, of Norwich House, High Holborn, whose membership is drawn also from the West Indies, British Guiana, Honduras, and America, and represents advanced African ideas in liberal education, has forwarded to the Prime Minister a resolution entering "an emphatic, solemn, and soul-concerned protest" against the restoration of the German Colonies in Africa to Germany, and submitting to the British Government an earnest prayer that the present form of military government prevailing in these Colonies shall be superseded as soon as practicable by a more beneficent form of government. Assurance is given of "the loyalty of all our people to the Allied cause."

THE REV. W. ONSLOW-CARLETON, who, we regret to state, has been drowned at sea with his ten-year-old son, was successively Padre of the 8th and 3rd British West Indies Regiment. In August last, on the expiration of his year's service, he decided to return to South Africa, where he resided, to rejoin his wife and three daughters. For about twenty-two years Mr. Carleton, who was the son of Commissioner Carleton, of the Salvation Army, had conducted missionary work in Matabeleland and Zululand, first in connection with the Salvation Army, and afterwards under the London Missionary Society and the American Board of Missions. His many friends in the B.W.I.R. will grieve his loss.

* * *

It should be of interest to the Barbados House of Assembly, who have under consideration the question of Income Tax, to know that the Income Tax Act 1918, 8 and 9 Geo. V. [8 August 1918] consolidates the Enactments relating to Income Tax from the Act of 1842 down to and ending with the Finance Act 1918. In the report of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons (T. of C. 24th July, 1918) it is stated that the "original draft of the Consolidation Bills 1918 was prepared by Mr. Bertram Cox, the Solicitor of Inland Revenue, personally, not under official instructions, but as a voluntary piece of work. . . . throughout the proceedings Mr. Bertram Cox continuously took a leading part in the work. It is not easy to over-rate the value of his services." It may be remembered that Mr. H. Bertram Cox, C.B., Solicitor of the Inland Revenue, was formerly Legal Under-Secretary to the Colonial Office. He is also on the Council of the Society of Comparative Legislation, whose journal, published yearly for the Society by John Murray, contains abstracts of the legislation of the Empire as well as articles by contributors of high authority in legal and juristic circles.

* * *

The United States Food Administration has compiled the following statistics showing the approximate quantities of sugar used annually by the manufacturing industries of the United States:—

| | Tons. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Confectionery | 350,000 |
| Bread | 45,000 |
| Crackers | 55,000 |
| Sweet Doughs | 45,000 |
| Pies | 47,500 |
| Cakes | 37,500 |
| Sundry bakery goods | 9,000 |
| Chewing gum | 15,000 |
| Soft drinks | 135,000 |
| Ice Creams | 64,000 |
| Tobacco | 26,000 |
| Soap | 900 |
| Brewers | None |
| Canned vegetables | 4,000 |
| Canned fruits: | |
| California, Oregon and Washington | 17,000 |
| Rest of United States | 9,000 |
| Condensed milk | 100,000 |
| Proprietary medicines | 6,100 |
| Pharmaceutical preparations | 6,125 |
| Total | 972,125 |

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

England, Germany and an Armistice.

Just why Germany applied to the United States for an armistice, and not to the Allies as a whole, is a matter of opinion. The Wilhelmstrasse may still cherish the illusion expressed by Von Papen in the phrase, "those stupid Yankees," or what is more likely, is well aware that one of President Wilson's "fourteen points" is the "freedom of the seas," than which Germany desires nothing better, as thereby she hopes to gain at the expense of England. In any case the succession of Notes so far have been silent on sea-power, thus giving an impression agreeable to Germany that only armies and territory (European) count in the negotiation of an armistice. That is why the British Government has remained silent, a dignified attitude worthy of the country, whose Navy is the enabling source of all Allied efforts. If her interests were threatened, no doubt the Prime Minister would have spoken, as M. Clemenceau has already done, but England knows that the armistice proposal is a sham, and prefers to speak through her armed forces, which have occupied the Belgian Coast and are steadily pressing the enemy back to the Scheldt. For England the vital points to be decided before even a temporary cessation of hostilities can be considered, are the future of the German Fleet, together with compensation for shipping sunk through "U"-boat depredations, and the future of Germany's lost Colonies. Not a single enemy submarine must be left unaccounted for. In the meantime the torture of prisoners and the devastation of evacuated territory is hardening public opinion in support of stern justice.

The German and American Notes.

President Wilson's diplomacy, from the Continental point of view, is masterly. When the German Chancellor accepted the terms as laid down in the Address to Congress of January 8th, and declared that he spoke in the name of the German people, President Wilson tacitly declined to "occasion the meeting of a Mixed Commission for making the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation" of the occupied territories by pointing out that such a process, as well as the conditions of an armistice, "are matters which must be left to the judgment and advice of the military advisers" of the Allied Governments, and that no arrangement will be accepted that does not provide such guarantees and safeguards as will secure the present military supremacy of the Allied forces in the field. Prince Max replied, by suggesting that the present relative strength of the Allied and German armies should be the standard of basis, implying that Germany's military forces would be left intact and that no more American troops would be landed in France. In these circumstances she would be in a position to use a still unbeaten Army as an instrument of negotiation at the Peace Conference. At the same time she accepted President Wilson's stipulations that illegal and inhuman practices should cease, and that the military advisers of the Allied Governments should decide the terms of the armistice. In short she must suffer the humiliation of sending representa-

tives to Marshal Foch's Headquarters or continue the war.

Unconditional Surrender.

The latest American Note is, practically, an ultimatum. It is also an appeal. By the first President Wilson makes it clearly understood that the only armistice he would feel justified in submitting for consideration would be one which should leave the Allied Powers "in a position to enforce any arrangement that may be entered into, and to make any renewal of hostilities on the part of Germany impossible." By the second he tries to separate the German people from their rulers by insisting that they themselves guarantee good faith. If they fail, as they have hitherto failed, to fulfil this essential condition, America "must demand not peace negotiations but surrender." In all these Notes President Wilson has been the spokesman, not of the Allies, but of the United States alone. On the part of the Imperial Chancellor they have been progressive, due less to the diplomacy of President Wilson than to Allied successes in the field.

The latest news is that Austria-Hungary is asking for peace without reference to Germany.

The War in Flanders.

In co-operation with the Fleet the Franco-Belgian and British Forces continue their advance in Flanders, the most rapid changes having taken place during the past fortnight. With the fall of Menin, which was entered by the British on October 16th, and their passage of the Lys at Werwieq on the south and the deepening of the Franco-Belgian thrust between the Yser and Thourout on the north, the retreat of General von Arnim in command of the German Fourth Army was inevitable. Meeting with diminished opposition in some places and the withdrawal of rearguards at others, the Franco-Belgian forces captured Lichtervelde and outflanked Thourout, which was occupied the same day as the British arrived on the outskirts of Courtrai and within a mile or two of Turcoing. The enemy was thus forced back from his lateral line of communications with the coast from Thourout to Turcoing to the main trunk line Bruges-Ghent-Brussels, crowding him badly near the frontier of Dutch Flanders. On the following day Lille, which, to save it from an Allied bombardment, had been outflanked, was evacuated by the enemy in a dramatic fashion. Not only was there no organised destruction, but while the German garrison marched out in one direction, the inhabitants of the city went in another "to meet their friends," as the order of the German commander went. Lille was thus returned to France practically uninjured. Roubaix and Courtrai, two other great centres of population in this industrial area, were less fortunate, the Germans doing as much damage as they could before leaving.

Occupation of the Belgian Coast.

With his communications thus cut with the coast the enemy retired first from Ostend, then from Zeebrugge, Bruges, and Blankenberghe. Nothing will bring home to the Germans so bitterly the end of their dream of world conquest. For the Belgian

Coast was the greatest symbol thereof as the gateway to the sea and the means of pointing a pistol at the heart of England. The immediate results of these rapid successes is the recovery of a considerable part of Belgium, and the means for creating fresh bases of supply for the Allied armies in Flanders, thus relieving the strain on French ports. From the naval point of view the enemy is deprived of the submarine bases, which played such a large part in the earlier phases of unrestricted warfare at sea. Though seriously impeded by the blocking operations of the British Fleet they still continue to be useful for small craft.

How closely the Allied forces followed up the retreating foe is evident from the fact that he was unable to remove his big guns from the coast ports.

On the French Front.

South of Lille the British forces, which were co-operating with the Allied armies farther north, captured Douai, and are now working towards Valenciennes, the only remaining important town in occupied France which has not yet been liberated, and to Tournai, both on the Scheldt, which from thence to Ghent is the new German line. But north-west of Tournai it has been crossed and we now hold many miles of the west bank. From here southwards the resistance encountered is most obstinate, the difficult terrain, river, wood, hill and villages closely packed effectively aiding defence. The most formidable positions to be overcome were those along the Selle River, which was in flood. But with the help of tanks at certain places, British troops broke down the enemy's most stubborn attempts to deny them passage. On the Lys, the Scheldt, and the Sambre the Allies are advancing both on Tournai and Valenciennes with a thrust towards the great fortress of Maubeuge. Farther south the French, at a slower rate, owing to the resistance they met before they took the Gobain *massif*, are moving up the Sere and the Oise with Herson and Mezières as their objectives, while on the extreme left the Americans, in another difficult terrain, are threatening Metz and Montmédy. In short, the Germans, who are retiring with great skill, will soon have their powers more severely tried yet, for every few miles the difficulties of withdrawing huge armies, impeded by the enormous and complicated mechanism essential to its maintenance, increase in a corresponding ratio. It is unlikely that the German High Command meant to hold the Scheldt, but to defend it as long as possible to enable the retreat to the Antwerp-Brussels-Namur-Mezières-Montmédy-Metz line to be carried out without disaster.

On Other Fronts.

In Albania the Italians, who have occupied Durazzo from Elbassau, are at Tirana. The Franco-Serbians, when they had captured Nish, with large booty, and Pirot, moved rapidly up the Morava to the junction of that river with the Timok. Proceeding up the valley of the latter they have reached the Danube.

On the Palestine front our Cavalry are in Aleppo. In Mesopotamia Kirkuk has been re-occupied by British troops, and the Turks thereby forced to retire to the west bank of the Tigris.

The War at Sea.

The Dublin mail boat, *Leinster*, has been torpedoed in circumstances which call to mind the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Of the passengers and crew on board, 757 in all, 500 have been lost. The vessel was not convoyed because the British authorities hoped (1), that in case of emergency her speed would save her; (2) that her obvious character as a passenger boat would deter the Huns from sinking her. As if it would, when they do not spare hospital ships, which are even more clearly marked. The *Leinster* was attacked twice, the second time when the boats were being lowered. The scenes in the water were so appalling as to be indescribable.

The opinion of the Admiralty is that "U-boats" have crept through the mine barriers of the North Sea.

Another loss, due to collision, was the *Otranto*, an armed mercantile cruiser, with American troops on board. These, and the crew, totalled 1,027, of whom 431 are lost and 596 saved. The disaster would have been more complete than it was but for the skill and intrepidity of Lieut. Craven of the destroyer *Mounsey*, who took her close to the *Otranto*, when the wind was blowing all but one point of a hurricane. It was considered impossible until it was done.

An American steamer, the *Ticonderoga*, has been torpedoed, with a loss of 10 officers and 111 men.

The monthly return of shipping losses issued by the Admiralty for September is satisfactory, both as regards marine risks and enemy action. There is a decrease of 88,572 tons on the figures for August and of 40,199 tons on the figures for June, whose totals were up to then the lowest recorded for 1918. Unfortunately, British losses still preponderate greatly over Allied and Neutral losses combined. For the quarter ending 30th September, the first totalled 510,551 tons, the second 381,905 tons. For the corresponding quarter of 1917 the figures were for the first, 952,938 tons, for the second, 541,531 tons.

Sir E. Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty, with one of the Sea Lords and a Secretary, has been on a mission to the United States, the first time on record that a Board has gone to a foreign country, except on a yacht on a visit of inspection. In a statement to the Press, Sir E. Geddes said that the Allied Governments expected unrestricted submarine warfare in a more intense form than ever. The object of the Mission is to arrange with America to provide more destroyers and patrol vessels generally, as up to now she has concentrated on civilian tonnage.

In the Air.

During the past fortnight the weather has been unfavourable to flying. Nevertheless our aviators have done valuable work in reconnaissance and photography, besides blowing up an ammunition train and damaging railway communications and aerodromes. Of enemy machines 72 have been destroyed and 26 brought down out of control. Of ours 35 have been reported as missing. The R.A.F. Independent Force continues its important work of bombing Rhine factories and railways.

In four months on the British Western Front, where the heaviest fighting in the air has taken

place, 1,448 enemy machines have been destroyed and 558 driven down out of control, to 668 of ours reported as missing. These figures do not include the heavy losses inflicted by British squadrons operating on the Belgian Coast or by the R.A.F. Independent Force in the German Rhineland. With the rapid Allied advance, not only has the enemy lost more than a dozen aerodromes, including the huge aircraft park at Ghistelle, but the big group of aerodromes round Ghent is menaced directly, and, indirectly. Prussia has lost in the coast towns of Ostend, Zeebrugge and Bruges, its vital outworks of aerial defence.

(To be continued.)

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(Continued from page 306.)

On March 20th, 1840, the first contract was entered into with "the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for and on behalf of Her Majesty," and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a bi-monthly West Indian mail service. The itinerary seems in these days to have been rather a roundabout one. The mail steamer went direct to Barbados "with all possible speed," and thence to Grenada, Santa Cruz, St. Thomas, Mole St. Nicholas in Haiti, Santiago de Cuba, Port Royal and Savanna-la-Mar in Jamaica, Havana in Cuba, and then back to Savanna-la-Mar, Port Royal, Santiago, Mole St. Nicholas and Samana in Haiti; and thence direct to a port in the British Channel. From Barbados a vessel proceeded to Tobago, Demerara, Berbice, Paramaribo and back, calling at the same ports in the reverse order and also Grenada on her way to Barbados. At Grenada two steamers met the ocean boat, one of them proceeding to St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Santa Cruz, Tortola, St. Thomas, San Juan (Porto Rico) Samana (Haiti), Curaçoa, Puerto Cabello, La Guayra, and Trinidad, and from Trinidad back to Grenada; while the other vessel proceeded to the same ports in the reverse order.

But this was not all. There were also branch services to various ports by sailing packets and steam vessels from Curaçoa, Mole St. Nicholas, Port Royal, Savanna-la-Mar and Havana, and communication was also effected with New York. In return for this very comprehensive service an annual subsidy of £240,000 was granted to the Company, with the promise of further payment in the event of the increase of insurance or the freight on coals. The total steamer and sailing under this contract amounted to no fewer than 684,816 miles per annum, but it was reduced in October, 1842, to 392,976 miles and in the following year a further reduction of 40,000 miles was agreed to.

Owing to the necessity for further modifications in the original contract, a new one was drawn up for six years from January 1st, 1846, and it was agreed that mileage in excess of 389,448 miles should be paid for in addition.

From 1840 to the present time—with only one break, namely, from 1905 to 1911—the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has held the contract for

the conveyance of the West Indian mails; during that period, however, the service has been repeatedly modified, both as to the itinerary and speed.

For some years St. Thomas was the port of transhipment for the intercolonial mails, etc., and for a still longer period Barbados enjoyed that privilege. Under the last contract which was signed in 1911 Trinidad was the headquarters of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the West Indies, and until the service was terminated in 1915 it was in the spacious Gulf of Paria that the intercolonial steamers met the transatlantic steamers, though Barbados was still the first and last port of call.

The itinerary under the last contract was as follows: The Azores, Barbados, Trinidad, Puerto Colombia (Savannah), Cartagena, Colon, Jamaica, Antilla (Cuba), and New York, returning by the same route.

At Trinidad the ocean steamer was met by two intercolonial steamers, one of which proceeded to Demerara and the other to Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts, and back.

Contract Service Ended in 1905.

In 1905, on the expiration of the mail contract, tenders were invited for its renewal. Only the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company submitted a tender, but as they asked for more than they had been receiving, this was refused by the Government. Shortly afterwards, however, a private offer was received from a competing line which had been made acquainted with the nature of the tender, to carry out the service for less. Fresh tenders having been invited, a contract was awarded to the competing line, subject to the approval of the colonies. The West Indies resolutely declined to give their consent to the arrangement, in spite of their being told that if they did not do so there would be no contract at all. On the expiration of the contract there was accordingly no renewal and much inconvenience and dislocation of trade resulted. It was obvious at the outset to those acquainted with the requirements of West Indian trade that the absence of a regular mail service would be most prejudicial, and so it proved to be. The West Indian colonies protested loudly, and eventually in 1907 a contract was entered into for a fortnightly intercolonial mail service for a period of ten years for an annual subsidy of £25,000 a year, half provided by the Imperial Government and half by the colonies concerned.

Meanwhile, the transatlantic mails were carried on a poundage basis by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and in 1910 a fresh crisis arose through the Company intimating that the payment which they were receiving was inadequate, and giving notice to terminate the arrangement. In November the direct service between Barbados and Southampton ceased, the transatlantic steamers being sent to St. Thomas, then a Danish island.

Much disturbance of business naturally resulted throughout the West Indies, and the West India Committee urged that negotiations might be entered into for the settlement of a new mail contract. Then, in August, a recommendation was made by the Royal Commission on Trade Relations

between Canada and the West Indies that the mail service should be conducted entirely via Canada. This suggestion did not meet with approval and on November 18th, a conference of representatives of all the West Indian colonies was held in Barbados, under the presidency of Mr. V. Hanschell, Chairman of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce, and as the result of this important gathering and of negotiations at home, the Imperial Government agreed to provide a subsidy of £40,000 a year towards a direct transatlantic mail service, the colonies contributing a still more substantial sum. A contract was then entered into between the Crown Agents for the Colonies on behalf of the Imperial Government and the colonies concerned and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for a regular fortnightly transatlantic mail service to run concurrently with the intercolonial service, viz., until 1917, on the basis of an annual subsidy of £88,000; a serious crisis was thus ended.

Mail Subsidies from 1842.

In the following table particulars are given regarding the subsidies which have been paid to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company since 1842 for the West Indian transatlantic service and intercolonial mail service:—

| | Duration of Subsidy, Years. | Annual Amount, £ | Transatlantic Speed in Knots. |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1842 to 1845 ... | 4 | 240,000 | 8 to 8½ |
| 1846 .. 1850 ... | 5 | 240,000 | 9 |
| 1851 .. 1863 ... | 13 | 240,000 | 9 & 10 |
| 1864 .. 1874 ... | 11 | 173,000 | 10½ |
| 1875 .. 1879 ... | 5 | 87,000 | 10½ |
| 1880 .. 1885 (July) ... | 5½ | 80,000 | 11½ |
| 1885 .. 1890 ... | 5 | 90,000 | 12 |
| 1890 .. 1895 ... | 5 | 85,000 | 13 |
| 1895 .. 1900 ... | 5 | 80,000 | 13 |
| 1900 .. 1902 ... | 2 | 80,000 | 13 |
| 1903 .. 1905 ... | 3 | 85,000* | 13 & 14† |
| 1911 .. 1917 ... | 6 | 88,000 | —‡ |

The contribution of the Imperial Government from 1903 to 1905 was £65,400 per annum. From 1911 to 1915 it was £52,500. Under the old contract the colonies contributed £19,600. From 1911 to 1915 they paid £35,500. Their individual annual contributions under the two contracts are shown in the following table:—

| | 1903-5 | 1911-17 |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Antigua... .. | £1,000 | £879 |
| Barbados | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| British Guiana | 4,200 | 7,700 |
| Dominica | 450 | 779 |
| Grenada | 1,000 | 1,260 |
| Jamaica | 2,100 | — |
| Montserrat | 200 | 163 |
| Nevis | 100 | } 879 |
| St. Kitts | 450 | |

*The contract was for £80,000, but after it was signed, Trinidad agreed to pay an extra £5,000 for a call by the main line steamers.

† 13 knots to Barbados and 14 between Barbados and Jamaica.

‡ Speed based on the time taken between the various ports. [From 1905 to 1911 there was no transatlantic contract, the mails being carried from 1907 to 1911 on a poundage basis. In 1907 a ten years' contract for an intercolonial service was signed on the basis of an annual payment of £25,000 payable half by the Imperial and half by the Colonial Governments. This, of course, included in the figure £88,000 given above for the transatlantic and intercolonial services 1911-1917.]

| | 1903-05 | 1911-17 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| St. Lucia | £1,000 | £1,260 |
| St. Vincent | 450 | 580 |
| Tortola | 50 | — |
| Trinidad | 4,600 | 18,000 |
| | £19,600 | £35,500 |

Of the 1911-17 subsidies the following amounts are for the transatlantic service: Trinidad, £16,300; Barbados, £4,000; and British Guiana, £2,700.

(To be continued.)

ST. LUCIA LIME FACTORY.

"An Unqualified Success."

The St. Lucia Lime Factory is described by the Agricultural Department as having proved an unqualified success. "It has undoubtedly had a great beneficial effect on the peasantry of the island."

The following is the financial statement of the results for the crop ending March 10th, 1917:—

| RECEIPTS. | | £ | s. | d. |
|--|--------------|----------|----------|----|
| Net proceeds from sale of concentrated lime juice and lime oil | 1,409 | 7 | 2 | |
| EXPENDITURE. | | £ | s. | d. |
| Paid for produce | 593 | 13 | 6 | |
| Working expenses, including labour, fuel and oil, packages, export duty and sale on produce, etc. | 319 | 17 | 0 | |
| Other charges | 170 | 16 | 0 | |
| Total Expenses | 1,084 | 6 | 6 | |
| Total Receipts | 1,409 | 7 | 7 | |
| Total Expenses | 1,084 | 6 | 6 | |
| Difference | £325 | 1 | 1 | |
| Less amount as deferred payment bringing first price paid for produce up to rate equivalent to £25 per pipe | 196 | 0 | 0 | |
| Carried forward Net profits | 129 | 1 | 1 | |
| Brought forward Net profits | 129 | 1 | 1 | |
| 1/3 Share of Profits to go to Factory Reserve Fund | 32 | 5 | 9 1/2 | |
| 2/3 Share of Profits to be divided as bonus between vendors | 96 | 15 | 9 1/2 | |

As deferred payment and bonus the vendors received further payment at the rate of 1/5¹/₂ per barrel of fruit and 2¹/₂d. per gallon of raw juice, thus making a total payment of 4/5¹/₂ per barrel of fruit, and 6¹/₂d. per gallon of raw juice.

Abnormal Difficulties.

Abnormal difficulties were experienced during this crop, all of which tended to lessen the profits of the factory, and had it not been for the very able manner in which the working of the factory was controlled by Mr. Pilgrim, the Manager, the bonus would have been less satisfactory. The market price of concentrated juice fell from £52 10s. to £28 per standard pipe. The cost of packages rose from 3/6 to 12/-

each, and the price of coal increased from 27/- to 77/6 per ton. Freight and railway charges also increased, and added to these difficulties, serious losses were incurred through breakages and damage to produce in transit.

During the year the produce handled comprised 3,648 barrels of limes, the amount of raw juice purchased totalling 39,225 gallons. The increase in the number of barrels was 983.

Previous to the erection of the Government Factory the peasants and small lime growers were entirely dependent upon certain merchants and others for the disposal of their fruit. Owing to the low prices paid for this produce, and the daily fluctuations of these prices confidence was lost, and very little progress, if any, was being made with this industry among the small cultivators.

Concentrating lime juice in steam-heated wooden vats instead of open metal tatches by direct fire, as was the general practice in the West Indies, was first thought out and put to practical use by Mr. F. Barnard, a planter on the Windward coast of the island. This was the only plant of its kind in existence at the time, and after its working had been fully investigated by Mr. Brooks's predecessor (Mr. J. C. Moore, now Superintendent of Agriculture, Grenada) he decided to advocate the erection of a similar Government plant.

The concentrated juice prepared at the Government Factory during the first crop, 1913-14, averaged 21 c.c. During the following year experiments were made, resulting in the sediment being reduced to a working average of 2¹/₂ c.c., and on two occasions it was reduced below 1 c.c. The practical result of this work is clearly shown in the appearance of the juice, and in the good prices which have been regularly obtained in advance of the usual London market quotations. The average difference between the two rates was £10 2s. 5d. per standard pipe (108 gallons testing 64 oz. citric acid) in favour of the factory juice, and one occasion an advance of £22 10s. over the market quotations was obtained. A record price of £22 10s. per standard pipe was obtained by the factory for all juice shipped between June and October, 1914. Other investigations dealing with milling, juice extraction, distilling, subsiding, etc., have been carried out, and the information gained has been placed at the disposal of local planters, which has greatly helped to secure a uniform grade of juice.

Considerable interest was aroused among lime planters, and requests for official reports giving full particulars of the erection and management of the factory were received from Ceylon, Fiji, Dominica, Demerara, Trinidad, Montserrat, Antigua, and the French island of Martinique, and the progress of the factory closely watched. When the success of the venture became known, this factory quickly became the model for similar factories throughout the West Indies.

There are now nine of these factories at work in St. Lucia, others are in course of erection, and a few have already been established on private estates in Dominica. The factory has been visited by many prominent planters from neighbouring islands.

THE CUBAN-AMERICAN MENACE.

The article regarding the proposed Cuban-American Sugar Cartel, published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 17th, has attracted much attention, and it is satisfactory to learn that the Sugar Section of the British Empire Producers' Organisation has taken the matter up. At a meeting held on October 18th, the following resolution was passed:—

The attention of the British Empire Producers' Organisation having been called to the following proposal contained in a New York Sugar Circular of September 6th, 1918, to the effect that "Cuba should take immediate advantage of the present situation by making permanent arrangements to retain after the War the European trade she now has" and that "This can be done only by means of some agreement preferably with American refiners, and they, in turn, with European countries, under the terms of which the former will bind themselves to buy cane sugars for a certain number of years after cessation of war, and supply the European Allies with the refined product derived therefrom."

The Sugar Section of the B.E.P.O., representing the cane sugar producers of the whole British Empire, the infant beet sugar industry in the United Kingdom, sugar refiners, and sugar-using industries, hereby resolves that:—

(1) Any such arrangement would be disastrous to the interests of sugar production and refining throughout the British Empire and to those of the consuming public in this country, inasmuch as it would again plunge this country into a state of dependence on the caprice of foreign countries for this necessary of life—a policy which this War has shown to be most prejudicial to producers and consumers alike.

(2) It is desirable that His Majesty's Government's declared policy of Imperial Preference should without further delay be announced with regard to sugar, so as to checkmate once and for all this attempt to control our supplies and trade.

(3) While it is probable that Cuba will continue to be one of the chief sources of supply of raw sugar to this country immediately after the War, it is desirable that it should be made plain to them that our intention is to build up our own sugar industry.

(4) To facilitate development it is most desirable that there should be an early relaxation of the restrictions on the manufacture of machinery for the production of sugar.

OBITUARY.

MR. WALTER CONACHER.

We regret to state that Mr. Walter Conacher died at Antigua on September 23rd.

Mr. Conacher, who was only thirty-two years old, had only recently returned from a visit to the United States, where he underwent an operation for appendicitis. Shortly after his arrival at Antigua he was taken ill with appendicitis, and was again operated on, and though the operation was successful, he suffered a relapse, and passed away on September 23rd. Mr. Conacher was Manager of the Basseterre Sugar Factory, Ltd., and Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts, and a member of the West India Committee. Mr. Conacher's death will be felt keenly by the staff and employees of the factory, with whom he has always worked in harmony. A strict disciplinarian, he was nevertheless kind-hearted and courteous, and made an admirable manager. Our deepest sympathy is tendered to Mrs. Conacher and family in their bereavement.

MR. WALTER H. GERMAN.

We learn with regret that Mr. Walter H. German, Engineer-in-chief of the Colonial Sugar Refining

Company of Australia, died at his residence, Point Piper, Sydney, in July last.

Born at Derby, England, in November, 1858, Mr. German was educated at the Derby Grammar School, and received his training as an engineer with the well-known firm of Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., of that town. He went out to Australia in 1879, and in the following year joined the Colonial Sugar Refining Company as engineering draughtsman, so that he has been associated with all the present vast engineering works which that Company has constructed in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji during the past 38 years. Mr. German's death will leave many with a sense of deep personal loss, for his was essentially a character which attracted all who had the privilege of his acquaintance.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

MAJOR F. H. BOWRING, Second in Command of the King's Liverpool Regiment, who has been killed in action, was younger brother of Mr. W. Bowring, of Barbados, now a Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force.

LIEUTENANT BRYANT BRANDON, who has been killed in action, was a son of the late Mr. Jacob Brandon, of Kingston, Jamaica. He left Jamaica with one of the Contingents, but secured a transfer to the Shropshire Light Infantry, with which he was serving at the time of his death.

LANCE-CORPORAL WILLIAM H. HAZELL, who was killed in action on the 4th May, was the son of the Hon. J. H. Hazell, of St. Vincent. He was originally in King Edward's Horse and was transferred to the Northumberland Fusiliers last year. Referring to his death, a comrade writes: "If ever a fellow had a true and good comrade it was Will Hazell; he was one of the 'true blue'; he was cool and by his coolness he helped many another poor fellow to stand the awful strain."

SECOND LIEUT. JAMES HARVEY BRYSON, who was killed in action on October 20th, was the only son of Robert Bryson, of Antigua, British West Indies. He was born in Antigua in 1899, and educated at Kenley and Aldenham Schools, where he took a prominent part in football and athletics. While at Aldenham he was a Senior Cadet in the Officers' Training Corps. In 1917 he went through a course of gunnery training in the Officers' Training Unit at Exeter and Salisbury, and in June, 1918, he obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery. He went to France in August. A brother officer wrote: "He was the best of boys, always happy and brave, and I shall miss him very, very much indeed. It may be some little comfort to know that his death was instantaneous. I am asked to convey the deepest sympathy of all the officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the battery."

LIEUT. D. L. CLEMETSON, Pembroke Yeomanry, attached to the Welsh Regiment, was killed in action in Palestine in the early part of October, 1918. Mr. Clemetson was the elder son of the late D. R. Clemetson, J.P., of St. Mary, Jamaica. He was educated at Mr. Poole's Preparatory School, St. Andrew, Jamaica, and thence he went to Clifton College, Bristol, subsequently entering Trinity College, Cambridge. He had intended joining an Inns of Court O.T.C., but on the outbreak of war joined the 2nd Battalion, Sportsmen's Regiment, and served in France under Col. Viscount Maitland, rising to the position of Sergeant, and was subsequently recommended by his Colonel for a Commission, which he obtained in the Pembroke Yeomanry. He was sent to Salonica, served there for two years, and was invalided home. On his recovery he was posted to the Welsh Regiment and sent out to Palestine in charge of a draft, and was killed in action during General Allenby's march to Damascus.

CAPTAIN GEORGE NOEL ("REX") VINER, Middlesex Regiment, who was killed on October 12th, in his twenty-sixth year, was the fifth son of the late Mr. F. H. Viner and Mrs. Viner, of Maidenhead. Captain Viner came over to England in November, 1915, from Barbados, where he held a post in the Colonial Bank, to volunteer for service,

and at once joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. He got his commission in the Middlesex Regiment and went out to France in January, 1917, for a considerable period he had acted as Adjutant of his battalion. The very week of his death he was to have come home on six months' leave, as he had been through much hard fighting—he was specially commended by the General Commanding the Division for distinguished service in the field in September, 1917—and his health, never robust, had suffered. But he took the place of another officer who was prevented by an accident from going up the line, and a few days later he was killed. His Colonel writes: "I can only tell you how gallant he was, and that we all miss him very much. He was endeared to all by his cheerful and happy disposition under trying circumstances."

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.

SCOTT, A. A. (Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), late Artists' Rifles, 2nd Lieut. Northumberland Fusiliers.

MESSUM, Captain W. F. C. (head of the West-end Office of the R.M.S.P.), Army Service Corps.

EVERINGTON, Major F. B. (of Dominica), joined up in 1915, and was promoted to be a Major in August last.

DE PASS, 2nd Lieut. J. Alan (youngest son of Mr. E. A. de Pass), Grenadier Guards.

JOHNSTON, Lieut. R. V. B. (son of the Hon. Robert Johnston, I.S.O., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica), Royal Marines, in H.M.S. *Lord Clive*.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. ALEXANDER MOODY STUART, R.F.A., son of Mr. G. Moody Stuart, has been awarded the Military Cross.

SECOND LIEUT. C. E. DURUTY (1st Trinidad Merchants' Contingent), Royal Warwickshire Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross.

SECOND LIEUT. JOHN O'CONNOR (Trinidad Customs), Labour Corps, has been awarded the Military Cross.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

Sergt. P. A. England (Jamaica) and Lee-Corpl. A. L. McL. Henry (Jamaica), both of the 3rd Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment, have been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for bravery and good work on the occasion of the explosion of an ammunition dump.

The first working party after the summer recess of the Ladies Committee was held at Lady Davson's residence, 20, Emismore Gardens, on Wednesday, October 23rd. There were present:—Lady Cameron, Lady Sendall, The Hon. Mrs. Davson, Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Olivier, Lady Hodgson, Lady Davson, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Verton, Mrs. Bamford, Miss Barclay, Mrs. Elliott, Miss Hamilton, Miss Levey, Miss Hamel-Smith, Mrs. Field, Miss Matheson, Miss Sidey, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Anderson, and Miss Moseley, M.B.E. A meeting of the Executive of the Ladies' Committee was subsequently held, when a resolution of regret was passed on the death of Lady Hayes-Sadler, who had always taken great interest in the work of the Committee, and when Lady Cameron was elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

The following gifts are acknowledged with cordial thanks

Mrs. Woodroffe: 2 prs. socks, 6 prs. gloves.
Mrs. Algernon Aspinall: 5 prs. socks.
Miss M. A. Bratt: 3 mullers, 2 prs. socks.

The Misses Dalton: 3 mullers, 1 pr. mittens (for British Guiana Contingent).

Lady Sendall: 7 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
Capt. Fielden: 5 prs. socks.
Mrs. Vere Oliver: 6 prs. socks.
Mrs. Rutherford: 2 prs. socks.
Anonymous: 1 jersey and underclothing.

The Hon. Mrs. Davson: 12 prs. gloves, 12 handkerchiefs.

Mrs. Singleton and Miss Thorne: 6 prs. socks

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

ANTIGUA.—2nd Lieut. R. E. W. McDonald.
BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. R. K. Moore, Pte. A. H. Fountain (B.W.I.R.), Pte. R. W. Knowles (B.W.I.R.).

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. L. A. Walcott (B.W.I.R.), Pte. C. R. Honychurch, Pte. Elliott Marshall (B.W.I.R.), Pte. H. C. Laurie, Gur. R. A. Collins, Captain E. Lindsay Armstrong, Pte. W. C. Boxill, Pte. H. S. Batsou, Cpl. J. H. Lewis, Pte. H. H. Leslie, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, 2nd Lieut. T. W. B. O'Neal.

BRITISH GUIANA.—M. McTurk, C. J. Gomes.
GRENADA.—Sgt. J. W. Thomas (B.W.I.R.).

JAMAICA.—Sgt. E. R. Rouse, Pte. Gilbert Hutchinson, Pte. H. P. Barncroft, Lee-Cpl. C. J. R. Levey, Pte. H. H. Gurrell (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. J. H. Hall, L. Corinaldi, Pte. H. P. Condrade (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. L. C. Levey (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. A. A. Dunlop (B.W.I.R.), Lee-Cpl. J. Simms (B.W.I.R.), Pte. T. U. Speed (B.W.I.R.).

TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. L. Cornish Trestrail, Sgt. F. McAtney (B.W.I.R.), 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Gur. Maurice de Verteuil, Cpl. E. Billouin (B.W.I.R.), Captain W. F. Farrar, Staff-Captain D. Clayton Smith, 2nd Lieut. C. K. Smith, Rfn. J. F. Crichton, Pte. G. A. Pierre, Lieut. T. T. Scott, O/S. Guido Ache, O/S. John L. Ache, 2nd Lieut. A. G. Ecket, 2nd Lieut. R. Quesnel, 2nd Lieut. A. J. Bernard, Tpr. A. Gonzalez, Cadet C. B. O'Connor, Tpr. R. Scheult, Pte. H. D. Cozier, R. Denn, J. Pereira, C. D'Andrade, C. K. Hutchinson, R. Melizan, E. A. Hodgkinson, D. M. Proudfoot, G. Roll, Pte. Ralph Herrera, Lieut. L. Farfan, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Farfan, Sgt. R. Hale, Cadet Errol Knowles, Pte. L. F. Maingot.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS—New Governor Arrives.

The Report of the Government Industrial School for Girls for the year 1917, presented to the House of Assembly, shows that there were 56 girls in the institution on December 31st last. The six years' working of the school has been attended with successful results, and there have been many instances, it is stated, of girls being saved from a life of crime. The report of the gaols of the island during 1917 states that 2,617 persons were committed to prison. Employed outside the walls of the gaol, they have been engaged in useful occupations such as quarrying for stone, repairing roads, etc. The cost of the prison establishments during the year was £6,088 and the amount earned by the inmates £63. The enormous advance in prices has increased the cost of maintaining the General Hospital during the year 1917-18. More than 3,000 patients were treated, enteric fever claiming the largest number of cases. At the opening of the 1918-19 Legislative Session, on August 20th, the Acting Governor, (Mr. T. E. Fell, C.M.G.), invested Mr. H. W. Collymore, the new Colonial Postmaster, with the insignia of the Imperial Service Order.

Lieut.-Colonel O'Brien, C.M.G., the new Governor, arrived on September 27th and assumed office. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Mrs. and the Misses O'Brien and Captain Richardson, A.D.C., received a popular welcome, large crowds assembling on the quay, and flags being displayed by business houses. On arrival at the Council Chamber the oath of office was administered by the Chief Justice. In the course of a short speech Col. O'Brien recalled his family associations with the colony, and expressed a wish that the people would regard him not only as their Governor, but as their friend, accessible and willing at all times to hear what they had to say.

BRITISH GUIANA—To protect Mining Interests.

It is announced that special legislative steps are about to be taken by the Government in order to prevent the control of any minerals in the colony from falling directly or indirectly into hostile hands. A further object is to secure British interests in such matters after the War.

The *Official Gazette* of September 14th contains the text of a Bill providing for the marriage and divorce of Asiatics. It gives formal official recognition to suitable Monks and Pandits in regard to marriages, and carries into effect the recommendations of Messrs. McNeill and Chinnian

Lal. The ordinary marriage procedure under the Ordinance of 1901 is not interfered with.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Red Cross Efforts.

It is announced that the recent disastrous fire destroyed the whole of the work done by the lady workers (Red Cross) during July (1,070 comfort bags and 48 handkerchiefs). In spite of this loss, however, 276 soldiers' handkerchiefs and 144 comfort bags were despatched to England. There is a balance in hand in aid of the Red Cross of \$2,218.

A Balloting Order published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* directs that 100 eligible men who have attained the age of 18 years but have not attained the age of 41 years, and 75 eligible men who have attained the age of 41 years but have not attained the age of 50 years, shall be chosen by ballot for service in the Territorial Force from the eligible men resident within two miles of the Court House at Belize, or who were so resident on August 12th, 1918.

DOMINICA—A Distinguished Dominican.

Mr. R. F. Garraway, speaking at a meeting of St. Michael's Mutual Aid Society at Portsmouth, Dominica, eulogised the attitude of the French Government as regards recognition of the meritorious services of native officials and the grant of commissions to negroes in the French Army and Navy. In illustration, Mr. Garraway cited the case of Mr. Leonville Montignol, a negro born in Dominica, who, after acquitting himself creditably at school in Guadeloupe, entered the French Navy, and has now attained the rank of Captain. As evidence of the scholastic attainments of Captain Montignol, Mr. Garraway mentioned that he was well versed in Greek and Latin, and was accustomed to correspond in those languages with a priest in Dominica. On one occasion, when a Lieutenant, Captain Montignol came to the island and walked a distance of 77 miles in order to visit his mother.

JAMAICA—"Votes for Women."

Lady Probyn took the chair on September 25th at a large gathering of the women of Kingston and St. Andrew held in the Ward Theatre to launch a movement to secure votes for women. The movement has also received the support of many members of the male sex. A petition is to be forwarded to the Legislative Council in favour of female enfranchisement, and this received many signatures at the meeting.

It is reported that the Governor has decided to act on the recommendations of the Committee appointed by His Excellency to consider the question of the War Bonus. The Committee propose: (1) That public officers of all grades drawing salaries upwards of £400 per annum should get a War bonus of 30/- per month; (2) that public officers of this grade who have children of the age of 16 and under should get an additional bonus of 10/- in respect of each child up to the number of four; (3) messengers and other servants who receive wages of 2/- per day and under should get an increase of 25 per cent. of their weekly wages.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—Considerable agitation has been aroused by persistent reports of high prices being obtained for bananas, etc., on the American markets, while prices paid locally for fruit, though slightly in excess of normal, have not increased to any marked extent. Crops are very fair, and as there are good prospects of the island escaping a hurricane this year, the outlook is good.

Mr. Sydney Couper, late director of the Jamaica Government Railway, with his wife, sailed this month, *via* New York, to take up his new appointment in Uganda. Mr. J. H. Dodd is now Acting Director. Brigadier-General L. S. Blackden and family have also left the island for England, *via* the United States. He has been relieved by General A. R. Gilbert. The Right Rev. Bishop de Carteret, Bishop of the Diocese, has left for the United States and England on a visit connected with Church matters. It is probable that Mr. J. M. Nethersole, the Administrator-General, may be given a seat in the Legislative Council, in place of Mr. Sydney Couper, who has left the island. The hook-worm campaign is being vigorously carried out, and is being ably supported by the Governor. The mem-

bers of the Rockefeller Commission are expected to arrive in the island in the autumn. Dr. Connor, who came here to carry out a preliminary survey, has made a report showing that the percentage of infection is fully 64 per cent. A movement to give votes to women is being pressed, and is receiving considerable support.

ST. KITTS—Good Showers.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, SEPTEMBER 26th.—Good showers fell generally throughout the island from the 9th to the 16th inst., accompanied with thunder and lightning, all districts registering from three to four inches. These showers coincided with the arrival of the island quota of sulphate of ammonia, which planters were able to get in. Unfortunately, the weather appears to have set in dry again. General regret was expressed at the death of Mr. W. Conacher, M.L.C., the esteemed Manager of the Central Factory. He had been to the States in bad health, and underwent an operation there. He returned by the last trip of the *Guiana*, proceeding to Antigua, where he died on the evening of the 23rd, after an operation performed there a few days previously. He leaves a widow and two young children.

ST. LUCIA—Export of Produce.

The official return of the exports of produce during the period January 1st to August 31st is chiefly remarkable for the largely increased amounts of honey and cocoa sent out of the island as compared with the corresponding period of 1917. Cocoa advanced from 8,967 cwts. to 28,586 cwts., and honey from 5,396 lbs. to 35,100 lbs. Molasses also increased from 18,279 gallons to 24,740 gallons.

TOBAGO—Grenadians Attracted.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, SEPTEMBER 26th.—On the 15th the six weeks' drought was broken, and 3.04 inches of rain fell. Since that date we have had daily showers with thunder and lightning, and all nature is thoroughly refreshed. These rains came too late to save two or three flushes of flowers and young cocoa pods, and our crop will be of little consequence until the New Year. The energetic natives who planted their corn early will get fair crops, but late plantings fared badly in the weeks of blazing sunshine minus the usual August rains. Ground provisions have also suffered, and although the peasant proprietors will have sufficient for their own needs, there will be a smaller margin for export. On account of extensions of cultivation, especially in the North Coast districts, there is abundance of employment for labour, and complaints of "hard times" can only be made by the lazy. There is a steady demand for higher wages on account of the increased cost of imported as well as local food, and all other necessities as well as luxuries. Unfortunately, the majority of the plantations are in course of development, and increased wages means curtailment of work. Cocoa has not benefited by the War—rather the reverse—and few coco-nut plantations have reached the producing stage to any extent. The Government has given a War bonus here as in Trinidad, but for reasons stated it comes as rather a serious hardship for estate owners to compete. The leisurely peasant proprietors do not want more work, only higher wages, and it is this erratic inefficiency of labour that constitutes the planters' serious problem. For the better grades of work, East Indians are now largely employed.

Grenadians, rich and poor, have been investing in lands in Tobago, and the experienced labourers amongst them are quite a boon to the adjoining estates. Last week Messrs. Gall & Scott, Grenada planters, who also own lands in Tobago, were visiting their properties. They are pushing on with cultivation, especially of cocoa, and their Grenada methods of planting will be quite an object lesson to Tobagonians. Some effort is being made to export coco-nut shells (for War purposes), but the conservative Tobagonian is slow to help, although almost double the current wages for field work can be earned. It is tedious work for those who have been accustomed to three or four leisurely hours a day in their own gardens. You must bear in mind that almost every family in Tobago is directly or indirectly owner of land, and the sub-divisions of their little acres remind one of Ireland.

Our coastal steamer, *Belize*, so often "about to be with-

drawn," is becoming more popular than ever for holiday trips by Trinidadians, and deservedly so. His Excellency the Governor has shown a good lead, and no doubt he will be glad when (after the War) he can flit across in a couple of hours by aeroplane instead of the tedious 20 hours via the North Coast of Trinidad. The West India Committee is to be congratulated on its successful efforts to get freer shipment of cocoa to Europe, which is already bearing fruit, as your Trinidad advices will show.

TRINIDAD—Mr. Walcott Colonial Secretary.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, OCTOBER 4th.—Our very active Governor continues to direct his energies in popular directions. The last announcement, which meets with much public favour, is that the Government Offices will open at 9 a.m. instead of 10 o'clock as hitherto. This means a considerable saving of money, extra convenience—especially to the mercantile community—and in the matter of equity brings the official hour of work something nearer that of the common or garden outsider.

The Hon. S. W. Knaggs will be going on leave tomorrow, and Mr. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, has been appointed to act in his place pending the return to the colony of the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. Montgomery Gordon. This special mark of confidence in Mr. Walcott meets with general approval, as he is recognised to be one of the best among our many very worthy and deserving higher officials.

Our Income (War) Tax has produced about £75,000, which will be added to the special £100,000 given the other day, and will all go to swell the little contribution we send so willingly to aid in the great cause. The report of the Registrar-General on the Vital Statistics of the Colony for 1917 has been issued, and is interesting if not very encouraging reading from the moral point of view. The population to December 31st was estimated at 377,021, the increase during the year having been 5,145, rather less than the average, owing principally to the diminution of East Indian immigration. The record of 1,400 marriages showed that 269 bridegrooms and 364 brides were unable to sign their names. The marriage state was evidently finding a lower level in public estimation, as it sunk from 8.24 per 1,000 in 1916 to 7.97 per 1,000 in 1917; and I am sorry to say that of all births registered, 70½ per cent. were illegitimate—a slightly higher percentage than in the previous year. Of course, this heavy total is largely due to the indefensible action of the authorities in failing to validate East Indian marriages; but the same excuse does not apply to the general population on whom the stigma (although they do not seem to consider it such) of illegitimacy clings. The mean death-rate of the general population was 20.29 per 1,000, against 19.96 in 1916, and of the East Indian population 23.13 against 22.57. Infantile mortality was, as usual, excessive. But for this blot on our local civilisation, Trinidad's health record would be an enviable one. As instance of how people can live long and well here, I find the deaths included 48 persons of 95 years and upwards, of whom 9 males and 15 females were 100 years and over.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Demerara Railway Company.

The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 2 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the half year ended June 30th last.

The Colonial Bank.

Dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year to June 30th, subject to tax, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. A year ago 3½ per cent. was paid.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th last show a gross profit of £138,489 5s. 4d. Expenses in London and at branches and agencies absorbed £89,621 17s. and expenses in connection with the issue of additional share capital £8,750, leaving a net profit of £64,488 18s. 3d. as compared with £83,234 10s. 5d. at the same date in 1917. Out of the balance the directors recommend that there be written off Bank Premises Account £10,000 and the pay-

ment of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., less income tax, for the half year (£24,000), leaving £30,488 18s. 3d. to be carried forward.

In their report they state that a branch has been opened at Carriacou, which island, having considerably increased its exports, should now be able to support a bank.

The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.

The directors in their report which was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on September 26th for the year ended June 30th, 1918, stated that the net result of the year's working was a balance of £15,225 8s. 6d., as compared with £27,374 8s. 1d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 3 per cent., free of income tax, had already been paid, and it was decided to make a further equal payment, free of income tax, leaving £12,525 8s. 8d. to be carried forward. The balance to credit of revenue account, which was last year £73,029 15s. 8d., has been debited with £1,350 applied to dividend and with £1,408 16s. 6d. expended in repairs, and credited with £12,525 8s. 6d. surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £82,796 7s. 8d., subject to excess profits duty. The company's cable was for a few days interrupted near Turks Island by a landslide; otherwise the cables have worked efficiently during the year, but the insulation of the Bermuda-Turks Islands section remains low.

The Halifax and Bermuda Cable Co., Ltd.

The report of the directors which was adopted at the annual general meeting on September 27th showed that the net result of the year's working was a balance of £9,696 11s. 8d., as compared with £19,649 13s. 11d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 3 per cent., free of income tax, had already been paid, and it was agreed to make a further equal payment, free of income tax, leaving £6,696 11s. 8d. to be carried forward. The balance of credit of revenue account, which was last year £23,657 12s. 3d., has been debited with £1,500 applied to dividend and with £11,097 1s. 6d. expended in repairs, and credited with £6,696 11s. 8d. surplus revenue of the past year, and it now stands at £17,757 2s. 5d.

During the year the company's cable was interrupted on two occasions by anchor near Halifax and quickly repaired, and on the 17th February in deep water. This latter repair has not yet been effected owing to adverse weather conditions. The cable recovered is in a good state of preservation and the trouble is evidently local and due to chafing.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.

The accounts for the year ended December 31st show a working profit of £6,223 10s. 3d. or nearly £4,000 less than last year, owing to increases in cost of production, which outweighed the increased value of oil. Loans had to be increased by some £32,000, considerably more than which has been expended on capital account. £10,000 has been written off general expenditure incurred since the properties were taken over and £2,298 18s. 5d. against wells which became unproductive in the year. Production for the year was 52,456 tons against 43,826 tons for 1916, but some 16,000 tons less oil were delivered to refiners than in that year when stocks of oil were largely reduced. During the current year the production before the end of August approximately equalled that for the whole of the calendar year 1917, but difficulties in obtaining pipe and other materials endanger the maintenance of the Company's production. Serious as this situation is from the point of view of the company it has an even more serious national aspect in present conditions in view of the large economy in tonnage which can be effected by shipping oil from Trinidad as compared with other present sources of supply.

DEATH

BRYSON.—Killed in action in France on October 20th. James Harvey Bryson, Lieut. R.F.A., only and dearly beloved son of Robert Bryson, Antigua, B.W.I. Aged 19.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6641 Central.

Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SRETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

October 31st, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from 5th April, 1915.**SUGAR.** Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply :—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

New York duty paid for the current season remains at 6.055c. basis 96°. Cubas 4.985 c. and f. New York. The International Sugar Committee, under instructions from the Food Administration, issued the following statement on September 19th, concerning the establishment of prices for all new crop sugars :—

"Cuba will be paid on the basis of \$5.50 for 100 lbs., which reflects about \$5.90 per 100 lbs. c.i.f. and not \$7.28 duty paid.

"Full-duty sugars should be purchased on about a 5.64c. c.i.f. basis, Cubas on a 5.90c. c.i.f., and domestic sugars at 7.28c.

"In the above figures it is assumed that the special war risk insurance will be eliminated."

Crop operations in Cuba are likely to make an early start, the weather having been very favourable.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on October 26th were :—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 33,055 | 74,664 | 49,314 | |
| Deliveries | 32,562 | 68,159 | 52,196 | |
| Stock (Oct. 26th) | 11,480 | 14,520 | 8,223 | |

RUM. The market in Jamaica is still evidently very strong; but there is nothing here to report.

The stocks in London on October 26th were :—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | puns. |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica | 4,364 | 8,634 | 10,320 | |
| Demerara | 10,404 | 8,436 | 12,059 | |
| Total of all kinds | 20,181 | 27,398 | 36,436 | |

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz :—

| | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The further reduction of stocks in the United Kingdom emphasises the need for sanctioning imports on a more liberal scale, as has been consistently advocated by the West India Committee. It is understood that, pending a decision as to the quantity to be imported in 1919, the Governors in the West Indies have been authorised to issue licenses freely.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad cocoa during the month of September were as follows :—

| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 5,084,544 |
| Total for September | 5,084,544 |
| Shipped previously | 44,373,021 |
| Total from 1st January | 49,457,565 |
| To same date, 1917 | 66,298,332 |
| " " " 1916 | 49,718,564 |
| " " " 1915 | 43,884,913 |
| " " " 1914 | 59,870,569 |
| " " " 1913 | 44,915,936 |
| " " " 1912 | 39,063,198 |
| " " " 1911 | 41,523,273 |
| " " " 1910 | 47,655,713 |
| " " " 1909 | 40,801,845 |
| " " " 1908 | 35,471,115 |
| " " " 1907 | 31,308,624 |

The stocks in London on October 26th were :—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 9,679 | 24,348 | 20,382 bags. |
| Grenada | 7,790 | 24,293 | 12,692 " |
| Total of all kinds | 146,329 | 254,142 | 203,730 " |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz.: ordinary 38d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d., subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. West Indian imports from January 1st to September 12th were 2,941 bales. The fine spinners in Larca-shire have been out on strike, but prospects of a settlement are favourable.

OPRA. The market continues unchanged. The value to U.K. is £46 c.i.f. del. weight terms, while to Marseilles we quote £90 same terms nominally.

Controlled price, £46 c.i.f. landed in Liverpool.

ARROWROOT. A few sales have been made at 1/7 to 1/9. The market is very quiet, and large arrivals may tend to weaken prices.

SPICES. Pimento is rather firmer, after being quiet. Business done at 6½d. to 6¼d., but later at 7d., with buyers to-day at the price. Nutmegs and Mace: Dearer for the former and firmer for the latter. Nutmegs, 3/- to 3/8. Mace, 3/4 to 3/9 per lb.

HONEY. Very firm still, and dearer. At last auction Jamaica (in small supply) sold at 238/- to 251/- for dark liquid to pale amber.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Concentrated quiet. Raw easier; good to fine 4/- to 4/6. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected; 5/8 to 6/- nominal. Handpressed quiet; value 15/- to 16/-. Citrate quiet.

BALATA. Market unchanged. W.I. sheet, spot, 4/1½ landed terms; forward 3/10½ c.i.f. Venezuela block, spot nominal at 3/7; forward quoted 3/4½ per lb. c.i.f. Panama block 3/- c.i.f. Columbian 3/1 c.i.f. Tumaco 3/1 to 3/2 c.i.f.

RUBBER. The market is steady, and prices show an improvement for plantation grades since our last report. Crepe is 2/5½, and smoked sheet 2/4½ for spot and near. Paras easier at 3/- for fine hard and 1/8 for ball.

ASPHALT. Trinidad exports in September slightly improved, being 12,600 tons against 11,185 tons in 1917, but the total to September 30th is only 44,054 tons against 74,895 tons last year.

OIL. Shipments of Trinidad oil for September show a slight falling-off, but the record to 30th gives 30,691,939 gallons (say 136,000 tons), compared with 24,232,214 gallons for nine months in 1917.

THE question of immigration into British Guiana and certain West Indian islands is engaging the earnest attention of the West India Committee. It is recognised that in British Guiana the labour question is particularly acute, and it is regarded as imperative that immediate steps should be taken to cope with it. Meanwhile India has as yet failed to arrive at a decision with respect to the report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the subject of East Indian immigration into the West Indies and Fiji. The views of the Committee appointed in British Guiana to consider the report are also awaited.

FAITH in the resources of the Colony and the prosperity attendant upon their development has prompted the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, British Guiana, to establish a monthly journal devoted to the trade, industry and well-being of the country. The object of the *Commercial Review*, the first issue of which has appeared, is declared to be that of making British Guiana great and helping to weld the West Indies into a single whole—one in thought, hope and standards. A federation of trade and shipping throughout the Caribbean represents one of the aspirations of this journal, which, judging from the number of advertisements, has won the practical support of the mercantile community.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 1918.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. The minimum subscription is £1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. The Secretary will gladly send copies of THE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 5011 CENTRAL.
15, SKETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
November 14th, 1918

The West Indian Contingent Fund.

AT the last half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee the Chairman, SIR EVERARD IM THURN, reminded those present that the greatest strain on the Contingent Fund would come when hostilities were over and the period of demobilisation began. COLONEL SIR EDWARD WARD, one of the Hon. Treasurers, was equally emphatic on the subject. He knew, he said, from his experience at the War Office (of which he was Permanent Under-Secretary of State for fourteen years), that at the end of the War the number of men needing assistance would greatly increase, cases of hardship being apt to arise which no official regulations could cover. The calls on the Contingent Fund have recently been extremely heavy, and to enable the Committee to "carry on" as effectively as it has done since its formation in 1915, and to provide for contingencies—one might fairly say certainties—a further appeal for funds has been considered necessary. It has all along been the policy of the Contingent Committee to provide board and lodging for West Indians on leave, and with the adoption of their suggestion that parties of N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regi-

ment should be granted "Blighty leave"—and it will be noted from a paragraph elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR that the first of such parties has already arrived—the expenses under this heading are increasing very materially. It will be remembered that the Committee does not only cater for the British West Indies Regiment, but for all—and they number many hundreds—who came over from the West Indies to join H.M. Forces. The majority of these men will, it is true, be provided with passages to their homes by the Army Council, but experience with the comparatively few discharged soldiers already repatriated shows that the expenses do not end there. Unless a man remains in barracks until he steps on board the steamer—a misfortune which we hardly like to envisage—he must be provided with board and lodging, and some addition to the limited "civvy" wardrobe furnished by the Government is absolutely essential, and in this connection it must be borne in mind that the cost of clothing and necessaries, already high, will be much higher still after the War. It would be deplorable if we were not able to do for our returning soldiers what the Dominions are doing for theirs, and in the circumstances we trust that the appeal for further funds which we gladly publish in the present CIRCULAR will meet with a ready and generous response. If incentive were needed to induce our readers to assist in the good work which the Contingent Committee is doing, it would surely be found in the detailed account of the part played by the British West Indies Regiment in the recent victory over the Turks in Palestine which we publish on another page.

The Grenada Income Tax Ordinance.

OUR contemporary *The West Indian* published in its issue of September 21st last a dispatch dated July 16th, 1918, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Windward Islands giving reasons for the disallowance of the Grenada Income Tax Ordinance (No. 17, 1917) earlier in the year. Foremost amongst these were the excessively high rates of tax and the additional duty charged on absentees by Section 4. When MR. WALTER LONG gave his consent to the introduction of the Bill, the highest rate was 2/6 in the pound, but in the Ordinance as passed by the Legislature it was no less than 10/- in the pound on the excess of income over £10,000, which, applying as it did to companies, "raised a serious question as to the effect of the Ordinance on the commercial prosperity of the island." With regard to the surtax on absentees, which did not appear in the original draft Bill, and was "open to objec-

tion on the ground of its possible effects on the investment of capital in Grenada," MR. LONG was very emphatic. "The imposition of a differential rate of taxation on non-residents is," he wrote, "a doubtful experiment, and one that appears especially undesirable when introducing a form of taxation which has not hitherto been in force in the island. In any case, I consider that the Colony would be well advised in its own interest not to adopt this expedient, and if you wish to press the proposal it will be necessary to support it by arguments which are not before me at present. I am not unmindful that the Imperial Income Tax Acts refuse to persons resident outside the United Kingdom, with certain exceptions, the relief accorded to residents. But, apart from other differentiating conditions, the refusal of exemption is not on a par with the imposition of an additional duty." This question of the taxation of absentees is one which has been periodically raised from the earliest days of West Indian settlement. As far back as the year 1707, MR. VALENTINE MORRIS, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Island of St. Vincent and its dependencies, protested successfully against an endeavour to impose a tax of 20 per cent. on non-residents, and again, in 1745, KING GEORGE II. issued instructions that absentees having estates in Antigua were not to be doubly taxed. On the face of it, it may not seem unreasonable that there should be a desire to induce proprietors drawing revenue from an island to spend it in that island; but in colonies so subject to changes of fortune as the West Indies are, this policy seems to us to be a singularly unwise one. While prices are high and industries are flourishing, all may be well, but experience has shown that when times are bad it is to outside capital that the colonies have to look for the maintenance of their industries. Apart from this it is manifestly of advantage to the West Indies that there should be firms and individuals resident in this country with a stake in those colonies who are obviously in a better position to secure the redress of such grievances as may arise from time to time than the residents can be. But in any case the present is a particularly unfortunate moment for re-opening this question, since absentees are already placed at such disadvantage as compared with resident proprietors owing to the incidence of the Income Tax, Super-tax, and Excess Profits Duty. As we pointed out in our issue of May 22nd last, in the case of estates clearing £10,000 a year as against £3,000 before the War, a resident proprietor can keep the whole of his £10,000, whilst the absentee, after payment of the above-mentioned taxes, is left with a net return of £2,960 only! In these circumstances we hope that the last has been heard of taxes on absentees, which would manifestly be most unfair. To revert to the Grenada Income Tax Ordinance it will, we think, be agreed that the statements of MR. WALTER LONG clearly show that the representations which the West India Committee made on the subject were amply justified.

THE Dominica Chamber of Commerce have been appointed additional Hon. Correspondents of The West India Committee in Dominica.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on October 31st, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

| Name. | Proposers and Seconders. |
|--|---|
| Mr. Arnold A. Waterman (Trinidad) | { Mr. T. Greenwood. { Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| Lieut. Harold Wright (Barbados) | { Mr. R. Rutherford. { Sir W. Trollope, Bart. |
| Mr. W. Bertram Mitford, F.R.G.S. (Trinidad) | { Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. { Mr. Edgar Tripp. |
| Mr. Maurice Fortier (Trinidad) | { Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. { Mr. Edgar Tripp. |
| Mr. J. W. Francis | { Capt. G. N. Hobbs. { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. R. Heygate-Vernon | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. { Sir W. Trollope, Bart. |
| Mr. Thomas J. Sims | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. { Sir W. Trollope, Bart. |
| Mr. Michael McTurk (Demerara) | { Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Follett Holt, M.Inst.C.E. | { Mr. Allan E. Messer. { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Francis M. Voules | { Mr. Allan E. Messer. { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. Bernard R. Peyton | { Sir W. Trollope, Bart. { Mr. R. Rutherford. |
| Mr. E. Maxwell Skilstone (Barbados) | { Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. { Mr. J. D. Murray. |
| The Dominica Chamber of Commerce | { Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart. { Mr. W. C. Winston. |
| Mr. Neil P. Macphail (Guatemala) | { Lt.-Col. J. Cran, M.B.E. { Hon. L. R. Grant. |

Particulars regarding membership will be found in a note above the first leading article in the present issue.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WEEN fowl drink water him lif' up head an' say, 'Tank God, tank God!' but man drink water and no say no ting."

A SUGAR production of 143,000 tons for the 1917-18 season and an estimated crop for 1918-19 of 226,000 tons are reported from San Domingo by the United States Consul.

LIEUT.-COLONEL IVAN B. DAVSON, who is now Director of Foreign Services in the Air Ministry, has been made an Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

DR. J. C. HUTSON, B.A., Ph.D., son of Surgeon-Major John Hutson, of Barbados, has been passing through London on his way to Ceylon to take up the appointment of Government Entomologist of that island.

OWING to the shortage of dyestuffs in the United States, considerable developments are being made in the collection of dyewoods in the West Indian islands and British Guiana, logwood and fustic being chiefly in demand, the latter being used in the States for khaki dyeing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the West India Committee can now be paid into any branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada in the West Indies. All that the member in arrears for 1918 has to do is to step across to the Bank and hand in his \$5.00 note. What could be more simple?

TELEGRAPHIC communication via Bermuda, which was interrupted in February last, has, we are glad to learn, now been resumed. Members of the West India Committee should mark all their cables "via Bermuda," and, in this country, hand them to the Commercial Cable Company.

"OBELENSCHLAGER" is the telegraphic address of the Molasses Association just established under the direction of the Royal Commission of the Sugar Supply, with Mr. Louis Harfield as Secretary, to act as the sole channel of distribution of all molasses. Would it not have been better to select an English word?

THE HON. ADAM SMITH, C.M.G., is to be congratulated upon the success of the local loan which was offered for subscription in Trinidad recently in order to raise £100,000 as a contribution to the expenses of the War, as the outcome of a resolution which he introduced into the Legislative Council. Applications were received for £164,000, and applicants received 60 per cent. only of the amounts applied for.

It appearing that the public was complaining at not always being able to get white sugar, the Secretary to the West India Committee, in a letter to the Press, which received wide publicity, pointed out the advantages of brown sugar, and said that if the public would give this sugar an extended trial they would cease to complain at not always being allotted white sugar. He emphasised the fact that the West Indian crystallised and muscovado sugars are manufactured direct from the sugar cane in the tropics, and retain in a marked degree the characteristics of the sugar cane.

It is to be regretted that a request made by the Secretary of the W.I.C.C. to Major Randolph Rust to discontinue sending over packing cases of old Trinidad newspapers for the B.W.I.R., which, with the kindest possible intentions, he was collecting and despatching at his own expense, should have given rise to a misapprehension. These newspapers were, owing to the delays in transit, congestion at the docks and on the railways, months old before they reached their destination, and the Secretary consequently begged Major Rust to send copies of the current issues direct to the Battalions by post instead.

MR. HERBERT EAGLESON FENWICK was, we regret to learn, one of the passengers who lost their lives when the Elder Dempster liner *Bruna* was sunk after colliding with another vessel on her last homeward voyage. "Bertie" Fenwick was the only son of Sir Townsend Fenwick, for many years senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. For some years he was in the Public Works Department in Trinidad, but in 1911 he left the West Indies to take up the appointment of Engineer of Roads in the Public Works Department on the Gold Coast. He was returning from Accra when he lost his life. Much sympathy will be felt for Sir Townsend Fenwick and his daughter, who is now nursing in France, in their loss.

MR. R. R. TERRY, the Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Cathedral, contributes to the *Times* of October 5th, an entertaining letter on the subject of sailor Shanties. He writes with authority "as one whose ancestors have followed the sea as far back as can be traced—who has 'grown up' with sailor Shanties—whose constant contact and familiar intimacy with all the recognised Shanties goes back as far as he can remember—who has in later years compared, co-ordinated, and collated his boyish memories of the Shanties with those of his very numerous sailor relatives, and their respective circles of sailor acquaintances; who has lived for some years in the West Indies—probably the only spot where the Shanty is still alive; and who, lastly, has lost no opportunity of collecting Shanties from old sailors who worked in the sailing ships before the days of screw steamers."

MR. TERRY tells us that the word Shanty—often incorrectly spelt "chanty" or "chantey" owing to a fancied derivation from *chanté*, though it is really derived from *shanty*, a negro hut—is dead, alas, on the sea, but he holds out some hope that it may survive among labourers on land. Possibly some correspondent may be willing to send to the CIRCULAR the words of such Shanties as "Massaruni Belle," "The Yaller Girl," "Jim Riley," and others which we recall having heard in the West Indies.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Peace.

The representatives of the countries engaged in the War met at Versailles to discuss the terms of peace which are to be dictated to Germany. True, the preliminary was an armistice, whose conditions are of a purely naval and military character, as she understood very well. That Ludendorff resigned or was dismissed was taken to mean that she was prepared to surrender. He failed, and no country can afford to retain the services of a dictator, as he virtually was, unless he is successful—least of all Germany. At first she tried to hedge with the Allies, but found it served no purpose. Then she was told that if she desired to know the Allies' terms of armistice she must make application to Marshal Foch at his headquarters. A delegation was therefore sent from Berlin and received by him and Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, who conveyed to them the necessary information, which they immediately communicated to the German Government, with three days' grace for a reply.

In the meantime the German High Seas Fleet, which was ordered to put to sea in a last desperate venture, was tied to harbour by mutiny, which spread to the soldiers, and all over the country Bolshevism is raising its head in the rise of Soviets, while Bavaria has declared itself a Republic. The Kaiser's abdication was demanded, and, at first, refused. But, before the armistice was signed, he consented, the Crown Prince renouncing his right to the throne, and both of them are fugitives in Holland. A Regency has been formed, with Prince Max of Baden as Imperial Chancellor and the Social Democrats in power.

On Monday, November 11th, the armistice was signed, and at 11 o'clock in the forenoon the last shot was fired.

The most important conditions are: The evacuation, within fourteen days, of Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine, and Luxemburg; of countries on the left bank of the Rhine, Allied garrisons holding the bridges at Mayence, Coblenz, and Cologne, and a neutral zone on the right bank from the Dutch to the Swiss frontier; and of Russian, Roumanian, and Turkish territories to the limits of 1914. The surrender of all submarines, blockade to be continued, and six battle-cruisers, ten battleships, eight light cruisers, and 50 destroyers to be interned, and the freedom of the Baltic, Cattegat, and Kiel Canal to be secured. There are to be certain indemnities, and prisoners of war are to be liberated, without reciprocity, immediately.

Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, has publicly protested that the Dominions were not consulted with regard to the armistice, his ground being that the terms of that must govern peace terms.

On the Western Front.

The fighting was practically divided into two—the Scheldt front attacked by the Belgians and British, and the Ardennes front by the Americans and French. Between the two was the Scheldt-Sambre gap, where Sir Douglas Haig was concentrating his efforts. For here the enemy was doing

his utmost to make a strong stand, as his military position in Belgium and his armies in the south would have been imperilled if he lost the Scheldt, which he was very rapidly doing. Similarly he was stoutly resisting the advance of the French and Americans astride the Meuse. In short, he was fighting to prevent the severance of his armies on a wide front such as he himself so nearly succeeded in accomplishing in his offensive of last spring. That is why he made such desperate efforts to hold Valenciennes alike before its covering positions were captured and after they were lost and the outskirts of the city were in British hands. Then there were days of street fighting as bitter and sustained as any in the War. But it was all in vain, and when evacuation was seen to be inevitable, the Huns fled by night after systematic pillage. To retain their hold on Valenciennes it may be noted that they opened the sluices of the canals and flooded all the country from that city up to Tournai.

And still the pursuit of the enemy continued without a pause. The canalised Sambre was forced, and Landrecies, Mormal Forest, and Le Quesnoy, with all its garrison, taken, the attack meanwhile extending so that it was directed towards Mons, to the north-east of Valenciennes, and to Maubeuge to the south-east on a seventy-mile front, and though the resistance of the enemy's rearguards was slackening, it was still of a desperate character. So rapid was the British advance that the final marches of the British took them to Malplaquet and to Mons, associated with the earliest memories of the War.

French and American Successes.

In the south the Americans and French were pressing on as rapidly as the British in the north. The French 1st Army under General Debeney shared in the British advance on the right, overcame all resistance on the Sambre-Oise Canal, and forced its way eastward, taking Guise in its stride. Other French armies won all the Hunding Stelling, and closed up to the south bank of the Ardennes Canal, capturing Beaumont and Dun in co-operation with the Americans. The objective of these was the Longuyon-Mézières-Hirson railway together with the Montmédy gap, the main line of communications between the German armies in the Meuse sector and those in Maubeuge. As this was cut at Sedan, which the Americans took, the whole German line from the Sambre northwards was crumbling rapidly.

During the past three months of victorious record in France the British have captured 172,650 prisoners, 2,378 guns, over 17,000 machine guns, and 2,750 trench mortars.

The Italians in their decisive battle against Austria-Hungary captured 300,000 prisoners and 5,000 guns.

The Italian Triumph.

On the anniversary of Caporetto, when the Italians were forced to retire from one line to another until they reached the Piave and the lowest rampart of the hills guarding the plain, they won the greatest victory over the traditional enemy. In conception and execution the plan of General Diaz

had many features in common with that of General Frauchet d'Esperey, which dealt such resounding blows to the enemy in the Balkans. The offensive opened with a move on the extreme left, during which Mount Sisemol, a lofty peak near the Asiago plateau was captured, thereby securing the safety of the communications on the Piave front. Here the Austrian resistance was stubborn, and while the Italians met it, the bulk of the British troops in this sector were swiftly and secretly transferred to the Piave, forming part of the 10th Italian Army, commanded by Lord Cavan. Then with the waters in flood and rain pouring in torrents, a passage was forced in small boats to the islet at Grave di Papadopoli and by the same means to the left bank of the river, the Italians performing wonderful feats in bridge building. Breaking down all opposition, Lord Cavan's forces swept forward, the movement extending from this central thrust until it was general from the Adriatic to the Asiago plateau in the full tide of victory. With the capture of Mount Cosen, the Austrian armies were divided, and thenceforward their retreat became a rout. In a few weeks the enemy's military power in Italy was destroyed and a scientific frontier identical with that of ancient Rome occupied by our Ally from the Alps to the sea at Trieste. In these circumstances there was nothing for Austria-Hungary to do but ask for an armistice, which was granted under conditions similar to those safeguarding the armistice granted to Turkey. But the Dual Monarchy is not only out of the war by collapse in the field on the south and south-east, but by political collapse at home. The Czecho-Slovaks have taken the affairs of Bohemia into their own hands at Prague, the Jugo-Slavs and Croats have declared themselves independent and been handed over the Austrian Navy by Imperial Proclamation, while Hungary is in a ferment, increased by the murder of the once all-powerful Count Tisza, and German Austria is in such a state of disorder that there is no parallel for it except in Russia.

But some wonder if all these successful campaigns on distant fronts would have come to such swift consummation if it were not for the flowing tide of victory in the West.

Unconditional Surrender of the Turks.

Since the collapse of the Quadruple Alliance in the Balkans and Near East was a triumph of the amphibious methods Britain has made her own, it was in the fitness of things that Turkey capitulated to a British Admiral and that a British General, Sir C. Townshend, the hero of Kut, and prisoner of war, should have initiated the negotiations, and at a moment most favourable to the Allies. For, owing to British sea-power, the Central Powers were compelled to impair the advantages of their interior position by ex-centric efforts: (1) to obtain supplies cut off by the Allied blockade in the West, (2) to protect their flank threatened from the head of the Adriatic, the Aegean, the Dardanelles, and the Persian Gulf. This caused a diversion of men and material from the vital theatre of the war to uphold partners more or less shaky. To England, on the other hand, the lengthening of her line of communications increased her potency, by enabling her

to draw on distant parts of the Empire for men and supplies, which were successfully convoyed, "U"-boat activities notwithstanding. British sea-power, British leadership, and, in the main, Indian and Oversea troops brought Turkey to her knees. For our troops, after marching 400 miles in five weeks over difficult country, had captured Aleppo, the key of the Middle East, and at Muslimie, the Baghdad Railway from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf; and had threatened Alexandria and the approaches to the Taurus Range, the Forces in Mesopotamia, by equally brilliant and daring strokes, having reached Mosul on the Tigris. The enemy fought with the energy of despair, but our outflanking movement cut off his retreat, and all that was left of his army, 7,000 men, surrendered with masses of material. It is impossible to praise too highly the military ability of the British Generals, who have conceived and carried out their plans of campaign in such a difficult country; the courage and endurance of the troops they commanded; or the incomparable skill and resource of the Navy, which has co-operated on river and coast in every step of the advance. The terms of the armistice, while safeguarding Allied naval and military interests, were not any more humiliating than was necessary. Not since conquering Turkish hordes crossed the Straits nearly five hundred years ago has there been such an epoch-making event in the Near East as the presence of Allied warships in the Bosphorus.

Shipbuilding Output.

The latest Admiralty returns show that the output of new construction in the world exceeded the losses from all sources by nearly 500,000 tons. For the quarter ending 30th September, British yards turned out 411,395 tons, a decrease of 31,571 tons on the figures of the previous quarter, neutral and Allied countries producing 972,735 tons. Why official estimates for British output have been falsified so badly no adequate reason has yet been given. The truth is the shipbuilding question has never been properly handled by successive Governments since 1914.

The battleship *Britannia* was torpedoed in the Straits of Gibraltar with some loss of life. Fortunately 39 officers and 673 men were saved.

In the Air.

During the month of October, in spite of the prevalence of fog and thick mists, the R.A.F. Independent Force made no fewer than 64 raids on important German towns, exclusive of those made on German aerodrome centres. So great was the moral as well as the material effect of these operations that German wireless messages proposed the cessation of air raids upon towns behind the fighting zone, effrontery of a piece with general Hun manoeuvres when he is being given some of his own sauce. Since June, when the weight of bombs dropped in the Rhineland was 66 tons it has nearly trebled. The supremacy of the Allies in the air was, indeed, ever increasing, for not only did they pool their resources and the facilities for drawing materials from all over the world, but their energies were unimpeded. In Germany, on the other hand,

the power of expansion was dwindling, and whereas our aircraft factories were not liable to suffer from air raids, the enemy's aircraft factories were continually being damaged by Allied aviators.

During the past fortnight British machines co-operating with the advancing troops, the unfavourable weather notwithstanding, added a hundredfold to the difficulties of the retreating German armies. Of enemy machines destroyed by our aviators there were 175 and 59 brought down out of control, besides 12 balloons consumed to ashes. Of ours 92 were reported as missing.

In the 23 weeks subsequent to June 1st our airmen on the five British fronts brought down 2,087 machines and drove down out of control 740.

The airman who, though desperately wounded, fought 60 enemy machines single-handed, destroying four and bringing down six, is a Canadian, Major W. J. Barker. It is the most astounding individual aerial combat on record.

(To be continued.)

B.W.I.R.'s SUCCESS IN PALESTINE.

A correspondent writes, under date October 1st, from Palestine:—

"You will have seen from the papers the glorious successes we have had out here in Palestine and perhaps you and your Committee would like to hear full particulars as to how the B.W.I.'s got on and what was their share of the fighting.

"For some six weeks previous to the attack both Battalions were in the line and held trenches opposite the Turks in the Jordan Valley. This valley is not a health resort and the conditions of life are indeed trying. The heat is intense and malignant malaria is prevalent. The Second Battalion were on our left, and our trenches were dominated by high hills which were in the hands of the Turks who could consequently see all our movements.

"On the day of the attack three companies of the 2nd Battalion were ordered to make a demonstration across 'no-man's land' in front of the Turkish positions on Barker and Chalk Ridges. The moment the men appeared over the crest, they came under heavy artillery fire and the behaviour of the men was simply splendid, in fact, could not have been better. They kept perfect alignment. They were under shell-fire for over three hours, then night came on and they were ordered to withdraw to their former positions, having achieved their objective in diverting the attention of the Turks in that particular sector and drawing their shell fire. I myself had an excellent view of this operation through my glasses and can personally testify to the excellent behaviour of the men.

"On the 20th, this Battalion was ordered to move forward and occupy two Turkish positions on its immediate front; and to do so, they had to advance roughly 1,600 yards under very heavy shell-fire which was maintained throughout the whole of the day and part of the night. The men advanced in artillery formation, and although shells were dropping all around they were just as cool as if they were on parade. The following wire dated 20th September was received from the Division:—

"Divisional General and Brigadier wish to congratulate all ranks of the 1st and 2nd Battalions on their performance of yesterday and to-day and their steadiness under fire."

"Both these generals were in their battle stations and had a panoramic view of the whole of the operations and were thus able to see exactly what went on and form their own opinions.

"These two Battalions form part of a certain force operating on the East of the Jordan and have taken part in the fighting, marching and hardships in these recent operations.

"On the 22nd this Battalion took part in a fight with New Zealand troops at the Damieh Bridgehead, and after three hours fighting the men went over the top and charged the Turkish positions with the bayonet. Our men outdistanced the New Zealanders and got in first, killing and wounding about 50 and capturing 7 officers, 150 other ranks and 14 machine guns.

"For the benefit of those who do not know, the Jordan Valley is over 800 feet below sea-level, and on the night following the Damieh fight, the 1st Battalion crossed the Jordan and climbed up the mountain sides by a sort of goat track to a point about two miles North-west of Es Salt. On the way we were sniped at and captured 20 prisoners. We then marched to Suweiler and finally to Amman, covering approximately 70 miles in 5 days and climbed 4,500 feet.

"The officer commanding the 1st Battalion received the following telegram, dated September 22nd, from our Brigadier after the fight at the Damieh Bridgehead:—

"Please congratulate all ranks on their splendid behaviour and staunch work in to-day's operation"
"We are now busy collecting prisoners and bringing order out of chaos.

"It is indeed gratifying that after all these years of waiting, some of the B.W.I.'s have at last had a chance to prove that they are good fighters. I do not think I am betraying any military secrets by saying that we are along side the Australian and New Zealand troops.

"Our Divisional Commander has been most complimentary as regards the men's behaviour, and is particularly impressed with their fighting qualities.

"Casualties have been absurdly small, and we have been particularly lucky, only losing one sergeant killed and 13 other ranks wounded. We are all particularly distressed at losing Sergeant Chan, who hails from Demerara; he was certainly one of the very best N.C.O.'s we had in this Battalion.

"The men have been without change of kit or blankets, and up in the hills where the cold is intense, they must have suffered a good deal; but there has been no grumbling or grouching; and although many of them were full of malaria, and after reaching Es Salt were dead, beat, yet cheerfully pushed on to Amman, another 22 miles, without complaint when suddenly called upon to do so."

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

The West Indian Contingent Committee has issued the following appeal for further funds to enable it to meet the very heavy calls upon its fund which must arise during the period of demobilisation:—

Dear Sir,—Since we made our first appeal for Funds in 1915 to enable the objects of the West Indian Contingent Committee to be carried out no special invitation to subscribe has been issued.

Experience has shown that the cost of maintaining the work of the Committee efficiently is at least £4,000 per annum. In view of the fact that the West Indian Contingent now numbers over 15,000 men, and that some hundreds of men who came over independently are now also receiving the care of the Committee, it cannot be regarded that this amount is excessive.

Some idea of the nature of the work which is now being undertaken may be gauged from the following extracts from the latest report of the Committee:—

"The volume of work undertaken by the Committee showed a further marked expansion which is reflected by the increase in the postage and cable accounts, and by the numbers of men calling at the West India Committee Rooms for assistance or advice, which is always ungrudgingly given. This latter forms no small part of the activities of the Hon. Secretary and Staff. In the opinion of the Committee this personal attention to new arrivals, to men in hospital, to men in any form of trouble or to those who are merely lonely in a strange land is one of the useful parts of its work.

"Some hundreds of parcels of comforts were sent to men at the front and in Ho.pital.

"The number of parcels sent to the Committee to be re-addressed and forwarded to their destination showed a notable increase, and the work of checking the whereabouts of the addresses, repacking the parcels which, unfortunately, is still

necessary in most instances, and clearing doubtful gifts under arrangement with the Commissioner of Customs was considerable. It was not unusual for from 2,000 to 3,000 letters and parcels to be dealt with in a single month.

"Board and lodging was provided for 205 men on leave, discharged from hospital, or awaiting enlistment, at various clubs, including the Union Jack Club, the Y.M.C.A., the Peel House Club, and the Victoria League Club, with which special arrangements have been made.

"The Committee acceded to all requests for badges, musical instruments, games, insecticides, etc., from Commanding Officers of the British West Indies Regiment for their respective Battalions, which were also supplied with books and magazines by arrangement with the Camps' Library, to whose funds a contribution was made.

"In the autumn the Committee was able to place an adequate supply of warm comforts at the disposal of each Battalion of the Regiment in France."

It may be added that since January 1st, 1918, no fewer than 1,400 parcels have been despatched from the Committee Rooms, and no less than 20,000 letters and newspapers readdressed and forwarded.

Meanwhile the calls on the Fund have become increasingly numerous. Besides the money needed for carrying on the work as at present, it is certain that very considerable further sums will be required when Peace is declared, in connection not only with the repatriation of men who came over independently to serve their country, but also with the provision of outfit and other reasonable comforts for all classes of West Indian soldiers during their return from the War to their homes. It is to meet these needs that we now invite your support.

It would be regrettable if we were not able to do for West Indians what residents in our Dominions are doing for their sons.

The total sum collected to date amounts to upwards of £17,000. There remains in the hands of the Treasurers, or is due to the Treasurers, £2,000, or less than half a year's normal expenditure. It will be seen from these figures that the time has arrived when a further appeal must be made, and to this the Committee hopes that all firms and individuals interested in or connected with the West Indies will make a prompt and liberal response.

Contributions may be sent to—

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C.3.

and will be gratefully acknowledged.

Yours obediently,

EVERARD IM THURN,

Chairman

F. M. HODGSON,

Deputy Chairman.

ALGERNON E. ASPHALL,

Hon. Secretary

12th November, 1918.

In response to the above appeal, the following contributions have, we are informed, already been received:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| The Colonial Bank | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co. | 26 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Alfred Lamb & Son | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Rutherford, Esq. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Wade | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd. | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Thomas H. Gallie & Co. | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| H. F. Previté, Esq. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Sir Robert Llewellyn, K.C.M.G. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Delhance & Co., Ltd. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Henry Langridge & Co. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| F. Henry Norton, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| W. A. Wolseley, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| E. L. Atkinson, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. R. Rutherford | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lady Olivier | 1 | 1 | 0 |

All subscriptions received will be acknowledged in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

WEST INDIANS ON LEAVE.

The suggestion made by the West Indian Contingent Committee that parties of N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regiment should be granted leave to Blighty has, it is satisfactory to learn, been adopted, and the first party, drawn from the 8th Battalion in Italy, arrived in England on October 31st. It comprised the following: Lieut. V. C. Birkbeck; R.Q.M.S. Cotterell; C.Q.M.S. Moses; Sergeants Pouchet, McCrae, and Mendez; Corporals Reid, Graham, and Nyran; Lance-Corporals Sherwood, Thomas, and Brewster; and Privates Beaufort, Green, Dexter, Russell, Barnes, Hunt, Hippolite, Watson, Bartlett, Drakes, Blair, Durant, Williams, Jones, McIntosh, John, Correia, Simpson, and Wilson.

During a fortnight's leave in London the men stayed in the Riding School in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, where they were virtually the guests of the King, and arrangements for their entertainment were made by the Contingent Committee with the co-operation of the Church Army, whose Captain the Rev. D. Hiam kindly acted as guide.

The men arrived in the best of health and spirits, and immediately indulged in an orgy of sight-seeing. On the day following that of their arrival they visited the West India Committee Rooms and the Tower of London, and their subsequent movements were as follows:—

SATURDAY, Nov. 2nd.—Victoria and Albert Museum.

SUNDAY, Nov. 3rd.—Westminster Abbey, and Concert at the Palace Theatre.

MONDAY, Nov. 4th.—Madame Tussaud's Waxworks.

TUESDAY, Nov. 5th.—Visit to Windsor Castle where the party was received personally by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Duchess of Athlone, who gave them refreshments and graciously signed her name on each invitation card. Those unable to go went to the Coliseum.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 6th.—Visited the Royal Stables at Buckingham Palace. Saw the Coronation Coach. Attended a Boxing Match at the National Sporting Club.

THURSDAY, Nov. 7th.—Attended an Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

FRIDAY, Nov. 8th.—Daly's Theatre ("The Maid of the Mountains").

SATURDAY, Nov. 9th.—Saw the Lord Mayor's Show, in which twelve men of the British West Indies Regiment took part.

SUNDAY, Nov. 10th.—Attended Divine Service at Westminster Abbey.

MONDAY, Nov. 11th.—More sightseeing, and celebration of the signature of the Armistice.

TUESDAY, Nov. 12th.—A second party visited Windsor and saw the State Apartments.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 13th.—Visits to a "Cinema" and the National Sporting Club.

The party left Waterloo on their return journey to Italy on November 14th, and it was generally conceded that the visit had been a conspicuous success.

A BARBADIAN airman who has just come through thirteen raids in the enemy country, writes thus of his Squadron Commander, who is a Trinidadian: "—nearly caught it a few days ago. He had to leave the formation owing to a dud engine, and was immediately attacked by six Huns. He managed to beat them off and returned with his machine riddled from nose to tail. It will take more than six to beat a Trinidadian, I'm thinking."

BRITAIN'S PART IN THE WAR.

By PERCY CRON STANDING.

The Recruiting Effort.

It must never be forgotten that compulsory military service was not introduced into Great Britain until 1916. Lord Kitchener had called for his first 100,000 volunteers on the outbreak of the struggle, and these were forthcoming in a fortnight. The news of the deathless retreat from Mons so stimulated British patriotism, and, consequently, recruiting, that 175,000 volunteers were enrolled in *one week*. At the close of 1915, well over 5,000,000 men had, of their own free will, joined the Motherland's Army and Navy! To go further, to the close of last year, out of a grand total of 7,500,000 effectives provided by the whole Empire, 4,530,000 (over 60 per cent.) had been given by England, 620,000 (8.3 per cent.) by Scotland, and 280,000 (3.7 per cent.) by Wales, amounting to a total of 5,430,000 Britons alone. The later Conscription Act, of April 1918, which raised the age-limit to 51, passed through Parliament by a huge majority.

Turning to the Naval achievement, what do we find? The British Fleet alone, numbering in personnel a total of 145,000 men in August, 1914, has been raised to 450,000, and its tonnage from four millions to six millions. To express the latter fact more forcibly and picturesquely, the Fleet's additional tonnage alone represents a larger force than the entire German fleet of 1914! In the first six months of that fateful year, Germany's overseas commerce realised £235,450,000; it has since been utterly destroyed from the face of the waters. Moreover, in the course of 1917, British shipping transported and escorted overseas to the different fighting fronts no fewer than 7,000,000 men, 500,000 animals, 200,000 vehicles and 9½ million tons of stores, etc. A single instance of the measures adopted to counteract the "unrestricted" U-boat war started in 1917 by Germany, lies in the remarkable circumstances that British auxiliary patrol vessels amounted to twenty only in 1914, and to 3,400 at the close of last year.

Our Ship-building Record.

Similarly, at the opening of the conflict England's mercantile steamship capacity numbered some four thousand vessels of 17,000,000 tons, which at that time sufficed "for all the needs of our Empire and provided in addition a huge reserve." Then came the period when so many hundreds of merchant ships were required as transports, etc., to be followed by the greatly enhanced U-boat campaign referred to above. But in May, 1917, Sir Eric Geddes was appointed Controller of the Navy, while early in 1918 Lord Pirrie became Controller of Merchant-shipbuilding. Results were at once apparent, in the fact that during the last twelve months 1,163,000 gross tons were completed in British yards, as against less than half that quantity in 1916, and as against 1,919,000 tons in the last year of peace (1913). Also, British merchant shipping completed in the quarter ended June 30th, 1918, showed an output of *seventy-eight per cent.* over that of the same period in the previous twelve months.

Having regard to the positive statement of the Imperial German Chancellor in February of last year—that "our submarine blockade must succeed within a limited number of weeks, within which America cannot effectively participate in the operations"—results must inevitably speak for themselves: such is the immutable law of the God of Battles. In the wise words of a recent commentator: "Happily, the Old Country is at its best when it is up against unexpected emergency, and every device which ingenuity could contrive, both offensive and defensive, was put into operation. The results were not at once apparent, but they were ultimately sure. In many cases scientific research, extending over many months, was necessary before action could be taken. In other instances, the devices adopted involved extensive work in shipyards and workshops. Even if it were possible, it would be undesirable to mention many of the measures which have been taken to cope with the menace." In fine, the British Prime Minister was enabled to state publicly, and without risk of contradiction, that this particular peril—by far the greatest the Allied Powers have had to contend with—was no longer a *peril*, but merely a *nuisance*. To prove Mr. Lloyd George's point, the Hun conception of victory by submarines has proved so utterly fallacious that in the course of that fateful 1917-18 U-boats were destroyed faster than they could be constructed, and the sinkings of the British mercantile marine decreased *two-thirds in twelve months*.

The Miracle of Munitions.

Turn we now to what a recent commentator has not unhappily termed "the miracle of Munitions." In 1914 the Old Country boasted but *three* national arsenals. After four years of war she possesses over 200 national factories, 5,000 "controlled firms" under the Ministry of Munitions, and 5,000 other firms for munitions contracts. This Ministry dates from 1915. In the three months April-June, 1918, its output (taking 100 for the figure of the first quarter of its existence) included: Field-gun ammunition, 1,493; medium-gun ammunition, 1,073; medium howitzer and anti-aircraft ammunition, 3,053; heavy gun ammunition, 16,287; heavy howitzer ammunition, 16,942; heaviest howitzer ammunition, 27,825; while "for every Lewis machine-gun turned out in the last quarter of 1914, 2,360 were turned out in the second quarter of 1918. For aeroplanes and seaplanes the ratio is 6,320 to 100."

British women, too, have played and are playing a noble part. More than a million of them are engaged on war industries throughout the country, handling the deadliest chemicals and highest explosives, apart from work involving great physical strain. By March, 1918, 20,000 women were serving in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, of whom 6,500 were in France. Then there are the Women's Royal Naval Service and Women's Royal Air Force, not to speak of the splendid and self-sacrificing Red Cross work carried on by the sex at home and abroad.

Again, of the British Motherland's financial effort too much can hardly be said. Herself spending at

the rate of £6,986,000 *per day* (roughly, about the equal of a fortnight's expenditure in peace-time), she has in the course of the long struggle advanced money to her Allies to the tune of £1,465,000,000. The National Debt of England has leaped from £651,000,000 to £7,980,000,000! Her people are cheerfully paying 840 millions in taxes instead of about 200 millions in peace time. Yet, within one month did this wonderful country raise a War Loan amounting to *One thousand million pounds sterling*.

We were asked, over and over again, to believe that the German blockade would eventually "starve" the English Motherland into unconditional surrender. Instead of the fulfilment of this sinister promise, what really happened? While it is true that in pre-war times Britain produced only forty per cent. of her own cereals, and that, including the affliction of poor harvests, we were at a loose end in this regard by the close of 1916, the Corn Production Act and the vigorous measures of the Ministry of National Service managed to tide us over the food menace.

In course of last year, over 1,000,000 acres were added to the area under corn and potatoes, the latter crop showed an advance of some three million tons, and home-grown cereals amounted to more than 850,000 tons over that of 1916. Early in the present year 1,200,000 more acres were under cultivation, the area under wheat now being *one and a half* times what it was in pre-war times. Could any other people on God's earth produce or re-produce such a record?

A Tribute to Lord Rhondda.

Whereas compulsory rationing has long ago broken the spirit of the enemy peoples, there has been practically no real shortage of food in the United Kingdom. Certainly much of this immunity has been due to the wise and large-hearted measures of the late Lord Rhondda as Food Controller, and much more to the loyal and excellent work of the local authorities. Much, again, has been done thanks to the magnificent anti-blockade work of the Royal Navy, and a song in every heart to-day might well be, "Thank God we have a Navy."

The people of the Motherland have cheerfully complied with heavy restrictions on such items as alcohol, petrol, travelling, artificial lighting, racing and sports meetings, etc. They have seen their fellow citizens, men, women and children killed or mangled in air-raids on British coasts and inland cities, not merely by the hundred, but by the thousand. They have given their millions of children to the deathless cause of civilisation *versus* barbarism, their millions of money to all and every war cause, and have had the satisfaction of seeing their army and navy transcend the work of any other Power in the task of beating the common foe to his knees.

It is therefore impossible to deny that England's own stupendous efforts in all directions have won the war for her Allies and for humanity. Her fleets, her armies, her money-bags, the mobilisation, so to speak, of her manhood and her womanhood have made this extraordinary result attainable. Enough

has decidedly not been made—enough could not be made—of England's effort as the determining factor. One wonders whether the apostles of *kultur* and the enemies of civilisation did not already realise something of this on the fateful August 4th, 1914. If not, they know it now.

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(Continued from page 319.)

Mail Contract Terminated.

In July, 1915, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company gave notice to terminate the transatlantic mail service after the steamer leaving England on August 25th, on the grounds that the closing of the Port of Southampton had made compliance with the contract impossible. They suggested the substitution of a monthly 11-knot service, a proposal which did not, however, meet with general approval. The steamers with which it was proposed to run this service having been requisitioned, the Company, meanwhile, withdrew this offer and offered to run a four-weekly service between London and Trinidad, extending the itinerary to Colon if the Government would make a payment, per voyage, which would obviate loss, or alternating a fixed sum of £4,000 per voyage. This offer was not accepted.

In December, 1915, the majority of the West Indian colonies having favoured the discontinuance of the intercolonial steamer service, in view of the termination of the transatlantic mail contract, the Colonial Office arranged with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for its suspension immediately.

Since the suspension of these services, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has continued to send a steamer periodically to the West Indies and back, but the bulk of the carrying trade has been performed by the "Direct" Line of steamers, to whom the greatest credit is due for maintaining their West Indian service throughout the War in spite of the counter-attraction of other more profitable routes.

Thanks almost entirely to this line, it has been possible to lift practically all the cargo offered from the United Kingdom. The limited passenger accommodation afforded by the vessels of the Direct Line have been also utilised to the fullest extent. On the British Guiana-United Kingdom route the "Booker" Line have also kept their flag flying.

The Imperial Direct Line.

In 1900 a fresh element of competition was introduced into the West Indian shipping trade by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Alfred Jones. For some time this well-known shipowner had been looking about for new fields to conquer, and on April 19th in that year, as the outcome of negotiations between him and the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, a contract was entered into between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, the concern with which Mr. Jones was identified, for the provision and maintenance of a direct fruit, passenger, and mail service between Jamaica and the United Kingdom. Under this agreement the contractors, in return for a subsidy of £40,000 per

annum for ten years, payable half by the Imperial Treasury and half by the Jamaica Government, were pledged to purchase and carry 20,000 bunches of bananas fortnightly from Jamaica to the United Kingdom, and to appoint instructors to educate the growers as to the best methods of cultivating, harvesting and packing bananas and other fruits. The latter condition was, however, waived in 1906 on Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company agreeing to a reduction of the subsidy by £500, which was deducted from Jamaica's share.

Bristol was selected as the terminal port in the United Kingdom for the new service, and on February 14th, 1901, the R.M.S. *Port Morant*, flying the flag of the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service, as the new company was called, left Avonmouth Docks for Kingston, Jamaica, with a full complement of passengers amid manifestations of rejoicing, her departure being witnessed by upwards of 10,000 spectators. In due course, she returned with her load of bananas, and for the first time it was demonstrated that this fruit could be successfully imported in good condition into the United Kingdom from the New World.

Owing to circumstances into which it is not necessary to enter now, the United Fruit Company of America secured the control of the purchase of fruit and loading of the steamers of the new line.

This arrangement was greatly resented in Jamaica. It led to the refusal of the Legislature to approve of the general West Indian mail contract being given to Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company in 1905, and it led also to Jamaica refusing to renew the contract with that company for the direct steamship service when it came to an end by efflux of time in 1911.

(To be continued.)

SUGAR IN HAWAII.

The sugar industry of Hawaii continues to be steadily progressive. From 360,038 tons (of 2,000 lbs.) in 1901 it rose last year to 644,574 tons. In 1917 the industry was controlled by fifty-two companies—the shares of most of which are regularly quoted and freely dealt with in Honolulu—which produced 644,574 tons (of 2,000 lbs.). Of this total, 404,719 tons were from irrigated, and 245,067 tons from unirrigated estates, the yields being 6.42 and 4.28 tons per acre respectively. The largest individual yield was that of the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company with 53,812 tons of sugar produced from 6,510 acres, or 8.26 tons to the acre. The Palm Sugar Company stands second with 37,470 tons from 5,168 acres, and the Maui Agricultural Society third with 36,000 tons from 4,231 acres, or 8.50 tons per acre. These remarkable yields were due to the very complete system of irrigation adopted, which renders the estates to a great extent independent of the vagaries of the weather.

On the properties of the last-named company about 120,000,000 gallons of water have been made available every 24 hours, and this is characteristic of most of the estates in the islands.

The Hawaiian planters, like those in Cuba, believe in doing things on a large scale, and this also contributes to the success of their operations, which

was very marked even before the high prices engendered by the War. The highest dividend paid last year was 36 per cent.

USES FOR COCOA SHELLS.

Supplies Commandeered for Cattle.

An Order has been issued, entitled the Cocoa Bean Shell (Requisition) Order, 1918, under which the occupier of every factory in which raw cocoa beans are used is required to place at the disposal of the Food Controller the whole of the output of cocoa bean shell which he had in stock at the close of business on November 2nd, or produces after that date. Maximum prices for the commodity having recently been fixed by the Cocoa Powder (No. 2) Order, 1918, it will be taken over from manufacturers and distributed to dealers for sale in accordance with these prices, mainly as an ingredient of cattle feeding-stuffs.

Mr. A. W. Knapp recently read an interesting paper on the separation and uses of cocoa shell before the Chemical Industry. He recalled that since the famous legal case in 1910, when a cocoa powder containing 18 per cent. of shell was found to be genuine, it had received little attention, and now for the first time in England the amount of shell that might be present in cocoa had been carefully defined.

The quantity produced every year is sufficiently great to make the subject of interest to those who have to consider the scientific use of waste products. By calculation from the official returns on cocoa, the world-production of cocoa shell is found to be about 36,000 tons per year, of which Europe consumes 22,000 tons. The consumption in Great Britain in 1916 was 4,773 tons.

The raw cocoa beans of commerce are about the size of almonds and have thin skin or shell. This averages about 12.5 per cent. by weight; the percentage varies with the size and method of production of the beans. Thus, when the shell has been washed, as in the case of the cocoa from Ceylon, it amounts to about 8 per cent. whereas with Trinidad cocoa, which is clayed, it varies around 15 per cent.

Methods of Preparation.

In the cleaning of the beans a small amount (about 0.2 per cent.) of loose shell fragments is separated. The shell cannot be easily separated from the bean in the raw state, but after roasting, the shell no longer adheres to the bean. It has apparently always been the custom to remove the shell, and to use only the kernels for the preparation of cocoa or chocolate; thus Willoughby in his 'Travels in Spain' (1664) writes 'They first toast the berries to get off the husk,' and R. Brookes in his 'Natural History of Chocolate' (1730) says:—"The Indians . . . roast the kernels in earthen pots, then free them from their skins, and afterwards crush and grind them between two stones."

After roasting, both the shell and bean are crisp and brittle, and the small hard radicle, or germ, is loose. All that is necessary to get them in a suitable condition for separation is to crush the bean with as little breaking down to powder as possible, so that the shell is in large flat plates and the bean in large solid fragments (nibs). This is frequently accomplished by passing through rolls at such a distance apart that the bean is cracked without being crushed. It may also be effected by using a serrated cone revolving in a serrated conical case. It is usual to pass the broken bean into a germ separator; in these machines use is made of the uniform size and rod-like shape of the germ to effect separation. The germs so obtained naturally contain some nib and fine shell, and this mixture is known as 'smalls.' The large nib passes on to the husking machine, in which the nib and shell are separated by winnowing in a powerful current of air,

the large nib falling through the current, whilst the shell is blown into another compartment. Both nib and shell pass down revolving cylindrical screens, encountering a larger and larger mesh as they proceed and thus being separated into various sizes. The current of air carries about 0.2 per cent. of the material as dust into a settling chamber. The large shell contains a fair amount of nib and is graded and separated. Starting with 100 parts of raw cacao beans 103 per cent. of shell is produced. The total 'smalls' obtained approach 4 per cent., these 'smalls' containing about 36 per cent. of shell. As a result of these separations and the loss which occurs on roasting, only 78.5 per cent. of usable nib is obtained, and this contains about 2 per cent. of shell. Continuous vigilance is required to keep the product up to this standard. The husking machine and shell purifiers occupy a considerable space. Crushing and separating machines to deal with 1 ton an hour occupy 2,200 cubic feet, or roughly to handle 1 lb. of roasted beans per hour requires 1 cubic foot. The space occupied by the 'smalls' machine, shell graders and purifiers would add 50 per cent. We have never heard of any other method of separation of the shell being used.

The price of cocoa shell has undergone an extraordinary increase in the last two years. Thus in 1912 the average price was 65s. per ton; in 1913, 1914, and 1915, 70s.; in 1916 it rose to 90s.; in 1917 to 128s.; whilst in May, 1918, it stood at 310s. per ton. The variation in price is even greater than appears from these figures. To appreciate fully the rise we have to deduct the bagging expenses, which are high, shell being a bulky material. Thus the above shell, which is practically free from cocoa, weighs only 91 lbs. per cubic foot (or 32 lbs. when ground to powder).

There are other grades of cocoa shell from which the manufacturer has not so completely separated the cocoa, and these are more highly priced e.g.,

| Grade. | Cocoa Nib present. | Price per ton (Sept. 1918). |
|--------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | less than 1 per cent. | 120s. |
| 2 | 2.8 per cent. | 130s. |
| 3 | 10.0 | 150s. |
| 4 | 15.0 | 200s. |

The following are the most representative analyses:—

Analyses of Cocoa Shell.

| Shell. | Unroasted Average. % | Roasted Average % | Roasted, Average. % | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Water | 12.51 | 4.50 | 1.87 | 9.30 |
| Fat | 4.23 | 4.40 | 2.77 | 3.13 |
| Ash | 10.20 | 7.30 | 10.48 | 8.36 |
| Nitrogen | 2.19 | 2.50 | 2.34 | 3.00 |
| Fibre | 16.71 | 11.00 | 15.83 | 13.85 |
| Analyst | | Zipperer, | Booth, Cribb, Winton, Smetham and Richards, | Silverman and Bailey. |

"Miscrables" in Ireland.

Cocoa shells have long been sold in small quantities in Ireland under the name of 'miscrables' for the preparation of a table decoction. But it was not till this year that they were sold under fancy names at fancy prices, as much as 2s. per lb. being paid in some cases. Whilst a water extract has, no doubt, a small food value, cocoa shell should be regarded as a substance capable of producing an inferior stimulating drink rather than as one giving a food beverage. In this connection reference should be made to a recent paper by J. L. Baker and H. F. E. Hulton on 'The Analysis of "Cocoa Teas"' (Analyst, 1918, 43, 189). Cocoa shell contains on an average 1 per cent. of theobromine (the figure given in most published analyses being too low), and this is probably its most valuable constituent when used to prepare a drink. Its proper use is as a cattle food; for this purpose until the last six months it was low in price.

Smetham (J. Lancashire Agric. Soc., 1914) calculated the 'food units' as 102, which place cocoa shell above maize and meadow hay.

Mr. W. L. DuBois has sent us the following figures, obtained in America, showing the digestible nutrients in 100 lbs. of shells:—Protein 1.53 lbs., fibre 6.45 lbs., nitrogen-free extract 40.6 lbs., fat 4.81 lbs., fuel value 111,079 calories (1 lb. gives 4,404 B.Th.U.). These analytical results have been supported by practical feeding

experiments in America, in Germany (see Zipperer), and in Turin by F. Faelli, who obtained an increase in the daily average yield of milk. J. E. Lucas (Bull. Agric. Intell., 1919) obtained 20 per cent. decrease in amount of milk and 20 per cent. increase of fat content. In 1916 it was reported that horses in Germany were poisoned by being fed on cocoa shells (2½ lbs. per meal). It was suggested that this was due to the theobromine present in the shell. We feel that this is doubtful, considering that cocoa shells have so long been used in compound feeding cakes without complaint. It suggests, however, that it is probably unwise to use a high percentage of it in a diet.*

Early in 1915 the transport difficulties were so great that manufacturers of cocoa could not get rid of their shell and hence some thought was given to ways of using it. It has been used as fuel. Its calorific value is a little greater than that of wood (varying from 7,400 to 8,600 B.Th.U.), but being very light it needs careful management. It is most effectively used on a gas plant, the only objection being that the tar which it produces has a nauseating odour. The charred residue can be used as a manure. The shell itself has been used as a manure (see Annual Report of the Experimental Farms in Canada, 1898, 151, and 1899, 851). In experiments in Bonnyville it was found to decompose in the ground very slowly, and Mr. J. Lodge recommends that the decomposition should be hastened by placing the shell in a heap, soaking well with water, and turning several times previous to use on the land. Used in this way it gave excellent results both as a manure and as a lightener of heavy soils.

Shell Fat's Value.

"The fat in cocoa shell can be extracted by solvents, and as 'shell fat' is seen on the market from time to time; this is presumably a regular practice on the Continent. This solvent-extracted fat has an unpleasant taste and an odour like tobacco, which renders it unfit for edible purposes. With theobromine fetching fifty shillings a pound the extraction of the theobromine from shell appears a feasible proposition. We know of no firm actually doing this, although presumably either shell or germ is the source of the theobromine now sold. As an experiment we ourselves extracted some sixty pounds, which we had no difficulty in selling.

"Shell can be made to give an extract which is equal to some of the coffee substitutes at present sold, and many other applications have been suggested, but the use of shell which is the most interesting and regrettable is in cocoa and chocolate. In Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and America, it is illegal to put shell in cocoa or chocolate, the shelled bean being used. In Great Britain until this year the amount of shell that might be present in cocoa or chocolate had not been defined. The Food Controller has now issued regulations which state that 'no person shall manufacture cocoa powder except such powder as contains no more than 5 per cent. of shell.' A manufacturer may sell as Grade A cocoa powder any cocoa powder which contains not more than 2 per cent. of cocoa bean shell. From the point of view of the public and the manufacturer the figures are well chosen, for when every reasonable effort is made on a commercial scale to separate the shell from the nib, about 2 per cent. of shell is left in. These figures have, however, placed the analyst in a difficult position, for there is no process which will accurately determine such small quantities of shell as 2 per cent. and 5 per cent., and with such processes as are available he will need to draw conclusions from his results with considerable caution. Of the many processes that have been suggested we have most confidence in the fibre determination, but the natural variations in shell and in nib are so great as to make the detection of 5 per cent. of shell uncertain (see also Baker and Hulton, Analyst, 1918, 43, 197-201)."

The reports of the meetings of the Trinidad Central Oilfields and the United British West Indian Petroleum Syndicate are unavoidably held over to next issue, owing to pressure on our space.

*See "Cocoa Shells as Fodder," by A. W. Knapp, *Tropical Life*, 1918, 154.

OUR LIBRARY.

TIMEHRI: THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH GUIANA.—Vol. V. (new series). August, 1918. Argosy Co., Ltd., Demerara.

We heartily congratulate the joint Editors, Dr. J. J. Numan, K.C., and Mr. J. Rodway, F.L.S., on the general excellence of the "Historical Illustrated Volume" of their well-known West Indian publication, recently to hand. It simply overflows with interesting matter, and reflects credit alike on the contributors and compilers. The premier position is occupied by "Now and Then," a comprehensive review by the President, Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, of the Society's work and membership during the twenty-one years' interval that had elapsed since he previously occupied the presidential chair in 1897. This paper, extending over 75 pages of the journal, is an amplification of his inaugural address as President, supplemented by additional figures and valuable statistics as to the development of the agricultural, industrial and natural resources of the Colony, and with which he has been intimately associated during past years. Professor Harrison, in giving credit to Sproston, Ltd., for their efforts and enterprise as a local firm, in opening up river traffic to the interior, writes:—

"In my opinion it has not been in the best interests of the Colony at large that Sproston have been handicapped by the installation of the Colonial Steamer Service. It might have been better if every effort had been directed towards the development of the Colony and the exploitation of its resources, by bringing pressure on Sproston and utilising to the fullest extent their long and varied experience and all the capabilities of their establishment.

"With a view to the future development of the vast interior of the Colony and its opening up by a central railway, it appears to me that we should be wise if we followed the example of Sproston and directed all our energies towards the exploitation of the nearer hinterland and utilised the land thus developed as a base from which to drive the projected central railway."

We believe that many persons will concur in these views.

Mr. Hyatt Verrill discourses pleasantly on "Glimpses of the Guiana Wilderness," illustrated with some capital original views of the interior. One of these, a view of the Bonosika River, is a remarkable example of reflection photography, as the picture can be viewed equally well upside down!

The same writer gives an interesting illustrated account of prehistoric mounds and relics recently discovered and opened up by him in the North-West District, and on the Abary Creek, which he believes afford tangible evidence of the existence of an ancient race antecedent to that of the present aboriginal Indians, and the probable authors of the inscribed writings on the so-called "Timehri rocks" found on several of the rivers in the interior of the Colony, the hieroglyphic characters on which have never yet been authoritatively deciphered.

"A Chat about the Society's Past" is a retrospective sketch by Mr. Rodway of the Society's history, work and personnel since its establishment in 1844, due prominence being given to the active part taken by the late Dr. W. H. Campbell, LL.D., in the inception and founding of the institution, of which he remained honorary secretary for nearly forty years with distinguished success and universal approval down to the close of his life.

Two papers dealing with Natural History in the Colony are, "Insect Homes," by L. D. Cleare, Jun., F.E.S., and "A Fishing Trip in the Mazaruni River," by G. E. Bodkin, B.A., F.Z.S., F.E.S., both affording interesting and instructive reading.

Technical articles are contributed by L. P. Hodge, Assoc.M.Inst.C.R., on "Ligno-Concrete," and physical characteristics of seventeen specimens of "Constructional Woods of British Guiana," described by L. H. Hohenkerk of the Department of Lands and Mines, and tests carried out, as recorded, at the P.W.D.

Mr. E. G. Suckler discusses the evidence of the former

existence of "Indians in Barbados," illustrated with photographs of ancient pottery and stone and shell implements, specimens of which are to be found throughout the island.

The Rev. W. G. White, F.R.G.S., writes a critical review of articles which appeared in previous issues of *Timbri* on "Indian languages"; and the Rev. Dr. Robinson, S.J., gives an interesting illustrated account of "String Figures" from the Makushi Indians of the Ireng and Takutu Rivers.

Papers of historical interest are contributed by the following:—

- Cecil Martin Sperry: "The Renaissance."
J. Rodway: "The Good Old Times in Guiana."
Fred May: "The Lutherans of Berbice."
J. G. Cruickshank: "King William's People."

The last-named article gives an interesting account of the Crown slaves, mostly of the artisan class, occupying the "Winkel" district, at the back of New Amsterdam, Berbice. These people were specially granted their freedom by King William IV. in 1831, some years before the general Emancipation Act, a Deed of Manumission being given to the head of each family, embodying his or her name with issue; and of this fact these people were justly proud, being henceforth known as "King William's People": the Winkel negroes were, indeed, considered to be the "top hole" aristocratic blacks of Berbice, and continue so to this day!

Mr. Edgar Beckett contributes a thoughtful paper entitled, "Some Stray Thoughts on our People," in course of which he suggests that the well-equipped central factories on sugar estates should be utilised for general manufacturing purposes, such as milling of rice, preparation of flour from locally-grown products, concentration of lime juice and for the furtherance, generally, of minor industries, instead of being confined to the manufacture of sugar and rum alone, as at present. Dealing with the backward habits of the masses of the people, he tells some plain truths as to the lack of training in the primary schools of the Colony, technical, scholastic and religious, as well as the absence of any endeavour to build up sound healthy character amongst the young people; and for this reason Mr. Beckett advocates the centralisation of the Colony schools more directly under Government control, enlarging their scope and character by a proper recognition of the importance of healthy physical training and the introduction of healthy outdoor games, which are now almost entirely absent in the ordinary small schools run under the various denominations in the Colony.

Reports of meetings and transactions of the Society, and a collection of Occasional and Editorial Notes on various subjects engaging public attention, serve to complete one of the most interesting and instructive numbers of the new series of *Timbri* that we have seen.

Amongst the occasional notes, mention is made of a curious incident that occurred in Barbados in 1786, illustrating a phase of the "Nelson touch" not included in any published *Life of Horatio Nelson*. This was the somewhat arbitrary seizure by Nelson, then Captain of H.M.S. *Boreas*, of two prize vessels lying in Carlisle Bay in custody of the Vice-Admiralty Court of the island, Nelson being dissatisfied with the slow progress of the law in Barbados, seized the two vessels and carried them off to Nevis, where they were promptly condemned, notwithstanding the protest of the Governor of Barbados against Captain Nelson's high-handed action.

The frontispiece of the present volume is a characteristic photograph of the late Mr. Michael McTurk, C.M.G., the well-known bushman of Guiana, with three of his native boathands.

L. M. H.

THE Hon. Gideon Murray has been unanimously adopted by the Executive of the Unionist Association of St. Rollox, Glasgow, a working class constituency with 88,000 electors, Coalition candidate for the division. Mr. Murray, who recently resigned from the position of Administrator of St. Lucia, was Food Commissioner for the Western District of Scotland from August, 1917, until last week. The Liberal candidate will be Mr. McKinnon Wood, M.P., who was Secretary for Scotland under Mr. Asquith's Premiership.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

No sooner had the Armistice been signed than the West Indian Contingent Committee began to be inundated with enquiries regarding demobilisation. An announcement on this subject will be made very shortly. Meanwhile, West Indians serving in the English Army should not take their discharge, if it is offered to them, until they have been provided with a passage to the West Indies by the War Office, unless, of course, they have enough money on which to live until berths on an outward steamer can be found for them. It should be remembered that all available accommodation on steamers to the West Indies will be occupied for some months to come by returning troops.

The King has approved of a special badge to be worn by those officers and soldiers who were residing in *foreign* or South America or Central America at the outbreak of the war, and who voluntarily joined the British Army. The badge consists of the letters "B.V.L.A." (British Volunteer Latin America) in a diamond, worked in yellow on a blue ground. N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regiment who joined up from Panama Colon or the Canal zone will, the West Indian Contingent Committee is informed, be entitled to wear these badges, application for which should be made by the officers commanding to the War Office.

In anticipation of many enquiries which are sure to be received as to whether men from the British West Indies in English units may be permitted to wear a similar badge, it may be mentioned that permission for this cannot be granted. It is pointed out that "British subjects, while patriotically obeying the call of duty are not in the same position as volunteers from *foreign* countries, whose material interests were in no way threatened by the War, while men living in the confines of the Empire were in the same position as those at home who voluntarily joined the Army at or after the outbreak of war."

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

- Mrs. Woodroffe: 7 prs. gloves, 1 pr. socks, magazines, 2 packs cards.
Mrs. J. Rippon: 8 prs. socks, 1 pr. mittens.
Mrs. Rutherford: 4 prs. socks.
Mrs. Lynch Thomas: 12 prs. mittens.
Mrs. Fryer: four scarves.
Mrs. G. Alleyne: 1 sweater, 1 helmet.
Miss Morris: 2 sweaters for Demerara boys.
Mrs. Algernon E. Aspinall: 3 prs. socks.

The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the last fortnight:—

- BAHAMAS.—2nd Lieut. F. S. Arnbrister.
BARBADOS.—Captain L. Hutson (R.A.M.C.), Pte. G. A. Atwell, Lieut. C. G. Murphy, J. Hoyt, Pte. Simeon Reid, Cpl. C. Grdham, Pte. D. Green, Pte. S. Bartlett, Pte. Drake, Gunner R. A. Collins, Pte. J. C. Bailey, Pte. C. R. Honeychurch, 2nd Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Cpl. J. H. Lewis, Captain E. J. Armstrong.
BERMUDA.—Bombardier G. G. Watson.
BRITISH GUIANA.—C.Q.M.S. John W. Moses, J. J. Rodrigues, C. J. Gomez, Jr.
GRENADA.—Sergt. J. W. Thomas.
JAMAICA.—Lce.-Cpl. L. C. A. Sherwood, 2nd Lieut. V. C. Birkbeck (B.W.I.R.), Pte. D. Simpson, Lieut. J. F. Hart (B.W.I.R.), Lce.-Cpl. S. L. Barclay, Lieut. E. N. Lord (B.W.I.R.), Captain T. R. Gideon.
MONTserrat.—Pte. S. C. Allen.
St. Kitts.—Pte. H. Adams.
TRINIDAD.—Pte. F. C. Gibbon, Sergt. R. Hale, Gnr. W. S. Braham, Gnr. A. Lassalle, Cpl. G. Billouin, 2nd Lieut. D. P. Pogson, D.F.C., Trp. L. Agostini, J. Pereira, Lieut. C. V. Turpin, Pte. H. R. Murray, Sapper H. Harris, Trp. R. O'Connor, Trpr. R. O'Connor, Pte. R. Herrera, D. McA. Proudfoot, R. Dean, Pte. J. C. de la Rosa, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Wade, E. A. Hodgkinson, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Lieut. W. André, Lieut. J. E. Kernahan, V. Marryot, Sergt. McCartney (B.W.I.R.), R. Melizan.

Cadet Errol Knowles, Pte. J. P. Kellman, Sapper C. A. Wainwright, Tpr. H. B. Owen, 2nd Lieut. C. D. McClean, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Durutz, M.C.

OBITUARY.

MR. CHARLES CROWTHER BAKER.

We regret to learn that Mr. Charles Crowther Baker lost his life when the *Hirano Maru* was torpedoed on October 5th.

Mr. Baker, after serving an apprenticeship with Messrs. Mirrlees, Tait & Watson—now Mirrlees, Watson & Co., Ltd.—went out to Demerara in the late 'eighties as assistant to Mr. Robert Dodds. On the death of that well-known consulting engineer he succeeded to his practice, and was employed by most of the larger sugar estates in British Guiana, where he remained for twenty years. In 1906 Mr. Baker returned to this country, and joined the staff of Messrs. Pott, Cassels & Williamson, of Motherwell, Glasgow. While in their employ he visited many of the cane sugar-growing countries of the world, and formed a wide circle of friends. He recently accepted an engagement as manager to the Forges et Fondéries, of Mauritius, and he was on his way to take up that appointment when he met his untimely end.

REV. ROBERT M. YOUNG.

The Rev. Robert M. Young, of British Guiana, has, we regret to learn, died of bronchial pneumonia in Devonshire.

Mr. Young returned to this country in October last to get married to a lady who had trained herself as a nurse to assist him in his ministrations. On the homeward voyage he took his turn at watch and contracted a cold which developed into the fatal illness to which he succumbed on the eve of his wedding. Educated at the Tynemouth Wesleyan School, he was trained as a scientific lecturer on alcohol in the Day Schools, and on the death of his tutor he received the greater call to enter the University. After two years training at Didsbury he left for British Guiana, of which he said, "I love the people and the work there. I hope to spend my whole life among them."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Thanks to the "Circular."

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—It may interest your readers to know that seven young cross-bred Italian-Indian bulls recently advertised in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and referred to therein, sold for £450—i.e., for prices from £50 to £75 apiece, the usual local price for creole bulls being from £20 to £30. Many prospective buyers were unable to secure a purchase, the number for sale being limited on this occasion. The successful buyers were all from Jamaica, but there were enquiries from other West Indian Islanders; the freight difficulties naturally formed a hindrance to the latter. The impression made on those viewing the stock of this cross-breed appeared to be more than favourable.

Yours faithfully,

A. F. G. ELLIS.

More "Fishing Stories."

To the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—Advertising to the "fish story" in your recent issue, where the fish somewhere in India were fed by "doped" bread pellets and then lifted out of the water and carried off, in Java and Borneo I have seen very much the same sort of "fishing." In the dry season, when the rivers are reduced to a series of large, limpid pools connected by

stretches of shingle or coarse sand, over which a clear stream merely trickles, the natives stand up stream of a selected pool and wash in the trickle from an ordinary wicker basket a previously well-pounded fibrous plant of the *Sisa* species. The washings pass on into the pool and render the whole of the fish therein, large and small, unconscious. Those desired are then removed, and after a time the others recover, and do not appear any the worse for the "doping." I have partaken of the fish, and cannot say there was any difference in taste from the same fish taken in the ordinary way, nor did I suffer in any way from eating it.

Whilst on the point of fish and fishing, I send you herewith photos of a few "catches" made by two members of the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co.'s staff and two friends, fishing in the Bocas, off Trinidad. In three days they took over 1,600 lbs. weight of fish, "trawling" with ordinary hand lines. The fish taken were principally kingfish, barracouta, mackerel, and Carvalli, and some of them scaled over 40 lbs.

I have fished off the Hawaii Islands, and also amidst the East Indian Islands, and had good catches, but I think it should be more generally known that equally good sport is to be had off our own islands in the West Indies. Even tarpon is sometimes taken off Antigua and St. Kitts. Last year, in one and a half hours, in the early morning, three miles or so off Basseterre, St. Kitts, I took three mackerel and three barracoutas, averaging about 15 lbs. each.

Yours faithfully,

F. P. RUDDER.

[The photographs of Mr. Rudder's friends' catch are very striking. They can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.—ED.]

St. Lucia Papers Please Copy.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I, being a subscriber of your highly estimated paper, have considered this as a duty incumbent on me to request your kindness most fervently to permit this article to appear in your issue as a compliment to the people of St. Lucia. The St. Lucia contingents wish to inform the general public or all concerned, that although Providence has placed us thousands of miles away from home, yet we have not prepared to forget our little world. We wish to imprint into the heads of all concerned that our separations have only been made in persons but not in thoughts. We are opinionately believe that this great jeopardy which with non-essential reason has so malignly presented itself before us will, in the immediate future redound to its eternal shame and chase away this vast intervals which has placed itself between us and barred our daily interview. We wish to inform the general public that this has been rendered incontrovertible by potential experiments that our assailant has regretted their ungodly aggression. It is quite clear to everybody even to the most superficial thinker that the Germs phrenatic effort in 1914 was made for the purpose of transgressing our laws and robbed us of the freedom and liberties which our ancestors have so strongly built for us years and years ago, but as far as to where qualify seers can survey the doctrine and principles of the British Empire have been proved indestructible to the enemy's militarism. Let us hope that the Union Jack will be always kept flying and the entering of the British Empire into this great conflict will secure the tranquillity of the world in the future. We have strong reason to believe that the long preparedness of the German's Allies will redound to her eternal shame and the reluctance of our Allies will redound to her eternal glory and honour.

We wish to inform all concerned, that we do not know whether or not our lips will be sealed to future talk therefore being the opportune moment we are feeling desirous to despatch our best wishes for the season to the circle of every family in the Colony. Wishes you all Merry Xmas and Happy New Year, with the best success in your undertakings, and hope that your circumstances will be improved daily more and more.

PRE. A. JOHN,

St. Lucian British West Indies.

P.S.—We also hope that the noble advice given to the peasants of the Colony of St. Lucia by Mr. Brooks, Agricultural Superintendent of St. Lucia, will be obeyed with-

out any delay or hesitation. If the noble advice or the admirable injunction of Mr. Brooks is followed, we feel sure that it will be to your own benefit, and you will be no more the victims of the high cost of living, the exorbitant cost of all stuffs which has been imposed upon you through a covetous nation. Misfortunes shall not lurk near, starvation may look at your homes from a far distance but will never dare to enter or loiter near.—Your real well-wisher.

HOMeward MAILS.

With the War—to all intents and purposes—now over, we may hope to receive more regular advices from our Hon. Correspondents, whose letters published under the above heading are so eagerly looked forward to by our readers. We shall also welcome letters and notes on matters of current interest from occasional correspondents for publication. We publish below extracts from letters received by various opportunities during the past fortnight.

ANTIGUA—The Death of Mr. Conacher.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, OCTOBER 8th.—The death of Mr. Walter Conacher, manager of St. Kitts sugar factory, has caused widespread regret. Mr. Conacher was a sterling, upright, hardworking, clever man.

The acting Colonial Secretary, Hon. F. W. Watkins, is making great efforts to constitute our Red Cross efforts this year a record. A sale of produce and other articles which came off on September 19th, produced a net result of nearly £500. All classes contributed towards the success, gifts from a plough to eggs being given. Over a thousand people attended during the day.

Captain Ian McDonald has returned on leave; a cordial public reception was accorded him. He was met at the wharf by Capt. Nicholson, A.D.C. to the Governor, and the Reception Committee, and an address was read to which he replied. The local forces formed a Guard of Honour and escort. People of all classes assembled in thousands to welcome Capt. McDonald. A more modest hero it would be difficult to find. He has done honour to us and thoroughly deserved the welcome he received.

Hon. D. McDonald and wife also returned with their son and participated in the welcome. We are glad to have them back with us.

The Inspector of Schools for the Leeward Islands, in his report for the year 1917-18, recently published, states that the number of scholars on the books is 23,396, with an average attendance of 10,548. Of 227 children examined in Standard VII., 119 passed. The total expenditure on the schools, exclusive of Departmental officers and establishment charges, was £9,590.

BARBADOS—Population Statistics.

According to the report of the Registrar, published in the *Official Gazette*, the population of the island on December 31st last was 186,656. During 1917, marriages to the number of 713 (a rate of 7.7 per thousand) were recorded. Births numbered 5,378 (3,527 illegitimate). The death-rate per thousand was 25. Burials of children under the age of one year numbered 1,554—a rate of 289 per thousand. The strength of the police force on December 31st last, it is officially reported, was 407. Crime seems to be slightly on the increase, the cases heard numbering 10,405, as against 8,380 in 1916.

BRITISH GUIANA—Rice Crop Failure.

It is announced that the Guiana Scholarship, this year, has been won by J. R. Agard, of Queen's College. Drought has given rise to a serious position as regards the rice industry on the right and left banks of the Mahoea Creek—so much so that the Government was recently notified by telegram that ruin and starvation were impending. Messrs. Sproston are about to build the new lightship recently voted by the Combined Court. As the new vessel will be unattended the cost of main-

tenance will be \$400 as against \$4,714 at present. The published list of registered voters entitled to vote in the election of members of the Court of Policy and the Combined Court for the seven electoral divisions of the Colony for the twelve months commencing October 1st, 1918, show that only 4,285 persons are in a position to exercise the franchise out of a population of 314,000. There has been an increase of 93 voters compared with the number on the old register. It is thought that the local tobacco industry may receive a much-needed fillip from the shortage of the imported commodity, due to the British and American restrictions on export of tobacco.

Nearly four years after the abortive sale of Bel Air Park on December 4th, 1914, which was directly responsible for the protracted litigation in which Mr. Percy C. Wight unsuccessfully claimed to have bought the Demerara Turf Club's property for \$16,100—a bid which the auctioneer and liquidator (Mr. Nelson Cannon) declined to accept as the purchase price—the property, consisting of 55 acres of land with the stands, refreshment booths and other erections, has been sold at auction for \$62,100, Mr. M. S. C. Fernandes, of the People's Pawnbroking Company, being the purchaser.

Reporting on the Rupununi District during 1917, Mr. Melville, the Commissioner, says the balata companies had a very successful season, 800,000 lbs. of the dried product being attained. Progress has been made in connection with the opening up of a cattle track—for which the Combined Court voted \$60,000—from the Rupununi savannahs to a point on the Berbice and Demerara Rivers accessible to steam traffic from the coast. The completion of the track, says Mr. Melville, will render it possible for a person to travel on foot or horseback from a steamer terminus on the Demerara or Berbice Rivers to the Southern limit of the Rupununi grass lands, a distance of 300 miles. The resignation is announced, through ill health, of Mr. C. K. Bancroft, Assistant Director of Science and Agriculture. Mr. Bancroft, who is a native of Barbados, was formerly mycologist in the Malay States.

It is reported that a syndicate is being formed with the object of purchasing Pt. Blankenburg, on the West Coast of Demerara. The price said to have been asked for the estate is \$40,000.

BRITISH HONDURAS—The Recent Fire.

MR. GRABHAM, OCTOBER 16th.—The fire has caused no distress. On the contrary it means a lot of employment. The entire loss falls on the revenues of the Colony. The private property destroyed was fully insured, and belonged to people well off. We shall have to raise a loan for the rebuilding, and we are agitating for the re-erection of the Public Buildings in a style and on a scale that the Colony can be proud of. The mahogany season has been very favourable. We are still handicapped by the lack of a regular mail service. We are losing a very able man in the person of Major Elphinstone, Attorney-General, who leaves for Trinidad early next month. We are getting up a memorial to the late Governor, Mr. Hart Bennett, the subscriptions being limited to a dollar.

JAMAICA—Deaths from Influenza.

At the time of the departure of the mail, influenza was claiming many victims. On October 16th the hospital at Port Antonio contained 158 patients. An additional rum warehouse, estimated to cost between £20,000 and £25,000, is reported to be under consideration.

ST. VINCENT—Serious Fire.

MR. W. N. SANDS, OCTOBER 7th.—The cotton crop looks promising, and with seasonable weather till the end of the year it should give a fair yield. During the night of September 13th, the London Electric Theatre, erected five months earlier over the store of Messrs. Pistana, in the centre of Kingstown, was totally destroyed by fire. The store with its contents was also burnt out. Had there been any wind it is highly probable that a considerable portion of the town would have been laid waste. A heavy explosion occurring in the building was heard throughout the town. An official enquiry was held, but so far the origin of the fire or the cause of the explosion has not been ascertained.

On the 2nd instant a very successful Garden Fête and

Entertainment was held at the Court House in aid of the Red Cross "Our Day" Fund. It is understood that a sum of £112 was realised.

TRINIDAD—Oil Fuel for the Railway.

Mr. C. Walker, Locomotive Superintendent of the Trinidad Railway, has invented a new special locomotive tender for use on the engines of the railway. Experiments have proved that the burner consumes from 13 to 15 lbs. of oil per mile—2 lbs. less than the quantity required by another burner recently installed. An acute situation is reported to have arisen in the flour market. The report of the Registrar General for the year 1917 shows that at the beginning of that year the population of the Colony was 371,876, and increased during the twelve months by 5,145—indicating a decrease in the average annual expansion. A diminution of immigration is the obvious cause. Only 705 East Indians (who numbered on December 31st, 1916, 124,977) arrived. The total number of legitimate births was 3,706 and of illegitimate 8,850. Of the total number of deaths recorded, 24 per cent. represent infants under one year. On the other hand there were 48 deaths of persons of 95 years of age and upwards.

GRAND TURK—The "Manning Hospital."

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE COMPANY.—The old Poor House at Grand Turk, which has been in the renovators' hands for some considerable period, has been converted into a hospital, and was formally opened recently by His Honour G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner. It has been named the "Manning Hospital." It has accommodation for six public patients and a private ward containing two beds, called the "Fritih Ward," the furnishings for this ward having been given by the Hon. B. C. Fritih. An operating-room fitted with modern appliances is also contained in the building, as well as quarters for the Doctor and Matron. The building is on the outskirts of the town, and stands in about four acres of ground. At the opening ceremony speeches were made by the Revs. Reeves and Cannon, the Hon. W. S. Jones and B. C. Fritih, the Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Stephen Mitchell, representing the Turks Island Benevolent Society. The hospital will be in charge of Doctor Robert O'Reilly, who has had considerable experience at Bellevue Hospital, New York. Miss Lola Moore, who received her training in Kingston, Jamaica, has been appointed Matron.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

Presiding at the half-yearly general meeting on October 31st, Mr. Charles F. Wood, Chairman, referred to the further expansion in the bank's business, the deposit and current accounts having risen to £1,600,000 and the reserves being up £125,000. Gross profits had increased by £33,000, but expenses had also risen. So far as he could judge, the prospects of the Colonial Bank had never been better than at the present time. The West Indian Colonies were uniformly prosperous; the branches in Manchester and Liverpool, and the City office were developing very nicely; and, as regards West Africa, it was becoming more recognised every day that our Colonies on the West Coast must in time become one of the greatest sources in the world for the supply of food and raw materials. But he thought it his duty to sound one note of warning. Some people still seemed to think that when the war ended all our present difficulties would end too, and we should be able to sit down and enjoy the fruits of victory. So far from this being the case, he was convinced that many of our difficulties would only begin with the period of reconstruction, and that what we had got to do now was not to fold our hands and expect the millennium, but to put every ounce of brain and energy that we possessed into the work of rebuilding a world that had been almost shattered by this most devastating of all wars.

The bank's business in West Africa had developed along satisfactory lines, and the directors had every reason to believe that when normal conditions returned the West African business would be very important and quite profitable.

Replying to Mr. Hamel Smith, who asked whether it was

proposed to amalgamate or enter into a working agreement with any other bank, the chairman said that the question of amalgamations had of course loomed very largely in the public eye during the past few months, and it was quite impossible for the directors to have overlooked the matter, but they were not yet in a position to make any statement of policy on the point. The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then adopted.

FUTURE OF WEST INDIAN SUGAR

A Canadian View.

Commenting on the decision of the Government to resume liberty of action in respect of Great Britain's sugar policy, our Halifax, N.S., contemporary, the *Maritime Merchant*, says:—"The deduction one makes from this is that Great Britain intends to give a preference to the products of her own colonies, which means that the British West Indies, including British Guiana, will be given an increased opportunity for the development of their sugar industry. Just what this will mean to Canada, directly and indirectly, it is somewhat difficult to estimate. It may mean that with an assured market in England the British West Indies will not care to continue their tariff preference to Canadian flour (the *quid pro quo* for a preference in our market for their sugar) inasmuch as they may not need our market in the future. On the other hand if the preference to Canada is continued the British West Indies should be a somewhat better market for Canada by reason of this change than they have been in the past, for an increased market for sugar means increased earnings for the country, and incidentally an increased employment of capital, which in turn means an increased consumption of foodstuffs. We do not know, however, that Canada needs to worry about the matter, whether she holds the tariff preference or not. The chief point for consideration is that the West Indies will be more prosperous, and Canada, with her enormous wheat belt, which is expanding while that of our neighbour the United States is contracting, will be the natural source of supply for the West Indies in any case."

"There must have been many pleased people in Trinidad and Demerara on the day when the cable came through announcing the above. No doubt there are difficulties in the way of increasing their production, mainly because of an insufficient supply of labour, but all these difficulties can be overcome if a sure market is provided. Perhaps the West Indies will think that the price paid for the war will not have been too great if it results in rehabilitating an industry which was the making of the fortune of the colonies in the early days and which industry was virtually killed by Germany's trade policy in relation to beet sugar."

A PARTY of Indian Editors now visiting this country were entertained at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on November 12th. The company included Mr. Mahlub Alan (Paisa Akhbar, Lahore), Mr. Hemendra Prasad Ghose (*Dainik Basumati*, Calcutta), Mr. Gopal Krishna Devadhar (*Duyan Prakash*, Dajput), Mr. S. Kasturitanga Iyenagar (*Hindu*, Madras), Mr. J. A. Suddbrook (*The Englishman*, Calcutta), Mr. Rutherford, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. A. J. McConnell, Mr. C. Sandbach Parker, C.B.E., Mr. T. Greenwood, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone 6642 Central.
Telegrams— "Carib, London"

15, SKETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3

November 14th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

NATIONAL WAR BONDS. All are urged to buy National War Bonds. It cannot be too widely known in the West Indies that interest on these is paid *without deduction of income tax*.

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 8 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

The Canadian Food Committee has sanctioned bidding for new crop Demerara sugars to authorised Canadian purchasers at 6.10c. c.i.f. steamship port. No increase will be allowed on sugar manufactured in Barbados or other preferential countries previous to September 15th. In order to avoid disputes, delays, etc., and until crops are definitely cleaned up, shippers claiming new crop price must forward sworn statement along with other shipping documents that sugars are of new crop.

On all preferential sugars delivered to Canadian buyers at the ports of St. John, N.S., and Halifax, N.S., in steamships or schooners not subsidised by the Governments of Canada or the British Colonies, the Committee will permit such Canadian buyers to pay 20c. per cwt. in advance of 6.10c. c.i.f., 96° basis. This is to enable producers in the British West Indies and Demerara to avail themselves of schooners and steamers to augment the established tonnage now on regular schedule in the trade.

Mr. Hoover, U.S. Food Administrator, has stated that 1,850,000 tons of raw and refined sugar will be required for export from Cuba and the United States next year to the Allies, certain neutral countries and the American Army, an increase of 330,000 tons over the quantity supplied for similar purposes last year. The weather in Cuba has been favourable and an increased output of sugar in 1918 is already predicted, though the labour question is a constant source of anxiety.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on November 9th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 34,332 | 75,092 | 50,581 | |
| Deliveries | 34,646 | 70,677 | 53,049 | |
| Stock (Nov. 9th) | 10,673 | 12,430 | 8,637 | |

RUH. The stocks in London on November 9th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | puns. |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Jamaica | 4,233 | 8,441 | 10,584 | |
| Demerara | 10,236 | 7,844 | 11,510 | |
| Total of all kinds | 20,161 | 26,259 | 36,659 | |

MOLASSES. A Molasses Association has been established under the direction of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply to act as the sole channel of distribution of all molasses in this country. The available supplies of molasses from time to time assigned to Cattle Feeding will be issued by the Association to the Feeding Stuffs Section of the Ministry of Food, which will issue to the consumers in bulk ex refinery, ship, tank, or other depot. Charges for packing and barrelling will be extra, and the Ministry will distribute the molasses through its own channels. Molasses for manufacturing and other duty-paid purposes will be distributed by the Association as far as possible in the usual channels through which the business has hitherto been conducted. To this end the Association will confine distribution to those persons who were in the trade prior to August, 1914, amongst whom it will distribute the supplies from time to time available in quantities proportionate with the quantities of molasses sold by them during the year 1916. For determination of the proportions the persons entitled to receive a share will be called upon by the Association for returns of their 1916

sales to buyers other than dealers or brokers who are themselves making returns. Until further orders the Commission fixes 45/- per cwt. duty-paid in casks, ex warehouse as the price at which molasses is to be issued to manufacturers and other users (other than those supplied through the Ministry of Food), and the conditions of sale are to be as follows—A discount of 3 per cent. off the price of 45/- per cwt. will be allowed to wholesale dealers, and a discount of 1 per cent. to brokers in cases where brokers are employed. The terms are 14 days prompt, and the payment cash against documents, less interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the unexpired term of the prompt. The address of the Association is Shanghai House, Botolph Lane, E.C.

COCOA. Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Sumos | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahin, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The persistent representations of the West India Committee as to the need for importing more cocoa are having their effect, and it is understood that the requirements of the Colonies as to shipping facilities have been met. We look to larger outputs of cocoa being sanctioned next year. It is understood that arrangements have been made for about 2,000 tons of cocoa to be shipped from the West Indies to reach the United Kingdom before the close of the year. Pending a decision as to the maximum of exports for the Colonies, instructions have been given to the Governors to issue licenses freely for all cocoa for which tonnage is available.

The Board of Trade have intimated that a certain amount of foreign cocoa will be allowed to be imported into this country, and have asked importers to render a statement of their imports in 1916 as a basis. Unfortunately the values in countries of production are very high, and it is doubtful whether merchants here will be able to avail themselves of the concession.

The stocks in London on November 9th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | bags. |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Trinidad | 9,838 | 22,875 | 20,208 | |
| Grenada | 7,701 | 22,854 | 11,729 | |
| Total of all kinds | 135,148 | 247,593 | 202,484 | |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz: ordinary 36d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d., subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association. West Indian imports into the United Kingdom from January 1st to November 7th were 4,247 bales.

COPRA. Price as fixed—£46 c.i.f. Liverpool.

ARROWROOT. Business suspended values uncertain. Last sales before arrival of *Saba* and *Savan*, 1/7 to 1/9.

HONEY. Exports from January 1st to the dates as given, include:—

| | 1918 | 1917 |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|
| St. Lucia, to Sept. 15th | 35,100 | 5,396 |

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled continues neglected; nominal value about 5/8 to 6/-. Handpressed quiet; 15/- to 16/-. Lime Juice: Concentrated very quiet; unchanged. Raw good to fine, 4/- to 4/6. Citrate firm.

BALATA. West Indian sheet, 3/10d. c.i.f.

RUBBER. Firm. Spot crepe, 2/8.

MAHOGANY. From January 1st to September 30th, 5,100,083 feet were exported from British Honduras.

WANT.

TROPICAL AGRICULTURE.—I offer services—AND INTEREST—in Tropical Agriculture (anything except sugar and tobacco) and Bee-keeping in West Indies. Commence subordinate position. Desire service with established firm who understand and appreciate good work. Single, medically inclined, ability foreign languages. Profession, Horticulture; experience gained Streatlam Castle, Raby Castle, Baton Hall, etc. Tropical (Trinidad, sugar) and Rainless Zone (Egypt, gardening) experience. Particulars and photo from KENNETH ALLARDICE, The Gardens, Streatlam Castle, Darlington, England.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1918.

Subscription 2s. 6d. per ann. post free.
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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.
15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.
November 28th, 1918.

The Coalition and Imperial Preference.

SINCE we last went to press, December 14th has been fixed as the date of the General Election. The Coalition campaign was opened on November 16th by MR. LLOYD GEORGE and MR. BONAR LAW, who addressed an enthusiastic audience at the Central Hall, Westminster. The Coalition will comprise the entire Unionist Party, half of the Liberals and a proportion of Labour, and will have opposed to them the remainder of the Liberals, under the leadership of MR. ASQUITH and the official Labour Party. The policy of the Party was outlined in a letter which MR. LLOYD GEORGE sent to MR. BONAR LAW on November 2nd, to read at a meeting of the Unionist party. In this, dealing with the economic programme, he wrote:—"I have already accepted the policy of Imperial preference as defined in the resolutions of the Imperial Conference, to the effect that a preference will be given on existing duties and on any duties which may subsequently be imposed. On this subject I think there is no difference of opinion between us. I have at the same time stated that our policy does not include a tax on food, but that does not, of course, interfere

with the granting of a preference on any article, as, for example, tea or coffee, on which, for our own purposes, we have imposed a duty." The resolutions referred to by MR. LLOYD GEORGE were passed by the Imperial War Cabinet and the Imperial War Conference on the same day—April 26th, 1917, and were in identical terms, namely, that

"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."

In some quarters the Premier's statement was regarded as being too ambiguous. We never shared that view, and any doubts as to his meaning should be set at rest by the manifesto of the Coalition party which was subsequently issued. In this it is stated very definitely that "a preference will be given to our colonies upon existing duties and upon any duties which, for our own purposes, may be subsequently imposed." The principal kinds of West Indian produce at present dutiable are sugar, molasses, rum, cocoa, coffee, preserves, and tobacco and cigars, and it is reasonable to expect that most, if not all, of these will receive a preference in the duties in the United Kingdom if, as is anticipated, the Coalition party wins the forthcoming election. With an effective preference, a new era of prosperity should be opened up for our West Indian colonies, whilst the pledge that security will be given against unfair competition to which our industries might be subjected by the dumping of goods produced abroad and sold in our markets below the cost of production—which will not be lost sight of by the promoters of the Cuban-American sugar cartel—should greatly strengthen the position of the industries and trade of our great Empire.

A Barbados Cotton Mystery.

IN the interest of the good name of the cotton industry of the British West Indies, and of that of Barbados in particular, it is much to be hoped that a searching enquiry will be made into the circumstances under which a recent shipment of "Sea Island" cotton made from Bridgetown for use for war purposes was found to be mixed with

indigenous cotton. It will be recalled that the entire Sea Island crop of the West Indies was purchased by the Government, the prices being fixed at 36d. per lb. for ordinary to 45d. to 50d. for superfine St. Vincent. On October 14th the Governor of Barbados published in the official Gazette a cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies stating that the War Office had complained that in a recent consignment three bales proved quite useless for their requirements, as they consisted almost entirely of indigenous cotton, of which traces were found in the whole shipment, adding: "War Office cannot emphasize too strongly seriousness of admixture, which not only renders valueless cotton so mixed, but may if undiscovered cause much damage to cloth. Immediate steps must be taken to prevent recurrence." In publishing this message the Acting Governor added: "It is a matter of regret to His Excellency that Sea Island cotton exported from this colony should have been mixed with 'native' cotton, especially as the cotton shipped was intended for use in connection with aeroplanes used in the war, and the fact of its being mixed with inferior cotton may endanger men's lives, in addition to injuring the reputation of Barbados as a cotton-producing colony." It is not surprising to learn that the publication of MR. WALTER LONG'S message should have caused a sensation in Barbados, and we may be certain that, whatever may be the explanation of the adulteration complained of, the episode will cause deep resentment in the other British cotton islands, where, under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the most drastic measures have been adopted to maintain the purity of their Sea Island cotton.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

The following candidates were elected at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held to-day:—

| Candidate. | Proposer and Seconder. |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Mr. John M. Pearce (British Honduras) | Mr. E. J. F. Campbell. |
| Mrs. Nivet (Trinidad) | Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E. |
| Mr. Alfred F. Adderley (Bahamas) | Mr. G. F. Huggins, O.B.E. |
| Mr. José P. Salazar (Trinidad) | Mr. Wm. Gillespie. |
| Mr. J. Allsop (Halifax) | Miss M. Moseley, M.B.E. |
| Dr. T. M. Bartlett, M.B. (Jamaica) | Mr. S. S. A. Cambridge. |
| Mr. Cyril Warren (Nigeria) | Mr. E. A. de Pass, F.R.G.S. |
| | Mr. A. H. Cipriani. |
| | Mr. E. A. de Pass, F.R.G.S. |
| | Mr. E. R. Davson. |
| | Mr. L. de Mercado. |
| | Mr. W. Baggett-Gray. |
| | Mr. F. Evans. |
| | Mr. A. H. Kirby. |

This brings the total for the year to date to 222.

Particulars regarding membership will be found in a note above the first leading article in the present issue.

The first repatriated West Indian prisoners to arrive in London were Troopers S. Sowley and B. C. Scoltock, both of Jamaica, and on the same day intimation was received of the safe arrival of Trooper George de Sousa, of Trinidad, at Dover. The W.I.C.C. at once cabled the good news to the men's relatives.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

THE Vere Estates Company are, it is understood, proposing to plant some hundreds of acres on their property in Jamaica under sisal.

MR. H. ALFORD NICHOLLS, second son of Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., of Dominica, has arrived in England after a voyage of five weeks from that island.

MR. GEORGE MARTINEAU, C.B., has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for his paper on "Sugar from several points of view," read in May last.

ST. ANDREW'S, Scotch Church, Georgetown, British Guiana, celebrated its centenary on the 27th September last, under the presidency of the minister of the parish, the Rev. Robert L. Macnie, B.D.

THE West Indies have not escaped the prevailing epidemic of influenza. In Jamaica its ravages have been so extensive that trade has been disorganised and a moratorium seriously suggested.

SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE and Sir Walter Egerton were among those who heard the King's address to his people, delivered at the Palace of Westminster on November 19th, in reply to addresses from both Houses of Parliament.

MISS DORIS MOODY, daughter of the Rev. W. J. Moody, Rector of All Saints', New Amsterdam, Berbice, B.G., who has been working with the French Ambulance Service on the Western Front, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre.

A CORPORAL in the B. W. I. Regiment in Amara, Mesopotamia, writes that the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is greatly appreciated there, and its arrival from the Base is eagerly looked forward to after the arrival of the mail.

MR. J. ALLSOP, representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at Halifax, N.S., has arrived in London. The Englishman is not always *persona grata* in Canada, but Mr. Allsop, by good fellowship and unflinching tact, enjoys great popularity in the Nova Scotian capital.

SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL THOMSON, K.B.E., M.P. for North Down, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been placed in mourning by the sudden death of his father, Sir. M. Mitchell-Thomson, Bart., Ex-Lord Provost of Edinburgh, whom he succeeds in the baronetcy.

THE few members of the West India Committee who have so far forgotten their responsibilities as to omit to pay their subscriptions for the current year can "make good" by stepping round to the nearest branch of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada, and handing their \$5 note over the counter.

THE Canada-West Indies steamer contract, which, in ordinary circumstances would have expired last month, has been extended for a further period of one year. The vessels remaining on the route are the *Caraquet* and *Chaleur*, but it is hoped that before long one, if not both, of the steamers which were taken off for Government purposes will be restored to the service.

IT may not be generally known that goat racing is a popular sport in certain West Indian islands, and especially Barbados. There, according to "L. M. H." in the *Cheltenham Looker On*, young goats are regularly bred and trained for the purpose; and goat race meetings, publicly advertised by posters, are largely patronised, betting being freely indulged in, as at horse races.

THE course, as usually marked out, is a straight level run of 100 or 200 yards; the goats themselves seem to enter into the spirit of the game, and keen contests generally result. The little animals, usually named after favourite race-horses, are neatly caparisoned in racing harness with long reins, by means of which they are guided by coloured youths, fully equipped in "the silks and satins of the turf," complete from jockey cap to top-boots, who run behind on foot, keeping the animals on the straight course. These racing goats become celebrated in their particular localities, and regular pedigree books are kept by their breeders, with records of their more famous performances. The little animals are well cared for and petted by their owners, and there is an entire absence of anything approaching cruelty in the sport.

SINCE the War started, the Jamaica Scottish Society in Jamaica, instead of holding their usual dinner on St. Andrew's Day, have given subscriptions to some War Fund instead. This year a contribution of £46 was sent by the Society through the West India Committee to the Harry Lauder Fund for Scottish Soldiers and Sailors, and a letter of thanks from that eminent comedian has now been forwarded to Mr. J. B. Stiven, Hon. Treasurer of the Fund.

A MARKED advance along the lines of mechanical unloading of canes at the factory in Mauritius has been made by the erection of eight hoist derricks. Most of them are fitted with additional grabs so that loose canes can be transferred direct from railway trucks without the necessity of tying in packets. With the increasing scarcity of labour, the use of mechanical implements for tillage is bound to come into prominence at an early date, and two or three estates have already made trials, where the land is suitable, with ploughs. The value of good plough oxen has increased considerably of late years.

FROM a statement made by Mr. Edgar Tripp at a meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce on October 23rd, it would appear that the Barbados Chamber was willing to have the Conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce held in their island, but not to discuss the question of federation, on the grounds that neither public nor press in the island had shown sufficient interest in the question. As the express object of the proposed conference was to discuss federation in view of a favourable resolution adopted by the Barbados Chamber earlier in the year, it is probable that the meetings will be postponed until a later date.

THE Dominica Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting held on September 30th, passed a resolution in favour of the reference of the question of the federation of the West Indies to the next conference of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies. A further contribution to the discussion on this subject is furnished by an interview with Dr. Louis L. Meikle, published recently in the *Trinidad Guardian*. Mr. Meikle, who at one time feared annexation by the United States, now believes that that menace has diminished to vanishing point, but that the whole question would be set at rest for ever by Federation, not a loose union, but a representative West Indian Convention, sanctioned by the Imperial Government.

SIR FREDERIC MAXWELL, on his retirement from the Chief Justiceship of the Leeward Islands, which he has held for the past seven years, received gratifying assurance of his popularity in Antigua. In an address publicly presented to His Honour in the Supreme Court, tribute was paid to Sir Frederic's work in codifying the laws of the Colony, and to the sympathy and generosity evinced by Lady Maxwell and himself to the needy and distressed. The memory of their useful and unselfish lives would long be treasured. Sir Frederic, in reply, assured the signatories to the address that both Lady Maxwell and he would never forget that beautiful and favoured island and its generous and warm-hearted inhabitants.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

When other thrones are falling the British Crown stands firm in the hearts of all British subjects, without distinction of race, creed, or colour, in the Empire. To it, in the person of King George, they turned when the tide of emotion on the declaration of the armistice was at its highest, instinctively recognising him as the worthy embodiment of this great nation and Empire. Here in London the crowd surged to the Palace to pay personal homage on the night of November 11th, while ever since loyal messages of congratulation have poured in from all parts of his Dominions. To those who dream of a republic the Empire has made it clear that the Crown is one of our greatest Imperial assets.

A General Election.

By next week a general election will be in full swing, the first since 1910. The Coalition party offers no very definite programme, its argument being that the problems in front of us are too many, too vast, and too complicated to allow of the foundation of anything but general principles with regard to their settlement. On the other hand, there are people who say that Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law are trying to please too many sections of opinion in an effort to reconcile the irreconcilable. For instance, though the principle of Imperial Preference is admitted, food is not to be taxed. The Coalition will, however, be free to give a preference on all duties which the Government has imposed for its own purposes, and this fortunately covers the case of sugar and cocoa. There are, too, other ways of granting Imperial preference than by a duty—bonus, State-aided transport, a system of licences, to name but a few. The great thing is that the politicians have at last grasped that credit and security depend upon production. If the constituencies also grasp it, and send back to Westminster a strong and independent House of Commons, the rest will be comparatively simple.

The greatest amount of heckling is expected in connection with the peace terms, none of which, many people think, should have been introduced into the armistice. In particular there is anxiety as to the indemnity question, the ton for ton policy, the word reciprocity in the armistice being capable of two interpretations, and the punishment of individual enemy criminals from the Kaiser downwards.

In the meantime the Dominion representatives are arriving in this country to attend the Peace Conference. The most notable are Sir F. Borden, the Prime Minister of Canada, and our old friend, Sir George Foster, who received the G.C.M.G. at a recent investiture at Buckingham Palace. Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, has been in England since the last Imperial Conference.

President Wilson is expected shortly in Europe on a visit to England and France in connection with the coming Peace Conference.

"The Day."

As sea-power and freedom are inseparable, the naval terms of the armistice were carried out by the Plenipotentiaries of the Workmen's and Soldiers'

Council of the German Fleet. They arrived in the Firth of Forth in the light cruiser *Königsberg*, and were accompanied by Rear-Admiral von Meurer in an expert capacity. On the stipulated day, 21st November, the ten battleships, six battle cruisers, eight light cruisers, and fifty destroyers, the flower of the German High Seas Fleet, and the main instalment to be interned, reached the appointed rendezvous, fifty miles from the coast. The Grand Fleet, before it left harbour, was inspected by the King, and on every ship the same precautions were taken as if we were still at war. There was no ceremonial, no saluting, none of the customary courtesies of the sea. The British fell into their allotted stations on either side the captive Germans, who were in the centre, the white flag floating from each under the German naval flag. In the van of the northern line was the *Lion*, the premier ship of the British Navy, which has been in nearly every action in the North Sea, the *Australia*, a compliment to the Commonwealth, led the southern line. There were also in the procession five American warships, and one French battleship, with destroyers, to demonstrate the solidarity of the Allies. In silence victor and vanquished sailed side by side to the Firth of Forth, where at sunset the German colours were hauled down in token of surrender. The river was alive with small craft, but there was no demonstration. The defeated foe was received alike by sailor and civilian in stark silence. This was the climax of the Navy's four-and-a-half years of vigil, the direct effect of the Jutland victory. Never have the High Seas witnessed a scene so tragic as the surrender of a great fleet without striking a blow. Verily Germany is reduced to the level of a third-rate naval Power.

The Allied Fleet passed through the Dardanelles on November 12th, and arrived off Constantinople the following morning. It consists of ships flying the British, French, Italian, and Greek flags, picturesquely various as to type, owing to the exigencies of the war and imposing as to numbers, a fitting naval demonstration to mark the victory of the Allies over Turkey. As the procession of ships sailed up the Dardanelles, British and Indian troops, occupying the forts, paraded.

A Pirate Procession.

On the same day that the first instalment of the German High Seas fleet was taken over by the Grand Fleet, the first twenty of the "U"-boats were surrendered to Rear-Admiral Tyrwhitt, in command of a squadron of cruisers and a flotilla of destroyers. The place of rendezvous was 36 miles out at sea from Harwich, and the formalities were similar to those observed in the surrender of German surface vessels. The line of enemy submarines was headed by two transports for the conveyance of the pirate crews home again, it having been decided that not a single U-boat sailor should touch British soil. Twenty more U-boats followed the next day, and twenty more on the next day again. The date for further instalments has not yet been fixed. Von Tirpitz is a fugitive in Switzerland.

The March of the Victorious Armies.

Meanwhile the British Army is marching towards the Rhine. The bridge-heads at Cologne, Coblenz

and Mainz are to be taken over on December 14th. Very properly there is no fraternisation between the enemy and Allied soldiers.

The Belgians are liberating their country amidst scenes of indescribable enthusiasm. King Albert is in Antwerp, and made his ceremonial entry into Brussels on November 25th. The city has been purified from the Germans, and M. Max, the heroic burgomaster of early stages in the war, has received a warm welcome on his return.

After forty-eight years the French are in Alsace-Lorraine, and the 10th French Army, under Marshal Petain, has entered Metz in triumph, all France rejoicing that the humiliation of 1870 has been so gloriously wiped out. Further north the Americans are in Luxembourg.

The Italians are in Fiume, and Rumania has sent an ultimatum to Hungary demanding the evacuation of Transylvania. If not she will send her armies to occupy it. Across this territory Mackensen is quietly withdrawing the Germans under his command. The Austrian Emperor has abdicated.

Everywhere the Germans in their retirement have been pillaging to such an extent that Marshal Foch has had to issue a stern warning to the German authorities that the Allies will no longer suffer it.

The New German Government.

It is just as well for the Allies to remember that peace and an armistice are not the same thing. Moreover as the demobilisation of the German armies was not demanded and the character of the new German Government is uncertain, no military precautions that can be taken should be omitted.

(1) to impress the enemy population in his own territory with the strength and efficiency of the Allied armies, (2) to enforce the faithful compliance of the enemy with the terms of the armistice. Therefore demobilisation plans must still be considered in the light of military exigencies both as regards men and material. For the foe is crafty always, and dangerously so when circumstances compel him to curb his arrogance. The new Chancellor is Herr Ebert, associated with whom are Dr. Solf, Herr Scheidemann, Herr Erzeberger, and Herr Dernberg. Therefore nominally the Socialists are in power. But it must be remembered that they are deeply involved in responsibility for the war, which they supported when it promised success and loot. Even their own "no annexation, no indemnity" resolution in the Reichstag last year was forgotten when unhappy Russia offered herself as a field for exploitation. It will never do to take the sincerity of Herr Ebert and his colleagues for granted. Whether or not the outbreak of Soviets and Republics in Germany means anything remains to be seen. That the Germans, who like to be ruled, should suddenly alter their political bent is against nature. Then the Kaiser and the Crown Prince are in Holland ready to profit by circumstances, if the Allies allow them to be favourable.

Feeding the Hun.

Dr. Solf, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, seems to be taking up the attitude that if Germany is not treated kindly by the Allies she will not enter the League of Nations in a friendly

temper. As she has not yet been asked her presumption is taking a form which the Allies will find harder to guard against than her military bluster. They are, however, not going to be bluffed by the "famine" whine. They will not relax the blockade, and before they supply Germany with food they must have independent evidence of the necessity. If this is as dire as Dr. Solf suggests it will be met, but not otherwise.

The Crowning Shame.

The British Government, which did next to nothing for our prisoners during the war, has neglected to ensure their return under the flag in proper conditions. The men are being turned out of camps along the Rhine, as they were in Belgium, in droves of hundreds, without food, money or clothes, to wander fifty miles in search of help. Such pitiable objects as they present fill all who see them with horror, and the tragic roads they have followed are marked with the graves of the dead. The British Government has informed Herr Ebert, the German Chancellor, that if adequate arrangements are not made for the release of prisoners, the relief of the German civilian through Allied channels will be reconsidered. But is it possible that on such an important question the settlement of details was left to German "humanity"? It looks like it.

Another scandal which calls for searching enquiry is the misappropriation of prisoners' food parcels, which seems to have been permitted in Germany. Instances are accumulating of men taken prisoners who were given addresses to send home and were never sent to those addresses at all. Who got these men's parcels?

An Immortal Memory.

The Empire's losses in the war were three millions, of which 37,876 officers, 620,828 of other ranks were killed. Our Naval casualties were 39,766, including 2,466 officers and 30,895 men killed.

(To be continued.)

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Policy of the Coalition Party.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, on behalf of the Coalition Party have issued a manifesto to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland, in which the following passages occur on the subject of fiscal policy:—

"It will be the fundamental object of the Coalition to promote the unity and development of our Empire and of the nations of which it is composed; to preserve for them the position and influence and authority which they have gained by their sacrifices and efforts in the cause of human liberty and progress; and to bring into being such conditions of living for the inhabitants of the British Isles as will secure plenty of opportunity to all.

"Until the country has returned to normal industrial conditions, it would be premature to prescribe a fiscal policy intended for permanence. We must endeavour to reduce the war debt in such

manner as may inflict the least injury to industry and credit. The country will need all the food, all the raw materials, and all the credit which it can obtain, and fresh taxes ought not to be imposed on food or upon the raw materials of our industry. At the same time a preference will be given to our Colonies upon existing duties and upon any duties which, for our own purposes, may be subsequently imposed. One of the lessons which has been most clearly taught us by the war is the danger to the nation of being dependent upon other countries for vital supplies on which the life of the nation may depend. It is the intention, therefore, of the Government to preserve and sustain, where necessary, these key industries in the way which experience and examination may prove to be best adapted for the purpose. If production is to be maintained at the highest limit at home, security must be given against the unfair competition to which our industries may be subjected by the dumping of goods produced abroad and sold on our market below the actual cost of production."

The West Indian produce at present dutiable in the United Kingdom comprises sugar, molasses, rum, cocoa, coffee, preserves, tobacco and cigars.

INFANT DEATH-RATE IN DEMERARA.

It appears from the annual report of the Public Health Department of Georgetown, British Guiana, prepared by Dr. Wishart, Medical Officer of Health, that infantile mortality shows a slight increase.

During 1917 there died 316 infants—representing a mortality rate of 216 per 1,000 births. In the previous year the rate stood at 204 per thousand. These figures, however, are far lower than those of preceding years. In fact, since 1898, when the infantile mortality rate stood at 340, the return has shown an annual decline. Says Dr. Wishart:—

"The marked decline in the rate during the past four or five years is an eloquent testimony to the valuable work of the Health Visitors, and fully justifies their appointment. The rate of infant mortality is still unduly high, but I have every reason to believe that the work now being done in the City in the interest of infant welfare will continue to bear good fruit and result in still further reductions.

"The problem of infant mortality, which is one of the greatest importance in this City, is of equal importance in other cities where the standard of sanitation is much higher and the general death-rate consequently lower. In other words, the rate of infant mortality, though appreciably influenced by sanitation, does not depend solely on sanitation. The general causes of excessive infant mortality have been discussed in previous reports, and may be briefly stated as (1) poverty, (2) maternal ignorance, and (3) improper feeding. It is now generally accepted that measures for the reduction of the rate of infant mortality must be directed primarily to the mother."

WANT.

ENGLISHMAN (41), with 15 years' all-round practical and scientific experience in Cane and the management of Cane-Sugar Properties in Demerara, Hawaii, Argentine and Cuba, desires appointment. At present Assistant Manager, 50,000-ton factory in Cuba. Expert agriculturist. Competent administrator and very successful with labour. Keen, hard worker. Perfect Spanish. Best credentials. Address "Hawlej," c/o WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

The appeal for further funds to enable the West Indian Contingent Committee to carry on its present work and to meet the heavy expenses which will be incurred during the period of demobilisation is meeting with a satisfactory response. Since the last full list of contributions was published the following amounts were received down to November 21st:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| The Colonial Bank | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| The Right Hon. Lord Glenconner | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd. | 52 | 10 | 0 |
| The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., Ltd. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co. | 26 | 6 | 0 |
| Humphry Crum Ewing, Esq. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Alfred Field & Co. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Alfred Lamb & Son | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Rutherford, Esq. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Wade | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co., Ltd. | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Thomas H. Gallie & Co. | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd. | 15 | 15 | 0 |
| The New Schoonord Sugar Pln., Ltd. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| J. R. Philip, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent (July, August, September):— | | | |
| The Kingstown Club | 3 | 13 | 6 |
| Hon. C. E. F. Richards | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq., M.A. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| J. H. Hazell, Esq. | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| I. A. Davey, Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Alfred Harold, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Delbanco & Co., Ltd. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Hawkins & Tipson | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. H. Langridge & Co. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. F. Leyland & Co., Ltd. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Captain F. J. and Mrs. Richmond | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Messrs. Ross & Norton | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| W. A. Wolseley, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| E. L. Atkinson, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. H. Arthur, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Beckett | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| A. P. Cowley, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Phil R. Lee | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hon. J. Challenor Lynch | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Colonel E. D. Malcolm of Poltalloch, C.B. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hamilton Wood | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. Seton Browne, Esq. | 3 | 15 | 0 |
| Geoffrey Brooke, Esq. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Geoffrey H. Daughish, Esq. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Messrs. Henry Head & Co., Ltd. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Messrs. Pereira & Gonsalves | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Sir William Trollope, Bart. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. J. W. Russell | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Mewburn Garnett, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Murray T. Gow, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. H. de Lemos, Esq., I.S.O. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Messrs. J. K. Gulland, Ltd. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. N. G. Hackney | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Alfred Hirsch, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. W. Killick, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Robert Knight, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Hon. C. Gideon Murray | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. Leighton Piper | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Messrs. Portal, Dingwall & Norris | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Robert Rutherford | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Stanley Savill, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| A. von der Meden, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Collens, V.D. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Fenwick | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Charles Leslie | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| G. F. Harris Harragin, Esq. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Arthur | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss M. A. Bratt | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| A. P. G. Ellis, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. J. M. C. Galloway | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Luke M. Hill, Esq., M.I.C.E. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| J. W. A. Maginley, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ven. Archdeacon Josa | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| George Martineau, Esq., C.B. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss D. A. Morris | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lady Olivier | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Edward Pratt, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| H. Martin Sells, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Messrs. Theo. Vasmer & Co. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| C. H. Ward, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Percy A. Abrahams, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Kate St. Clair Ford | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| New Zealand Scout | 6 | | |
| Hugh B. Hunter | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Major-General A. E. Sandbach, C.B. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fred Driver, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. David Gibson | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Colonel A. H. Nourse | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Ella Galloway | 10 | 6 | |
| Miss L. E. Wilkinson | 10 | 6 | |
| Miss Wilkinson | 10 | 6 | |
| Mrs. Baden | 10 | 0 | |
| Rev. J. R. Nichols | 10 | 0 | |
| Major F. M. Roome | 10 | 0 | |

The West Indian Contingent Committee hopes that all firms and individuals in or connected with the West Indies will make a prompt and liberal response to their appeal. Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

British West Indies Regiment's Pay.

In the House of Commons on November 14th, Sir John Butcher, K.C., asked the Financial Secretary to the War office whether his attention had been called to the fact that the British West Indies Regiment recently took a distinguished part in the successful operations in Palestine, whether the British West Indies Regiment was to be regarded as an Imperial unit; whether the non-commissioned officers and men of this regiment were permitted to enjoy the increase of pay granted to other Imperial units under Army Order 1, of 1918, and, if not, what was the reason for this; whether the increase of pay was granted to coloured men joining English regiments; and, if so, why there should be any differentiation against the non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment?

Mr. Forster: I am, of course, aware of and fully appreciate the services rendered by the British West Indies Regiment. The non-commissioned officers and men have received the benefit of the accelerated grant of proficiency pay and relief from hospital stoppages, but they are not eligible for the further concessions which have been made in strict accordance with the decision of the Government.

Sir J. Butcher: Why are they not entitled to the benefits under Army Order No. 1?

Mr. Forster: That Order refers to regiments with their depots in the United Kingdom.

[It will be noted that Mr. Forster omitted to reply to the question as to whether coloured men joining English regiments enjoyed the increase of pay. We understand that they do. By the Army Council's Instructions, the benefits under Army Order 1 of 1918 were extended to "Soldiers of the South African Overseas Contingent," and it would appear on the face of it to be most unfair that the British West Indies Regiment should be differentiated against.]

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(Continued from page 333).

The "Banana Subsidy."

The history of what was called the "Banana subsidy" is certainly not happy. Though, however, the subsidy undoubtedly failed in its main purpose, namely, that of affording competition and of counteracting American influence, it at any rate demonstrated that bananas could profitably be introduced into this country from the New World.

As, however, Mr. Winston Churchill stated in the House of Commons on April 6th, 1908, the object was not solely to bring bananas to this country, but also to secure a direct service of mail and passenger steamers, and Jamaica reaped a benefit from the direct service in several other ways. There was, for example, the advertisement which the island obtained, thanks to the irrepressible energy and never-failing generosity of Sir Alfred Jones, who was constantly sending journalists out to "write up" its scenery, and doctors to report upon its climate, and otherwise bringing Jamaica before the public notice, until to the man in the street the West Indies were "Jamaica." No other West Indian island has ever received such an advertisement. Nor will it be forgotten that Sir Alfred instituted the system of offering reduced fares to school children and cheap excursions from Jamaica to England and back, which enabled many, who could not otherwise have left the island, to spend a holiday in the old country.

He conceived, too, and carried out the idea of sending out undergraduates to Jamaica at a purely nominal rate, a privilege of which numbers availed themselves, and of which it would be impossible to exaggerate the importance from an Imperial standpoint.

Jamaicans have been accused of failing to appreciate all that Sir Alfred Jones did for them, but the suggestion has been repudiated by the local Press, which has been warm in his praise, and it may well be left at that. It is, at any rate, significant that within a very few months of the cessation of the mail service the Legislature and principal commercial and agricultural bodies passed resolutions in favour of its renewal.

The Canadian Service.

In 1900, as the outcome of the report of the Royal Commission of 1897, which advocated improved means of intercommunication, an agreement was made between the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce and Messrs. Pickford and Black, who had already been in touch with the West Indies for a number of years, for a fortnightly service between Canada and the West Indies, starting, alternately, from St. John (New Brunswick) and Halifax (Nova Scotia), and calling at most of the islands *en route*. The contract was for five years from July 1st, 1900, and the subsidy was £27,000, of which half was paid by the Canadian Government and half by the Imperial Government. In 1911 the Imperial Government's share of the subsidy was discontinued, but a modified service was carried on by arrangement with the Dominion of Canada, which was renewed periodically until 1913, when it was

replaced by one with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Royal Commission of 1909-10, of which Lord Balfour of Burleigh was Chairman, reported strongly in favour of the improvement of the steamship service between Canada and the West Indies, which they regarded as "in the highest degree essential." They appreciated that the West Indian colonies were not in a position to contribute towards the cost, but the maintenance of a better service would, they felt, facilitate the development of the West Indian market for Canadian goods, and they consequently looked forward "with confidence to the continuance of the share of the subsidy . . . paid by the Dominion Government." They stated that though the selection of the firm to undertake the service must rest with the Dominion, they had no doubt that every opportunity would be given for any responsible firm to tender, and they added: "We cannot, however, fail to recognise the benefit which would accrue to your Majesty's West Indian possessions if some corporation in close association with the great railway systems of the Dominion should undertake to carry out the service, and thus bring the West Indies into direct communication with all the great and growing cities of Canada." The Commission further expressed approval of certain proposals for the provision of an all-British route for mails between the United Kingdom and the West Indies via Canada (§§ 161-165).

In 1912 the Canadian-West Indian Conference, at a meeting held in Toronto on April 11th, passed a resolution urging the Imperial Government to co-operate with the colonial and Canadian Governments in providing "an up-to-date and efficient service of steamships specially constructed for and run in strict regard to the requirements of trade between Canada and the West Indies," adding that the itinerary might be so arranged as to make "sharp connections" with the Canadian mail steamers plying between Canadian and British Atlantic ports, with a view to establishing quick communication between Great Britain and the West Indies via Canada.

The reciprocal trade agreement between Canada and certain West Indian colonies was signed on April 9th, 1912, and the next move in the direction of improved steamer communication came from the Dominion, which in June of the same year invited tenders to be submitted before noon on October 1st for mail, cargo, and passenger services between (a) Canada, the British West Indies, and British Guiana, and (b) Canada and Jamaica. The response, proving unsatisfactory, the period for submitting tenders was extended to December 15th.

A shipping boom was now in progress, and all the principal steamship companies were so busily occupied that again no satisfactory tenders were submitted. Following negotiations with Messrs. Pickford and Black, a contract was then arranged with that Company whereby it agreed, in return for a subsidy of £40,000, to maintain a service between Canada and the West Indies, the sailings being from Halifax every twelve days, and to put two first-class 12-knot steamers of not less than 4,500 tons on the route.

(To be continued.)

FROGHOPPERS IN ENGLAND.

"Froth-flies", innumerable.

By P. LECHNERE CUPPY.

It might be of interest to sugar planters acquainted with froghoppers to hear something about these insects in the "Old Country," and with this end in view I have jotted down a few notes taken at random during my walks in the country around Haywards Heath, Sussex, in May and June this summer.

It will be seen that froghoppers flourish exceedingly even in the capricious climate of England; of course, these are not very closely allied to our Trinidad sugar-cane pest, but they certainly possess similar destructive powers; fortunately, crops are not attacked in the same way as the pest attacks the sugar-cane in Trinidad and parts of British Guiana, their attentions being mostly confined to the weeds, grasses, creepers, etc., in a very indiscriminate manner.

The so-called "Cuckoo-spit," which is very conspicuous on Hawthorn ("May") hedges, is, of course, produced by one or more of these froghoppers. They attack young shoots and various parts of the foliage, rather than the root system, in much the same way as certain little known species that are found on Casuarina, Hibiscus, etc., in some West Indian islands.

By the end of June I had come across five species (no doubt there are more) of these froghoppers, and in many places the appearance of the froth on the grass reminded me forcibly of similar sights in Trinidad, along the banks of the Maracas, Caura, Arima, and other streams.

The adults of one species, with conspicuous red and black markings, attracted my attention more than other species met with. This species appears to be very scattered and was only fairly abundant in one locality (probably held in check by effective natural enemies); in size, shape and manner of feeding in exposed positions on grass stems, also in the possession of an acrid smell which is left behind when handled, strongly reminded me of the Trinidad sugar-cane pest. One well-marked characteristic of the latter was, however, not observed, and that was the habit of walking backwards, which enables the adults of the sugar-cane froghopper to wedge themselves far down between the leaves at the cane-tops. I was very sorry that I had to cut short my observations of this interesting species as it was certainly worthy of a thorough investigation.

Adults of the other species met with would not remind one so strongly of our well-known West Indian froghoppers; they are not conspicuously marked, their colour scheme being well calculated to protect them from observation, in other words they are well camouflaged, and mostly of smaller size and secretive habits; in their early stages, however, surrounded by their froth, there is much to bring home to one similar sights in British Guiana, Trinidad, and other West Indian Colonies.

On the whole, froghoppers were sufficiently abundant this summer in England to attract a good deal of attention, and judging by what I learnt from enquiries, they were widely distributed.

In my visits to the British Museum I was fortunate in meeting Mr. Guy A. K. Marshall, Director of the Bureau of Entomology, who showed me their collections of froghoppers from all parts of the world, and he pointed out some African species, which closely resembled the English one with the conspicuous red and black markings mentioned above (*Triecphora vulnerata*).

In conclusion, I should like to say that I think the name "Froth-fly" more suitable than "Froghopper," many people seem to think froghoppers have something to do with frogs, whereas, of course, they belong to the bug family.

AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA.

The report of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture for the year ended March 31st last, states that the restrictions as to coffee and cocoa rendered necessary in the United Kingdom, in consequence of war conditions and the lack of shipping, have reacted on these two staples so as to affect adversely a large number of small producers, while the extraordinary depression of the banana industry through three successive years of hurricane and the shortage have made serious inroads on the capital and savings of a large section of the agricultural community.

The sugar industry has, however, stepped into the breach, and stimulated by high prices and favourable conditions a modern record for sugar in Jamaica was established with an export of 32,000 tons, valued at £672,000 in 1917, or double the value of the sugar crop in Jamaica forty years ago, when sugar was the chief staple. The embargo on rum into the United Kingdom, except for use in connection with the manufacture of munitions, seriously affected export, which dropped to about 4,000 puncheons as compared with 18,000 for 1916. Stocks have, however, been sold in the island at good prices to buyers who foresee a good market when war restrictions are removed. The Central Factory scheme adopted by the Legislature last year has been revived by the Secretary of State so as to more equitably secure the interests of the general tax payers. No practical projects have so far been established under this scheme, but three new factories have been provided for in St. Catherine, by private enterprise, one of which is reported to be capable of producing 15,000 tons of sugar at the rate of 10 tons a day.

The coco-nut industry is rapidly assuming a position of prime importance among the staples. Including copra, of which 1,183 tons were exported, the export for 1917 amounted to the equivalent of nearly 30,000,000 nuts. But for the hurricane in September these figures would have been decidedly higher.

The export of hides, that had risen to a standard of 50 per cent. above the normal in 1916, again reverted to an average of 500,000 pounds in 1917. Logwood fell to less than half of that exported in 1916, while the value was only about one-third. Logwood extracts, however, kept up steadily, reaching a total of £540,000, as compared with the 1916 record of £800,000, produced by logwood when at its zenith of commercial prosperity, due to war con-

ditions. Ginger and Pimento each brought in about £70,000, the former selling at nearly double the pre-war standard. Pimento, which had been greatly depressed during the first three years of the war, has recently experienced greater demand and good prices. Under war conditions citrus fruits have not been able to command their usual market. Grapefruit sold abroad in rather higher quantities than last year, but still at only about one-half the pre-war rate, while oranges were reduced to a fraction of the old trade. As a set-off a remarkable demand sprang up for orange oil, and £47,000 was received for this product. Honey has also become a lucrative product. Exports for 1917 totalled £46,000, an average of 5/6 per gallon, or three times the value of the honey exported before the war in 1913. At the present moment Jamaica honey is selling for three times the price, and bee-keepers are reaping a profit which was never dreamed of in the past.

OBITUARY.

Mr. G. S. DELISLE.

We regret to state that Mr. G. S. Delisle died in Basseterre, St. Kitts, on October 10th.

Mr. Delisle was taken suddenly ill at the Telegraph Station, where he had been accustomed to read the war bulletins every morning, and though medical aid was quickly forthcoming, he passed away in an hour and a half. Our correspondent, Mr. E. J. Shelford, writes: "When the sad news was published, St. Kitts was stunned. Such a calamity seemed to be impossible and hard to realise. You had to visit the spot yourself in order to grasp it. The general signs of mourning and sorrow shown by all classes was unmistakably genuine and heartfelt. Mr. 'Gus' Delisle was a perfect gentleman; his passing leaves a blank in our life in St. Kitts, far apart from his repute and position in our business circles, his beneficial influence will be sadly missed for many a day in all the public and social doings of our daily life. Kind-hearted and open-handed, always approachable to all, he was the friend of all, and with his sunny disposition and *bonhomie* it was always a pleasure to be in his company. The heartfelt sympathy of the entire community goes out to Mr. G. S. Delisle, with whom he was closely associated in business for the last 35 years—and he was his constant companion—and also to his bereaved widow and children. Mr. Delisle acted on several occasions as Consular Agent for France, and until 1917, when he resigned, he was Vice-Consul for Denmark. We have suffered severely in St. Kitts of late with the loss of three prominent and useful men—Mr. Meggs, Mr. Conacher, and now Mr. Delisle."

LADY BRIGGS, who, we regret to say, died on November 16th, at 14, Challoner Mansions, West Kensington, was the widow of Sir Thomas Graham Briggs, Bart., of Farley Hill, Barbados, one of the most notable planters of his day, who owned estates not only in Barbados, but in other islands, and is also remembered for his political activities. He was a warm advocate of the ill-starred scheme for Confederation with which the name of the late Sir John Pope Hennessey will always be associated. Farley Hill, the residence of Sir Graham Briggs, is notable as the home of the beautiful *Farliense fern* (*Adiantum Farliense*). In the grounds are trees planted by Prince Alfred (afterwards Duke of Edinburgh) in 1861, and by Princes Albert Victor and George (now King George V.), who toured the Caribbean in H.M.S. *Bacchante* in 1879-80. J. A. Froude, who was Sir Graham's guest in 1887, describing his visit to Farley Hill in "The English in the West Indies," says: "It was a palace with which Aladdin himself might have been satisfied—one of those which had stirred the envying

admiration of foreign travellers in the last century; one of many then, now probably the last surviving representative of Anglo-West Indian civilisation."

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

United British Oilfields.

Production in 1917 was 52,456 tons against 43,826 tons for 1916. To the end of August in the current year it was approximately equal to that of the whole of last year. The profit for the year was £6,228 10s. 3d., or nearly £4,000 less than for 1916, owing to increased cost of production. Towards depreciation a further £10,000 has been written off to general capital expenditure incurred since the properties were taken over, and £2,298 18s. 5d. against unproductive wells. The adverse balance is thus raised from £53,225 1s. 6d. to £59,295 10s. 8d.

Presiding at the annual meeting on November 5th, Mr. H. N. Benjamin said that the increased output had been maintained. Among the difficulties with which they had to contend had been that of obtaining tonnage. He could hold out no hope that the cessation of hostilities, when it came, would prove a dividing line between their difficulties and the former state of comparative ease. The one feature which would improve the position and enable them to show a balance on the right side was a substantial and permanent increase of production. To Mr. Cecil Braithwaite, who expressed disappointment that a company producing 50,000 tons of oil showed no profit, the chairman said that the original scheme was laid out on a large scale, the idea being to produce not 50,000 tons but a minimum of 250,000 tons a year. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Lieut. Colonel the Hon. Thomas Cochrane, the resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co., Ltd.

Presiding at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of this company on November 21st, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, the chairman, stated that it was with a feeling of relief that the company had been able to issue the report, for the year had been an anxious one—one of the worst ever known for sugar-cane in Trinidad—so it was satisfactory to have enough profit to cover the usual dividend and something over. Most of the injury to the cane crops had been attributed to frog-hoppers, but it looked rather as if the damage had been mainly due to excessive rains, especially through bringing the subsoil into a waterlogged, sour condition. The company's own cane crops were less damaged than those on neighbouring estates, this apparently being due to the work done during the previous four years to bring the land into better heart. The company had 7,000 cane farmers growing cane on small holdings, and the board had decided to alter the system of payment for their canes to the Antigua basis, which they considered fairer. This involved an additional payment of £7,948, distributed amongst the cane farmers this year.

The board proposed the opening of a staff fund for the benefit of the staff at Ste. Madeleine, to which would be allocated 10 per cent. of the profits of the year after deducting £1 per ton as the first minimum allocation for the shareholders, the method of distributing the fund to be left to the discretion of the board. Steps were in contemplation for the better housing of the labourers, better provision for maintaining health, and improvement of the conditions of their life, the company thus taking part with all who are making an effort towards the reconstruction of industry. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the payment forthwith of a final dividend of 2s. per share, less income-tax.

Mr. H. J. Wenham seconded the motion. Mr. F. Scrutton said that, in view of the conditions of the Trinidad season, and of the unsatisfactory working results of some of the Trinidad estates, he thought the accounts might be regarded as eminently satisfactory. The board's policy of improved cultivation was already

bearing fruit. All of them must have been interested in the chairman's statement as to the revised terms with their cane farmers, the proposal as to the staff fund, and the provision for better housing and medical care of the labourers on the estates.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then adopted unanimously.

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

Mr. Alexander Duckham was prevented by illness from presiding at the second annual ordinary general meeting, held on November 6th at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. Percy M. Stewart, who took the chair in his absence, read the speech which Mr. Duckham had prepared. In this he said that the balance of trading account carried to profit and loss account stood at £20,131 12s. 2d., which was not an unsatisfactory result for the company's first year of trading. After allowing for depreciation, £11,277 8s. 4d., and net London administration charges, £2,854 2s. 1d., there remained a balance of £6,000 1s. 9d. which was subject to income tax adjustment. The amount provided for depreciation was generous, and it was proposed to write off the sum of £1,329 9s. 2d. in respect of preliminary expenses. Having remarked upon the exceptionally valuable quality of the company's oil—probably the most valuable in the world—he continued that the chief factor which had prevented the fulfilment of the drilling programme was the effect of the entrance of America into the war on the delivery of plant, more especially casing. Casing promised for delivery in April had not been delivered yet. Another factor was the failure of the management to reach the anticipated drilling footage, and this failure could be attributed to such lack of casing and plant and to the fact that the management adopted the policy of deepening existing wells, and as many of the old shallow wells were in bad shape, considerable difficulties were met with in this operation. Another cause was the difficulty in securing the services of competent and reliable drillers. Owing to the fact that Austria was an enemy, the Galician drillers could not be employed, and, therefore, the only source of supply had been America.

With regard to prices and shipments, he felt that the company had not had that treatment which, as an entirely British company working in a British Colony, it might have expected. Dealing in the first instance with the price which the Admiralty was paying it for crude, although it showed a reasonable profit, it was at least £4 per ton below what he had a right to expect for an oil of this quality as compared with current field prices for oils of the highest grade. He felt that some higher authority should encourage the company by paying at least the price which they would have to pay for an oil of similar composition from foreign sources, even if they did not give some slight advantage over such price. The company was daily expecting to hear that the company's first bulk shipment of 1,600 tons of crude oil had been delivered to Admiralty tanker at Claxton Bay.

Mr. Duckham also complained of the regulations imposed by the Pool Board, which was a Board the members of which are to some extent representative of the larger importers, such as the Standard Oil Company and the "Shell" and certain Government officials. The object of the formation of this Board was excellent. It might be rightly expressed as being an arrangement to economise shipping space, distributing arrangements, packages, etc., by bringing all the oils into a common pool and to maintain the "status quo ante" as to the volume of business done by the importers; but where it would hit the company was that it would not allow it to increase its imports into this country of motor spirit and/or fuel oil, and prohibited it from using the free market which it had over a year ago when it had nothing to grumble at, in that the Pool Board allowed it to sell its small shipments to wholesale buyers at the best prices obtainable. It appeared to him that some latitude should be allowed to the company, not only to encourage it and the Colony of Trinidad, but also on account of the question of exchange and the desirability of keeping money within the Empire. In view of these considerations, he felt that it would be venturesome to express an opinion as to the results of the current year's trading.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The second leave party from the British West Indies Regiment arrived in London on November 27th, and is being entertained by the West Indian Contingent Committee.

* * *

Among recent gifts received by the West Indian Contingent Committee for distribution have been 25 more cases of hot sauce, preserves, and postcards collected by Mrs. Yearwood and her Hot Sauce Committee in Barbados, and a case of picture postcards from Messrs. Knight & Co. in the same island. From Grenada have come 56 shirts, 90 pairs of socks, and 24 suits of pyjamas made by the ladies of the island for men of the local contingent, and forwarded by Lady Haddon Smith; 42 bottles of hot sauce from Mrs. D. S. De Freitas, and 24 bottles of the same curative, 3 pairs of wristlets, and 7 pairs of socks from Mrs. Brodie, of Mont Edgcombe. Mrs. Bourne, of Jamaica, has also collected and forwarded, through the Jamaica Agricultural Society, 19 welcome cases of preserves.

The gallant bayonet charge of the British West Indies Regiment—the first detailed account of which was published in last CIRCULAR—will live in history. The King's Librarian, the Hon. John Fortescue, in the *Observer* of November 17th, wrote: "West Indians came forward to show that they could do as well as the best of the British Anzacs and Canadians." Major-General Sir E. C. Chaytor, K.C.B., under whom the Regiment was serving, wrote to Lieut.-Colonel Wood-Hill, D.S.O.: "I regret that your Battalion has left my Command, but hope to be able to see both it and the 2nd Battalion at an early date to thank them for the very good work they did both when holding the trenches in the Jordan Valley and during the subsequent operations. Outside my own Division there are no troops I would sooner have with me than the B.W.I., who have won the highest opinions of all who have been with them during our operations here."

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The following have been among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight:—

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. T. W. B. O'neal, Pte. J. C. Bailey, Sgt. A. E. Edwards (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. C. E. Murphy, Lieut. E. K. D. Hinkson, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Pte. Mayers, Pte. A. Mascoll.

GRRENADA.—2nd Lieut. Rupert Otway.

JAMAICA.—Sgt. L. Turner Lynch (B.W.I.R.), Sgt. E. S. Roberts (B.W.I.R.), Pte. E. S. D. Shaw, Tpr. S. Sowley, Tpr. B. C. Scoltock, Cpl. C. A. Brooks, Pte. H. D. Richards, 2nd Lieut. E. N. Richards, Cpl. E. Malabre, Pte. H. L. Bell (B.W.I.R.), Pte. E. N. Hawthorne.

ST. VINCENT.—2nd Lieut. J. A. Hadley.

TRENIDAD.—Pte. J. McPherson, C. D'Andrade, J. Pereira, 2nd Lieut. A. H. Hamel-Smith, Lieut. W. André, Lieut. C. E. Durnty, M.C., Lieut. E. L. H. Macleod, 2nd Lieut. Marc de Verreuil, Cadet W. Bushe, Cadet R. de Verreuil, Pte. C. J. Langton, C. E. O'Connor, 1/Cpl. F. O. Bland, Tpr. E. de Sousa, K. Hutchinson, F. Hodgkinson, R. Roll, Pte. M. M. Nock, Pte. C. H. Rooks, 2nd Lieut. R. A. Wade, Pte. N. O. Warner, Pte. R. Dean, D. M. Proudfoot, Gtr. R. M. Anderson, Tpr. L. M. Murray, Cadet L. de Silva.

The Governor of British Honduras.

The King has been pleased to appoint Mr. Fyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Fiji, to be Governor of British Honduras in succession to the late Mr. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G.

Mr. Hutson, who was born in 1864, is no stranger to the West Indies, having entered the Colonial Civil Service as a Second Clerk to the Government of the Leeward Islands in 1885. He was Private Secretary to Sir Charles C. Lees, successively Governor of Barbados, Mauritius, and British Guiana, from 1887 to 1895, and three years later he was appointed to serve in a similar capacity to Sir Augustus Hemming, Governor of Jamaica. In 1901 he proceeded as Colonial Secretary to Bermuda, where he remained until 1908, when he was appointed Colonial Secretary of Fiji.

HOMeward MAILS.

BARBADOS—New Governor's Arrival.

The crops have benefited greatly from the September rains, which were all that could be desired. The canes are healthy and strong everywhere. Lieut.-Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, C.M.G., our new Governor, and his wife received a cordial and enthusiastic welcome on their arrival. He was sworn in with the usual picturesque ceremonial on September 27th. The Barbados Scholarship (£175 for four years) has been won by G. H. Adams, of Harrison College. A sensation has been caused by the publication of a cablegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the War Office complaining of the admixture of indigenous cotton with Sea Island cotton in a shipment purporting to be the latter.

DOMINICA—Mr. Colin Macintyre, Administrator.

While Mr. A. W. Mahaffy is temporarily administering the Government of the Leeward Islands at Antigua, Mr. Colin Macintyre, a private resident, is acting as Administrator of Dominica. The Chamber of Commerce has voted in favour of submitting the question of Federation to the Associated Chamber of Commerce for determination. A Service of Thanksgiving for our recent successes has been held at the Anglican Church in Roseau. Bishop Galton has paid us a short visit in transit.

JAMAICA—Food Department Set Up.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.'s report for September says that it is proposed to set up a Government Food Department, with the Hon. J. H. W. Park as Food Controller at its head. Under the scheme the Food Controller would be in a position to make purchases of foodstuffs and supply those areas not sufficiently supplied, as well as to make advances to cultivators as a stimulus to increased food production. It is proposed to place the sum of £10,000 at the disposal of the Food Department.

The proposal for erecting a Central Sugar Factory in Portland is once more in the "limelight"; perhaps if war conditions change, as seems likely now, there may be some possibility of something being done.

Customs receipts for the month totalled £202,091, as compared with £188,310 for the corresponding period last year. Under the head of Export Tax, the amount collected for the first six months of the current financial year is £21,111, this being practically the exact amount which was budgeted for by the Collector-General. Other classes of revenue are also keeping up well. It would therefore appear that the fiscal year, all other things being equal, should prove a highly prosperous one. The revenue of the Railway for August exceeded the estimate by having reached a total of £14,747, as compared with £12,281 for the corresponding period last year. Increases were chiefly under the heads of goods and cattle.

It is noted with pleasure that there is likely to be a regular passenger and mail service between Kingston, Santiago, and Hayti in the near future.

Mr. J. H. Dodd has been confirmed in the appointment of Director of the Railway, on probation for one year. Mr. C. S. Squire has been appointed Assistant Director, in addition to his present position as Traffic Superintendent.

The outbreak of influenza, mentioned in the last issue of the CIRCULAR, has become more serious according to the latest mails to reach England. The *Gleaner* describes the epidemic as "raging with unabated fury" throughout Kingston and suburbs as well as in the Liguanea Plain and the rural parts of St. Andrew. In Portland alone there had been 237 deaths and in St. James, over 200 deaths.

At an important conference between the Governor and representatives of the Imperial Association and Western St. Mary's Citizen Association regarding the banana situation, His Excellency raised the question as to whether it would not be possible to put on a local duty of 1d. per bunch on bananas. They might, he said, be able to raise £30,000 from this source, and apply that sum to the development of the industry. Probably they could give a subvention to some shipping company with that object. It was pointed out in reply to this suggestion that the moment an extra tax was imposed it would mean that the countries to which the bananas were exported would also put on an import tax. His Excellency announced that he was addressing a despatch to the British Ambassador at Washington with a view to getting bananas shipped on

the Leyland line steamers and other tonnage to the States.

A Proclamation by the Governor prohibits the exportation of sugar of the 1918-19 crop (except such as may be allowed by license), and revokes the proclamation of March 21st relating to the export of the 1917-18 crop. The Collector-General will issue licenses freely as to 90 per cent. of the sugar manufactured provided that: Ten per cent. of all sugar known as White Albion, Grocery and Muscovado manufactured at each sugar estate during the season 1918-19, shall be retained in the island for the use of the inhabitants.

The Direct West India Cable Company announce in the local Press the restoration of their Direct Route to Canada and via Canada to all parts of the world. Handicapped by bad weather and other causes, the company were unable immediately to adjust an interruption of their northern section. Once the cable ship had an opportunity of getting to work the repair was quickly effected—thanks largely to the wonderful state of preservation in which the cable was found after a period of service extending over 29 years.

ST. KITTS—Satisfactory Cotton Crop.

MR. F. J. SHELFORD, OCTOBER 23rd.—Under the influence of favourable showers during September and the early part of October prospects have materially improved, although it is impossible for the canes to make up the leeway of retarded growth, and the crop will be late; also much depends on a continuance of favourable rains during the next two months. The cotton crop is generally turning out satisfactorily, and good yields are reported from most quarters.

TOBAGO—Coco-nuts Booming.

MR. ROBERT S. REID, OCTOBER 16th.—Large amalgamations of coco-nut estates are expected after the war, which will tend to better management and bigger development, and will ultimately benefit the island. The output of coco-nuts is steadily increasing, and will shortly make a big jump, as thousands of acres in the Leeward will soon be coming into the bearing stage. I wish we had space and capital for sugar development, as the soil is admirably suited for the cultivation, and the bays for economical shipment.

There is again some talk about the withdrawal of our coastal steamer *Belize* unless the subsidy be increased and the freights raised. This matter can safely be left in the hands of Sir John R. Chancellor, the Governor.

TRINIDAD—War on the Frog-hopper.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, OCTOBER 26th.—A successful fete was given here on the occasion of "Our Day" in the Gardens of Government House on the 24th. A goodly sum for the Red Cross will doubtless result. Lady Chancellor is to be heartily congratulated.

At the opening of a special Session of the Legislative Council yesterday, His Excellency bestowed the Imperial Service Order on Mr. T. A. Thompson, the Registrar of the Supreme Court. It was then announced, amid applause, that His Majesty had been pleased to approve of the re-appointment of Sir Henry Alcazar for a further term as Member of the Council, of which he is now the senior Unofficial.

A long minute was read from His Excellency on the re-organisation of the Agricultural Department. The Board of Agriculture will now assume its proper position—that of an advisory and not an executive body.

Trinidad has had a slight war experience. For two days last week bakers ceased to bake, for the very good reason that there was no flour to be had. The situation was relieved by the arrival of a Canadian Contract boat with 7,000 bags—say ten days' supply—on the 20th. Another lot from New York is expected to-morrow.

The U.S. Consul invited subscriptions for the Fourth American Liberty Loan, and up to date some \$35,000 have been subscribed locally.

An Estates' Dispenser at Orange Grove, Mr. Glasgow is announced to have discovered a certain specific for the destruction of the frog-hopper. Practical demonstrations of its efficiency are stated to have been given. Let us hope this is correct. The estimated loss from the frog-hopper plague last year was about £200,000.

An entertainment given in aid of war funds recently at Point a Pierre, the shipping place of the Trinidad Leasehold Ltd., realised \$3,465.90.

TURKS ISLAND—The Drought.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE Co.'s report for the month of September says: Owing to the drought the fibre plantations have stopped extracting, and those who were buying hand-cleaned fibre for exportation have discontinued, the price having dropped considerably in New York. They say at the present low price and high freight rates it would not pay them to buy and ship. The sponge industry is practically dormant, none having been shipped for some time.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SERTHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

November 28th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

WAR BONDS. All are urged to buy National War Bonds, on which is paid *without deduction of income tax.*

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

The Cuban planters have sold their entire 1918-19 crop to the International Sugar Committee on the basis of 5.50c. f.o.b. north side. The basic price of 7.28c. per lb. delivered basis 96° is officially fixed for the new crop of Porto Rico, Hawaii, and Porto Rico, and also for domestic beet.

Reverting to the proposed Cuban-American cartel, the Czarnikow-Rionda Company, in their *Circular* of October 25th, say: "The consummation of such an arrangement between Cuba and her European Allies would not prevent the British Government from protecting the sugar industry of the British West Indies, for that protection could be afforded them simply by following the policy adopted by the United States Government in relation to its insular Possessions, namely, imposing an import duty of 1½c. per lb. on all foreign sugars, and the United Kingdom granting Cuban sugars a preferential of 20 per cent., the same as they receive in the United States. Under such an arrangement there would be nothing to hinder the increase of production in the British West Indies, nor would the proposed treaty between Cuba and her European Allies affect United Kingdom refiners, inasmuch as prior to the war over two-thirds of the sugar consumed in Great Britain was introduced in the refined state from Germany and Austria. The proposed treaty whereby Cuba would supply the European Allies with refined sugar from Cuban raws refined in the United States would merely result in placing the American refiners in the position formerly occupied by German and Austrian beet producers prior to the war."

The Coalition party in the United Kingdom is now pledged to give a preference to colonial sugar, and the ideal to be aimed at is the refining of enough British sugar by British refineries for British requirements. Meanwhile no exception could be taken to the hiatus being filled by Cuban sugar; but it may be well to remind the Czarnikow-Rionda Company that the Coalition is also pledged to protect our industries *against dumping.*

Two-thirds of the sugar consumed in the United Kingdom was German and Austrian refined because the British refiners were not given that measure of security from unequal competition which would justify their extending their plant and erecting new refineries. If we are to jump out of the German-Austrian frying-pan into the American fire, the British refining industry *will* never be developed.

West India Sugar Statistics in London on November 23rd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 35,857 | 78,461 | 52,246 | .. |
| Deliveries | 36,936 | 72,839 | 54,986 | .. |
| Stock (Nov. 23rd) ... | 9,908 | 11,637 | 8,365 | .. |

MOLASSES. Much adverse criticism has been evoked by the decision of the Sugar Commission to control molasses just at a time when some relaxation in the Government interference with trade was looked for. Though importers of foreign molasses are represented on the new Molasses Association—the suggestive telegraphic address of which, by the way, is "Obbenschlager"—those of British molasses are not. Much resentment is caused by the refusal of the Association to allow existing contracts made earlier in the year to be carried out.

RUM. With the Ministry of Munitions no longer buyers of alcohol, it is felt that the time is coming when a further attempt might be made to raise the embargo on rum to some extent.

The stocks in London on November 23rd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Jamaica | 4,072 | 8,132 | 10,586 puns. |
| Demerara | 10,410 | 7,373 | 11,396 |
| Total of all kinds ... | 19,918 | 24,542 | 36,741 |

COCOA Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz.:—

| | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samsa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading.

The West India Committee was informed by the Food Controller on November 19th that he had arranged with the Ministry of Shipping that tonnage should be provided to secure the importation of 7,000 tons of raw cocoa before March 31st, 1919. It is anticipated that this quantity of cocoa will be lifted from the British West Indies as follows:—

| | Tons. |
|-----------------------|-------|
| December, 1918 | 1,000 |
| January, 1919 | 3,000 |
| February, 1919 | 3,000 |

The Controller has promised that a further communication will be sent to the Committee as soon as possible on the subject of further arrangements which may be made for lifting raw cocoa during the remainder of 1919.

A curious misunderstanding arose regarding the permission given by the Ministries of Food and Shipping for an extra amount of West Indian cocoa to be shipped. This was obviously intended to over-ride the last port of call order. Otherwise the cocoa which was needed could not have been shipped. At the instance of the Governor of Grenada, however, the last port order was rigidly enforced, with the result of an *impasse*. Cocoa was wanted, but could not be shipped. However, instructions were issued for licenses to export to be freely given pending the decision as to the total quantity to be exported, and all is well.

The stocks in London on November 23rd were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 23,394 | 20,649 | 19,418 bags. |
| Grenada | 7,427 | 21,281 | 11,692 |
| Total of all kinds ... | 139,412 | 236,921 | 215,879 |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz.: ordinary 36d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d., subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

OOPRA. Price as fixed—£46 c.i.f. Liverpool.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil: Distilled neglected, value 5/9 to 6/-; Handpressed quiet, value 14/- to 15/-. Lime Juice: Concentrated steady, with more enquiry; Raw easier, good to fine 3/6 to 4/-. Citrate firm.

BALATA. Quiet and easier. Venezuela block quoted 3/4½ c.i.f. sellers, 3/4 buyers; Panama 2/10½ to 2/11 c.i.f.; West Indian sheet steady, 3/10½ c.i.f., spot 4/1.

RUBBER. The market has shown a downward tendency here since our last report. At the same time prices in the East have risen. London to-day is about 2/4½, and Singapore 1/9 to 1/9½. A considerable business has been done in both markets, nearly all for spot and near delivery, but some sales have been made for monthly deliveries to the end of 1919 here and in Singapore. Prospects are more cheerful as regards freight, and altogether we look for more normal conditions ere long.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1918.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone
WEST CENTRAL.

15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

December 12th, 1918.

The Abuse of Saccharin.

Now that the domestic sugar ration is to be increased and the supply of sugar to manufacturers raised by 50 per cent., it is to be hoped that early steps will be taken to restrict the use of saccharin in this country. It has been proved beyond contradiction by such eminent authorities as DR. WILEY and PROFESSORS PELUGGE, BORNSTEIN, STOKLASA and others, that this sugar substitute adversely affects the digestion, and it will be recalled that in 1911 the Referee Board instituted under the Pure Food Law of the United States arrived at the same conclusion, with the result that the use of saccharin in foods is now regarded as an adulteration under the Food and Drugs Act of the United States. According to MESSRS. WILLET & GRAY the American Agricultural Department has now confirmed this decision. It appears that the Department had been asked by various interests to reverse, or, at least to reconsider, the position which it took in 1911 upon the use of saccharin in food brought

under the jurisdiction of the Federal Food and Drugs Act. This position in effect was that investigation had shown that the continued use of saccharin for a long time, in quantities over 3-10 of a gram a day was likely to impair digestion, and that the addition of saccharin for cane sugar and other forms of sugar reduced the food value of the product, and hence lowered its quality. Therefore, the Secretary of Agriculture declared that he would regard as adulterated under the Food and Drugs Act any foods containing saccharin, which might be brought under the jurisdiction of that law. The Department now declares it is aware of no investigations which contribute any more recent evidence pointing to the harmlessness of saccharin, and it has therefore declined to reverse its decision, and it has regarded it as unfitting at this time to reopen the question, for the reason that a case is now pending in the courts in which the issues are presented clearly. The Department will endeavour to press the trial of this case. The British Board of Agriculture, on the other hand, has advocated the use of saccharin to impart sweetness to jam. According to our contemporary, *The International Sugar Journal*, MR. CHARLES E. CASSEL, public analyst to the Borough of Kensington, contradicts the statement that saccharin undergoes any change in the body. Says our contemporary: "Attention is called to DR. WILEY's well-known experiments on human beings and animals, from which the conclusion was drawn that in doses of more than 0.3 gm. this substance causes derangement of the digestion, and that as a substitute for sugar it should be regarded as a fraud, being moreover a dangerous drug. Its manufacture and sale in the United States were prohibited after an official enquiry. In France also the prohibition of saccharin was made upon health grounds, and not for fiscal reasons, as has been asserted. Saccharin and similar substances have been proved to cause nausea after prolonged use, and recent research has shown them to give rise to cell proliferation, like many other coal-tar derivatives. It is noticed frequently to interfere with the normal processes of digestion, especially in susceptible individuals." In view of these very definite statements as to the harmful nature of saccharin it is disconcerting to find that the imports of this drug into the United Kingdom have increased lately to an alarming extent. In the pre-war years our imports amounted to 1,242,213 ozs., and according to the latest Board of Trade reports in the eleven months ended November 30th last, they were 2,241,552 ozs., of which 1,873,652 ozs. were entered for home consumption. Where does all this saccharin go to? If it were only used for sweetening tea and coffee the con-

sumer could regulate the quantity that he is taking, but what knowledge has he of the saccharin used for sweetening behind the scenes, as, for example, in the kitchen, or in the mineral water and fruit preserving factories. We believe that if enquiry were made many cases of impaired digestions and other kindred ills could be traced to this noxious drug.

Water and Water-power in Guiana.

IN the CIRCULAR of June 1st, 1915, when describing the scheme for providing an artesian water supply for the city of Georgetown, British Guiana, by the sinking of a series of twenty deep-bored artesian wells in the vicinity of the city, we ventured to advise caution. We pointed out that there was a danger in adopting such a scheme without an assurance of the probable constancy of supply, in view of experiences in other countries, when a number of wells are bored within a limited area; and more especially on account of the considerable outlay involved, estimated at \$131,344. We now learn from the recently published annual report of the Chairman of the Local Government Board in British Guiana, that there has been a considerable diminution—in some instances total failure—in the supply of water obtained from the artesian wells, sunk within recent years in several of the coastal villages of the colony. The Director of Public Works ascribes the failure to an accumulation of sand in the bore-pipes, which can be remedied by suitable mechanical means. Nevertheless, in commenting on this matter, the *Demerara Argosy* of the 6th October remarks:—"The experience thus far gained points to the conclusion that the wells could not be depended upon for a continuous flow, and that the citizens (of Georgetown) would have been saddled with an expenditure for a water service which would have been totally unreliable." With this we are inclined to agree, and we are pleased to know that our timely warning was not, altogether, unwarranted. Whilst on the subject of water, we may refer to an important announcement made by SIR WILFRED COLLIER at the opening of the Combined Court of British Guiana on November 7th. He said: "The biggest undertaking which I think we might possibly be able to start, at a not very distant date, is the harnessing of our waterfalls to provide electric power. Even apart from the celebrated falls of Kaieteur, I am under the impression that the falls on the rivers of the colony would be sufficient to generate enough power to work all existing machinery and to provide light in all the cities and villages. I have written to the Secretary of State and to the Governor-General of Canada asking for such information as is available with regard to what has already been done elsewhere in the way of harnessing waterfalls to provide electric power. When I have obtained sufficient information, I will then consult you as to whether we should be justified in going to the expense of a special survey in order to estimate what the cost of installation and working would be." It is satisfactory to learn that an attempt is at last to be made to exploit the latent powers of British Guiana's numerous waterfalls.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Ah hab clothes ah door, ah him watch rain."

SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER will, it is understood, leave shortly for Antigua to take up his appointment as Governor of the Leeward Islands.

WE are informed that Tennant's Estates, Ltd., of 9, Mincing Lane, London, and Trinidad, have decided to offer for sale their "La Fortune" Sugar Factory, together with about 4,500 acres of sugar lands.

WE regret to learn that the Hon. George S. Hudson is rather seriously ill in St. Lucia. It will be recalled that Mr. Hudson recently identified himself with the federation movement, of which he is an enthusiastic supporter.

THE West India Committee has written to the War Office requesting that in the distribution of war trophies, such as German guns, the claims of the West Indian Colonies may not be forgotten.

It is an interesting coincidence that November 11th—Armistice Day—had been proclaimed several weeks earlier by the Administrator of St. Vincent as a day of General Thanksgiving on the occasion of the close of the hurricane season.

AN income tax Bill is to be introduced into the Legislature of Jamaica. It is proposed that the income tax shall come into force in 1920 and shall commence at 1d. per £1 on incomes of £48 per annum and rise to 1/- on incomes of £1,500 and upwards.

THE Nourse Line s.s. *Betwa* will load in January-December, at Calcutta, for the West Indies. The rates of freight for Trinidad, Barbados, Guadeloupe and Jamaica, will be Rs. 225 per ton for rice and dholl, and Rs. 300 per ton for gummies.

It is announced that the Government of British Guiana has advised the Governments of Trinidad, Barbados, Grenada, and other islands which His Excellency had agreed to supply with rice, that owing to the drought now prevailing in the colony, there will be a shortage in the rice crop. Consequently it will be impossible for him to allow any further export of the commodity.

OWING, no doubt, to the facilities afforded to members whereby they can pay their subscriptions to the West India Committee at any of the branches of the Colonial Bank or the Royal Bank of Canada, these very essential payments have come in better this year than ever before. This does not, however, exonerate those few members who have not yet paid their subscriptions due on January 1st last. Will such members in arrears kindly do the needful without delay?

A NEW Department of State to deal with all matters relating to the Crown Colonies is being advocated by the Association of West African Merchants. In a memorandum which they have presented to the Prime Minister the Association urge that the Department which they propose should be directed by men with personal experience of the colonies concerned, and that the Department should be assisted by Consultative Councils representing all the interests for each colony or group of colonies.

A BRITISH subject, Julio Rodriguez, a native of Trinidad, has just been released from prison at Caracas after undergoing six and a half years' incarceration for an alleged political offence. Arrested with others on a charge of conspiring against General Gomez, then President of Venezuela, Rodriguez has now been released on representations by the British Minister. It is stated that

Rodriguez is scarcely able to walk owing to the weight of the chains with which he has been loaded during imprisonment.

* * *

MRS. DUFFUS, who we are sorry to learn has died at Southsea, was the eldest daughter of Canon Branch, and wife of the Rev. David Duffus, of Georgetown, British Guiana. She came over to educate her son and two daughters eighteen months ago, and had been doing strenuous war work ever since. Her eldest brother, the Hon. B. St. J. Branch, has been Attorney-General of Jamaica since 1909, whilst her youngest brother, Captain Selwyn Branch has just returned from Germany where he had been prisoner since the battle of Loos.

* * *

We regret to learn that Miss Helen McL. Todd, daughter of the late Mr. Edward Todd, Hon. Correspondent of the West India Committee, and for many years the foremost planter in St. Kitts, and of Mrs. Todd, of Basseterre, died of pneumonia following influenza at 13, Coleherne Court, Kensington, on December 2nd. Miss Todd, who was living with her sister, Miss Bronte Todd, took up work in London shortly after the war. One of her brothers is in Cuba while another is at the Usine St. Madeleine in Trinidad. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Todd and the family in the loss which they have sustained.

* * *

MR. F. A. C. COLLYMORE, M.B.E., recently forwarded to the British Red Cross Society, through the West India Committee, a further cheque for £500, bringing the total collected by him from the people of Barbados towards the motor ambulance fund to the handsome sum of 7,500. In acknowledging the contribution, Sir Ernest Clark wrote:—"I beg that you will convey to Mr. Collymore, and through him to the kind subscribers generally, our heartfelt thanks and grateful appreciation for the very magnificent and welcome help they have, throughout the War, rendered to us in our Transport of Wounded work. Without such help, it would have been impossible for us to have carried on the work, and kept all our ambulances in such a high state of repair and efficiency."

* * *

"No bones should be made, surely, about preventing the participation of non-British subjects in discussing British interests in the Chamber of Commerce of a British Colony." It seems to have taken an appreciable amount of time and argument to arrive at that point in Trinidad (says the *Mercantile Guardian*). Of course, Chambers of Commerce rightly prefer to make themselves as representative as may be of the commerce of the place, and it is not for them to deny ordinary commercial representation to those who are non-British in nationality, but friendly in word and deed. To exclude non-Britons from office is a natural enough thing in a British Chamber established upon foreign soil, but the conditions are not parallel within a British country. Worked with ordinarily decent feeling, the exclusion of the non-British from certain discussions will rankle in nobody's breast.

* * *

SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, Chairman of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, acknowledging the receipt of £110 18s. 8d. forwarded through the West India Committee towards his fund, as part proceeds of Mrs. Perez's Revue, "Carry On," written by Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., in British Guiana, wrote:—"May I ask you to accept yourself and convey to Mr. Cassels and all who participated in this kindly effort, my hearty congratulations on the result, together with an expression of very sincere and cordial thanks on behalf of the gallant men who will benefit by such practical interest in their welfare. 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."

THE WAR AND AFTER.

The General Election.

With their usual sound political instinct our people have declined to be absorbed in reconstruction schemes which promise the millennium, knowing that the main issue is a stable peace. Hence popular interest concentrates on such questions as indemnity, the punishment of German criminals from the Kaiser downwards, and the expulsion of the German aliens. If the Coalition Government had any idea of treating the enemy with mistaken magnanimity the popular temper has strung them up to demand stern justice. Germany can be made to pay the costs of the war, including reparation for damage in the territories she occupied. The ruins of Alsace-Lorraine would wipe out part of the French claim, and her oversea colonies of British, Australian, South African, New Zealand, and Belgian claims. Then she has securities held in foreign countries, as well as vast mineral wealth, not to speak of what is left of her mercantile marine.

New features of the present General Election are (1) the predominance of naval and military, instead of lawyer candidates, (2) the revolt of the constituencies against the tyranny of the machine.

The Entente Sealed.

The King, with the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert, has paid a visit to France, which, in a blaze of splendour, revealed the closeness of the ties which bind the two countries together. Paris, in spite of the rain, was beside herself with joy, and every stage of the welcome extended to the royal visitors was at once ceremonious and charged with high emotion. The King, who has inherited the capacity for simple, sincere, and felicitous expression of his immediate predecessors on the Throne, made a speech, which, while touching the hearts of his hearers, appealed to their intelligence. President Poincaré, in his reply, summed up admirably the nature of the Entente, when he said that "France is incapable of forgetting Britain's aid in the war" and that the two nations "are united for ever."

A few days later London had an opportunity of giving a warm welcome and of paying a tribute of admiration to Marshal Foch and M. Clemenceau, who, together with Signor Orlando, had arrived in England to take part in inter-Allied discussions, chiefly of a military character in connection with the carrying out of the armistice. The method of procedure at the coming Peace Conference was also decided upon, at any rate in respect of Germany.

The United States and the Conference.

President Wilson is soon expected in Paris, accompanied by Mr. Lansing, Colonel House, Mr. Henry White, and General Bliss, the American representatives for the Peace Conference. The representatives of all the other Allies will be plenipotentiaries because the Governments appointing them are in command of a Parliamentary majority. The Americans will be delegates because, though the President's position is independent of Congress, the Senate alone can ratify a treaty. Moreover the United States is not one of the Allies. She is a coadjutor. Then the American delegates are be-

lieved to be in favour of the freedom of the seas, though on that, as on his "fourteen points" generally, President Wilson's view has been modified by events. Opinion at home is divided on the question of his presence in Europe in his official capacity. The step is absolutely unprecedented, and definitely marks the emergence of the United States as a world-power.

The March to the Rhine.

The King is with his troops in France, mingling with them in the homely way which they love. Everywhere he is greeted with the greatest enthusiasm. The march to the Rhine is being continued steadily and methodically, surely the greatest pageant since the world began. The men have lost the strained and weary look of war. They are fresh, alert, and full of spirit. Their uniforms are clean, and every part of their arms and equipment that can be polished is shining. As for the cavalry, which moves in advance, its superb appearance makes a deep impression wherever it goes. Like the Belgians in the north and the French in the south the British have crossed the frontier and are now in German territory. The British are in Cologne, the Americans in Coblenz, the Belgians in Dusseldorf, and the French nearing Mainz. Such important towns as Hamburg, Frankfurt, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Bonn, and Wiesbaden are in the neutral zone. The enemy is losing one of his bad illusions in finding that the Allied troops are disciplined, and while humane, sternly just. Germans have been ordered to salute Allied soldiers and officers. As the Allied armies advance they encounter much abandoned war material, but, on the whole, the enemy retired in good order. The reception given to them varies, in some places there is sullenness, in others signs of hatred, and in others yet again a painful obsequiousness, which may cover craft. In certain towns there is a willingness to trade on the forgive-and-forget principle.

The greatest event of the march was the solemn entry of Marshal Foch, Marshal Pétain, and General Gouraud, with French troops, into Strasbourg, marking the culmination of the triumph of France as of the deliverance of Alsace-Lorraine. The celebrations were worthy of the occasion, restrained but joyous. They were brought to a conclusion by a splendid ovation to Sir Douglas Haig, General Pershing, M. Clemenceau and President Poincaré.

The Navy and the Armistice.

The enemy has asked for a mitigation of the armistice which provides for the striking of the German flag in British ports, in the name of chivalry, honour, and international law, on which he has trampled for so long. But Admiral Beatty replied that as an armistice simply means a cessation of hostilities we are still at war with Germany. Therefore her flag will not be allowed to fly in British waters. A detachment of the British fleet is in the Baltic supervising the removal of mines and the disarmament of German ships in German harbours.

The enemy submarines, whose surrender to Great Britain was one of the conditions of the armistice, are all in British hands. There are 122 of them.

The first five of those to be surrendered to France have arrived in Cherbourg.

A British-Franco-Italian squadron is in the Black Sea. It has visited Odessa and is now in Sebastopol taking over Turkey's warships, including the *Goeben*, and the Russian ships of the Black Sea fleet, manned by Germans. Fourteen German merchant ships in these waters are to be utilised by the Allies.

The Situation in Germany.

The welter in Germany continues, but it is believed that the Socialists are being given a free hand to demonstrate their ineptitude. The egregious Dr. Solf has given place to Herr Haase as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The conference in Berlin of some seventy delegates from the Federal States have proposed to summon a National Assembly, as it is recognised that the Allies will not deal with a German Government that is not stable. In the meantime the Soldiers' and Workmen's Councils are supposed to represent the people's will. But it is increasingly evident that the Western Army is not in the least infected with Bolshevism, and will side with the Moderates. From independent sources, including our own army, comes testimony to the falsity of Dr. Solf's statement that Germany was starving, while stories continue to pour in of fresh horrors in connection with British prisoners, on whom the Hun is taking revenge for his defeat.

In the East.

Transylvania is autonomous preparatory to its incorporation with Rumania. The progress of Mackensen's army is checked by an Allied order for its disarmament and internment. Montenegro has decided to throw in her lot with Serbia, which will solve the problem of a Serbian window on the Adriatic. King Nicholas has been a pensioner of the Allies in France since his Kingdom was overrun and will remain so.

The Kaiser and Extradition.

Apparently Holland, either through her sympathies with the enemy or want of circumspection in action, is in a tight place. For at first it was given out that the Kaiser crossed her frontier as a private individual. But it is now clear that he was then still the King-Emperor and supreme head of the German Army. He has since abdicated, but the paper, which is not counter-signed by German statesmen, is not a valid document. In the meantime the call for judgment upon him was so insistent that the Law Officers of the Crown were instructed by the War Cabinet to discover the possibilities of his extradition. The result is the announcement that there are no insuperable difficulties in the way, and so by the unanimous decision of the Imperial War Cabinet, the Dominions concurring, his extradition is to be demanded. The Kaiserin has joined the Kaiser at Amerongen, and neither leave the Castle grounds.

The Crown Prince is interned in a small house on Wieringen Island. He was recently granted an interview to a Press representative, in the course of which he posed as an innocent, and represented the Hohenzollerns as the most peaceful of dynasties.

Anglo-American Shipping Deal.

In 1902, owing to our crass indifference to the foundations of our power, an American trust was allowed to acquire whole fleets of British ships, the only bar to full control being their British registry, which has since been reinforced by a provision of the Defence of the Realm Act, which forbids the sale of any British vessel to an alien without the consent of the Shipping Controller. Now British interests desire to repurchase the tonnage, including some of the finest ships afloat, and agreed to pay £20,000,000 for them, which was acceptable to the shareholders. But the American Government has vetoed the deal, offering a similar sum to acquire them in the national interest. But to lose 750,000 tons in her present position in the carrying trade will be a blow to Britain which, in view of her incalculable services at sea in the war, she does not deserve, as the Americans will be the first to perceive when this view of the case is represented to them.

The Soldier's Grave.

No war memorial is of such immediate importance as the graves of our fallen soldiers, and the Imperial War Graves Commission has the matter in hand. No step is taken without consultation with leading experts, and the final decision rests with Sir F. Kenyon. It has been decided that there is to be perfect equality of treatment, each headstone to bear the badge of the regiment or other unit and its name, together with an inscription, and the name, rank, and date of death. The cemeteries, which vary greatly in size, will be enclosed, and adorned with shrubs, trees and flower-plots, so that the general view will be pleasant to the eye. In the centre there is to be a memorial stone with cross, on which will be the inscription, "Their name liveth for evermore." It is taken from the tribute to famous men in Ecclesiastes, and was suggested by Mr. Rudyard Kipling. A colonnade will also be erected, in which will be kept the roll-call of the dead. The task is to be entrusted to skilled men, working under the direction of leading architects and landscape gardeners. The only feature of the scheme which is, very properly as it seems to us, adversely criticised, is the proposal to have rows of uniform headstones, which many relatives regard with abomination. By most, simple crosses would be greatly preferred.

(To be continued.)

THE West India Committee, in a letter to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply dated December 4th, wrote: "In view of the altered condition of affairs since the signing of the Armistice on November 11th, we consider that the need for the issue of local and British Priority Certificates should no longer exist, as circumstances should now warrant the release of the engineering trade from the restrictions to which they were subject whilst war-work was being undertaken. In the circumstances we beg to express the hope that facilities for the manufacture of sugar machinery and renewals for the British sugar industry may now be afforded."

LIMES OR LEMONS FOR SCURVY.

The respective merits of limes and lemons in the treatment of scurvy is exhaustively discussed in a memorandum emanating from the Lister Institute, which is published in *The Lancet* of November 30th. The authors are Dr. Harriette Chick, Miss E. Margaret Hume and Miss Ruth F. Skelton, who deal with the experimental side of the question, and Mrs. Henderson Smith, who contributes an historical report.

As this question is of very great importance to producers of limes in the West Indies, who will no doubt have something to say on the subject, it may be well to reproduce the report on the experiments which were undertaken in full. It runs as follows:—

A belief in the antiscorbutic virtue of the preserved juice of the West Indian lime has long been cherished by the public. Such a faith is, however, not universally shared by those having experience, in recent years, of the value of lime juice for prevention or cure of scurvy. This scepticism is first found in the writings of the Arctic explorers at the end of the nineteenth century (see Jackson and Harley, *The Lancet*, April 28th, 1900). It has also been expressed recently by many observers who, confronted with scurvy in one or other of the recent theatres of war, have declared that they found lime juice of no avail as a prophylactic or therapeutic agent. Nevertheless, the literature upon this subject appearing in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century is full of the praises of "lime juice," and there appears to be every reason for believing that the use of so-called lime juice was responsible for the disappearance of scurvy from the British Navy in the first decade of the nineteenth century. The naval records of the period have been carefully searched, and the result of the inquiry forms the subject of the second section of this paper. A sufficient explanation of the anomaly will be found to lie in the fact that at this early date the term "lime juice" included the juice of lemons from the Mediterranean, whereas for the last 50 or 60 years it has been applied to the preserved juice of the West Indian lime.

A.—Experimental Inquiry.

A study of lime juice has formed an important item in a comprehensive investigation of the antiscorbutic properties of various foodstuffs which has been carried out by a group of workers in this institute during the past two years. This inquiry has confirmed and extended the researches of Holst and his co-workers, published in 1912. Scurvy, in accordance with the view of ancient tradition, has been shown to be a deficiency disease, occasioned by absence in the diet of an unknown accessory food factor, or "vitamine." This factor is present in living vegetable and animal tissues, in largest amount in fresh fruits and green vegetables, to a less extent in root vegetables and tubers. It is present in small amount in fresh meat and milk, and has not been detected in yeast, fats, cereals, pulses. The antiscorbutic food factor is sensitive to high temperatures and suffers destruction when the living tissues in connexion with which it is produced are disorganised by drying and other methods of preservation. The expressed juices of fresh vegetables rapidly become impotent in respect of antiscorbutic properties, but Holst and Fröhlich (1912) detected a distinctly greater stability in this respect in the expressed juices of acid fruits.

Experimental.

In studying the distribution of the antiscorbutic vitamin among the various foodstuffs the general aim of the experimental work has been to assign to each a definite quantitative value in respect of its antiscorbutic properties. The work has been done mainly with guinea-pigs, though later confirmatory experiments have been made with monkeys.

Young, growing guinea-pigs, 300-350 g. in weight were selected for the work. If all greenstuff is removed from

the diet, and they are nourished on grain (oats and bran) alone, symptoms of scurvy appear after 10-20 days and death takes place in about 30 days. If, in addition, they receive a daily ration (60 c.cm.) of milk, heated at 120 deg. C. for one hour to reduce its original antiscorbutic value to a minimum, the general condition of the animal is much improved and growth is maintained for 15-20 days; the onset of scurvy is not, however, materially influenced and death takes place after 30-40 days. (See Chick, Hume, and Skelton, 1918.) The value of fruit juices and their preparations was estimated by adding them in various amounts to this "scurvy diet" of oats, bran, and autoclaved milk, and determining the minimum daily ration required to maintain the animal in health and prevent occurrence of scurvy for a period of 90 days. At the end of this period the animals were killed with chloroform and careful post-mortem examinations were made, followed by histological study of the bony tissues.

There is evidence that the guinea-pig is more susceptible to scurvy than any other mammals, including both monkey and man, and needs a greater proportion of anti-scorbutic food in its diet to obtain adequate protection from the disease. But there is every reason to believe that the relative value of different foods, as determined experimentally by this means, will remain the same for all, and the results obtained with guinea-pigs have found abundant confirmation in the available historical records of the worth of human diets from the standpoint of antiscorbutic value.

Preserved lime juice.—Four samples which had been supplied for official use were placed at our disposal at different times by the authorities. Two were the purified juice of West Indian limes preserved with rum (14 per cent.), one contained no preservative, and the fourth was a sample of Bombay lime juice, preserved with salicylic acid and alcohol. To our great surprise we were unable to detect any significant protection in a daily ration of from 5 to 10 c.cm., which was as large a dose as could be tolerated. It was possible that the age of the samples might be responsible for their inefficiency. The process of "purification" consisted of a lengthy sedimentation and a separation of all pulpy matter expressed from the ripe fruit; this alone involves several months, a fact which, when added to the length of time taken in transport, etc., renders it likely that this lime juice, when consumed, may be many months, even years, old.

Crude lime juice.—Accordingly a series of samples of crude juice were examined; the samples were cloudy and contained a considerable proportion of oily and pulpy matter. They were of various age, but some, at least, were fairly fresh and were examined immediately on their arrival in this country. In two samples only was any antiscorbutic value detected, and in these instances partial protection only was conferred by a daily ration of 5 c.cm.

Fresh lime juice.—In order to eliminate the question of age and to obtain a satisfactory basis for comparison we investigated the juice of the fresh fruit expressed in the laboratory. This we were enabled to do through the kindness and generosity of Messrs. L. Rose & Co., who supplied us with regular monthly supplies of fresh fruit, specially imported for the purpose. The fresh, ripe fruit was cut in half and the juice pressed out by hand upon an ordinary glass lemon-squeezer; there was little admixture of rind products. It was used as fresh as possible, being kept in a refrigerator. On the arrival of the next consignment of fruit the remainder was rejected and the fresher juice employed; the expressed juice was never more than two months old when administered. Protection from scurvy was obtained with a daily ration of 10 c.cm.; with doses of 5 c.cm. and 2.5 c.cm. a definite degree of protection was manifested, but it was neither constant nor complete. The details of the above results are all summarised in Table I.

† These limes were about 4 to 8 weeks in transit owing to war conditions of transport, and it has been suggested to us that this duration of time may have influenced the condition of the fruit unfavourably. We hope in the future to investigate the juice of limes only 2 to 3 weeks old, in order to see if the minimal protective dose for guinea pigs may not be lowered a little with juice obtained from the fresher samples of fruit. It is unlikely that any significant alteration in the antiscorbutic value of the juice will be obtained, as all the fruit employed in the above experiments appeared to be in sound condition. Nevertheless, the point seemed to merit investigation.

TABLE I.—Antiscorbutic Value of Lime (*Citrus Medica*, var. *Acida*) Juice and Lemon (*Citrus Medica*, var. *Limonum*) Juice.

Experiments with guinea-pigs.—Cabbage was removed from the normal diet of oats, bran, and greenstuff and replaced by the fruit juices investigated. A daily ration of 60 c.cm. cow's milk (heated to 120 deg. C. for one hour to destroy antiscorbutic properties) was added to improve the nutritive value of the diet.

| Antiscorbutic material. | Dose c.cm. daily. | Age of juice (months). | Preservative. | Result. | Degree of protection against scurvy. |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| LIME JUICE. | | | | | |
| <i>Preserved.</i> | | | | | |
| 1. Army sample. Nov., 1916. | 5 | 1½ | Rum. 14% | Animals died of scurvy. | 0 |
| 2. Navy sample. March, 1917. | 5 | " | Rum. 14% | " | 0 |
| 2A. Navy sample. March, 1917. | 10 | " | " | " | 0 |
| 3. Bombay samples (Willcox brand) Oct., 1917. | 5 | 2 to 4 | Alcohol and sal. acid. | " | 0 |
| <i>Crude.</i> | | | | | |
| 1. From Lewis and Peat. Feb. 1917. | 5 | 1½ | None | Animals died of scurvy. | 0 |
| 2. From A. Middle and Sons. April, 1917. | 5 | About 14 | " | " | 0 |
| 3. From L. Rose and Co. May, 1917. | 5 | 6 to 7 | " | Some protection in 2 cases out of 4. | + |
| 4. From L. Rose and Co. Sept., 1917. | 5 | 3 to 6 | " | Scurvy, but considerable degree of protection. | ++ |
| 5. Bombay crude juice, Oct., 1917. | 5 | 2 to 4 | " | Animals died of scurvy. | 0. |
| 5A. Bombay crude juice, Oct., 1917. | 10 | 4 to 5 | " | " | 0. |
| <i>Fresh juice.†</i> | 2.5 | 0 to 2 | " | Scurvy in all cases, but some protection. | + |
| | 5 | 0 to 2 | " | Scurvy in 4 cases out of 6. | ++ |
| | 10 | 0 to 2 | " | No scurvy. | +++ |
| | 0.5 | 0 to 2 | None. | Scurvy in all cases, but definite protection. | + |
| LEMON JUICE. | | | | | |
| <i>Fresh juice.</i> | | | | | |
| | 10 | 0 to 2 | " | Protection almost complete in 2 cases out of 4. | +++ |
| | 2.5 | 0 to 3 | " | No scurvy. | +++ |
| | Grm. 0.5 | Fresh | — | Scurvy symptoms, but definite protection. | ++ |
| FRESH RAW CARRIAGE LEAVES. | | | | | |
| | 1.5 | " | — | Protection. | +++ |
| | 2.5 | " | — | " | +++ |

* Without addition of rum.

† Limes imported monthly from Dominica, squeezed in laboratory, and preserved in refrigerator.

Uk. Unknown. Sal. acid. Salicylic acid.

+++ = Complete. ++ = Definite. + = slight. 0 = No protection.

Fresh and preserved lemon juice.—Fresh lemon juice was found to be much more potent in respect of antiscorbutic properties. Marked degree of protection was discovered by a daily ration of only 0.5 c.cm., and this was almost complete in some cases with a dose of 1.5 c.cm. With a daily ration of 2.5 c.cm. complete protection from scurvy was attained. The value of fresh lemon juice was therefore estimated at about four times that of fresh lime juice. The lemon juice was roughly of the same age as the lime juice in the above experiment. The lemons were squeezed in the laboratory, the juice was kept in a refrigerator, and its age varied from a few days to two months.

Our experiments with preserved lemon juice are still incomplete, but it appears probable that preservation with sulphite will prove satisfactory in retaining a considerable measure of the original antiscorbutic value. One sample of imported lemon juice from Messina, kindly provided by Messrs. L. Rose & Co., was found to afford distinct protection from scurvy in a daily dose of 5 c.cm. when at least 7 months old.

Experiments with Monkeys.

The question was of sufficient importance to warrant a series of experiments with another experimental animal, and young growing monkeys were selected. After observation for a month or more, to be assured that they were in normal satisfactory health, they were placed upon a generous diet, consisting of various cereal foods with nuts and abundant autoclaved milk, the antiscorbutic element being provided solely by the ration of fresh fruit juice provided. In case of limes the whole fruit was minced in order to include all constituents and the resulting mass squeezed in strong muslin of coarse mesh, yielding a somewhat thick liquid containing pulpy and oily matter. This was done immediately after delivery and at the same time, fresh lemons were procured and their juice expressed. Both supplies were kept in a refrigerator room, until the arrival of the next consignment of limes, when a fresh supply of lemon juice was also prepared. It was thus arranged that the lime and lemon juice used in the experiments (detailed in Table II.) should be comparable as far as possible.

TABLE II.

Experiments with monkeys.—The diet consisted of wheaten biscuit, peanuts, boiled rice, wheat germ, and autoclaved milk (120 deg. C. for one hour) *ad libitum*. The antiscorbutic food factor was provided only by the ration of fresh fruit juice.

| Fresh Lime Juice. | | | | Fresh Lemon Juice. | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Exp. No. | Average daily ration. | Initial weight. | Duration of diet. | Exp. No. | Average daily ration. | Initial weight. | Duration of diet. |
| | c.cm. | g. | days. | | c.cm. | g. | days. |
| 1 | 10 | 2340 | 35 | 8 | 10 | 1660 | 93 |
| 2 | 10 | 2010 | 91 | 9 | 10 | 3130 | 92 |
| 3 | 10 | 3500 | 54 | 10 | 5 | 1900 | 49 |
| 4 | 5 | 3650 | 115 | 11 | 5 | 3500 | 171 |
| 5 | 3.5 | 2620 | 120 | 12 | 5 | 1750 | 66 |
| 6 | 2.5 | 1910 | 101 | 13 | 2.5 | 2010 | 122 |
| 7 | 2.5 | 2010 | 168 | 14 | 2.5 | 2030 | 123 |

*Results of Experiments in Table II.**Fresh Lime Juice.*

1. Good health, until sudden death from acute, undiagnosed illness.
2. Poor health, no symptoms of scurvy, death due to dysentery. P.M. no macroscopic signs of scurvy, histological evidence of slight scurvy.
3. Good health.
4. Acute scurvy, symptoms first noticed 49th day; cured with daily dose of c.cm. lemon juice, beginning 115th day.
5. Scurvy, symptoms first noticed 45th day.
6. Incipient scurvy. Death from dysentery complicated by a worm infection of large intestine. P.M. definite signs of slight scurvy, hæmorrhage in synovial membrane, incipient periosteal hæmorrhage, deformity of rib-junctions.
7. Slow chronic scurvy, complicated with intestinal worm infection.

Fresh Lemon Juice.

- * 10 to 14. Good health.

The fruit juice was, as a rule, acceptable to the monkeys, and the necessary ration, diluted with water and sweetened with sugar, was readily sucked from the nozzle of a syringe. This was not always the case with lime juice; the animals sometimes grew tired of it, and some coaxing was necessary in order to get the rations successfully administered.

The experiments are set forth in Table II., and the results may be summarised as follows: with young, growing monkeys of 2000-3500 g. weight, daily rations varying from 2.5 c.cm.-10 c.cm. lemon juice never failed to prevent scurvy over periods as long as 4 to 7 months. The animals were in excellent health and spirits, and grew in a normal manner.

In case of lime juice the result was otherwise, and the general health of the animals was distinctly inferior. In one case a ration of 10 c.cm. lime juice daily afforded protection from symptoms of scurvy for as long as three months. At the end of this time, however, the animal died of dysentery, and a histological examination of the bony tissues revealed some degree of abnormality. In Experiments 4-7, where the daily ration was 5 c.cm. to 2.5 c.cm., scurvy to a more or less severe degree ensued in every case. Most of these experiments are still in progress.

Experiment 4 is of particular interest. In this case very severe scurvy developed, accompanied by progressive loss in weight. The lower limbs became helpless, wrists and ankles were swollen and tender, the teeth became loose, the gums spongy and hæmorrhagic, and there were distinct follicular hæmorrhages on the face at the base of the whiskers. Finally, blood was passed in the stools and death appeared to be imminent. The lime-juice ration was changed to an equal ration of lemon juice of equal age. In 7-14 days the teeth became firm; gradually all tenderness vanished in the limbs; the animal regained activity and improved in weight. The cure was slow, but the curative dose of lemon juice was small in comparison with the severity of the case.

The relative value of these two fruit juices, deduced from the trials with monkeys, is therefore in accord with that obtained in the experiments with guinea-pigs—i.e., the value of fresh lemon juice is approximately four times that of fresh lime juice.

In conclusion, our best thanks are due to Messrs. L. Rose & Co. for generously providing us with a regular supply of fresh lime fruit from Dominica, in spite of the difficulties of transport, etc., occasioned by war-time conditions. We desire also to record our appreciation of their willing co-operation in supplying numerous special samples of crude and preserved juices, and for the accurate and detailed records made on our behalf of the methods used in their preparation. Without this assistance the above research would have been impossible.

BRITISH GUIANA'S RESOURCES.

The Record of 1917.

A record production of balata is the outstanding feature of the report for the year 1917, issued by the Lands and Mines' Department of British Guiana. The yield of the Crown forests (710,000 tons) shows an advance of 107,000 lbs. Especially noticeable is the improvement in the output from the Aboriginal Indian Reservations in Pomeroon and Berbice Rivers—an increase four times that of the previous year.

On the other hand, lack of shipping facilities is responsible for a very marked decline in the export of greenheart. This is the more regrettable, as there is a large and steady demand for this valuable timber. With this exception there has been an all-round increase in the production of woods, both hard and soft, due to enhanced activity in the building industry. Six times the quantity of railway-sleepers (made of mora) were sent out of the colony as compared with 1916.

The despatch of the first two shipments of bauxite was the principal event in connection with the mining industry. There has been, in fact, a "boom" in this mineral, but, for various reasons, enthusiasm has been chilled. Land, for the purpose of mining bauxite, was applied for, to an extent of 652,000 acres. Of these applications one-third were abandoned, withdrawn or refused, and of the remaining applications none were granted. By direction of the Imperial Government no concessions for mining bauxite will be made or promised until after the war, when the whole question will be considered in connection with the subjects of Imperial Trade and Defence. The output of gold continues to decline, the number of men engaged in the industry having declined, owing to the increased cost of foodstuffs and greater facilities for obtaining work at enhanced wages on the coastlands in connection with the sugar and rice industries and the sea defence works.

Rice, indeed, continues to show progress, both as

regards the area under cultivation—now estimated at 58,000 acres—and in the improvement of methods of tillage. The limited supply of labour and the cessation of Indian emigrants have prevented any appreciable increase in the area under canes. Another possible reason has been the uncertainty that the price of sugar will be maintained after the war, owing to foreign competition. "It is much to be desired," says the report, "that a minimum price for Colonial sugar should be guaranteed by the Imperial Government for a period of, say, ten years after the war, in like manner to the guarantee in respect of wheat given to farmers in the Homeland."

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE.

Since the election campaign was opened it has become abundantly clear that what chiefly interests the electorate is the punishment of Germany and the insistence upon indemnities. The old fiscal controversies appear fortunately to have been forgotten.

Speaking at Trowbridge on December 4th, Mr. Walter Long said that, as Colonial Secretary, he rejoiced that they had made up their minds to extend Colonial Preference to the Dominions, Crown Colonies, and Protectorates. The Government had offered Colonial Preference without conditions of any kind, and were determined that the Colonies and Dependencies should have a preference wherever it was possible to give it. He would ask those who opposed Colonial Preference two questions:—Did they believe in the Empire? Were they not going to make the Empire a reality, and something more than a name? If they could do that by wise legislation, surely it was better to get all they could out of the Empire than to be always going to foreign countries and relying upon them.

COCOA IN ECUADOR.

Mr. J. B. Rorer, Mycologist to the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad, has published in the *Bulletin*, issued by the Board, an interesting record of his visit to the cocoa estates of Ecuador—notably, those affected by serious disease. He mentions incidentally that all the estates are very large, some possessing 3,000,000 trees, while the smallest contain 250,000 to 300,000.

There are no peasant proprietors owning small plantations. In the coast region, where the cocoa is grown, all the land is in the hands of very rich persons. Very little has been done in the way of cultivation, partly because it has been possible to grow cocoa without any care and partly because of the very heavy export tax—amounting to upwards of \$3 per 100 lbs. Mr. Rorer adds:—

"The trees are planted very close, the distance varying from 6 feet to 9 feet. The soil is very rich and the trees make a very vigorous growth. No lateral branches are allowed to develop until a height of about 20 feet is reached, and in many places from 3 to 10 suckers are allowed to grow up with the main tree. Naturally the estates are very dark, and no brushing is necessary—in fact it is impossible for anything to grow in the dense shade under the cocoa trees. When the trees get old the tall slender stem cannot support the weight of the

crown of leaves, and begins to bend. Eventually all the trees become interlaced overhead. The yield per tree on good estates I was told was about one pound of dry cocoa.

"The greater part of the cocoa cultivation of Ecuador is quite free from disease; however, in districts along the foothills of the Andes where the climate is very damp, two fungus diseases have crept in and are now doing a great amount of damage, in some places destroying as much as 95 per cent. of the crop every year. These diseases are quite new and have never been recorded from any other cocoa-growing country. One is a disease of the fruit alone, while the other attacks both fruit and tree, but does the greater damage to the latter, causing a canker somewhat similar to that which we have in Trinidad. This disease is very serious on what we call Venezuelan cocoa of Ecuador but which is nothing more or less than the ordinary Trinidad Forastero, which was introduced into Ecuador some little time ago. This variety is a much more delicate tree than the so-called Nacional, which is almost universally grown through Ecuador. Many persons, however, are planting the Venezuelan variety because it bears more heavily, but if they are to succeed the entire system will have to be changed.

"Cocoa is not fermented at all but is spread out on dry floors as soon as it is brought from the field. Each night, however, it is swept into piles and covered, when of course a certain amount of fermentation does take place. The best grade of Ecuadorean cocoa is a very pretty product, the beans being a very light golden yellow in colour and of a fairly large size. The methods of drying are rather primitive. I am quite sure that the fungus diseases can be controlled, but of course it will be necessary to carry out certain experiments to prove this."

THE WEST INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.

(Continued from page 347 and concluded.)

This Pickford and Black service failed to materialise, and the temporary sailings were continued until November, 1912, when a contract with that Company having been signed, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company placed four steamers on the Canada-West Indies route.

The duration of the contract was five years from November 1st, 1913, and the subsidy £70,000 per annum, to be paid by the Dominion Government. The vessels to be employed were four 11-knot steamers each of about 5,000 tons cargo capacity, with accommodation for 40 first-class, 60 second-class, and 90 third-class passengers, and fitted with refrigeration chambers, electric light, and wireless telegraphy. The steamers were to proceed from St. John, New Brunswick, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and thence to Georgetown, British Guiana, every fourteen days, following the routes given below alternately:—

- (a) Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad, and returning from Georgetown to St. John, calling at Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts and Bermuda.
- (b) Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad, and returning from Georgetown, calling at the following islands:—Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts and Bermuda.

The itinerary was slightly modified in 1914, and in January last.

These alternate itineraries were followed until the suspension of the Intercolonial Mail Service in December, 1915, when the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, with the special consent and approval of the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce ar-

ranged for the steamers on the Canadian West Indies route to call at all the islands on the itinerary each way on every voyage, thus giving, at any rate, free intercourse between the islands which would not otherwise have been possible. No extra remuneration was asked for this additional service, which was continued up till the end of 1917, when the British Government gave notice of their intention to requisition two of the four Canadian steamers for other purposes.

This notice going into effect early in 1918 it was again necessary to revise the service which became practically a monthly one, with alternation direct sailings from St. John, N.B. and Halifax, N.S. In November last, when in ordinary circumstances the contract would have come to an end, arrangements were made for its continuance for a further period of one year, which may be considered satisfactory. Meanwhile, it is gratifying to learn that the two steamers requisitioned by the British Government are shortly to be returned to their owners—one, indeed, will sail for Demerara at the end of this month to take up her place on the station—and that the full Canadian-West Indian Service will be restored practically forthwith.

It is but fair to the contracting Company to state that in accordance with the terms of the Mail Contract the subsidy is only paid on the completed voyages—thus for the whole of 1918, when the R.M.S.P. Co. were running with two steamers, the subsidy paid for that was reduced by fifty per cent.

The following statistics regarding the Canadian service since 1900 may prove of interest :

| | Contractors. | Duration of Subsidy Years | Annual Amount. £ | Speed in Knots. |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1900 to 1905 | Pickford & Black | 5 | 27,000 | 10 |
| 1905 .. 1906 | " | 1 | 27,000 | 10 |
| 1906 .. 1910 | " | 4 | 27,000 | 10 |
| 1910 .. 1911 | " | 1 | 27,000 | 10 |
| 1911 .. 1912 | " | 1 | 13,500 | 10 |
| 1912 .. 1913 | " | 1 | 20,000 | 10 |
| 1913 .. 1914 | R.M.S.P. Co. | 5 | 70,000 | 11 |
| 1918 .. 1919 | " | 1 | say 35,000 | 11 |

Messrs. Pickford and Black, under the name of the Halifax and West India Steamship Company, still maintain a service between Halifax and Jamaica, calling at Grand Turk, for which the Canadian Government used to pay a subsidy of \$13,800 under a contract originally settled for one year from March 1st, 1908, to March 31st, 1909, and for some years afterwards carried on under an Order in Council. Now the service is conducted without a subsidy, but tenders for an improved service will, probably, soon be invited.

The latest expression of opinion by the West Indies on the question of mail communication is recorded in the following resolution adopted by the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the British West Indies at their meetings in February, 1917 :—

"That this Chamber records its belief in the possibility of arranging for improved West Indian steamship services, and recommends :—

"1. That enquiries should be made as to the possibilities 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 to 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. And that the Chamber suggests that in the new contract Boston be made a port of call for passengers only.

"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."

A Departmental Committee.

Mr. Walter Long has informed the Governors of the West Indian Colonies that he has decided to appoint a Committee to consider the probable effect of the shipping position after the war on British trade with West Indian colonies, and on Intercolonial communications, and to report on what, if any, measures should be taken to maintain adequate communications between the United Kingdom and the colonies, and to provide for increased port or other facilities for shipping. The West India Committee has been invited to nominate representatives to sit on this Committee, and Mr. R. Rutherford and Mr. H. A. Trotter have been appointed accordingly.

GRENADA PROSPERS IN WAR-TIME.

That Grenada has prospered despite all the vicissitudes of war-time is evident from the report of the Colonial Treasurer (Mr. E. D. Laborde, I.S.O.) for the year 1917-18. Revenue, imports and exports—all are "up." Each item, in fact, represents the largest figure attained in recent years, the imports constituting a record.

The revenue, £106,138, would probably have been larger but for the difficulties of importation, as prices of the colony's produce were good, and money was available to replenish stocks had these been available. Income, however, still fell short of expenditure, which amounted to £109,330.

Imports amounted to the record sum of £353,978, to which total the United States contributed £157,758, the United Kingdom coming second with £95,681. The bulk of the exports, which were valued at £480,553, represent produce of the colony. Cocoa retained its pre-eminence with an output of 104,520 cwts., valued at £42,261. Every other commodity was easily out-distanced, the nearest approach being made by nutmegs (11,818 cwts., valued at £23,521).

Trade with Canada is advancing, the exports to the Dominion amounting to £15,858, as compared with £11,518 in the preceding year. As regards imports also, Canada is an "easy first" with £23,062 worth of goods out of the total of £52,774 brought into the island under the preferential tariff.

THE GLASGOW ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the West India Association of Glasgow was held at 134, Wellington Street, in that city, on Tuesday, 26th November, Mr. Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman referred to, among other matters, the mail service to British Guiana and the West Indies, which, even before the War, had not been of a satisfactory nature. It was a hopeful sign, he said, for the future that the Government had appointed a Commission to report on communication between the West Indies and Mother Country, and on Inter-Colonial communication. Alluding to the termination of the War, he wished to give expression to the feelings of approbation called forth by the patriotic and self-restrained conduct of the communities throughout the West Indies and to the pride and admiration with which all connected with them had witnessed the noble response of the youth of those colonies to the call of duty. In large numbers they had travelled thousands of miles to take up arms, and many of them too, to lay down their lives for King and Country.

The Directors' report having been unanimously adopted, Mr. Thomas Prentice, Mr. W. N. Armour, Mr. George McCalman, and Mr. W. Scott Herriot, who retired by rotation, were re-elected. Mr. Archibald H. Donald, who for many years had acted as Hon. Treasurer, resigned owing to failing health, and Mr. Thomas W. Donald was appointed in his stead. Mr. R. W. Tomlinson was continued as Hon. Secretary.

The report deals with the conditions prevailing in the year ended June 30th last, when freight, prices and profits (in this country) were all controlled. The importance of an adequate, regular and efficient labour supply for British Guiana and the West Indian islands is emphasized, and Colonial preference is referred to as a subject which in the near future is likely to occupy general attention. The report continues:—

"Postal facilities are still very bad, but with the War ended, your Directors will press for resumption of a regular service as soon as practicable. The cheaper rate for cables has been a great boon, very materially facilitating the transaction of business throughout the War.

"A very small portion of the quantity of the manure required for the Sugar Estates in the West Indies was allocated to them during the past season. Undoubtedly the crops must suffer for lack of this essential fertiliser. The controlled export price of £32 10s. per ton f.o.b. as compared with £15 to the British farmer is an unduly heavy burden on Colonial agriculture."

ONLY British subjects are eligible for membership of the West India Committee, forms of application for which can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3, or from the Hon. Correspondents. The annual subscription is £1 1s. or \$5.00 per annum, and there is at present no entrance fee. Members are invited to strengthen the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

Princess Marie Louise attended the annual meeting of the Ladies' Committee of the West Indian Contingent Committee which, by kind permission of Lady Davson, was held at 20, Ennismore Gardens, on December 4th. The Countess of Stamford presided, and the company present included:—

The Countess of Stamford, Lady Mary Leslie, Lady Alice Leslie, Lady Sinclair, Hon. Mrs. Davson, Lady Mansfield-Clarke, Lady Fanshawe, Dowager Lady Blois and Miss Blois, Lady Cameron, Lady Hodgson, Sir William and Lady Trollope, Lady D'Jewellin and Miss D'Jewellin, Sir William and Lady Grey-Wilson, Lady Hornby, Lady Younger, Lady in Thurn, Sir James Hayes-Sadler, Sir Peter and Lady McLelland, Mrs. Deane, Mrs. Gough, Mrs. and Miss Eckstein, Mrs. Chas. Walker, Mrs. Leatroyd, Lieut.-Colonel de Boissiere, Mrs. Chas. Hancock, Mrs. P. Bowen, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Captain O. D. Harris, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Hamilton Lamplugh, Miss Camberlege, Miss Dalrymple-Hay, Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Martin-Sperry, Mrs. Finney, Miss Ainge, Mrs. Suther, Miss Hunter, Mrs. Busche, Mrs. Grahame, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Claigen, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. MacMahon, Mrs. Rigg, Miss Levy, Mrs. Singleton, Miss Thorne, Miss Barclay, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Messervy, Mrs. Baily, Mrs. Spooter, Miss Hamel-Smith, Mrs. Harley Moseley, Mrs. Napier, Mrs. Elliott, Misses Hamilton, Misses Wilkinson, Mrs. Field, Miss Matheson, Mrs. Gordon Watson, Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. R. Napier, Mrs. Kelso, Mrs. Oliphant, Mrs. Storey, Mrs. Robson, Miss Bonner, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. St. George Gray, Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Thurston.

At the outset Miss Mary Moseley, Honorary Secretary, read a report in which reference was made to the death of Lady Hayes-Sadler, which had been a subject for deep regret. The Committee had placed on record its appreciation of her services, and had expressed the deepest sympathy with Sir James Hayes-Sadler in his bereavement. Fortnightly work-parties, organised by Mrs. John Brouley, had been held at Lady Davson's residence, which, with Mrs. St. George Gray's parties, had produced many pyjamas, socks, shirts, and other garments. Welcome gifts of comforts had been received from the Ladies' Committee in Trinidad, the Ladies of Grenada and Antigua, the Daughters of the Empire and the League of the Cross of Geneva in the Bahamas, and the Bermuda Contingent Committee. After recapitulating the results of the Flag Day which was organised at the suggestion of the Ladies' Committee, the report referred to the valuable help given at the West India Committee Rooms by Mrs. Woodroffe, Miss Wilkinson, Lady Cameron, the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Miss Wharton, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Bamford, Mrs. Bamford, and Miss Mollie Moseley. The work in connection with filing, forwarding letters, and packing parcels had increased enormously, and the assistance given by these ladies had been greatly appreciated. Thanks were also accorded to the Countess of Harrowby and the Hon. Mrs. Henry Edwardes for their continued hospitality to officers from the West Indies. In conclusion, the report ran: "Hospitality and personal service to officers and men form a very important part of the work which naturally devolves upon the Ladies' Committee, and it should be borne in mind that in all probability there will be a large number of young men in London in the near future awaiting repatriation after demobilisation. It has been extremely difficult to find even accommodation for them lately, and any assistance that may be given by the Ladies' Committee in this direction will be very useful."

The adoption of the report having been moved by Lady Davson and seconded by Lady Grey-Wilson, Her Highness Princess Marie Louise spoke, and said that it was always a great pleasure to her to come to the meetings of the Committee. Now that their work was about to come to an end, she wished to express her grateful thanks to all who had worked so untiringly to give an element of interest and of home to the men who had come so far to fight for the Empire. It was a delightful addition to the meeting to have some of the men of the British West Indies Regiment to receive her, and she was deeply

touched by the kind thought which had made it possible for her to see them. Her interest in the West Indies, which she would always remember as one of the most beautiful parts of the Empire, was very real and very abiding. She was glad to know that the Flag Day had been such a success, and the results suggested much hard work on the part of all those who had helped to carry it through. She was particularly struck by the fact that the very small islands had contributed such large sums, and she felt sure that these contributions were given as a mark of patriotism and of loyalty to the men who had come so far to serve their King and Country. Her Highness referred to the question of accommodation for officers and men, which had lately become intensely serious, and reminded the Committee that the war was not yet over. She hoped that they would make the men feel that their interest and gratitude had not ceased with the signing of the armistice, and that the ladies who had done so much for them in the past few years would now do their utmost to extend hospitality to the men who had helped to bring about this marvellous and overwhelming victory. She felt that we could never do too much for the men who had gone out to save us from devastation.

Lieut.-Colonel de Boissière, who was asked to speak, said he would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Committee, on behalf of the Regiment, for all that they had done for the men. There were many things that the Committee had done besides providing comforts and games. The men would never have been able to get leave to come to England but for the Committee, who had arranged to have them taken care of and to be shown the sights of London.

Captain Harris, who was in charge of the leave party from Italy, who formed the guard of honour, gave an interesting account of the work of the Regiment in France, and of the part the 1st and 2nd Battalions had taken in the fighting in Palestine.

Sir William Grey-Wilson, on behalf of the Contingent Committee, thanked the Ladies' Committee for the assistance they had rendered, and invited them, now that they had reached the interval between the war and reconstruction, to put some of their energies into raising funds for rounding-off the work of the Committee. He also thanked Lady Davson for having so kindly allowed the meeting to be held at her house.

OBITUARY.

ARCHDEACON TURPIN.

We regret to learn of the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Edmund Adolphus Turpin in St. Vincent.

Archdeacon Turpin, who was educated at Codrington College, Barbados, was ordained Deacon in 1874 and Priest in the following year. He was Rector of St. Patrick's, Tobago, from 1887 to 1896 when he was made Rector of St. George's Cathedral in Kingstown, St. Vincent. Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Turpin, who since the war began has been Honorary Secretary of the St. Vincent Society for furnishing surgical dressings for the British Red Cross Society.

MR. A. H. BENNETT.

We regret to state that Mr. A. H. Bennett died at his residence at Blackheath, on December 3rd, after a long illness.

Mr. Bennett, who was educated at St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, joined the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Service in London, in March, 1881. He was appointed head of the Marine Department in 1903 and Secretary on November 1st, 1912. Mr. Bennett, who was in his fifty-sixth year, enjoyed well-deserved popularity amongst all with whom he came into contact. The funeral service was held at St. Germain's Church, Blackheath, at 11.45 a.m., on December 9th; cremation subsequently at Norwood.

Many officials of the Company and its Associated Lines attended the funeral service.

WEST INDIAN LEAVE PARTIES.

The second and third leave parties of N.C.O.'s and men of the British West Indies Regiment have now arrived in London, under the charge of Capt. O. D. Harris, 4th Battalion, and Lieut. Harris, 7th Battalion, respectively. The former arrived on the 28th November and the third party a week later.

The men are being lodged at the Buckingham Palace Riding School, and are being entertained during their stay by the West Indian Contingent Committee. The names of the men are as follows:

SECOND PARTY (all Jamaica except where otherwise stated).—4th Battalion: 4523 Sgt. Anderson, 6024 Lce.-Cpl. Dupuch (Bahamas), 3989 Pte. Davis, 6096 Pte. Lloyd (Bahamas), 6342 Pte. Reynolds, 3869 Pte. Brown, 5531 Pte. Hodges, 4395 Pte. Smith, and 2043 Pte. Phillips. 3rd Battalion: 3450 Sgt. Stockhausen, 4734 Cpl. Searle (Trinidad), 3648 Lce.-Cpl. McLarty, 2840 Pte. Clarke, 3002 Pte. Kinnemonth, 3300 Pte. Livingstone, 3363 Pte. Miller, 3053 Pte. Irons, 3720 Pte. Campbell, and 2757 Pte. Rose. 6th Battalion: 7521 Sgt. Bridge, 7961 Cpl. Smellie, 7023 Lce.-Cpl. Boothie, 7014 Pte. Bernard, 7470 Pte. Smith, 7307 Pte. Davis, 7554 Pte. Cargill, 7562 Pte. Chambers, 7940 Pte. Nelson, and 7982 Pte. Thompson.

THIRD PARTY.—11005 A/C.S.M. Chapman and 11354 Lce.-Cpl. King (Trinidad); 10709 Pte. Alleyne, 15139 Pte. Nellett, and 10647 Pte. Solers (Barbados); 11675 Sgt. Sheppard (St. Vincent); 11226 Pte. Howe (Montserrat); 11350 Pte. King (Dominica); 11066 Pte. Davis and 12212 Pte. Hagley (Grenada); 11288 Pte. John (St. Lucia); 11125 Pte. Fleming (St. Kitts); 12313 Sgt. Longley, 12410 Pte. Munroe, and 12675 Pte. Whitley (Bahamas); and 9833 Sgt. Cameron, 10475 Cpl. Jarnether, 1876 Lce.-Cpl. Samuels, 9805 Pte. Carnegian, 9803 Pte. Johnson, 10377 Pte. Malcolm, 10529 Pte. Rowe, and 9737 Pte. W. Davis (Jamaica).

Opportunity was taken on the arrival of the second party to furnish a Guard of Honour for Princess Marie Louise on the occasion of the Meeting of the Ladies' Committee at Lady Davson's residence on December 5th, and the smart appearance and military bearing of the men was most favourably commented upon.

A similar programme to that provided for the first party is being followed. The men have already visited in succession, the Tower of London, and the West India Committee Rooms, and Madame Tussaud's, and other places of entertainment. Every Sunday the men attend the Military Service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, and this week they were specially addressed by the Rev. — Sheppard.

The men not unaturally expressed great surprise and interest in the underground railways and traffic arrangements of London, and next to their visit to Windsor Castle, where they were received by H.R.H. Princess Alice, what has most attracted them has probably been the Exhibition of magical mysteries at Mr. Maskelyne's entertainment at St. George's Hall. On December 2nd they attended a performance of "Soldier Boy" at the Apollo, and on the preceding evening the great variety entertainment provided for the troops at the Palace Theatre.

The presence of the men in London has naturally created a good deal of attention, and they were noticed by the Queen whilst they were marching down the Mall. Captain Hiam, of the Church Army, continues to act as guide, counsellor and friend of the men, who are fortunate in being in the charge of Captain Harris, an officer who knows London.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

From November 21st to December 12th, the following contributions have been received in response to the special appeal issued by the West Indian Contingent Committee for funds to enable it to "carry on" and to meet the heavy expenses which will be incurred during the period of demobilisation—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Beneckendorff, Berger & Co. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Rt. Hon. Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| The Royal Dutch West India Mail | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Blackwood, Bryson & Co. | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Samuel Dobree & Sons ... | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Frame & Co. | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse ... | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Per Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co. :— | | | |
| Gambles Estate, Antigua... .. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Delaps Estate, Antigua | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Stapleton Estate, St. Kitts | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Molyneux Estate, St. Kitts | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Czarnikow, Ltd. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Rt. Hon. Lieut. Gen. The Earl of Dundonald, K.C.B., K.C.V.O. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| H. F. Previtte, Esq. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Messrs. Previtte & Co. | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Messrs. Booker, Bros., McConnell & Co., Liverpool Collected at Ladies' Committee Meeting, per Lady Davson | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| Norwegian Atlas Insurance Co., Ltd. | 6 | 5 | 0 |
| G. Campbell Arnott, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| J. J. Brown, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Alleyne | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. F. Bethune, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| W. S. Campbell, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. E. F. Denison | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Harding-Browne, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Howell Jones | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| J. B. Taylor, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Monsieur Georges Dureau | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| W. Smith, Esq. | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Mrs. Trent Stoughton | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| A. H. Flint, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Edward C. Hamley, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| C. B. Hamilton, Esq., C.M.G. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. F. C. Marsh | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Lamotte | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| William Morison, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| J. K. Morrison, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Colonel A. H. Nourse (further donation) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Dr. A. S. A. Ormsby | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Miss C. Previtte | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Colonel W. Tolson | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| R. W. Bailey, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Francis Fleming, C.M.G. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Jackman | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Andre Joyau, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Edward L. Agar, Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sir John Cadman, K.C.M.G. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Professor P. Carnody, F.I.C. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Capt. R. B. Fielden | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Messrs. A. Galloway & Co. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sir Gerald W. H. Codrington, Rt. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. Pears, Ltd. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| J. C. Hutson, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| J. J. Taitt, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| W. M. Howatson, Esq. | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| The Misses Cowie | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Partridge | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Alice Levy | 5 | 0 | 0 |

The West Indian Contingent Committee hopes that all firms and individuals in or connected with

the West Indies will make a prompt and liberal response to their appeal. Contributions, which will be gratefully acknowledged, may be sent to the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

BANANA FIGS IN CAMEROONS.

Sir Harry Johnston called the attention of the Secretary of the West India Committee, in April last, to a German method of drying and preserving bananas, of which he had heard from an English officer who had served in the Cameroons campaign.

Of a supply of these preserved bananas which that officer had given him, Sir Harry wrote:—"When he first gave the ugly-looking, brown, leathery strips to me, I received them with inward disdain, but nevertheless gave some to our cook to prepare. She sent up a substance like preserved ginger in appearance, which was one of the most delicious sweetmeats I have ever eaten. Being so good we ate of it sparingly. Thus the supply given us by Captain Durham lasted twelve months. The last lot sent up to the table was as good as the first. So it evidently keeps all right, for ours is a house which, though of some fame for its antiquity, is inclined to be damp."

Mr. W. Fawcett, who was consulted, thought that the bananas must have been prepared by the process in vogue in Jamaica, which is described in his book.*

It was thought, however, that the matter was of sufficient interest to justify further enquiries. The West India Committee accordingly got into touch with Captain J. M. B. Durham, of the West African Field Force, the officer referred to above, and also requested the Colonial Office to obtain a report on the subject.

The result has been an interesting report by Mr. T. Laycock, manager of the Tiko Estates in the Cameroons, which has been forwarded by Mr. F. Evans (late of Trinidad), Supervisor of Plantations in that former German colony. It runs as follows:

The making and exporting of dried bananas by the African Fruit Company was a fairly important industry before the war, as much as 20,000 kilogrammes of the dried fruit being shipped from Tiko monthly. With over 5,000 acres planted with bananas, there was always a plentiful supply available for drying. The method of drying is the same now as during German occupation, but owing to circumstances arising by reason of the war—scarcity of paper, etc.—it is not possible to pack the fruit for European trade as efficiently as was done by the Germans. The fruit to be dried is either brought in from the plantation in a ripe condition, or it is cut when mature but unripe. In this latter case the bunches are hung in the ripening sheds, which are capable of holding several hundred bunches.

When quite ripe they are picked from the bunches and the skins are removed, and the fruit is laid in rows on trays, which measure 3 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 3 in. The bottom of these trays consists of a wire mesh, or, in other types, of numerous narrow strips of wood, the object being to provide ready access of heat to the fruit, and thus enable it to be dried quickly and uniformly.

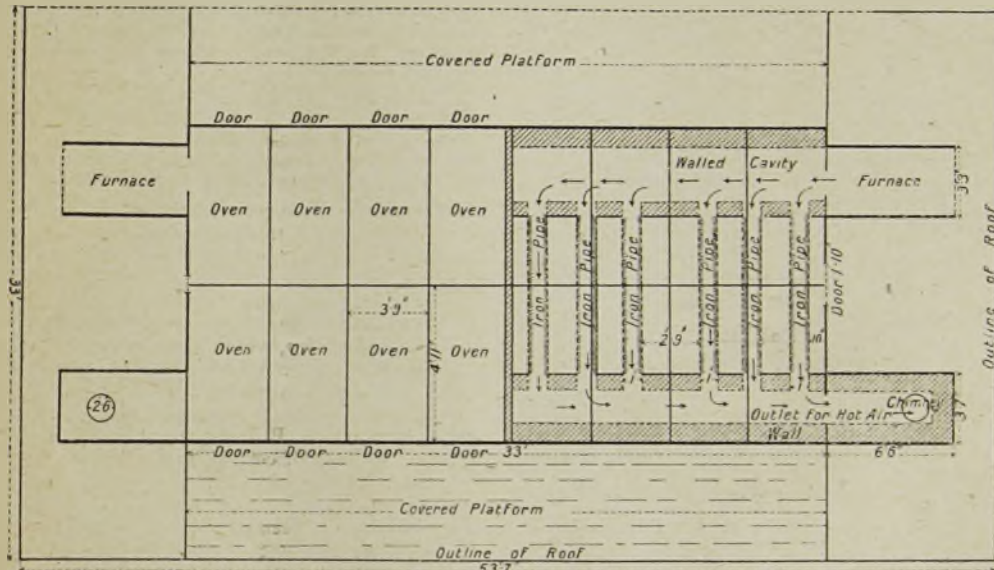
The drying-house is a brick and cement structure which is built from a cement floor 4 ft. below the surface of the surrounding ground. This structural arrangement brings the heating apparatus slightly below the level of the ground, and as a result a greater heat value accrues. The

*"The Banana: its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses." London: Duckworth & Co.

cement area from which the building arises measures 53 ft. 7 in. long by 33 ft. wide, and all this is entirely roofed in.

The building proper, the outline of which is shown in red in the attached plan, is divided into two equal entities by a 9 in. brick wall. Each half has its own separate heating apparatus, so that if desired, only one half of the building can be heated. The furnace and the air outlet are shown as walled projections from the main building, and they only reach the height of the level of the floor of the ovens. For clearness the heating apparatus is shown only in the right half of the plan, whilst the outline of the ovens, which are immediately above the heating apparatus, is shown to the left.

The heating apparatus consists of a furnace which leads into a walled cavity which possesses six outlets in the form of 12 in. iron pipes, through which the hot air is conveyed to another walled cavity at the other side of the building, and from here it passes out by a chimney which



PLAN OF BANANA-DRYING HOUSE AT TIKO.

passes a small distance above the roof of the building. Efficient structural arrangements exist which ensure the easy cleaning of the heating apparatus, and this is very desirable, as wood-ashes accumulate rapidly from the fuel consumed.

In all there are 16 ovens for drying the bananas. Each of these is 3 ft. 9 in. wide, 4 ft. 11 in. deep, and 6 ft. high. The floor consists of a wire mesh. Each oven holds 20 trays, which are supported by small iron shelves projecting from the walls.

In the roof of each oven there is a small door, which can be raised or lowered by means of a pulley and chain worked from the outside. In this way the moist air is removed from time to time.

The length of time taken to dry the banana is three days.

As the average number of bananas which can be placed on a tray is 160, it follows from what has been written above that the total number of bananas which can be dried at any one time is $160 \times 20 \times 16 = 51,200$, or approximately 420 average sized bunches.

The average number of bananas per kilogramme is 56, so that the drying-plant is capable of drying approximately 920 kilogrammes (18 cwt. 10 lbs.) at a time.

As the doors of the ovens open out upon a covered platform, all the work of drying and packing is done under cover. It is only necessary to add that the ovens, trays, and labourers concerned are kept scrupulously clean.

The dried fruit is at present packed in baskets and boxes lined with dried banana leaves, and as large stocks are never kept on hand, the fruit is always freshly dried just prior to despatching.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS.

Our colonies are so dependent on sea-borne trade that it is not surprising to learn that they are among the most generous supporters of King George's Fund for Sailors, which was inaugurated in August, 1917, with Prince Albert as President.

The object of the fund is to centralise the appeals for support for the Marine Benevolent Institutions, among which £55,000 has already been distributed, as the result of the first six months work. The fund is intended to benefit "all who go down to the sea in ships" on their legitimate occupations, whether they be in the Royal Navy, or merchant service, or are humble fishermen.

As far as the West Indies are concerned the most generous response has so far been from Barbados, where the Hon. W. Lambert C. Phillips, M.B.E.—who seems to be the standing Hon. Treasurer of all charitable funds in the island—has collected no less than £5,821. From Trinidad £500 has been received, while the Bahamas have so far contributed £50. It should be added that the headquarters are at Trinity House, London, E.C.3, to which subscriptions, addressed to H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, may be sent.

The charge for announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line.

BIRTH.

DEWAR.—On the 4th October, 1918, at Rozelle, Morant Bay, Jamaica, the wife of R. Kelly Dewar—a daughter.

DEATHS.

DAVIDSON-ARNOTT.—On November 30th, from pneumonia following influenza, Jocelyn Agnes, daughter of Thomas and Edith Davidson-Arnott, Trinidad, B.W.I., aged 12 years.

TODD.—On the 2nd December, at 13, Coleherne Road, Kensington, of pneumonia following influenza, Helen McL. Todd, daughter of the late Mr. Edward Garner Todd, Saint Kitts.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

LIEUT. J. BRUCE SMALL, Royal Air Force, who was killed in action on August 2nd, aged 21, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kay Small, formerly of Georgetown, British Guiana.

LIEUTENANT VINCENT ISAACS, 9th Royal Fusiliers, who was killed in action on September 21st, was the eldest son of Mr. Ralph Isaacs, the Managing Commissioner of the Kingston General Commissioners, Jamaica. At the outbreak of war he was practising as a barrister in London after a distinguished University career.

SECOND LIEUT. ALFRED IRVING, who was killed in action in Mesopotamia on October 26th, was the youngest son of Dr. M. H. C. Irving, of 7, Rochester Terrace, Edinburgh, and formerly of British Guiana. Born in Georgetown, Demerara, on April 21st, 1899, he was educated at Emsom College. He entered the Indian Army in June, 1918, being gazetted to the 16th Sikhs, and he was attached to the 14th Sikhs at the time of his death.

DIED OF SICKNESS.

SECOND LIEUT. BASIL CAHUSAC, of the 11th British West Indies Regiment, died in hospital in England on October 29th of pneumonia following influenza. When taken ill this young officer, who came over with a Jamaica Contingent was going through an officers' course. He was buried on November 1st.

LIEUT.-COLONEL A. H. SHIPLEY, the Officer Commanding the 11th Battalion, British West Indies Regiment, who we regret to say has died in Hospital in Italy from pneumonia, went through the South African War in the "King's Own." At the outbreak of war, Lieut.-Colonel Shipley went out to Jamaica and returned with the Contingent which was recruited in that island. He was extremely popular with all ranks in the British West Indies Regiment.

LIEUT. T. B. H. BERKELEY, Suffolk Regiment, attached M.C.C., who died on November 9th in Italy of bronchial pneumonia following influenza, was son of the late Humphry Berkeley, of Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, and Suva, Fiji, and husband of Marjorie Berkeley (née Pritchard); aged 32. At the outbreak of the War Lieut. Berkeley, then manager of one of Messrs. Duplop's rubber estates in Borneo, threw up his post, arriving in England in November, 1914, when he enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment. In 1916 he obtained a commission in the Suffolk Regiment, and later was attached to the Machine Gun Corps. From 1915 to the early part of 1918 Lieut. Berkeley saw service in France, when he was transferred to Italy, where he succumbed to a severe attack of influenza the day after the Armistice was signed. Lieut. Berkeley was born at Fountain Estate, St. Kitts, going with his parents to Fiji at an early age. He was educated at Paramatta College, Sydney, and subsequently came to England to study for the Bar.

MAJOR, ACTING LIEUT.-COLONEL, LEONARD MONTAGUE GREENWOOD, M.C., Durham Light Infantry, was educated at Dulwich College. He then entered the office of Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co., with whom he was training when war broke out. In 1912 he visited the West Indies as a member of the staff of Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Graham & Co. At Dulwich he gained his first fifteen colours, and afterwards played for the Old Alleynians and for Surrey. When in British Guiana he was in the reserve to the eleven which represented the Colony against the M.C.C. At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the Universities and Public Schools Brigade, and in December, 1914, received a Commission in the Durham L.I. He went to the front with his battalion in August, 1915, and served continuously with them through much severe fighting until the time of his death. He was awarded the Military Cross, was recommended for a bar, and was mentioned in despatches. On the occasion of his leave for another front the Brigadier wrote—"He is one of the best officers of his rank I have known during the war." He was appointed Major when 24 years of age, and was recommended for a further decoration. His Brigadier writes—"The success of the operations on October 10th, near Le Cateau, was in a large measure due to the excellent leadership of your son and his example of personal bravery."

HOMEWARD MAILS.

ANTIGUA—Copious Rains.

MR. A. P. COWLEY, NOVEMBER 7th.—During October the dry spell broke, and fine rain fell all over the island. This has continued, as much as five inches being registered in some parts. Plant canes are looking very green and vigorous, but ratoons have not yet responded to the same degree, and are very low. Crops next year will be below the average.

The Hon. Donald McDonald gave an address to the Agricultural and Commercial Society recently on "West Indian Interests in London during War-time," and spoke specially of the work of the West India Committee and the West Indian Contingent Committee, highly eulogising the work of Miss Moseley in particular, which he described as being "beyond all praise." He advocated also the formation of a local committee. Mr. F. H. Watkins had announced that as a result of "Our Day," £1,500 would be sent to the Red Cross Fund, or more than seven times as much as last year.

Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Shephard on the death of her brother, who has been drowned on his way back from Africa.

The affairs of the Islands Circuit Cinema Co. are to be the subject of investigation by a Committee comprising Mr. Scott Johnston and Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin.

BARBADOS—Estate sold for £80,000.

It is announced that Waterford Plantation, the property of Messrs. Collymore Bros., has been sold for £80,000 to the syndicate which recently purchased Applewhaite's Plantation.

BRITISH GUIANA—Proposed Sale of Railway.

Correspondence published in the local Press announces the willingness of the Directors of the Demerara Railway Co. to negotiate with the Government for the sale of their property to the colony. In July the Assistant Government Secretary had notified the Company that the Government would be prepared, subject to the approval of the Combined Court and the Secretary of State, to acquire the railway, provided that suitable terms could be arrived at, and that the Company were willing to negotiate. The Company have now replied expressing willingness to receive proposals to that end, and to discuss them with a view to a definite offer being placed before the shareholders.

The Government Secretary, Mr. Clementi, who has been on a tour of inspection of the North-West District, mentioned in an interview upon his return the little-known fact that a cattle trail exists between Arakaka and the Venezuelan township of Tumercemo, and Mr. Clementi is hopeful of a trade route developing between the colony and the adjoining Republic along this line. He discussed various projects to this end with the Governor of the Delta-Amiaco territory in Venezuela.

News has been received with great regret of the death in West Africa of Mr. L. J. Muss, Inspector of Maritime Customs, Gold Coast, a native of British Guiana. Mr. Muss, who was 45 years of age, succumbed to an attack of influenza. Prior to his promotion to the Gold Coast, Mr. Muss was attached to the Customs Service of this colony.

A petition by the porters for increased wages to meet the economic situation created by the War has been met by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has agreed to pay casual men \$1.20 per day, and boys 96 cents; stevedore labourers \$1.44 per day. Regular wharf porters hitherto receiving \$4.80 per week will be given an increase of 16 cents per day, and boys similarly employed an increase of 12 cents per day.

MR. J. C. McCOWAN.—There has been a fall of two inches of rain in Beridge, but in Demerara it is still painfully dry, and the cultivation is suffering. The water in the conservancies is getting lower every day, and some estates have been compelled to stop grinding owing to the difficulty of getting canes to the mill.

A house-to-house Red Cross collection is being held to-day. The shortage of flour has been relieved to some extent by recent arrivals. Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.P.

F.R., has returned to the Colony after his holiday. Captain J. M. Reid, Comptroller of Customs, has been appointed an official member of the Court of Policy, in place of the Acting Auditor-General. I regret to state that Mr. Carl Wisting died on October 20th.

GRENADA—The Island's Exports in 1917-18.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son for the following figures of the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines:—

| Crops. | Cocoa. | Spice. | Cotton. | Cotton seed. |
|---------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------------|
| Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. | bags. | pk'gs. | bales. | bags. |
| 1917-1918 | 68,240 | 16,368 | 1,730 | 3,953 |
| 1916-1917 | 78,852 | 10,439 | 930 | 4,450 |
| 1915-1916 | 80,031 | 12,254 | 1,166 | 5,770 |
| 1914-1915 | 62,315 | 10,953 | 1,218 | 6,587 |
| 1913-1914 | 66,502 | 11,696 | 1,199 | 6,203 |

Of the above, the following were shipped to:—

| | North America. | Barbados. |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1917-1918 | 43,801 | 3,938 |
| 1916-1917 | 30,184 | 4,450 |
| 1915-1916 | 29,747 | 5,754 |
| 1914-1915 | 20,271 | 5,564 |
| 1913-1914 | 17,608 | 2,635 |

And the remainder to Europe

ST. KITTS—Some willing War-workers.

MR. E. J. SHELFORD, NOVEMBER 8th.—Our Red Cross efforts closed on October 24th with a very successful race and sports meeting held at Pond Pasture. The total amount raised locally is £1,469 19s. 9d. Many of our citizens subscribed handsomely to the fund. The majority of estates contributed to a Red Cross Cotton Bale. His Honour the Administrator and Mrs. Burdon have been indefatigable in attending to several functions organised for the cause, and in inspiring local enthusiasm. Amongst those who may be mentioned as being prominent in promoting gatherings and giving substantial help are Messrs. H. R. Melville, D. H. Matheson, I. Connell, W. C. Stephens, F. R. Shepherd, J. R. Yearwood, H. Walwyn, W. E. Veira, E. Pereira, and others. No function can be a perfect success without the charming presence and aid of the ladies, and only the exigencies of the paper shortage prevents my sending you a list. The weather is favourable for the growing crops, fine showers falling almost daily.

ST. LUCIA—Health Progress.

The report of the Health Officer discloses a vigorous attempt to cope with the insanitary condition of the Roseau Valley during the year ended March 31st last. This populous area is described as having been in a deplorable state for years past, the chief cause being lack of legal powers to enforce cleanliness. The way was opened up for a hook-worm campaign, with beneficial results as regards the increase of typhoid, which, however, still remained high.

Six cases of pellagra are reported by the Medical Superintendent as having occurred among the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum during the year 1917-18. Attributing these cases to a deficiency of fresh meat in the dietary, the Superintendent eliminated salt fish and salt beef from the diet and substituted similar quantities of fresh fish and fresh beef. Three cases rapidly improved under this treatment, and three died. The outbreak, says the Superintendent, confirms the suggestion that pellagra is due to a deficiency of protein in the diet.

ST. VINCENT—Work of the Post Office.

The revenue of the Post Office during the official year 1917 showed an increase of nearly £200, although the number of letters (188,000) dealt with shows a decrease of 18,000, and the value of the money order transactions is down by £2,669 compared with the previous year.

The revenue of the island during 1917-18, according to the official report recently gazetted, was £35,000—an advance of £2,658 on the previous year. The largest increase of income from any industrial source was furnished by licenses and Excise duties. Customs dues, however, were down by £1,844. Imports made a decided jump forward, the total value—£122,144—being the largest for the past four years, and an advance upon 1916 of £29,783. As regards countries of origin, there is a close competition for first place between the United States (£38,512) and the United Kingdom (£36,492). Canada comes second with £27,950. Of the exports, (£104,397), island produce is, represented by £99,784. More than half this produce

(£58,276) went to the United Kingdom. It is notable that the bulk of the remainder went to the other British West Indian Islands, Canada and the United States being represented by very small figures.

TRINIDAD—"The Day" at last.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP, NOVEMBER 13th.—The news of the signing of the Armistice was received yesterday with real enthusiasm and delight. Every store immediately closed, the whole place sprung suddenly into a blaze of decoration, and the populace high and low paraded the streets in motor cars, or other conveyances, gaily decked, or on foot, almost everyone carrying a flag of some sort, and singing patriotic songs. It was significant to note that in these days of the dethronement of kings in other countries, the first impulse of the people of Trinidad was to sing "God save the King." This morning the full text of the terms is published, and we are gratified to find that the undue leniency some of us feared would be shown is not in evidence.

It looks very much as if another Trinidad oil boom is coming on. After all, the success of some of the existing companies would seem to justify it. More and more it becomes evident that only the fringe of the oil resources of the colony has been tapped. Lands said to be oil bearing and oil rights are being bought up in many directions, and new syndicates formed to work them. One of these, registered as lately as August last, has not only commenced active work, but struck oil in a good bearing well at 850 feet yesterday. I refer to the Oropouche Oil-fields, Ltd., of which Mr. W. B. Mitford was the organiser, Mr. Ralph Slye, the local attorney, and Mr. F. R. Falconer, the geologist. The strike was in the "Fyzabad" field, not far from the famous wells of the Trinidad Leasehold Company.

Several English cricketers of note will remember "Float" (J. Woods), Trinidad's demon fast bowler, one of the professionals of the Queens' Park Cricket Club. He was first "discovered" by that much-loved sportsman of the time, Captain Arthur Baker, Commandant of Police, who spotted his ability when he used to field as a boy, and bowl when he got the chance thirty years ago when the members of the old Sovereign Club were practising at the nets on the Savannah. He had an extraordinary free delivery without any apparent effort. I don't suppose any other first-class bowler ever got in so fast a ball after so short a run. Just a pace or two, a long easy swing and the ball would leave at a pace that a Richardson could alone have equalled. Float was never known to wear boots until Lucas's team came here in 1895, although I think Pelham Warner in one of his books puts down this notable incident to some years later, but be that as it may, Lucas and his merry men had the surprise of their lives when they found the class of bowling put up against them, and they were mostly men of no small amateur merit. Again, when Lord Hawke's team subsequently visited us, Float and another man named Cumberland disposed of the whole eleven in one innings for 58 runs, each bowler clean bowling four, and bowling and catching one—a remarkable performance. Float subsequently went to England with the West Indian team and headed the bowling average. Poor Float's education outside cricket had been somewhat neglected, and he could not read. At the banquet given to the team before their departure, the Lord Chief Justice in the Chair, he was sadly put out in the gorgeous surroundings, but more so when the menu was presented to him and he was asked for his order. He looked at it long and earnestly, and then got out of the difficulty by saying, "Oh, give me the same as that gentleman," referring to our late much appreciated Secretary, W. C. Nock, who sat beside him.

When Captain Baker went to Demerara, he made a wager with the Georgetown Club that he would find a team to beat them, and he wired to me to send Float—a surprise packet—and he elected afterwards to remain there for some years. Then he returned, but his right arm had lost its cunning, and the cricket field knew him no more. A few weeks ago I chanced to see him in a gang of men working for the Public Works Department, and had a chat with him over old times, but he was not the same "Float," and now a paragraph in the paper records his death at the Colonial Hospital and burial last week. The days of fast bowling are perhaps over, but if they do return the West Indies will not produce a better, even if they can equal one of Float's stamp.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—6542 Central.
Telegrams—"Carib, London."

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
December 12th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.
SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | S. | D. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lumps, &c. | 84 | 9 |
| W.I. Cr. stabilised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee. As from December 30th the allowance of sugar to confectioners and manufacturers will be increased to 50 per cent. of the quantity used by them in 1915. As from January 27th next, the domestic sugar ration will be raised from 8 ozs. to 12 ozs.

Raw sugar imports into the U.K. in the eleven months ended November 30th last amounted to 25,097,375 cwts., against 23,053,195 cwts. for the same period in 1917 and 21,213,225 cwts. in 1916. Refined sugar imports for the same period were 364,652 cwts. (1918), 3,084,573 cwts. (1917), and 7,731,703 cwts. (1916).

Complaints are being received from all over the country regarding the inferior quality of "muscovado," the sugar which is being forced upon the public, and it is regarded as imperative that the standard of this kind of sugar should be raised. It is hard on the regular importers that the good name of grocery muscovado should be prejudiced by inferior grades being introduced. The West India Committee has suggested that permission might be granted for manufacturers to purchase the darker qualities as an extra rate at grocery prices. Unless something of this kind is done, muscovado will get a very bad name.

The West India Committee has addressed the Sugar Commission, expressing surprise that it should have been considered necessary to control molasses at a time when relaxation of Government restrictions of trade was looked for. It has further urged that existing contracts may be recognised.

Canada having now purchased the greater part of the Santo Domingo crop, the Royal Commission has now began purchasing West Indian sugar on the basis of 25/10 per cwt. f.o.b. landing weights.

New York quotations: 7.28c. per lb. delivered basis 96%. Willett and Gray's preliminary world's estimate for 1918-19 give a total of 16,819,635 tons (12,463,645 tons of cane and 4,356,000 tons of beet), as against 17,114,386 tons in 1917-18 and 16,986,647 in 1916-17. They anticipate a Cuban crop of 3,600,000 tons.

A copy of the new Cuban Contract, the main features of which have already been given in this summary, can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

Himely gives the final figure of the Cuban 1917-18 crop as 3,444,605 tons. On account of the facility of calculating 7 bags of sugar to one ton, it has been the invariable custom in statistical work to figure Cuban bags as containing only 320 lbs. of sugar, but the crop is almost entirely put up in bags containing 325 lbs. Spanish (the Spanish Libra = 1.0161 lbs. avoirdupois), so that, while making full allowance for a moderate quantity of smaller bags used, the amount of sugar actually produced amounted easily to more than 3,500,000 tons.

The West India sugar statistics in London on Dec. 7th were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | Tons. |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Imports | 36,207 | 80,984 | 54,244 | |
| Deliveries | 89,399 | 74,728 | 56,688 | |
| Stock | 7,795 | 14,271 | 8,661 | |

COCOA The imports into the United Kingdom in the eleven months ended November 30th were 638,521 cwts. in 1918, 1,139,528 cwts. in 1917, and 1,640,527 cwts. in 1916. Imports of West Indian included in these amounts were 150,847 cwts. in 1918, 145,304 cwts. in 1917, and 205,340 cwts. in 1916.

Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz.:—

| | S. | D. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 85 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad cocoa during October, 1918, were as follows:—

| Destination. | Weight in lbs. |
|------------------------|----------------|
| To all countries | 3,839,408 |
| Shipped previously | 49,457,565 |
| Total from January 1st | 53,296,973 |

| To same date | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | 1914 | 1913 | 1912 | 1911 | 1910 | 1908 | 1907 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 67,890,372 | 50,636,017 | 44,258,053 | 60,745,517 | 45,780,272 | 40,143,025 | 42,127,478 | 49,332,789 | 41,967,587 | 37,020,821 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 35,052,616 |

At the time of writing both colonial and foreign cocoa may be imported into the United Kingdom. Since Armistice Day, a good deal of speculation in foreign countries of production has been reported. The Gold Coast market has been firm at 38/- to 40/- f.o.b.

| The stocks in London on December 7th were:— | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Trinidad | 25,285 | 19,075 | 17,828 |
| Grenada | 7,124 | 18,087 | 11,862 |
| Total of all kinds | 130,128 | 223,253 | 216,453 |

COFFEE. The Board of Trade returns show a remarkable decline in the imports of coffee into the United Kingdom, the figures for the eleven months ended November 30th being 131,715 cwts. in 1918, 548,948 cwts. in 1917, and 1,450,135 cwts. in 1916.

Values have declined. No relaxation of import restrictions has yet been reported.

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz.: ordinary 36d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d., subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

The Sea Island Cotton Order, 1918, which prevented dealing in Sea Island cotton without a permit, has been withdrawn.

In the 48 weeks ended November 28th, 136,986 bales of cotton, of which 6,111 were British West Indian, were imported into the United Kingdom.

COPRA. Price as fixed—46 c.i.f. Liverpool.

RUM. Imports of rum for the eleven months ended November 30th amounted to 2,738,467 proof gallons in 1918, 4,443,131 in 1917, and 9,353,663 in 1916. The rum imported this year was for war requirements.

The market is still very firm in Jamaica, but buyers here are not much interested.

| The stocks in London on December 7th were:— | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Jamaica | 3,938 | 7,769 | 10,657 |
| Demerara | 10,722 | 6,520 | 10,877 |
| Total of all kinds | 19,798 | 22,114 | 36,705 |

HONEY. Only small supplies of West Indian were offered at last auction, Dominica and St. Lucia selling at 230/- to 232/6 per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Concentrated steady, with sales at £30. Raw neglected; sellers ask 4/- for good quality.

SPICES. Nutmegs and Mace: are still quiet. Pimento is still quite lifeless, the second hand holders pressing to realise; importers still quote 6d.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA. The West India Committee is pressing for the early release of increased supplies of this fertiliser for the British West Indies at more reasonable prices.

ASPHALT. Trinidad exports from January 1st to October 31st, 53,854 tons as against 87,746 tons for the same period in 1917.

OIL. The exports from Trinidad in October show a substantial falling-off, but shipments for the year continue in advance of last year, viz.:—33,045,641 gal against 27,312,572 in the previous year.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXIII

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The present number completes Volume XXXIII, of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the title page and Index of which will be published with an early 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.

The West India Committee Rooms,

Telephone : 5642 CENTRAL.
15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
Telegrams : CARIB, LONDON.
December 26th, 1918.

Raleigh and British Guiana.

IN connection with the Raleigh Tercentenary celebrations, SIR SIDNEY LEE delivered a scholarly address on that great Englishman's discovery of Guiana at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on December 10th. SIR SIDNEY'S main purpose, which he achieved with distinction, was to describe the only piece of exploration which RALEGH undertook in the New World. He showed how it was by proxy from London that discoverer directed his attempted colonisation of Virginia, which never took him across the Atlantic. RALEGH put his personal capabilities as a traveller and explorer of a new country to no test except in South America—on his Expedition of 1595, of which he published the very picturesque and graphic narrative that now ranks among masterpieces of our literature of travel. Moreover, RALEGH drew with his own pen an elaborate map, which is now preserved in the British Museum, of the very difficult region in Guiana which he traversed. SIR SIDNEY

gave a fascinating account of the historic search for the fabled City of Gold, and illustrated the difficulties of the country through which the explorer passed, and the types of the natives whom he met with many excellent lantern slides reproduced from photographs by SIR WALTER EGERTON and also by SIR EVERARD IM THURN, whom the lecturer properly placed on a footing with such great travellers as HUMBOLDT and SCHOMBURGK for scientific knowledge of the interior of Guiana. As was to be expected reference was made in the discussion which followed to the development of our great South American Colony. SIR WALTER EGERTON, who was in the chair, in the course of some interesting remarks, said that he looked with greater favour on agriculture than on mining in considering the development of Guiana, and he pointed out that the rivers did not help people to reach the hinterland, but proved rather an obstacle to their doing so, owing to the numerous cataracts by which they are obstructed. Up to the present the Colony had relied entirely on the rivers; and SIR WALTER even went so far as to say that if the rivers had not been there we could by now have had a railway, and with it the development of the interior. This condemnation of the rivers was, we venture to think, a little too severe. Only in last CIRCULAR we were able to announce that SIR WILFRED COLLETT was contemplating the utilisation of the falls and rivers of the Colony for the provision of electric power—a proposal which, if it materialises, may revolutionise the economic conditions of the Colony—and we must not overlook the great value which the open reaches of the rivers are likely to have in the near future as landing places (if we may be pardoned the Irishism) for seaplanes or flying boats, which are certain to play an important part in solving the question of communication in the West Indies and Guiana. It will be recalled that last year we outlined a scheme for aerial communication in the West Indies, and we hope that now that hostilities have ceased steps may be taken to give effect to the suggestions which we made. On all sides we hear of schemes for mail and even passenger services by aeroplane, seaplane, or flying boat, and the West Indies are, as we have shown, ideally suited for the two last named forms of heavier than air machines, and will, we hope, be in the van in this movement and not be content to lag behind. But we are digressing from the subject of SIR SIDNEY LEE'S lecture, and must conclude by expressing the hope that it will be published and circulated in those Colonies which owe so much to SIR WALTER RALEGH'S initiative.

The Canadian Steamer Service.

THE extension of the contract for the Canada-West Indies steamer service, which would in ordinary circumstances have terminated on Oct. 31st last, is a matter for congratulation to the West Indian colonies concerned, which must be very grateful to Canada for the assistance which they have received from her in this connection during the past five years. The service has proved a conspicuous success. It has been largely patronised by passengers both to and from Canada, and shippers have derived very great benefit from it, especially since the outbreak of war, the freight rates having compared most favourably with those prevailing on other trade routes. Early in the present year the steamers plying on the service were reduced to two, owing to Government requirements; but the *Chignecto*, one of the requisitioned vessels, will shortly be on her way to Demerara to resume her place on the station, whilst the other will, as we are informed, shortly follow. Presumably, the future of this service will come within the purview of the Departmental Committee on West Indian communications, which is to meet at the Colonial Office early in the new year. As we showed in the series of articles on West Indian mail communication, which was brought to a close in last CIRCULAR, the improved service was cradled in a shipping boom, and it is probable that its successor will suffer similarly. It is certain that even for the continuance of the present arrangements a heavy subsidy will be needed. Still more will it be necessary if, as we hope it may be, the service is still further improved by the provision of larger vessels. Hitherto Canada has footed the bill, but the time has come when the West Indian colonies will have to decide how far they themselves will be prepared to go in meeting the expense of the service. Canada will expect this, and in view of the improved financial position of the British West Indies—at any rate the sugar-producing colonies—her attitude is not unreasonable. Possibly in this connection the proposals for a fast mail service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies *via* Canada may be revived; but whatever may be decided on we may be sure that for the reasons already given a direct service between the mother country and the West Indies will still be called for.

SIR GEORGE LE HUNTE has been appointed Overseas Commissioner for the Boy Scouts' Movement, whose headquarters are at 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

THE special committee appointed by the London Chamber of Commerce to consider questions connected with trade during and after the war in its fourth report (which the Chamber has adopted) states that there can be no question that, as regards the British Empire, the case for Imperial Preference is stronger to-day than ever, and whatever may be determined by the Allied Powers as regards their future commercial relations, freedom of action within the British Empire will doubtless be reserved. The removal of double income-tax and the adjustment of double death duties within the Empire should be dealt with. To prevent "dumping" they advocate a scheme under which "the home consumption values in the country of origin, substantiated by Consular invoices or certificates of origin, shall be the basis upon which admission is granted."

NOTES OF INTEREST.

"If fool no go ah market, bad sinting neber sell."

MR. GEORGE GRANT has left for Trinidad, where he will spend the winter.

THE Home Hotel at St. George's, Grenada, has changed hands. Mr. A. B. Steele having retired, it has been acquired by Mr. C. H. Gordon Short.

THROUGH the energy of Mrs. N. Woolward, wife of the manager of the local branch of the Colonial Bank, a "Self-Help Association" has been opened at the corner of Hanover Street and Bow Lane in Roseau, Dominica.

MR. F. G. AFLALO, the great authority on fishing, who died on December 9th, visited the West Indies in 1906, and in the following year published a book entitled "Sunshine and Sport in Florida and the West Indies," which was reviewed in these columns.

DR. REGINALD PERCY COCKING, a member of the staff of the London School of Tropical Medicine, who died on the same day, was Bacteriologist and Resident Surgeon at the Yaws Hospital in Grenada in 1913. The subject of his M.D. Thesis was Ankylostomiasis in Grenada.

MUCH sympathy will be felt in West Indian circles for Sir Gerald Strickland in the loss which he has just sustained through the death of his wife, Lady Edeline Strickland, who has died at Malta, was the daughter of the seventh Earl De la Warr.

THE West India Committee's request for war trophies for the West Indian Colonies has been met by the offer of fourteen German machine-guns. It was hoped that specimens of larger ordnance might be available, but the War Office Trophies Committee state that sufficient guns will not be available, as only those unclaimed by any unit—which are few in number—can be distributed.

IT will cost some £18,000,000 to restore the French beet sugar factories destroyed during the German invasion, according to the estimate of a French manufacturer who has been interviewed by *Facts about Sugar* (New York). Of the 216 sugar factories in France, 160 were totally destroyed or seriously damaged. Five years is considered the minimum period required to restore the French sugar industry to a point that will enable it to approach the normal production of the pre-war period.

"AS Jamaica lies so near Cuba, Porto Rico, and San Domingo," writes the *Louisiana Planter*, "we can hardly have other than a very kindly interest in it and in its success." Referring to the efforts now being made in Jamaica for the development of practical and theoretical agricultural education, the *Planter* says: "If the present intentions of the Jamaicans are carried on for some years, it is manifest that some of the glories of the old Jamaica of a hundred years ago will come to her again under the new order of modern agricultural life."

REFERRING to our recent paragraphs regarding the Molasses Association, a correspondent writes to say that Ohlenschlager Bros. were the largest importers of molasses into the United Kingdom, and that the firm is entirely British, the sole partner being a Londoner born. During the war every fit employee volunteered for service with the Colours, and Mr. Ohlenschlager's only son was in command of H.M.S. *Lizard*, which fought the *Goeben* and *Breslau*, and the latter vessel sank, for which brilliant and brave act he was awarded the D.S.O.

SIR EVERARD IM THURN, who recently read a paper on "The Present State of the Pacific Islands" before the Royal Society of Arts, is at present one of the busiest men in London. Chairman of the Peel House Club, a hostel

frequented by West Indians, he looks after the interests of many Colonial Contingents. Sir Walter Egerton, who took part in the discussion on Sir Everard's paper, expressed the opinion that the British Government might take a hint from the French and give more direct assistance to the development of our larger tropical possessions.

AMONG the numerous bodies doing war work in the West Indies, one of the most successful was the War Entertainment Committee, formed in Barbados at the instance of Mr. S. Manning. It comprised Mr. S. Manning (President), Mr. G. Laurie Pile, Mrs. E. G. Pilgrim, Mrs. W. L. C. Phillips, Mrs. J. R. Bancroft, Mrs. J. E. Bridger, Mrs. G. A. McKinstry, and Mrs. G. B. Evelyn (Hon. Treasurer and Secretary). The Committee was also helped by Mrs. D. C. Da Costa and Mrs. E. H. Bannister, who kindly gave entertainments towards the fund, which amounted to £462 10s.

INCREDIBLE though it may seem, a few—fortunately a very few—members of the West India Committee are still in arrears with their subscription for the present year, 1918. The few still in arrears give much trouble to the Hon. Treasurers. We hope that those "whom the cap fits" will blush for shame and hasten to pay what is due, which they can do at any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada. When the present CIRCULAR reaches the West Indies, subscriptions for 1919 will also be due, and it is hoped that those "stumping up" for 1918 will make amends for their delay by being the first to pay their subscriptions for the New Year.

THE West India Committee has received a letter from the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply stating that the arrangements in connection with the control of molasses were very carefully considered, and were framed after full attention had been given to all the circumstances of the cases. They add that "as regards the future, the Commission is at one with your Committee in thinking that the control should not be continued any longer than is absolutely necessary, and it will not fail to seize the earliest opportunity that may seem appropriate for putting an end to it."

JAVANESE labourers are reaching the Dutch colony of Surinam through the Pauanna Canal. Six hundred have already arrived at Paramaribo, and 500 more are daily expected there. Meanwhile, though the labour situation in British Guiana becomes steadily worse, no efforts are apparently being made to attract immigrants to that colony. In view of India's attitude, it is probable that new sources will have to be tapped. Might not Kanakas—who are now precluded from emigrating to Australia, where they proved splendid workers on the sugar estates of Queensland—be induced to settle in our South American colony?

FRENCH and British Guiana were the only avenue for goods coming in transit from the United Kingdom, says the British Vice-Consul, reporting on the trade of Surinam in 1917. Despite lack of tonnage, exports show a decided increase on the previous year, balata (£258,552) heading the list, and sugar (£223,519) coming second. The cocoa crop was better, but low prices and low rate of exchange caused much loss. Coffee cultivation steadily increased, passing the production of the previous year by nearly 8,000 bags. Had shipping opportunities been favourable, the profits would have been great as regards gold production; the returns of one company show an increase, but for the rest, conditions were bad, labour short, and cost of production much greater.

WANTS.

A VERY fine collection of West India and British Guiana Birds, all stuffed ready for mounting; perfect skins; any offer considered.—Sherry, Arona, Boxmoor, Herts.

GENTLEMAN, with Public School Education, and who is a good linguist, desires position anywhere in the West Indies as Overseer on Plantation—for preference on Sugar Plantation. Moderate salary required. Reply "J. T.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

THE WAR AND AFTER.

Now that the din and strife of the election are at an end it is to be hoped that the Government will quickly get to business. They were compelled, by the pressure of public opinion a few days before the poll, to revise their policy, pledging themselves through every Coalition candidate, "to make Germany pay," to bring highly-placed criminals, including the Kaiser, to justice, and to get rid of German aliens in this country. The first criminal to be dealt with will be General von Tesny, Governor of Belgian Luxemburg in 1914. He has been arrested and imprisoned at Metz for the summary execution of 112 inhabitants of Arlon.

The question of conscription having been raised at the election by men, whose anti-national attitude in war was notorious, Mr. Lloyd George stated that the Government "hoped" to abolish conscript armies in this and every other country through the Peace Conference. In such a matter our policy will naturally depend upon what other nations do.

The Prime Minister has struck out at the Labour Party, which he truthfully describes as wagged by its tail, consisting of pro-Germans, Pacifists, and Bolsheviks. In obedience to it the Labour members of the Government were ordered to retire at the dissolution of Parliament, at the same time demanding a place at the Conference. If this were granted, it would be admitted that Labour was a privileged class. It is the nation, through its Government, which will be represented at the Conference.

Home-coming of the Generals.

At last people at home have had an opportunity of paying in person a tribute to Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, and Generals Plumer, Rawlinson, Byng, Horne and other distinguished soldiers whose spiritual and intellectual leadership has been one of the most potent factors in bringing us by victory to peace. On leave for Christmas, they arrived at Dover on December 19th, escorted by warships and aircraft. Their welcome there and in London was, as usual on such occasions, simple, stately, and yet homely. Ceremony there was, which was fitting, but the achievements of these great soldiers, whose names will go down to posterity with the most illustrious in history, needed no adornment. They formed the mighty background of the welcome, while the colour and emotion were furnished by cheering crowds. It ended at Buckingham Palace, where the King, as head of the Nation, Empire, and the Army, received his victorious Generals and gave them a royal welcome.

President Wilson in France.

President Wilson, in the *George Washington*, was escorted into Brest by the American Fleet and French warships. In Paris he was given a stately and ardent welcome, which was at once a tribute to America for the part she has played in the war and to the man himself, as the living embodiment of her spirit. The object of his visit is to confer with the Statesmen of England and France in view of the Peace Conference. He is, besides being a practical statesman, an idealist, and desires that the League

of Nations and Freedom of the Seas should be recognised in the Treaty of Peace. The French are taking him over the ravaged provinces of France, and giving him details of her murdered industries. They are, moreover, placing him in touch with French leaders of opinion, as well as with distinguished French sailors and soldiers. In his coming visit to London the President will receive fresh impressions from another point of view, and his is a mind that can adjust itself to substantiated facts, even when they are unfavourable to his ideals. That he is not a visionary, is clear, from his policy with regard to the American Navy, which is to be increased by the programme authorised a year ago. This is a sore blow to our pacifists. But wiser people applaud his wisdom in taking no chances where the security of his country is concerned.

General Botha, as representing South Africa, and the Maharajah of Bikanir, as representing India, have arrived in England for the Peace Conference. The Premier of New Zealand is not expected till February.

Carrying out the Armistice.

The British and Allied Fleet is in Sebastopol, which was entered with the same care as if war were still going on. Four German submarines, one dreadnought, and five Russian destroyers, manned by Germans, were taken over. The *Goeben* is interned in the Bosphorus. As French gunboats are patrolling the Rhine and British ships are at Reval and Libau, Allied sea-power is not only girding the Central Powers, but exerting pressure on the Bolsheviks in Russia. As a result of the work of the British Commission, which recently arrived at Hamburg, 24 British merchantmen have been released from internment there, six more at Bremerhaven, and 30 at Copenhagen. The Mission is inspecting German ports with great thoroughness, and declines to deal with any authority on which the Soviet is represented. Herr Erzeberger was "surprised" that the British should demand the battleship *Baden* instead of the armoured cruiser *Mackensen*, which is not yet ready to be towed. When the surrender was insisted upon he lodged a protest against it as "an arbitrary act."

The armistice is to be extended to January 17th. By a fresh condition the Allies, in order to obtain additional guarantees, reserve the right to occupy the neutral zone on the right bank of the Rhine, north of the Cologne bridgehead, and as far as the Dutch border. With every extension of the armistice more of the German territory will be occupied. Herr Erzeberger, on behalf of the Provisional Government, complains that the Allies have failed to carry out the clause providing for the revictualing of Germany, while, with the exception of 5,000 locomotives and 150,000 railway waggons, the German Government has surrendered all the stipulated material, and that these were required for the repatriation of prisoners of war and evacuation of territories. Marshal Foch has given an extension of time for the fulfilment of this stipulation. On the other hand, he demands for the revictualing of Germany the 2,500,000 tons of cargo space lying in German ports, which must be placed under Allied control.

Field-Marshal Mackensen, with staff, who was returning home from Roumania through Transylvania, has been interned in Buda-Pest on the demand of the French Military Commission in Hungary. He protested, and when he found that it was useless, seemed deeply moved.

Confusion in Germany.

The return of Prussian Guards was an occasion of rejoicing in Berlin. Except for a doleful speech from Herr Ebert, the popular welcome could not have been warmer. Evidently the instinct of the people recognises that the soldiers alone stand between them and chaos, which would end in foreign rule. In the meantime the Provisional Government is having a troublous time with the Soviet, which is holding a stormy Congress in Berlin. It has passed a resolution that, until the National Assembly meets, all legislative and executive power shall lodge in the existing people's Commissaries, together with other extreme proposals which are not promising for the evolution of a stable order of things speedily. A counter-move has been made by Herr Fehrenbach, President of the Reichstag, who has summoned the deputies to meet. The truth is, the Extremists are inexperienced and irresponsible, while the Moderates suffer from their close association with the old regime.

Over 95,000 British prisoners of war have been repatriated since the signing of the armistice, many of them by way of Copenhagen.

Turkey's Black Record.

Recent revelations in Constantinople make it clear how the evil Junta, which drew the Ottoman Empire into the War, were able to maintain their rule in face of failure. It was by allowing the Mohammedans to plunder and kill the Christians, especially the Greeks, of whom 450,000 were deported to their death, 150,000 died in labour battalions, and 250,000 fled to Greece from Asia Minor and Thrace. Retribution has come in the appalling disorder which reigns in Constantinople.

Holland in a Tight Corner.

Holland has been asked to explain how it was that, when she was asked to release interned Belgians last October, she declined after consultation with Germany, quoting international law as the reason. Nevertheless, without consulting the Allies she allowed German troops, before and after the conclusion of the Armistice, to pass through Limburg, giving the enemy advantage at the expense of Belgium, especially as regards material. So far her replies have not been satisfactory. Then questions are being asked as to the pro-German activities of the Dutch Minister in China. And as if this were not enough from the Dutch point of view, the Belgian Government is demanding a revision of the Treaty of 1839 with special reference to the Scheldt, which as a frontier line proved strategically weak in the War.

The Liberation of Finland.

General Mannerheim, who was driven by the Bolsheviks from Russia, after fighting in the War for three years and a half, is proving himself Finland's

strong man. It was he who commanded the White Guards in their resistance to the Red Guards, though, but for German troops, the carnage would have lasted longer. Without their aid, however, General Mannerheim captured the fortress of Viborg and liberated 35 towns out of 45. He says that Finland fell under the influence of Germany because she was regarded as a saviour—a terrible sidelight on the character of Bolshevism at close quarters. The fact that the Finnish Contingent with the Allied forces in Northern Russia contains many violent Bolsheviks has been used by German intrigue to prove that the Allies support Bolshevism. The Finnish Government is able to announce to European Powers that, in Finland, this anarchic movement is well in hand.

To India by Air.

Major-General W. G. H. Salmond has arrived at Calcutta from Cairo in a Handley-Page aeroplane in order to confer with the Indian Government regarding the establishment of an aerial service to India, the whole distance, something under 3,000 miles, having been made in 36 hours. The route flown was by way of Damascus, Baghdad, Bushire, and Karachi, at one stage over a waterless desert. The preparation for the trip was, of course, considerable, petrol, oil, and spares depots having been provided at pre-arranged points. So excellent was the organisation, indeed, that not a hitch occurred in the flight, which marks a direct route to India and the Far East, for which Egypt is the junction. Through it, too, must pass the "All-Red" route.

General MacEwan is flying from Ipswich to India also in a Handley-Page aeroplane, similar to one which recently flew over London with 40 passengers. Its tanks hold enough petrol for a continuous flight of 16 hours.

(To be continued.)

THE ROADS OF DOMINICA.

The Commission appointed by the Administrator of Dominica to enquire into the state of the roads in the island and into the causes of the discontent among the inhabitants in this connection, has now presented its report. This document, which is published in the form of a local Blue-book, is signed by the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, *chairman*, the Hon. J. C. Macintyre, the Hon. G. W. Penrice, Mr. T. H. Shillingford, Mr. James R. H. Bridgewater, Mr. Donald O. Rivière, and Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E.

The recommendations of the Commissioners are summarized as follows:—

- (1). All costly work of reconstruction to be postponed until the roads of the island are properly repaired and their maintenance adequately provided for.
- (2). The main roads to be gradually macadamized, a portion of them being formed, metalled and consolidated every year.
- (3). Repairs to the bridle roads to be taken in hand at once, and satisfactory arrangements to be made for their maintenance.
- (4). Donkey tracks to be made to the lands of the peasant proprietors yielding a sufficient amount of produce to warrant the expenditure.
- (5). A Central Road Authority to be formed, and the provisions of The Road Ordinance, 1914, as to District Authorities to be carried out as soon as possible.

(6). Detailed estimates of road expenditure to be prepared every year; the estimates when passed to be published in *The Official Gazette*; and the amount allotted in the estimates to any particular road to be spent on that road.

(7). Road Wardens to be appointed after the Regulations concerning them have been so modified as to attract planters able and willing to take office; and, wherever possible, the services of the planters to be utilized in the work of maintenance of bridle roads.

(8). The work on the roads to be done by permanent gangs under foremen or drivers regularly appointed to the road staff and continuously employed.

(9). Increased and more efficient supervision of the work on the roads to be provided for and to be rigidly enforced.

(10). Statute labour to be abolished without delay in the Northern and Western Districts; and also in the Eastern District as soon as it can be dispensed with by reorganisation of the road administration there.

(11). The Imperial road to be maintained in its present condition.

(12). A short bridle road to be opened from the Imperial road to the cultivated lands near Campbell.

(13). The Crown-Gould-Attley road to be repaired and maintained as a bridle road, and the northern section of the Imperial road to be improved and kept in good order.

(14). The Lake road to be repaired and kept in repair, if necessary by the cantonnier system, as it is the highway between the capital town and the Eastern District.

(15). The Colonial Engineer to be provided with an assistant.

(16). The Public Works Department to be reorganised and provided with stores and a proper staff of artisans and their assistants.

(17). A new assessment of the road tax to be made, care being taken in future to prevent the numerous evasions of its payment that have happened in the past.

(18). The road tax to be extended to the town of Roseau.

(19). The schooner *Golconda* to be taken off her route, and the £300 annual subsidy paid for her services to be devoted to road maintenance.

(20). When possible by the improvement of the public finances, the appropriations by the Legislative Council for road maintenance to be increased.

Mr. Penrice signed the report, subject to certain reservations. He does not agree to the proposal to discontinue the coastal service, even for a short period, and takes exception to the attitude adopted towards the Imperial Road. He quotes Major Burdon to prove that definite promises were made by Sir Hesketh Bell, when Administrator, that he could absolutely depend on having a good cart road to his estate long before the land could produce crops, if he purchased land on the Imperial road. This promise has not been fulfilled, and Mr. Penrice claims for the settlers along the road fair and equitable treatment.

It will be recalled that in 1914 a scheme of road construction, submitted by Major J. A. Burdon, was approved by the Colonial Office; it was, however, modified, and there is little to show for the expenditure of £28,000.

The improvement of the roads of Dominica is referred to in the annual report (1916-17) of the Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General.

Mr. P. Noble says:—

"The reconstruction work has, in my opinion, progressed very favourably during the last two years, and the theory which is sometimes expressed that roads in Dominica can neither be made nor maintained is definitely silenced by the last three years' workings. . . . The road grant is not sufficient to carry out any regular system of road maintenance, but efforts have been made to bring into operation a definite, though limited, system of maintenance on certain sections of the improved roads. The cost of this work, averaged over 2½ years, has come out at

about £20 per mile per annum, which figure compares favourably with similar work in other colonies. Of course, it must be remembered that, the roads having been newly constructed, the surface has not required much attention, and as it commences to wear, a slightly higher figure will be required for maintenance; but I see no reason why good roads, after proper construction, should not be maintained at the same figure as other colonies, viz., £20 per mile per annum, as during the last two years experience has shown that the metalled surfaces stand heavy scouring from temporarily blocked drains (a condition which cannot be remedied with the prevalence of small landslides due to the torrential rains) without suffering any material damage, whereas the former earth-surfaced road under similar conditions involved heavy expenditure to remake.

LIMES OR LEMONS FOR SCURVY.

In continuation of the report of the Food (War) Committee of the Royal Society on the respective merits of limes and lemons, we now publish Mrs. Alice Henderson Smith's historical inquiry, for a copy of which we are indebted to *The Lancet* of November 30th. It is as follows:—

The lime juice now issued to the Navy and Army for their use as a preventive of scurvy is the juice of the sour lime (*Citrus medica*, var. *acida*) grown in the West Indies. To it has long pertained the reputation made in the Navy 125 years ago by the "lime juice" used then. But that "lime juice" was not the juice of the sour lime.

The citrus fruits first used by the Navy came from the Mediterranean, largely from Spain. They did not include the sour lime, which is not grown in Europe; they did probably include the sweet lime (*Citrus medica*, var. *limetta*), but consisted principally of lemons (*Citrus medica*, var. *limonum*). In 1796 the war cut off Spain as a source of supplies and lemons were brought from Lisbon; the supply was uncertain, insufficient, and very expensive until 1803, when contracts were first made through the naval representative at Malta. Thereafter, for many years, an annual contract secured an ample quantity of the juice of lemons grown in Malta and Sicily. This enabled the Admiralty to employ "lime juice" much more widely than had been done before, and for some years the issue was a general one and not confined, as before, to the sick and to the crews of ships on foreign service. Together with the improvement in victualling and in the general conditions of living on board ships of war this was successful in expelling scurvy from the Navy in the course of a very few years, and by 1810 the records of scurvy cease. From that time the disease has occurred only in isolated and exceptional cases.

Before the middle of the nineteenth century complaints were made about the quality of the lemon juice sent from Malta, but by that time opportunities for the trial of it therapeutically were rare in the ordinary service of the Navy. On the return of Sir James Ross from the Arctic regions in 1849, however, it was shown what disastrous results might follow from a deficiency in the supply. In order that other ships then about to leave England on Arctic service should be assured of a reliable protection from diseases the Medical Director-General caused lemons to be squeezed at Deptford for them, and this provision proved fully adequate. Arrangements were made for the careful supervision thenceforward of all lemon juice bought in Malta.

About 17 years later, when the development of the lime cultivation in the West Indies made available a quantity of lime juice, the Admiralty transferred its contracts, and thereafter issued the juice of limes instead of that of lemons. The essential inferiority of limes to lemons in antiscorbutic power was not suspected, and the new supply was believed to be far better than the old. It was produced by English firms under such conditions as would secure its soundness and purity.

Polar exploration again provided the test of its value; and by comparing the experience of the ships provided with the pure lemon juice in 1850 with that of the first Arctic expedition that took out West Indian lime juice

we get a very satisfactory human experiment, demonstrating the relative value of the two fruits. The setting of the comparison is made more precise than is generally to be looked for in historical evidence by the following facts.

The lemon juice for the 1850 expedition was prepared at Deptford, and much attention was paid to the best method of preserving it and for obtaining its maximum value when consumed at sea. The juice was issued to the ships under regulations which insured accuracy and definiteness in the quantity consumed by each member of the crew. The daily ration, 1 oz., was issued to each man individually, and drunk by him in the presence of an officer. In 1875, when Sir George Nares's ships, the *Alert* and the *Discovery*, sailed to discover the North Pole, Sir Alexander Armstrong, who had been medical officer on the *Investigator*, was Medical Director-General of the Navy. So satisfied had he been with the results of lemon juice during the voyage of the *Investigator* that he gave directions that the juice should be issued in precisely the same way on the *Alert* and the *Discovery* as on the previous expedition, that is, in the same quantities, and with the same safeguards against any variation in the consumption of it. But the juice issued to Nares's ships, was the "lime juice" from the West Indies.

The two expeditions were so near to one another in time that the general conditions of diet, &c., were very similar; but the later one did enjoy certain improvements of diet suggested by accumulated experience, including double vegetable and fruit rations, additional meat, sugar, &c., and a reduction in the amount of alcohol allowed. In casual supplies of fresh game and herbs there was no outstanding difference. Indeed, every detail of the conditions is very nicely adjusted for the comparison, any difference there was being in favour of the lime juice ships.

And the result was not only clear, but emphatic. Nares's ships, supplied with West Indian lime juice, went out in May, 1875; they had their first case of scurvy in January, 1876. Premonitory scorbutic symptoms showed themselves in a further number of the crews in early spring, but they were not recognised, as scurvy was never thought of as a possible danger. With the starting of the sledge expeditions early in April, 1876, scurvy developed with great severity in the sledge crews and three deaths occurred; concurrently there was a development, only less serious, among the men who remained on the ships. The expedition came home to England in October, 1876.

On the other hand, the *Investigator*, supplied with lemon juice, left England in January, 1850, and got into the ice during the following summer. Throughout the next winter and spring sledging she had no scurvy. In autumn, 1851, her rations were reduced to two-thirds and her lemon-juice ration was halved, and she still had no scurvy through the following winter and spring. Only in May, 1852, her first case developed, 27 months after leaving home and after seven months of short rations and reduced lemon-juice. Other 15 months passed before her crew were rescued, and in that whole period of three and a half years she had three deaths from scurvy, the same number that occurred on Nares's ships within one year.

The conclusion suggested by the history of this long immunity from scurvy during the voyage of the *Investigator* is supported by the history of other ships of her time, while the failure of the lime-juice ration to prevent scurvy on the *Alert* and the *Discovery* is repeated in later cases where it has been relied on as a protection. In the absence of any other satisfactory explanation of the contrast afforded by the experience of these two expeditions—and the prolonged examinations of the Scurvy Commission of 1877 discovered none—it must be accepted as a very convincing piece of evidence that lemon juice is far more effective than lime juice in the prevention of scurvy. It fully confirms the results of the laboratory experiments which has determined more exactly their relative value for this purpose.

Summary.

1. The antiscorbutic value of the juice of fresh limes (*Citrus medica*, var. *acida*) has been compared experimentally with that of fresh lemons (*Citrus medica*, var. *limonum*) and has been found to be distinctly inferior. Volume for volume fresh lime juice possesses a potency of about one-fourth that of lemon juice. In one instance severe scurvy developing in a monkey on a diet containing

a small daily ration (5 c.cm.) of fresh lime juice was cured by an equal ration of fresh lemon juice.

2. Preserved lime juice was found useless for the prevention of scurvy by the method employed. Experiments with preserved lemon juice are still in progress, but give promise of better results.

3. The experimental results are fully confirmed by a historical study of "lime juice" in connexion with human scurvy. At the period when scurvy was eliminated from the British Navy by its agency the term was used to express the juice of lemons, and it was not until the second half of the nineteenth century that the juice of West Indian limes was adopted in the Navy and Mercantile Marine. The history of two Arctic expeditions, that of the *Investigator*, 1850, and that of the *Alert* and *Discovery*, 1875, has been carefully investigated. The former, supplied with lemon juice, experienced remarkable immunity from scurvy during the first two years of great difficulty and privation; the latter, supplied with lime juice, suffered severely from scurvy at the end of the first winter spent in the Arctic regions.

It should be noted in connexion with these facts that scurvy is a disease with a long period of development. As much as four to eight months upon a defective diet may elapse before definite symptoms of scurvy can be observed.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE

The Half-yearly Meeting.

In the absence of Sir Everard in Thurn, who has unfortunately met with an accident, having been nearly run over by a tramcar, Sir Frederic Hodgson presided over the half-yearly meeting of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which was held at Scotland House, Victoria Embankment, on December 18th. The members present were Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D., Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Bart., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sir George Le Hunte, G.C.M.G., Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B., Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Sir William Goode, K.B.E., Mr. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G., Mr. J. Rippon, O.B.E., Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. W. Gillespie, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, C.M.G., Hon. Secretary.

SIR FREDERIC HODGSON, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that the Committee could contemplate with pride the part our West Indian troops had taken in the War now happily terminated. Where they had been at the forefront they had borne themselves with gallantry and courage, and elsewhere they had carried out the duties entrusted to them with credit and efficiency. They had, in fact, upheld the honour and prestige of the West Indies. He expressed the hope that in the march of the troops through London the West Indian Contingent would be adequately represented, as he was sure that the people would wish to give them publicly the applause which they had so well deserved. The end of the War did not end the labours of the Committee. On the contrary, it might increase them, as there would be many matters to deal with in connection with the repatriation of the members of the Contingent. There would also be many calls on the funds, which would have to be administered with great care. Much of the success which had attended the work of the Committee was due to the unflinching energy and unflinching courtesy of their Hon. Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, ably seconded as he had been by those who had given him their assistance, and he was sure that this was the general feeling of the members of the Committee. He moved the adoption of the Report and of the Accounts.

COLONEL SIR EDWARD D. WARD, seconding the motion, said that as an Hon. Treasurer he cordially endorsed the remarks which Sir Frederic had made regarding the patriotism of all ranks of the West Indian Contingent, and as an old soldier he was glad to have the opportunity

of expressing his admiration of the bayonet charge in which they had taken part in Palestine. With regard to the work of the Committee, it was clear that the hardest part of it was now beginning. Hitherto they had been working with Contingents; now they would be dealing with individuals, and it was very necessary, therefore, that every effort should be made to increase the Contingent Fund. In conclusion, Sir Edward referred to the enthusiasm of the staff, which had made every individual case requiring investigation and adjustment their own.

State of the Funds.

MR. H. F. PREVITE then referred to the main features of the Accounts, which had been audited by Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. The balance to the credit of the General Fund on June 30th last was £2,468 9s. 1d. only, and that of Colonial separate funds £520 3s. 10d., whilst £604 was held in trust for members of various contingents and others. As the Committee was on the verge of completing a further six months since the date of the Report under consideration, he thought that it might be desirable to give a few figures to show the present position. In response to the recent appeal for further funds, £1,261 had been received from residents in this country, and he hoped that the incoming mails would bring further contributions from the Colonies. To the credit of the General Fund they held £1,786, including the £1,261 just mentioned, from which it would be gathered that the appeal had been made at an opportune moment. They also had £397 on account of Colonial separate funds, and £436 in trust for individuals, which showed their confidence in the Committee by making them their bankers. On account of loans to individual men, they were owed £112, a great part of which they hoped to recover. The War Office also owed them £150 on account of repatriation expenses advanced, which might be considered good, and £274 was due from the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent Committee, which money was also safe. Mr. G. F. Huggins, to whose energy and generosity the great success of the Trinidad Merchants' Contingent was largely due, was expected shortly to arrive in England, and he thought that he would be agreeably surprised to find that he would not be called upon to pay for the actual repatriation expenses for the members of his contingents, which would be met by the Government. The total of these various Funds amounted to £2,660, which the Committee would be able to devote to the objects of the Contingent Committee in various ways. In view of the changed circumstances produced by the Armistice, the details of the expenditure would change, but the daily calls on the Fund, far from growing less, would undoubtedly grow larger; indeed, they were doing so already. The money had been subscribed so that it might be spent for the benefit of West Indians serving in His Majesty's Forces, and he thought that the subscribers might be confident that it would be wisely spent to the end. The Chairman then put the Resolution to the meeting, and it was carried unanimously.

The B.W.I.'s Bayonet Charge.

SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER then moved the following Resolution:—

That the West Indian Contingent Committee desires to express its pride and satisfaction in the distinguished part which the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the British West Indies Regiment have played in the successful operations against the Turks in Palestine and particularly in the bayonet charge in which they participated on September 22, and to convey to the officers commanding its congratulations on the conduct of all ranks on that occasion.

He said that all the men from the West Indies, when they voluntarily enlisted, did not desire to be placed on a comparatively safe work. They believed that they were going to fight for their King and Country, and were all anxious to do so. They were consequently not a little disappointed at first when they found that they were to be employed on labour work; but they had performed their task conscientiously under shell fire in the very forefront of the firing line, and he felt that they had earned the sympathy of the public to the fullest extent. Many had been wounded and killed without the opportunity of actually fighting, and many had succumbed to the rigours of the climate and conditions on the Western Front. The Battalions in Palestine, however, had at last had an opportunity of showing their prowess, and they had fully justified the conviction that West Indians made very able fighting men, and had given a good account of themselves.

In conclusion, Sir Sydney referred to the great dissatisfaction which was felt at the differentiation between other Imperial troops and the British West Indies Regiment in the matter of pay—a differentiation for which no particular reason had been adduced.

The Resolution was seconded by Sir George Le Hunte, who fully endorsed all that Sir Sydney had said, and was carried unanimously. A discussion then took place regarding the question of pay, and it was decided to address a communication to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject.

The Report of the Committee.

The report of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended June 30th, 1918, is given below:—

The Committee begs to submit to the subscribers to the West Indian Contingent Fund its report and the audited statement of receipts and payments for the six months ended June 30th, 1918.

At the outset it desires to record with deep regret the deaths of two of its members, namely, Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G., and His Excellency the Honourable W. Hart-Bennett, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras. Whilst in this country in 1916 Mr. Hart-Bennett ungrudgingly devoted much time to the routine work of the Committee. It has also to deplore the death of Lady Hayes-Sadler, a member of the Ladies' Committee from its inception. As President of the Eastern League, which she founded, Lady Hayes-Sadler rendered valuable assistance to the Committee by providing many warm comforts for the troops and her loss will be much felt.

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise honoured the Committee with her presence at the last half-yearly meeting which was held at the Colonial Office on June 6th, when the report and accounts for the half-year ended December 31st, 1917, were adopted. Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., late Governor of Jamaica, and Lieut.-Col. A. E. Burchard and Major V. G. F. Gane of the British West Indies Regiment were also present.

It will be noted that the accounts are presented in a somewhat different form from that hitherto adopted, the object being to show separately the sums specially earmarked and expended in accordance with the specific instructions of the donors.

To the proceeds of the West Indian Flag Day held in aid of the Contingent Fund, to which reference was made in the last report of the Committee, can now be added those received from the Bahamas and Jamaica, where the day was observed, with the following results: November 16th, 1917, Bahamas, £160; 1918, Jamaica, £1,242 3s. 2d.

The total receipts from the Flag Day, which was the first ever held throughout the West Indies, were thus brought to £4,179 2s. 5d. The expenses were £886 1s. 5d, leaving a balance of £3,493 1s. The Committee desires again to record its thanks to those who so kindly organised the Flag Day in their respective Colonies, and to the West Indian Press which contributed towards its success.

During the six months under review the British West Indies Regiment was serving on almost every front. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., has testified to the value of its work in France, and similarly favourable reports have been received from the General Officers Commanding in Chief in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and British East Africa.

It was the constant endeavour of the Committee to provide for the well-being of all ranks in the Regiment, and all requests for comforts preferred to them by the Commanding Officers were complied with.

The Committee was successful in securing the adjustment of a grievance resulting from the estaminets in France being placed out of bounds. It appeared that the order was based on a misapprehension, and not intended for application to the British West Indies Regiment.

The Committee made certain suggestions with regard to the granting of leave to England of parties of N.C.O.'s and men from the various Battalions, and these were still under consideration at the close of the half-year. Meanwhile, board and lodging and amusements were provided for individuals coming to England on furlough.

By the arrival of further recruits the strength of the

Trinidad Merchants' and Planters' Contingent and the Barbados Citizens' Contingent was raised to 262 and 79 respectively. With the majority of the men of these Contingents the Committee is now in close touch.

The Committee continued to make arrangements in connection with the repatriation of men discharged from the Imperial Army on medical grounds, and in many instances outfits were provided to supplement the Government grant of clothing. It also furnished certain men granted leave on compassionate grounds with passages to the West Indies.

Board and lodging was provided for 294 men on leave, discharged from hospital, or awaiting enlistment, at various clubs and hotels, notably the Union Jack Club, the King George and Queen Mary's clubs (Peel House and Victoria League's), and the Y.M.C.A. The Committee was also able to arrange for a number of officers and men to enjoy visits to English homes through the kindness of the Countess of Harrowby, Mrs. Cunningham-Craig, Mrs. F. N. Martinez, Captain William Godsal, and others.

Under the auspices of the Ladies' Committee, work-parties were held at the residences of Lady Davson and Mrs. St. George Gray. They were organised by Mrs. John Bromley, and were well attended. As a result of these parties and of individual effort, many hundreds of pairs of socks, anti-verminous underclothing, pyjamas, mufflers, hospital bags, etc., were made and distributed.

Among the numerous gifts and comforts distributed by the Committee during the six months under review were 2,500 badges, 666 suits of woollen underwear, 10 suits of clothes, 13 pairs of boots, besides many hundreds of pairs of socks, mufflers, etc.

As showing the variety and number of articles purchased and distributed or forwarded in accordance with the wishes of the donor, the following list is given:—

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------|
| Artificial Leg | 1 | Soap (tablets) | 288 |
| Books | 132 | Special Hampers | 16 |
| Chew-Sticks (cases) | 17 | Swagger Canteens | 24 |
| Cigarettes | 500,000 | Sweets (tins) | 2,054 |
| Guava Jelly (lbs.) | 500 | Thermometers | 6 |
| Hot Sauce (bottles) | 1,208 | Wallets | 500 |
| Wrist Watches | 568 | | |

The hot sauce and guava jelly were collected at the request of the Committee by Mrs. Graham Yearwood and a Committee of ladies in Barbados.

The Committee also received and forwarded upwards of 1,000 parcels, most of which had to be repacked and re-addressed, and over 15,000 letters. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Army Post Office invoked the assistance of the Committee in forwarding some hundreds of letters, the addresses on which were to its officials indecipherable.

The West Indian Contingent Committee is now represented in all the larger West Indian Colonies by Hon. Correspondents.

In conclusion, it should be added that in ways too numerous to be detailed further the staff from day to day, by personal interviews and by correspondence, have worked for the welfare, comfort, and enjoyment of the West Indians serving in His Majesty's Forces.

Honours won in Palestine.

The list of honours received by the British West Indies Regiment has been augmented as the outcome of the operations in Palestine, in which it participated. Eight immediate awards to officers and men of the 1st Battalion were made on October 19th, and the 2nd Battalion was similarly recognised. Only the 1st Battalion's list has as yet been received. It is as follows:—

MILITARY CROSS.

MAJOR ALFRED ERNEST HARRAGIN (Trinidad).

At Damieh Bridgehead, Jordan Valley, Palestine, on the 22nd September, 1918, this Officer was in command of the company which took part in the successful combined operations with the Auckland Mounted Rifles. He handled his company with great judgment, and his company took over 100 prisoners and three machine-guns, and was responsible for about 50 killed and wounded of the enemy.

CAPTAIN ROBERT JOHN CRAIG (British Guiana).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in the field at Baghalat, Jordan Valley, Palestine. On the morning of the 20th September, 1918, when occupying that place, this Officer took his company through an artillery barrage fire in a most efficient manner, and it was due to his leadership that the casualties of his company were so few. He and his company were exposed to heavy fire throughout the day and night.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL.

No. 503, LANCE-CORPORAL RICHARD TURFIN (Trinidad).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 20th September, 1918, at Baghalat, Jordan Valley, Palestine, when one company of the Battalion had occupied that place under heavy shell fire, he ran a signal wire from Musallabah to Baghalat, a matter of 2½ miles, under heavy shell fire. In the morning on two occasions he went out alone under heavy shell fire and repaired the wire, which had been cut by enemy artillery fire. On returning to Battalion Headquarters in the afternoon, he volunteered twice to go out and repair the wire under similar circumstances.

No. 6357, PTE. HEZEKIAH SCOTT (Jamaica).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 20th September, 1918, at Baghalat, Jordan Valley, Palestine, when one company of the Battalion had occupied that place, under heavy shell fire this private volunteered to carry a message from Baghalat to Grant Ridge; he crossed the 700 yards of open ground under very heavy shell fire and delivered his message. On his return he went on his own to give assistance to Sgt. Chan, who had been hit, but this N.C.O. was already dead.

No. 1454 SGT. WILLAN EWARY JULIEN (Grenada).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 22nd September, 1918, at Damieh Bridgehead, Jordan Valley, Palestine. This N.C.O., in the absence of his Officer, commanded his platoon with the utmost efficiency in the attack on the Bridgehead. His platoon led the attack with great dash, and after the successful assault, reorganised his platoon and led them with great gallantry into the broken ground overlooking the river, which was still occupied by the enemy, capturing two machine-guns and a number of prisoners. The success of his platoon was greatly due to his personal efforts, and he showed high powers of command and leadership.

MILITARY MEDAL.

No. 594 PTE. GEORGE DICK (Trinidad).

For gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on the Bridgehead. On the 22nd September, 1918, at Damieh Bridgehead, Palestine. This private was of a party of Lewis Gunners who were working their way forward with the line. Noticing an enemy machine-gun within close range, he rushed forward single-handed, under heavy fire, bayoneting two of the enemy gun team and capturing the gun.

No. 9192 PTE. ALBERT-MARQUES (Trinidad).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 22nd September, 1918, at Damieh Bridgehead, Palestine. This private, noticing an enemy bombing post which was holding up the attack, he single-handed worked his way round their flank and bombed them out, killing six of the enemy grenade party, wounding two, and taking two as prisoners.

No. 661 LANCE-CORPORAL (A/CPL) MCCOLLIN LEEKHAM (Trinidad).

For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 22nd September, 1918, at Damieh Bridgehead, Palestine. This N.C.O. was in charge of four Lewis guns, and greatly assisted his company during the attack by taking up a forward position on the flanks and bringing a heavy fire to bear on the enemy. After the attack, which had been successful, he, of his own accord, took his guns forward to the high ground overlooking the bridge, and brought a very heavy fire to bear on the bridge itself, killing a number of the enemy who were crossing at the time. By this action he prevented the enemy from escaping, and enabled his company to capture over 100 prisoners and three machine-guns. He showed great resource, and used his guns with extreme efficiency.

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT FUND.

From December 12th to 24th the following contributions were received:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| The Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Per the Colonial Bank, St. Vincent:— | | | |
| The People of Layou and Buccamat | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| The Kingstown Club | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Hon. C. E. F. Richards | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| H. P. Hazell, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| F. W. Reeves, Esq., M.A. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Vincent Hadley, Esq. | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| J. H. Hazell, Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Evan Hopley, Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | 12 | 11 | 4 |
| The West Indian Trading Co. (Copenhagen) ... | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| H. R. Silver, Esq. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Messrs. W. & G. H. Mitchell, Ltd. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Bahamas Flag Day (balance) | 6 | 13 | 0 |
| St. Thomas Dock Engineering & Coaling Co., Ltd. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| F. A. Windridge, Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Robert Catton, Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| G. S. Seton Browne, Esq. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Lady Sendall | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss Hilda Packer | 10 | 0 | 0 |

As was anticipated, the expenses of the Committee are becoming increasingly heavy now that mobilisation has begun, and it is hoped that all firms and individuals connected with the British West Indies will support the Contingent Fund. Contributions, which will be acknowledged in these columns, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, the West Indian Contingent Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

West Indian Roll of Honour.

KILLED IN ACTION.

SECOND LIEUT. FRED. ABRAHAM, Lancashire Fusiliers, only son of the late Mr. Fred. Abraham, Crown Solicitor of British Guiana, was killed in action in France on October 2nd, 1918, aged 29. He was one of the local staff of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Co., and a sergeant in the artillery section of the British Guiana Militia. He joined up for Imperial war service in 1915, and left the colony with the 3rd Contingent, served in Egypt, and on gaining his commission was attached to the Lancashire Fusiliers for service in France. He was a first-class all-round cricketer, a member of the G.C.C., and played in most of the intercolonial matches in British Guiana and the West Indies; he also excelled in football as a member of the Artillery Sports Club.

PTE. HERMAN JOSÉ DE FREITAS, Royal West Surrey Regiment, son of Mr. Manoel José De Freitas, of Bartica, Essequibo River, British Guiana, was killed in action in France on October 11th, 1918, aged 19.

SECOND LIEUTENANT (TEMP. LIEUT. AND ACTING CAPTAIN) EDWARD GRAFTON HERBERT, Royal Warwick Regiment, who was killed in action in France on April 2nd last, was the only son of Mrs. Herbert, of Saville House, DorrIDGE, Warwickshire, and grandson of the late G. A. Forsshaw, Solicitor, of Woodbine, Georgetown, Demerara. He was awarded the Military Cross under the following circumstances: When the Commander of the company had been killed, this Officer took command. Under very heavy fire he showed himself regardless of personal safety, visiting his sections, some of which were almost surrounded. It was largely owing to his exertions that six successive attacks by the enemy on our positions were annihilated by our fire. The skill with which he handled his company, his courage, and his initiative were admirable. Unfortunately this gallant young Officer did not live to know of the award which he had won.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

LIEUT. W. A. CARRUTHERS, M.C., Northumberland Fusiliers, who died at Salonika, on September 2nd, of wounds received in action, was son of the late Mr. David Carruthers, the well-known sugar planter of Demerara and Nickerie. Mr. Carruthers was a clerk in the Government Secretariat, British Guiana, at the outbreak of war, when he immediately volunteered for service, obtaining a Commission in the Royal Scots, with which regiment he was sent to Gallipoli, where, however, he did not land, evacuation having already begun. He afterwards served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces, was awarded the Military Cross in 1917, and in May, 1918, was transferred to Salonika, serving with the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was married to the youngest daughter of the late Hon. A. P. P. Mackey of Demerara, only last spring, when in England on leave.

PRIVATE H. G. SHARPE, of the 3rd Northamptonshire Regiment, who died of wounds on October 26th in France, was the son of Mr. H. W. Sharpe, Assistant Treasurer, Grenville, Grenada. He had been anxious to join up for two years, but his parents considered he was too young. As soon as he reached military age, however, he threw up a good position which he was holding in Demerara with the Royal Bank of Canada, and went up to New York to enlist. He had hoped to join the Royal Air Force but finding that this would involve delay, he joined the ranks and went out with his regiment to France in July. His elder brother enlisted in the 1st Grenada Contingent and served for some time in Egypt before being transferred there to the R.A.F. with which he has been doing good work in Salonika. He was in England on short leave just before his brother went to France. Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe will have the deep sympathy of all their many friends in their great bereavement, but they will also have the consolation of knowing that they have reared sons whose one ambition was to serve the Empire in her need.

HONOURS.

SECOND LIEUT. J. O'CONNOR, of the Customs, Trinidad, has been awarded the Military Cross for "Conspicuous bravery and gallantry in the field during the recent operations."

CAPT. FRANK CRESSALL, British West India Regiment (son of Mr. Paul Cressall, jun., of Georgetown, British Guiana), awarded the Military Cross, June, 1918, for services in German East Africa.

LIEUT. RONALD CHAPMAN, R.A.F. (son of Mr. J. J. Chapman, of Demerara and Cheltenham), has been awarded the D.F.C. and promoted Captain and Squadron Leader, for gallant services in Royal Air Force, France.

CAPTAIN I. M. FRAME, 3rd Batt., att'd. 1st Batt., Gordon Highlanders, son of Mr. G. Macgregor Frause, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack. He led his company against a strongly held railway embankment some 1,500 yards away over an exposed ridge, in face of heavy fire and without artillery support. His determined courage inspired his men, and enabled a very useful advance to be made.

PRIVATE JAMES ELLIOT DODDS, Canadian Machine Gun Corps, who has been awarded the Military Medal, is the third son of the late Mr. Robert Dodds and Mrs. Dodds, of Sea View, Kingston, Demerara. He won the M.M. in the March offensive last, and was wounded in the shoulder while crossing the canal at Cambrai. His entire battery was annihilated, he being the only one alive. He came over from New York to join, and was attached to the Canadian Contingent fighting in France. He has left for Canada to get his discharge, and intends returning to his work in New York.

SECOND LIEUTENANT D. A. L. AINGE, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and resource in controlling his company during a determined counter-attack after his Company Commander had been wounded. He personally held an advanced post with a few men and a Lewis gun, beating off several efforts of the enemy to force a way round his exposed flank. He stuck to his post until dark, and having

collected the rest of his company, established a good line of defence. Second Lieut. D. A. Ainge is a nephew of Mrs. Messeny.

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:—

HOVIT, Lieut. F. A. (grandson of the late Mr. W. O. Benekendorff, of Messrs. Benekendorff, Berger & Co.), 1st Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, B.E.F., France, was taken prisoner in April, 1918.

KEIR, 2nd Lieut. Lawrence (of Messrs. Benekendorff, Berger & Co.), attached 77th Siege Battery, B.E.F., France.

KIRKE, Captain R. (son of Mr. R. Kirke, of the firm of R. and J. J. Kirke, of London and Surinam), has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health contracted on active service and has been granted the Honorary rank of Captain. Captain Kirke obtained his Commission on October 8th, 1914, and left for France in December in the same year, since when he was continuously on active service in France and Italy until the end of June, when he was taken ill.

FREDERICK ARTHUR MORRIS, (nephew of Mr. Frederick J. Morris, now in Portuguese East Africa and late of Demerara and Trinidad), has passed from Sandhurst and gone to India. At present unattached.

CONTINGENT NOTES.

The following gifts are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Miss Esplin : 6 prs. of socks.

Miss Levy : 12 pocket handkerchiefs.

Lady Cameron : 3 mufflers, 3 prs. mittens, 2 packs of cards.

* * *

Many thousands of cigarettes, besides hot sauce and guava jelly, have already been despatched by the W.I.C. Committee to the principal hospitals overseas where the B.W.I.R.'s are received. The hot sauce and guava jelly were sent over by Mrs. Graham Yearwood, of Barbados, Mrs. Clarence Bourne, of Jamaica, and Mrs. D. S. De Freitas and Mrs. Brodie, of Trinidad, who kindly collected them from their friends.

* * *

Following the precedent of the last two years, the West Indian Contingent Committee is sending a small gift to each Officer, N.C.O., and man in the British West Indies Regiment. This year the gift will take the form of a pocket wallet bearing the now familiar badge of the Regiment, and containing writing paper and pencil and a small calendar. Officers and men who come over independently will receive from the Committee a small "Soldier's Own Diary" and compendium of useful information.

* * *

The gifts purchased and despatched by the Committee at the request of the donors include "hampers" for men from Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad at the instance of Mrs. Graham Yearwood and her branch Committee in Barbados, "Our Boys' Christmas Box" (Hon. Nelson Cannon) in British Guiana and the Ladies' West India Committee (Mrs. Gordon Gordon, Vice-President) in Trinidad, and cigarettes from the Bahamas War Relief Committee and Daughters of the Empire. The Committee's shopping further included the purchase of many gifts for individuals, besides 41 parcels for Bahamas men from the League of the Cross of Geneva. The "forwarding department" has also been kept extremely busy in repacking (in many cases) and despatching many hundreds of parcels and letters.

* * *

It will be reassuring to relatives of the men in the West Indies to learn that the British West Indies Regiment is now so well provided for in respect of warm comforts, etc., as is indicated by the following letter, which has been received from an Officer Commanding one of the Battalions in Italy:—"I beg to state that the men of the Battalion are adequately provided with warm clothing for

the winter. You have been so kind in sending out gifts to the men that I do not feel that I can ask for anything else, and certainly the few things I can think of are practically unobtainable in large quantities. One thing, however, would be very acceptable, and that is anything in the sports line." On receipt of this letter some footballs were at once sent to the Battalion.

The Christmas leave season has set in and is reflected by the increased number of visitors to the West India Committee Rooms. Among the callers during the past month have been:—

BAHAMAS.—Lieut. H. Vincent Jellicoe, Sapper O. C. Malcolm, Cpl. H. Bascome (B.W.I.R.), Bomb. H. B. Frith, Gunner R. Frith, Cpl. E. Duputh, Pte. Lloyd (B.W.I.R.).

BARBADOS.—2nd Lieut. T. W. B. O'Neal, Sergt. E. Edwards, Cadet C. de C. Skeete, 2nd Lieut. H. A. Arthur, Lieut. C. B. Murphy, Pte. A. Gloumeau, R. H. Price, 1st A.M. R. B. Armstrong, Pte. C. P. Cox, G. Pinder, Bomb. W. H. Bowen, Pte. E. D. Bynoe, Lieut. L. A. Chase (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. H. C. Manning (B.W.I.R.), Cadet H. L. Carter, Major W. H. G. Thorne, Pte. H. S. Batson, Lieut. Hugh C. Manning, Lieut. W. A. Yearwood, Sergt. K. F. Pilgrim, L./Cpl. L. R. Hutchinson, Lieut. B. A. Culpeper, Gnr. A. F. Watson, Pte. H. A. Honychurch, Gnr. W. L. Seale, Cadet A. W. G. Browne, H. E. King, Pte. F. H. Terrill, Capt. G. B. Mason, E. G. Bayne, Pte. H. S. Edgill, Pte. H. S. Phillips, Gnr. E. B. Carmichael, Gnr. H. W. Clarke.

BRITISH GUIANA.—C.Q.M.S. J. W. Moses (B.W.I.R.), L. H. Quick, M. McTurk.

DOMINICA.—Pte. G. K. Bryant, Pte. H. A. Frampton.

GRENADA.—G. G. Edwards, Trp. W. Bertrand.

St. Kitts.—Lieut. C. H. E. Shepherd, M.C.; Lieut. Basil Davis, Lieut. J. A. Robotham.

St. Lucia.—2nd Lieut. H. A. Lafitte, C. St. John.

St. Vincent.—Lieut. Richards, Cadet Conrad Hazell, Trp. F. McLeod.

TRINIDAD.—2nd Lieut. C. A. Prada (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. G. Rooks, Lieut. G. G. Attale, Pte. C. H. Daley, F. H. Wilson, J. L. Chapman, Flight Cadet E. S. O'Connor, Flight Cadet E. A. O'Connor, C. E. O'Connor, G. W. Robinson, Cpl. L. M. Murray, D. Prondfoot, R. Melizan, R. Dean, Pte. C. E. Maingot, Pte. P. J. Stone, Lieut. S. Stone, Lieut. E. Macleod, Lieut. P. J. Knox, Sapper J. Wainwright, Gnr. A. Lassalle, Lieut. J. E. Kernahan, Lieut. K. Reid, Trpr. G. de Sousa, Gunner C. M. Gooch, Cadet J. Rodriguez, Pte. N. O. Warner, Lieut. L. F. Prada, 2nd Lieut. P. J. Scott, L./Cpl. C. H. Balfour, M.M., Cadet E. da Costa, Cadet R. Campbell, Sergt. J. Barrett, 1st A.M. A. Horne, G. Aché, J. L. Aché, Lieut. S. Scott, Rfm. A. Mendes, Pte. C. H. Rooks, Trp. R. Johnstone, Trp. E. L. Hatt, Pte. H. de G. Gallizeau, Rfm. A. H. de Silva, Pte. P. D. Ince, Pte. J. E. de la Rosa, Dvr. J. A. Hernandez, A. O'Brien, Cadet R. B. D. Campbell, Gnr. G. Simmons, Lieut. W. H. L. Farfan, Pte. M. M. Nock, Sergt. R. Hale, Gnr. R. M. Anderson.

JAMAICA.—Capt. R. C. Waters, C.Q.M.S. Roy Bridge, Lieut. Harris, Pte. H. L. Bell, Pte. E. W. Hawthorne, Pte. N. C. Francis, Pte. O. Simpson, Pte. E. Sutherland, 2nd Lieut. C. E. Ashman (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. S. W. Brown (B.W.I.R.), Lieut. J. A. V. Thompson (B.W.I.R.), Cadet L. de Roux.

MR. CHARLES ROSS.

On October 24th, 1918, there passed away in British Guiana, at the ripe old age of 85, Mr. Charles Ross, a retired but well-known sugar planter, who at one time was a prominent figure in the social life of Georgetown, a former member of the Court of Policy, and an active shooting member of the old Demerara Rifle Association. Mr. Ross was a native of St. Vincent, and with his brother Reginald—a former well-known planter in Barbice at Pln. Adelpi—went to Demerara at the close of the "fifties." He served on several sugar estates, but will be best remembered as manager successively of Plns. Vreed-en-Hoop, Ogle, and Versailles, and owned the extensive estate of Land of Canaan, on the Demerara River. As the result of a long series of costly lawsuits with the firm of Geo. Little & Co., he fell on evil days, and after acting for a time as secretary of the Georgetown Club, he retired

to a small property, known as "Gold Mine," which he owned on the Essequibo River, in the neighbourhood of Groete Creek, where for nearly twenty-five years he practically lived the life of a recluse, but retained to the last a keen interest in agriculture and a strong belief in the ultimate development of profitable gold and diamond diggings on his little property.

HOMeward MAILS.

BRITISH GUIANA—Developing the North-West.

Another successful Flag Day on behalf of the Red Cross Society was held on November 4th. A large body of collectors were busy throughout the day in Georgetown and in the country districts, and there is every reason to anticipate a satisfactory result from their canvass. In addition, a number of special subscriptions were received, including \$2,000 from Messrs. Wietung & Richter, and \$1,000 from Messrs. Fogarty, Ltd.

Referring, at the opening of the annual session of the Combined Court, to the question of the proposed acquisition of the Demerara Railway—already mentioned in the CIRCULAR—the Governor expressed the hope that it might be possible to purchase the railway at what is the true value of its assets. Among those assets must be included the guarantee of £60,000 per annum for a term of 32 years still unexpired. His Excellency added that the Government obtained direct benefits from railway development which a company did not.

The Combined Court has received the report of a Committee appointed by the Governor to enquire as to the best method of improving the harbour of Georgetown. The Committee suggest the appointment of a Harbour Board empowered to fix and levy tonnage and light dues, and to raise such loans as the Combined Court may approve. As soon, after the war, as machinery can be obtained cheaply, the Committee urge that a loan of £100,000 be raised to be applied to several improvements, including the purchase of a dredger, the erection of a lighthouse 310 ft. high, giving a range of 25 miles, on the Essequibo Coast; raising the height of the Georgetown lighthouse, and the purchase of four gas-buoys. Further data, says the Committee, are necessary before it can be deemed prudent to embark upon the construction of a breakwater.

No time has been lost in giving effect to the recommendations of Mr. Clementi, the Government Secretary (following upon his recent visit to the District), for developing communication with the North-Western region of the Colony. A trail has been cut from the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates property on the Aruka River to Smith's creek, which is almost opposite the Catholic Mission in Morawhanna. This trail is to be linked up with others. The importance of this through communication lies in the fact that the road opens up some of the richest lands in the North-West which have hitherto been inaccessible on account of the difficulty and expense of reaching them by water. Gold, bauxite, iron ore, and mica have been found in almost all the districts traversed by the road.

BRITISH HONDURAS—Red Cross Effort.

The lady workers in connection with the Red Cross Society have recently forwarded to Mr. L. R. Grant \$2,000 for "Our Day" Fund, leaving a balance in hand of \$1,243. The Cambridge Cricket Club are lamenting the death of their Captain, Mr. L. N. Walton. Spanish influenza continues to spread in Belize, and it is stated that hardly a family in the city has escaped infection.

JAMAICA—A Presentation.

The conclusion of hostilities was signalled by the presentation of an address by discharged and wounded soldiers of the Jamaica War Contingent to Mr. J. H. W. Park, Director of Public Works, in recognition of many acts of kindness. The address specially mentioned Mr. Park's services in the matter of payment of pensions, his thoughtfulness in providing the Queen's Hotel for their accommodation, and his assistance to the men in enabling them to learn a trade, and in arranging for their sustenance while learning.

The latest mail advices happily report a decline in the influenza epidemic, which had already claimed many victims. The Town Council have adopted a resolution acknowledging the personal efforts of the King and Queen in connection with the prosecution of the War. Pleasant anticipations were being evoked in Kingston at the time of the departure of the mail in connection with a Garden Fête to be held by Lady Probyn at King's House on December 14th in aid of War funds.

TRINIDAD—Co-operative Sugar Factories.

The Committee appointed to consider the question has reported in favour of the principle of establishing co-operative sugar factories in new districts. It is only in such districts, the Committee consider, that any considerable extension of the sugar industry is likely to be attained. Government assistance in their establishment, accompanied by Government control in the matter of the price of farmers' canes, is favoured. Until the financial and economic situation, however, becomes clearer, the Committee does not advise the Government to adventure anything like so large a sum as £10,000 of public money.

TURKS ISLANDS—Labourers Leaving.

THE DIRECT WEST INDIA CABLE CO.—On October 8th the "Manning" Hospital was formally opened by His Honour the Commissioner. Speeches were made by members of the Legislative Board, the Assistant Commissioner, and Clergy. Quite a large and representative gathering were present.

Business generally has been very quiet. From the news to hand, it is likely the shipment of salt during the next month will be under way, which will tend to liven things somewhat. Several steamers and fair-sized schooners are under charter to load here. The sisal industry is quiet, and none has been shipped during the month. The steamers of the Clyde Line have relieved the labour situation, having taken quite a number on their trips south during the month. Outside of this there has been little for the labouring class to do. Many have taken the opportunity to plant out their plantations, but owing to the lateness of the rain it is not likely there will be much guinea corn, but a good crop of blades is expected in some localities.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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

15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3

December 26th, 1918.

BANK RATE. 5 per cent. as from April 5th, 1915.

SUGAR. Prices remain as fixed by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Cubes, Lump, &c. | 64 | 9 |
| W.I. Crystallised | 57 | 9 |
| W.I. Muscovado and Grocery Syrups | 55 | 6 |
| W.I. Syrups, &c., only for manufacturing | 50 | 0 |

Prices are subject to grading by the Brokers' Committee.

New York prices for old crop remain at 4.985c. c.i.f. for 96 test Cuba centrifugals, and 6.055c. duty paid for Porto Rico's.

The 1918-19 crop opened in Cuba on November 17th—the earliest date on record. Himely states that owing to the quantity of cane to be ground—which is larger than ever before—and the fear that labour will be scarce, there is a general disposition to start the crop early.

The West India sugar statistics in London on Dec. 21st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1915 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Imports | 38,120 | 81,176 | 55,148 Tons. |
| Deliveries | 42,391 | 77,343 | 57,900 |
| Stock (Dec. 21) | 6,716 | 11,848 | 8,353 |

RUM. The Government has been selling rum to private buyers at prices considerably above those which they paid for it.

The stocks in London on Dec. 21st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Jamaica | 3,834 | 7,352 | 10,889 puns. |
| Demerara | 10,774 | 5,614 | 10,482 |
| Total of all kinds | 19,630 | 20,185 | 35,923 |

COCOA Prices remain as fixed on April 2nd, viz:—

| | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|
| Ceylon, Java, and Samoa | 100 | 0 |
| Demerara, Trinidad, Guayaquil, and Surinam | 90 | 0 |
| Grenada and other West Indians, Bahia, and Cameroons | 85 | 0 |
| British West Africa | 65 | 0 |

The above prices are subject to grading.

Trinidad exports from January 1st to November 15th were 53,318,963 lbs.

The stocks in London on Dec. 21st were:—

| | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Trinidad | 20,092 | 17,413 | 17,803 bags. |
| Grenada | 7,077 | 16,599 | 12,936 |
| Total of all kinds | 107,637 | 215,525 | 213,921 |

COTTON. Prices remain as fixed, viz.: ordinary 36d., good ordinary 40d., superfine St. Vincent 45d. to 50d. subject to grading by the British Cotton Growing Association.

In the 50 weeks ended December 12th, 146,197 bales of cotton, of which 6,190 were British West Indian, were imported into the United Kingdom.

The War Office has decided to offer for sale the West Indian Sea Island cotton crop for 1918-19, which it purchased. The cotton will be offered in proper proportions to private users.

COPRA. The market is unchanged. Prices are still controlled for United Kingdom: £46 per ton London, ex-ship Liverpool.

ARROWROOT continues quite inactive, and with the exception of a few barrels of good quality sold at 1/1, there is nothing to report. Importers are anxious to meet buyers, but the latter are not forthcoming.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Juice: Concentrated firm, with more enquiry; Raw easier. Quotations, fair to good, 3/- to 3/6 per gallon. Lime Oil: Handpressed, 14/- to 15/- nominal; distilled neglected, 5/9 to 6/- nominal. Citrate firmer.

HONEY. Buyers have shown much less interest both on the spot and to arrive. No exact valuation can be given, as buyers are holding off. If sales were forced, a heavy decline is inevitable.

SPICES. Pimento flat; sellers at 5½d. on the spot. Ginger quite neglected. Nutmegs and Mace: Buyers await next auctions.

RUBBER. For Plantation a large business has been passing. Spot: 2/2 for crepe, and 2/1½ for sheet.

ASPHALT. Trinidad exports, January 1st to November 15th: 53,555 tons (official figure).

OIL. Trinidad exports, January 1st to November 15th: Crude, 35,175,813 galls.; kerosene, 1,480,317 galls.; gasoline, 2,237,140 galls.; and lubricating oil, 72,859 galls.

DEATH:

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 6d. for each additional line. Announcements, which must be duly authenticated and accompanied by a remittance, should be sent to the Manager, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

HEATH.—At Hampstead, on December 12th, of pneumonia following influenza, Katherine Beatrix Geraldine, only daughter of Wroughton Gerald Heath, Medical Officer of Montserrat. Aged 13.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership of the West India Committee is, by the Royal Charter of Incorporation, dated August 4th, 1904, confined to British subjects. Any members of the West India Committee may propose or second candidates for election. There is no entrance fee. The minimum subscription is £1 1s. or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40). Members receive THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR fortnightly, post free. The subscription of members elected during the last three months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January 1st, 1920. The Secretary will gladly send specimen copies of THE CIRCULAR to any friends or members on application.